



APRIL TOURIST ARRIVALS INCREASE 8 PERCENT
 Tourist arrivals totalled 2.96m in April 2018, up by 8 percent year-on-year and 8.3 percent month-to-month

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FONG APPEALS GOVERNMENT PENALTY
 Fong Soi Kun has submitted an appeal to the Court of Second Instance against his dismissal from office

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Times

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

WORLD BRIEFS

AP PHOTO



KOREA The United States and South Korea are laboring to keep the U.S. summit with North Korea on track even after President Donald Trump abruptly said "there's a very substantial chance" it won't go off as planned. More on p13

PHILIPPINES The immigration bureau has turned down an Australian nun's appeal for the reversal of an order revoking her missionary visa after the president complained about her joining opposition rallies and ordered her to leave the country.

AP PHOTO



THAILAND Police in the Thai capital blocked a march by pro-democracy activists protesting four years of military rule and detained several of the movement's leaders.

INDIA-PAKISTAN Tensions soared yesterday along the volatile frontier between India and Pakistan in the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir, as rival soldiers shelled dozens of villages and border posts for a sixth straight day.

ISRAEL-PALESTINE The Israeli military says it has struck Hamas infrastructure in Gaza after a group of militants entered Israel and torched a military post.

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Gov't proposes solution to P. Horizon buyers

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AUDIT REPORT

IC slammed for mismanaging over 100,000 public library books

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Gov't to build on Pearl Horizon land, buyers allowed to acquire new units

Renato Marques

THE government will build on the land plot known as the "Pearl Horizon" in the Area Preta district at its own expense, as stated yesterday afternoon at a press conference by the Secretary of Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan. The announcement comes after the Court of Final Appeal (TUI) issued the final sentence in the case between the former land concessionaire Polytec Corporation Ltd and the government.

The government claimed that, according to the new Land Law, the land plot should be returned due to its non-development for the entire concession period of 25 years.

Yesterday the public heard the government's proposal to simultaneously resolve both the land plot issue and the issue of small buyers who have been repeatedly calling on the government for help to "get their houses back."

In the proposal aired by Sonia Chan, the government intends to build a different building with different characteristics. This one would be used mainly as reserve housing units for the temporary lodging of residents affected by the urban renovation works taking place in the old neighborhoods of the city.

As Chan mentioned, "We will [use this land plot] for the Temporary Housing Plan to the affected owners on the realization of the projects of urban renewal. Part of those housing units will be decommissioned from the plan and sold to the 'Pearl Horizon' buyers." She noted that the aim of the measure is to help the buyers have their house and



Li Canfeng (left), Sonia Chan and Iong Kong Leong

to improve housing conditions. She concluded by saying, "this solution is not... compensation."

Chan explained the basic requirements that the previous "Pearl Horizon" buyers must possess in order to access the opportunity to acquire one of the units, starting with the fact that they can only buy one unit each. Companies or groups are not allowed to make purchases, with all units instead reserved only for individuals.

Chan remarked that prices will be similar to those registered at the notary when the contracts were first signed, noting also that the housing units "will have approximately the same size as the ones acquired

before." However, she made it clear that the units will not be the same as before and that the building itself will also undergo several changes to include several social facilities and leisure areas.

Questioned on why the government decided to opt for a "public housing" style and not for a new public tender, Chan said that "due to the restrictions on the [land]... we only had two options: either redo a public concession [by tender] or to do develop the land ourselves [the government]," she said. "We opted for the second one as it is the only option that ensures the former buyers [of Pearl Horizon] have their rights protected." This idea is not yet a final one, but it is now "a proposal from the government that needs to pass through a legislative procedure and a regime that need to be approved by the Legislative Assembly."

The Secretary noted that the government would hold a public consultation to take place in the last quarter of 2018 to help establish the rules of acquisition.

Questioned on the decision and the previously announced "proposals" by the company, Chan said, "In fact, we did contact Polytec but the company did not show [any interest in]

participating in a new public tender [for the construction of the building]."

During the same press conference, the director of the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) Li Canfeng noted that DSSOPT will "execute as soon as possible the sentence [from TUI] and according to the Urban Planning Law start to do the project according to the urban characteristic." He noted that the land plot will be developed for the purpose of "housing units, commercial units and social facilities."

As for the final project, Li noted DSSOPT hoped to be included during the public consultation period.

Questioned on which kind of social equipment would be included, Li added, "Since the

initially projected commercial spaces have not been sold to anyone [by Polytec] we need to reevaluate and see what are the needs [for the area]."

Chan finally noted, "They [buyers] resorted to banking loans [to acquire their units, so] they must continue to pay for those mortgages [to the banks]" and try to be compensated via civil cases in the courts.

According to the figures stated, there were a total of 1,100 housing units sold by Polytec involving a total number of approximately 1,800 people. As for the companies participating in the acquisitions, the government noted a total of 134 companies involved in the acquisition of a total of 139 other housing units at Pearl Horizon.

BUYERS' REPRESENTATIVE DISAGREES

IN RESPONSE to the government's announcement, the leader of the Pearl Horizon Condominium Owners United Association, Kou Meng Pok reacted in a WeChat group chat that includes Pearl Horizon buyers, journalists and lawmakers that Pearl Horizon buyers: "Must get back the property according to the contracts" they have signed with the project developer - Polytec," he wrote. Expressing a total disapproval for the govern-

ment's decision Kou noted his own case to say, "I bought two, now it becomes one," in reference to the rules noted by the Secretary Sonia Chan that would grant the possibility of acquisition of only one unit per buyer in the new development to be built by the government, calling for the resignation of the Secretary of Administration and Justice, who they claimed failed to fulfill the promise that the government would protect buyers' interests.

STAMP DUTY REFUND TO REACH MOP602 MILLION

DURING THE government press conference held yesterday afternoon to present the executive proposal for the land plot of the former "Pearl Horizon" development, the Director of the Financial Services Bureau (DSF), Iong Kong Leong, said that the government will proceed with the refund to all buyers who have paid stamp

duty. According to Iong, there is a total of 3,480 cases of tax paid due to contracts related to the Pearl Horizon development that totals around MOP602 million. The refund will be done by the DSF since, "the contracts cannot be fulfilled anymore." These refunds should be processed in the next 30 to 60 days.

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A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

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PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Audit report slams book acquisition management

Paulo Barbosa

IN a report released yesterday, the Commission of Audit (CA) slammed the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) for its management of the acquisition of books and publications for public libraries. The CA said that “the IC shows a lack of professionalism in the way it conducts the works related with the conservation and management of the book collection.”

During inspections between March and December of 2017, it was found that there were around 100,000 items registered that weren't filed or made available to library users. According to the CA, most of the documents had been like that for over five years and there were some cases of items being left in boxes for 17 years.

“These 100,000 documents would be enough to create a new library of a considerable scale. The number of unprocessed documents and the time they've remained in that situation is huge. If this institution [the IC] continues to spend



millions acquiring new books without any criteria, the time to process the newly-acquired books and the ones that are currently unprocessed will become longer,” the report notes.

Among the problems found during the CA probe was a storage place for books that was being affected by water damage in the walls. IC staff noted that the books could have been damaged by this, but nothing was done to fix the issue for months.

Photo evidence included in the report shows another storage area with piles of books covered with dust and many boxes full of books that “should be placed in drawers and not piled on the floor.”

In terms of the process for buying new books, the CA noted that it took eight and a half years for the IC to establish and approve a policy for the development of the book collection. However, until the conclusion of the CA probe, the IC was unable

to share the guidelines that were “formally approved.”

The CA report notes that there are eight staff members responsible for selecting new books to be bought. According to the report, these workers “don't follow the same criteria and there isn't uniformity in the process of selecting books.”

Alleged problems with the computer system made it impossible to collect data about the book collection (such as the type of books and their language). As such, the Audit report concluded that the IC is not aware of the features of the book collection and can't enforce any concrete guidelines in the acquisition of new books.

The report also notes that the government has been creating new libraries in order to promote healthy reading habits. Success in reaching those targets, it notes, “requires a capable management team, who are responsible and honest.”

In response to the report, the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture demanded a follow up from IC management listing measures to improve procedures related to book acquisition.



Drunken Dragon Festival returns

The traditional Drunken Dragon Festival kicked off on Tuesday, featuring a Chinese drunken dragon performance, sacrifice offering, as well as providing dragon boat rice to audiences. The festival, which falls during the fourth month of the Chinese lunar calendar, is a traditional cultural event for praying for safety and prosperity of Macau's fishing industry. Two drunken dragon performers hold the head and the tail of the wooden dragon respectively. With a liquor jar in their hands, the players made performance after taking a sip of the liquor and spraying it onto the wooden dragon. Local residents gathered at the Red Market, a building which was built over 80 years ago, and queued for dragon boat longevity rice. The performers also went to the Senado Square, attracting thousands of tourists.

Macau Daily Times contest



Air Supply

Question for readers:

Where will the Air Supply Concert be held?

Please email the answers to: 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 or 2882 8618.



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.

AD

Local claims loss of RMB1.7 million to phone scam

A roughly 40-year-old local woman claimed to have lost RMB1.7 million in a phone scam, the Judiciary Police reported earlier this week. The woman said she received a phone call from a someone who said they worked at an express delivery company, who told her that a package she sent to Beijing was found to contain prohibited items. Following this, the woman talked to people impersonating mainland police officers and prosecutors, and transferred RMB1.7 million to the scammers through five different transactions made in a shop in NAPE.

Hotel planned near Grand Lisboa

Two land plots on Tv. do Comandante Mata e Oliveira have been granted to the Sociedade de Investimento Imobiliário Lun Tát, Limitada (owned by former lawmaker Chan Meng Kam) to build a two-star hotel, according to a notice published in the Official Gazette. The land plots, located close to the Grand Lisboa casino, were granted by lease and without a public tender. In total, the land plots occupy an area of 737 square meters, and will be used for building a 24-floor hotel (9,894 square meters of construction area) and car parks (511 square meters of construction area). The lease will be valid until September 3, 2027.

Macau Ferry Terminal bus stand resumes operations

As of yesterday, the original taxi stand at the Macau Ferry Terminal has resumed normal operation, the Transport Bureau (DSAT) announced earlier this week. The stand has been converted into a single lane, instead of the original two-lane set up. The change has broadened passengers' waiting space and has increased the number of accessible facilities. Additionally, the DSAT issued a reminder that the bus stop at the Macau Ferry Terminal was relocated at the end of April, and its original location is now used for tourist buses. The DSAT noted that the new traffic facilities at the Macau Ferry Terminal will soon be completed.

Urban renewal laws: each topic to be reviewed separately

Julie Zhu

THE laws for urban renewal will be established independently for each urban renewal topic, Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo do Rosário revealed yesterday after an Urban Planning Committee meeting.

"Concerning issues of the laws related to the Urban Renewal Committee, I want to clarify that the Committee made a choice which [means it won't be] us making an urban renewal law, [that is], making a big law. We chose instead to establish a law for every single matter [concerning urban renewal topics]," said Rosário.

