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WORLD BRIEFS

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SOUTH CHINA SEA
China's first entirely home-built aircraft carrier has begun sea trials, underscoring how the country is building naval assets to assert its maritime claims in the South China Sea.

INDONESIA An Indonesian family brought its 8-year-old daughter to a suicide bomb attack it launched yesterday on the police headquarters in the country's second-largest city, authorities said. More on p12

AP PHOTO



JAPAN A volcano in southern Japan seen in a James Bond film erupted yesterday, shooting grey smoke and ash thousands of meters into the sky.

More on backpage



First witnesses heard in activists' trial P2



PJ shows facilities as Costa Nunes case escalates P4

JULIE ZHU



Jorge Menezes, Sulu Sou and Scott Chiang

COURTS

Sulu Sou pleads not guilty, first witnesses heard

Julie Zhu

LAWMAKER Sulu Sou pleaded not guilty to all charges laid against him for his qualified disobedience to the police authority's command linked to a demonstration on May 15, 2016.

Yesterday, Sou's trial kicked off at the Court of First Instance. Sou is being trialed together with the first defendant of the case, Scott Chiang, who was the former president of the New Macau Association (NMA).

Both denied the charges against them, having only confirmed the time and location mentioned in the summonses.

On May 15, 2016, Sou and Chiang were part of a demonstration led by NMA against the Macao Foundation over a RMB100 million donation made by the foundation to Jinan University, in Guangdong.

During the trial, Chiang denied the accusation that indicated he "had intended or instigated" the demonstration's participants to engage in certain protest behaviors, which were later deemed by the police to constitute disobedience.

In turn, Sou also denied the

accusations regarding "disobeying" police orders and "encouraging others" or "leading others".

The judge then questioned Sou's intention behind visiting the Chief Executive's (CE) official residence (St. Sancha Palace) to deliver his appeal, instead of visiting the Government Headquarters.

Before Sou eventually threw a paper plane into the palace compound, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) issued several verbal warnings to Sou and others also at the scene who were regarded by PSP as forming part of the crowds led by both Sou and Chiang. The same questions were also posed to Chiang.

The main accusation stated that Sou and Chiang disobeyed the police's command. However, Sou and Chiang confessed that they wondered about the legitimacy and legal grounds of the police's command.

As such, both Sou and Chiang claimed in their defense that it was their personal decision to deliver the letter to the CE's official residence, and they did not call on the demonstration participants to join their walk to the

St. Sancha Palace. Along their way, the police had set up barriers to notify people that entry to the area was banned.

Sou and Chiang noted that they stopped in front of the cordon lines around the restricted area, hoping that they could deliver their letters to the Chief Executive directly.

When questioned by their lawyers, Jorge Menezes and Pedro Leal, lawmaker Sou and Chiang both again confirmed that they did not cross the restricted area.

According to both defendants, public roads were clear for the vehicles and pedestrians to get through.

Moreover, they said that the police never issued any warning to themselves not to move forward.

The trial resumed at 2.30 p.m., with six witnesses in total being called to the court to give their testimony.

Originally, 13 witnesses were planned to testify at the trial yesterday afternoon.

However, the unexpected long questioning of the first witness took three and a half hours.

During this elongated period of

time, approximately an hour was used to watch recording clips related to the case.

The first witness, a PSP officer named Lam, was responsible for managing the demonstration orders.

The unexpected long questioning of the first witness took three and a half hours

In particular, Lam was deployed to the Penha hill area and the government headquarters.

He was also the police officer who announced verbal warnings to the crowds and to an allegedly illegal assembly, which was accused of having been led by Sou and Chiang.

The crowds, based on the video clip played during the trial, consisted mainly of journalists, with the police claiming that there

were between 10 to 20 participants making up the illegal assembly.

During his testimony, Lam's full honesty was doubted by one of the lawyers, who also doubted Lam's cooperation with the questions posed by the lawyers.

Overall, the lawyers of the defendants questioned Lam whether the transportation network was jammed due to Sou and Chiang, or due to other people's behavior.

According to Lam, for public security, the police set up barricades to prevent people from getting to one side of the palace.

However, one lawyer pointed out that the police would only ban one entry point to the area, which the defendants did not break into.

The lawyer noted that it was the police force who put up cordon lines around the restricted area, and who banned any mode of transportation along the related street, not Sou and Chiang.

Previously, the New Macau Association had applied to assemble at the Penha Hill garden, after the demonstration. However, the Civic and Municipal Bureau refused the application.

When questioned by the lawyer whether he was aware of this, Lam at first denied it, before eventually admitting that he was aware of the fact after being questioned by the judge.

Regarding one of the main points of questioning, that being whether the crowds jammed traffic while demonstrating, the lawyer also questioned one of the witnesses.

The witness declared that the presence of crowds had some impact on traffic, but he did not state the degree of the impact nor was he able to specify a number of vehicles which could not pass through the area.

One of the lawyers stated that "even though I respect the witness, it seems he is not willing to cooperate" with the lawyer's question. The lawyer suspected that the witness was providing a false testimony.

Similar questions were asked to nearly all witnesses, who mainly consisted of police officers involved in the actions surrounding the related demonstration.

With the exception of the first witness, who was questioned for three and a half hours, the prosecutors and the lawyers in court spent somewhere around 30 minutes asking questions to the remaining witnesses.

The trial finished yesterday evening, at 7.53 p.m. It will resume today at 9.30 a.m. at the Court of First Instance.

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Marina Bay Sands possible venue for Trump-Kim summit

SINGAPORE, a highly manicured city-state shaped by skyscrapers and luxury hotels, is preparing for the historic Trump-Kim summit. The Marina Bay Sands resort, which towers over Singapore's bustling financial district, is one of the possible venues for the June 12 meeting, AP reported yesterday.

It Trump and Kim have interest in creating powerful optics — and both seem to be personalities who would — the Vegas-style hotel and casino could be the ideal venue.

The three-tower, 2,561-room property, which opened in 2011, now competes with the Merlion statue as Singapore's most iconic landmark, dominating the skyline with a huge boat-like structure on top that houses a 150-meter-long swimming pool.

The resort is owned by the Las Vegas Sands Corporation, whose billionaire chairman, Sheldon Adelson, was one of the biggest financial backers of Trump's 2016 presidential bid. But there could be security challenges to hosting the summit so close to Singapore's busiest streets.

"As the official venue of the summit has not been announced yet, Marina Bay Sands has no comments on your questions relating to the event," Val Chua, communications director at Marina Bay Sands, said in an email.

What is expected to be the most crucial international diplomatic event of the decade will bring a bombastic set of personalities to the small island nation, namely tough-talking President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, a brash young ruler with a nuclear arsenal.

Whatever the outcome, the meeting will be a media spectacle. While the venue has yet to be announced, rooms appear to be fully booked on days surrou-



People walk near the facade of the Marina Bay Sands integrated resort

nding the summit at the Shangri-La hotel and the Marina Bay Sands resort, two major properties seen as potential locations for the meeting, judging from reservation services on their websites or online travel companies. Other hotels say they've also seen increased reservations since the summit was announced.

Here is a look at other possible venues, and why Singapore was likely chosen over more obvious locations:

WHY SINGAPORE?

Singapore appears to be a safe pick for the summit. It has close ties with the United States as a major trade and investment partner, and has also maintained diplomatic relations with North Korea since 1975. While Singapore's tight control over political activities and media has drawn criticism, it's also what

makes the country an ideal location for a high-security event like the Trump-Kim summit.

Analysts, meanwhile, say the decision to meet in Singapore may suggest that Trump is entering the talks with tempered expectations.

A summit in Pyongyang, North Korea's capital, would have been a tremendous propaganda coup for Kim, who desperately craves international legitimacy. For Trump, Pyongyang would have been the only place in the world where he would command more attention than Kim, and a dramatic stage to showcase the deal-making skills he speaks so proudly of.

Trump would have claimed a summit in Washington as a major diplomatic win. But Kim could have done the same by presenting the invitation as a symbol of U.S. commitment to a security guarantee for the North.

Settling for Singapore probably shows Trump isn't immediately seeing a significant deal on the table, said Du Hyeogn Cha, a visiting scholar at Seoul's Asan Institute for Policy Studies.

"It was clear Trump was never going to Pyongyang unless he was sure he will return with a deal big enough to silence his critics at home, such as a firm agreement from North Korea for a quick and complete nuclear disarmament," Cha said by phone. "Kim was never going to Washington, D.C., unless the United States promises to lift sanctions against the North upfront."

SHANGRI-LA HOTEL

The Shangri-La appears to be the most obvious fit. The 747-room hotel has a wealth of experience in hosting high-security events, including the historic 2015 summit between Chinese

President Xi Jinping and Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou, the first meeting between leaders of the two sides since they split in 1949.

The hotel also hosts the annual Shangri-La Dialogue, widely seen as Asia's most important security forum, bringing together defense ministers and high-level government officials from across the region.

This year's Shangri-La Dialogue, set for June 1-3, will include a session titled "Deescalating the North Korean crisis." If the Shangri-La hotel is chosen for the Trump-Kim meeting, much of the security preparations might already be in place.

"The hotel has not received confirmation on the venue and is not in a position to make any comments on behalf of the stakeholders involved in the preparation of this summit," Monica Alsagoff, Shangri-La's communications director, said in an email.

Adelson was one of the biggest financial backers of Trump's 2016 presidential bid

SENTOSA ISLAND

There's media speculation that North Korea would prefer the secluded island resort of Sentosa, located about 20 minutes from the city center, because of security reasons. However, it's questionable whether there would be enough rooms at the island's hotels to accommodate what's likely to be a huge number of delegates, security personnel and reporters.

If the summit is held on Sentosa, the island's relatively bigger properties such as the Capella Singapore and Resorts World Sentosa could be possible locations. **MDT/Agencies**

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PJ responds to critics about investigation on Costa Nunes case

RENATO MARQUES



The PJ showed a children's questioning room

Renato Marques

THE Judiciary Police (PJ) responded to critics yesterday afternoon, during a press conference, over the investigation methods employed during the ongoing investigation of sexual abuse allegedly committed by a staff member against several children at D. Jose da Costa Nunes Kindergarten.

During a press conference held earlier by lawmaker Agnes Lam and parents of reportedly abused children, the PJ was criticized for the staff's lack of knowledge in questioning children regarding this matter, as too many repetitive questions were posed to the children. "All the investigation inspectors [involved in the mentioned case] have received training, in both Hong Kong and Macau, to deal with such cases, namely with cases involving domestic violence and sexual abuse," the sub-inspector Leong Kuok Hei said. Leong added that, "during the process, children to be questioned

can be accompanied by one or two people they trust."

While accompanying the media into the questioning facilities, Leong noted, "children can stay here for 30 minutes to one hour prior to questioning. During that period, they can play and relax and our inspectors will also use that time to assess their language and thinking capabilities [to reply to the questioning]."

Leong also noted that the designated room and pre-questioning procedure is normally used with children under the age of 11 years, but the main leading factor is the "capability of reading and reviewing their own testimonies."

The questioning room and procedure was acknowledged by Leong to have become operative during 2016 after the enactment of the Domestic Violence Law, which established such rules and procedures.

Regarding the case, the PJ spokesperson added, "for the time being, we have seven cases reported of children of the

same group," she said, adding, "four of them already came to the PJ to give their testimony, and as for the other three, only the parents have spoken to the police."

It was also added that, when receiving a report, the PJ will put the alleged victims directly in contact with the investigators taking care of the case, avoiding the inconvenience of giving testimony upon arrival at the complaint service and again to the inspectors chosen to run the case.

For the time being we have seven cases reported of children of the same group.

LEONG KUOK HEI
JUDICIARY POLICE

Replying specifically to the criticism that the police ask the same questions too many times, the PJ spokesperson said, "we try not to repeat the same questions many times but there are some matters that need to be clarified."

Resident scammed over attempt to hire a prostitute

A local 24-year-old male was scammed and lost around HKD33,000 over an attempt to hire a prostitute via the Internet mobile application WeChat.

The incident occurred on May 10 when the man claimed to have been contacted by a woman offering to provide sexual services. Two days later, they arranged a meeting in town but at the arranged time, the man received a phone call from another man asking him to provide payment in advance through point card's "My Card."

He accepted and went to the closest convenience shop to acquire these cards, sending the codes to the person who contacted him by photographing the cards.

