



BRIDGE EXPECTED TO BRING CROWDS

Around 40,000 more people are expected to travel in and out of the region per day when the HKZMB is in operation

P6



VEGAS STRIKE WOULD HAVE FAR REACHING EFFECT

P9 GAMING



MH17 MISSILE, 'FROM RUSSIA'

Investigators established that the missile that hit a Malaysia Airlines flight came from a Russia-based military unit

P15

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Top court admits Sulu Sou's appeal

P3

PHOTO ARCHIVE



WORLD BRIEFS

AP PHOTO



US President Donald Trump said he is "waiting" to see if North Korean leader Kim Jong Un will again "engage in constructive dialogue," just hours after he canceled a summit with Kim scheduled for next month in Singapore. **More on p12**

PHILIPPINES In a southern Philippine city, survivors are remembering a disastrous five-month siege by Islamic State group-aligned fighters that began a year ago.

AP PHOTO



INDONESIA Ride-hailing app Go-Jek will expand into Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore and the Philippines in the next few months, it said yesterday, stepping up competition with rival Grab for Southeast Asian customers. **More on backpage**

Pearl Horizon buyers shun gov't proposal

P5



Extra
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weekend Guide
INSIDE

Africa 'should be selective' in seeing Macau as gateway to China

Daniel Beittler

AFRICAN countries ought to be selective in viewing Macau as a gateway to China.

That's according to Kebour Ghenna, the executive director of the Pan-African Chamber of Commerce and Industry, who will make a presentation today at the Fisherman's Wharf on the general business environment across parts of Africa.

In an interview with the Times yesterday, Ghenna said he planned to discuss the growth of the middle class in parts of Africa and how that would support long-term investment, as well as the impact of continent-wide developments, such as the Africa Continental Free Trade Area agreement, signed in March by 44 African heads of state.

Ghenna suggested that Macau, home to some of the largest casino operators in the world, could have very specific investment interests in the continent of more than 1.2 billion people. However, he cautioned that not all of that commerce has to involve Macau, even when considering the lusophone parts of Africa.

"Right now, I see Macau as a bridge between China and parts of Africa," he said, "and I think Macau can play a role in convincing bigger Chinese investors to look at the continent [for opportunities]."



Kebour Ghenna

However, "I'm not saying that everything has to pass via Macau. [...] We have to find a niche for Macau. We have to be very selective when looking at Macau as a gateway to China."

"We can go to Hong Kong and do more or less the same thing, but maybe on a different scale. Perhaps Hong Kong will be the place to look for financial [activities] and maybe Macau is better for tourism infrastructure."

A growing casino industry in the countries of southern Africa could be a promising start. South Africa, the second-largest country in the continent by gross domestic product, is home to the most robust gaming industry, with approximately three dozen casinos in operation.

Macau investment in similar, fledgling industries – such as those in Botswana, Swaziland or Namibia – could be both lucrative for investors and yield long-term benefits for those countries in terms of bringing employment and improving infrastructure.

"We need to look at what the casinos can do to create employment, contribute taxes to government and develop the cities' other businesses," said Ghenna, reflecting on the two-decade rise of the MSAR. "And this is what we hope to learn from Macau."

But the gaming industry represents a mere sliver of Africa's economic growth potential. Of particular interest to onlookers

is the tourism potential of the continent.

"I think the potential for the tourism industry [in Africa] is huge. You can start [with the history] from Egypt and go down to Zimbabwe and South Africa; in between you have Kenya and Tanzania for wild game tourism. On the west [of Africa], you can start with Senegal and go down to see the sights about slavery. And there are beautiful beaches on both sides of the [continent]."

This is another sector where investment from Macau could make sense, said Ghenna, and not just within the scope of Lusophone countries. Thanks to the Belt and Road Initiative, a number of countries along the East coast of Africa might be

brought within range of Chinese investment.

"When you look at the continent itself, it is well positioned to attract tourists from North American and Latin American from the West, and then from the north you have Europe and then the middle east from the east," he said, adding that all of this "needs to start with infrastructure; power, roads, and even improved hotels."

I see Macau as a bridge between China and parts of Africa.

KEBOUR GHENNA

"If we are looking at [the potential of] Africa in 20 or 30 years, then the opportunity really starts today," he added.

The Pan-African Chamber of Commerce and Industry was established in 2009 by a group of 35 African countries with the aim of serving the African trade and commerce interests. Much of the institution's work is intra-African, lobbying for greater commerce and trade within the continent. A secondary goal is to promote external investment.

HK CE vows to talk with Chui about entry denial

HONG Kong's Chief Executive, Carrie Lam, said that she would approach Macau government officials, including Chief Executive Chui Sai On, to discuss the issue concerning some Hong Kong residents who had been denied entry in Macau because they allegedly posed "threats to the internal security and stability."

Earlier this week, Hong Kong democrat lawmaker Helena Wong questioned Lam during a Legislative Council meeting about previous events of a number of Hong Kong lawmakers, activists and



Carrie Lam

journalists who were denied entry in Macau. Wong suggested that HK-SAR authorities could

adopt a "punitive measure and randomly reject Macau legislators, officials, journalists, scholars from

entering Hong Kong."

Lam replied "that every place has its own immigration policy, which was decided by each place itself. First, we must respect other places' immigration policy."

She then noted that "sometimes, we are also doubted regarding why some people could not [enter Hong Kong]." She pointed out that "immigration policy must be an autonomous right of the local government."

"Certainly, I will express the concern on behalf of everybody. However, whether [the denied en-

try] was reasonable or not, it depends on the local place's immigration policy," said Lam.

Hong Kong's CE added that "no matter what, whether there is a Greater Bay Area plan or not, I hope we [Hong Kong] can be tightly connected with both Macau and mainland China, and I hope human traffic and logistics can become less obstructed."

"You mentioned that [I should tell] Macau's government officials, and the Chief Executive, that [our people] come to Macau [just] for a meeting or for teaching [purposes],

and that it is not necessary to regard them as rationalists. I will do it. Actually, you would not know even if I had done it already," Lam stated.

Previously, in August, Hong Kong democratic lawmaker Helena Wong Pik Wan was denied entry in Macau upon arriving in the territory to attend an event organized by the University of Macau.

Last April and July, other Hong Kong lawmakers were also denied entry to Macau. In August, a group of Hong Kong journalists were denied entry to Macau.

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Top court accepts Sou's appeal on suspension vote

Julie Zhu

THE Court of Final Appeal (TUI) has accepted lawmaker Sulu Sou's appeal regarding the suspension vote at the Legislative Assembly (AL) on December 4.

Yesterday, in a phone interview with the Times, Sou confirmed TUI's decision. Sou said that his defense took the appeal to Macau's top court hoping to sort out the legitimacy behind the suspension decision.

"We hope, through this independent judiciary, to sort out the flaws concerning the legitimacy during the procedure of the suspension. We hope the judiciary can judge and sort out this matter," said Sou.

Sou told the Times that he intends to continue to appeal as a matter of principle.

"Basically, we think that we should take the responsibility to continue to appeal to the top court, according to the rights that the laws have granted us, to let them make an explanation [concerning the sus-



Sulu Sou (center) during a recent event organized by the New Macau Association

pension decision]," said Sou.

"I think that regardless of the result, and whether [the court] accepts the appeal or not, I think that it is still worth that, through this appeal procedure, we can sort out the related legislation procedures which no one ever doubted," said Sou. "I believe that it will be good for the AL, especially AL's operation, or for the entire political system, to let the court witness some of the behaviors within the AL," he added.

Sou's defense claims that several irregularities leading up to the December 4 suspension vote at the Legislative Assembly "violated the rules of

procedure and fundamental rights of the appellant," and that this should annul the suspension.

Previously, this appeal was rejected by the Second Instance Court on the basis that the court had no authority to rule on "political affairs."

In an explanatory statement issued by the Court of Second Instance, the court argued that the deliberation leading to Sou's mandate suspension did not qualify it as an administrative act "since it did not come from any organ of the administration. [...] It was, instead, practiced by a legislative body with a political framework."

"The immunity which members may enjoy in order to prevent them from being tried for their acts is already a prerogative of a political nature," the court found. It was therefore an act "beyond the control of the courts."

While acknowledging its inability to rule on political acts, the Second Instance Court also argued that neither it nor any other court in the MSAR – including the Court of Final Appeal – possesses the "legal competence to judge political acts of the Legislative Assembly plenary."

When asked by the Times, Sou said, "I am confident. This action of ours can provide [us] with some explanations by the judiciary. If TUI did not accept the appeal, it still needs to make some explanation."

When talking about his expectation for the result of this appeal, Sou said "I do not simply look at the chance of winning or at the chance of losing. [...] We feel that this procedure will already yield a fair gain which can sort out something."

LRT train carriages delivered to depot

The second phase of the Light Rapid Transit (LRT) train carriages delivery work began yesterday, the Transportation Infrastructure Office announced in a statement. The delivery of a first batch of 10 train carriages is underway at the LRT Depot. Four train carriages were transported to the depot, with the remaining six being transported today. The delivery of the first phase of LRT train carriages was initiated in the fourth quarter last year. Currently, a total of 30 train carriages are stored at the LRT Taipa line stations.

Q1 sales benefit from CNY rush

Benefiting from the sales boom of the Lunar New Year, the value of retail sales for the first quarter of 2018 increased by 25.7 percent year-on-year to MOP20.74 billion. As compared with the revised figure of MOP19.08 billion in the fourth quarter of 2017, the value of retail sales rose by 8.7 percent. According to information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), after accounting for the effect of price changes, volume of retail sales increased by 23 percent year-on-year. In the first quarter, watches, clocks and jewelry accounted for 21.1 percent of total retail sales, followed by goods in department stores (16 percent) and adults' clothing (14.1 percent). In regards to retailers' comments, 56.7 percent of the retailers anticipated the sales volume in the second quarter of 2018 to remain stable year-on-year, while 28.6 percent forecast a decrease.

AD

Macau Daily Times contest



Air Supply

Question for readers:

Name one album from Air Supply.

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Tickets from MOP380 are now available through cotaiticketing.com or 2852 8518



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.

HEALTH SURVEY

Hospitals received 59,000 in-patients during 2017

THE number of in-patients in local hospitals rose slightly by 1.8 percent year-on-year to 59,000, according to the results of a health survey released yesterday by the Statistics and Census Service.