Rosário remarked that, on Friday, the Legislative Assembly (AL) will discuss the tax rebate benefits regime concerning urban renewal.

He highlighted that this law, like the others, will be developed



Raimundo do Rosário

independently.

"Gradually, we will [make laws] regarding the reconstruction of old buildings [...] and temporary houses. [...] I want to clarify that this is not about us not wanting to make laws. We just chose not to make an integrated legal framework," explained Raimundo.

The Secretary does not know which law will be established first.

"It's difficult to talk about the

legislation procedures," said Raimundo.

Yesterday's meeting focused on the number of documents behind the management of the committee's operation.

Besides discussing the schedule for establishing laws for the Committee, the members also passed an internal regulation.

"[The committee] is one part of the governmental structure, [...] it has to be supervised by the

law. [The committee] called the members to pay attention to the fact that the committee is a collegial body," said Raimundo.

The Secretary noted that "there are three possibilities for carrying out urban renewal. Owners can do it by themselves; a private contractor can buy the properties and perform the reconstruction; or, the government can do it. It is not necessary to wait for us [the government] to do it."

Rosário pointed out that the government and private contractors need to get approval from each property owner to carry out urban renewal works.

"Each building has property owners, therefore we [the government] cannot go to each building and ask owners to leave, so that the government can carry out the renovation. We must reach an agreement with all these owners," the Secretary said, while commenting on the reconstruction of buildings.

TOURISM

MGTO head elected PATA secretary/treasurer

MACAU Government Tourism Office's (MGTO) chief Helena de Senna Fernandes has been elected to be Pacific Asia Travel Association's (PATA) "secretary/treasurer". The election was held while she was attending PATA's Annual Summit 2018 held this week in Gangneung, Korea, which was also attended by the president of the Institute for Tourism Studies, Fanny Vong.

The MGTO chief will hold the post for the next two years, overseeing the administration of the Association's financial affairs and chairing the



Helena de Senna Fernandes speaks during the event

Audit and Finance Committee.

"It is a great honor to be trusted with the new role to serve in PATA, and a privilege for Macau to join all other members in helping to create a more sustainable future for the tourism industry in the region," said Fernandes, according to a

statement from MGTO. "I am thankful for the significant recognition that comes with the new responsibilities, for our efforts to support the Association's endeavors over the years," she added.

According to MGTO, over the past decades, the Pacific Asia Travel Asso-

ciation has been a valuable platform for Macau to promote its destination and connect with global travel trade. The Office has been actively engaged in the affairs of the Association and has continuously supported the PATA Gold Awards.

The PATA Annual Summit 2018, held from May 17 to 20, was jointly organized by the Korea Tourism Organization and Gangwon Province in Gangneung, Korea. As it is one of PATA's annual major events, this year's PATA Annual Summit attracted 372 delegates representing a total of

182 entities, originating from 41 countries and regions across Asia Pacific.

Revolving around the theme "building bridges, connecting people – how collaboration creates opportunities" this year, the Summit explored the impact the tourism industry has on driving economic progress.

Eminent leaders were invited to deliver speeches and insights in the Summit, including former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon and former Secretary General of the World Tourism Organization, Taleb Rifai.

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April tourist arrivals increase 8 percent



TOURIST arrivals totalled 2,960,879 in April 2018, up by 8 percent year-on-year and 8.3 percent month-to-month. According to information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), overnight visitors (1,541,771) and same-day visitors (1,419,108) grew by 7 percent and 9 percent respectively year-on-year. The average

length of stay of visitors held steady year-on-year at 1.2 days, and that of overnight visitors as well as same-day visitors remained at 2.1 days and 0.2 day respectively.

Visitors from mainland China increased by 16.5 percent year-on-year to 2,060,662 in April, with those travelling under the Individual Visit Scheme rising by 16.9 percent to

962,704. Mainland visitors came primarily from Guangdong Province (822,618) and Hunan Province (99,243). Visitors from Taiwan (94,545) grew by 5.6 percent, while those from South Korea (61,106) and Hong Kong (535,875) dropped by 5.9 percent and 12 percent respectively. Meanwhile, visitors from the United States (19,315) increased while those

from Australia (9,999), Canada (6,751) and the United Kingdom (6,165) decreased.

Analysed by mode of transport, visitor arrivals by land grew by 14.4 percent year-on-year to 1,740,479, with those arriving through the Border Gate (1,501,542) increasing by 13.7 percent. Visitor arrivals by sea decreased by 5.6 percent year-on-year to 954,443. Visitor arrivals by air totalled 265,957, representing a surge of 25.9 percent year-on-year.

In the first four months of 2018, visitor arrivals totalled

11,506,592, up by 8.4 percent year-on-year. Overnight visitors (5,872,209) and same-day visitors (5,634,383) increased by 9.3 percent and 7.5 percent respectively. The average length of stay of visitors held steady year-on-year at 1.2 days, with that of overnight visitors (2.2 days) rising by 0.1 day and that of same-day visitors (0.2 days) remaining unchanged. Analyzed by country/place, visitors from mainland China (8,092,036) and South Korea (301,185) went up by 14.2 percent and 2.3 percent respectively.

ONE SHOT NEWS



Jovana Stevanovic (second from right) of Serbia spikes the ball during the FIVB Volleyball Nations League between Serbia and Thailand, which is being held in Macau until today.

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

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

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(Can be contacted at any time)

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+ INFO



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GAMING

Suncity purchase just a rumor, says Beijing Imperial owner

A rumor that Alvin Chau's Suncity Group Holdings Ltd had acquired the troubled Beijing Imperial Palace Hotel and Greek Mythology Casino was quashed yesterday in a filing to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange by a major shareholder in the Taipa-based casino-hotel.

Amax International Holdings, which owns a nearly 30 percent stake in the Beijing Imperial Palace according to the company's website, clarified in the filing that the rumor was not true.

The rumor was first reported in an interview with Andrew Lo, executive director of Suncity, and published in Hong Kong's Ming Pao.

According to the news outlet, Lo said that his company had acquired the property after its license holder, Macau Hotel Developers Ltd., had failed to repay a loan from the company. As compensation, it would transfer property ownership to Alvin Chau.

Lo added that the gaming promoter, which would acquire the property through its subsidiary, Victory Success, intended to upgrade the hotel and casino facilities as soon as it had acquired a hotel license. The redevelopment would include a redesign of the property, reducing the number of rooms from 500 to 300, as well as



changing its name and branding. The Beijing Imperial Palace Hotel has been temporarily closed since 2016 when the Macau Government Tourism Office ordered its closure.

"The Company was informed by the Hotel management that the Hotel management is still in charge of the Hotel and in no event have the control rights of the Hotel been passed to Mr. Chau," noted Amax International in the fi-

ling. Legal proceedings related to the dispute are still ongoing.

The company said that it has obtained a court order judging that Victory Success had invaded the hotel and was obliged to return it to the hotel management within five calendar days.

"The Hotel management is of the view that the Court Order could further protect their control rights of the Hotel," said Amax International in the filing.

Police reports illegal workers found by DSAL

Several cases of illegal workers caught by the Labor Affairs Bureau (DSAL) during surprise inspections have been referred to the Public Security Police Force (PSP).

According to information released by the police force, in the first case on May 16, the bureau performed a surprise inspection on a company related to the civil construction business, where it found three workers working under illegal conditions.

Two of the workers were residents of Hong Kong, with one Chinese and one from the Philippines, and the third being of Portuguese nationality. Their ages ranged from 26 to 47 years old.

The spokesperson of the PSP said that the two Hong Kong residents were performing consultancy duties, while the Portuguese worker was a designer.

They were earning salaries ranging between HKD12,000 and

HKD37,500. The general manager of the company claimed not to have been aware of the workers' situation.

In a separate case, which occurred on May 18, the DSAL found another illegal worker carrying out loading duties backstage of an exhibition hall in the Cotai area.

The worker, who is 29 years old and originates from mainland China, tried to run away when he saw the inspectors but was caught with the help of the PSP.

Further inspection revealed that the worker had been hired by a company on a daily basis, earning a salary of MOP500 per day. The PSP has been trying to contact the owner of the company.

The police is continuously investigating these cases so as to provide more information for compilation which can be used for a judicial process enforced by the DSAL. **RM**

ASSOCIATION CLAIMS

Breastfeeding mothers lack knowledge of Chinese medicine

The Macau Breastfeeding and Nurturing Promotion Association is conducting a survey concerning the consumption of Chinese medicine by mothers who are breastfeeding.

Current survey results indicate that many mothers do not have what is considered to be adequate knowledge about the Chinese medicine they currently use.

Currently, the association has already received answers from more than 600 local mothers.

According to the results, 65 percent of the mothers used Chinese medicine while breastfeeding but showed some misconception about the Chinese me-



A mother pictured during an event to mark the World Breastfeeding Week in Hong Kong

dicine itself or had a lack of proper knowledge about it. The two popular Chinese medicines used are Licithin and Fenugreek.

A pharmacist, surnamed Ng, noted during a recent press conference that based on the results of the

survey, there is insufficient support within society for breastfeeding mothers in terms of breastfeeding knowledge and other matters.

From the 600 mothers surveyed, the average period for breastfeeding is

between one month and two years, with the longest period recorded at seven years.

Seventy-eight percent of respondents said they experienced health issues, such as breast pain, sleeping problems, and depression, while breastfeeding.

According to the association, the survey results will be used for future educational purposes in order to support breastfeeding mothers, thus hoping to improve their safe reasonable use of Chinese medicine.

The survey is still ongoing. The association is still calling for mothers who have breastfed in the past 12 months to participate. **JZ**

Former SMG Chief appeals gov't penalty

The former director of the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG), Fong Soi Kun, has submitted an appeal to the Court of Second Instance (TSI) against the decision made by the Chief Executive (CE) regarding his actions during Typhoon Hato.

Fong and his deputy director Florence Leong were subjected to a disciplinary procedure over the decision to raise weather warnings in the lead-up to Typhoon Hato.

After a long procedure, the CE decided to hand down the maximum possible penalty allowed by the Civil Servants Regulation – dismissal from office – a decision that had no real consequence, since Fong had already retired, except for the suspension of his retirement pension for four years.

The CE announced



Fong Soi Kun

the penalties decided for the two heads of the Bureau on April 11. This was only a few days after the official gazette said Fong would have been eligible for a retirement pension of approximately MOP80,000 per month, based on Fong's 35 years of service in the SMG.

At the same time, Leong was also found guilty of neglecting her duties and given a 130-day suspension from current duties.