This process was repeated for over two hours until the man realized that he had been scammed and reported the case to the Judiciary Police

(PJ). He is said to have lost a total of HKD32,762.

In a separate case, the same police force reported that a local resident (84) died after falling from the 12th floor from his apartment building located at Estrada Marginal do Hipodromo.

According to the report, the case occurred around 8 p.m. on May 12 after the family had dinner.

While the woman was cleaning the kitchen, the man allegedly fell through one of the windows of the house under conditions that are as yet, unexplained. According to the PJ spokesperson, it was the police who warned the wife about her husband's death as she had not noticed that he was not in the house.

The case is still under investigation to determine the sequence of events that led to the man's death. **RM**

HEALTH

SSM urges residents to check measles immunity status

THE Health Bureau (SSM) urged local residents born before 1970 to acquire the measles vaccination if they do not already have immunity to the disease.

The call followed the bureau's confirmation that a local resident was diagnosed with the disease after traveling to Singapore and Malaysia in April.

According to an SSM statement released on Friday, the 47-year-old woman visited the two Southeast Asian countries in a tour group from April 20 to 25.

The patient, who began exhibiting measles symptoms on May 5, went to a local clinic on that day and another clinic on May 7 for treatment.

The health authorities are following up on the condition of individuals, including the patient's family members and travel companions, who had close contact with her.

The bureau classified the case as the first measles case in the city this year.

Lam Chong, head of the Centre for Disease Con-

trol, stressed that it is crucial for the majority of the population to check their measles immunity status, citing the recent measles epidemic in Europe.

In addition to Japan and Taiwan, Lam reminded residents that measles is prevalent in many Southeast Asian and European countries.

He urged parents not to take their children who have not had a measles shot to these countries and regions.

"In the recent years, due to a drop in the measles vaccination rate, the disease became a problem again [in Europe], with a measles outbreak spreading to countries like France," said Lam, as ci-

ted in a TDM report.

However, the official said that over 95 percent of local residents are immune to measles, implying that an epidemic is unlikely.

He said that isolated measles case – whether local or from overseas – would not lead to the spread of measles in Macau.



Local firm records ten-fold increase in revenue since working with Sands China

A micro-sized logistics enterprise in the city has experienced a ten-fold increase in its sales revenue since its partnership with Sands China started over a decade ago.

Established in 1991, Chi Kei Fo Van (Transportation) started providing services to Sands China when it opened Sands Macao in the SAR in 2004.

Since then, the firm has experienced significant growth in its business. They have increased their number of vehicles from two medium-sized vans to a total of seven today, including large-scale vehicles, mini vans and refrigerated vehicles.

The enterprise has been servicing the integrated resort operator by removing construction waste related to new property openings, transporting any waste that needs to be taken to landfill, and re-allocating large size furniture or machines within the properties.

Chi Kei Fo Van started the business with seven full time employees and has now grown to twelve full-time staff with several casual and flex-time workers.

"We benefit from Sands China's expansion because it has created more business opportunities for small companies like ours," said Si Tou Peng Chio, the owner of the local firm.

Currently, Sands China accounts for 70 to 80 percent of their total business volume.

Chi Kei Fo Van is one of four winners in the Service Excellence Category of the 2017 Sands Supplier Excellence Awards,

awarded in recognition of their contributions to the city's recovery effort after Typhoon Hato.

The Sands Supplier Excellence Awards recognises the cooperation and service of several of its outstanding suppliers.

Nearly 30 companies were nominated for the previous Sands Supplier Excellence Awards by Sands China's business units and employees, carefully selected from among thousands of service providers and suppliers that work with the company.

Currently, Sands China accounts for 70 to 80 pct of the company's total business volume

The companies nominated represent diverse industries such as construction and development; furniture, fixtures and fittings; facilities and services; hotel supplies; food and beverage; and many others.

Since the firm's accolades at the 2017 Sands Supplier Excellence Awards, the local company has also been recognized by new clients requesting the firm to provide a range of services both in the public and private sector.

The company has been awarded for wholeheartedly support-

ing Sands China's daily operations and typhoon relief efforts after Hato caused extensive damage to the region back in August.

The local SME helped to transport bottled water to Sands China properties, sending 12 of its workers with two vehicles to transport over 2,000 cases of bottled water well into the early hours of the morning.

"We didn't have any hesitation to help. Fortunately, we didn't have any losses during the typhoon so we took on the mission to help others. We only charged for manpower and fuel," said the entrepreneur.

Recalling the aftermath of Typhoon Hato, Sands China extended a program of ongoing support to its local SME suppliers.

It offered a 50 percent advance payment for purchase orders or contracts issued during the remainder of 2017.

Based on the average monthly spend of the three types of SME suppliers – small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), Macao young entrepreneurs, and "Made-in-Macao" enterprises – the estimated total value of this 50 percent advance payment during the final four months of the year amounted to approximately USD25 million (MOP200 million).

Sands China did not cancel any purchase orders or contracts as a result of local SME suppliers not being able to deliver goods or services on time due to the typhoons. Instead, these suppliers were given the option to

cancel their purchase orders or contracts without any penalty from Sands China.

Sands China considers its suppliers to be partners in mutual success, acknowledging that by working hand-in-hand, they would be better able to meet the company strategy of delivering excellent service to its guests and visitors.

"We've always had good communication with the procurement team of Sands China. We receive simple and direct communication so no orders are missed," said the owner.

Chi Kei Fo Van is slated to benefit from Sands China's upcoming USD1.1 billion project, The Londoner Macao.

"The preparation and construction period [of The Londoner] will bring sales growth to our business," he said.

"Our thanks go to Sands China for supporting local SMEs for so many years," Si Tou remarked.

Sands China sees it as its mission to support local SME suppliers, continually hosting a series of SME programs to provide a platform for these enterprises to increase their sales revenue.

As a company based in Macau, Sands China is proud to have taken innovative steps to assist local SMEs.

With these initiatives, local SMEs can grow together with the gaming operator.

"We have been in business with Sands China for many years, even before the SME programs were launched. So with these initiatives, we gleaned more business and support from different operators," he added.

Chi Kei Fo Van currently serves some 10 clients including government departments, private firms and integrated resort operators.

This article is sponsored by Sands China Ltd.



Author hopes to bring Camões presence in Macau to wider audience

Renato Marques

A new book about one of the most highlighted personalities in Portuguese poetry of all time – Luis Vaz de Camões – is being launched in Macau this week.

Authored by Portuguese historian and Camões-enthusiast, Eduardo Ribeiro, the book portrays the poet and his presence in Macau and Asia.

Published in English, “Camões in Asia” is an overview of the poet that puts together the most important aspects of many other published materials about the poet, most of which have only been published in Portuguese. According to Ribeiro, the publication is a way of reaching “a broader spectrum of readers.”

“This is not a reprint [in English language of previous books] but a gist of my investigative work about the presence of Camões in Macau,” the author told the Times. Ribeiro’s research began from a previously-written text titled, “Roteiro Histórico de Camões no Oriente” (Camões’ historic route in the East) which has been pub-



Eduardo Ribeiro

lished in the book “Camões no Oriente” (Camões in the East). It also served as a base for the creation of a timeline of stories included in this new book that address the voyage of the poet to the East. It starts with Camões’ departure from Lisbon in March 1553 and follows his return to the kingdom in April 1570.

The author said the purpose

of providing the gist of previous books comes from his awareness that “they don’t have anything. Neither the English speakers nor the Chinese who can’t speak and read Portuguese,” adding, “there are a lot of people eager to know about Camões and who just can’t access the correct information,” Ribeiro noted. Ribeiro recalls that during the 28

years that he lived in the region, he read many things written in the English language that made no sense at all. Much of the “nonsense” that he read did not “just copy some of that blunders that some Portuguese wrote, but they also invented a lot of “new” things [presented as facts].”

The author self-proposed to fix this gap in the literature by writing a book capable of reaching a broader audience and providing a better perspective on the poet. As for the biggest challenges presented in this book, Ribeiro identifies two of them, namely “the translation itself and its relation to the content.”

“It took us [him and the translator] two and half months of intensive and daily hard work to be able not to just have a correct translation but also to grant that the content and what I really wanted to say in my own words would be there,” he said, adding that the book is “my gift back to Macau and to all [this region] gave me for many years.”

The book is based on data gathered in “Asia’s Chronicler” Diogo do Couto (1542-1616). Camões knew Diogo do Cou-

to for approximately one year, and they travelled together back to the Kingdom. The book launch will occur on May 20 at 5.30 p.m. at the Macau Military Club and only a limited number of copies will be for sale at the Portuguese Bookshop. The author has appealed to friends and connoisseurs, who have gone through his work in the Portuguese language, to not acquire the limited copies saying: “Please don’t buy this book if you can read Portuguese and have access to my previous works. I really want these very few copies to stay for those who can’t access the information in another way,” he appealed during the interview to the Times. He expressed hopes that “many non-Portuguese speakers would be present at the book launch and make good use of the book.”

The book is an edition from the Macau Scientific and Cultural Centre in Lisbon. Its launch will begin with a presentation by Professor Carlos André from Coimbra University who is currently leading the Pedagogic and Scientific Portuguese Center of the Macau Polytechnic Institute.

Camões’ presence in Macau is controversial, with some historians saying that the poet was never in the enclave, whilst others assure that he wrote part of his masterpiece “Os Lusíadas” here.

AD



BUBBLES AND PEARLS

Champagne and oysters were made for each other. This summer at Aux Beaux Arts, celebrate indulgent weekend brunches with a bottle of Billecart-Salmon Brut Reserve and 24 savory Irish Rock oysters for just MOP888* per set. Advanced booking is encouraged due to limited availability.

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Official pledges to respect views of the SARs

BEIJING'S top official in charge of Hong Kong and Macau affairs has pledged to respect the views of the two SARs, with regards to its integration with the mainland's economic and infrastructure development.

The director of the State Council's Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, Zhang Xiaoming, noted that the capital should also use approaches initiated by the two SARs.

"We need to have mutual respect, and put ourselves in each other's shoes. In particular, we need to give enough respect to the views of the Hong Kong and Macau governments," said Zhang, as cited in a report is-



Zhang Xiaoming

sued by the South China Morning Post.

"For example, in managing Hong Kong and Macau affairs, there will be different acceptable approaches, and we should try to use the approach put forth by the two governments," the top official added.

Although Zhang stressed the significance of Beijing's "one country, two systems" formula for governing Hong Kong, he noted that cross-border affairs could not be handled the same way as the mainland provinces.

He also stressed the need to use methods and language

which is easily acceptable by both SARs' societies when promoting Beijing's policies in a bid to "obtain the best sociopolitical results."

According to him, Beijing will roll out further policies to help people from Hong Kong and Macau work, study and do business more easily in the mainland. Zhang also emphasized the need to build cross-border projects based on international standards, including the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, which has faced several safety concerns. "There is a need to seriously evaluate Hong Kong and Macau societies' reactions, and to do such projects well," he said.

Zhuhai police raid illegal currency exchange stores

Zhuhai police authorities raided and shut down dozens of illegal currency exchange operations at the Gongbei underground shopping mall. Chinese media reports noted that over 100 police officers conducted the raid of the stores located near the escalators of the Gongbei checkpoint, detaining a number of staff and those operating the stores. The suspects were then handcuffed and all currency was seized from the store. The raid came after those arrested reportedly exchanged counterfeit money from stores that are licensed as liquor and dry good stores, yet conduct unlicensed businesses in their back rooms.

Artists to hold talk on photography exhibition

The artist-photographers of the collective exhibition "Visual Thinking" will give a talk this Saturday at 4 p.m. at Creative Macau. "Visual Thinking" is a contemporary photography exhibition, for which the artists created a series of photographic works enhanced with various techniques and manipulations, visually conveying the theme. The artists showcased in the exhibition include Antonio Mil-Homens, Hugo Teixeira, Lampo Leong, Li Li, Noah Ng Fong Chao and Ricardo Meireles. The exhibition kicked off last month.

IPIM calls for applicants for products fair

APPPLICATIONS for the Guangdong & Macao Branded Products Fair 2018 kick off today and will be open until May 28, targeting local enterprises that retails made-in-Macau products, local brands, overseas products and products from Portuguese-speaking countries distributed by local agents.

