



**POLICE  
FIND DRUGS  
MAILED FROM  
AFRICA TO  
MACAU**

P3



**MACAO FILM PANORAMA  
KICKS OFF**

Approximately two dozen films are showing at this year's Macao Film Panorama, which is ongoing at Cinematheque Passion

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**HO SOLD RUSSIA CASINO  
EYEING JAPAN**

Lawrence Ho says he ceded control of a casino resort in Russia to improve chances of winning a Japan license

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## China planning to scrap birth limits

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### WORLD BRIEFS

AP PHOTO



**SOUTH CHINA SEA** The Philippine government is taking "appropriate diplomatic action" to protect its claims in the South China Sea but did not elaborate or name China in a non-confrontational policy that immediately sparked criticism.  
More on p11

**INDONESIA**'s most volatile volcano spewed smoke and ash early yesterday in the latest of several eruptions in less than two weeks.

AP PHOTO



**THAILAND** Four years after seizing power, Thailand's junta has a singular success it never hoped for: uniting a politically divided nation in growing dissatisfaction with the thin-skinned rule of the generals. More on p13

More on backpage

## 'June – Month of Portugal' returns with a more diverse program

P7 MDT REPORT



## PSP catches 41 illegal workers in April

The Public Security Police Force (PSP) says that it has caught 41 illegal workers in April, in joint operations launched by the PSP, the Labor Affairs Bureau and other government departments. In a statement issued yesterday, the police authority said that 283 locations were inspected last month with the aim of combating instances of illegal workers. The locations of inspection consisted of construction sites, private residences, commercial and industrial establishments.

## Marriages with foreign nationals continue to decline

Mainland China has processed fewer marriage registrations between residents and non-mainland Chinese residents. According to a report by Macao Daily News, there has been a continuous decline in the number of marriages registered from 2014 until June 2016. Comparing the first three quarters of 2016 to the same period in 2015, a one percent decrease was recorded, which corresponds to approximately 29,400 marriage registrations between mainland Chinese and non-mainland Chinese nationals. Guangdong Province also recorded a drop in the number of marriage registrations between Guangdong residents and SARs' residents.

## Speeding increases by 60 percent

As of yesterday, until May 27, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) is enhancing actions to combat speeding. According to the PSP's Traffic Department Commissioner, Leong Wa Chi, in the first four months of this year, the PSP prosecuted approximately 7,200 speeding cases, which represents an over 60 percent increase year on year. During this seven-day period, the PSP will carry out mobile speeding tests without a fixed time schedule and location. Throughout the seven-day period, the PSP hopes to reduce speeding cases and the occurrence of traffic accidents.

## Region has 27 banks, more than 6,000 employees

A total of 27 banks operate within the MSAR, with 6,239 full-time employees as at the end of the first quarter of this year, the Statistics and Census Service announced yesterday. The average earnings excluding bonuses of full-time employees in the banking sector amounts to MOP26,630, up by 2.3 percent year-on-year, with the average earnings of bank tellers increasing by 7.3 percent to MOP16,500. In terms of recruitment prerequisites for the banking sector, about 58.9 percent of the vacancies required work experience, approximately 97.8 percent required tertiary education, and a requirement for knowledge of Mandarin and English, which accounted for 97.6 percent and 98.3 percent respectively. At the end of the first quarter of 2018, job vacancies in the banking sector stood at 414, an increase of 169 from last year.

# Conference kicks off to discuss media sector development

Julie Zhu

**T**HE director of the Government Information Bureau (GCS), Victor Chan, reiterated on the sidelines of yesterday's Macao Global Media Industry Development Conference 2018 that the SAR government respects the freedom of the press.

"We think that the media development should follow its own law and media organization, and media groups should develop in accordance to their own ideas," said Chan. "But, of course, the government or GCS have the responsibility to promote and assist media development," he added.

The conference was co-organized by China News Service and Macao Daily News.

It was mainly the Chinese press participating, including Chinese press from 29 countries and regions from North America, Europe, Africa and Oceania.

"We think it [today's media conference] is a platform that can push forward media development," said Chan.

When expressing his opinion about media development, Chan said that the media should expand its own content and information, "walk[ing] outwards" in order to reach more users and readers.

The Times questioned Chan regarding the number of non-Chinese language media sources that were participating in the conference, but Chan did not have the data at hand.

Furthermore, when talking about the conference, Chan said "media development is facing new challenges. But I think the most important thing is that this is also an opportunity, with the development of the network of the new media. We can explore more frontiers, and we can reach much a greater audience."

According to Chan, the purpose of the conference is to "engage media around the world, of course, with close connections to Macau."

"We sit down together to discuss what we can do in the



Victor Chan

future, as Macau is the platform between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries. This gives us very good advantages for our further development even on the media side," said Chan.

"How Macau media makes good use of this to promote the ideas and services between China and Portuguese-speaking countries is a very important aspect for the further development," he added.

"This year, we invited some of our colleagues from Portugal, so I think it's a very important step, we sit down together and discuss what we can do, how we can make good use of this platform to provide services and information as well. This is vital for further development of Macau's media," Chan noted.

"For media, nowadays, it's not only to provide information, I think it's a combination of providing information

news and service as well, and with different media, there are different connections. For example, there are some media personnel from Portugal, so we can sit down, we can discuss how they can help to provide information to China, or to the customer of China, or to those who need information on the Portuguese-speaking countries. I think they can play a very significant and important role in the future," said Chan.

## Scholar calls for positive coverage of Belt and Road project

**U**NIVERSITY of Lisbon's professor and President of the board of directors of New Silk Road Friends Association, Fernanda Ilhéu, has called on the media to provide positive reports about China's Belt and Road Initiative, especially concerning the element which involves China's investment in Europe.

"At this moment, Europe is preparing new dialogue sessions with China, and we are concentrating on the investment of China in Europe. If they are pressed by public opinion in media in a negative way, of course, the outcome of the policy decision will be not favorable for the BRI initiative. If it is favorable,

then we will have, of course, a broader scope of cooperation," said Fernanda Ilhéu.

She suggested the media provide positive reports, "in other aspects that the Belt and Road Initiative foresees in its regional plan", besides infrastructure.

"In this field, as a reporter, as media people, you should have a positive narrative about Belt and Road not only for [...] infrastructure but also in other dimensions which neighboring the relation between people and [showing] that this initiative is inclusive and it targets development and is a global model, which could be good and a win-win for everybody," said Ilhéu.

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## CRIME

# Police intercepted drug parcel mailed from Africa to Macau

Renato Marques

A parcel mailed from an undisclosed African country to Zhuhai containing 16.44 kilograms of an amphetamine-like substance has been intercepted, the Judiciary Police (PJ) announced in a special press conference yesterday. The interception was made in cooperation with mainland authorities, police said.

According to the PJ's spokesperson, Lei Hon Nei, the parcel contained a total of 16.44 kilograms of Khat (*Catha edulis*), a plant native to the Horn of Africa and the Arabian Peninsula and contains alkaloid Cathinone, an amphetamine-like stimulant, used for several

purposes including the suppression of appetite and euphoria, also known as "Arabian Tea." The plant, particularly its dried leaves, which were found in the parcel, is said to be able to be consumed by chewing, as a form of tea or even as a substance which is smoked. The substance found within the package had a market value of between MOP150,000 and MOP180,000.

According to Lei, this was the first time that such a substance was found by the police in the territory.

The interception started on April 18, when mainland authorities detected the parcel in transit from its origin country in Africa with the transit destination being Beijing and

final destination planned for Macau.

At the time, the parcel had been already under suspicion of containing drugs and the police authorities in Macau were called to intervene.

Arriving to Macau through the Lotus Flower Border Checkpoint, the parcel was to be further delivered by an express courier company located in the central district.

After an inspection by the authorities and confirmation that the parcel contained drugs, the PJ is said to have removed the drugs from the box and replaced it with tea, asking the express courier to continue with the delivery process.

On May 3, the company delivered the parcel to a shop located at the bor-

der gate area, but the shop was not the final destination and there was another order to reship the box back to Zhuhai through the border gate checkpoint.

Upon arrival at the final destination and in cooperation with the Chinese authorities, the local police arrested two men, aged 30 and 34 years old respectively, who are accused of being the recipients of the drugs which were in PJ's possession.

The World Health Organization classified Khat as a drug of abuse capable of producing psychological dependence in 1980, although the same organization does not consider Khat addiction to be seriously problematic. In some countries such as the Canada, Germany,



The package that contained the drugs and other items are displayed at the PJ press conference

Israel, the United Kingdom and the United States, use of the substance is controlled but not deemed illegal. Meanwhile, its production, sale, and consumption are legal in countries such as Djibou-

ti, Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Somalia and Yemen, where Khat leaf chewing is seen as a social custom dating back thousands of years, similar to the use of coca leaves in South America and betel nut in Asia.

AD

Macau Daily Times contest



## Air Supply

Question for readers:

What is the group's most famous song?

Please email the answers to:  
[airsupply@macaudailytimes.com](mailto:airsupply@macaudailytimes.com)  
 Along with your name and contact details.

### Tickets-Giveaway

Five sets of two tickets each will be awarded to the four readers who send us more correct answers the fastest. The contest will run for 5 days (Monday to Friday), each day with a different question to be answered. Each ticket is valued at MOP580 for a total prize value of MOP5,800.

Tickets from MOP380 are now available through [cotaiticketing.com](http://cotaiticketing.com) or 2882 8818



One of the most successful and enduring musical acts of all time, Air Supply will bring their Air Supply Live in Concert 2018 – Macao to The Venetian Macao's Venetian Theatre on June 9, 2018. Tickets are now on sale at all Cotai Ticketing box offices. Originally from Australia, Air Supply formed when singer-songwriter and guitarist Graham Russell and lead vocalist Russell Hitchcock first met back in 1975 during rehearsals for the musical "Jesus Christ Superstar" in Sydney. Seven top five singles later, Air Supply equaled The Beatles' run of consecutive top five hits, while their albums "Lost in Love", "The One That You Love", "Now and Forever", and "The Greatest Hits" have sold in excess of 20 million copies. The group's most famous song



"All Out of Love" has been re-recorded by many different artists over the years, including Hong Kong singer Alan Tam who had a hit with it in 1981. Fans new and old will also love renditions of their other big hits, including "Lost in Love", "The One That You Love", "Making Love Out of Nothing at All" and many more. This will be the fifth time the duo has played at The Venetian Macao and Sands Macao.

Don't miss the opportunity to catch the sensational Air Supply once again for a night of romance, nostalgia and wonderful music at The Venetian Macao on June 9. ICBC Sands Lifestyle Mastercard cardholders can enjoy 15% discount on ticket prices as well as EARN points when shopping or travelling anywhere in the world and then REDEEM them in Macao within Sands Resorts Macao's integrated resorts.



Daniel Beittler

THIS year's Macao Film Panorama was inaugurated on Friday night at Cinematheque Passion with the screening of four shorts and a question and answer session with their respective directors.

As an introduction to the approximately two dozen films showing at this year's Panorama, the opening gala shorts were connected by a common theme of non-local workers, be they migrant or illegal workers.

Of the four shorts, just one was set in Macau.