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Wednesday, 30/5/2018

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Speaker: **Mr Willem A. Hoekstra**, Chairman of HK Financial Services BCM Forum

FMCC Breakfast Meeting



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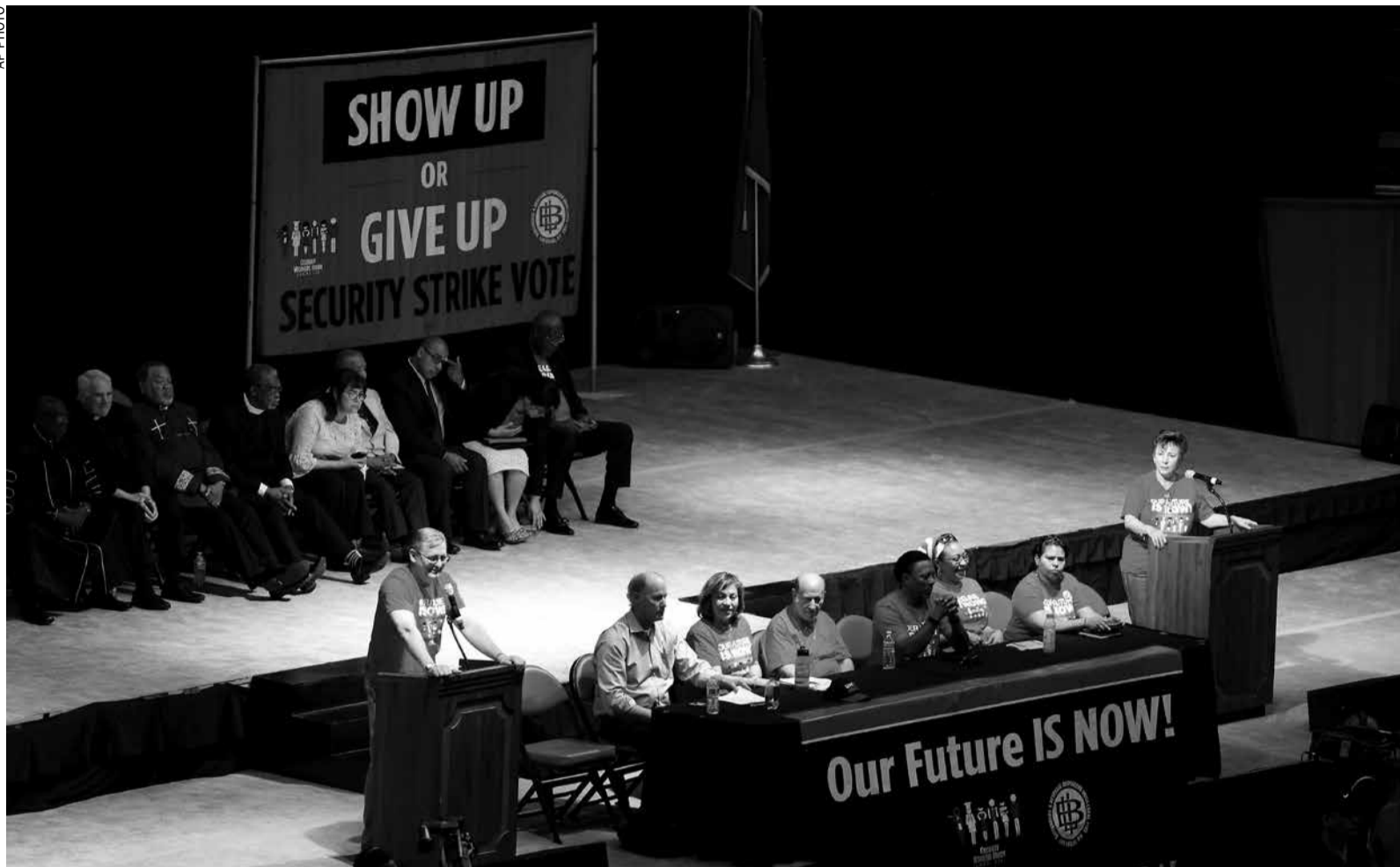
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Culinary Union leaders wrap up a vote on whether to authorize a strike

Tens of thousands of Las Vegas casino workers OK strike

Regina Garcia Cano, Las Vegas

LAS Vegas casinos could watch tens of thousands of employees walk off the job for the first time in more than three decades after union members voted to authorize a strike at any time starting June 1, a move that could cripple the city's world-famous resorts.

About 25,000 members of the Culinary Union who work at 34 different casino-resorts across the tourist destination cast ballots in two sessions Tuesday, showing the collective power of the largest labor organization in Nevada. The move hands union negotiators a huge bargaining chip as they work to solidify new five-year contracts.

The union last voted for a strike in 2002 but reached a deal before employees walked out. The last strike, in 1984,

spanned 67 days and cost the city and workers tens of millions of dollars.

The latest strike would mean losing workers with roles critical to making a casino-hotel run: bartenders, housekeepers, cocktail and food servers, porters, bellmen, cooks and other kitchen workers. It would affect properties including Caesars Palace, Planet Hollywood, Bellagio, MGM Grand, Stratosphere, The D and El Cortez.

It also could cause problems for fans heading to the city to watch the Vegas Golden Knights hockey team play in the Stanley Cup Final in early June, a rare feat for a team in its first year.

"I'm here to show the younger generations that this is the way we fight to maintain our jobs, job security, health benefits and to gain a pay raise," Lewis Thomas, a utility porter at the Tropicana casino-hotel, said. "This

will be a wake-up call to let [the companies] know we are together, we are united, we are not separated."

The contracts of 50,000 unionized workers are set to expire at midnight May 31, and negotiations with individual casino-operating companies have not led to agreements for new terms.

Union officials have said they want to increase wages, protect job security against the increasing use of technology at hotel-casinos, and strengthen language against sexual harassment.

"We've been in negotiations with the companies, and they are not giving the workers what they deserve according to the economy right now," Geoconda Arguello-Kline, union secretary-treasurer, said after the first voting session. "They are very successful. They have a lot of money."

MGM Resorts International

and Caesars Entertainment Corp. operate more than half the properties that would be affected by a strike. MGM said it will keep meeting with the union.

I want the companies to open up their eyes and think what's going to happen if we go on a strike.

DON LEADBETER
BELLMAN AT THE MGM GRAND

"A vote such as this is an expected part of the process," the company said in a statement after results were released. "We

are confident that we can resolve the outstanding contract issues and will come to an agreement that works for all sides."

Caesars released a statement late Tuesday saying it expects to reach an agreement with the union "on or about June 1."

Shares of both casinos slid around 2 percent before the opening bell yesterday and other gaming-affiliated companies were under pressure as well.

Union members enthusiastically gathered Tuesday at the Thomas and Mack Center at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. They high-fived, took selfies and carried signs urging people to vote.

Banners outside said, "Show up or give up, security strike vote" amid pro-union chants in English and Spanish. Some workers chanted, "Hey, Caesars, look around, Vegas is a union town" and "No contract, no peace."

Some employees stopped by in their casino-resort uniforms on their way to or from work, while others donned shirts emblazoned with "Vegas Strong" and the union logo.

Inside, union organizers verified people were eligible to vote, and workers dropped their paper ballots in numbered boxes.

When casino workers across Las Vegas went on a strike in 1984, union members lost an estimated \$75 million in wages and benefits and the city lost a similar amount in tourism revenue. Millions more were lost in gambling income.

Don Leadbeter, a bellman at the MGM Grand, has worked at Las Vegas casino-hotels for more than four decades and participated in previous strike votes. He said workers this time want to protect their job security and ensure that employers provide training as they adopt more workplace technology.

He said bartenders are already using automated systems that could potentially eliminate their jobs, and guests are now able to check in and out of resorts without interacting with front-desk personnel, putting those jobs at risk, too.

"I want the companies to open up their eyes and think what's going to happen if we go on a strike," Leadbeter said. "That's a lot of business that's going to go down." AP

How to lose USD23b in a market that's surged 61,436pct

Bhuma Shrivastava,
Livia Yap

MAKING money in a booming Indian mobile-phone market that soared from fewer than 2 million users to more than a billion in less than two decades might

have seemed like a no-brainer. Now it's more like a nightmare with losses for overseas companies rising to at least \$23 billion.

"The promise of a market with over one billion potential users is very attractive," Chris

Lane, a Hong Kong-based analyst at Sanford C. Bernstein, said by email. "Too many licenses, too little spectrum, high taxes and supply-constrained airwave auctions has made this a very expensive market to operate in."

The \$23 billion lost in-

cludes impairment charges and losses reported in company filings of global majors from London-based Vodafone Group Plc to Japan's NTT Docomo Inc. - all of whom have exited or suffered as hyper competition has hurt the earnings of even the market

leader Bharti Airtel Ltd. Expensive spectrum auctions and cancellation of telecom licenses in 2012 in the wake of a graft probe made it even harder for the companies that piled into a market that as of 2015 included a dozen competing operators.

The going's unlikely to get easier anytime soon. The outlook on the bonds and loans of India's top operator was slashed to negative this week by Crisil, the local ratings unit of S&P Global, which cited "intense pricing pressure" in a statement. **Bloomberg**

ANALYSIS

Can anything stop China, foreign governments favors to Trump?

Tami Abdollah, Washington

FIRST came news that a Chinese government-owned company had signed on to help build an Indonesian project that will include a Donald Trump-branded hotel and golf course. Then, days later, the president tweeted that his administration would ease sanctions against a Chinese smartphone maker accused of espionage. "Too many jobs in China lost," he wrote.

Ethics watchdogs and political adversaries called last week's events a blatant case of Trump appearing to trade foreign favors to his business for changes in government policy, exactly the kind of situation they predicted would happen when the real estate mogul turned politician refused to divest from his sprawling business interests.

And they say that such dealmaking will likely become business as usual, unchecked by a Republican-led Congress, court cases that could take years and a public that hasn't gotten broadly excited about the obscure constitutional prohibition on accepting emoluments, or benefits, from foreign governments without congressional approval.

"It's an issue that seems highly technical and complex, and is difficult to link to everyday lives," said Sen. Richard Blumenthal, a Connecticut Democrat who is heading up an emoluments lawsuit brought by about 200 or so members of Congress.

"But when you bring it home to the reason for the emoluments clause, namely to prevent conflicts of interest, so the president will act only for the benefit of the United States, not for his own self-interest, then people should understand that his taking that benefit compromises his priorities," Blumenthal said.

Such concerns have dogged Trump since he took office. His Washington hotel, just steps from the White House, has become a magnet for foreign governments seeking to influence his administration, including groups tied to Kuwait, Bahrain, Turkey, Malaysia and Saudi

Arabia. Trump's financial disclosure last week showed the hotel took in more than USD40 million in revenue last year. To allay fears of conflicts, Trump promised to give the U.S. Treasury the profits from foreign stays at his hotels, which came to \$151,470. His company declined to say how that figure was calculated.

A Quinnipiac University National Poll released in March found that 57 percent of Americans believe Trump is not honest. Still, in the latest Quinnipiac poll last month, Trump's job approval rating stood at 41 percent, matching the highest mark of his presidency.

Shana Gadarian, a political psychologist at Syracuse University, said those who pay attention to politics tend to be more partisan and often set aside information they find inconsistent with their beliefs.

"To the extent that you like this administration," she said, "you might say this is just the way business is done. This isn't a concern."

Whether there was a quid pro quo in the in the China-Indonesia deal, similarly, depends on whom you ask.