Jointly organized by the Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) and the Department of Commerce of Guangdong, the "Macau SME Exhibition Subsidy Scheme" is also applicable to the Guangdong & Macao Branded Products Fair 2018.

The fair will be held in the Venetian Macao and will last for three days from July 27.

Guangdong & Macao Branded Products Fair 2018 will celebrate its 10th anniversary and will continue assisting Guangdong and Macau, as well as countries along the Belt and Road route, in developing multilateral economic and trade markets and reinforcing



collaboration, IPIM said in a statement.

An array of products will be showcased at the 2018 fair, including souvenirs, food, daily necessities, cultural and creative projects, and products of time honored brands.

More elements of the Belt and Road Initiative are also added to this year's exhibition, according to the organizers.

Also, in celebration of the anniversary, the Macau Products Exhibition & Sales Area will feature new themes and high-quality products. The Macao Franchise Expo 2018 will also be held concurrently.

Center suggested for Greater Bay Area cultural industry

IENG Weng Fat, a member of the Cultural Industrial Fund (FIC), has suggested the establishment of an integrated center for the cultural industry strategy of the Greater Bay Area.

On last Friday a forum on the cultural cooperation between the cities within the Greater Bay Area was held in mainland China.

During the proceedings of the forum, Ieng suggested that the cities involved in the area should establish a cultural development fund in order to support the cultural development of the area.

Ieng hopes that the cultural industry in the Greater Bay Area can later spark the cultural trade.

On the sidelines of the forum, Ieng said he believes that the cultural strategy center does not necessarily have to be located in Macau, although he deems such a fund able to help the development of Macau's cultural industry.

Ieng further hopes that by bringing up his own suggestions it can lead to the creation of additional advantageous policies for Macau once the Greater Bay Area plan comes out, in the future.

MOP10 banknotes issued in the 90's to halt circulation

The withdrawal period for MOP10 banknotes issued in 1991 and 1995 will end on May 26. Thereafter, that banknote cannot be used as currency in the market. The Monetary Authority of Macao (AMCM) reminds citizens in possession of the aforementioned banknotes to have their notes exchanged at Banco Nacional Ultramarino and Bank of China before the May 26 deadline. The two Issuing Banks have no further obligation to exchange such notes with the public after the end of the final withdrawal period, AMCM noted.



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AirAsia shares drop after CEO says sorry for backing ex-PM

Eileen Ng, Kuala Lumpur

SHARES of regional budget airline AirAsia plunged yesterday after its chief Tony Fernandes publicly apologized for supporting defeated Prime Minister Najib Razak in a historic election last week.

The vote ended with a victory for a four-party alliance led by Mahathir Mohamad, resulting in Malaysia's first change of government since it gained independence from Britain in 1957.

Fernandes praised Najib's coalition in a video released ahead of the polls. He was also pictured with Najib in an AirAsia plane emblazoned with the coalition's campaign slogan, with the cabin crew's signature red uniforms swapped for ones in the coalition's signature deep blue.

Fernandes apologized Sunday for "buckling" under government pressure. He said he was asked to remove former trade minister Rafidah Aziz, who openly supported Mahathir, as chairman of his long-haul budget unit AirAsia X and also to cancel extra flights at low fares ahead of the polls.

He did neither. But in his comments over the weekend Fernandes said he was part of a highly-regulated industry where nearly



Investors watch trading boards at a private stock market gallery in Kuala Lumpur

everything requires government approval and was foolish to think that his endorsement would appease the government and protect jobs.

"Under the intense pressure, I buckled. It wasn't right; I will forever regret it," Fernandes said in videotaped comments. "It is still the happiest moment of my life that we have a new Malaysia that will give everyone an amazing chance to reach the skies."

AirAsia stocks fell as much as 13 percent from their last traded

price last Tuesday before market holidays during and after the May 9 election. They recovered some of that lost ground by midday yesterday, trading at 3.55 ringgit, down 4 percent from Tuesday's close.

The benchmark index also rebounded after opening lower, gaining 0.4 percent, while Malaysia's currency dipped in a knee-jerk reaction to uncertainties over the change in government.

The dollar was trading at 3.95

ringgit (USD1) as of midday after climbing as high as 4.05 ringgit (\$1.03).

Malaysia's economy grew at a robust, three-year high pace of 5.9 percent last year, but some are concerned over his government's pledges to abolish an unpopular 6 percent goods and services tax, revive fuel subsidies and review big projects linked to China's regional infrastructure initiative.

Mahathir has moved swiftly, naming as finance minister Lim

Guan Eng, who headed the small but wealthy state of Penang for a decade. Lim is the first ethnic Chinese in 44 years to be appointed to the powerful post.

Mahathir also set up a special five-member economic council that includes a renowned former central bank governor and Hong Kong-based billionaire tycoon Robert Kuok, Malaysia's richest man.

Fernandes praised Najib's coalition in a video released ahead of the polls

Those moves should underpin market confidence given that Lim, a trained accountant, has a track record of boosting Penang's economy with investor-friendly policies, Mizuho Bank in Singapore said in a research note. "Crucially, the appointment of the 'Council of Elders' comprising pre-eminent policy-makers... lends credence and confidence to economic, financial and investment stewardship."

It said any volatility will likely be short-lived as investors look to progressive policies.

Shares of construction companies and those linked to former politicians tumbled yesterday, but consumer stocks were boosted by hopes of an end to consumption tax. **AP**

EDP jumps above Chinese bid as investors seen demanding more

Joao Lima

EDP-ENERGIAS de Portugal SA surged the most in a decade to above the bid made by China Three Gorges Corp., an indication the Chinese utility may have to sweeten its offer to gain full control of its affiliate.

Three Gorges is offering 9.1 billion euros (USD10.9 billion) to buy the stock that it doesn't already own in EDP, a 4.8 percent premium to the closing price on Friday of Portugal's biggest energy company. While the government in Lisbon has indicated it's comfortable with the offer, the price offers little incentive for shareholders to tender their stock.

"We believe the price offered is too low for China Three Gorges to achieve full control of a vehicle that provides, among other things, a strategic

footprint into U.S. renewables," Javier Garrido, an analyst at JPMorgan Chase & Co., said in a note. "We expect management and minorities to claim a higher price."

For Three Gorges, which spent two decades building a hydro-power plant spanning China's Yangtze River, the deal would bolster its efforts to expand abroad and give it deeper access to markets in Europe, the U.S. and Brazil. China's biggest renewable-energy developer already is the largest shareholder of EDP with a 23 percent stake and now is seeking more than 50 percent.

"China Three Gorges is an ambitious company, with expansion already in

international hydro, Chinese onshore wind and floating solar, and European offshore wind," said Angus McCrone, a senior analyst at Bloomberg New Energy Finance in London. "It may have to do better on bid price than the 5 percent premium so far offered for EDP."

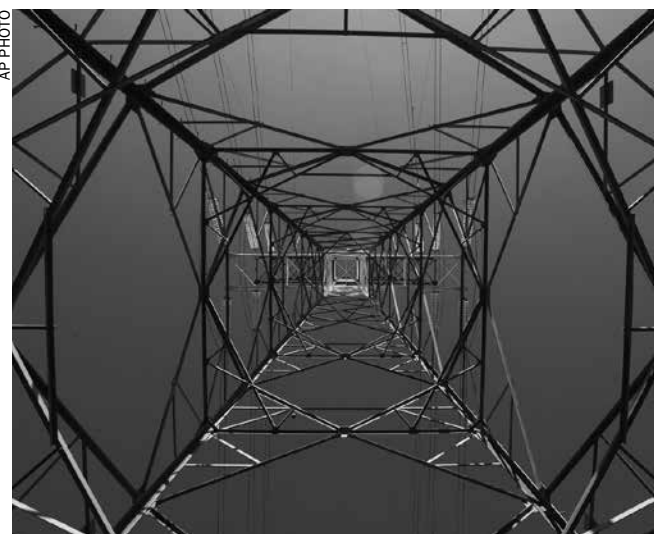
Shares of EDP rose as much as 12 percent in Lisbon trading to as much as 3.495 euros, above the bid of 3.26 euros announced on Friday after the close of trading.

The low premium offered by Three Gorges echoes the struggle by Fortum Oyj had in winning over investors in its bid for Uniper SE last year.

The Finnish utility of-

fered 8 billion euros to buy out the remainder of Uniper in September, immediately sending shares of the German power generator above the offer prices. Uniper's stock kept rising as electricity prices recovered and at one point were 20 percent above Fortum's offer. At least for now, Fortum has settled for a 47 percent stake it bought in Uniper from EON SE. Most other shareholders decided to keep their stake.

The transaction would advance a wave of consolidation among Europe's leading utilities, which are acquiring assets and development skills in renewables as governments across the region crack down on pollution. EDP is one of Europe's leading developers of renewable energy, building mainly wind farms and hydro plants. It has expanded in



markets including Brazil and the U.S.

Other utilities such as Enel SpA and Iberdrola SA are unlikely to bid for EDP given the grasp Three Gorges already has, according to Elchin Mammadov, an analyst at Bloomberg Intelligence. "No other EU utility is likely to bid for EDP," Mammadov said. "Enel and Iberdrola have ruled out large-scale acquisitions in Europe. They would also try to avoid yet another bidding war in Europe."

Speculation about a possible takeover of EDP has swirled for months. Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa last month signaled he wouldn't interfere with any takeover approach for EDP, saying it was a matter for shareholders to decide.

Before the bid was made public Friday evening, Costa said he "has no objection" to a possible Three Gorges offer for EDP, according to comments broadcast by television channel SIC Noticias. **Bloomberg**

Speculation about a possible takeover of EDP has swirled for months

China sends envoy to Washington

CHINA said yesterday it is sending an envoy to the United States this week for talks aimed at cooling a trade dispute that threatens to upend markets from soybeans to steel, and welcomed comments by President Donald Trump hinting at a possible easing of sanctions on embattled Chinese telecoms firm ZTE.

The foreign ministry said Vice Premier Liu He will visit the U.S. from today to Saturday for consultations with U.S. Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin.

Ministry spokesman Lu Kang also said China appreciated tweets by Trump saying he would help ZTE Corp. get "back into business" because too many jobs in China are at stake after the U.S. government cut off access to ZTE's American suppliers.

"We think highly of the U.S. statement regarding ZTE's case. We are currently in close communication over details of the implementation," Lu told reporters at a daily news briefing.

Referring to Liu's visit, Lu said China was willing to work with the U.S. to "strive for positive and constructive outcomes from the next round of economic and trade discussions."

Partially state-owned ZTE makes cellphones, network switching equipment and other telecommunications equipment. Last month, the U.S. Commerce Department banned it from buying U.S. technology or components for seven years after it misled regulators by failing to discipline employees involved in illegal exports and instead paid them bonuses.

Liu's trip to Washington follows a visit by Mnuchin and other U.S. officials to Beijing earlier this month, where they conveyed a demand that China slash its trade surplus with the U.S. by USD200 billion by the end of 2020.

An intensifying rivalry over advanced technology has also fueled demands by Washington that China give up policies that favor domestic companies. Beijing considers such programs as fundamental to its state-driven economic model and vital for its future growth.

America's trade deficit with China amounted last year to \$337 billion in goods and services.

The intensifying trade dispute has rattled financial markets for weeks. In March, the Trump administration slapped tariffs on imported steel and aluminum. China counterpunched with tariffs on a range of U.S. products, including bourbon and blue jeans.

An even higher-stakes fight looms over American allegations that China steals technology and forces U.S. companies to hand over trade secrets in exchange for access to the Chinese market. The United States is considering imposing tariffs on up to \$150 billion of Chinese products, and Beijing has countered with proposed tariffs on \$50 billion in American goods, including soybeans and small aircraft. **AP**

AP PHOTO



Trump offers US aid to penalized Chinese telecom company

IN a surprising overture to China, President Donald Trump says he would help a Chinese telecommunications company get "back into business," saying too many jobs in China are at stake after the U.S. government cut off access to its American suppliers. At issue is the Commerce Department's move last month to block the ZTE Corp., a major supplier of telecom networks and smartphones based in southern China, from importing American components for seven years. The U.S. accused ZTE of misleading American regulators after it settled charges of violating sanctions against North Korea and Iran.

The case dates to before Trump took office in January 2017 but the Commerce Department's decision came amid worsening trade tensions between the U.S. and China centered on technology-related intellectual property.