In 'Illegalist', local documentary filmmaker Penny Lam departs from his usual genre to create a compelling 26-minute drama about two mainlanders who come to Macau to work illegally, one as a sex worker and the other at a construction site.

The two workers plan to stay in Macau just long enough to earn some money for their families and to pay their visa overstay fine when they return to the mainland. But a complication arises when the Macau government announces a sudden increase in the fine, and the two workers are left short of funds.

"As a local, I have always known that there are illegal workers in Macau casinos, however, most of them have never been captured by the police. This is a very weird phenomenon, and so I found it interesting [to depict]," explained Lam at the opening gala.

# Macao Film Panorama kicks off with 'non-local' theme night

"I wanted to write a movie about earning money," he added. "The two workers are contributing to society, but they have never been a part of that society. They are never being included in that society. These illegal workers only earn 200 patacas per day, which is nothing to local people."

'Illegalist' was awarded Best Short Feature Film in the Local View Power project of the 2nd International Film Festival & Awards - Macao.

Set in rural Malaysia during the 1990s, 'Bringing in the Wine', tells the story of Paigu and his teenage friends, who spend their days drinking, smoking, gambling and street fighting.

One day, Paigu moves to the big city to pursue romance, but instead finds droves of mindless workers that all look and act the same. Somewhere along the way, Paigu loses sight of his motivation in moving to the city and becomes such a worker himself.

Meanwhile, 'Tea Land' by Taiwanese director Tseng Ying-ting depicts a dark and unsettling account of five runaway migrant workers from Thailand and Vietnam who work on a quiet mountain tea farm in Taiwan.



A scene from 'Illegalist'

One of the workers saves enough money to return to his home in Thailand, but dies unexpectedly the night before. The fraternal relationship between the migrant workers dissipates when accusations start flying over who took the dead man's savings.

'Losing Sight of a Longed Place' was the fourth opening gala short. Initially a student project, the animation is a film adaptation of an interview with a young, homosexual man living in Hong Kong, who tries to resolve his parents' disapproval over his lifestyle.

The Macao Film Panorama

aims to provide a platform for displaying local films and enabling Macau filmmakers and audiences to appreciate a greater number of local productions.

It is divided into several sections, including a "Local Indies Force" constituting 10 films narrowed down from a total of 24 submissions and "Local View Power Revisited", in which 14 films that were initially commissioned by the Macau Cultural Centre for the 2016/17 Local View Power are now to be shown on the silver screen again.

Several other local films will be screened, including a short en-

titled 'Hato's Journey', which tells the story of man traveling to Macau on the day of last year's Typhoon Hato, and 'San Va Hotel - Behind the Scenes' depicting the act of movie making set in Macau's historical gambling and entertainment precinct, Rua da Felicidade.

There is also the presentation of four feature-length films: Ka Keong Chan's 'Passing Rain', Fei Ho's 'Love is Cold', Ivo Ferreira's 'Letters from War' and Tracy Choi's 'Sisterhood'.

The Macao Film Panorama runs until May 31 and tickets may be purchased from the Cinematheque Passion box office.



A scene from 'Hato's Journey'

## STUDY

# Sleep disturbances affect older population

A study funded by the Macao Polytechnic Institute (IPM) found that 38.1 percent of the participants in a sleep disturbances study suffer from sleep disturbances.

Published online earlier this year and authored by 10 researchers, the study was conducted between September 1 and November 30, 2015. The research included data collected from 20 nursing homes across Macau. The research was targeted to local Chinese residents, aged at least 50 years old, selected from the aforementioned nursing homes.

Other participants in

the local community were also consecutively recruited from social centers near their residence and in the same districts as their residence.

In total, 470 senior citizens were evaluated, with 451 (203 from local communities and 248 from the aforementioned nursing homes) deemed to qualify for the study, having completed their assessments, giving the study a 95.9 participation rate.

According to the study, DIS (difficulty initiating sleeping), DMS (difficulty maintaining sleep), and EMA (early morning awakening) was found in

18.6 percent, 31.3 percent and 23.9 percent, respectively, of the patients. Furthermore, 38.1 percent claimed to have one type of sleep disturbance. More specifically, one, two and three types of sleep disturbances were reported by 14.9 percent, 10.9 percent and 12.4 percent, respectively, of the surveyed senior citizens.

In addition, the study also found that 9.9 percent of the interviewees who suffer from sleep disturbances are taking sleeping pills.

"The low treatment rate may be due to two reasons: there are no sleep

clinics in Macau; and, medical practitioners less frequently inquire about sleeping problems due to an inadequate emphasis on this area in medical education," the study states.

When comparing men and women, 21.1 percent of the female older adults were found with the prevalence of DIS, while the proportion is only 9.3 in men.

The survey results also showed that the older the people are, the higher prevalence of DIS can be found, with the highest recorded prevalence of DIS in the age group of those over 85 years old.

Regarding the occurrence of DMS, 35.2 percent and 16.6 percent of the female and male citizens interviewed suffer from this kind of sleep disturbances.

Women continue to show a higher prevalence of sleep disturbances, particularly in terms of the prevalence of EMA. According to the survey, 27.4 percent of the surveyed senior female citizens are dealing with EMA, and only 11.4 percent of the male residents are experiencing EMA.

No absolute increase in the prevalence of sleep disturbances can be linked to the increase of age.

"Compared with the 'no-sleep disturbance' group, older adults with sleep disturbances were more likely to be older, to live in nursing homes, to have less household income, and to have more severe depressive symptoms, while they were less likely to be male, married, and living with others," the study reads.

Women were found "more likely to suffer from sleep disturbances."

The study suggested that "considering the harmful consequences of sleep disturbances and their low treatment rate found in older adults in Macau, serious attempts should be made to diagnose sleep disturbances early and improve access to treatment in Macau." JZ



GAMING | JAPAN

# Ho sold Russia casino to gain regulator favor

**L**AWRENCE Ho says that he ceded control of a casino resort in Russia last year to improve his chances of winning a Japan gaming concession.

The chairman and chief executive of Melco Resorts & Entertainment told the Nikkei Asian Review that he was warned his company's presence in Vladivostok could negatively impact his planned bid, in the context of the Russian Federation's controversial 2014 annexation of Crimea and its territorial disputes with Japan. He implied that breaking ties with Russia would gain favor with Japan regulators.

"I did not want to do anything that would jeopardize how Japanese regulators see my other activities," Ho told Nikkei, referring to the international sanctions against Russia and the dispute over the Kuril Islands. "Given that my main focus is Japan... I said let's quickly clean that up."

Russia's reputation as an unregulated market compared to Asian gaming jurisdictions like



Lawrence Ho

Macau and Singapore might have also played into the decision, speculates Nikkei. Melco International's slot machine division has already withdrawn from Cambodia, which is also regarded as a lightly regulated market.

Ho said he hasn't completely given up on Russia and would "love to go back one day, assuming Russia is not enemies with the country that I want to be in [... and] if things are more transparent [and] operate more internationally."

But for the young gaming mogul

— like many other casino investors — Japan is the big prize. On several occasions, Ho has stressed that securing an integrated resort in Japan is the company's biggest priority.

The company has said it would spend as much as USD10 billion to build a casino resort in a major city such as Osaka.

"Rarely do you find a first-world country like Japan with the infrastructure, tech and people already in place, yet the potential still so big," he said in a recent interview.

## IPIM to co-hold training course on China's food market

**T**HE Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) will collaborate with the Macao office of Enterprise Europe Network Central China (EENCC Macao) to organize Advanced Enterprise Training on "How to Sell Food & Beverage Products to China."

The training course will be held in two parts, the first of which will be held in the Multi-Function Conference Hall of IPIM on May 28, IPIM said in a statement.

The latter part of the training will be held in the fourth quarter of this year, when a delegation will visit and learn from foreign enterprises that have expanded their market in mainland China.

This year, Rafael Jimenez, advisor of EU SME Centre Business Development, and Bjørn Hembre, general manager of Branditat, have been invited to be the keynote speakers.

They will share their experience gained from the market and present analy-

sis on importing food to the Chinese mainland, accessing the Chinese food market, effective sales channels in mainland China and practices of domestic and cross-border e-commerce platforms.

The sessions are aimed at providing distributors for exported food from Macau and the Portuguese-speaking countries with a better understanding of the operations of entry into the mainland China market.

Meanwhile, participants who sign up for the enterprise training will have the opportunity to join the delegation to mainland China and visit foreign food enterprises including supermarkets, restaurants, retail outlets of foreign wine importers, and e-commerce companies, to study their software and hardware facilities for operating in mainland China.

IPIM reminded interested parties that applications would be processed based on a first-come-first-served basis due to limited availability.

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**FMCC Breakfast Meeting**

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# 'June – Month of Portugal' returns with a more diverse program

Renato Marques

**I**N its third edition, this year's "June – Month of Portugal" will have a program composed of a total of 25 activities and events. The initiative is co-organized by the Portuguese Consulate for Macau and Hong Kong, the Portuguese association Casa de Portugal (House of Portugal), the Fundação Oriente (Orient Foundation) and the Portuguese Oriental Institute (IPOR), among other partners. The activities will be held in more than 10 cultural and institutional spaces across town, as announced last week, in the name of the organizing committee.

The event aims to "open the doors" of Portuguese diplomacy and invite people from all communities to join and to learn more about the "modern Portugal," the Portuguese Consul-General, Vítor Sereno, told the Times.

"This is not [only] an event for the Portuguese community, this is an event to be the greatest expression of the culture, of the gastronomy and of all cultural demonstrations linked to Portugal here [in Macau] and is open to all," Sereno remarked. According to the diplomat, the numerous activities in the program aim to show the "modern and competitive Portugal."

"These are events to show the best we have in Portugal and from Portugal to everyone, to the non-Portuguese community."

"Even the official reception to the Portuguese community [to be held on June 10 – Day of Portugal] is a reception with open-doors and everyone is welcomed," Sereno concluded. According to the organizers, this year's program will feature at least 35 participating artists from several fields, including music, painting, sculpture, photography, cinema and, for the first time, jewelry. This will be the first partnership of the organization with an overseas



The Camões Grotto is one of the major symbols of the Portuguese presence in Macau

institution, the Portuguese Jewellery and Watchmaking Association which will be presenting an exhibition on June 28 and 29 at the Gallery of the Consul's Residence.

**This is not [only] an event for the Portuguese community.**

VÍTOR SERENO

Another highlights of the program is the Portuguese singer and songwriter Pedro Abrunhosa, together with his band "Comité Caviar." They will be performing live on stage at the Grand Auditorium of the Macao Cultural Center on June 8 at 8 p.m.

This year, the event also focuses on art films with several activities in this field, the first being the Portuguese Film Festival, in collaboration with the Portuguese film festival "Indie Lisboa" that will present several movies from June 27 to 29 at the Cinematheque Passion.

The second activity will be the projection of three movies from the well-known Portuguese filmmaker Antonio-Pedro Vasconcelos, received by Portugal's Consulate Dr Stanley Ho, on June 7, 11 and 12 at the Auditorium. Vasconcelos will also present a talk on June 7 at the Café Oriente at IPOR.

