



MIXED OPINIONS ON SOU'S SENTENCE
Several lawmakers and experts expressed mixed views on the "paper planes" case and its outcome

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STUDY CO-ORDINATOR LIN GUANGZHI ALERTS

Gap between casino revenues, donations

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WORLD BRIEFS



NORTH KOREA The head of the United Nations' nuclear watchdog says the agency could resume work in North Korea "within weeks" to verify any possible agreement between Washington and Pyongyang. More on p11

PHILIPPINES The country's defense secretary said that authorities will standardize teaching in both public and private Islamic schools in the wake of a militant siege last year that raised fears of greater radicalization in the country.



JORDAN's King Abdullah II yesterday accepted the resignation of his embattled prime minister and named a leading reformer in his place, hoping to quell the largest anti-government protests in recent years that are also seen as a potential challenge to his two-decade-old rule.

More on backpage



Attendance at June 4 vigil higher than last year in Macau, HK

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Mixed opinions on Sou's sentence, analysts criticize further probes



Lawyer Jorge Menezes (left), Sulu Sou and Scott Chiang

In the aftermath of last week's sentence imposing a 120-day fine sentence on Sulu Sou and Scott Chiang, several lawmakers and experts interviewed by the Times and other media outlets expressed mixed views on the case and its outcome.

According to lawmaker Wu Chou Kit, the decision shows there is a separation of powers. "As a member of the Legislative Assembly [AL], we should always keep [the powers] apart and [trust] in the court's independence," he said. "I think that the court decision was based on the actual situation and done according to the law and I respect such [a] decision. I do not have any [other] opinion about that; ultimately, the court's ruling [has proved] to be independent, fair, and right," Wu noted.

Questioned on the possibility of the return of lawmaker Sou to the hemicycle soon, Wu said "I believe that we all represent different voices at the AL and this is a good thing," adding, "I will welcome him back to the AL as soon as all the legal issues have been [re]solved."

Less optimistic is Jorge Morbey, a Portuguese commentator and historian who told TDM Radio, "Sulu Sou will not return to the [Legislative] Assembly."

"Sulu Sou is not going back to the [Legislative] Assembly. Whoever [pulls] 'these strings' will not allow that," Morbey

said, adding, "he got away with it now but there are more cases under investigation and then he will be a persistent offender."

This fact leads Morbey to think that Sou will not be given any chance to return to the AL to fulfill what remains of his mandate as a lawmaker.

In Morbey's opinion, it is also likely that the Public Prosecution (MP) will appeal the sentence in the Court of First Instance (TJB), which handed a penalty of 120 days to both Sou and Scott Chiang.

Morbey said, "I'm sure [that MP will appeal]," he said, adding, "because that's its political mission."

The commentator expressed his disappointment, saying, "the bar has been set so low now that it's even a joy [for some people] when they [are] fined," concluding, "it should be a joy if they were considered not guilty."

José Pereira Coutinho, also interviewed by TDM Radio, says that the "sentence of fine was somehow a way of justice,"

noting that there was a lot of "pressure" for a heavier penalty.

"I'm very happy that the court had the courage to make this decision, and although the

Public Prosecution called for prison sentence," he said, "the court handed a hefty fine due the pressure that came from all directions. The MP was very politicized," he continued, showing some caution regarding the possibility of an appeal from the MP.

Arnaldo Gonçalves, a legal expert and a political science teacher, thinks the fine was "an ill-considered act, [...] a typical reaction of the youth, and we all as youngsters have committed acts of this nature," he told Ponto Final. In Gonçalves' opinion, "it's a pity" if the Public Prosecution appeals the sentence, as the trial "was already over-politicized."

Speaking to TDM, pro-democrat lawmaker Ng Kuok Cheong said, "it is one of the intentions of this strategy to address these social movements in a severe way. This is the government's strategy and also [is] corroborated by the Public Prosecution," adding, "this will attack the social movements and the social actions from civil society."

In Ng's opinion, the actions from the local government also find support and justification in the "cooperation with the authorities of the Central government." **RM/JZ**

COUTINHO SAYS 'EVERYBODY IS AFRAID'

LAWMAKER PEREIRA

Coutinho criticized the fact that some of the witnesses during the trial of activists Sulu Sou and Scott Chiang may be prosecuted. "It is a witch-hunt. [...] If things are

done like this, nobody wants to be a witness. Everybody is afraid. And justice is not served," he said, when interviewed on the sidelines of a Legislative Assembly plenary meeting.

Law is 'unclear' regarding whether Sou can resume post

QUESTIONED by the Times as to whether suspended lawmaker Sulu Sou can immediately return to his position as lawmaker after the sentence given by the Court of First Instance (TJB) becomes final, legal expert and academic António Katchi says that is a very complex question and one difficult to answer clearly.

"As a matter of fact, the law doesn't provide any clear-cut answers to that question, so no wonder there are different opinions," Katchi said, adding, "The law provides [...] an automatic cessation of the suspension in case the defendant is acquitted, but says nothing about a conviction other than imprisonment. Nor does it require a deliberation by the Legislative Assembly. Hence, different hypotheses could be raised." The same legal expert remarked there will be three things that can happen: "[An] automatic reinstatement once the sentence becomes final; automatic reinstatement

once the fine is paid (because only at that moment is imprisonment really ruled out); [or] reinstatement only upon decision by the Legislative Assembly," he said.

The two first options are more or less consensual and have a simpler resolution, but the third one might involve a more complex situation. "The third [scenario] would give the other lawmakers the power to block or to delay indefinitely the suspended legislator's reinstatement, which would be unconstitutional. They could do it simply by doing nothing - a case of unconstitutionality by omission."