There were five hospitals in Macau in 2017, providing a total of 1,596 in-patient beds. The occupancy rate of in-patient beds dropped by 1.2 percentage points to 70.8 percent, representing the second consecutive year of decline.

Hospital out-patient attendances increased by 4 percent year-on-year to 1,698,000, of which consultations in internal medicine (276,000) accounted for 16.3 percent, followed by those in physiotherapy & rehabilitation (234,000) and general surgery (189,000). Emergency attendances decreased by 0.9 percent year-on-year to 473,000.

According to the survey, there were 702 primary health care establishments, including public health centers, private clinics in 2017, down by 17 year-on-year.



The total number of consultations rose by 0.9 percent to over 4 million. Consultations in general practice decreased by 1.8 percent year-on-year to 1,165,000, accounting for 29 percent of the total, followed by those in Chinese medicine (1,141,000) and stomatology/odontology (254,000).

According to the survey, the number of cases of dialysis treatments increased for eight years in a row, growing by 9.4 percent year-on-year to 100,000. A total of 365,000 doses of vaccine were administered in hospitals and primary health care esta-

blishments in 2017, up by 18.6 percent year-on-year; vaccinations against Influenza totaled 109,000 doses.

The number of blood donations totaled 14,288 in 2017, up slightly by 1.1 percent year-on-year. A total of 10,391 persons donated blood in 2017, down by 3.3 percent year-on-year, with first-time blood donors decreasing by 8.9 percent to 2,951.

According to the administrative information from the Health Bureau, there were 1,730 doctors and 2,397 nurses in 2017, up by 0.2 percent and 2.3 percent respectively year-on-year.

Macau signs agreements aimed at poverty relief in Guizhou

THE Chief Executive, Chui Sai On, expressed Macau's support for Guizhou Province in relieving the effects of poverty on Wednesday. There will be complementary efforts at mutual regional development envisaged under the Pan-Pearl River Delta region initiative. Chui was delivering a speech during a seminar about poverty alleviation held in Congjiang County, Guizhou Province. The Chief Executive concludes today a three-day visit to the Province – co-organized by the PRC's Liaison Office in Macau – to discuss poverty alleviation projects.

The Central Government previously approved the Macau SAR's participation in the country's overall effort on poverty relief. The State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development suggested Congjiang County in Qiongnan Miao and Dong Autonomous Prefecture, Guizhou Province, as a focus point for Macau's assistance.

According to the first of the four government-to-government agreements, relating to education matters, the Macau SAR Government is to allocate an amount not exceeding RMB30 million to support the rebuilding of a primary school in Congjiang County. In the second of the four government-to-government agreements, the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau will initiate a twinning scheme for schools in the two places.

Under the third government-to-government initiative, the Macao Foundation will offer yearly scholarships of an aggregate MOP100,000 per year to underprivileged students from Congjiang to study in Macau's higher education institutions.

The fourth government-to-government initiative will involve economic development. The Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute will invite the Guizhou Provincial Government as well as business associations and enterprises from the Province to join the Macau International Trade and Investment Fair and the Guangdong and Macau Branded Products Fair. The two events are due to be held in Macau on respective dates later in the year.

Funds from Macau to relieve poverty in Guizhou are composed of aggregate money from the SAR Government, the Macao Foundation, and the Macau community.

AD



TRULY MACANESE

Macau's own chef Florita Alves is famous for bringing local cuisine to the global stage. Embrace Macanese nostalgia at MGM MACAU's Rossio, featuring her traditional staples that include casquinha de caranguejo (crab cakes) and camarão recheado à moda de Macau (Macau stuffed shrimp).

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Pearl Horizon proposal stirs unhappiness among buyers

MANY Pearl Horizon buyers have criticized the government after it announced its intention to build housing units for temporary lodging of residents affected by urban renovation works taking place in old neighborhoods across the city.

In a TDM radio program yesterday, a female buyer, surnamed Hoi, said that she paid between 7,000 and 8,000 patacas per square foot for a Pearl Horizon project.

She then said that using this money to purchase a public house from the government is equivalent to "throw[ing] the money into the sea," criticizing the government for not caring about buyers.

The Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan, noted on Wednesday that the government would grant the



possibility of acquisition of only one unit per Pearl Horizon buyer in the new development to be built by the government.

Another buyer, surnamed Lai, cited the government by saying that despite the fact that "Pearl Horizon does not exist anymore," buyers still have to pay for the loan. Lai said that the government made mistakes in this case. He deems the government's proposal

"unreasonable."

A third buyer, surnamed Ng, described the actions of the government as equivalent to "robbing the land."

She worries that the government's housing units will have a low value and will also represent an uncertainty in terms of resale.

However, one resident, surnamed Chu, does not want buyers to be granted the rights to buy the new

housing units.

"When [they] pre-bought the house, they should have expected the possibility that the house project would not be finished. I think it's unreasonable to use Macau people's public money to compensate [buyers] to buy public houses. If the government compensates buyers, can all buyers of previous unfinished housing projects do the same?" Chu asked. **JZ**

200 fake ID users deported since 2011

MORE than 200 people have been deported from Macau since the government security force began using the facial recognition system in 2011.

Ku I Kan, a consultant from the Office of the Secretary for Security, explained this week during a TDM radio program, that these people were detected by the recognition system when attempting to use a fake identity card to enter Macau.

The region's newly proposed immigration regime suggests that during the procedures related to the deportation of any individual, authorities can seize the documents of illegal immigrants.

This policy prevents people trying to enter in this way from deliberately damaging their identification documents or reporting loss of documentation in order to make the police force issue them with

a temporary identification certificate, allowing them to stay in Macau during the police investigation.

According to a representative from the Public Security Police Force (PSP), surnamed Lau, temporary identification certificate holders pose a security threat to the city because they might not make a timely report to the immigration authority, after which they could engage in illegal work activities in Macau.

The latest proposed immigration reform suggests extending the detention period for illegal immigrants, to give the security force enough time to confirm their identities.

Lau said that the PSP has been issuing fewer temporary identification certificates year after year, which indicates a better outcome in terms of security efforts to combat illegal immigrants.

AD

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Gov't forecasts a movement of 40,000 people over new bridge

Renato Marques

THE government is expecting a movement of around 40,000 people circulating in and out of the region per day via the new Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB) once it begins operation in the summer. As for vehicles, the forecast figure is about 4,000 on a daily basis, the director of the Transport Bureau (DSAT) Lam Hin San said yesterday at a press conference.

"This is a preliminary forecast, for the start, if we see that [the demand] is higher than this [then] we can adjust and find other ways to manage," Lam said.

He added that the current forecast points to the total number of vehicles using the bridge reaching 29,100 by 2030. Of this number, 22,000 would pertain to traffic between Guangdong province and Hong Kong and 7,100 would pertain to traffic between the two special administrative regions.

Explaining how the procedures and traffic arrangements will accommodate the new infrastructure operation, Lam said that there are two parking lots, located in the east and west of the artificial island under Macau jurisdiction. Those facilities will accommodate the vehicles from Macau and those travelling from the other regions.

The parking lot in the west designated for Macau vehicles has a total of about 7,000 parking spaces, of which 5,000 are for cars and 2,000 are for motorcycles. As for the east, it will have a total of 3,000 parking spaces available, which will require a prior reservation and fare payment made through a mobile app for that specific purpose. Vehicles from abroad with authorization travelling over the bridge will pay a fare of MOP180 for 12 hours of parking, that is, MOP15 per hour.

Questioned as to the possibility that people would not make an advance booking of the parking space, Lam said, "[In that case] there is no possibility of parking, the only possibility is to make



Lam Hin San (center)

a U-turn and go back to Hong Kong."

Also settled is the number of bus routes that will connect the two SARs (50), since 34 of them start from Hong Kong and 16 from Macau.

According to Lam, this system will allow "a frequency of five minutes during peak hours and of 10 to 15 minutes in the hours of less movement," adding, "as for the nighttime, the frequency might drop [tentatively] to 15 to 30 minutes."

How much a bus ticket will cost to or from Hong Kong was one of the several questions that the director of the Bureau could not answer, claiming, "we are still negotiating on this matter. It's a three party negotiation [among the different jurisdictions]. Soon we will have the information and at that time we will disclose such information," he said.

Battling with the lack of space, the DSAT director added that casino shuttle buses operators agreed on a quota of only two routes. The same will apply to the public transportation system,

which will create the routes 101X and 102X, the first connecting the checkpoint to Central Macau and the second to Taipa.

As for the casino shuttles, the two authorized routes, which will need to be shared among all the concessionaires, will connect only the artificial island to both Ferry Terminals (Outer Harbour and Taipa) "from where the passengers must be transferred to

the 'normal' system that has been operating and that will take them to each hotel," Lam remarked, adding that it will be also mandatory for such shuttles to use "alternative energies" as fuel.

Quotas will also be enforced for rental of inter-urban vehicles and private vehicles from both regions. In the former case, the number of vehicles will be limited to 100 (40 in Macau) and in

the latter, a total of 900 private vehicles (600 in Macau, 300 in Hong Kong).

Questioned as to the rules of attribution of these special authorizations and discrepancies between such figures, Lam explained, "the special licenses will be attributed by lucky draw and then there will be an amount that [will] have to be paid," adding, "Macau has 600 and Hong Kong only 300 [cars quota] just because we have less parking space to keep those cars than Hong Kong, that can hold more cars. That's the only reason."

To go to Central Hong Kong, the ferry may be more useful.

LAM HIN SAN

Lam also clarified that direct buses from Macau and to Hong Kong's airport are "still in [the] negotiation process and should not be in place before 2020," adding, "for the time being, people will have to take a bus from Macau, drop-off by the immigration check-point in [Hong Kong] and then after such process, get another transportation to the Airport. In the future we will have a direct bus without passing through the immigration checkpoint," he noted.

Questioned as to the difficulties of getting connections into places and on the use of the infrastructure for Macau people, Lam said, "maybe to go to Disneyland ... the HKZMB Bridge [will be useful]. To go to Central Hong Kong, the ferry may be more useful."

40 percent of users do not pay parking meter fares

ABOUT 40 percent of the users of street parking spaces in Macau do not pay the parking meter fare, the Transport Bureau (DSAT) revealed yesterday during the Transport Advisory Committee meeting at the bureau.