Trump's unexpected announcement yesterday [Macau time] came as the two countries prepared to continue trade talks in Washington this week. Given his past vows to stop the flow of U.S. jobs to China and crack down on what he says are unfair trade

practices, Trump's tweet of concern about Chinese jobs was something of a backflip.

"A reversal of the ZTE decision could temporarily tamp down trade tensions by allowing the Chinese to make concessions to the U.S. without losing face," said Eswar Prasad, a professor of trade policy at Cornell University. "Trump may have recognized that backing off on ZTE clears the path for him to claim at least a partial victory in the US-China trade dispute based on the concessions the Chinese seem prepared to offer."

ZTE, which has more than 70,000 employees and has supplied networks or equipment to some of the world's biggest telecoms companies, said in early May that it had halted its main operations as a result of the department's "denial order."

Trump, who has taken a hard line on trade and technology issues with Beijing, tweeted that he and Chinese leader Xi Jinping "are working together to give massive Chinese phone company, ZTE, a way to get back into business, fast. Too many jobs in China lost. Commerce Department has been instructed to get it done!"

Expanding on Trump's mes-

sage, White House deputy press secretary Lindsay Walters said in a statement, "The President's tweet underscores the importance of a free, fair, balanced, and mutually beneficial economic, trade and investment relationship between the United States and China."

It was not exactly clear what Trump was proposing for ZTE, or whether it would involve rolling back the Commerce Department's decision. The White House deferred to the Commerce Department on any specific questions relating to ongoing regulator action.

In a later tweet, Trump suggested the U.S. and China were moving forward on the trade negotiations, but it was not clear how the ZTE case would fit into the bigger picture.

"I've never seen a president step in and reverse an agency decision like this. It's not clear, of course, if he's planning to really reverse it or think of a solution in a larger context, but it is something that is just out of the norm," said Amanda DeBusk, the chair of the international trade and government regulations practice at the firm Dechert LLP.

DeBusk, a former Commerce Department assistant secretary for export enforcement, said Trump's announcement indicates "he is looking to accomplish his objectives on trade with China on a much larger level."

The widening trade dispute between the world's two biggest economies has taken a toll on both sides. U.S. companies that export to China have seen their goods held up at China's ports amid tougher inspections. The block on ZTE was a heavy blow for the company but also hurt the U.S. companies it buys from. According to IDC data, ZTE sources more than 40 percent of its components from the U.S., creating a multibillion-dollar revenue stream for suppliers like Qualcomm and Intel.

Chinese officials raised their objections to ZTE's punishment at trade talk in Beijing earlier this month, and the American delegation agreed to report them to Trump. ZTE has asked the department to suspend the seven-year ban on doing business with U.S. technology exporters. By cutting off access to U.S. suppliers of essential components such as microchips, the ban threatens ZTE's existence, the company has said.

At the Beijing talks, the Trump administration handed China a list of hard-line demands that trade experts said could make it even more difficult to resolve the trade disputes. Both sides had been expected to dig in for a fight over their trade imbalance at this week's talks.

But Trump set a more reassuring tone in a separate tweet, saying the two economic giants were "working well together on trade, but past negotiations have been so one sided in favor of China, for so many years, that it is hard for them to make a deal that benefits both countries. But be cool, it will all work out!"

The U.S. imposed the penalty on Shenzhen-based ZTE after discovering that the company, which had paid a USD1.2 billion fine in the case, had failed to discipline employees involved and paid them bonuses instead.

Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross last month accused ZTE of misleading the department and warned, "This egregious behavior cannot be ignored."

California Rep. Adam Schiff, the top Democrat on the intelligence committee, criticized Trump for softening his stance on ZTE.

"Our intelligence agencies have warned that ZTE technology and phones pose a major cyber security threat. You should care more about our national security than Chinese jobs," Schiff said in a tweet directed at Trump. **AP**

STRAIT DIPLOMACY

Taiwan boosts domestic arms makers as Beijing's warnings loom

Ralph Jennings, Taichung

STANDING on his company's sprawling campus in central Taiwan, Lin Nan-juh says he's able to make any plane his island's government calls for.

"We can do whatever's asked," says Lin, president of Aerospace Industrial Development Corp., or AIDC, a leader in the defense industry serving the isolated self-governing island that China claims as its own territory to be brought under its control by force if necessary.

It's a bold statement with potentially major significance for Taiwan's democratic survival as it seeks to build up its domestic defense industry in the face of China's warnings and the reluctance of foreign arms suppliers to provide it with the planes, ships, submarines and other hardware it needs to defend its 23 million people.

While the U.S. — which is legally bound to respond to threats to Taiwan — continues to be its main arms supplier, Taiwan is increasingly looking to replace those politically fraught, touch-and-go deals with domestic production that is reliable as well as technologically advanced.

Taiwan's indigenous systems are "both a source of national pride and a product of necessity," said David An, senior research fellow with the Washington-based policy incubator Global Taiwan Institute. "As it's commonly said, necessity is the mother of invention."

The self-reliance policy has been strongly promoted by Taiwan's pro-independence president, Tsai Ing-wen, whose government has been shunned by Beijing since shortly after she



A Taiwanese Air Force Indigenous Defense Force (IDF) fighter aircraft (right) flies near a PRC aircraft over the Luzon Strait

took office more than two years ago. Defense is included in Tsai's economic program targeting eight industries for innovation and job creation, with the government helping match its defense needs with the abilities of Taiwanese companies.

China's recent actions have underscored the risk for Taiwan.

Beijing has been upping pressure on the island by cutting its already tenuous diplomatic links and has sent military planes and an aircraft carrier close to the island multiple times. China now has the world's second-largest defense budget behind the U.S., significantly boosting its ability to blockade, attack and possibly invade Taiwan.

Taiwan's domestic arms industry got started in the 1970s, more than two decades after Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalist forces fled to the former Japanese colony after Mao Zedong's Communists seized power on the mainland in 1949.

Adaption and development of foreign technology gave companies such as AIDC much of what they needed to grow and help keep the peace with the

mainland, said Mei Fu-shing, director of the Taiwan Security Analysis Center, a research and consulting practice based in New York.

"Indigenously developed and produced weapons have contributed materially to deterrence in the Taiwan Strait over the past three or four decades," Mei said.

Taiwan's capabilities have improved of late in both quality and technical sophistication, Mei said, pointing to the production of air-to-air missiles as an example. "Taiwan's defense industry obviously has progressed," making it less reliant on foreign sources, he said.

Along with protest actions from Beijing — including the suspension of exchanges with the U.S. military after a USD6.4 billion arms package for Taiwan was announced in 2010 — U.S. sales are constrained by concerns about the leaking of sensitive advanced technology across the 160-kilometer-wide Taiwan Strait to China.

Despite that, such sales continue, with the Trump administration notifying Congress last year of its intent to approve se-

ven proposed deals for technical support, anti-radiation missiles, torpedoes and other technology valued at around \$1.42 billion.

And last month, the administration agreed to allow U.S. firms with the technology to build much-needed diesel-electric submarines. Taiwan's navy today operates just two aging subs bought from the Netherlands in the 1980s.

Taiwan's indigenous systems are 'both a source of national pride and a product of necessity'

Analysts say sales of technology are less likely to prompt a strong response from China than those of complete systems such as planes or submarines.

Along with fighter jets and other aircraft, Taiwanese contractors already make anti-ship, surface-to-air and air-to-air missiles, as well as missile boats and Clouded Leopard armored vehicles. Taiwan has long been known worldwide for its civilian high-tech industry and about 200 small and mid-sized companies work in defense.

AIDC and the National Chung-shan Institute of Science and Technology are among the larger contractors. The aerospace firm reported sales income of \$235 million and a net profit in the third quarter of 2017, the most recent made public online.

More than 3,000 people work on new aircraft designs at AIDC's tree-lined campus, complete with a restaurant and a swimming pool. One of its planes marks a front entrance.

Despite the advances, Taiwan will never be able to quit buying advanced weapons from other countries, according to Defense Ministry spokesman Chen Chung-chi. Propulsion systems and engines for ships and aircraft are a particular need, and Taiwan sometimes finds that imports cost less than local production.

Yet such sales carry the risk of being used as bargaining chips to gain concessions from Beijing, particularly on trade. Ultimately, officials in Washington might help Taiwan's military again only if they see its capability decline, said Alexander Huang, strategic studies professor at Tamkang University in Taiwan.

"Taiwan worries that there might be a time that we can't buy the weapon system that we want, so we better build up our indigenous defense industry capability," Huang said.

XINHUA VIEW

PRC embraces major progress in civil aircraft

CHINA is seeing major progress in three civil aircraft models, with the ARJ21 in operation, the C919 in flight tests and the CRJ929 in preliminary design, said their developer yesterday. Embracing its 10th anniversary, the Commercial Aircraft Corp. of China (COMAC) has made great breakthroughs in cultivating a national civil aviation industry, said a statement from COMAC.

COMAC had realized the process of developing civil

jetliners and formed a product pedigree from short-medium-range narrow-body to medium-long-range wide-body aircraft.

The C919 large passenger aircraft is undergoing flight tests at the test base in Yanliang, northwest China's Shaanxi Province. China's first self-developed trunk jetliner, the C919 underwent its successful maiden flight on May 5, 2017, at Shanghai Pudong International Airport. To date, COMAC

has received 815 orders from 28 customers worldwide. The ARJ21 regional jetliner is now flying on eight routes for Chengdu Airlines. The carrier has five ARJ21s which have flown around 74,000 passengers.

The ARJ21 is a China-developed jet with 78 to 90 seats and a range up to 3,700 km. It made its maiden flight in June 2016 and mass production started in September 2017.

The China-Russia joint

CRJ929 wide-body passenger aircraft has entered the preliminary design phase, according to COMAC.

Shanghai-based China-Russia Commercial Aircraft International Corp. Ltd. (CRAIC), a joint venture of COMAC and Russia's United Aircraft Corp., was set up in May 2017 to jointly develop the CRJ929. In early May, CRAIC announced that it had begun the joint concept definition phase for the body and

tail. The CRJ929 project is a further demonstration of China's determination to boost its aviation industry following the C919 narrow-body aircraft. It is also viewed as a major move to strengthen China's presence in its surging civil aviation market, which is dominated by U.S.-based Boeing and Europe's Airbus aircraft.

Founded on May 2008, COMAC has cultivated China's civil aviation industrial system, leading

and generating resources from 200 first-tier suppliers from 15 countries and regions worldwide. More importantly, China's domestic civil aviation industry capacity has been upgraded following the development of the three major models. More than 200,000 experts from 200 companies and universities around the country have contributed to China's independent development of civil aviation. **Xinhua**

INDONESIA

Police say new suicide bombings work of two families

NinieK Karmini, Surabaya

AN Indonesian family brought its 8-year-old daughter to a suicide bomb attack it launched yesterday on the police headquarters in the country's second-largest city, authorities said, a day after members of another family conducted coordinated suicide bombings on three city churches that killed 12 people.

National police chief Tito Karnavian said the girl, who was with two of the attackers on a motorcycle, survived being thrown by the blast at Surabaya's police headquarters. The attack killed the four perpetrators. Six civilians and four officers were wounded.

The attack came just hours after police said the family that carried out the church bombings included girls aged 9 and 12.

The flurry of bombings raised concerns that previously beaten-down militant networks in the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation have been reinvigorated by the return of some of the estimated 1,100 Indonesians who went to fight with the Islamic State group in Syria. Experts have warned for several years that when those fighters return, they could pose a significant threat.

IS claimed responsibility for the church bombings in a statement carried by its Aamaq news agency. Karnavian, however, said earlier police comments that the family had spent time in Syria were incorrect.

He said the church bombers and the police headquarters at-



Police vehicles are parked outside local police headquarters following an attack in Surabaya yesterday

tackers were friends, as were another family whose homemade bombs exploded in their apartment Sunday night.

The use of children in the attacks has been particularly horrifying to people.

"This is terrifying," said Taufik Andrie, executive director of an institute that runs programs to help paroled militants reject extremism and rejoin society. "This is showing how extremist ideology can entrap children. Children have no choice. They can't comprehend the decisions involved."

All told, 25 people have died since Sunday including a total of 13 militants and their children.

Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo condemned the attacks as "barbaric" and vowed that authorities would root out and destroy Islamic militant networks. The top security

minister, Wiranto, who uses one name, said the government will attempt to hasten passage of an updated anti-terrorism law that has languished in parliament.