An Indonesian company, MNC Land, confirmed last week that it hired the subsidiary of the state-owned Metallurgical Corp. of China to build a theme park in its Lido City development outside Jakarta. MNC Land three years earlier struck a deal for the development

to include a Trump-branded hotel, 400 luxury villas and condos, and an 18-hole championship golf course.

MNC Land said the Trump Organization has "no relationship" with the theme park that the Chinese company is building. It also said that news reports that a Chinese government-backed \$500 million loan for the project had been signed were false.

The Trump Organization did not respond to a request for comment.

James Schultz, a former associate White House counsel for Trump, said the argument that Trump was violating the emoluments clause merely because a theme park is being built near a Trump hotel property is "farfetched."

Just 72 hours after that deal was announced, Trump sent a tweet that marked what appeared to be a major reversal in the government's stance on massive Chinese phone company ZTE and on Trump's "America First" foreign policy.

The U.S. intelligence community has warned about the Chinese smartphone maker's perceived ties to the Chinese government and its possible use for remote surveillance. ZTE has been fined in recent years for shipping American goods to five embargoed countries, including Iran and North Korea. The Pentagon banned ZTE phones from retail stores on military bases because the

devices could be a security risk. And the Trump administration ordered a seven-year halt in American shipments of computer microchips and software that are at the heart of most of ZTE's telecommunications gear.

That ban particularly was devastating to ZTE and its 75,000 employees, with the company recently announcing it was halting operations.

Trump tweeted that he was working with the president of China "to give massive Chinese phone company, ZTE, a way to get back into business, fast. Too many jobs in China lost. Commerce Department has been instructed to get it done!"

Don Fox, the former general counsel of U.S. Office of Government Ethics, said the Chinese "knew exactly what they were investing in" with the deal in Indonesia. "It also strains credulity that the president wasn't aware of this when he made his favorable comments about ZTE."

Three pending lawsuits, which could potentially take years to litigate, are likely the key to untangling whether such a business deal, in addition to the various bookings of Trump properties by lobbyists, foreign governments, corporate and political interests, constitute emoluments. The president's attorneys have disputed that.

"It is our only real remedy," Blumenthal said of the cases. "It may sound like a sign of frustration, and inertia, but the founders provided us this sole remedy. [...] We need a judge to order the president to obey the law." AP

Dealmaking will likely become business as usual, unchecked by a Republican-led Congress



Donald Trump (right) chats with Xi Jinping during a lavish welcome ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing

AP PHOTO



Airlines o to call Ta

Erika Kinetz, Shanghai

B RITISH Airways, Lufthansa and Air Canada are among 20 carriers that now refer to Taiwan, the self-ruled island that Beijing considers its territory, as a part of China on their global websites, in line with Beijing's demands that the White House called "Orwellian nonsense." The Associated Press has found.

There are just three days left for dozens of foreign airlines to decide whether to comply with Beijing's orders or face consequences that could cripple their China business, including legal sanctions. Many have already sided with Beijing.

The spread of "Taiwan, China" on the drop-down menus and maps of airline websites represents another victory for China's President Xi Jinping and his ruling Communist Party's nationalistic effort to force foreign companies to conform to their geopolitical vision, even in



Obey Beijing's demand Taiwan part of China

operations outside of China. Critics say China's incremental push to leverage its economic power to forge new international norms — in this case regarding Taiwan's status — creates worrying precedents.

Beyond fiery missives there is little Washington can do to unify a fractured global response and effectively push back against Beijing's demands.

"What's at stake is that we're allowing a revisionist regime with a terrible track record on freedom of speech to dictate what we say and write in our own countries," said J. Michael Cole, a Taipei-based senior fellow with the China Policy Institute and the University of Nottingham's Taiwan studies program. "If Beijing does not encounter red lines, it can only keep asking for more."

For Beijing, there is only one China and Taiwan, which has been a democracy since the 1990s, is part of it. The People's Republic of China and Taiwan separated during

a civil war in 1949. Washington officially recognizes Beijing rather than Taipei, but despite the lack of formal ties, the U.S. is legally bound to respond to threats to Taiwan and is the island's main supplier of foreign military hardware.

We're allowing a revisionist regime with a terrible track record on freedom of speech to dictate what we say and write in our own countries.

J. MICHAEL COLE
CHINA POLICY INSTITUTE

"We strongly object to China's efforts to bully, coerce, and threaten their way to achieving their political objectives," Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement to the AP. "We call on all countries around the world to stand together to uphold the freedom of speech and freedom to do business. We also call on private firms to collectively reject China's unreasonable demands to change their designation of 'Taiwan' to 'Taiwan, China.'"

Xi has warned a Taiwanese envoy that the issue of unification cannot be put off indefinitely, and the People's Liberation Army has sent fighter planes near Taiwan's coast. As China steps up efforts to isolate Taiwan diplomatically, the list of multinationals that have bent to Beijing's will is long — and growing.

U.S. clothing retailer The Gap apologized this month for selling T-shirts with a map of China that omitted Taiwan and pulled the offending merchandise from

stores around the world. In January, Delta Airlines, Marriott, Zara and medical equipment maker Medtronic all publicly apologized for referring to Taiwan as a country.

"You can't just say 'no,'" said Carly Ramsey, a regulatory risk specialist at Control Risks, a consultancy in Shanghai. "Increasingly, for situations like this, non-compliance is not an option if you want to do business in and with China."

The day after Delta apologized for "emotional damage caused to the Chinese people," the Civil Aviation Administration of China published a notice on its website saying it requires foreign airlines operating in China to avoid referring to Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau as countries.

Some foreign carriers began changing drop-down menus on their websites from "country" to "country/region."

But Beijing wanted more.

On April 25, the Civil Aviation Administration of China sent a letter to 36 foreign airlines ordering them to explicitly refer to Taiwan as a part of China. The regulator did not respond to requests for comment.

In a strongly-worded statement 10 days later, the White House called that demand "Orwellian nonsense."

"China's efforts to export its censorship and political correctness to Americans and the rest of the free world will be resisted," it said.

China's Foreign Ministry hit back the next day, saying Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau are "inalienable" parts of China's territory and foreign companies operating in China "should respect China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, abide by China's laws and respect the national sentiment of the Chinese people."

A bipartisan group of U.S. senators, led by Marco Rubio, a Florida Republican, and Bob Menendez, a New Jersey Democrat, offered the airlines support.

"As you weigh your response options, you should know that your government stands with you, and will strongly oppose attempts by China or any other foreign government to unilaterally dictate terms to an American company and exert sovereignty over your internal business practices and the content of your website," the group of eight lawmakers said in a letter dated last week.

But a growing number of airlines have heeded Beijing's call.

The AP found that Air Canada, Lufthansa, British Airways, Finnair, Garuda In-

onesia, Asiana Airlines, and Philippine Airlines all have changed the way they refer to Taiwan to bring their global websites in line with the Chinese Communist Party's vision.

SAS airlines, Swissair, Malaysia Airlines, Cebu Pacific Air, Aeroflot, Alitalia, Austrian Airlines, Air Mauritius, Etihad Airways, Spain's Iberia, Israel's El Al, MIAT Mongolian Airlines and Russia's S7 Airlines all also refer to Taiwan as part of China, but it was not immediately clear how long they had been using that formulation.

Lufthansa, British Airways, Air Canada and Finnair said they abide by laws and regulations internationally and in the jurisdictions in which they work.

"This includes taking customs of the international clientele into consideration," Lufthansa said in a statement, adding that we "seek your understanding for the situation."

Finnair said a decision was taken to amend the website earlier this year and "in line with the general view taken in Europe, Taiwan is not shown as an independent country in our list of destinations."

Major U.S. carriers have not yet caved. United Airlines, American Airlines, Delta and Hawaiian Airlines, as well as Australia's Qantas Airways — all of which received April letters from the regulator — did not refer to Taiwan as part of China on their websites as of Tuesday.

The airlines told AP they were reviewing the request.

But the sweep of concessions will likely make it harder to resist Beijing's call.

"If they make individual corporate decisions, they will likely accede, individually but entirely, to Chinese demands," said Robert Daly, the director of the Kissinger Institute on China and the United States at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. What Washington could do, he added, is "launch and sustain a global discussion of the implications of Beijing's insistence on the worldwide jurisdiction of Chinese law. That kind of effort would require a commitment to global leadership and strong alliances that this administration has not yet demonstrated."

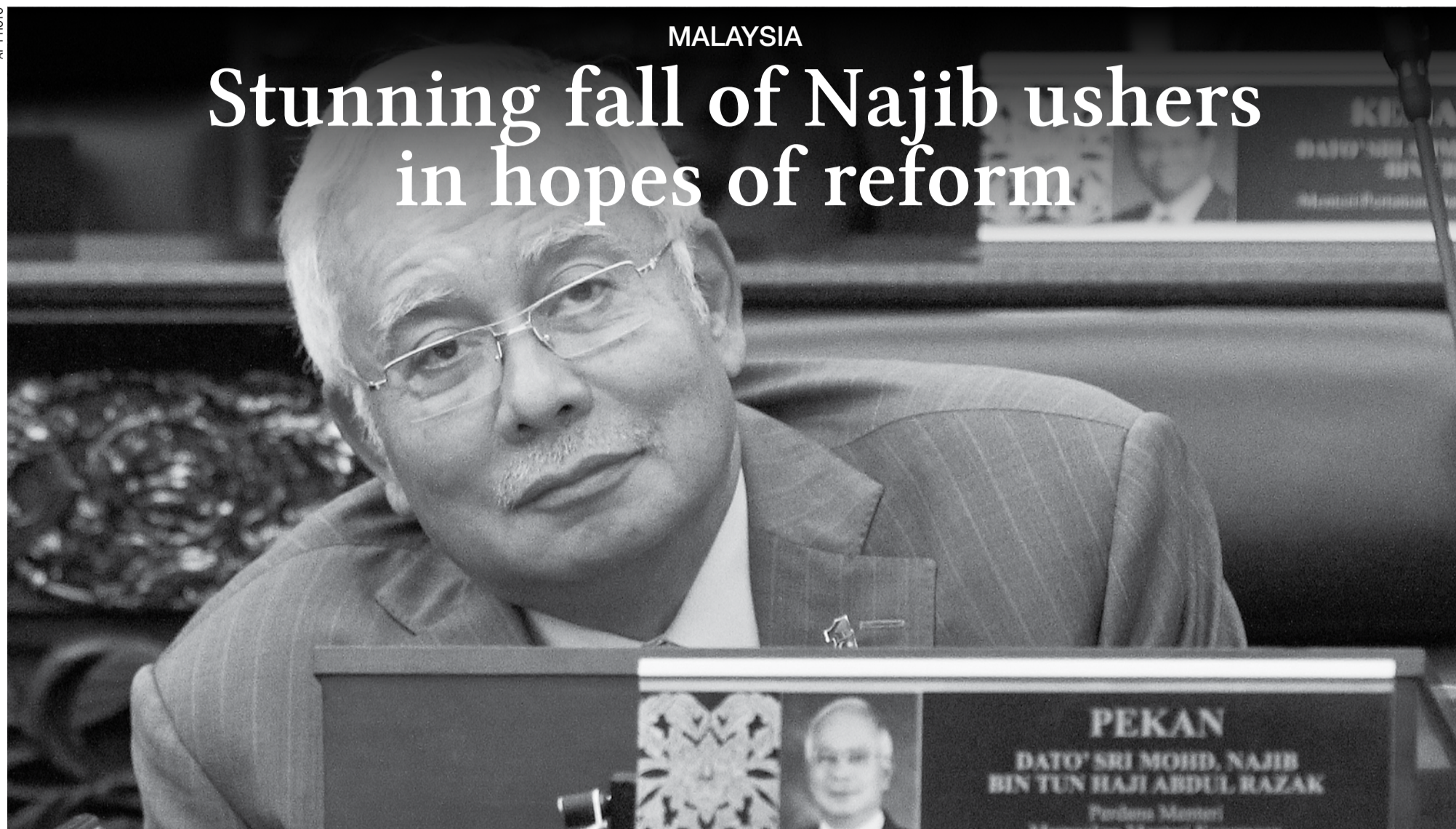
In one apparent exception to Beijing's rules the national flag carrier Air China seems not to have gotten the regulator's memo. On its US site, Taipei is a part of "Taiwan, China." But its Taiwan website lists it as "Taipei, Taiwan."