Another highlight will be the cinema workshop held by movie director Catarina Mourão, who will also be in Macau. This

workshop is a joint initiative with the local Audiovisual CUT Association.

The workshop will be held for a period of around two weeks and is limited to 15 attendees.

Other activities include the presentation of a book on the life of the poet Camilo Pessanha, as well as music and theatre dedicated to children. The organizers have mentioned that these activities will extend tentatively to July, as it will in-

clude the broadcasting of the Portuguese national football team's matches in the World Cup 2018, which will be held in Russia and will run from June 16 to July 15.

All the events are free of charge, although as noted by the organizers, in some cases numbered tickets will be provided for attendance of certain events in cases where there are limitations of space such as concerts and movie screenings.

## '2019 Year of Portugal,' Tam proposes

**T**HE Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture of Macau, Alexis Tam, has proposed dedicating not just a month per year, but an entire year to Portugal. This is not the first time that Tam has suggested such an idea but this time, the proposal is more imminent, with Tam proposing the first dedicated year to be 2019. "I would like to [dedicate] a year to Portugal," Tam said, noting that 2019 comes as the ideal year for that due to its symbolism: "It's the year we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Portugal, and [in addition] Macau also celebrates the 20th Anniversary of the handover. It will be a very important year and we should celebrate it all year long," Tam said, TDM Radio reported, after a meeting with the organizing committee of the celebrations of

"June – Month of Portugal" in Macau.

Commenting on the topic to the Times, the Consul-General Vítor Sereno, who has announced that he will leave the post he has held for over five years, said: "I find it an extraordinary idea and I'm very happy with it [...] As I previously mentioned, I don't 'hope', I 'want' this concept of the 'June – Month of Portugal' to gain roots and grow, and that these words [from the Secretary Tam] are welcomed." Sereno added that although he would not be part of it directly, since he is leaving the post, but that he agrees with Tam that 2019 creates important opportunities for the event to "consolidate and to enlarge." Sereno expressed hope that the concept [of a Month of Portugal] "is a concept to stay and [if possible] to develop."

## Border Gate facility limits Macau's potential, Wong says

**T**HE executive director and president of Sands China, Wilfred Wong, has said that "a better border crossing facility would certainly improve the future of Macau," referring to the Border Gate facility.

Wong made his statement during one of last week's G2E panels.

"At the moment, the border is a bottleneck and a deterrent for many people. [...] If we were to open that up I can see visitation

doubling," said Wong.

Besides claiming the border gate facility prevents Macau from performing at its highest potential, Wong also raised concerns about Macau's hotel supply, which in his

opinion remains a factor stopping the region from receiving higher tourist arrivals through the border gate.

"These are important questions we need to ask [of] Macau going

forward," said Wong.

According to statistics released by the Public Security Police Force, the Border Gate saw its busiest day on April 21, when it recorded a total of 440,000 crossings.

Visitors from mainland China increased by 9.8 percent year-on-year to 1.81 million in March, and the number of those entering Macau through the

border gate this year has surged 8.5 percent year on year to 1.34 million.

Besides Wong's comment, Wynn Macau's non-executive Chairman Allan Zeman also expressed his belief that the opening of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge will be a game-changer for Macau as the city strives to make itself a World Center of Tourism and Leisure.



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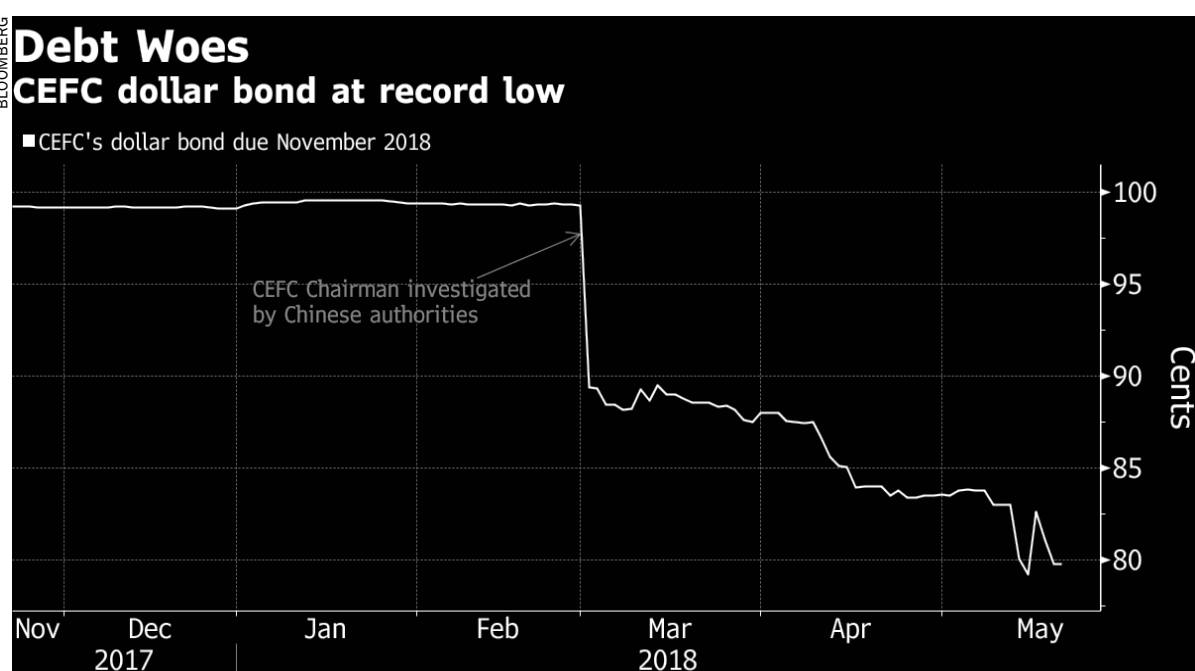
# China energy firm CEFC defaults after Rosneft deal fails

**A**S corporate defaults pile up in China's onshore bond market, a unit of a once-promising energy conglomerate with USD4.8 billion of debt and a checkered past said it won't be able to meet its payment obligation yesterday.

CEFC Shanghai International Group Ltd., a unit of the privately-held CEFC China Energy Co., failed to repay 2 billion yuan (\$313 million) of bonds but said it will seek to pay back the notes in six months, according to a statement on the Shanghai Clearing House website. The unit said a week ago it may not be able to repay the notes because its chairman's failure to "fulfill normal responsibilities" had a huge impact on the company's operations.

Worries among investors about surging default rates in China are deepening after at least four nonpayments in the onshore market over the past month. Given the magnitude of the CEFC's debt load, market stability will hinge on how it implements a debt workout plan, according to Fitch Ratings.

CEFC's rise and fall mirrors some of China's other sprawling, acquisitive private companies under pressure by President Xi Jinping's crackdown on risky loans and capital outflows. The firm's rapid ascent peaked with



its agreement in September to buy a \$9 billion stake in Russian oil behemoth Rosneft PJSC. That deal fell apart this month as financial troubles emerged after its chairman, Ye Jianming, came under investigation by Chinese authorities and stepped down from management.

The company relied heavily on bond sales for funding over the past two years and its borrowing costs have jumped since Ye was put under investigation, shutting it out from funding in this market. Two calls each to CEFC Shanghai representatives and the general

line of its parent company went unanswered.

CEFC racked up its debt pile through a series of ever-bigger deals in recent years for energy and finance assets across Eastern Europe and the Middle East, as well as in China. The non-payment Monday will immediately trigger a cross default on its \$250 million dollar notes, according to a bond offering circular seen by Bloomberg, and also raise uncertainty on the rest of its outstanding debt.

"The market is generally expecting that CEFC probably won't

repay the bond due today," said Wang Ying, a senior director at Fitch Ratings in Shanghai. "Given that CEFC has a huge amount of outstanding bonds, an orderly and transparent debt restructuring is required to provide fair compensation to investors and to maintain market stability."

China's increased tolerance for company defaults comes as the government steps up efforts to curb leverage and rein in regional borrowings. Finance costs for weaker companies are on the rise. Yield premium of one-year AA-rated bonds over AAA rated no-

tes widened 55 basis points this quarter, the biggest increase since 2015. S&P Global Ratings said defaults by private companies won't necessarily trigger systemic risks so they won't shake the government's resolve to curb leverage.

"If you want to take real efforts to curb corporate deleverage, you will certainly go through pains and face losses," said Christopher Lee, managing director of corporate ratings at S&P in Hong Kong.

Some of the CEFC's creditors saw a glimmer of hope after it repaid an overdue 85 million yuan of debt sold on Phoenix Finance, a local Internet finance platform ahead of a deadline last week. CEFC has a total of 30.8 billion yuan of outstanding bonds, including the \$250 million dollar bond due in November.

Creditors to CEFC China Energy have formed a committee to review its asset disposals amid rising pressure to repay debt. The conglomerate's largest creditor, China Development Bank, will lead the committee that will play an active role in the restructuring of debt and asset disposals, people familiar with the matter had said in March. Any final decisions will be taken by the Shanghai government, which has taken control of the company, the people said.

Separately, Czech financial group J&T Private Investments has decided to take control of the management of the CEFC Europe because of the failure of the parent company to repay debt on time, China's official Xinhua News Agency reported May 19. CEFC Europe is a Czech-based European branch of the Chinese conglomerate CEFC China Energy. **Bloomberg**

## New Sony CEO to detail shift away from gadgets in mid-term plan

Yuji Nakamura, Yuki Furukawa

**S**ONY Corp. is done working for peanuts in the hardware business. Kenichiro Yoshida, who took over as chief executive officer in April, is set to unveil a three-year plan today that embraces Sony's growing reliance on income from gaming subscriptions and entertainment. The transition is already happening: even though the company sold fewer hardware products such as televisions, digital cameras, smartphones and PlayStation consoles in the year through March, it was able to post record operating profit.

It's a tectonic shift for a company built on manufacturing prowess. Sony popularized transistor radios, gave the world portable music with the Walkman and its TVs were considered top-of-the-line for

decades. With the rise of Chinese manufacturing, making and selling gadgets has become a business with razor-thin profit margins. Investors have applauded the transformation that's been under way since Kazuo Hirai took over as CEO in 2012, with the shares climbing more than five-fold amid a turnaround.

"Yoshida is clearly sending a signal that recurring revenue from the content business, software, services, and subscription segments are important," said David Dai, an analyst at Sanford C. Bernstein & Co. in Hong Kong. "That's what is going to drive growth and also sustain growth."

The big question is whether Yoshida, who was chief financial officer before his promotion, can make a clear and compelling case for growth in online content, recurring subscription

revenues and intellectual property licensing. The PlayStation 4 gaming console is nearing the end of its lifecycle and the company's Hollywood division is notorious for swinging between blockbuster hits and big flops.

Other questions for investors include how aggressively Yoshida plans to spend Sony's growing cash pile to acquire more content, whether a merger of movies and music under a single entertainment unit is in the cards, and if game streaming will be central to the PlayStation 5.

Another key area of concern is Sony's semiconductor business, which supplies mobile-camera chips for iPhones and other mobile phones. Operating profit for that business is seen declining 39 percent in the current fiscal year, partly due to one-time charges

but also amid sputtering global demand for smartphones.