A security camera video of the attack on Surabaya's police headquarters showed at least one explosion after the four attackers rode two motorcycles up to a security checkpoint. The motorcycles, which moved closely together, pulled up alongside a car and four officers manning opposite sides of the checkpoint.

Two men, apparently civilians, were walking into the area just meters from the motorcycles at the moment of the explosion, which a split second later was followed by a second possible blast.

Indonesia's deadliest terrorist attack occurred in 2002, when bombs exploded on the tourist island of Bali, killing 202 people

in one night, mostly foreigners. Jemaah Islamiyah, the al-Qaida affiliated network responsible for the Bali attacks, was obliterated by a sustained crackdown on militants by Indonesia's counterterrorism police with U.S. and Australian support. Its leaders were killed in police raids and hundreds of militants were arrested.

Karnavian said the father of the family that carried out the church bombings was head of the Surabaya cell of Jemaah Anshorut Daulah, an Indonesian militant network affiliated with IS that has been implicated in attacks in Indonesia in the past year. All six members of the family were killed.

The IS statement claiming responsibility for the attacks didn't mention anything about families or children taking part and said there were only three attackers.

The group also claimed responsibility for a hostage-taking ordeal last week by imprisoned Islamic militants at a detention center near Jakarta in which six officers were killed.

Separately on Sunday, three members of another family were killed when homemade bombs exploded at an apartment in Sidoarjo, a town bordering Surabaya, police said.

The church attacks occurred within minutes of each other, according to Surabaya police spokesman Frans Barung Mangera.

■ The flurry of bombings raised concerns that beaten-down militant networks have been reinvigorated by the return of some of 1,100 Indonesians who went to fight with IS in Syria

Karnavian said the father drove a bomb-laden car into the city's Pentecostal church. The mother, with her two daughters, attacked the Christian Church of Diponegoro, he said. Based on their remains, Karnavian said the mother and daughters were all wearing explosives around their waists.

The sons aged 16 and 18 rode a motorcycle onto the grounds of the Santa Maria Church and detonated their explosives there, he said. **AP**

SOUTH KOREA

Moon praises North's plan to dismantle nuke site

SOUTH Korean President Moon Jae-in yesterday welcomed North Korea's announcement that it is set to dismantle its only nuclear test site, calling it a start to the country's nuclear disarmament.

North Korea said Saturday that it will dismantle its northeastern Punggye-ri test site between May 23 and 25 in the presence of local and international media. The dismantling would come before North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and U.S. President Donald Trump meet for June 12 talks in Singapore expected to focus on Kim's



South Korean President Moon Jae-in

nuclear program.

Moon said that the North's move shows how sincere the country is about making the talks between

Kim and Trump a success. "This would be a preliminary step toward complete denuclearization," Moon said during a meeting with

his aides, according to his office.

Trump, in a tweet Saturday, already thanked North Korea for its plan to dismantle the nuclear test site, calling it "a very smart and gracious gesture!"

After months of tensions over his nuclear and missile tests, Kim has been reaching out to Washington and Seoul since the beginning of the year. He sent a delegation to February's Winter Olympics in South Korea, held a landmark summit with Moon in April and last week released three Americans detained in North Korea.

Kim is also willing to place his nuclear program up for negotiations in return for security assurances, according to Seoul. But some experts still doubt how committed Kim is to taking serious disarmament steps because his country was close to achieving its goal of possessing nuclear missiles targeting the mainland U.S. after decades of struggle.

Moon's office previously said Kim told Moon during their April 27 summit that he would allow not only outside journalists but also experts to watch the dismantling of the Punggye-ri test site. But the

North's announcement Saturday did not mention anything about inviting experts to Punggye-ri, spawning speculation that the North may want to hide some information about its past nuclear tests.

Some experts have downplayed the closure of the Punggye-ri site, where all six of the North's known underground nuclear explosions happened, saying it is already too unstable for more testing. Kim has denied such views, saying the site has two additional underground tunnels that could be used for new tests. **AP**



INDIA

Powerful storms kill at least 43 across northern state

Biswajeet Banerjee, Lucknow

POWERFUL winds and rainstorms swept across a crowded swath of northern India, demolishing houses, uprooting trees and killing at least 43 people as the winds turned the skies brown with dust and sand, officials said yesterday.

Most of the deaths occurred when wind and falling trees caused buildings to collapse, leaving people buried in the wreckage. In the town of Bareilly, the minaret of a mosque fell on a group of people taking shelter in a neighboring courtyard, killing eight. In another town, one man was killed when he was hit by a billboard that had been blown loose. Along highways, large trucks were pushed over by

the winds, crushing cars and motorcycles beneath them.

Less than two weeks ago, similar storms caused 134 deaths and injured another 400. The extreme weather comes amid withering summer heat, and approaching monsoon rains.

"These storms are not unusual at this time of the year," said J.P. Gupta, the meteorological office director for Uttar Pradesh state. "But the wind speed this year is a bit abnormal."

Winds reached speeds 109 kilometers per hour, officials said. Trains and commuter rail lines were paused and dozens of flights were diverted from New Delhi's international airport as the storm blew into the city.

At least 42 people were killed in sprawling Uttar Pradesh state, which has a population of more than 210 million people, said govern-

ment spokesman Avnish Awasthi. He said 50 people were injured when uprooted trees fell on houses, with 38 of those people admitted to hospitals. At least one more person was killed in New Delhi.

A large swath of Uttar Pradesh was also without electricity overnight because of broken power lines.

Rajesh Sharma, a senior state official, estimated that more than 120 million people in the state had been affected in some way.

"Saddened by the loss of lives due to storms," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a tweet. "Condolences to the bereaved families. I pray for the speedy recovery of those injured."

Separately, at least 13 people were killed by storms elsewhere in India, including nine in Andhra Pradesh and four in West Bengal. **AP**

NEPAL

Canadian aid worker charged with child sexual abuse

AN official in Nepal says a prominent Canadian aid worker has been arrested at his mountain villa and charged with sexually abusing children.

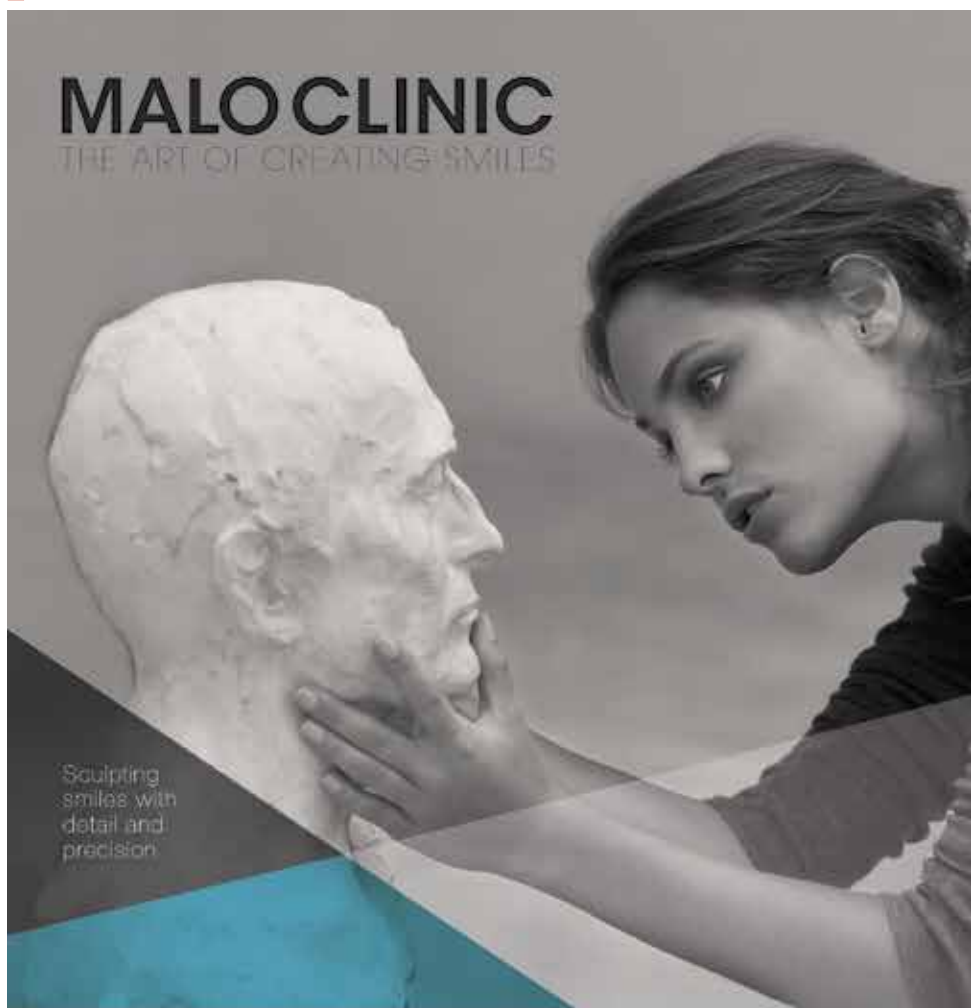
Central Investigation Bureau chief Pushkar Karki said Peter Dalglish was arrested at his home in April with two underage Nepalese boys after weeks of investigation. His case is being heard in Kavre, a

town near Kathmandu. He faces up to 13 years in prison if convicted.

Dalglish has worked for decades for a number of humanitarian agencies, much of the time focusing on working children and street children.

Officials said Dalglish lured children from poor families with promises of education and trips, and then sexually abused them.

AD



Dear patients and friends of Taivex Malo Hospital Dental Clinic/Macau MALO CLINIC,

We at Macau MALO CLINIC Dental Care would like to apologize to you all.

The Macau Health Bureau has notified the hospital to stop all operations for 6 months, thus the dental clinic won't be able to provide you with dental services either.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused you.

Within this time period, patients may choose the following options:

A. Go to one of our 18 MALO CLINIC clinics in Mainland China, all of which, together with Macau MALO CLINIC, operate under MALO CLINIC China Management, following the exact standards and medical protocols as any international MALO CLINIC.

Macau MALO CLINIC will provide the transport to and from our clinics in Guangzhou or Shenzhen. Macau MALO CLINIC will manage the necessary bookings in all MALO CLINICS in China, as well as follow-up and medical records will be provided to our colleagues in China.

B. For all patients who will be in Portugal during this period, Macau MALO CLINIC will manage the necessary bookings, follow-up and patients' medical records to our colleagues in any MALO CLINIC in Portugal.

C. For those patients who are willing to wait for MALO CLINIC in Macau to proceed with the treatments, we are putting all our efforts in finding a partnering healthcare organization at the moment in order to continue our practice.

If any urgent situation arises or if you have any enquiries, please feel free to contact us.

Office phone: 8802 2208 / 8862 2206 Cellphone: 00853-6826 9099 Wechat: MALODENTAL553 (Can be contacted at any time) Email: service.mimo@maloclinics.com.cn Website: http://www.maloclinics.com.cn

Once again, we would like to apologize for all the inconvenience this has put on you all.

Thank you all for your understanding and support.

We hope to find solutions for everyone's cases as soon as possible so that we may keep providing quality dental service to you all.

Yours Sincerely,

WORLDWIDE
Guimarães | Oporto | Gail | Aveiro | Coimbra | Sintra | Cascais
Lisbon | Almada | Portimão | Faro | Funchal | Windsor | Verona
München/Gladbach | Oslo | Warsaw | Gdansk | Athens | Ioannina
New York | Rutherford | Jersey City | Elizabeth | Miami | Portland | Toronto
Montreal | Trois-Rivières | Brossard | Bogotá | Melbourne | Sydney | Perth
Brisbane | Hobart | Gold Coast | Luanda | Tel Aviv | Ramat-Hasharon
Dubai | Karachi | Chennai | Macao | Hong Kong | Beijing | Shanghai
Guangzhou | Shenzhen | Taiyuan | Zhengzhou | Chengde | Qingdao
Haliou | Shenyang | Fuzhou | Hangzhou | Tokyo | Sapporo | Bangkok
Phuket | Singapore



+ INFO

FOLLOW US

Fares Akram & Ilan Ben Zion,
Gaza Strip

ISRAELI fire killed at least 52 Palestinians during mass protests along the Gaza border yesterday, marking the deadliest day of violence there since a devastating 2014 cross-border war and casting a pall over Israel's festive inauguration of the new U.S. Embassy in contested Jerusalem.