During the press conference, DSAT director Lam Hin San announced the figure adding that they are now "considering to install [parking] sensors that will automatically alert the authorities through a mobile app that will also allow a monitoring of the vacant parking spaces."

"We will install 1,000 of these sensors as a trial

on the streets with more [activity] in order to increase the responsibility [of the motorists] and to increase the mobility of citizens."

According to Lam, an increase in the parking meter fares could not necessarily be linked to a decrease of their usage.

As for the public parking lots, the director said that after the increase to the fares, there was a decrease in the occupancy in the first few months but that most recently this occupancy has resumed to the "normally high," registering occupancy rates from 80 percent to 100 percent in all the 13 public parking lots that are monitored.

Queenland's tourism minister plans visit to Macau, Vegas

THE tourism minister for the Australian state of Queensland, Kate Jones, is planning to lead a team of government officials on trips to both Macau and Las Vegas to meet integrated resort operators MGM and Caesar's

Entertainment.

Australia's 9 News reported that the team of officials would begin their trip next week to investigate the blueprints of successful integrated resorts in the world's two largest gaming jurisdictions.

"I have been approached by some of the world's most successful entertainment companies keen to invest in Queensland. But we're working to make sure we get the balance right for Queenslanders," Tourism Minister Kate Jo-

nes told the news outlet. "Our strategy is all based around attracting more visitors who stay longer and spend more in Queensland to create jobs for locals."

The minister was referring to two potential cas-

no licenses, one in Cairns and the other on the Gold Coast, that are planned to join the other four existing in the state.

But opposition lawmakers allege Jones is using the trip for personal gain. One lawmaker accu-

sed the tourism minister of visiting Vegas to see an upcoming boxing world title bout featuring Australian boxer Jeff Horn.

Jones' office says she is paying for her own accommodation while in Las Vegas.

ADVERTORIAL



‘Wines of Portugal’ group to present wine pairings

Lynzy Valles

THE ‘Wines of Portugal’ group is set to return to Macau, staging a wine tasting event tomorrow featuring vintages of some 20 wineries throughout Portugal.

The wine pairing will present a lineup of approximately 200 red, white, sparkling and fortified wines, along with local delicacies.

‘Wines of Portugal’ is Portugal’s collective brand for the wine sector.

Jorge Monteiro, president of Wines of Portugal, remarked that the event aims to change the image of Portuguese wines, create awareness and teach consumers about the diversity of its wines.

“Macau was a very important market to Portugal. [Recently] we decided to focus on mainland China, [...] but it’s the right time to come back to Macau [...] our object is to improve the image of Portuguese wines,” Monteiro told the Times via telephone.

“We know that Portuguese wines are gastronomic wines and the trade [event] will be the opportunity to not only taste wines but to match with food,” he added.

The “2018 Perfect Portuguese Pairings” is set to be the group’s first main event in Macau, following the wine educational programs it held several years ago.

Monteiro acknowledged that the wine market in Macau is a competitive trade, particularly with the presence of large integrated resorts in the city, adding that most wine con-

sumers in the region are not from Macau.

“Sooner or later they would prefer more complex wines [...] it is also a complex approach but we are looking for a new kind of [importer] not just [from] the Portuguese community but also international traders.”

The president expressed his confidence in the city’s market, suggesting that Macau is an effective platform for wine trading.

However, he regretted that the group does not have enough time to educate consumers about wine pairings.

“This needs time and opportunity to put consumers to tasting more complex wines. It’s not easy [so] we should try to convince the opinion leaders and key people like consumers and scholars so that we can improve our situation in the market,” Monteiro explained.

According to the president, Portugal boasts more than 250 indigenous grapes that present a spectrum of different flavors.

He noted that Portuguese wines have already established a foothold in the global market and are consumed by connoisseurs around the world.

“Portuguese wines are among the best in the world and that’s why so many international awards are given each year to our wines,” he said.

Tomorrow’s “2018 Perfect Portuguese Pairings” is open to trade professionals and consumers at the JW Marriot Hotel from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

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Uber valued at about USD62b in new offer to buy company stock

Tom Krisher,

THREE investors are looking to buy stakes in Uber in an offer that values the company at USD62 billion.

The ride-hailing giant said yesterday (Macau time) the investors want to buy up to \$600 million worth of the private company's stock. They're offering \$40 per share, giving Uber a valuation that's nearly 30 percent above the \$48 billion set in a January stock sale.

The announcement comes as Uber posted a \$2.46 billion first-quarter net profit largely due to one-time gains from the sale of businesses in Southeast Asia and Russia.

Without the gains, the company still lost money before taxes and depreciation, but the \$304 million in red ink was half the amount from a year ago.

Income statements released Wednesday show Uber's gross bookings and revenue rose dramatically during the quarter.

In a statement, Uber said that the Coatue Management LLC, Altimeter Capital and TPG in-



vestment firms have offered to buy \$400 million to \$600 million worth of Uber stock. The offer, to be launched next week and last for 20 business days, would allow longtime investors and some employees to convert shares to cash ahead of a planned public stock offering sometime in 2019.

Japanese technology conglomerate SoftBank Group Corp. and others closed a deal in January to buy 15 percent of Uber. The investors, including Dragoneer Investment Group, sank about \$9 billion into Uber at roughly \$33 per share, including about \$1.25 billion in new shares.

No new shares will be sold in the latest offer. Eligible sellers will be limited in how many shares they can sell. They can offer 25 percent of their total shares, or \$10 million worth of stock, whichever is of lower value, according to the company.

The stock offer and Uber's first-quarter numbers point to progress for Uber as it heads toward an initial public stock offering sometime in 2019 that was promised by new CEO Dara Khosrowshahi shortly after his arrival last August.

Uber's gross bookings from ride-hailing and other services rose 55

percent from a year ago to \$11.29 billion. Net revenue, which is gross bookings minus payments to drivers, incentives and promotions, rose 70 percent to \$2.59 billion, the company said.

Uber said it will restate and reduce gross bookings retroactively by about 2 percent due to the way it counts what it considers to be promotional costs. Uber gives each rider a cost estimate for a trip, but the actual cost can be higher or lower depending on road construction, traffic or other factors. The company either pays the difference if the estimate is too low or keeps the money if it's too high.

In the first quarter of last year, Uber posted a net loss of \$847 million. Uber had one other previous quarterly net profit, in 2016, on a one-time gain from combining its China operations with competitor Didi Chuxing.

In a statement, Khosrowshahi said the business is beating internal goals as the company cuts losses and holds onto its ride-hailing leadership. He hinted that Uber will not try to boost profits artificially ahead of the stock offering,

saying it will continue to invest in the business. "We plan to reinvest any over-performance even more aggressively this year, both in our core business as well as big bets like Uber Eats globally."

The Uber Eats food delivery service is operating in more than 200 cities at present, and the company says it will continue to expand the service to more cities. It also plans to add its bicycle-sharing services to more cities as it tries to become more of a mobility service company.

Core business investment would be for subsidies to keep prices lower in highly competitive markets.

During the first quarter, Uber closed on deals to sell its businesses in Southeast Asia and Russia for stakes in rival companies. The Southeast Asia business went to Grab in exchange for a stake in the ridesharing, food delivery and financial services business. Uber also agreed to merge its Russian ride-hailing business with Yandex, the search-engine leader that also runs a popular taxi-booking app.

Uber is trying to distance itself from a year of scandals in 2017 including allegations of sexual misconduct and charges that it deployed an espionage team to plunder trade secrets from its rivals. The company's full-year net loss widened to \$4.5 billion last year. **AP**

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Culinary Union members file into a university arena to vote on whether to authorize a strike

Las Vegas strike would have far-reaching effect

Regina Garcia Cano,
Las Vegas

WHAT happens in Las Vegas could have a ripple effect across the country if 50,000 casino-hotel workers employed at more than 30 of the city's world-famous resorts go on strike at any time starting next week.

If members of the union that includes hotel and food workers don't show up to work, it could cost the destination millions and lead to travel woes for anyone taking a vacation or business trip to Sin City. It could also send casinos looking for temporary workers amid low unemployment rates.

Analysts declined to weigh in on the financial impact that a strike could have on casino operators. But the casinos and hotels aren't the only ones who would feel the squeeze; local and state governments stand to lose millions from the impact on tourism.

The last time casino-hotel workers went on strike across Las Vegas, the job action lasted 67 days and cost workers and the city more than USD1 million a day each in lost wages and revenues, not counting gambling losses. The price could be much higher this time if the two sides can't reach agreements: The city has 90,000 more hotel rooms and gets an additional 29 million visitors a year.

David Fiorenza, who tea-

ches urban economics at Villanova University, said local and state governments will start to notice a hit to their sales tax revenue if the strike lingers. And if hotel stays decrease, there will be less revenue from the local hotel tax.

Fiorenza doesn't expect an immediate impact on the number of people visiting Las Vegas if a strike happens, but it will affect bookings if the strike lasts more than a few days.

"People who already booked to go out there are not going to cancel," he said.

But the strike is a lingering worry for those still planning summer vacations. "What happens during the summer in Las Vegas is you get a lot of people who are traveling. They say 'We are going to visit family in California, and then, we'll go on a trip to Las Vegas,'" said Michael McCall, a Michigan State University professor of hospitality business. "This would deter them. That's going to shut down everything."

The contracts of 50,000 members of the Culinary Union who work at 34 different casino-resorts on the Las Vegas Strip and downtown Las Vegas are set to expire at midnight May 31. Half of those workers cast ballots Tuesday, a majority of whom authorized a strike at any time starting June 1. Individual casino-operating companies and the union have failed to reach agreements through

negotiations that began in February.

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

MGM Resorts International and Caesars Entertainment operate more than half the properties that would be affected by a strike. Both companies have said they expect to reach agreements with the union.

However, Fiorenza said major casinos have contingency plans and he expects them to find ways to continue operating if a strike does happen, such as using managers in front-line jobs and bringing in workers from outside the area.

Operators that have casino-hotels in other states likely have begun sending notices to some workers on those properties to draw them to Las Vegas temporarily, McCall said. It would be hard to hire short-term replacement workers locally because unemployment is low in Las Vegas.