"Sony is proving that it can evolve with the landscape [...] with a shift from a hardware-to content-driven profit model," SMBC Nikko Securities Inc. analyst Ryo-suke Katsura wrote after the company's latest earnings report last month. "The real key is whether it provides investors with a clear road map."

Today, after Yoshida kicks off Sony's investor relations day at 9:30 a.m. in Tokyo, all eight of the company's divisions will present their mid-term strategy though 2021.

Those presentations will most likely stress the resilience of Sony's content businesses. Profits from the video-game unit are up, even amid a 20 percent drop in PS4 hardware sales, thanks to recurring



Kenichiro Yoshida

revenue from PlayStation's online network. Paying subscribers for the service have jumped 64 percent over the past two years to 34.2 million.

Still, the shift toward online content has been bumpy. Sony's online TV service PlayStation Vue continues to bleed money. The service lost access to ABC, CBS, Fox and NBC affiliated stations over a contractual spat this month. In late 2016, it dropped Viacom Inc. stations, leaving subscribers without Comedy Central and MTV.

Outside of games and

chips, which together generated almost half of all earnings last year, Yoshida is likely to talk about the rising importance of intellectual property and patent licensing. Yesterday, Sony spent \$185 million to buy a 39 percent stake in Peanuts Holdings, the owner of the Snoopy brand.

As Nobuyuki Idei, the former CEO who presided over Sony's glory days as a hardware maker, warned in 1999 at the beginning of the internet era: "The hardware business is peanuts." **Bloomberg**



AP PHOTO



China hopes to become the first country to soft-land a probe on the moon's far side

## SPACE ODYSSEY

# PRC launches relay satellite for far side moon landing

CHINA launched a relay satellite yesterday as part of a groundbreaking program to be the first to land a spacecraft on the far side of the moon later this year.

The satellite, lofted into space aboard a Long March-4C rocket, will facilitate communication between controllers on Earth and the Chang'e 4 mission, the China National Space Administration said on its website.

China hopes to become the first country to soft-land a probe on the moon's far side, also known as the dark side because it faces away from Earth and is comparatively unknown.

The satellite, named Queqiao, or "Magpie Bridge," after an ancient Chinese folk tale, was launched from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in the southwestern province of Sichuan, the Space Administration said.

The launch is a "key step," but the satellite's mission must still overcome challenges including making multiple adjustments to its orbit, "braking" near the moon and using lunar gravity to its advantage, project manager Zhang Lihua was quoted as saying by the official Xinhua News Agency.

According to the administration and website space.com, Queqiao was expected to arrive shortly at the Ear-

th-moon Lagrange point 2, a gravitationally stable spot located 64,000 kilo-meters beyond the far side of the moon.

Without such a communications relay link, spacecraft on the far side would have to "send their signals through the moon's rocky bulk," space.com said.

China previously landed its Jade Rabbit rover on the moon and plans to land its Chang'e 5 probe there next year and have it return to Earth with samples — the first time that has been done since 1976.

China conducted its first crewed space mission in 2003, making it only the third country after Russia and the U.S. to do so and has put a pair of space stations into orbit.

Upcoming missions include the launch of the 20-ton core module for the still orbiting Tiangong 2 station, along with specialized components for a 60-ton station that is due to come online in 2022 and a Mars rover planned for the mid 2020s.

However, the failure of China's Long March 5 rocket last year was seen as dealing a rare setback to the highly successful space program, delaying some missions and offering rival India a chance to move ahead in the space rankings. AP

CHINA is planning to scrap call limits on the number of children a family can have, according to people familiar with the matter, in what would be a historic end to a policy that spurred countless human-rights abuses and left the world's second-largest economy short of workers.

The State Council, China's cabinet, has commissioned research on the repercussions of ending the country's roughly four-decade-old policy and intends to enact the change nationwide, said the people, who asked not to be named while discussing government deliberations. The leadership wants to reduce the pace of aging in China's population and remove a source of international criticism, one of the people said.

Proposals under discussion would replace the population-control policy with one called "independent fertility," allowing people to decide how many children to have, the person said. The decision could be made as soon as the fourth quarter, the second person said, adding that the announcement might also be pushed into 2019.

"It's late for China to remove birth limits even within this year but it's better than never," said Chen Jian, a former division chief at the National Family Planning Commission, who's now a vice president of the China Society of Economic Reform. "Scrapping birth limits will have little effect on the tendency of China's declining births."

Danone, which has doubled its share of China's baby food market in the past five years, rose to a session high in Paris before paring gains. Reckitt Benckiser shares erased declines in London.

The policy change would close the book on one of the largest social experiments in human history, which left the world's most-populous country with a rapidly aging population and 30 million more men than women. The policies have forced generations of Chinese parents to pay fines, submit to abortions or raise

## SOCIETY

## State Council to consider ending birth limits as soon as 2018

se children in the shadows.

The U.S. and other Western nations have criticized the coercive measures required to enforce the birth limits, including steep fines, sterilization and forced abortions. The 2015 shift toward a two-child policy was part of a gradual effort to loosen the birth limits over the years as China's working-age population began to wane.

An initial feasibility study was submitted to Chinese Premier Li Keqiang in April, according to one of the people familiar with the discussions. That study found there would be "limited" benefits to lifting birth restrictions nationwide. Li requested more research on the social impact of scrapping the policy altogether, the person said.

Neither the State Council Information Office nor the National Health Commission immediately returned faxed requests for comment.

"The policy shift will hardly boost the number of newborns in China," said Huang Wenzheng, a specially-invited senior researcher of Center for China and Globalization, a Beijing-based think tank. "China's number of births will continue to drop dramatically, considering a sharp decrease in the number of fertile women and declining fertility willingness."

Still, the move underscores growing concern among Chinese policy makers that more dramatic action is needed three years after allowing all families to have two children instead of one. Births fell 3.5 percent to 17.2 million nationwide last year, according to the Bureau

of National Statistics, erasing almost half of the increase in births caused by relaxing the policy.

China's graying society will have broad consequences for the nation and the world, weighing on President Xi Jinping's effort to develop the economy, driving up pension and health-care costs, and sending foreign companies further afield for labor. The State Council last year projected that about a quarter of China's population will be 60 or older by 2030, up from 13 percent in 2010.

"The low birth rate and low number of newborns from the previous two years after the two-child policy sent a strong message to the decision-makers that the young generation has a weak willingness to have more children," Chen said. "China's population issues will be a major hurdle for President Xi Jinping's vision of building a modernized country by 2035."

In March, China removed the term "family planning" from the name of the newly consolidated National Health Commission — the first time since 1981 that no agency bears the name. Xi and Li also omitted any reference to the phrase from key policy reports in recent months.

While China credits birth limits with helping to launch a decades-long economic boom under reformer Deng Xiaoping, they have also exacerbated demographic imbalances, with many parents choosing to abort female fetuses. China has 106 men for every 100 women, compared with 102 globally, according to the CIA World Factbook. Bloomberg

BLOOMBERG





SOUTH CHINA SEA

# Manila takes non-confrontational stand vs Beijing in feud

Jim Gomez, Manila

**T**HE Philippine government is taking "appropriate diplomatic action" to protect its claims in the South China Sea but did not elaborate or name China in a non-confrontational policy that immediately sparked criticism.

China landed long-range bombers on one of its occupied islands in the disputed sea for the first time last week, underscoring its ability to strike across Southeast Asia and beyond and setting off international concern. A Pentagon spokesman said late last week China's "militarization" of disputed areas destabilizes the region.

The Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs reiterated yesterday that the government is committed to protecting "every single inch" of its territory and areas where it has sovereign rights. But it added that its responses to certain developments might not be publicized.

"While appropriate language, whether expressions of condemnation or concern, over certain developments are clearly conveyed through diplomatic channels, it is not our policy to publicize every action taken by the Philippine government whenever there are reported



developments taking place," the department said.

"Moving forward, we are taking a different approach to avoid any drawbacks and challenges," the statement added.

Asked to react about China's deployment of the long-range bombers, presidential spokesman Harry Roque later told a news conference, "We express our serious concerns anew on its impact on constructive efforts to maintain peace and stability in the region."

Former Philippine Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario, who spearheaded a legal challenge to China's vast territorial claims in an international arbitration case that the Philippines largely won in 2016, urged Filipinos to ask President Rodrigo Duterte "to be more proactive and assertive in defending what is ours."

A survey, he said, has shown that most Filipinos want the Philippines to assert its sovereign rights upheld by the 2016

arbitration ruling.

"Why are we so timid in the face of China's missile and bomber diplomacy?" asked former national security adviser Roilo Golez. "The world is watching and our response, hat in hand, is a vague 'diplomatic action.'"

## Why are we so timid in the face of China's missile and bomber diplomacy?

ROILS GOLEZ  
EX-NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER

After becoming president nearly two years ago, Duterte took steps to thaw the Philippines' frosty ties with China over the sea disputes in an effort to secure Chinese infrastructure funds and investment while often criticizing security policies of the United States, his country's treaty ally.

Duterte refused to immediately demand Chinese compliance to a landmark 2016 arbitration ruling that invalidated China's claims to virtually all of the

South China Sea on historical grounds and upheld the Philippines' sovereign rights to vast stretches of waters. He has repeatedly declared that he will not engage China in an armed confrontation.

"We are opposed to war, as we should be," del Rosario said.

"But if threatened by the use of force, we should be ready to inflict, at the very least, a bloody nose on any attacker who is out to harm us," del Rosario said, adding that the acquisition of India's anti-warship Brahmos cruise missiles, for example, could be a good starting point to bolster the Philippine military's defense capability.

The Duterte administration has also muted criticisms of China's increasingly assertive actions in the disputed territories, including the installation of missile defense systems on seven islands it built on disputed reefs close to other areas occupied by rival claimants, including the Philippines, Vietnam, Taiwan and Malaysia.

The long-range bombers involved in the recently reported exercise would have all of Southeast Asia in range. They reportedly landed on Woody Island, China's largest base in the Paracel Islands, which are also claimed by Vietnam and Taiwan. **AP**

# China says it can't guarantee no more trade tension with US

**C**HINA'S government said yesterday it cannot guarantee that renewed trade tension with Washington can be avoided after U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin declared a temporary truce in a spiraling dispute that prompted worries of a chilling of global commerce.

Mnuchin said the two sides were "putting the trade war on hold" following an announcement Beijing would "significantly increase" purchases of American farm goods, energy and other products and services. But the two sides gave no indication of how much progress they had made toward ending the dispute over U.S. complaints about market access and technology policy.

Mnuchin's comments showed both sides hope to avoid a "trade war," said a Chinese foreign ministry spokesman, Lu Kang. However, he added, "Given the increasing interaction between the two countries, we cannot assure you they will not encounter more frictions or disputes in the future."

U.S. President Donald Trump has threatened to raise import duties on Chinese goods worth up to USD150 billion in response to complaints Beijing steals or pressures foreign companies to hand over technology in exchange for market access. Chinese leaders issued their own \$50 billion list of U.S. goods for possible retaliation.

The strains in the world's biggest trading rela-

tionship prompted fears other governments might respond by raising import barriers, chilling global commerce and economic growth.