In a show of anger fueled by the embassy move, protesters set tires on fire, sending plumes of black smoke into the air, and hurled firebombs and stones toward Israeli troops across the border. The Israeli military said its troops had come under fire, and accused protesters of trying to break through the border fence. It said troops shot and killed three Palestinians who were trying to plant a bomb.

By midafternoon, at least 41 Palestinians, including five minors, were killed, the Gaza Health Ministry said. One of the minors was identified as a girl.

At least 770 protesters were wounded, including 86 in serious or critical condition.

The Hamas-led protest in Gaza was meant to be the biggest yet in a weeks-long campaign against a decade-old blockade of the territory. The march was also directed at the inaugura-

tion of the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem which got under way yesterday afternoon.

The relocation of the embassy from Tel Aviv, a key campaign promise of President Donald Trump, has infuriated the Palestinians, who seek east Jerusalem as a future capital.

"A great day for Israel!" Trump tweeted earlier.

Yesterday's marked the biggest showdown in years between Israel's military and Gaza's Hamas rulers along the volatile border. The sides have largely observed a cease-fire since the 2014 war — their third in a decade.

The protests mark the culmination of a campaign, led by Hamas and fueled by despair among Gaza's 2 million people, to break the decade-old border blockade of the territory imposed by Israel and Egypt after Hamas seized control of Gaza in 2007. Since weekly border marches began in late March, 83 Palestinian protesters have been killed and more than 2,500 wounded by Israeli army fire. Hamas said four members, including three security men, were among the dead.

Ismail Radwan, a senior Hamas figure, said the mass border protests against Israel will continue "until the rights of the Palestinian people are achieved."

MIDDLE EAST

Dozens killed in Gaza as

"Moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem will be a disaster on the American administration and a black day in the history of the American people because they are partners with the occupation and its aggression against the Palestinian people," he added.

Yesterday marked the biggest showdown in years between Israel's military and Gaza's Hamas rulers

Hamas leaders have suggested a border breach is possible yesterday, something Israel has vowed to prevent at any cost.

Most of the casualties were in the southern Gaza towns of Khan Younis and Rafah. Israeli forces were firing volleys of tear gas to disperse the crowds,

and the sound of heavy gunfire could be heard. Sirens were constantly wailing as the wounded were carried to nearby ambulances. Groups of young activists repeatedly approached the fence, but were quickly scattered by gunfire and tear gas.

Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus, an Israeli military spokesman, said the army had set up additional "layers" of security in and around communities near the border to defend Israeli civilians. He said there already had been several "significant attempts" to break through the fence.

"Even if the fence is breached, we will be able to protect Israeli civilians from attempts to massacre or kidnap or kill them," he said.

In a statement, the army said troops had shot and killed three Palestinians who attempted to plant a bomb along the fence. It also said an aircraft had targeted a Hamas post in northern Gaza after Israeli troops came under fire.

The timing of yesterday's events was deeply symbolic, both to Israel and the Palestinians.

The U.S. said it chose the date

to coincide with the 70th anniversary of Israel's establishment.

But it also marks the anniversary of what Palestinians call their "nakba," or catastrophe, a reference to the uprooting of hundreds of thousands who fled or were expelled from what is now Israel during the 1948 war surrounding Israel's independence.

A majority of Gaza's 2 million people are descendants of refugees, and the protests have been billed as the "Great March of Return" to long-lost homes in what is now Israel.

In one of the border areas east of Gaza City, Mohammed Hamami, a 40-year-old civil servant, joined a crowd of hundreds of protesters, along with his mother and five children.

"Today we are here to send a message to Israel and its allies that we will never give up on our land," he said.

Some protesters moved to within about 150 meters of the border fence. A reporter saw two men who tried to advance further being shot in the legs by Israeli troops.

CHILE

People denounce suffering sex abuse by Marists, priests

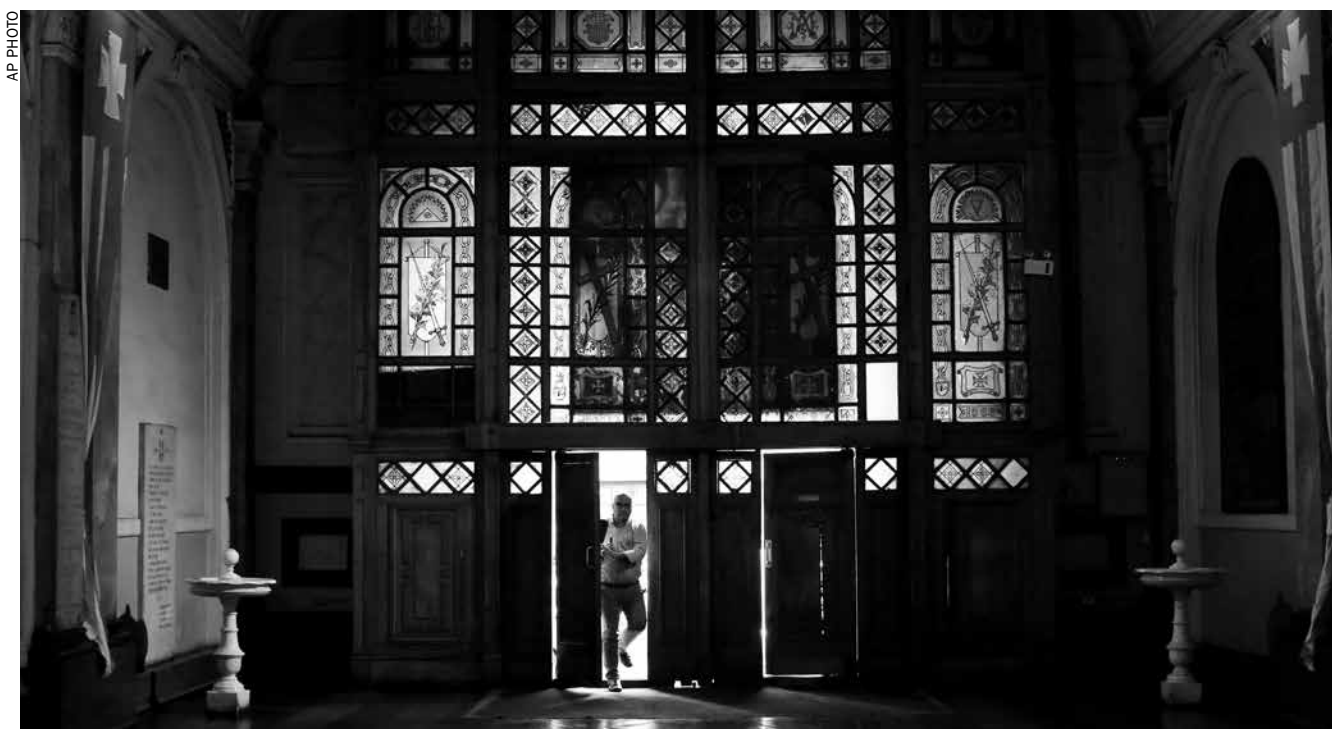
EVEN as Pope Francis apologized for his failures in connection with Chile's most famous case of clerical sex abuse, the pope and that country's deeply discredited Catholic Church are under mounting pressure to address another, even bigger sex scandal.

The blooming scandal of the Marist Brothers, a congregation dedicated to education, has not yet drawn great attention worldwide — unlike allegations that a bishop covered up the crimes of a pedophile priest, Rev. Fernando Karadima.

Francis recently spent several days at his Vatican hotel in talks with three of Karadima's victims; this week he is meeting with all of Chile's bishops to address the crisis that has implicated several church leaders and religious orders.

In the Marist case, the accusations of abuse are many.

"It's a situation of systematic abuse where there are multiple abusers throughout time, within



Gonzalo Dezerega enters La Merced Catholic Church in Santiago, Chile

and outside the congregation," Juan Pablo Hermosilla, an attorney for some of the victims told The Associated Press. He said that there at least 20 cases of abuse, but that there could be more.

"It's an unprecedented situation," he said.

Marists are religious brothers, not priests;

they operate in dozens of countries around the world. The scandal came to light last August, when the group revealed that at least 14 minors were abused from the 1970s until 2008 by Abel Perez, a brother who worked at two of the order's schools. Then it acknowledged that another Marist sexually abu-

sed five students.

The Marists opened a canonical investigation and launched legal action against Perez. But many Chileans were outraged when the order admitted that Perez had confessed in 2010 — seven years earlier.

Now, victims have filed a criminal complaint

against three Catholic priests, a Capuchin brother and six Marists. In that complaint and in interviews, they have recounted numerous abusive encounters.

Jaime Concha said he was 12 years old when he was raped by Perez during a boy scout field trip in the 1970s. He said

Perez, a trip chaperone, took him to a tent after he fell ill, and gave him herbal tea mixed with alcohol.

"When I woke up in the middle of the night, he was taking advantage of me," the 55-year-old physician told the AP. "He had already raped me." But he said Perez blamed the abuse on him, saying: "Don't worry, I've already asked God to forgive your sin."

Gonzalo Dezerega, 55, wept as he recounted how Perez raped him at the school's locker rooms and showers. He was 10.

Perez has declined to speak with the media. Despite the order's acknowledgment that he confessed, his lawyers continue to maintain his innocence.

The alleged abuses at the Alonso de Ercilla Institute in Chile often took place at the school's basement, in the rooms of the Marist Brothers who lived in a residence connected to the school, or at spiritual retreats and scout field trips. **AP**

US Embassy opens in Jerusalem



Palestinian women wave national flags and chant slogans near the Israeli border fence, east of Khan Younis, in the Gaza Strip yesterday

Clouds of black smoke from burning tires rose into the air. Earlier, Israeli drones dropping

incendiary material had preemptively set ablaze some of the tires collected by activists.

Protesters have used the thick smoke as cover against Israeli snipers perched on high sand

berms on the other side of the border. The army accuses Hamas of using the protests as cover to plan or carry out attacks.

Leaflets dropped over Gaza by army jets warned that those approaching the border "jeopardize" their lives. The warning said the army is "prepared to face all scenarios and will act against every attempt to damage the security fence or harm IDF soldiers or Israeli civilians."

Trump's decision to move the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem was welcomed by Israel and condemned by the Palestinians.

Israel captured east Jerusalem in the 1967 Mideast war and annexed it in a move not recognized by the international community. The Palestinians seek the city's eastern half as the capital of a future state.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas cut ties with the Trump administration and declared it unfit to mediate peace talks.

Saeb Erekat, a senior Abbas aide, said that Trump had violated a promise to hold off on

moving the embassy to give peace talks a chance and that his administration is "based on lies."

Erekat said the Trump administration has "become part of the problem, not part of the solution."

In the West Bank, several dozen Palestinian stone-throwers clashed with Israeli troops on the outskirts of Jerusalem, with no immediate reports of injuries. Earlier yesterday, several thousand gathered in the West Bank city of Ramallah to protest the inauguration of the new embassy.

Palestinians seek east Jerusalem as a capital and view the Trump administration's change in policy as a blatant show of pro-Israel bias. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has repeatedly praised Trump's decision to upend decades of U.S. policy by recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Although Trump has said his declaration does not set the final borders of the city, it is seen by both Israel and the Palestinians as taking Israel's side in the most sensitive issue in their conflict.

Only two countries, Guatemala and Paraguay, have said they will follow suit. Most of the world maintains embassies in Tel Aviv, saying the Jerusalem issue must first be resolved. AP

AD

D2 club 4th Year anniversary
White Sensation
 June 9th 2018
 dress code : white

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what's ON



TREASURE FROM THE DEEP SEA - EXHIBITION OF UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGICAL RELICS OF THE NANHAI NO. 1

TIME: 10am-6pm, last admission at 5:30pm (Closed on Mondays, open on public holidays, free admission on Tuesdays and the 15th of every month)

UNTIL: July 31, 2018

VENUE: 3/F, Macau Museum, No. 112, Praceta do Museu de Macau

ADMISSION: MOP15 (free for Macau residents, children of 12 years old or below and seniors of 65 years old or over)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911 & 8394 1208

LA PARISIENNE - CABARET FRANCAISE

TIME: 8pm (Tuesdays to Fridays)

2pm & 8pm (Saturdays)

2pm & 5pm (Sundays)

UNTIL: June 17, 2018

VENUE: Parisian Theatre, Parisian Macau

ADMISSION: MOP188, MOP388, MOP488

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 8818 / 2855 5555

DISCOVER MACAU: MUSEUM OF TAIPA AND COLOANE HISTORY

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (last admission at 5:30pm; closed on Mondays)

ADDRESS: Rua Correia da Silva, Taipa

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

Offbeat

BRITISH SEASONAL PRODUCE ON MENU FOR ROYAL WEDDING RECEPTION



The menu for the reception after Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's wedding will feature a bonanza of British produce.