The last citywide strike was in 1984. As the strike deadline loomed, the agency responsible for promoting the destination responded by working up a \$158,000 advertising campaign that included a chef saying "Las Vegas, we're open and cooking," and a showgirl saying "Las Vegas, we're open with a lot to show you." AP

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Robert Burns, Washington

THE Pentagon said yesterday [Macau time] it has withdrawn an invitation for China to participate in a multinational naval exercise the U.S. is hosting this summer, a sign of fresh tension between Pacific powers.

The move comes amid high-stakes maneuvering over North Korea's nuclear program, which is scheduled to be the subject of a meeting in June between President Donald Trump and the North's leader, Kim Jong Un. Trump earlier this week said he suspected that the North's recent talk of scrapping the summit could reflect influence from Chinese President Xi Jinping, who recently met with Kim.

Washington also is engaged in a trade dispute with China over U.S. complaints about market access and technology policy.

The U.S. had included China in the past two versions of the naval exercise known as Rim of the Pacific, or RimPac, in 2014 and 2016. The engagements were part of an effort by the Obama administration to stabilize military relations with Beijing even as Washington challenged China to stop placing military assets in the South China Sea. China is pitted against smaller neighbors in multiple disputes over islands, coral reefs and lagoons in waters crucial for global commerce and rich in fish and potential oil and gas reserves.

Yesterday's announcement raises the prospect of a renewed chill in military relations, which have been disrupted many times by China's objections to U.S. arms sales to Taiwan and other issues.

Asked about the Pentagon's move, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told reporters at the State Department, "We find that a very non-constructive move." He said China hopes the

US disinvites China from multinational military exercise



Secretary of State Mike Pompeo (right) and Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi

U.S. will change its "negative mindset."

The U.S. military calls RimPac the world's largest international maritime exercise and says it "helps participants foster and sustain the cooperative relationships critical to ensuring the safety of sea lanes and security on the world's oceans."

A Pentagon statement said the decision to disinvite the Chinese navy was "an initial response" to what it called China's militarization of the South China Sea. China's Defense Ministry had said in January that it was consulting with the U.S. over an invitation to take part in Rim-

Pac.

The Pentagon cited what it called strong evidence that China has deployed anti-ship missiles, surface-to-air missile systems and electronic jammers to contested areas in the Spratly Island region of the South China Sea. It called on China to remove these systems.

"China's continued militarization of disputed features in the South China Sea only serve to raise tensions and destabilize the region," a Pentagon spokesman, Marine Lt. Col. Christopher Logan, said.

"As an initial response to China's continued militarization of

the South China Sea we have disinvited the PLA Navy from the 2018 Rim of the Pacific [RimPac] Exercise," he added. "China's behavior is inconsistent with the principles and purposes of the RimPac exercise."

The Pentagon also cited its objections to China's recent landing of bomber aircraft at Woody Island in the Paracel Island chain, north of the Spratlys.

China maintains that the South China Sea is its sovereign territory and that it is within its rights to build up defenses on the islands.

In his remarks at the State Department, Wang said he and

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo had discussed U.S. complaints about Chinese "militarization" of features in the South China Sea.

He said China is simply taking measures in self-defense, which have "nothing to do with militarization."

The move comes amid high-stakes maneuvering over North Korea's nuclear program

"Just like the U.S. has military presence in Hawaii and Guam," he said. "And China's deployment is at a much smaller scale than the U.S. It is out of necessary defense purposes. We don't hope to see any exaggeration or hype-up of this matter."

Gregory B. Poling, an Asia expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said disinviting China from RimPac is a "moderately big deal" because it reverses the Obama administration's emphasis on seeking closer military-to-military ties.

"At the same time, it doesn't really do anything to deter China in the South China Sea," Poling said. "So this is really more about venting our frustration and sending a signal than it is actually trying to change Chinese behavior." AP

Beijing, Tokyo protest US probe into need for auto tariffs

CHINA and Japan both condemned yesterday the Trump administration's decision to launch an investigation into whether tariffs are needed on imports of vehicles and automotive parts into the United States.

China's Commerce Ministry said Beijing would "firmly defend" its rights and interests against what it called the Trump administration's abuse of national security provisions in trade.

Japan's minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Hiroshige Seko, said Japan, which accounts for about 40 percent of U.S. vehicle imports, will continue to remind U.S. offi-

cials that any trade measures must conform to the rules of the World Trade Organization.

If such a measure is taken, "it would be an extremely far-reaching trade sanction that would put the global market into turmoil," Seko said. "We are extremely concerned."

President Donald Trump invoked a provision authorizing the president to restrict imports and impose unlimited tariffs on national security grounds, known as Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962.

The move comes as talks with Canada and Mexico over the North American Free Trade Agreement

have stalled.

In Beijing, Commerce Ministry spokesman Gao Feng told reporters that abusing national security provisions would "undermine the multilateral trade system and disrupt the order of international trade."

"China will pay close attention to the progress of the U.S. investigation, conduct a comprehensive assessment of the possible impact and firmly defend our legitimate rights and interests," Gao told reporters at a news conference.

Japanese automakers did not issue individual comments but referred to Global Automakers, based in Washington, an indus-

try group of international automakers that includes the Japanese. Global Automakers Chief Executive John Bozzella said the move would merely hurt American consumers.

"The U.S. auto industry is thriving and growing. Thirteen, soon to be 14 companies, produced nearly 12 million cars and trucks in America last year. To our knowledge, no one is asking for this protection. This path leads inevitably to fewer choices and higher prices for cars and trucks in America," he said in a statement.

Last week Japan went to the World Trade Organization to warn of possible retaliation for tariffs



on steel and aluminum, which Trump imposed in March. Japan is the only major U.S. ally that was not granted a temporary exemption from the tariffs. Japan estimates they will cost it about 50 billion yen (USD450 million) a year.

China is a relatively minor player in the U.S. auto import market, ranked 10th in dollar terms, but its massive car industry is eager to expand abroad. In auto parts exports to the U.S., China was ranked second last year. AP

US employee in Guangzhou reported strange sounds, pressure

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

A U.S. government employee in southern China reported abnormal sensations of sound and pressure, the State Department said yesterday [Macau time], recalling similar experiences among American diplomats in Cuba who later fell ill.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo described it as a "serious medical incident." In an emailed notice to American citizens in China, the department said it wasn't currently known what caused the symptoms in the city of Guangzhou, where an American consulate is located.

"A U.S. government employee in China recently reported subtle and vague, but abnormal, sensations of sound and pressure," the notice said. "The U.S. government is taking these reports seriously and has informed its official staff in China of this event."

The department said it wasn't aware of any similar situations in China, either within the diplomatic community or among others. It didn't further identify the person with the symptoms or say when they had been detected.

China's National Health Commission did not immediately respond to faxed questions about the report.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, who met yesterday with Pompeo in Washington and then addressed a joint news conference, said that China had been investigating and hasn't found any organization or individual responsible for "such a sonic influence."



Security workers guard at construction site of the U.S. Consulate compound in Guangzhou in 2009

"We will stay in communication with the U.S. through diplomatic channels and we would suggest the U.S. side also carry out some internal investigations. We don't want to see this individual case be magnified, complicated or even politicized," Wang said.

Pompeo commended China's response, saying it was honoring its commitment under the Vienna Convention to take care of diplomats serving in their country. He said China has offered to assist the U.S. in investigating.

Earlier, Pompeo told the House Foreign Affairs Committee that the medical indications of the incident in Guangzhou "are very similar and entirely consistent with the medical indications of the Americans working in Havana."

He said a medical team was being sent to Guangzhou and "we are working to figure out what

took place both in Havana and Guangzhou."

State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said the U.S. Embassy learned on Friday that the Guangzhou employee had shown clinical findings during medical testing similar to patients

The medical indications in Guangzhou 'are very similar with the medical indications of the Americans working in Havana'

with mild traumatic brain injury, known commonly as a concussion. That is the same clinical finding that doctors treating the Cuba patients at the University of Philadelphia have found in those patients.

The Guangzhou worker started experiencing "a variety of symptoms" starting in late 2017, Nauert said, adding that the symptoms continued through April. The worker was sent to the U.S. for additional testing.

On Monday, the U.S. Embassy in Beijing and all five of the U.S. consulates in China held town hall meetings so that diplomats and embassy workers could ask questions or voice concerns. Ambassador Terry Branstad led the session in Beijing.

Despite hundreds of billions of dollars in annual trade between them, China and the U.S. are

considered strategic rivals for influence in Asia. Tensions in the relationship frequently flare over accusations of cheating at trade, stealing of secrets, human rights and arms sales to Taiwan, a U.S. partner that China claims as its own territory.

In Cuba, the U.S. reported that some of its personnel and family members experienced a range of ailments, often after hearing an unusual sound. For most, the symptoms occurred around May 2017.

The still-unexplained incidents sparked a rift in U.S.-Cuban relations, while investigators have chased theories including a sonic attack, electromagnetic weapon or a flawed spying device.

Pompeo said that he expects the results of an independent investigation into the Cuban incidents by the middle of next week.

Last October, the State Department ordered non-essential embassy personnel and the families of all staff to leave Havana, arguing the U.S. could not protect them from unexplained illnesses that have harmed at least 24 Americans.

Symptoms, sounds and sensations reportedly varied dramatically from person to person. Some have permanent hearing loss or concussions, while others suffered nausea, headaches and ear-ringing. Some are struggling with concentration or common word recall, The Associated Press has reported.

Some felt vibrations or heard loud sounds mysteriously audible in only parts of rooms, and others heard nothing. AP

MERKEL VISITS SHENZHEN TODAY

German leader stresses dialogue on human rights, tech

GERMAN Chancellor Angela Merkel yesterday stressed the importance of dialogue with China during a visit to Beijing that comes amid shared concerns over trade with the United States and Washington's rejection of the Iran nuclear deal.

Merkel held morning discussions with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, who said China-Germany relations were "developing steadily at a high-level," but that "the current economic and political situations in the world are complex."

Merkel affirmed their past success in finding answers to issues between them and emphasized the need for regular discussions on is-

suues from human rights to science and technology.

"And then our conversations can center on really where are there still problems, what are the solutions, what are the opportunities. Then we can play our part in a global, multilateral system," Merkel said.

Merkel was to meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping in the afternoon. Today, she travels to the technology powerhouse of Shenzhen in southern China.

In her remarks to Li, Merkel also mentioned that, "Of course China's relationship with the European Union is important to me, and how Germany contributes to that."