Air China did not immediately respond to requests for comment. **AP**

MALAYSIA

Stunning fall of Najib ushers in hopes of reform

AP PHOTO



Former Malaysia's PM Najib Razak attends a session at the parliament house in Kuala Lumpur

Eileen Ng, Kuala Lumpur

TWO weeks ago, Malaysia's Najib Razak was supremely confident of being elected prime minister for a third term. Instead, in a dizzying political drama, he lost an unlosable election and spiraled into ever-deepening disgrace while Malaysians are being feted for advancing democratic values against their global retreat.

In a series of humiliations, the patrician and luxury-loving Najib and wife Rosmah Mansor were banned from leaving the country; truckloads of luggage stashed with cash and valuables as well as hundreds of expensive designer bags were seized from their home and other properties; and anti-corruption police questioned Najib for hours this week about a multibillion-dollar corruption scandal on his watch.

After 60 years of uninterrupted National Front rule, many Malaysians are optimistic they are ushering in an era of reform that echoes the democratic transformation of giant neighbor Indonesia two decades earlier. The difference, they hope, is that it will continue to be accomplished without setting their multi-ethnic country in flames. A grouping of progressive Southeast Asian lawmakers has hailed Najib's defeat as a "bright spot amid dark times" of rising authoritarianism across the region.

The May 9 election that turfed Najib and his government despite an electoral system heavily engineered in their favor was a "quiet, dignified but defining revolution at the ballot box,"

said Malaysian rights activist and lawyer Ambiga Sreenevasan. "Malaysia has now set the gold standard in Southeast Asia for bringing change peacefully even through a flawed process," said Sreenevasan, who has been appointed by the new government to a reform panel.

Najib's ouster was in large part made possible by the return to politics of Mahathir Mohamad, premier for 22 years until 2003. Spurred by anger over the alleged looting of state investment fund 1MDB by associates of Najib, he emerged from retirement and joined with former political enemies to campaign against the ruling coalition.

Despite Mahathir being mocked by Najib for his old age and authoritarian record, his reputation as a statesman who transformed a Southeast Asian backwater into a modern economy helped soothe voters' fears of possible chaos under a new government. Many Malaysians have been haunted for decades by racial riots in 1969 that killed more than 200 people.

Since he was sworn in as Malaysia's seventh premier and the world's oldest leader at 92, Mahathir has wasted no time in setting up his government and tackling the country's financial problems. Former foes he once jailed have been appointed to the

cabinet, including the first ethnic Chinese to hold the powerful finance ministry post in 44 years. Malaysia also now has its first female deputy prime minister.

Mahathir facilitated a royal pardon that freed reformist icon Anwar Ibrahim, who was jailed in 2015 in what he said was a conspiracy by Najib to crush his opposition alliance. Anwar, who is now the prime minister-in-waiting, was sacked by Mahathir in 1998 after a power struggle and jailed for sodomy and corruption. The two men reconciled in 2016, united by their resolve to oust Najib.

Mahathir has said he needs one to two years to restore order before handing power to Anwar.

The top priority is getting to the bottom of the 1MDB scandal.

Najib started the fund when he took power in 2009 but it accumulated billions in debts. U.S. investigators say USD4.5 billion was stolen and laundered from 1MDB by his associates, some of which landed in Najib's bank account and \$27.3 million of it used to buy a rare pink diamond necklace for his wife.

A former attorney general and senior anti-graft official, who were on the verge of pressing criminal charges against Najib in 2015 before they, respectively, were sacked and fled in fear of arrest, have been brought back

to help investigate. A 1MDB panel has been set up to liaise with foreign countries on how to retrieve the laundered billions.

New Finance Minister Lim Guan Eng said this week that Najib's government had conducted "an exercise of deception" over 1MDB and also misrepresented the country's financial situation to parliament. The same day, the anti-corruption commission official who previously led investigations into 1MDB gave a harrowing account of how the probe was suppressed by intimidation during Najib's rule.

"Malaysia will likely be one of the few Southeast Asian nations to put a former PM in jail," said Bridget Welsh, political science professor at the John Cabot University in Rome, who was in Kuala Lumpur to observe the polls.

Najib "made the mistake of thinking it was about him rather than the office he held," she said. Former Philippine President Joseph Estrada was jailed for corruption in 2007.

While the 1MDB crisis will keep officials busy, there are other worries for Mahathir and the new government.

Closer examination of the election results showed many from the country's ethnic Malay majority still didn't support Mahathir's alliance.

The conservative Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party made major gains by winning control of two rural northeastern mainly Malay states. Collectively with the National Front, they hold 43 percent of seats in Parliament.

This could create difficulty for Mahathir's government on any

attempt to pare back a decades-old affirmative action policy that favors Malays in government contracts, business, jobs, education and housing.

The program is credited with lifting millions of Malays out of poverty and creating an urban middle class of the ethnic group who account for two-thirds of Malaysia's 31 million people. But it is also blamed for a racial divide between Malays and minority Chinese and Indians who have long complained about government discrimination.

Many ethnic minorities left Malaysia over the years in search of better opportunities but the vote has revived a sense of nationalism, with social media awash with Malaysians hailing Mahathir as a "hero" and expressing pride in being part of a "reborn Malaysia."

Anwar, a Malay, told The Associated Press in an interview after his release that the race-based policies should be discarded in favor of a merit program that helps all poor irrespective of race.

Once the election euphoria fades, he said the government has to prove there will be more freedom, good governance and a better life for all Malaysians.

"Conservative forces are still strong," said Welsh, a Southeast Asia expert and poll observer. "Mahathir has made important steps so far that showcase a reform orientation. Malaysians place a lot of hope in his continued leadership. His harnessing of nationalism is important to overcome more divisive currents." AP

■ A grouping of progressive lawmakers has hailed Najib's defeat as a 'bright spot amid dark times' of rising authoritarianism

THE United States and South Korea are laboring to keep the highly anticipated U.S. summit with North Korea on track, even after President Donald Trump abruptly said “there’s a very substantial chance” it won’t happen as scheduled.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in reminded Trump yesterday [Macau time] of the sky-high stakes, saying, “The fate and the future of the Korean Peninsula hinge” on the meeting.

The June 12 summit, planned for Singapore, offers a historic chance for peace on the peninsula – but also the risk of an epic diplomatic failure that would allow the North to revive and advance its nuclear weapons program.

U.S. officials say preparations are still underway. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who is appearing Wednesday before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said, “We’re driving on.”

Trump’s newfound hesitation appeared to reflect recent setbacks in efforts to bring about reconciliation between the two Koreas, as well as concern whether the self-proclaimed dealmaker can deliver a nuclear accord with the North’s Kim Jong Un.

Seated in the Oval Office with Moon Jae-in, Trump said Kim had not met unspecified “conditions” for the summit. However, the president also said he believed Kim was “serious” about negotiations, and Moon expressed “every confidence” in Trump’s ability to hold the summit and bring about peace.

“I have no doubt that you will be able to ... accomplish a historic feat that no one had been able to achieve in the decades past,” Moon said.

U.S. officials said preparations for the summit were still underway despite recent pessimism – and privately suggested there would be ad-

AP PHOTO



Donald Trump (right) meets with South Korean President Moon Jae-In in the Oval Office

US, South Korea work to keep North Korea summit on track

ditional public maneuvering as both sides seek to maximize their leverage. Both parties to the talks are invested in holding the meeting, with Kim seeing an opportunity for international legitimacy and Trump the prospect of securing Korean stability – and perhaps a Nobel Peace Prize.

Trump suggested the summit could be delayed rather than canceled: “It may not work out for June 12, but there is a good chance that we’ll have the meeting.”

He did not detail the con-

ditions he had laid out for Kim but said if they aren’t met, “we won’t have the mee-

■ Moon expressed ‘confidence’ in Trump’s ability to hold the summit and bring about peace

ting.” Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said Trump was referring to a commitment to seriously discuss denuclearization.

Skepticism about the North’s intentions have mounted in recent weeks after Kim’s government pulled out of planned peace talks with the South last week, objecting to long-scheduled joint military exercises between U.S. and South Korean forces. The North also threatened to abandon the planned Trump-Kim meeting over U.S. insistence on rapidly denucleari-

zing the peninsula.

Trump expressed suspicion that the North’s recent aggressive barbs were influenced by Kim’s unannounced trip to China two weeks ago – his second in as many months. Trump said he’d noticed “a little change” in Kim’s attitude after the trip.

“I don’t like that,” he said. The president added that he hoped Chinese President Xi Jinping was actually committed to the goal of denuclearizing the Korean peninsula, calling him a “world-class poker player.” AP

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“THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’”

LITERATURE

Philip Roth, fearless and celebrated author, dies at 85

Hillel Italic

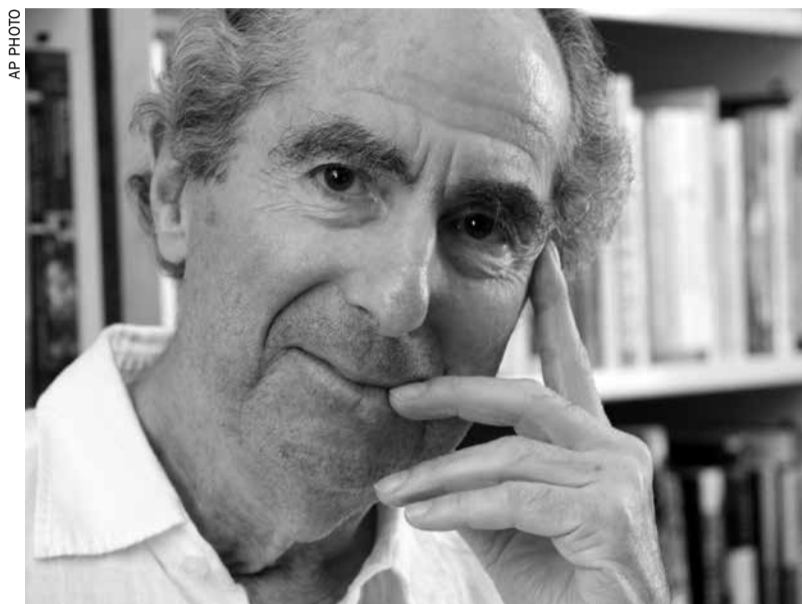
PHILIP Roth, the prize-winning novelist and fearless narrator of sex, death, assimilation and fate, from the comic madness of "Portnoy's Complaint" to the elegiac lyricism of "American Pastoral," died yesterday [Macau time] at age 85.