Royal chef Mark Flanagan said yesterday many of the dishes on Saturday will be made from seasonal produce, including some grown on estates belonging to the hostess, Queen Elizabeth II.

Flanagan says the wedding timing is ideal because British vegetables are coming into season.

"We know the couple wanted us to make sure we used all of the local seasonal produce as much as possible throughout their menu, and this recent good weather is really helping us to achieve that," he said.

He said Harry and Markle have taken a hands-on approach in the preparations.

"They've tasted everything, they've been involved in every detail," he said.

Details about menu items, and the wine, have not yet been released. In the past, the queen has sometimes served premium English sparkling wine rather than Champagne at gala events.

Some 600 guests are expected at the afternoon reception immediately following the ceremony at St. George's Chapel.

The reception fare is meant to be consumed standing up and will feature canapes and dishes served in small bowls.

The food will be produced at the royal kitchens at Windsor Castle in the coming days. Some 30 people are expected to staff the kitchen on the day of the wedding.

Flanagan says it will not be a time for trying out new combinations.

"We've really just been trying to let the ingredients stand proud within the dishes," he said. "There's no experimentation on Saturday whatsoever: tried and tested and predominantly classics."

Prince Charles, Harry's father, will host a smaller evening reception for 200 guests. No details about the menu offerings at that event have been released.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
15:35	Miscellaneous
16:10	NOS League: Maritimo x Sporting (Repeated)
17:50	Brazilian Soap Opera (Repeated)
18:40	TDM Sports (Repeated)
19:50	Portuguese Serie Sr.1
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Interview
21:30	Documentary
22:10	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:50	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

13 - 16 MAY



AVENGERS: INFINITY WAR

ROOM 1

2:30, 6:00, 9:00pm

Director: Anthony Russo, Joe Russo

Starring: Robert Downey Jr, Chris Evans, Chris Hemsworth

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 149min



SUBMERGENCE

ROOM 2

2:30, 9:30pm

Director: Wim Wenders

Starring: Alicia Vikander, James McAvoy, Charlotte Rampling

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 107min



THE MERCY

ROOM 2

6:30, 7:30pm

Director: James Marsh

Starring: Colin Firth, Rachel Weisz

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 91min

THE TROUGH

ROOM 3

02:30, 04:30, 7:30, 9:30pm

Director: Nick Cheung

Starring: Nick Cheung, Xu Jing Lei, He Jiong, Miu Kiu Wai

Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)

this day in history



1993 FRENCH POLICE RESCUE CHILD HOSTAGES

Masked police commandos have freed six girls with their nursery teacher and shot dead an armed man, ending a two-day hostage crisis at a nursery school in Paris.

One team burst into the booby-trapped classroom while the hooded gunman was dozing at 0725 local time. The unidentified man, who had 16 sticks of dynamite strapped to his body, was shot three times in the head with guns fitted with silencers.

At the same time a second team went over to the children and covered them with mattresses so they did not see the shooting. Within minutes the girls were reunited with their parents and seemed unperturbed by the dramatic events of the last 46 hours.

Their teacher, Laurence Dreyfus, aged 30, has been hailed a national heroine for keeping the children calm throughout the ordeal and telling them the man with the gun was "hunting wolves".

She was allowed out of the room at intervals to collect food and to reassure parents. At one point, she smuggled in a video camera used by the police to plan their rescue.

The interior minister, Charles Pasqua, said Mrs Dreyfus and Capt Evelyne Lambert - an army doctor who was allowed to stay with her and the hostages - would be awarded France's highest civilian award for bravery, the Legion of Honour.

The lone gunman, who called himself the Human Bomb, burst into the Commandant Charcto nursery school in the suburb of Neuilly-sur-Seine on Thursday morning.

There were 21 three- and four-year-olds in the classroom at the time but after painstaking negotiations 15 children were released in batches chosen by Mrs Dreyfus.

The gunman demanded £12m (\$18.5m) as a ransom, saying his motives were purely financial, and he had planned his escape meticulously.

The authorities granted him part of the money but decided to use force to end the crisis after he said he wanted to take at least one child with him as a human shield.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Human Bomb was later identified as 42-year-old Eric Schmitt, an Algerian-born French citizen and a loner. His computer business had been made bankrupt two years before and 18 months later he was made redundant from an electrical firm.

He had no previous convictions apart from two for speeding and drink-driving. He had spent seven years in the army where he had learned to handle firearms.

In an interview given to Paris-Match magazine a few days after the end of the hostage crisis, the teacher Laurence Dreyfus said she had found it hard to come to terms with all the praise heaped upon her.

As well as the Legion of Honour she was also awarded the Unesco human rights medal.

YOUR STARS

Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Like a neon arrow flashing and sirens blaring, what you need to do today is terribly obvious. The fact is, if you've been waiting for push to come to shove, your wait is over.

Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

There's just no telling how others will act today - there's a lot of uncertainty in the air, so you should be prepared for anything. Some tough-talking authority figure might throw their weight around.

Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Good news is coming out of the woodwork today - for you, your family, and your friends. There are new arrivals, happy announcements, and a few romantic developments coming together.

Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

Whether your strength is as a sprinter or a marathon runner, today you definitely have what it takes to go the distance. Don't shy away from any type of challenge.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

There's a larger-than-life personality giving you the eye today. They may be picking you out for a future partnership of some sort (romantic, business or social).

Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

There's an immense amount of bravery in facing what frightens or intimidates you, and this is what you need to do today. Try to find situations you would normally avoid.

Taurus

April 20-May 20

You won't take any guff from anyone - although you don't really have to worry about it since everyone will be completely charmed by your happy glow. Your positive attitude will be contagious!

Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

The pieces of a particularly vexing puzzle finally start to come together today -- but whether or not you ever finish it isn't terribly important. The answer won't change your life.

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

This morning will be full of raucous energy, though it won't necessarily be fast-paced or pressure-filled. Just hang on tightly until the excitement blows over (which should happen by midmorning).

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

When you get a good idea of where something is headed, take the leap and make your boldest move. If you wait for every little detail to be confirmed, you may fall behind or even worse.

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

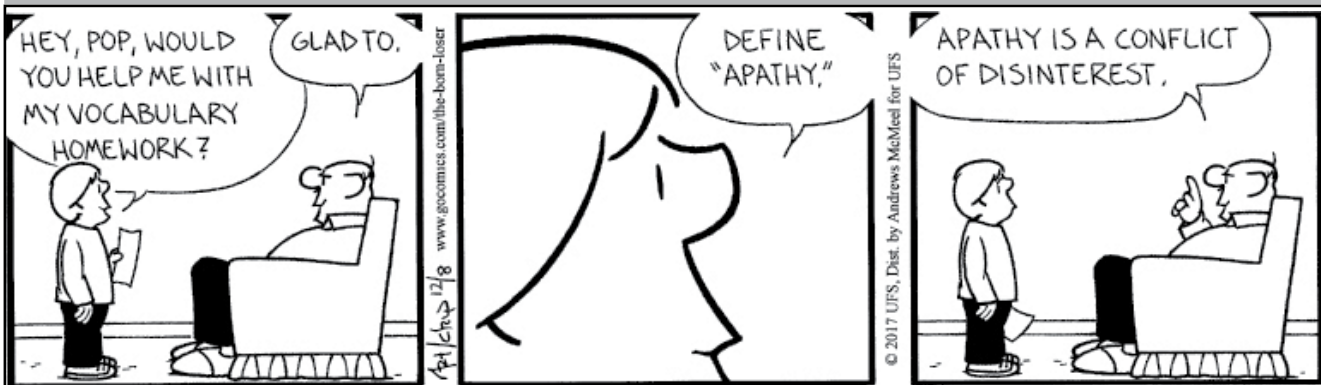
There's nothing quite like good, hard, honest work to remind you of the value of a dollar. Today requires you to go through a lot of effort, and the payoff might leave you less than thrilled.

Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

What you've been discovering lately - about yourself and how you relate to the people in your life -- might be throwing you for a loop. But don't give up, because this introspection is valuable.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9	7		6	8				
1	5							
8		9	4		3	7		
7		3	6					
8								2
			8	1		4		
3	1		5	4		2		
							1	8
		8	1			4	9	

Easy+

6	1			3		5		
				5		4		
3			8	2				6
				3		9		1
	8						7	
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	5	4						
2		3					1	7

Medium

3		1	6				2	
		9	7					3
6			2		9			
9					4			
1		3	4	7				6
	8						3	
	3		8				4	
6				4	5			
	8			7	5		1	

Hard

4						5	3	
		2		1				
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				9			6	
1						8		
7	2							
					9			7
6			3					
							1	

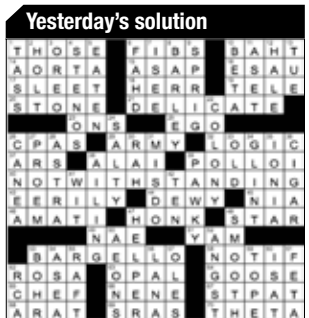
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	22	31	cloudy/shower
Harbin	14	26	cloudy/drizzle
Tianjin	24	33	cloudy
Urumqi	10	17	drizzle/cloudy
Xi'an	19	32	cloudy/shower
Lhasa	7	20	cloudy/shower
Chengdu	19	33	cloudy/clear
Chongqing	24	35	cloudy
Kunming	14	26	cloudy/clear
Nanjing	25	34	cloudy
Shanghai	23	34	cloudy
Wuhan	25	33	cloudy/overcast
Hangzhou	24	35	cloudy
Taipei	25	32	cloudy
Guangzhou	25	33	cloudy/thundershower
Hong Kong	27	32	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	10	24	clear/drizzle
Frankfurt	15	21	drizzle/cloudy
Paris	11	24	moderate rain/clear
London	7	20	clear
New York	15	23	drizzle/moderate rain

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Bluegrass instrument; 6- I don't give ___; 11- Flight; 14- On ___-to-know basis; 15- Whoopi's role in "The Color Purple"; 16- Land in la mer; 17- Took care of; 18- Brother of Hannibal; 20- Fast flier; 21- Vibrating component of a woodwind instrument; 23- Chapter's partner; 24- Smells; 26- Quarantine; 28- Agree; 30- When prompted; 31- Mixed bags; 32- Festive occasions; 33- Nuke; 36- Actor Connery; 37- Unit of volume; 38- Up ___ good; 39- Author Amy; 40- Illumination; 41- Tapestry; 42- Grain stores; 43- Not rough; 44- Natural environment; 47- Place to sweat it out; 48- God of Islam; 49- Possesses; 50- Prefix meaning "beneath"; 53- Having stamens; 56- Emcee's job; 58- Univ. aides; 59- Utah's ___ Mountains; 60- Destitute; 61- Source of iron; 62- Executive of a municipality; 63- Convoluted fold of the brain;

DOWN: 1- Low in pitch; 2- Collections of anecdotes; 3- Pertaining to Sir Isaac Newton; 4- Deep black; 5- Odoriferous; 6- Pains; 7- Spent, as batteries; 8- Capp and Capone; 9- Clear (of); 10- Apprehensive; 11- Seventh sign of the zodiac; 12- As ___ resort; 13- Free-for-all; 19- River to the Ubangi; 22- Stray; 25- Pest control brand; 26- Bay; 27- Operation memento; 28- Price tag; 29- Olive genus; 30- Vows; 32- Leg of lamb; 33- Zarathustra; 34- Med. school class; 35- Fancy-schmancy; 37- Reader's Digest co-founder Wallace; 38- 1982 Disney film; 40- Soft metallic element; 41- Causing laughter; 42- Former name of Thailand; 43- ___ Quentin; 44- Must; 45- Communion table; 46- World-weary; 47- Take an oath; 49- "Beetle Bailey" dog; 51- Pakistani language; 52- They'll be themselves, axiomatically; 54- Actress Vardalos; 55- At all; 57- Marshal at Waterloo;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
- Fire department 28 572 222
- PJ (Open line) 993
- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- Customs 28 559 944
- S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
- Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
- Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
- IACM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
- Airport 59 888 88
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
- Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
- Telephone - Report 1000
- Electricity - Report 28 339 922
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City's Guardiola



United's Mourinho

FOOTBALL

'Big 6' pulling further clear in top-heavy Premier League

Steve Douglas, Manchester

THE Premier League prides itself on being the most competitive in the world and points to Leicester's 2016 title triumph at preseason odds of 5,000-1 as the ultimate evidence.