That could be seen as a reference to concerns among German officials and the business community that China's close relations with the EU's eastern members were undercutting the bloc's rules on bidding and transparency. Merkel gave no details before reporters were ushered from the meeting room at the Great Hall of the People in the heart of the Chinese capital.

Merkel's visit as the head of a delegation of government and business leaders is her first since she formed her new government. It follows visits to Washington to meet with President Donald Trump and to Sochi, Russia, for talks with

Russian President Vladimir Putin over recent weeks.

Despite tensions with the U.S., German officials have been keen to stress their continued commitment to trans-Atlantic ties and dismiss suggestions that Germany is seeking alternative alliances, even as they find common ground with Russia and China on the Iran nuclear deal and other issues.

Germany and China were among the five nations that negotiated the Iran deal and have called for it to continue despite the U.S. pullout.

Ahead of the trip, the chancellor said her talks with Chinese leaders will address issues such as the



Angela Merkel and Li Keqiang walk past PLA honor guards during a welcoming ceremony in Beijing yesterday

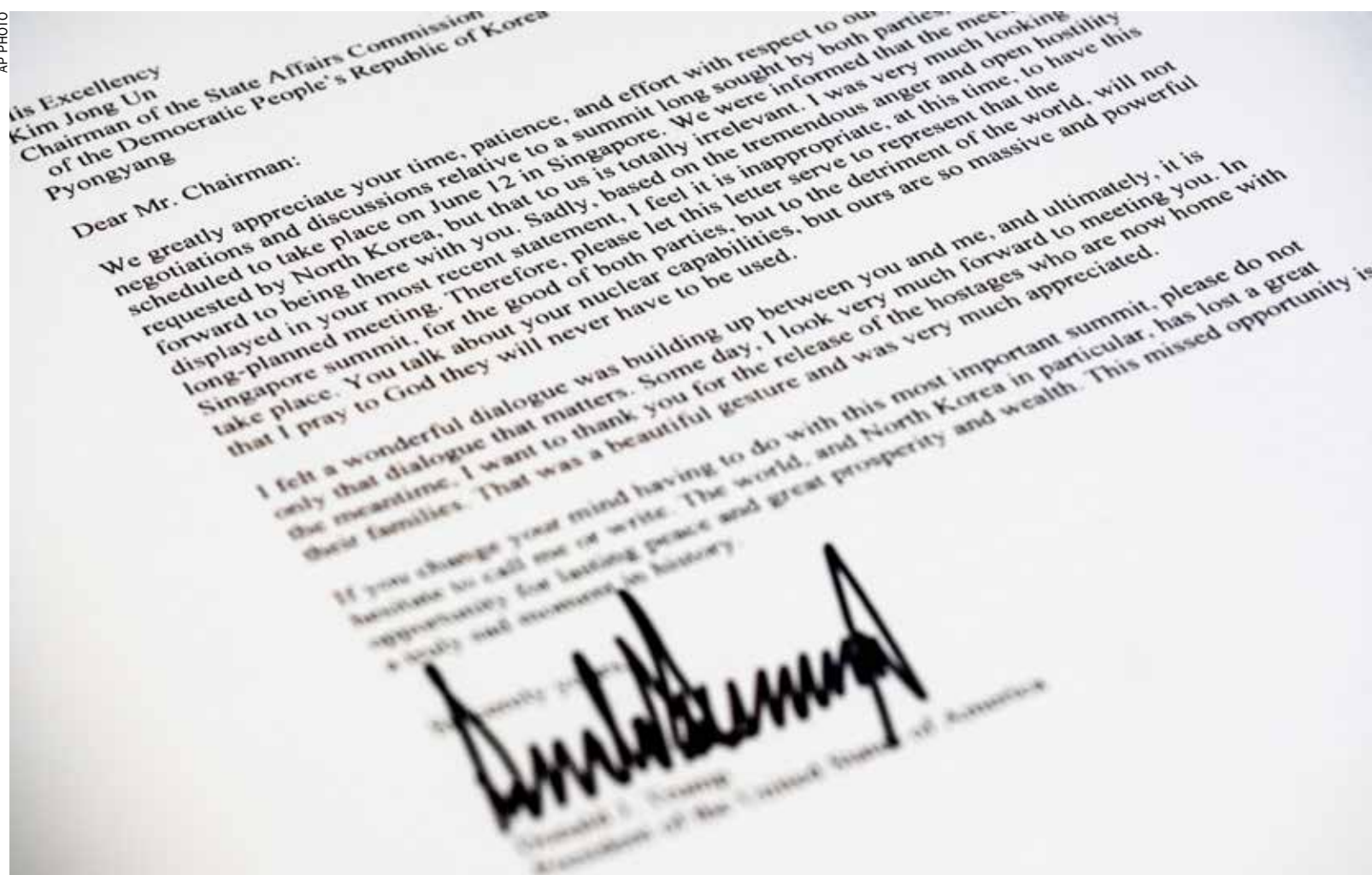
rule of law, the economy and trade disputes.

Amnesty International on Wednesday called on Merkel to bring up in her meetings the house arrest of Liu Xia, the widow of Nobel Peace Prize winner Liu Xiaobo, and call for her

release.

The trip follows high-level talks in Washington between American and Chinese officials that have somewhat lessened tensions between the two countries and buoyed stock markets. AP

AP PHOTO



A copy of the letter sent to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un from President Donald Trump canceling their planned summit in Singapore

-pressure campaign on North Korea must continue.”

This spring, scoring a diplomatic win with Pyongyang had become Trump's top focus.

■ In the Korean statement that Trump cited, the North referred to VP Mike Pence as a 'political dummy'

That had been a far cry from his bellicose rhetoric, issued both on Twitter and from the rostrum of the United Nations last fall. Trump threw off ominous taunts of raining “fire and fury” on the North while belittling its leader as “Little Rocket Man, alarming many global capitals and much of Washington's national security establishment and increasing worries about nuclear war. But Trump believed his outside-the-box behavior would bring Kim to the negotiating table.

Drawn to big moments and bigger headlines, Trump has viewed the North Korea summit as a legacy-maker for him, believing that the combustible combination of his bombast and charm already had led to warmer relations between North and South.

He immediately agreed to the proposed meeting, conveyed by South Korean officials, accepting it before consulting with many of his top national security advisers. And earlier this month, when welcoming home three Americans who had been detained in North Korea, Trump used a televised, middle-of-the-night ceremony to play up both his statecraft and stagecraft.

Some observers raised concerns that Trump was risking legitimizing Kim's government by agreeing to meet him on the world stage without evidence of denuclearization or other concessions. But Trump had bet big on the summit, telling one confidant that he believed a deal with North Korea, rather than in the Middle East, could be his historic victory. **AP**

BACK TO SQUARE ONE

Trump cancels summit, citing 'open hostility' by North Korea

Catherine Lucey & Zeke Miller
Washington

IN a dramatic diplomatic turn, President Donald Trump canceled next month's summit with North Korea's Kim Jong Un yesterday, citing the “tremendous anger and open hostility” in a recent statement by the North.

Trump said in a letter to Kim released by the White House that, based on the statement, he felt it was “inappropriate, at this time, to have this long-planned meeting.” Adding his own threat, he said that while the North Koreans talk about their nuclear capabilities, “ours are so massive and powerful that I pray to God they will never have to be used.”

In the Korean statement that

Trump cited, the North referred to Vice President Mike Pence as a “political dummy” for his comments on the North and said it was just as ready to meet in a nuclear confrontation as at the negotiating table.

Trump said his letter: “If you change your mind having to do with this most important summit, please do not hesitate to call me or write.”

He said the world was losing a “great opportunity for lasting peace and great prosperity and wealth” now that their June 12 summit has been canceled. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo read the letter during a hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The president had agreed to the

historic sit-down in March after months of trading insults and nuclear threats with the North Korean leader. But after criticism from North Korea, Trump cast doubt this week on whether the meeting would happen.

A White House official said it was incorrect to focus on the “dummy comments” about Pence. The official said the North Koreans had threatened nuclear war in their statement released Wednesday night and no summit could be successful under these circumstances.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations.

White House officials have privately predicted for weeks that the summit could be canceled

once or twice before actually taking place, owing to the hard-nosed style of the two leaders. Trump has seemed to welcome chatter of a Nobel Peace Prize, but that has yielded in recent weeks to the sobering prospect of ensuring a successful outcome with the Kim.

Trump's allies in Congress applauded the president, saying he was justified in pulling out of the meeting.

“North Korea has a long history of demanding concessions merely to negotiate. While past administrations of both parties have fallen for this ruse, I commend the president for seeing through Kim Jong Un's fraud,” said Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., who said the nation's “maximum

THAILAND

Court extends detention of pro-democracy activists

A court in Thailand extended the detention yesterday of 15 pro-democracy activists arrested earlier this week after several thousand police were deployed to halt their small protest against military rule.

Krisadang Nutjaras, a

lawyer for the student activists, told reporters the court agreed to a police request for a further 12 days' detention without considering counterarguments.

They were arrested Tuesday at a protest marking the anniversary of a 2014 military coup and calling

for elections this year.

“We never got a chance to present our reasoning to show the court that the kids are people who love democracy,” said Krisadang. “If in our country people use their rights to ask for democracy and get arrested and deemed traitors that cause havoc, there is not much hope left.”

He said nearly all the activists will now try to apply for bail. It's unclear how long that process would take and whether bail would be granted.

Police have charged each activist with several offenses including violating a ban on political assembly and obstructing officials. Documents that police submitted to the court argued that bail should be denied because of the seriousness of the offenses. They also said they needed more time to complete

their investigations. Krisadang said police had already fully investigated and accused them of filing “excessive charges” against the protesters.

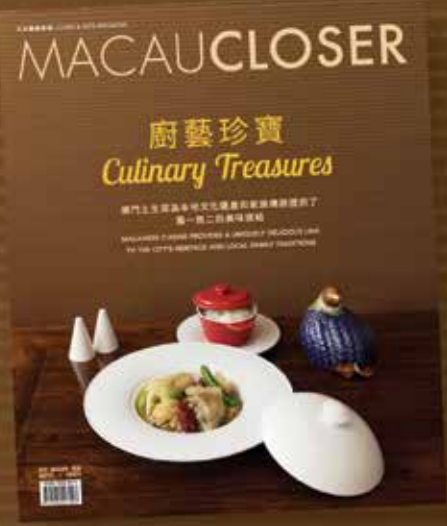
“They are not afraid of jail. If they were, they would not have marched,” he said. **AP**

MACAUCLOSER

生活藝術雜誌 LIVING & ARTS MAGAZINE


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CONGO

Ebola cases have reached 30, warns against rumors

Saleh Mwanamilongo, Kinshasa

CONGO'S Ministry of Health said yesterday the number of confirmed Ebola cases has reached 30, including eight deaths in the three affected health zones in the country's Equateur province.