Roth's literary agent, Andrew Wylie, told The Associated Press that he died in a New York City hospital of congestive heart failure.

Author of more than 25 books, Roth was a fierce satirist and uncompromising realist, confronting readers in a bold, direct style that scorned false sentiment or hopes for heavenly reward. He was an atheist who swore allegiance to earthly imagination, whether devising pornographic functions for raw liver or indulging romantic fantasies about Anne Frank. In "The Plot Against America," published in 2004, he placed his own family under the anti-Semitic reign of President Charles Lindbergh. In 2010, in "Nemesis," he subjected his native New Jersey to a polio epidemic.

He was among greatest writers never to win the Nobel Prize. But he received virtually every other literary honor, including two National Book Awards, two National Book Critics Circle prizes and, in 1998, the Pulitzer for "American Pastoral." He was in his 20s when he won his first award and awed critics and fellow writers by producing some of his most acclaimed novels in his 60s and 70s, including "The Human Stain" and "Sabbath's Theater," a savage narrative of lust and mortality he considered his finest work.

He identified himself as an American writer, not a Jewish one, but for Roth the American experience and the Jewish experience were often the same. While predecessors such as Saul Bellow and Bernard Malamud wrote of the Jews' painful adjustment from immigrant life, Roth's characters represented the next generation. Their first language was English, and they spoke without accents. They observed no rituals and belonged to no synagogues. The American dream, or nightmare, was to become "a Jew without Jews, without Judaism, without Zionism, without Jewishness." The



Philip Roth in 2008

reality, more often, was to be regarded as a Jew among gentiles and a gentile among Jews.

In the novel "The Ghost Writer" he quoted one of his heroes, Franz Kafka: "We should only read those books that bite and sting us." For his critics, his books were to be repelled like a swarm of bees.

Feminists, Jews and one ex-wife attacked him in print, and sometimes in person. Women in his books were at times little more than objects of desire and rage and The Village Voice once put his picture on its cover, condemning him as a misogynist. A panel moderator berated him for his comic portrayals of Jews, asking Roth if he would have written the same books in Nazi Germany. The Jewish scholar Gershom Scholem called "Portnoy's Complaint" the "book for which all anti-Semites have been praying." When Roth won the Man Booker International Prize, in 2011, a judge resigned, alleging that the author suffered from terminal solipsism and went "on and on and on about the same subject in almost every single book." In "Sabbath's Theater," Roth imagines the inscription for his title character's headstone: "Sodomist, Abuser of Women, Destroyer of Morals."

■ **Feminists, Jews and one ex-wife attacked him in print, and sometimes in person**

Ex-wife Claire Bloom wrote a best-selling memoir, "Leaving a Doll's House," in which the actress remembered reading the manuscript of his novel "Deception." With hor-

ror, she discovered his characters included a boring middle-aged wife named Claire, married to an adulterous writer named Philip. Bloom also described her ex-husband as cold, manipulative and unstable. (Although, alas, she still loved him). The book was published by Virago Press, whose founder, Carmen Callil, was the same judge who quit years later from the Booker committee.

Roth's wars also originated from within. He survived a burst appendix in the late 1960s and near-suicidal depression in 1987. After the disappointing reaction to his 1993 novel, "Operation Shylock," he fell again into severe depression and for years rarely communicated with the media. For all the humor in his work — and, friends would say, in private life — jacket photos usually highlighted

the author's tense, dark-eyed glare. In 2012, he announced that he had stopped writing fiction and would instead dedicate himself to helping biographer Blake Bailey complete his life story. By 2015, he had retired from public life altogether.

He never promised to be his readers' friend; writing was its own reward, the narration of "life, in all its shameless impurity." Until his abrupt retirement, Roth was a dedicated, prolific author who often published a book a year and was generous to writers from other countries. For years, he edited the Writers from the Other Europe series, in which authors from Eastern Europe received exposure to American readers; Milan Kundera was among the beneficiaries. Roth also helped bring a wider readership to the acclaimed Israeli writer Aharon Appelfeld.

Roth began his career in rebellion against the conformity of the 1950s and ended it in defense of the security of the 1940s; he was never warmer than when writing about his childhood, or more sorrowful, and enraged, than when narrating the shock of innocence lost. **AP**

Stephen King among the honorees at PEN America gala

ON a night when speakers included Stephen King, Morgan Freeman and Margaret Atwood, no one at the PEN American gala had a more moving and inspiring presence than Parkland shooting survivor Samantha Fuentes.

One of three student gun control activists receiving PEN's Freedom of Expression Courage Award, Fuentes became tearful, nauseous, fled the podium and returned a few minutes later to a standing ovation as she steadied herself and accepted an honor neither she nor Cameron Kasky nor Zion Kelly imagined or wanted.

"I think sometimes I forget I got shot," she said, before speaking of her mission to "to prioritize people's life over guns."

"Thank you so much for believing in me, or not just me, thank you for believing that together we can correct the moral and fundamental problems in this country."

The PEN gala, held yesterday [Macau time] at the American Museum of Natural History, was an education in the dangers and rewards of free expression, with words from longtime celebrities and those forced into fame, from political prisoners and those lucky enough to get out. The literary and human rights organization handed out prizes for literary service, politi-

cal activism and defense of the First Amendment.

The gala took place as a longtime champion for writers oppressed in Eastern Europe during the Cold War, Philip Roth, was dying in a nearby hospital at age 85. Many that night spoke of risks to essential rights, abroad and in the U.S. Atwood, best known for her dystopian novel "The Handmaid's Tale," warned that "When democracy is in retreat the first thing authoritarians do is silence those who are telling stories they dislike." She was presenting the Freedom to Write Award to two Reuters journalists, Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, jailed in Myanmar.

In a letter read by Atwood, the journalists offered a dare to the Myanmar government: "Where is the truth? Where is the truth and justice?" they asked. "Where is democracy and freedom? Why do soldiers who are found guilty of murder get 10 years while we journalists who expose the murder face 14 years in prison?"

Freeman, who starred the film adaptation of King's "Shawshank Redemption," presented King his award for literary service and praised him as the "embodiment: of three essential qualities: 'The writer as humanitarian, the writer as conduit to bringing unseen and unheard human experiences to



Stephen King

life and the writer as activist to use the power of the pen to shape the world."

King has a long history of supporting literacy and liberal causes and was remembered for a special act of courage and solidarity. When some bookstores in 1989 considered pulling Salman Rushdie's "The Satanic Verses" because of death threats resulting from the "fatwa" announced by Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, King responded that he would withdraw his work in response.

In his acceptance speech, King called himself "just a guy who's loved books since childhood," but set a higher tone for the writer's place in the world.

"Those who can read can learn to write and those who can do both will eventually succeed in the world," he said.

GEORGIA Democrats gave Atlanta lawyer Stacey Abrams a chance to become the first black female governor in American history on a primary night that ended well for several women seeking office.

Abrams set new historical marks with a primary victory yesterday [Macau time] that made her the first black nominee and first female nominee for governor of either majority party in Georgia.

Voters also picked nominees in Kentucky, Arkansas and Texas ahead of the November midterms.

Democrats were set to nominate a woman for governor either way, with Stacey Abrams and Stacey Evans battling it out in a pitched primary fight.

But the 44-year-old Abrams stood out in her bid to be the nation's first African-American woman to lead a state. The former state General Assembly leader was insistent that the way to dent Republican domination in Georgia wasn't by cautiously pursuing the older white voters who had abandoned Democrats over recent decades. Rather, she wanted to widen the electorate by attracting young voters and nonwhites who hadn't been casting ballots.

She will test her theory as the underdog against either Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle or Secretary of Sta-

USA

A first for Georgia: Democrats pick black woman for governor



te Brian Kemp, who will meet in Republican runoff in July. Cagle led a five-man Republican field, with Kemp qualifying for the second spot after a campaign that was a sprint to the right on everything from immigration to support for President Donald Trump.

Kemp promised to keep pulling in that direction, with Cagle

trying to balance the demands of a conservative primary electorate with his support from the business establishment. The scenario worried some Georgia Republicans who were accustomed to centrist, business-aligned governors who rarely flouted Atlanta-based behemoths like Delta and Coca-Cola.

Some GOP figures worried the

GOP gamesmanship on immigration and gay rights, in particular, already had ensured Georgia wouldn't land Amazon's second headquarters.

Texas had three House runoffs that will be key to whether Democrats can flip the minimum 24 GOP-held seats they would need for a majority in next year's Congress. All three were among

25 districts nationally where Trump ran behind Hillary Clinton in 2016. Democrats nominated women in two of the districts and a black man in the third.

Voters in a central Kentucky congressional district opted for retired Marine officer and fighter pilot Amy McGrath over Lexington Mayor Jim Gray to advance to a fall campaign against Republican Rep. Andy Barr.

While Washington fixates on the daily developments in the Russia election meddling investigation, Democratic congressional candidates insist they'll win in November arguing about bread-and-butter issues like health care.

Arkansas state Rep. Clarke Tucker captured Democrats' congressional nomination in a Little Rock-based district by telling his story as a cancer survivor. Though he faced a crowded primary field, his real target all along has been Republican Rep. French Hill, who voted many times to repeal the 2010 Affordable Care Act. **MDT/AP**

D2 club 4th Year anniversary
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what's ON



IN LOVE WITH MACAU – CALLIGRAPHY AND PAINTINGS OF MACAU
TIME: 10am-7pm (last admission 6:30pm; closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: August 12, 2018
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

TAIPA ANCHORAGE: NAMES OF THE PAST AND THE PRESENT
TIME: 10am-7pm (Closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: June 18, 2018
VENUE: Taipa Houses – Nostalgic House
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

THE EXHIBITION "SWISS STYLE NOW"
TIME: 10am-9pm
UNTIL: June 17, 2018
VENUE: Tap Seac Gallery, located at No. 95, Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE
TIME: 10am-6pm daily (Except on Thursdays; open on public holidays)
VENUE: Macau Science Center
ADMISSION: MOP25 (Exhibition Centre)
 MOP60 (Planetarium 2D dome or 2D sky shows)
 MOP80 (Planetarium 3D dome or 3D sky shows)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

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

Offbeat

BABOON ESCAPES CRATE AT TEXAS AIRPORT; OFFICERS CORNER HIM

A baboon on his way to a South Texas wildlife sanctuary escaped his crate and kept officers busy for two hours at San Antonio International Airport.