Trump is pushing for Beijing to discard or scale back ambitious technology and industrial development plans Washington complains will hamper market access and hurt foreign competitors. Businesspeople and economists say Communist leaders who see their development model as a success are unlikely to agree to more than minor changes.

In a statement Saturday, the two countries made no mention of those underlying American complaints. Mnuchin said talks made "meaningful progress," but they gave no indication of how close

they might be to an overall settlement.

The truce is likely to be only temporary due to unresolved "structural issues" between China and the United States, said Shi Yinhong, director of the Center for American Studies at Renmin University in Beijing.

"I don't think the truce will last very long," Shi said. "The antagonism in trade will ebb and flow in China-U.S. relations in the long term."

Lu, the Chinese spokesman, said Beijing wants to preserve a relationship that benefits both sides.

"If the two governments can reach an agreement which is acceptable to both sides, the two governments should certainly abide by it," Lu said at a regular briefing. "We believe this



US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin

result will be welcomed by the peoples and business communities in the two countries, and the international community."

"Big risk factors" include whether China will take action fast enough on its trade surplus and whether the two sides can establish a dialogue to discuss structural issues, said Jacob Parker, vice president for China operations of

the U.S.-China Business Council.

As for the United States, "there is a lot of different dynamics at play and many different stakeholders in Washington," Parker said. "So finding a consensus from the Trump administration to ensure a unified policy in engaging with China will be critical for the two sides to come to an agreement." **AP**



## NORTH KOREA

## In nuke site closure, spectacle trumps substance

Eric Talmadge, Tokyo

**F**oreign journalists will be allowed to journey deep into the mountains of North Korea this week to observe the closing of the country's Punggye-ri nuclear test site in a much-touted display of goodwill before leader Kim Jong Un's planned summit with President Donald Trump next month.

Expect good imagery, but not much else.

The public display of the closure of the facility on Mount Mantap will likely be heavy on spectacle and light on substance. And the media will be spending much of their time in an unrelated tourism zone that North Korea hopes will be the next big thing for its economy if Kim's diplomatic overtures pay off in the months ahead.

For sure, the closure is a milestone, marking an end to the world's last active underground testing site and offering some important insights into Kim's mindset as he sets the stage for his meeting with Trump.

A look at what's hype and what's worth paying attention to:

**THE SUBSTANCE**

Kim announced his plan to close the test site during a gathering of senior party leaders last month, just ahead of his summit with South Korean President Moon Jae-in. His explanation to the party was that North Korea's nuclear development is now complete and further underground testing is unnecessary.

North Korea has conducted six underground nuclear tests since 2006. Its most recent and most powerful explosion, which the North claims tested a hydrogen bomb, was in September. All of its tests have been carried out at Punggye-ri, in the country's mountainous northeast interior.

Before Kim's announcement, North Korea was the only country that still conducted underground tests.

Kim's claim that such tests are no longer needed may have an element of bravado to it. While the North has demonstrated beyond a doubt that it can produce viable, high-yield nuclear weapons, many experts believe it could still benefit considerably by conducting more tests.

"North Korea certainly would need more tests to have any confidence in its H-bomb," said physicist David Wright, co-director of the global security program of the Union of Concerned Scientists. Wright said the North's most recent test is a prime example. He believes it



was a "demonstration-of-principle device" that was not designed to be small or light enough to be delivered by missile.

"The bottom line is that stopping testing is important to limit its ability to build reliable, deliverable warheads — especially for an H-bomb," he said.

So in that sense, Kim is making a significant concession. And if Kim were to switch gears and decide to test again, he would almost certainly be caught. It's hard to hide a high-powered nuclear blast. Compliance is verifiable.

But the way Kim plans to dismantle the site shows he is, as yet, only willing to go so far.

Adam Mount, a senior fellow with the Federation of American Scientists, believes that by inviting international media instead of international monitors, North Korea has "stepped back from a principle of verification." Journalists do not have the technical expertise, the time spent on site or the equipment necessary to properly analyze and assess the process.

"When the United States did not hold Pyongyang to this standard, it lost the first public quarrel over verification," he said.

**THE DOG AND PONY SHOW**

The site's closure will take place sometime between Wednesday and Friday, depending on the weather.

North Korea's Foreign Ministry has invited journalists from China, Russia, the United States, the United Kingdom and South Korea to fly on a charter aircraft from Beijing for what it is calling a "ceremony" marking the event.

North Korea says the process will involve collapsing all tunnels with explosions, completely blocking tunnel entrances, removing all observation and research facilities and taking down structures used for guarding the site. Satellite imagery suggests some of the work has already begun.

How much of it the journalists, including an Associated Press Television crew, will be able to see is an open question. They will be put up at a hotel in faraway Wonsan, where the press center will be located, and make what promises to be a lengthy trip to the nuclear

site by special train. It's unclear how long they will be allowed to stay at the site.

What is clear is why they are going to Wonsan, which is probably the most presentable city in North Korea after the capital.

It's the center of a tourism zone the North has been pouring money into and is trying hard to promote.

The media will fly into its shiny new airport and stay at one of its opulent new tourist hotels. If not actually bused there, they will undoubtedly be reminded that Masik Pass, the North's luxury ski resort, and scenic Mount Kumgang, which

just a decade ago was open to South Korean tourists, are just a short drive away.

Two birds, one stone, as they say.

**THE TAKEAWAY**

Veteran North Korea watchers note that we have been to this rodeo before.

With international talks to dismantle its nuclear program underway in 2008, North Korea called in the foreign media to film the demolition of a 20-meter-tall cooling tower at its Yongbyon nuclear reactor. The move prompted Washington to take North Korea off its list of state sponsors of terrorism and lift some sanctions.

The talks later fell apart, and the reactor at Yongbyon is once again producing plutonium.

So caution is warranted. None of this is necessarily about denuclearization.

The North's declaration that it will end its underground testing and close the Punggye-ri site could just as well be interpreted as a move to bolster Kim's claim that his country is now a responsible nuclear power and appease the concerns of its neighbor and economic lifeline, China.

"Nobody else does it anymore," said Joshua Pollack, a senior research associate with the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, in California. "So if you want to claim that you're a full-fledged nuclear-armed state, it tends to undercut your message if you keep testing." **AP**

## Moon enters talks with Trump with driver's seat at stake

**F**or a few months, everything seemed to be clicking for South Korean President Moon Jae-in as he pieced together crucial nuclear negotiations between the U.S. and North Korea following a year of intense animosity.

But he now enters a White House meeting with President Donald Trump with his status in the diplomatic driver's seat in doubt.

Pyongyang's surprise move last week to break off a high-level meeting with Seoul over U.S.-South Korean military drills while threatening to cancel next month's summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Trump cooled what had been an unusual flurry of diplomatic moves from the country after a provocative series of nuclear and

missile tests.

It also underscored Seoul's delicate role as an intermediary between Washington and Pyongyang and raised questions about Moon's claim that Kim has genuine intent to deal away his nukes.

Seoul may lose much of its voice if Trump chooses to deal more directly with China, North Korea's only major ally, which is refusing to be sidelined in the global diplomatic push to resolve the nuclear standoff.

Seoul insists Kim can be persuaded to abandon his nuclear facilities, materials and bombs in a verifiable and irreversible way in exchange for credible security and economic guarantees.

Moon and Trump will likely discuss potential steps that

Trump can put on the table in Singapore. Their meeting at the White House may also include discussions on setting up three-way talks with Pyongyang or four-way talks also including Beijing to negotiate a formal end to the 1950-53 Korean War, which ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty.

Moon and Trump may exchange views on whether the allies should temporarily modify their joint military drills while engaging in denuclearization negotiations with North Korea, said Koh Yu-hwan, a North Korea expert at Seoul's Dongguk University and a policy adviser to Moon. There could also be deeper discussions on the future of the U.S.-South Korea alliance.



Jerry Harmer and  
Kaweewit Kaewjinda

THAILAND

# Four years after coup, country wearies of junta rule

**F**OUR years after seizing power, Thailand's junta has a singular success it never hoped for: uniting a politically divided nation in growing dissatisfaction with the thin-skinned rule of the generals.

After rifle-toting soldiers overthrew Thailand's elected government in a bloodless coup in May 2014, the new military leaders, like a succession of Thai coup makers before them, pledged reform and reconciliation and promised they wouldn't stay long.

But after repeatedly delaying elections, frustration with the junta and its leader, Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, the former army chief, is visibly growing. And far from stepping back, they appear to be planning to maintain a vice-like grip on the country by turning political parties into their proxies if elections are held. The latest vague date for an election is February next year.

From humble street-food sellers ordered off Bangkok's sidewalks to wealthier echelons of society, the junta's promise to "return happiness" to Thailand now rings hollow.

"They came in to pledge for reform, reconciliation and corruption eradication, but in fact, on all three fronts, they've failed," said Thitinan Pongsudhirak, a political scientist at Chulalongkorn University. "If you look around Thailand now, no one, no segment, no faction, no key movement is really behind the coup and the military government anymore."

One of world's top tourist destinations and a long-standing U.S. ally, Thailand has suffered more than a decade of upheaval, including two coups, as its conservative establishment struggled to smother a grass-roots political revolution fostered by the electoral success of billionaire businessman Thaksin Shinawatra.

His leadership was marred by corruption and human rights abuses and he now lives abroad

in exile, but the political earthquake he unleashed with policies aimed at improving the lot of Thailand's poor rural majority, and diminishing Bangkok as the country's overweening center of political gravity, continues to reverberate.

Thaksin was ousted in a 2006 coup, but his proxies swept to power in successive elections, including a party led by his younger sister, Yingluck Shinawatra. The 2014 coup that ousted her government followed months of street protests in Bangkok against politicians Thaksin-deploring urbanites saw as inept and corrupt. It was Thailand's 12th military takeover since its absolute monarchy was abolished by a 1932 coup.

Many Thais are grateful that Prayuth guided the country through the national trauma of

the death of long-reigning King Bhumibhol Adulyadej in 2016 and the year of mourning that followed. They believe the discipline of a military ruler ensured stability at a crucial time.

Nor do they want to reprise the violent street politics of the last decade that at times turned Bangkok into a war zone.

Equally, though, there's an increasing clamor of voices asserting it's time for the junta to go.

Corruption scandals have eaten away at its claim to legitimacy and frequent arrests of government critics have caused anger, emboldening further open challenges to the regime.

"If you believe in the basic principle of democracy and human rights, you will never be able to agree with having a junta to rule the country, so it's as simple as that," said Nutta

Mahattana, a protest leader.

Prayuth denies he ever wanted to be prime minister and scoffs at claims that he's maneuvering to stay in power after elections.

He revels in the limelight and the quick-tempered soldier is also swift to counterattack, often throwing out personal insults or threats to silence opponents.

"You cannot say that we haven't done anything, otherwise, why have we been here for the past four years?" he said at recent news briefing.

A Thaksin-backed political party that earlier this month criticized the junta's performance was rapidly put under police investigation.

Titipol Phakdeewanich, dean of the political science faculty at Ubon Ratchathani University, said Prayuth is already cam-

paigning. He is courting regional power brokers and traveling frequently to the provinces for triumphal speeches to locals while political parties are barred from doing the same.