The ministry gave the toll after surveillance teams in the capital, Kinshasa, were deployed along the Congo River to monitor people coming in there.

Health brigades have also been set up at various entry points to Kinshasa and other cities as part of prevention, said the World Health Organization's Congo representative Allarang Yakouide.

"We want to ensure that ports and airports are effectively protected," he said.

A wave of panic hit Kinshasa on Wednesday, after rumors of an Ebola case admitted to the Kinshasa General Hospital. But Yakouide quickly denied it, saying that no cases are confirmed in the capital. He warned against spreading false reports which "could create panic and undermine the effectiveness of the response to the Ebola outbreak."

As yesterday, Congo's health ministry reports a total of 58 cases of hemorrhagic fever: 30 confirmed Ebola cases, 14 probable and 14 suspected. It said

AP PHOTO



Schoolchildren wash their hands to help contain the Ebola outbreak before entering a classroom in the north-western city of Mbandaka

that it was unable to confirm if a death in Bikoro was Ebola after the local residents refused to allow officials to take blood samples.

Border health officers monitored passengers arriving at Ngobila Beach in Kinshasa, which serves as the crossing from Brazzaville, Republic of Congo into Congo. Health workers began registering passengers arriving, and took their temperatures.

"We ask all those who work in different services here at the beach, even state agents all

must be behind the Health Department [...] if it [Ebola] reaches your neighbor, it can also reach you," said Alphose Buka, a state official working at the beach.

Health workers detained a woman who did not have a vaccination card.

Antho Buka, who sells meat and fish at the Wahi market at a port in Kinshasa said she was surprised residents in Kinshasa are worried about Ebola, since it is in the northwest Equateur Province.

"Our relatives in Mbandaka have informed us that Ebola is in Bikoro, but here in Kinshasa, we do not have recorded cases, not even."

Georgette Boluka also said that with all the teams going into Bikoro and the Equateur Province to fight Ebola, she hopes it will not spread.

"From radios and televisions, we know that the so-called Ebola is out in a village, in Bikoro [...] that is the epicenter and we know that doctors have been sent there," she said, adding that

she is reassured that victims will be properly quarantined.

However, two infected patients who fled from an Ebola treatment center in Mbandaka, a Congo city of 1.2 million people, later died, Medecins Sans Frontieres said Wednesday.

Emergency coordinator for MSF, Henry Gray, said that "forced hospitalization is not the solution to this epidemic," and more community engagement is needed to prevent the spread of the deadly virus.

This is Congo's ninth Ebola outbreak since 1976, when the disease was first identified. The virus is initially transmitted to people from wild animals, including bats and monkeys. It is spread via contact with the bodily fluids of those infected, including the dead.

Dr. Peter Salama, WHO emergency chief warned that "The next few weeks will really tell if this outbreak is going to expand to urban areas or if we're going to be able to keep it under control."

Experts are following three separate chains of transmission, he said. One is associated with a funeral that took place near Bikoro, another with a health care facility in Iboko and experts are gathering data related to a church ceremony, he said.

WHO said it is also accelerating efforts with nine countries neighboring Congo to try to prevent the Ebola outbreak from spreading to them.

WHO began vaccinations this week and is using a "ring vaccination" approach, targeting the contacts of people infected or suspected of infection and then the contacts of those people. More than 600 contacts have been identified, WHO said. **AP**

VENEZUELA

Maduro swift to act days after election victory

NICOLAS Maduro hasn't wasted time consolidating power in the aftermath of his disputed victory in Venezuela's presidential election. He has thrown out U.S. diplomats, arrested alleged military conspirators and cracked down on the nation's last remaining critical major newspaper.

The socialist leader won a second six-year term as president of this crisis-racked country Sunday despite widespread anger over shortages of food and medicine that have driven hundreds of thousands to leave Venezuela seeking a better life.

His leading challenger and many in the international community accused Maduro of orchestrating a "sham" election through tactics such as banning

AP PHOTO



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro

leading opposition candidates and buying votes by enticing the poor with the promise of a prize.

Maduro quickly struck back at his biggest critic, taking aim at the U.S. Embassy.

In a speech accepting the election results, Maduro announced that he was ordering the top U.S. diplomat, charge d'affaires Todd

Robinson, and his deputy, Brian Naranjo, to get out of Venezuela within 48 hours. Maduro accused them of bolstering the most powerful opposition politicians, who boycotted the election in protest.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said yesterday [Macau time] that the U.S. will respond reciprocally to the diplomats' expulsion.

Vice President Mike Pence and President Donald Trump echoed the sentiment.

"This provocation will be met with a swift response," Pence said in a tweet repeated by Trump. "We will continue to pressure Venezuela's illegitimate regime until democracy is restored."

The State Department announced later on that the charge d'affaires in the Venezuelan Embassy in Washington and the deputy consul general at Venezuela's consulate in Houston had been ordered to leave the U.S. within 48 hours.

Venezuela's election officials say Maduro beat his nearest challenger, Henri Falcon, by roughly 46 points.

Human rights activists

in Venezuela, meanwhile, said Maduro's government arrested at least 11 military officers as suspects in an alleged plot to overthrow the government.

There has been no sign of wavering support from the leadership of Venezuela's military, which long has been the arbiter of Venezuela's political disputes. On election day, top commanders went on state television to heap praise on what they described as a flawless vote across the nation.

Activists Alfredo Romero, executive director of the lawyers co-op Foro Penal, said on Twitter that military courts approved the arrests as voters went to the polls.

Authorities have not reported or commented on the arrests. So far this year,

human rights activists estimate more than 120 soldiers have been arrested.

In a broad backlash following the election, a coalition of 14 countries throughout the Americas, including Brazil, Mexico and Colombia, pledged to scale back diplomatic relations with Venezuela. Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy decried the vote as failing to respect "minimal democratic standards."

The Inter-American Development Bank announced it was suspending further loans to Venezuela for failing to make good on USD88 million in debt payments. That deprives the cash-strapped country of a potentially important financing source. Venezuela's debt with the bank totals \$2 billion, bank officials said. **AP**

INVESTIGATORS

Russian military missile downed Flight MH17 over Ukraine

Mike Corder, Bunnik

AN international team of investigators said yesterday that detailed analysis of video images and photos has unequivocally established that the Buk missile that brought down Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 over eastern Ukraine nearly four years ago came from a Russia-based military unit, the clearest link yet published by the team to the involvement of Russian military in the deadly missile strike.

Prosecutors said they have presented their findings to Moscow and are seeking answers, but so far have not received a response. The international team running the criminal investigation appealed for help from witnesses who can testify about the involvement of the Russian military's 53rd anti-aircraft missile brigade based in the city of Kursk.

Russia has always denied involvement in the downing of the jet.



Wilbert Paulissen (right) of the Joint Investigation Team speaks on the preliminary results of the investigation into the shooting-down of Malaysia Airlines jetliner flight MH17, in 2016

Dutch prosecutor Fred Westerbeke said the Joint Investigation Team, or JIT, is not yet ready to name suspects, but added: "I can say that we are now entering the [...] last phase of the investigation. When we

will be ready, it's not possible to say at the moment because there is still a lot of work to do."

The Boeing 777 passenger jet was headed from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, when it was blown out of the sky over

eastern Ukraine on July 17, 2014. All 298 passengers and crew were killed.

Prosecutors said in 2016 that the plane was shot down by a Buk missile fired from territory controlled by Russia-backed re-

bels, using a mobile launcher trucked in from Russia and hastily returned there. yesterday's presentation went a step further by identifying the exact unit allegedly involved and more details of the rocket involved.

Investigators now say that their careful analysis of video and photos from social media and analysis of parts of the rocket found at the crash scene traced its journey into Ukraine and had given them a "fingerprint" identifying the rocket and where it came from.

"All findings from this forensic investigation confirm the earlier conclusion of the JIT that Flight MH 17 was shot down by 9M38 series missile," said Jennifer Hurst of the Australian Federal Police.

Ultimately, any suspects identified and charged will be prosecuted in Dutch courts — if they can be arrested and brought to trial.

Of the 298 people killed, 196 were Dutch, 42 Malaysian and 27 were Australians. Among more than 30 nationalities killed was a joint Dutch American citizen.

Dutch Foreign Minister Stef Blok welcomed the newly released findings.

"This is an important piece of the puzzle," Blok said. "I am very impressed by the evidence that has been collected." AP

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FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:50	Miscellaneous
18:25	Miscellaneous
18:55	Brazilian Soap Opera (Repeated)
19:45	Non-daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:50	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	Portuguese Mini Serie
22:10	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
01:25	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
02:15	RTPi Live

SATURDAY

10:30	Comedy
11:35	Miscellaneous
12:30	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast (PT)
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:55	Miscellaneous
17:50	Miscellaneous
18:35	Miscellaneous
18:35	Miscellaneous
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (PT)
21:00	Grimm Sr. 3
22:30	Miscellaneous
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:35	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:10	RTPi Live

SUNDAY

10:25	Kids Serie
11:00	Sunday Mass (Live)
12:00	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:55	Brainstorm
17:40	Got Talent Portugal
19:20	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-daily Portuguese News
22:00	Documentary
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Highlights
23:55	Miscellaneous
00:35	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:10	RTPi Live

Offbeat

TRUCK DUMPS 40,000 POUNDS OF CHICKEN FEATHERS ON HIGHWAY



A tractor-trailer made a fowl mess when it rolled over in Washington state. It dumped about 18,145 kilograms of chicken feathers across Interstate 5.

Washington State Patrol Trooper Rick Johnson says the driver told investigators he fell asleep at about 3:30 a.m. Wednesday (yesterday, Macau time) north of Tacoma and lost control of the truck, which hit a guardrail and overturned.

The truck was hauling the feathers from a poultry facility to a rendering company in Vancouver, British Columbia.