Officers shot the baboon named Dawkins with a tranquilizer dart. The ape got loose Monday afternoon shortly after arriving on an American Airlines flight from Chicago. The flight had originated in Boston.

Airport spokesman Rich Stinson says officers managed to corner Dawkins in a baggage handling area outside the terminal. Stinson says the baboon never came close to travelers and was confined the whole time to a secure baggage area.

Dawkins was being transported from Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, to the Born Free USA sanctuary near Cotulla, Texas.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
17:50	Miscellaneous
18:35	Miscellaneous
19:00	Brazilian Soap Opera (Repeated)
19:50	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Miscellaneous
21:35	Non-daily Portuguese News
21:40	Portuguese Serie
22:15	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Interview - Fernando Santos
23:50	Miscellaneous
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:50	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

24 - 30 MAY



SOLO: A STAR WARS STORY

ROOM 1

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

Director: Ron Howard

Starring: Alden Ehrenreich, Woody Harrelson, Emilia Clarke

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 135min

THE CRIMES THAT BIND

ROOM 2

2:30, 4:45 7:00pm

Director: Katsuo Fukuzawa

Starring: Hiroshi Abe, Nanaki Matsushima, Junpei Mizobata

Language: Japanese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 119min



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



I CAN ONLY IMAGINE

ROOM 3

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

Director: Jon Erwin & Andrew Erwin

Starring: Dennis Quaid, J. Michael Finley, Madeline Carroll

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 110min

DESTINY: THE TALE OF KAMAKURA

ROOM 3

7:15pm

Director: Takashi Yamazaki

Starring: Masato Sakai, Mitsuki Takahata

Language: English (Chinese)

this day in history

**1968 DE GAULLE: 'BACK ME OR SACK ME'**

The President of France, Charles de Gaulle, has issued an ultimatum to striking students and workers who have brought the country to a standstill during three weeks of violent demonstrations.

In a televised address to the nation, he demanded that the French people back his programme of reform - or accept his resignation. He said the choice would be made in a referendum later this year.

In the speech, he said the nation was "on the brink of paralysis", and warned of civil war if the situation continued. Eight million workers - a third of the country's workforce - are now on strike, at the start of a third week of social unrest.

Within minutes of President de Gaulle's speech, riots erupted again in Paris, Lyon, Nantes, Bordeaux and Strasbourg.

In Lyon, a policeman became the first person to die in the demonstrations. He was run over by rioters driving a lorry into a line of riot police.

The largest demonstration was in Paris, where an estimated 50,000 workers followed the traditional workers' route from the Place de la Bastille to the Place de la Republique.

They were cheered by crowds of spectators who lined the pavements.

But violence erupted when students broke through police cordons guarding bridges across the Seine.

Armed with Molotov cocktails, they advanced on the French stock exchange, the Bourse, shouting "The Bourse belongs to the workers!" and "Occupy the Bourse!"

They broke down the doors of the building and smashed windows, stuffing burning rags inside.

As students on the street outside sang the Communist revolutionary song, the Internationale, the Red Flag was hoisted above the building.

Police used tear gas to cut a passage for fire engines, but rioters made barricades of overturned cars and linked hands around the vehicles to stop firefighters running out their hoses.

By 2230 (2030 GMT), however, the fire was out, leaving the main floor of the stock exchange badly damaged.

Running battles between the police and demonstrators are continuing, with casualties already in the hundreds.

The Latin Quarter of Paris is effectively a siege camp, and there is no sign of an end to the demonstrations which are already being called France's second revolution.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

President de Gaulle was persuaded not to hold a referendum by his Prime Minister, and eventual successor as President, Georges Pompidou. Summit negotiations between the government, employers and unions began the day after the President's address, and negotiated a deal to raise wages.

But this was rejected by the striking workers, and the demonstrations got steadily worse until Mr Pompidou sent tanks into the outskirts of Paris on 29 May, for fear of a revolution.

General de Gaulle then called an election for the end of June. The demonstrations died away as campaigning got under way, and de Gaulle's party won a huge majority as public opinion appeared to turn against the strikers.

The new government announced major reforms to the education system - 67 new universities, and a more democratic system of governing councils. General de Gaulle finally resigned in the following year, 1969, after staking his reputation on a referendum on political reform, which he lost.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You've been trying to organize a get-together or some type of outing for a while now, haven't you? Well, there's no way it could have happened any sooner, so you can stop beating yourself up about it.

Taurus April 20-May 20 After days of trying to get everyone around you to understand what you're trying to convey emotionally, to get somewhere - anywhere - on-time, and to find the directions you've been looking for.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Whatever it is that you value the most is what you'll want to surround yourself with today, no matter how tough it is to pull that off. Needless to say, if you're out and about with a credit card or checkbook.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 If ever you were in the mood to say exactly what's on your mind, it's now. That means you'd better start warning your dear ones not to be too surprised by what you say and do.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 It's probably been quite a difficult three weeks for you, emotionally speaking, at least. That doesn't mean you haven't been able to find a port in a storm, but you've probably spent a lot of time alone.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Getting together with dear ones - especially your friends and those you consider peers - has probably been much easier said than done lately, especially over the past few days.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Making plans for the future has probably been less than pleasant lately, especially when it comes to professional matters, but if you keep at it and you're determined to succeed, then succeed you will.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You've probably been trying to make contact with someone who's entirely too far away for your tastes - but whether it's another city, state, coast or country won't matter.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Your dealings with joint financial matters and partners who are operating with your interests in mind will finally start to clear up today for the better, and for the first time in days.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 No matter who you've been trying to get in touch with over the past few days, you'll be happy to hear that they'll finally be available to you - maybe not right this minute, but definitely within a few days.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 The good news is that, as of today, it will be far easier for you to make your way through your agenda - in fact, if you give it a day or so, you may actually be able to make your appointments.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Your dealings with children and younger folks have probably met with more than a few snags over recent weeks, but that's not your fault. In fact, you've probably been enduring all kinds of cosmically-induced mix-ups.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

Table listing weather conditions for various Chinese cities like Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

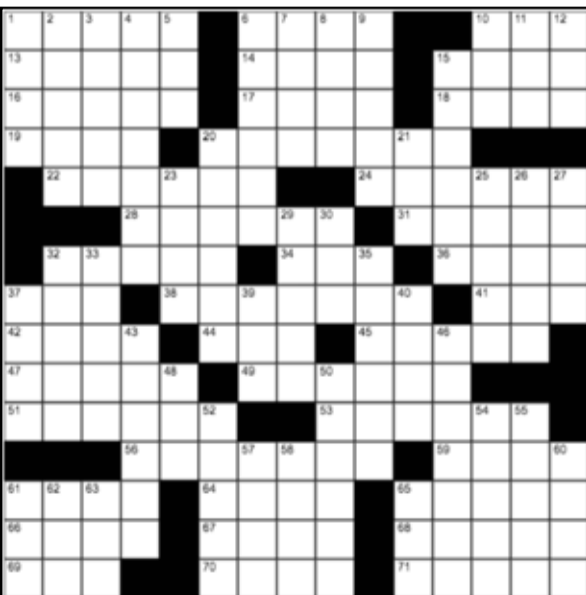
WORLD

Table listing weather conditions for world cities like Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Quebec's ___ Peninsula; 6- Feat; 10- Male turkey; 13- Blender brand; 14- Harper's Bazaar illustrator; 15- River in central Switzerland; 16- Name on a bomber; 17- Diving bird; 18- Comic Rudner; 19- Truck stop sight; 20- Eternal; 22- Bigot; 24- Uses money; 28- Bear witness; 31- Grenoble's river; 32- "Inferno" writer; 34- Guggenheim display; 36- Edinburgh native; 37- Arab instrument; 38- Group of fruit trees; 41- Sportage maker; 42- Rime; 44- ___-disant (self-styled); 45- Brewer's need; 47- ___ vincit amor; 49- Lozenge-shaped; 51- Hype; 53- Power problem; 56- Mirror; 59- Able was ___.; 61- Second letter of the Greek alphabet; 64- Kansas city; 65- Bother; 66- Quick sharp bark; 67- Civil disturbance; 68- Line in a play directed to the audience; 69- Corner key; 70- Feminine ending; 71- Spirited horse;

Down: 1- Departs; 2- Moore's TV boss; 3- Mouthlike opening; 4- Large web-footed bird; 5- Division of geologic time; 6- Erase; 7- Switch ending; 8- Thames town; 9- Actor Leary; 10- Skater Babilonia; 11- Table scrap; 12- Give ___ break; 15- "Gunsmoke" star; 20- Late bloomers; 21- Bee: Prefix; 23- Sock ___ me!; 25- Head supporters; 26- Legal right; 27- ___ precedent; 29- Indian term of respect; 30- Singing syllable; 32- Cathedral; 33- A Bell for ___; 35- Audition; 37- Yikes!; 39- Dove's sound; 40- Car scar; 43- Wall of irregular stones; 46- Contrary to; 48- Stout relative; 50- Situate; 52- Flaming; 54- Bottled spirit; 55- Wear down, physically or emotionally; 57- Cut of beef; 58- North Carolina university; 60- Watched intently; 61- Ciao!; 62- Some MIT grads; 63- Pampering, briefly; 65- Small batteries;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
IACM 28 387 333
Tourism 28 333 000
Airport 59 888 88



AD

Real estate advertisement for JML Property, featuring 'FOR SALE' and 'FOR RENT' listings with details on properties like Choi Long Meng Chui, Caçada da Surpresa, The Buckingham, Violet Court, Riveria Tower 2, Fountainside, Warehouse, Keck Seng, and Tai Nin - Macau.



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FOOTBALL

Dads Ronaldo and Messi still seek WC title

Graham Dunbar, Geneva

CRISTIANO Ronaldo and Lionel Messi have put up impressive numbers — in life and on the field — going into a fourth World Cup.

So much has happened for football's standout stars since the 2014 tournament, when both left Brazil still lacking the game's most coveted prize.

Yes, each has scored at least 200 more goals, won at least one more Champions League title and taken home at least one more Ballon d'Or trophy since that last World Cup. Ronaldo also captained Portugal to win the 2016 European Championship.

Both have also turned 30 and seen their families grow, becoming doting dads while still the game's best players.

Ronaldo is now a 33-year-old father of four children, and three were born within the last year.

Messi will have his 31st birthday in Russia during the group stage, and two of his three sons were born since Argentina lost in the 2014 World Cup final.

Life is changing even as their will to win and hunger for goals stay the same.

"You start to see things differently, in another manner," Messi said in an interview with Spanish sports daily Marca, "and the truth is that becoming a father is most beautiful thing that has happened in my life."

For Ronaldo, there was a revealing recent interview with celebrity lifestyle magazine *Hola!*

"It has shown me things about love I never knew existed," the Real Madrid forward said of his family. "It has softened me and given me new perspective on what is really important in life."

This life balance delivered results on the field this season.

Messi inspired Barcelona to go



Cristiano Ronaldo and son Cristiano Ronaldo Jr. sit beside Lionel Messi and wife Antonella during the The Best FIFA 2017 Awards

unbeaten until the league title was won, when many expected a dip after Neymar left.