"It is evident that Prayuth is paving the way to remain in power if we have elections next year," Titipol said.

On top of that, a new, military-authored constitution is designed to neuter potential political opponents.

■ One of world's top tourist destinations, Thailand has suffered more than a decade of upheaval, including two coups

"It was already obvious during the writing of the constitution, which contains many elements supporting the capacity of the Thai junta to remain in power after the elections," Titipol said.

Today, protesters plan to march on Government House to mark the fourth anniversary of the coup, and to demand an election this year. It will be among the most direct challenge yet to the junta and possibly the beginning of turmoil to come.

"Thai politics will have to get worse, a lot worse, before Thailand can navigate and regain its footing into the 21st century," said Thitinan. AP



Pro-democracy demonstrators hold posters which read "Do not postpone election" in Bangkok earlier this month

INDIA

# Medical teams sent to Kerala amid deadly virus outbreak

**A** deadly virus has killed at least three people in southern India, officials said yesterday, with medical teams dispatched to the area amid reports that up to six other people could have died from the disease and others are ill.

The three fatalities from the Nipah virus were all from the same family, said Kerala state health minister K.K. Shailaja.

There is no vaccine for Nipah, which can cause raging fevers, convulsions and vomiting. The only treatment is supportive care to control complications and keep patients comfortable. It has a mortality rate of up to 75 percent.

Media reports say five more people have died from high fevers in recent days, as well as a nurse who had treated

people infected with the virus. But medical workers have not yet confirmed what killed those people. At least eight others sick with Nipah symptoms are being monitored.

People who had been in contact with Nipah victims have been put into isolation, Shailaja said.

Nipah, which was first identified during a late 1990s outbreak in Ma-

laysia, can be spread by fruit bats, pigs and through human-to-human contact.

A team from India's National Centre for Disease Control has been sent to the coastal region of Kerala, where the outbreak occurred.

"We are closely monitoring the situation," India's health minister, J.P. Nadda, said in a statement. AP



Indians standing in a queue outside a hospital wear masks as a precautionary measure against the Nipah virus



## VENEZUELA

# Maduro wins election challengers call illegitimate

**EMBATTLED** socialist incumbent Nicolas Maduro won Venezuela's presidential election by a landslide in a disputed vote marred by irregularities and mass absenteeism that led his main rivals to call for a re-run to prevent a national social crisis from exploding.

The National Election Council announced that with more than 92 percent of polling stations reporting, Maduro won nearly 68 percent of the votes yesterday [Macau time], beating his nearest challenger Henri Falcon by more than 40 points.

As the results were being announced, residents of downtown Caracas just a few blocks from where Maduro supporters were celebrating banged on pots and pans in protest. Falcon accused the government of buying votes and dirty tricks to boost turnout among poor voters most hurt by widespread food shortages and hyperinflation in what was once Latin America's wealthiest nation.

The election "without any doubt lacks legitimacy and we cate-



Nicolas Maduro places his fist against his heart as he arrives with his wife Cilia Flores to address supporters

gorically refuse to recognize this process," Falcon told supporters minutes before the results were announced, vowing to fight on instead of joining a growing list of beleaguered anti-government politicians who've fled into exile of late.

The disputed victory is likely to heighten international pressure on Maduro. Even as voting was taking place Sunday, a senior U.S. official said the Trump administration might press ahead on threats of imposing crippling oil sanctions and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo warned "sham

elections change nothing."

Falcon was joined in his demand for a new election by third-place finisher Javier Bertucci, who won around 11 percent of the vote. Bertucci, a TV evangelist who handed out soup at his campaign rallies, stopped short of challenging the results, partly blaming what he called a mistaken opposition boycott that led to a turnout of around 46 percent — the lowest in a presidential race in two decades of revolution.

But he said he nonetheless favors a new election soon and urged Maduro to do the courageous thing and desist from running. If Maduro presses forward, he warned, Venezuela will explode before his new six-year term is scheduled to begin in January.

A social crisis years in the making has worsened as Venezuela's oil production — the source of almost all of its foreign income — has collapsed to the lowest level in decades and financial sanctions by the Trump administration has made it impossible for the government to renegotiate its debts. More than

1 million people have fled the country in the past two years and 14,000 percent inflation has crushed the minimum wage to less than USD2 a month.

Maduro, 55, immediately called for dialogue with his opponents and put the best face forward on what analysts said were nonetheless disappointing results underscoring how vulnerable his hold on power remains. Despite energetic campaigning his overall vote haul slipped by 1.6 million from 2013, when he was first elected after Hugo Chavez's death from cancer.

But he showed no sign of re-playing Sunday's vote.

"We will be the most powerful and largest political force in Venezuela for a long time," he told a festive crowd of die-hard supporters who poured into the grounds of the presidential palace to celebrate. "It doesn't faze me when they say I'm a dictator."

He promised to spend the next two years before scheduled congressional elections repairing an economy he says has been badly damaged by mafias backed by

Colombia and the U.S. He also slammed Falcon, who like him was an acolyte of Chavez, saying he had never seen a candidate dispute results before they were even announced.

"Sooner or later, they all break in the face of threats from the imperialists," he said, pleading with the U.S. to reconsider its belligerence.

Both of Maduro's opponents accused electoral authorities of being blind to blatant violations before the vote and on election day. Falcon said that at 86 percent of voting centers ruling party activists set up so-called "Red Points" where they scanned on cellphones QR codes on government-issued "Fatherland Cards."

Some poor cardholders in Caracas — there are 16.5 million nationwide — said they hoped Maduro would deliver on his campaign promise of a "prize" to those who demonstrated their loyalty. Maduro accused his opponents of trying to "demonize" a program intended to address the social crisis and not assert political control.

Under Venezuela's electoral law, any political activity must take place at least 200 meters from voting centers. But most "Red Points" were just a few steps away. As in past elections, government supporters driving around in vans with Maduro posters could also be seen transporting voters to polling sites. **AP**

AD

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## USA

# Survivors of Texas massacre confront 'spiritual war zone'

**I**NSIDE a packed church sanctuary, the seniors of Santa Fe High School and the prosecutor speaking to them confronted the challenges borne of the shooting that took the lives of 10 people at the school near Houston.

The young graduates have to grieve their slain classmates and cope with their emotions as they try to heal after the mass shooting.

"You are entering into a war zone in this world, and it's a spiritual war zone," said Jack Rody, the Galveston County district attorney, in his speech to them. Rody has to prosecute the capital murder case against the teenager suspected of killing eight students and two substitute teachers. He said later that the case presented the most deaths in one crime that he had ever faced.

This deeply religious community came together yesterday [Macau time] for prayer services at local churches and a traditional end-of-school baccalaureate service that acknow-

AP PHOTO



Santa Fe High School graduates bow their heads in prayer during a Baccalaureate service

ledged the pain wracking Santa Fe, a town of 13,000. Mourners also gathered at a Houston-area mosque to remember the life of a slain exchange student from Pakistan.

The baccalaureate is typically a religious celebration to honor school graduates. After Friday's shooting, it was moved from the high school auditorium to nearby Arcadia First Baptist

Church. Every pew in the church was filled, and folding chairs against the wall provided seating the pews couldn't.

When "Pomp and Circumstance" played, the seniors filed in wearing green caps and gowns. Most had serious looks on their faces, though a few smiled at people they recognized in the crowd.

Speaker and Santa Fe gra-

duate Aaron Chenoweth gave a short testimony about trials and tribulations this graduating class faced. He called on the community's faith in God.

"If you give God the glory, you will always find comfort and love," he said, receiving a standing ovation.

Rody told the students that they were "suffering in ways that no one else can understand." He called on them to draw closer to their faith and each other.

Todd Penick, a graduating senior who is planning to attend Texas State University, said last year's baccalaureate was attended by around 25 people. This year's, which drew around 200 people, was a chance to reunite with his friends and classmates.

"Nobody is going to be OK in a couple of days," he said. "Nobody can look you in the eyes and tell you it's OK. But we're going to be OK because everyone is so unified."

He added: "Family and friends and God, that's what's going to get us through this."

Meanwhile, hundreds attended a service Houston's Muslim community held for Sabika Sheikh, a 17-year-old exchange student from Pakistan who talked about one day becoming a diplomat.

Her host mother, Joleen Coghurn, recalled asking Sheikh why she came to study in the U.S. She said she wanted to learn American culture and to share Pakistani culture with Americans.

"And I want us to come together and unite," she told Coghurn. "I don't know if they know us the way they should."

Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner said Sheikh continues to be a diplomat "because even in her death, she is pulling the relationships between Pakistan and the United States, specifically the Houston area, even closer." Her body was to be returned to Karachi.

The shooting suspect, 17-year-old Dimitrios Pagourtzis, has been jailed on capital murder charges.

In their first statement since the massacre, Pagourtzis' family said Saturday that the bloodshed "seems incompatible with the boy we love."

One Santa Fe school police officer who responded to the attack was shot and remained in critical condition yesterday, according to the University of Texas Medical Branch. **AP**

AD

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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

## Offbeat



### AUSTRALIAN STATE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES PROTECTING WILD HORSES

An Australian state government has decided to legally protect rather than kill thousands of wild horses, infuriating scientists who argue the feral species is doing severe environmental damage to the country's iconic Snowy Mountains alpine region.

New South Wales Deputy Premier John Barilaro said yesterday that his government had struck a balanced response to ecological concerns about the impact of the horses, known as brumbies, on Kosciuszko National Park.

A 2016 government report had recommended that 90 percent of the park's 6,000 brumbies be killed, reducing the herd to 600 in the 6,900 square kilometers of mountainous wilderness that includes Australia's highest mainland peak, Mount Kosciuszko, and the nation's most popular ski fields.

Barilaro said legislation will be introduced to state parliament this week that will recognize the heritage value of the brumbies to the park and ban killing them. But brumbies will be relocated from environmentally sensitive areas.

"There is no clear answer. For all the people who are happy today, there'll be some who won't be," Barilaro told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

"The pro-brumby people say it hasn't gone far enough and of course the conservationists and environmentalists will say this has gone too far," he added. "I think we've got a balanced approach."

The brumby's place in the state's largest national park, through which the Snowy River flows, is an emotive argument in Australia. The horses have been both a feral pest and an integral part of Australian frontier folklore for almost two centuries.

Brumbies feature in one of Australians' most beloved poems, "The Man From Snowy River," about a horseman's perilous chase down a mountainside after a mob of brumbies. Banjo Paterson's poem, first published in 1890, inspired the 1982 20th Century Fox movie of the same name. The wild horse was also showcased at the Sydney Olympics in 2000 as a significant part of Australian heritage.

Conservation groups accused the government of putting at risk dozens of native species through the proposed bill.

## TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Portuguese Movie
17:05	Tam Kung Festivities
17:35	Brazilian Soap Opera (Repeated)
18:25	TDM Sports (Repeated)
19:35	Portuguese Serie Sr.1
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Interview
21:30	Documentary
22:10	Brazilian Soap Opera - The End
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:50	RTPi Live

## cinema



### CINETEATRO

17 - 23 May

ATTACK ON TITAN SESASON 2 MOVIE

ROOM 1

2:30, 4:45, 7:30, 9:30pm

Director: Masashi Koizuka

Language: Japanese (Chinese)



THE KILLING OF A SACRED DEER

ROOM 2

2:30, 4:45 7:00pm

Director: Yorgos Lanthimos

Starring: Colin Farrell, Nicole Kidman, Barry Keoghan

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 121min



AVENGERS: INFINITY WAR

ROOM 2

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

Director: Anthony Russo, Joe Russo

Starring: Robert Downey Jr, Chris Evans, Chris Hemsworth

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 149min



DESTINY: THE TALE OF KAMAKURA

ROOM 3

2:15, 4:45 7:15pm

Director: Takashi Yamazaki

Starring: Masato Sakai, Mitsuki Takahata

Language: English (Chinese)

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)

Duration: 111min

## this day in history



### 1969 APOLLO 10 GETS BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF MOON

Two US astronauts aboard Apollo 10 are on their way back to the safety of their mother ship after their lunar module came to within eight nautical miles (14kms) of the Moon's surface.

Colonel Thomas Stafford and Commander Eugene Cernan were carrying out a rehearsal for a planned Moon landing this summer.

They were in the lunar module (LM) nicknamed Snoopy and are now about to rejoin the command module (aka Charlie Brown) piloted by Commander John Young 50 miles (80km) above the Moon.

The two spacemen came closer than any human being has come to a celestial body.

"Snoopy" made two passes over the planned landing site for Apollo 11 before making a successful rendez-vous with "Charlie Brown".

After the first sweep at six times the speed of sound, Col Stafford said they had taken so many photographs he feared the camera had jammed while trying to change the film.

If the mission fails to bring back still shots of possible landing sites and approaches it will be a serious blow to Apollo planners. They want to make sure astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin have a safe landing this July in Apollo 11.

But Col Stafford did manage to get a good view of the surface which he described as "very smooth, like wet clay".

Commander Cernan then reported to control at Houston: "We just saw earthrise - the Earth appearing over the edge of the lunar horizon - and it's got to be magnificent. It would be nice to be here more often."

Apollo 10 was launched four days ago from Cape Kennedy. It is the fourth manned Apollo launch within seven months.

It is hoped that the mission will bring back plenty of colour stills and moving images of the Moon and views of the Earth.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

When America decided to land men on the moon cautious astronomers pointed out that the surface could hold unknown dangers - huge boulders could topple any landing craft, a seemingly smooth surface might be covered with moondust so deep it would swallow up a spacecraft.

The Ranger programme sent rockets onto a collision course with the Moon and sent back images of the surface but left scientists none the wiser.

It was not until the Russians succeeded in landing Luna 9 in 1966 - followed soon after by the Americans' Surveyor soft-landers - that the deep-dust theory could be brushed aside.

Apollo 10 did succeed in bringing back the best images yet seen of the Moon and Earth from space.

Apollo 11 successfully landed Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong on the Moon on 21 July 1969.

Eugene Cernan became the last man to land on the Moon on the Apollo 17 mission in December 1972.



YOUR STARS

Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Unpredictability is the name of the game now. Fortunately, that's a condition you adore. Does this mean you'll be inspired to be even more impulsive, eager and enthusiastic than usual?

Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

At the moment, you feel wonderful - completely free to let your feelings out, regardless of what they happen to be or where you happen to be when they emerge. Obviously, it's time to call a meeting of the minds.

Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Changing plans doesn't bother you. In fact, you've often found that it's afforded you the chance to meet someone or experience something you'd otherwise never have had the chance to do.

Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

It's suddenly occurred to you that you haven't seen anything but your own neighborhood in many, many moons - and you're hungry to glimpse a distant shore.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Creativity has never been something your sign is short on - and mentioning any new idea to the appropriate powers that be has never been a problem, either.

Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Long-distance friends and lovers will be on your mind and in your heart. In fact, you may even be moved to get yourself dressed and hit the road. That will go double if you've got something to celebrate.

Taurus

April 20-May 20

Regardless of who delivers the attractive offer, how reputable it seems to be or how tempted you are, you'll still need to remember one thing: If it sounds too good to be true, it just might be.

Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Since skepticism and a healthy sense of doubt are among the feelings on any list regarding that tender topic, however, persuading you to do anything you don't want to do won't be easy.

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

You can feel a change, and you just know it's going to be a big one. The pace of life - yours in particular, if you were to take a poll among your friends - has picked up considerably.

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

This may be tough astrological turf for some signs to travel, but you'll undoubtedly do just fine with it. You're no stranger to difficult terrain. In fact, you often secretly welcome the trek.

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Ready for the pace of life to pick up - considerably? Good, because opportunities for growth are going to come your way in fast and furious style, and you, of all signs, won't want to miss out on a single one.

Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

You've got a major problem coming your way, and no one but you can solve it: Which charming, wonderful invitations are you going to accept, for tonight, tomorrow night and the many nights to come?

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
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CHINA

Beijing	14	25	drizzle/cloudy
Harbin	8	24	cloudy/thundershower
Tianjin	16	24	moderate rain/drizzle
Urumqi	11	25	clear
Xi'an	12	26	moderate rain/cloudy
Lhasa	8	26	cloudy
Chengdu	15	23	drizzle/shower
Chongqing	16	29	rainstorm/moderate rain
Kunming	16	23	cloudy/moderate rain
Nanjing	19	22	thundershower/shower
Shanghai	20	25	drizzle/moderate rain
Wuhan	17	22	moderate rain/drizzle
Hangzhou	19	30	overcast/shower
Taipei	25	32	cloudy
Guangzhou	27	35	clear/cloudy
Hong Kong	28	33	cloudy

WORLD

Moscow	8	23	clear/cloudy
Frankfurt	14	22	drizzle
Paris	12	24	drizzle
London	6	21	drizzle/cloudy
New York	16	26	clear/overcast

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Scot's refusal; 4- Crowbar; 9- Funny Anne; 14- Guido's high note; 15- Steamed; 16- Smith's block; 17- Listening device; 18- Claw; 19- In reserve; 20- Agent; 23- "\_\_\_ Tu": 1974 hit; 24- Letter addenda; 25- Places of contest; 28- Boy or man; 30- Therapists' org.; 33- Wine grape; 34- River in central Switzerland; 35- Hebrew month; 36- In spite of; 39- Paradise lost; 40- Stable staple; 41- We \_\_\_ please; 42- \_\_\_ Lingus (Irish carrier); 43- Scraps; 44- Least polite; 45- Hosp. staffers; 46- I could \_\_\_ horse!; 47- Serotonin, dopamine, epinephrine, e.g.; 54- Taiwan Strait island; 55- Pale purple; 56- Fair-hiring abbr.; 57- Adlai's running mate; 58- Prince Valiant's wife; 59- Campaigned for office; 60- Secret supply; 61- Alpine song; 62- Officeholders;

DOWN: 1- At no time, poetically; 2- Caesar's wings; 3- Tombstone name; 4- Clerisy; 5- Rubs out; 6- Valleys; 7- School founded in 1440; 8- 1996 Tony-winning musical; 9- \_\_\_-tung; 10- Bandleader Skinnay \_\_\_; 11- Tel \_\_\_; 12- Starchy staple; 13- Beer; 21- Fame; 22- Cop \_\_\_; 25- Sleep issue; 26- \_\_\_ Janeiro; 27- Keyboard key; 28- Poles for sails; 29- Skills; 30- Stop on \_\_\_; 31- Trousers; 32- Special vocabulary; 34- At the drop of \_\_\_; 35- Reebok rival; 37- Trunk; 38- Pertaining to ships; 43- Outpouring; 44- Branched; 45- Tricks; 46- Caught congers; 47- Political cartoonist Thomas; 48- Blues singer James; 49- Pottery material; 50- Hawaiian city; 51- Garr of "Tootsie"; 52- Speckled steed; 53- Longings; 54- Parisian possessive;

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AP PHOTO



FC Barcelona's supporters pay tribute to Andres Iniesta prior to the Spanish La Liga soccer match between FC Barcelona and Real Sociedad at the Camp Nou

FOOTBALL

# Iniesta bids farewell to Barcelona, Torres to Atletico

Tales Azzoni, Madrid

**FIRST** it was Fernando Torres, then Andres Iniesta. The league season in Spain ended this weekend with two Spanish soccer idols bidding farewell to their clubs. Torres ended his storied career with boyhood club Atletico Madrid by scoring twice in the team's 2-2 draw against Eibar. A few hours later, Iniesta capped 16 successful seasons with Barcelona in the team's 1-0

win over Real Sociedad. Barcelona finished with 93 points, 14 more than Atletico Madrid and 17 more than Real Madrid in third. It was an intensely emotional ending for the players who were key members of Spain's golden generation that won two European Championships and a World Cup. Iniesta received a standing ovation from the Camp Nou crowd after being substituted in the 82nd minute of his 675th match

with the Catalan club, in a career that saw him win 32 titles. Iniesta embraced Lionel Messi and other teammates before saluting the fans and leaving the pitch one last time. The crowd chanted his name through the final minutes as Iniesta watched from the bench, unable to hold back tears. He cried profusely in the post-match ceremony to celebrate his career and the team's double of La Liga and Copa del Rey titles. Many of Iniesta's teammates

— all wearing the No. 8 jersey with Iniesta's name — also cried as the playmaker spoke to the crowd. "It's a difficult day," the 34-year-old Iniesta said. "It's been a pleasure to defend and represent the badge of this club, which to me is the best in the world." Before the match, fans held up cards to form the words "Infinit Iniesta." Iniesta, who scored Spain's winner in the 2010 World Cup final, is reportedly set to

play in Japan. Philippe Coutinho scored Sunday's winner for Barcelona.

## TORRES' GOODBYE

Earlier in Madrid, Torres — who netted Spain's winner in the Euro 2008 final — also cried profusely in a ceremony to honor him at Wanda Metropolitano Stadium. "I have to thank my grandpa, who gave me the greatest gift anyone can give a kid, which was to make me an Atletico fan," Torres said. "It was an honor to be able to wear this jersey." His final two goals came a few days after he lifted his first major trophy with Atletico in the Europa League. The 34-year-old Torres slid on his knees toward the crowd on the sidelines and kissed the team's badge after the first goal. He jumped over the advertisement boards and ran toward the stands to embrace fans after the second. Torres, who was given the captaincy on Sunday, reached 129 goals in 404 appearances with Atletico, which had already secured second place. Before the game, Atletico fans displayed a huge banner reading "From Kid to Legend." The players' jerseys also carried a logo with the same words.

Nicknamed "The Kid," Torres joined Atletico at age 11. He had publicly said he hoped to end his career with the club, but he decided to leave because he wasn't expected to remain in Diego Simeone's plans for next season. This was Torres' second stint with Atletico after thriving with the club from 2001-07. He then played for Liverpool and Chelsea, where he won Champions League and Europa League titles. He returned to Atletico in 2015 after a brief stint with AC Milan. Torres hasn't said where he will play next season, although local media said it could be in Chinese soccer. Atletico, which hadn't been second in the league since winning the title in 2014, played a man down from the 63rd as defender Lucas Hernandez was sent off. **AP**

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Daniella Matar

CYCLING

# Yates favored to win Giro d'Italia heading into final week

AS the Giro d'Italia heads into the final week, it's not really surprising that a British rider leads the overall standings.