The Canadian company recycles animal by products into ingredients for items including pet feed and soap.

The News Tribune newspaper of Tacoma reports traffic backed up for 18 kilometers as crews scooped up the feathers.

Johnson said the driver would be cited for negligent driving.

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

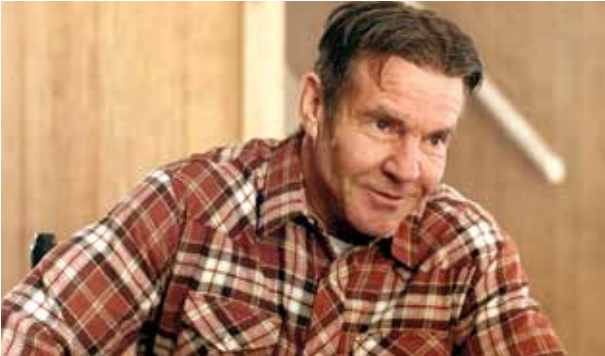
THE CRIMES THAT BIND

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



1967 CELTIC WIN EUROPEAN CUP

Celtic has become the first British team to win the European Cup, beating favourites Internazionale Milan 2-1.

An estimated crowd of 70,000 crammed into the Portuguese National Stadium in Lisbon to witness the Glasgow side lift the greatest prize in club football.

Milan have been champions of Europe three times in the past four years and this was only their second defeat in continental competition in that time.

As the final whistle blew, euphoric Celtic fans poured onto the pitch to celebrate their team's victory, many whooping with joy and waving banners.

The manager, Jock Stein, said: "There is not a prouder man on God's Earth than me at this moment. Winning was important, but it was the way that we won that has filled me with satisfaction.

"We did it by playing football; pure, beautiful, inventive football. There was not a negative thought in our heads."

According to the Celtic players, Stein told his players to "go out and enjoy themselves" at the start of the match.

But it could all have turned out very differently. Within minutes of kick-off defender Jim Craig felled Renato Cappellini and Alessandro Mazolla netted the resulting penalty.

Milan held onto their early lead until half-time. But shortly after the break Celtic full-back Tommy Gemmel scored the equaliser.

The goal gave Celtic the inspiration the players needed. They continued to attack the Italian goal until Gemmel again stormed up the left wing, passed back to Bobby Murdoch who sent a powerful shot towards the goal which was deflected into the net by Stevie Chalmers to give the Glasgow side a 2-1 lead.

The celebrations began immediately and although the Portuguese police feared the crowd would get out of control, there was no hooliganism.

But the chaos inside the stadium meant that the Celtic players could not be presented with the trophy on the pitch.

Instead club captain Billy McNeill had to be ushered round the outside of the stadium under armed escort. He then climbed the stairs to the presentation podium where he finally held the trophy aloft to enormous cheers from the crowd.

Jubilant fans danced in the streets of Glasgow after hearing of their club's 2-1 win.

The team is expected to fly into Abbotsinch Airport in Glasgow tomorrow night, from where they will drive to Celtic Park for a heroes' welcome from fans.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Celtic victory is regarded as the greatest in the Scottish club's history.

The 11 players became known as the Lisbon Lions - the first non-Latin side to win the European championships.

The team players were all born within a 30-mile radius of Glasgow. They flew into Glasgow the following day and were transported by coach to Celtic Park where an estimated 50,000 people had packed into the grandstand and terraces to greet their heroes.

Jock Stein was credited with creating the winning side. He had joined as manager in March 1965 and within weeks Celtic had won the Scottish Cup for the first time in 11 years - they had previously been beaten in four finals.

He led the team to many more triumphs - including a second European cup final four years later, but the team lost to Dutch side Feyenoord Rotterdam.

YOUR STARS

Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Buckle your seatbelt and put your tray table in the upright and locked position, because whatever you had penciled into your planner will be entirely different from what actually happens.

Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

The good news is that you're operating with a nice, solid safety net, and being allowed to dream at the same time is great fun. What's the problem? Get busy making those dreams reality.

Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

The heavens are primed for new beginnings, and you've been champing at the bit for one, anyway. Well, here's your chance. If a financial arrangement is in the cards.

Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

There's romance in the air - that's a definite. Whether it's the kind that you can talk about or not is an entirely different story. If either of you isn't quite available at the moment, keep totally quiet.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

It's time for a fresh start, and you're feeling the urge. You've probably been in this frame of mind for some time, and knowing you, you may want to make it a very extensive (and secret) fresh start.

Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

If you're in the mood to shop around for a new job (and when aren't you?) get out there with your resume and have a look around. Chances are great that you'll find exactly what you want - and more.

Taurus

April 20-May 20

That issue that's been making you crazy for weeks, if not months. You're so done that even when a certain someone who's ordinarily quite good at getting you to open up starts poking at you, it just won't work.

Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

It's probably been a long time coming, at least, in the eyes and in the heart of the person who's been waiting for the verdict, but you're ready to announce a decision. Do it immediately, too.

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

When you're invited out, do yourself a favor: Forget all about washing your hair, doing your grocery shopping or any other shallow excuse you had lined up to avoid this. Get dressed and go!

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

When you say you're going to do something, you do it unflinchingly. You couldn't live with yourself if you didn't. You've noticed, however, that others don't always put as much pride into that sort of thing.

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Expect to raise some eyebrows at work now, and a few more tonight, too. You're in a very rare mood - so rare that your coworkers and friends are willing to bet they've never seen you like this.

Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

Been thinking about redecorating? Redecorating yourself, that is? Sure you are. You've been thinking about it for days, and maybe even longer, in fact. If you're ready to take the first step, physically.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
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CHINA

Beijing	17	31	cloudy
Harbin	9	24	clear
Tianjin	20	32	cloudy
Urumqi	5	19	cloudy/clear
Xi'an	17	30	drizzle/cloudy
Lhasa	10	25	cloudy
Chengdu	18	29	overcast/clear
Chongqing	19	26	drizzle
Kunming	16	27	cloudy
Nanjing	20	27	moderate rain/rainstorm
Shanghai	21	27	drizzle/heavy rain
Wuhan	23	31	cloudy/moderate rain
Hangzhou	21	33	cloudy/overcast
Taipei	25	33	clear
Guangzhou	27	35	cloudy
Hong Kong	28	33	cloudy

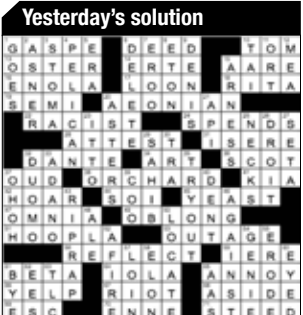
WORLD

Moscow	9	19	clear
Frankfurt	15	23	moderate rain/drizzle
Paris	13	26	drizzle/overcast
London	9	19	drizzle
New York	19	30	clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- ____ La Douce; 5- Student stat; 8- Flabbergasts; 12- Castle water pits; 14- Place for a coin; 15- Waist band; 16- Start of a Shakespeare title; 17- Caucus state; 18- Skilled; 19- Portable power saw; 21- Burrowing lagomorph; 23- Sleep stage; 24- Pitch; 25- Absolutely; 26- Ice cream topped with syrup; 30- Sprite; 32- Skeptical; 33- Latticework; 37- Caesar's wings; 38- Now, in Nogales; 39- Large cat; 40- Pitiless; 42- Four-door; 43- Cutting instrument; 44- Closing number; 45- ____ carte; 48- Hockey goal part; 49- Filled pastry crust; 50- Sight; 52- Festival; 57- French friends; 58- Broadcasts; 60- BoÃ@te ____; 61- Actress Patricia; 62- Hardware fastener; 63- Exhausted; 64- Actress Daly; 65- Break off; 66- Small batteries;

DOWN: 1- Apple computer; 2- ____ Hashanah; 3- Poet Angelou; 4- Yours, in Tours; 5- Incandescence; 6- Captive soldier; 7- Tranquillity; 8- Simple rhyme scheme; 9- Resembling a web; 10- "Dallas" matriarch; 11- Cancels a dele; 13- Sunbeam; 14- Thailand, once; 20- Spot; 22- Seed covering; 24- Layers; 26- Shut with force; 27- River to the Ubangi; 28- Become closer to; 29- Garbage; 30- Plain writing; 31- Actress Burstyn; 33- Thievery; 34- Verdi heroine; 35- Score; 36- Feminine suffix; 38- Make hostile; 41- ____ uncertain terms; 42- Yellowish brown pigment; 44- Evergreen tree; 45- ____-garde; 46- British sailor; 47- Continental identity of a Chinese person; 49- Gone by; 51- Wight, for one; 52- Gunk; 53- Kansas city; 54- TV handyman Bob; 55- Met solo; 56- Eye piece; 59- Tavern;



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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	
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Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333	
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Modern Interior
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Macau
Third Floor Warehouse
Outdoor Garden
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Ref: 18050678

Violet Court, Hellene Gardens
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Zidane's dressing room management key to Madrid's success

Tales Azzoni, Madrid

Sunday, 2:45am
Real Madrid v Liverpool
H 2.3, D 3.9, A 3.2

DESPITE his successes as coach of Real Madrid, Zinedine Zidane doesn't see himself as a great tactician.

Instead, he prides himself on being a manager of egos.

Zidane, who will be trying to win his third straight Champions League title as Madrid coach tomorrow [Sunday, 2:45am] against Liverpool, said he does his best work in the dressing room, more a shrink than a coach.

"I spent 17 or 18 years as a player and worked with many coaches and some gifted players who had big egos," the former France great said. "I know the



dressing room and I know very well how players think. That is important to me.

"I'm not the best coach, I'm not the best tactically," he said. "But I have something else. I have desire and passion, and that means a lot more."

It's no small feat by Zidane to

successfully manage a squad filled with high-profile players such as Cristiano Ronaldo, Sergio Ramos, Marcelo, Gareth Bale and Karim Benzema.

Despite many strong characters, there hasn't been any major bickering or public showing of discontentment even when Zi-

dane had to leave stars such as Benzema or Bale out of the starting lineup.

In his first major head-coaching job, Zidane said he knows a united dressing room alone is not going to translate into victories unless there's also a lot of other work done, but he sees it as a crucial part of a winning team.

"Some can say that it's not a big deal if the dressing room is not working well, but it is, I'm telling you," the 45-year-old Zidane said. "You may win here and there, but to win consistently, the dressing room has to be [united]."