Ronaldo scored in Madrid's first 10 Champions League games on the way to a fourth final in five years, against Liverpool on Saturday. Madrid won the previous three.

Amid the other-worldly feats are down-to-earth moments shared with social media followers — 91 million for LeoMessi on Instagram, 73 million for @Cristiano on Twitter.

They show Ronaldo and 7-year-old son Cristiano Junior in green hospital gowns, at the bedside of partner Georgina Rodriguez and new-born daughter, Alana Martina, last November.

Messi is reading a story to 5-year-old son Thiago, and wearing a red and white Santa Claus hat in a family portrait at Christmas.

Thiago is among Messi's toughest opponents, albeit on a

games console — "he drives me crazy wanting to play all the time" — and Cristiano Junior joins dad to collect his trophies at FIFA award ceremonies.

Cristiano Junior's birthdays in June are woven through his dad's major tournaments. He was born in the United States during the 2010 World Cup where, 12 days later in South Africa, Portugal lost to Spain in the round of 16.

Ronaldo, captaining his country, scored once in four games and that was a late goal in a 7-0 rout of North Korea.

In more fruitful times at Euro 2016, Ronaldo was surprised by a family visit at the team's base near Paris so he could celebrate his son's sixth birthday. Footage of the moment shows the tenderness between them.

Ronaldo led the European champions to Russia last June for the 2017 Confederations Cup and was — unknown to all but a

few people — unable to be with his newborn son and daughter, Mateo and Eva.

The day after Portugal's semi-final loss on penalties to Chile, Ronaldo announced on social media he was a father again and had left Russia to see his twins.

Ronaldo said he would not forget the understanding shown by Portugal coach Fernando Santos and the team's management in whose service he was committed "body and soul" for the tournament.

One day later, Messi had his own family event. Taking advantage of his first free offseason in four years, Messi married longtime partner Antonella Rocuzzo in Rosario, Argentina. Their third son, Ciro, was born in March.

Messi missed Barcelona's next game after the birth, and again put family first by missing a news conference where teammate Andres Iniesta confirmed he is

leaving the club. Messi's reason? He was collecting renewed passports for his sons.

Still, a World Cup is unfinished business for both greats, whose career score of world's best player trophies is 5-5.

In 2006, Portugal lost to France in the semifinals. Last time, Portugal was third in a group where Germany and the United States advanced.

Argentina has been eliminated by Germany, in two quarterfinals then a final.

Both now are in tricky groups: Portugal plays Spain, Morocco and Iran. Argentina has Iceland, Croatia and Nigeria.

If the World Cup eludes Messi again, there is one important future goal. He and his wife want to welcome a daughter.

"We are having trouble, but we are happy," Messi told Fox Sports in a recent interview. "After the World Cup, or sometime in the future, we will try again." AP

ON THE ROAD TO WORLD CUP

Defender Escobar murdered after Colombia's exit in 1994



In this June 22, 1994 file photo, Colombia's Andres Escobar, lies on the ground during a World Cup soccer match against the United States

DAYS after returning home from the 1994 World Cup in the United States, Colombia defender Andres Escobar was shot dead in his hometown of Medellin.

The murder ranks as one of the most shocking moments in World Cup history and cast a shadow over the rest of the tournament.

It appeared to be directly linked to the inadvertent own-goal he sco-

red that gave the host country the lead in their group match at the Rose Bowl in Los Angeles on June 22. Colombia eventually lost the game 2-1, and with it any chance of progressing further in the tournament.

The team, which included talents such as captain Carlos Valderrama and striker Faustino Asprilla, faced widespread criticism at home for failing to get out of a relative-

ly easy group that also included Romania and Switzerland.

On July 2, with the World Cup in full swing, the 27-year-old Escobar was out at a bar in Medellin, a city then teeming with drug traffickers. Escobar was harranged about the own-goal, and was then shot repeatedly.

The motive for the murder has never been clearly established but

many still link it to the fury of Colombian drug lords at losing a gambling fortune because of the country's surprisingly early World Cup exit.

Humberto Munoz Castro, who had connections to a powerful Colombian cartel, was arrested and confessed to the killing. He refused to implicate his bosses. Found guilty, Munoz was initially handed a 43-year jail term. He served only 11 years. AP

opinion

Girl About Globe

Linda Kennedy



WINDSORS V WEIBO

So what now? I suggest Harry and Meghan go on a Royal Tour of China. A trade mission, or a piece of activism for the UK.

The reason is this: the Chinese were less frenzied about the Royal Wedding than, frankly, the rest of the world. 'We've seen more extravagant weddings of Chinese celebrities' was a recurring comment. When it's Windsors versus Weibo, apparently the British Royals don't win out.

Fine, you might reply. China has its own celebs. Does anyone think there needs to be a crossover?

Here, let me say 'I do'. China is touted as a big trade hope for the UK, post-Brexit, and the Royals are brand ambassadors for 'UK plc'. Harry and Meghan are the youngest and coolest so, if Chinese millennials aren't interested, Britain's future greatness is truly in peril.

Consider, let's, the facts that might be putting Chinese millennials off this Royal fairytale.

The proposal, for a start. At home, over chicken? There's a tradition of creative question-popping in China. Men ask for a woman's hand by arranging luxury cars in a heart shape. Or by spelling out their proposal in lychees. Or by dressing as Superman and being hoisted by a crane to then be lowered towards their intended, bearing The Question and balloons (this happened, really).

Harry and Meghan's proposal story needs a few tweaks targeting a China audience. 'At home, over chicken? Well, yes, but we happened to be watching a South Korean drama on TV at the same time. And did we mention it was gong bao chicken?'

Perhaps Prince Harry is not enough of a catch for China. In a world of billionaires, being sixth in line for anything may not be enough to impress.

Yet the auburn-haired lad has a big card to play. In China, the offspring of important politicians or business leaders are given elite status. He could twist that – and call himself Britain's Red Prince.

Perhaps Meghan's sense of style thus far is an issue? If only she had carried Furla's this season 'Hello Kitty' handbag to the evening reception. Time for her to share some Chinese fashion passions.

Or is the lethargy towards the Sussexes the dividend of Communism's social policies? If you've been a little emperor since you were born, any other title is practically a demotion.

Let's now think how a 'Meghan and Harry Royal Tour to China' could trigger some love. Some suggestions:

The best bet in China these days is the overseas luxury travel market. Before going, persuade Granny to open up parts of Windsor Castle during Golden Week, and, when in China, be sure to do a roadshow telling everyone about this brand new Ancient Exclusive Personal Deluxe Tiara Tour. Equerry included.

Forget visiting tourist sites like the Terracotta Army. Go to places where there are many more followers – Weibo. Meet the biggest influencers, with millions in their adoring legions.

Do something linked with Singles Day, on 11/11, the monumental online shopping event. Say, become a smartphone model. Oppo is the Guangdong-based brand that targets young consumers with trendy phones. How about the Oppo Harry – with a virtual assistant that has a posh British accent. Or the Honor Meg: which comes with a well-cut case by Clare Waight Keller at Givenchy, and 8% of your bill is donated to charities chosen by Markle.

Mind you. Unless The Queen, or the British government, taps the couple on the shoulder to do this, they might keep quiet about the Chinese level of interest. Is the Chinese mainland somewhere for them to escape to? That delayed honeymoon: a week in Chongqing?

THE MALAYSIA SAYS SEARCH FOR FLIGHT 370 TO END NEXT WEEK

Malaysia's new transport minister says the latest search for Flight 370 will end next week. Malaysia signed a "no cure, no fee" agreement with Texas-based Ocean Infinity in January to resume the hunt for the plane, a year after the official search in the southern Indian Ocean by Australia, Malaysia and China was called off. Transport Minister Anthony Loke said yes-

terday that the latest search was due to end in April but was extended twice until May 29 at Ocean Infinity's request. He said the government will decide its next course of action next week. The Malaysia Airlines plane vanished March 8, 2014, while flying from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing with 239 people on board.

HK fashion retailer accused of sexism

HONG Kong fashion retailer Giordano came under fire this week for a range of clothing that netizens deemed sexist.

One particular t-shirt in the company's "Team Family Series" included a women's t-shirt with the word "cook" and "I like to cook for my kids" alongside pictures of sandwiches.

The design prompted a social media outcry, with netizens saying that it represented a step backwards for feminism in Hong Kong. Some even threatened to boycott the store over the t-shirt.

In response the company removed promotions featuring the t-shirt from its customer-facing website and social media pages, and elsewhere, "where physically possible."

According to the Hong Kong Free Press, it could still be found at some stores in the region on Tuesday.

Giordano made a public apology on its Facebook page over the apparent controversy, but said that it remained proud of its apparel, designed for all walks of life.

"We agree that the ultimate products could be a better way in [terms of] presentation. That is one of many ways [of] present-



ing the love [of] family which did not reflect our entire true values," the statement read.

It said that the words on the t-shirts were supposed to represent different aspects of life and implied that any gender stereotyping was unintentional.

"Stereotyping and sexism, or any kind of prejudice, however unintentional or passive, has no place at Giordano or in society. At Giordano, we celebrate a diver-

se range of definitions for family and did not intend to enforce traditional, gendered stereotypes."

Hong Kong does not have laws against what is perceived to be sexist or gender-specific advertising. But women's organizations are increasingly speaking out, accusing companies of promoting unrealistic beauty standards and boxing women into certain professional and domestic roles. **MDT**

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	15-30 Good	😊
High Density Residential Area	20-40 Good	😊
Ambient	20-40 Good	😊

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS



CONGO The World Health Organization is accelerating its efforts with nine countries neighboring Congo to try to prevent the current Ebola outbreak from spreading beyond the border.

BELARUS has named a new ambassador to Sweden, turning the page on a six-year rift that followed a Swedish advertising agency's air drop of teddy bears bearing messages about human rights.

BULGARIA has hit a setback to its hopes of soon becoming a member of the shared euro currency after the European Central Bank said the EU's poorest country needs "wide-ranging" reforms to get its economy in shape.



FRANCE A burgeoning migrant camp in Paris, on a canal used by joggers and cyclists, is at the center of a tug-of-war over how best to respond to the unrelenting arrivals of migrants in the French capital – with humanity or with muscle.

SPAIN's parliament is set to pass the national budget proposal for 2018, giving the government of Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy some breathing space as it battles Catalan separatism.



HONDURAS A private jet traveling from Austin, Texas, crashed off the end of the runway of the Honduran capital's international airport and broke in half, but the crew and passengers were rescued and reportedly out of danger.

US-VENEZUELA Secretary of State Mike Pompeo says the U.S. will respond reciprocally to President Nicolas Maduro's expulsion of the top American diplomat in Venezuela.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



Bun Festival. Participants climb up the bun tower during the bun snatching competition on the outlying Cheung Chau island in Hong Kong yesterday, to celebrate the Bun Festival which worships the Taoist God of the Sea, and evil spirits are scared away by loud gongs and drums during a procession.

AP Photo/Kin Cheung

AP PHOTO