It might be time to revisit that opinion.

The end-of-season standings show a worrying development in England's top division: The chasm between the so-called "Big 6" — Manchester City, Manchester United, Tottenham, Liverpool, Chelsea and Arsenal — and the rest is bigger than ever.

Just ask the coach of the team that finished seventh.

"We all know where the top six are, and it's not impossible — as Leicester have shown — but improbable that it is going to radically change," Burnley manager Sean Dyche said. "That top six is going to be more or less the top six, because of the buying power, because of the power of

the clubs. Outside of that, relative chaos.

"The first marker for lots of teams — probably 14, with maybe Everton on the edge of that category — is first things first, let's collect a team that can stay in [the Premier League]."

The top six teams, led by City in record-breaking fashion, all had a goal difference of at least plus 23. City's was a staggering plus 79. The other 14 teams finished on negative goal difference.

The gap between sixth-place Arsenal and Burnley was nine points, with another five to eighth-place Everton, whose dull brand of football under manager Sam Allardyce has been widely derided.

Leicester's title victory two years ago embarrassed the supposed powerhouses of English football and provoked a strong response. Last year, the top six finished eight points clear of seventh place — Everton in that case — and the gap has widened still 12 months later.

Below them is that "chaos" referred to by Dyche, who insists his priority next season is retaining Burnley's Premier League status.

Of the teams that finished eighth to 20th, nine changed managers during the season and almost all of them were in the relegation zone or hovered around it at some point. Everton was in the relegation zone when it fired Ronald Koeman in October, for example.

Forty points used to be the safety mark for relegation-threatened team. This season, 34 points would have kept a side up.

The Premier League splits the money raised from domestic and overseas TV deals equally between the 20 teams, meaning that this season's last-place team, Stoke, earned nearly 100 million pounds in prize payments from the 2017-18 campaign.

The top six are attempting to secure a bigger share of broadcast cash — arguing their mat-

ches are a bigger pull for viewers around the world — but have so far been thwarted, with rivals arguing that would erode the competitiveness of the league.

A gulf between the best and the rest has grown anyway and Arsenal manager, predicted a massive transformation in the coming years.

"The next evolution? You will certainly have a European league over the weekends," Wenger said. "A domestic league will certainly play Tuesday and Wednesday. I think that is the next step we will see.

"It is inevitable," he added. "To share money between the big clubs and small clubs will become a problem. The big clubs will say, 'If two smaller clubs are playing each other, nobody wants to watch it. So we have to share the money but nobody is interested in you?' People want to watch quality."

This was the season that saw Huddersfield, the club with the smallest budget, beat Manches-

ter United at home and secure draws with City and Chelsea in the final week of the season to stay up in remarkable fashion. Burnley beat Chelsea at Stamford Bridge on the opening weekend, and drew at Tottenham, Liverpool and United before Christmas.

But this was also the season when City's goal difference was about three times the number of goals scored by Huddersfield (28), and when the runaway champions frequently came across opponents who were in damage-limitation mode from kickoff.

The most depressing example was Newcastle playing ultra-defensively at home against City on Dec. 27. It is hardly what global viewers, who long admire the competitiveness and intensity of English football, want to see.

Games between the top six have rarely been more engrossing than this season — the exciting brand of football played by City and Liverpool helps in that regard — but the desperation to stay in the lucrative Premier League has led to a drop in standards elsewhere.

"It's unheard of for that many teams to all be struggling to get 40 points. That is quite rare," Dyche said. "It proves how difficult the Premier League is becoming." AP

ON THE ROAD TO THE WORLD CUP

Uruguay 1930: where it all began

THE 21st World Cup gets underway next month in Moscow and billions around the world are expected to tune in during the monthlong tournament — a far cry from its low-key start in 1930 in Uruguay.

Back then, many European countries, including Germany and Italy, opted against making the multi-week boat trip to Montevideo, while England and the other three British associations had withdrawn

from FIFA following a dispute over payments. In the end, only four teams from Europe made the trip.

A quarter of a century or so after the idea of a global soccer tournament was first suggested, 13 teams gathered in South America.

Uruguay, which had won the gold medal in soccer at the 1924 and 1928 Olympics, was given the right to host the competition for the Jules Rimet Trophy, the World Cup's original

name in honor of the FIFA president who had done so much to make the tournament a reality.

France forward Lucien Laurent scored the first goal in World Cup history in the 19th minute of his team's opening match against Mexico. Barely 5,000 spectators were present to witness that historic moment in sporting history.

"And it was snowing!" Laurent recalled years later.

Eventually, Uruguay faced off against Argentina to see who would become the first winner of the World Cup. The final at the Centenario Stadium started off fairly bizarrely, with a disagreement as to which ball to use. Eventually, it was agreed that an Argentine ball would be used in the first half and a Uruguayan one in the second.

The arrangement seemed to work for Uruguay, which came from behind



July 30, 1930: Uruguay defeated Argentina 4-2 in the first WC final at the Centenario stadium in Montevideo

with three second-half goals to win 4-2 in front of nearly 70,000 supporters (others, however, estimate that

the actual crowd was nearer to the 100,000 mark).

The World Cup had achieved liftoff. AP

opinion

Our Desk

Julie Zhu



DSEJ'S BLIND SELF-CONFIDENCE

When government departments do not know how to lie, or when they do not want to lie, they make themselves look and sound funny.

The Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) has always been a seamless role model when it comes to this.

When the rainstorms come and pour down, which in turn forces students and parents to either prepare to go to school or make the decision of staying home, DSEJ issues a school suspension that is, according to them, always announced in a timely fashion.

The SMG's broadcasts are one thing, DSEJ's self-confidence is another.

"We provided support to [schools/parents/students] immediately" and "we have instructions to encounter problems like this" are frequently voiced by DSEJ representatives.

Not only does DSEJ give the public a bunch of repeated impractical theory in regard to helping the city's students, and education development, it also claims to react fast in the face of an emergency.

Such reactions are usually twofold: first, sending one division head to take, on behalf of the bureau, all the bullets shot by the public and the media; two, saying afterwards that the bureau was prompt in taking action as soon as it was notified of the emergency.

What action did DSEJ take?

I cannot make any comment since I am truly embarrassed to make even an educated guess.

However, it seems that the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau always takes theoretical stances rather than practical action.

Once again, we go back to the question: does DSEJ know what is the cause of all things on Earth? Perhaps only about the weather, but not about any other topic, specifically concerning the education sector, which is the brain department behind all traditions, culture, society, and responsible for the future of the city.

Does DSEJ really know about the reality of the education sector, and its problems and advantages?

Why can't there be at least one single person in the public education sector capable of talking to people normally, rather than citing a booklet; an instruction manual that is probably fake.

In recent times, DSEJ gave some answers that I have never managed to understand.

In January, the Anglican College suspended classes following a discovery of nearby asbestos.

Last week, an alleged case of sexual assault was reported in a local kindergarten. DSEJ says, as always, that it "took immediate and timely actions."

"A family welcomed the birth of a boy. The family was extremely happy. When the boy was one month old, the family showed the boy to their guests, probably, or naturally, for the hope of getting some good luck. One guest said: the boy will make a good fortune in the future. The man who said it received a lot of appreciation in the future. Another guest said: the boy will become a government principal official. The man received several flattering words. Yet another guest said: the child will die in the future, and this guest was beaten up by a joint-effort of all the other people. The one who mentioned death said the inevitable, the one who told about fortune lied. However, the one who lied was paid back well, whereas the one who said the inevitable was beaten up. You?

"Neither do I want to lie, nor do I want to be beaten up. So, teacher, what should I say?"

"Then, you must say: aha! child. Aha, hahaha. Hehehe, hehehehehe!" (Lu Xun).

THE VATICAN'S INQUISITION, INDEX OF BANNED BOOKS OPEN FOR STUDY

The Vatican's doctrine office, once responsible for the Inquisition, the Index of Prohibited Books and famous for its centuries of secrecy, is reminding scholars that it's actually a fairly accessible and transparent place.

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith is hosting an academic conference starting today marking the 20th anniversary of its historic decision to open its archives to scholars.

The conference, "The Roman Inquisition and

its Archives," will feature dozens of academic presentations about the scholarship that has emerged, including a whole session on how the Inquisition and banned book list have been portrayed over time in popular storytelling, media, cinema and advertising.

The Roman Inquisition began in 1542 as part of the Catholic Church's counter-reformation against Protestantism, and prosecuted people for heresy and other doctrinal crimes.

Australian climbs 7 peaks in 7 continents in record time

Binaj Gurubacharya, Kathmandu

AN Australian mountaineer scaled Mount Everest yesterday, completing his quest to climb the highest peaks on all seven continents in record time, an expedition organizer said.

Australian climber Steve Plain scaled Everest 117 days after beginning his mission in Antarctica.

Iswari Poudel of Himalayan Guides Nepal said he received a phone call from Mount Everest base camp saying that Plain along with two guides reached the 8,850-meter peak at around 7 a.m. and were descending.

Plain, 36, from Perth, climbed Mount Vinson in Antarctica on Jan. 16. He followed that with Mount Aconcagua in South America, Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa, Mount Carstensz Pyramid in Papua New Guinea, which covers Australia and Oceania, Mount Elbrus in Europe and Denali in North America.

A surfing accident in 2014 left Plain with multiple injuries but he recovered to continue mountain climbing.

Polish climber Janusz Kochanski held the previous



Everest Base Camp, Nepal

record for climbing the seven peaks, doing it in 126 days last year.

A 69-year-old Chinese double-amputee also scaled Mount Everest yesterday.

A government official at the base camp, Gyanendra Shrestha, said Xia Boyu was among more than 40 climbers who reached the summit yesterday because of favorable weather conditions on the mountain.

He said several more are expected to attempt the peak this week.

The Chinese climber is not the first double-amputee on Everest, but he is the oldest.

The first was New Zealand climber Mark Inglis, who reached the summit in

2006 at age 59.

A group of eight Nepalese Sherpa guides reached the summit on Sunday, fixing ropes and clearing paths for other climbers to begin their ascent to the peak.

Some 340 foreign climbers and many Nepalese Sherpa guides are attempting to climb Everest this month.

The popular spring season runs from March until the end of May, after which weather conditions on the mountain begin to deteriorate. There are usually only a few days of good weather on the highest part of the mountain in May, when climbers rush to attempt the summit. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



Present arms! Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Keith Rowley walks with Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang during a welcome ceremony in Beijing yesterday.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	25-45 Good
High Density Residential Area	25-45 Good
Ambient	25-45 Good

WORLD BRIEFS

INDIA Powerful winds and rainstorms swept across a crowded swath of northern India, demolishing houses, uprooting trees and killing at least 43 people as the winds turned the skies brown with dust and sand. More on p13



PAKISTAN Rescuers have recovered two more bodies of students who fell into a river when an old wooden bridge collapsed in Kashmir, bringing the death toll to seven.

RUSSIA Germany has appealed to the Russian government to let in a journalist who exposed systematic doping in Russian athletics and was denied entry to Russia to report on the upcoming World Cup. More on p19



ROMANIA Thousands of people gathered in Romania's capital and other cities to protest a contentious judicial overhaul they say will make it harder to prosecute senior officials for graft.

ITALY's president has summoned rival populist leaders to see if they've nailed down a coalition deal, more than 10 weeks after elections yielded a political impasse.



SPAIN Catalan lawmakers yesterday elected a fervent separatist as the new chief of the restive region — ending more than six months of a leadership vacuum and setting the scene for a new confrontation with Spain.

NETHERLANDS-VENEZUELA A court on the Dutch island of Curacao has authorized the local subsidiary of U.S. oil giant ConocoPhillips to seize USD636 million worth of assets held on the island by Venezuela's state oil company, PDVSA.