After two-and-a-half years at the helm of Madrid, Zidane said his team's dressing room is exactly how he wants it to be.

"It's very good, it's united. That's crucial," he said. "Talent alone is not enough. You can say anything you want, but if you

don't work, you are not going to win. And this dressing room has talent and work. With these two things together, you can achieve a lot."

Ramos, Madrid's captain, was on the same page.

"We've had different teams in the past, with a lot of stars, and maybe there used to be a divided dressing room," Ramos said. "But now we have great team spirit. There are no egos, no individual protagonists. When the team wins, we all win individually."

Zidane showed his good management when rotating starters and bringing in youngsters who usually don't get a lot of playing time. He also succeeded in keeping Ronaldo in top form by convincing the Portugal forward to save himself for the most important matches of the season. **AP**

THAT pretty much explains the World Cup experience for the Netherlands, a three-time losing finalist.

The first time they made it to the final was in 1974 in West Germany, the team's first involvement in the World Cup since World War II.

Along with the Hungary team of 1954, the Dutch side that year is widely perceived to be the best-ever not to win the World Cup. The team, which was packed with players from the great Feyenoord and Ajax sides that dominated the European Cup in the early 1970s, pioneered "Total Football," a strategy that

ON THE ROAD TO WORLD CUP

Cruyff-inspired Netherlands falls short in 1974

effectively did away with positions — players were interchangeable on the field at all times.

The team was spearheaded by Johan Cruyff, who in a group match against Sweden showcased the move he is perhaps best known for — the "Cruyff Turn."

With his back to Sweden defender Jan Olsson, Cruyff dragged the ball with his right foot behind his planted left foot, abruptly turned and darted toward

the ball. Olsson appeared bamboozled, seemingly stuck to the ground while trying to understand what had just happened.

Cruyff scored three goals during the tournament, including a superb volley against Brazil that confirmed the team would make the final. And even though the Dutch would play host West Germany, the team in orange was widely expected to prevail. That was especially so after Johan Neeskens put the Nether-

lands ahead with a second-minute penalty, the first in World Cup final history.

Instead of pressing for more, the Dutch toyed with West Germany. Many observers thought the Dutch were looking to humiliate their opponents for a variety of historical reasons. Nazi Germany occupied the Netherlands for much of World War II, breeding resentment that endured for decades.

Another penalty got West Germany level, however.



Johann Cruyff scores his team's second goal against Brazil in the 1974's semis

And with two minutes left in the first half, striker Gerd Mueller put his team ahead, a lead it wouldn't relinquish.

The Dutch are still waiting to lift soccer's most co-

veted trophy, losing again in the finals of 1978 and 2010.

It won't be this year. The country's national team failed to qualify for the tournament in Russia.

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THE EXPAT AWARDS

It is the season for relatively new business awards. This month the names of winners in the inaugural G2E Asia Awards were published, and in its 4th year the Macau European Chamber of Commerce Awards for Euroexcellence for local enterprises was held. The Business Awards of Macau, in its 6th year, will be awarded in a few months.

Whether to local, foreign, pseudo-local, to individuals or to companies, awards are an opportunity to celebrate achievements and showcase the best of the best, excellence and standards to which others can aspire. In this way they offer a benchmark of sorts.

It is both informative and inspirational to take a look at the winners, what they have done and the path they have taken to reach such levels of recognition. Indeed, quite a few of the small group of awardees are recognised by more than one awarding body: a function of the size of Macau, its insular networks inclusive of judges and the judged, or indeed, just because those particular award-winners shine brighter than anyone else. Likely the truth lies somewhere between all these, as the common theme in each of these awards is that of the outsider, be it on the panel or among the nominees – with a smattering of local faces and organisations: the sample of nominations is not a broad one.

This month, I was introduced to The Finder's Expat-preneur Awards 2018 in Singapore. These awards were put together for the first time last year by The Finder, a magazine started by two expatriates to help other expatriates find businesses, schools, services and information about how to live well in Singapore. In 1993, before the age of the internet, the magazine started out with the idea to answer all those questions about trust-worthy services and ways to navigate the wonders of a new and foreign home that expatriate social groups typically help individuals with. Given the longevity of the magazine, it is a solid enterprise that has met and continues to meet needs of the community.

The Finder's Awards for Expat-preneurs (a term coined by expatriate academic and award judge, Yvonne McNulty, in 2015) celebrate 23 expatriate business owners who help people "live well in Singapore". Just that one sentence encapsulates clearly and simply who are included (foreign-born entrepreneurs running successful, expat-owned businesses in or from Singapore), the overall criteria and aims. That transparency, together with system of assessment by a highly expert panel of 3 completely independent judges suggests this is a well-considered, rigorous process grounded in a philosophy of community contribution and celebration.

Macau has many expatriates and non-resident workers active in our midst who are not only busy in businesses but, by necessity in many cases, limit their activity to volunteer work and cultural endeavours. In academic articles a few years ago I described some expatriates who had contributed to Macau under the radar, and that legal constraints upon many of them limit their work. Indeed, most notable in the Singaporean The Finder Awards was the large percentage of women represented. Many of these expat-preneurs had arrived to Singapore as trailing spouses who then saw opportunities and were encouraged to grasp them. As one judge of the Singapore awards said when I queried her on the gender bias, "women tend to be the trailing spouse and therefore the ones that engage in expat-preneur opportunities".

The difference in environments in terms of fostering expat-preneurs is that Singapore is very good at assisting start-ups, including foreigners. Our Macau non-resident trailing spouses, for example, are unable to contribute to the same degree and we, the whole community, potentially miss out on so much.

Would it not be fabulous to be able harness those same skills and energy in our own little community? Imagine being able to nominate for Macau's expat-preneur awards and celebrate diversity beyond gaming and across different types of enterprises.

THE CANADA BLOCKS AECON TAKEOVER BY CHINESE STATE-OWNED FIRM

The Canadian government has blocked the proposed takeover of the Aecon Group Inc. construction company by a Chinese state-owned enterprise, citing reasons of national security.

Economic Development Minister Navdeep Bains' office confirmed the decision to prevent CCCC International Holding Ltd. from acquiring Aecon for more than USD1 billion.

Ottawa had announced a full national security review of the Aecon deal in February. Bains' office

said then that the government believed there is "a potential of injury to national security."

Aecon has a long history of participation in Canadian construction and engineering projects such as the CN Tower, Vancouver's SkyTrain, the St. Lawrence Seaway and the Halifax shipyard.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government was warned by experts to proceed cautiously when weighing any investment bids by Chinese state firms.

ON THE MONEY

Credit cards to perfect targeting programs

AP PHOTO



Ken Sweet, New York

CREDIT card companies are taking the next step in using their points programs to influence what millions of customers buy, going as far as influencing what color blender you might purchase.

American Express is piloting a program that will allow merchants to reward customers for purchasing specific items at their stores, starting with online merchant Boxed.

AmEx is starting small: giving bonus rewards points to Boxed customers who buy Dove soap, Planters nuts, Cheerios cereal and a handful of other items. But AmEx expects to open the program to nearly all their merchants in the coming months.

Customers will benefit by expanding the number of ways they can earn points. The program also helps Amex, by giving merchants another reason to keep accepting American Express cards, which tend to be the most expensive for merchants to process.

Credit card companies have long been able to reward spending at particular types of merchants, using what are known as merchant codes. That's how credit cards are able to give extra points or cash

back on gasoline, travel, hotels and other broad categories.

But targeting individual items on a store's shelf was a tough barrier to break. Merchants' inventory systems are different from company to company. AmEx says they were able to solve the problem using blockchain technology developed by Hyperledger. It enables AmEx and merchants to generate product-targeted offers while allowing merchants to keep their own inventory management systems.

Beyond promoting specific items, the change will also let American Express and its merchant customers target promotions to very specific customers. Merchants could use the program as an inventory management system, creating promotions for certain items they need to sell or want to clear off their shelves – like an odd colored blender, for instance.

"They can create programs based on a time of day, day of the week, by incentivizing a customer to download their app. The number of ways merchants can reward customers with Membership Reward points will be exponentially increased," said Chris Cracchiolo, who heads up the Membership Rewards program for AmEx.

The new program differs from another that American Express has run for several years known as Amex Offers. That program offers coupons or additional reward points to customers who spend money at a particular merchant. While American Express customers are targeted for a particular offer based on their spending behavior, AmEx Offers were never able to target specific products.

Credit card companies also want to influence how customers spend their points. HSBC started a pilot program earlier this year that sent marketing emails to 75,000 customers using algorithms developed by St. Louis-based company Maritz. A portion of customers received an artificial intelligence-recommended category of credit card reward – travel, merchandise, gift cards or cash back – while the rest received standard marketing emails. Roughly 70 percent of the targeted customers who ended up redeeming their points chose the recommendation generated by the computer.

While AmEx will largely leave it up to merchants to decide what products to promote, certain categories like tobacco, liquor and firearms will be banned. AP

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	20-40 Good	
High Density Residential Area	30-50 Good	
Ambient	20-40 Good	

SOURCE: D5M6

WORLD BRIEFS

THAILAND A court granted bail yesterday to 15 pro-democracy activists who were arrested earlier this week during a protest against military rule at which several thousand police were deployed. More on p12

PAKISTAN's lower house of parliament, with rare support from the opposition, has passed a bill to give equal rights to 5 million people living in the country's tribal areas.



AP PHOTO

YEMEN Cyclone Mekunu pounded the Yemeni island of Socotra in the Arabian Sea yesterday morning, lashing it with heavy rain and strong winds as the powerful storm remained on a path to strike Oman this weekend. At least 17 people were reported missing.

CONGO's fight to rein in a deadly Ebola outbreak has authorities crossing the border to buy up available thermometers, a World Health Organization official said, as the health ministry yesterday announced that confirmed cases had reached 30, including eight deaths.

GERMANY Police say a World War II bomb that partially exploded while it was being defused in the eastern city of Dresden has been successfully deactivated.



AP PHOTO

BRITAIN-ARGENTINA British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said that relations with Argentina will continue to grow despite the nations' dispute over the Falkland Islands.

BRAZIL Human Rights Watch says thousands of physically and mentally disabled children and adults in Brazil are "needlessly confined" to institutions where they suffer neglect and abuse.