The surprise is that the leader is Simon Yates and not four-time Tour de France champion Chris Froome.

Froome arrived at the Giro bidding to become the third person to win three Grand Tours in a row. But he crashed in training before the opening time trial, lost time in a split on Stage 4 and injured himself again in a second crash four days later.

Yates, meanwhile, has had a stellar race and became the first rider since 2003 to win three stages in the leader's pink jersey after a fantastic solo ride on the final climb yesterday [Macau time].

Normally smiling through interviews, Yates is polite but reserved. However, after the mammoth effort, the 25-year-old British rider struggled to hold back tears as his voice cracked with emotion.

"I don't know why I'm a bit emotional after today. I gave everything," said Yates, who won the young rider classification at last year's Tour de France.

"I came to the Giro to win the race but I didn't expect to win three stages," he said later. "It's a magnificent achievement. I'm lost for words. I couldn't imagine this. But I don't know if the advantage I have now is enough to win the Giro."

The manner of his victory in the 15th stage makes it hard to see anyone taking the pink jersey off his shoulders.

Yates set off on a solo attack with 17 kilometers remaining. The Mitchelton-Scott cyclist looked back after a few meters and continued to accelerate.

On a day when everyone was paying the price for the rigors of the previous day and the iconic climb up Monte Zoncolan,

Yates appeared impervious to fatigue. He extended his lead over defending champion Tom Dumoulin to 2 minutes, 11 seconds. Domenico Pozzovivo remained third, 2:28 behind.

Today's individual time trial is Dumoulin's speciality and the Dutch cyclist is expected to reduce the gap significantly over the 34.2-kilometer course. But the race then heads back to the high Alps and Dumoulin knows

he has an almost impossible task to successfully defend his title.

"Yates is so strong right now he could do a good time trial," Dumoulin said. "Even if we do take the jersey back, we will only be back to even. He can attack in the mountains and drop me whenever he wants. For me to win the Giro, something crazy has to happen."

All three of Yates' victories

have been on uphill finishes. It could have even been four but Yates sportingly allowed teammate Esteban Chaves to win on the summit of Mount Etna — on the day he first took the Maglia Rosa — after the Colombian had spent the entire day in the breakaway.

There are three more summit finishes to come, including the "queen stage" up to Cervinia, which features 4,000 meters

of climbing — almost all of it crammed into the final 90 kilometers of the race's penultimate stage.

That comes immediately after an equally tough day, with four mountain passes on the route up to Bardonecchia.

Even Thursday's flatter stage ends with a steep Category 1 climb up to Prato Nevoso.

The Giro finishes in Rome on May 27. **AP**



Britain's Simon Yates celebrates after winning the 15th stage of the Giro d'Italia cycling race, from Tolmezzo to Sappada

## ON THE ROAD TO WORLD CUP

# West Germans beat Hungary in 'Miracle of Bern'

NEVER, ever, underestimate the Germans on the soccer field.

That's a globally accepted truth, one that has its roots in the 1954 World Cup final in Switzerland.

Going into that tournament, Hungary was the overwhelming favorite. After all, Hungary was the Olympic champion, unbeaten in four years, and had arguably the best player in the world in Ferenc Puskas.

The team's performan-

ces throughout the tournament only cemented the idea that Hungary would become the third country to win the World Cup, after the dual successes of Uruguay and Italy. In its first two games, Hungary racked up a total of 17 goals, including an 8-3 win over West Germany.

After beating Uruguay 4-2 in the semifinals, in a match contemporary observers rank as one of the best ever played, Hungary

would meet the West Germans again in the final.

With two goals in the first eight minutes from Puskas and Zoltan Czibor, it looked like a repeat of the first encounter was likely. Instead, the West Germans responded almost immediately, with a goal in the 10th minute from Max Morlock. Helmut Rahn, a late addition to the squad, got his team back on level terms in the 18th.

Rahn then sealed the win

six minutes from the end. West Germany had incredibly beaten the "Magical Magyars."

The match has been dubbed "The Miracle of Bern" and laid the seeds of one of soccer's most enduring adages: Never, ever, underestimate the Germans on the soccer field.

England in 1970, the Netherlands in 1974 and France in 1982 are three teams that can attest to that. **AP**



In this July 4, 1954 file photo, West Germany's Helmut Rahn (center with arms raised) celebrates after equalizing in the World Cup soccer final match against Hungary, at Wankdorf Stadium, in Bern



opinion

**Views of The World**  
The Editors, Bloomberg

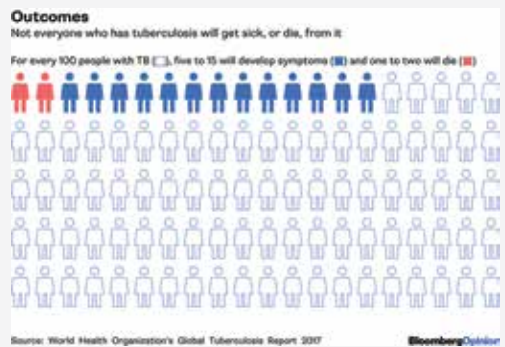
**UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD'S PROBLEM WITH TUBERCULOSIS**

**Tuberculosis**, a disease fueled by poverty, overcrowding and undernutrition, is a global barometer of deprivation. Of the more than 4,000 men, women and children TB kills every day, most are poor.

TB's connection to poverty is explained, in large part, by the way Mycobacterium tuberculosis operates: It causes disease in only a fraction of the people it infects. Almost a quarter of the world's population harbors the tuberculosis bacterium, but in most cases, it is walled off by the immune system.

The bug activates in 5-15 percent of carriers, who tend to have other health problems. They may be undernourished, infected by HIV, have a habit of smoking or drinking too much, or live with extreme air pollution. They may suffer from diabetes or other chronic illness, or take immunosuppressant medications. A loss of sun-supported vitamin D can be a trigger in people who migrate from equatorial areas to places where there is winter. In many cases, scientists can't tell exactly what has roused the pathogen.

Active TB can weaken the brain, kidneys or spine, but it mainly attacks the lungs, causing coughing, fever and chills. Sufferers enable the bacteria's spread by expelling germ-containing droplets into the air via coughs and sneezes, or even by just talking. The germs can remain airborne for hours, and be inhaled by unwitting new hosts. One person ill with TB can infect as many as 10 other people over the course of a year.



TB can be cured with a six-month regimen of four so-called first-line medicines: isoniazid, rifampicin, ethambutol and pyrazinamide. The cocktail helps kill bacteria that are resistant to any one of the drugs. The use of poor-quality medicines and non-adherence to treatment guidelines encourage drug resistance.

Multidrug-resistant TB requires more powerful, second-line medications. When these aren't given long enough, the bacteria can become resistant to all medicines. In India, a string of such treatment failures led to the emergence of what doctors described in 2012 as totally drug-resistant TB. Extensively drug-resistant TB, a somewhat less hopeless category, afflicts 8,000 patients worldwide, mainly in India, Ukraine, South Africa and Belarus.

Because healthy people are relatively safe from tuberculosis, improved living standards during the early 20th century helped lower the incidence. It fell even faster in the 1950s and '60s, when anti-TB drugs became available. But in recent decades, the emergence of HIV and mutant antibiotic-resistant bacteria have hampered control efforts, slowing the pace of decline in global TB incidence.

From 2000 to 2015, TB claimed 33 million lives and cost the world economy an estimated USD616 billion, with India, Indonesia, China and Russia carrying half that burden, according to a recent KPMG report. Unless governments, civil society organizations and individual citizens take more effective action, by 2030, a further \$1 trillion and 28 million lives may be lost.

**THE SURVEY: JAPANESE FEMALE JOURNALISTS REPORT SEXUAL MISCONDUCT**

A survey of women working for Japanese newspapers and TV networks has found 156 cases of alleged sexual misconduct reported by 35 women, about one-third of which involved lawmakers, government officials and law enforcers.

Osaka International University Professor Mayumi Taniguchi, a gender studies expert, said yesterday the survey was prompted by a recent widely publicized case of alleged sexual mistreatment of a journalist by a senior finance ministry official.

She said another one-third of the cases reportedly occurred at the journalists' workplaces and the remainder involved their news sources and others.

Awareness about sexual misconduct has been slow to develop in Japan.

Taniguchi said the survey shows some women are beginning to speak out but others are still hesitant because of pressure from supervisors or fear of losing their sources.

**Meghan offers insight into her new role as Duchess of Sussex**



Danica Kirka, London

**MEGHAN** Markle has offered a glimpse of how she sees her new role as the Duchess of Sussex in two new pages posted on the royal website hours after the former actress married Britain's Prince Harry.

The newly minted duchess' pages highlight her focus on social issues and notes that she campaigned successfully at age 11 to have a company change the sexist language it used to sell dishwashing soap. The "About the Du-

chess of Sussex" page also pointed out that she volunteered at a soup kitchen in Los Angeles' Skid Row and worked at another kitchen in Canada while working as an actress in Toronto.

"I am proud to be a woman and a feminist," the page quotes her as saying.

A second "biography" page mentions her education, first at the Hollywood Little Red Schoolhouse, Immaculate Heart High School and Northwestern University, where she earned a double major in theater and inter-

national relations.

It also discusses the seven years she spent playing Rachel Zane in the U.S. television drama "Suits."

"Whilst working on Suits, the duchess moved to Toronto, Canada where the show was filmed; she feels very connected to Canada, as it became a second home to her," the biography said.

Prince Harry and Markle were named the Duke and Duchess of Sussex as they were married Saturday at St. George's Chapel in Windsor. **AP**

**THE DECISIVE MOMENT**

AP Photo/Jae C. Hong/Kilauea ire.



A plume of steam rises as lava enters the ocean near Pahoehoe, Hawaii, yesterday. Kilauea volcano that is oozing, spewing and exploding on Hawaii's Big Island has gotten more hazardous in recent days.

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	25-45 Good	😊
High Density Residential Area	15-35 Good	😊
Ambient	25-45 Good	😊

SOURCE: DSMG

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**INDIA** A deadly virus has killed at least three people in southern India, officials said yesterday, with medical teams dispatched to the area amid reports that up to six other people could have died from the disease and others are ill. **More on p13**

**AFGHANISTAN** An official says the Taliban killed at least five members of a demining team in southern Kandahar province.

**SYRIA**'s military yesterday declared the capital and its surroundings "completely safe" from militants for the first time in nearly seven years.



**TURKEY**'s president addressed thousands of expatriate Turks in Bosnia's capital to shore up support before his country's snap presidential and parliamentary elections next month.

**GERMANY** Berlin police say activists protesting rising rents and gentrification in the German capital have occupied nine vacant buildings.



**VENEZUELA** A growing roster of nations condemned Venezuela's presidential election yesterday and threatened to ramp up diplomatic and economic pressure on President Nicolas Maduro's already embattled government. **More on p14**

**HOLIDAY TIMES**

Macau Daily Times will not be published during the holiday. The Times will be back on the stands on Thursday May 24. However the MDT website will be updated with breaking news during the recess period. We wish our readers, advertisers and friends the best of times.