Although clearly mentioning that this case begs for more careful and in depth analysis, Katchi "dared" to forecast a possible resolution: "In my view, the suspension actually expires at the very first moment, but even [if] it [didn't], it would certainly expire at the second one, no matter whether the other legislators want it or not." **RM**



António Katchi

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Times

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Casinos should have dedicated donations department, Lin suggests

Julie zhu

A Macau University of Science and Technology research team from the Institute for Social and Cultural Research has concluded that Macau's six gaming operators should improve both the scale and the benefits of their donations.

The University made these comments in a report into the 2011-2017 Macau Gambling Corporate Philanthropy Responsibility Development and the 2011-2017 Macau Gambling Enterprise Charity Donations Ranking.

During an exclusive interview with the Times, the director of the institute, Lin Guangzhi, who is also the team leader of the study group, discussed the study results and voiced some of his own personal opinions concerning donations made by casinos.

The study is only related to 2011 and later because "all six gaming operators only became listed companies after 2011."

The source of the study mainly consisted of these companies' annual financial reports, media reports and material from the casinos' official websites.

"In a company's financial reports, only the amount of donations is reported. The reports did not disclose where the said donations went," Lin explained, adding that the study group was able to find some of the donations' recipients through media reports.

"It is quite interesting that the increase in [casino] revenues is big. What about their donations? Do they also increase?" Lin questioned, adding that "since 2011, the fluctuation varies every year. Sometimes increases faster, others slower. Wynn, for instance, in 2011, increased [its donations] a lot due to a donation of approximately MOP200 million to the University of Macau."

"Wynn is number one regarding total donations [from 2011 to 2017], and has been the first,



Lin Guangzhi

for some years, in terms of annual donations as well. In terms of increase, MGM holds the biggest increase," Lin revealed to the Times.

Since 2014, charity donations and gaming operators' revenue have been fluctuating, in general, at the same pace, "probably because of good business results [across all gaming operators]."

In light of the study group's findings, overall, between 2011 and 2017, charitable donations from the region's six gaming operations totaled HKD1.557 billion, representing an average increase of 6.48 percent, and accounting for 0.085 percent of these companies' total revenue.

"Whether it [the 0.085 percent] is big enough, I leave it to [the public] to contemplate," said Lin, adding that "it is just a simple ranking that only includes the six gaming operators in Macau. They already completed their legal responsibilities. Even if they had donated just one cent, it would still be worth a compliment."

According to Lin, the study excluded other casinos due to difficulties in collecting data.

He also remarked that the six gaming operators do not have similar performance in terms of donations.

Furthermore, all six donated to three of the city's traditio-

nal charitable organizations or funds: Tong Sin Tong, Macao Holy House of Mercy and the Macau Daily News readers' charity fund.

"We listed three traditional donation recipients. However, this does not mean that these three receive more donations," Lin said, hoping to provide clarification in view of the misunderstanding that was caused after their report was published.

It is quite interesting that the increase in [casino] revenues is big. What about their donations? Do they also increase?

"The three have a donation relationship with all gaming operators," said Lin.

When talking about these donations' whereabouts, Lin told the Times that "they can't be surveyed" because of inherent difficulties.

"The casinos' financial reports only address the areas and regions where the donations went to. Moreover, recipients will not come out to disclose how much they have received unless they organize press conferences," said Lin, noting "it is beyond doubt that the main donations are made to Macau local groups."

While summarizing the funding, Lin suggested that casinos increase the scale and transparency of donations, and number of regions targeted. It is also proposed that the SAR government pay attention to casino donations.

"We have to test beneficial results. They have donated so

much money, yet we have not assessed the beneficial results," said Lin, stating that the outcomes of the use of donated money and the casinos' image following donations should be surveyed.

During the aforementioned period, casino donations mainly went to the education, research sectors, social welfare, environmental protection, culture and arts, sports, and disaster relief.

"[Donations] went to schools, local and mainland ones, such as Hope Primary School [under a Chinese public project called Project Hope]. Regarding science research groups, [donations were made to] the Peking University research lab [Peking University School of Life Sciences Building] and to the Asia-Pacific Academy of Economics and Management of UM," said Lin.

In Lin's opinion, casinos should also consider additional donation methods besides simply giving money.

"For instance, regarding shops and properties [that gaming operators developed], the gaming operators could consider [lending] a part of their shops to the SMEs and cultural entities for their development. [...] Through proper mechanisms, gaming operators could collaborate with the state's strategy, and participate in the state's development. [...] It might not be appropriate for casinos [to do it as a company] but it is good for individual businessmen to donate to mainland China [in their personal names]. [...] They could donate to mainland China's fund, or they could establish their own funds," Lin suggested, adding that "through the Macau government's poverty alleviation project with Guizhou, gaming operators could even hire workers [from Guizhou] through employment agencies. It's helpful for the state's poverty alleviation, and it is also good for the company itself."

In addition, Lin told the Times that casinos ought to have a specific department for managing donation matters.

Casino magnate purchases office complex in Sydney

A local private company associated with gambling magnate, Loi Keong Kuong, will buy a prize office complex sold by Sydney-based real estate group, Markham, in a deal worth some AUD265 million, The Australian reported.

Located at 179 Elizabeth

Street, opposite the city's Hyde Park, the company is expected to capitalize on both the building's long-term conversion potential and the city's rising rental prices.

Back in 2016, the company also bought the ExxonMobil headquarters at Riverside Quay in Mel-

bourne's Southbank for AUD160 million.

The buyer is expected to undertake an office refurbishment of the Riverside Quay address to convert it into a hotel, located near James Packer's Crown casino.

The Melbourne site is also expected to become

a hotel and gaming venue in the longer term.

However, the magnate will have to wait until 2050, when the Packer company's monopoly lease is due to expire.

In Sydney, the Loi family could pursue a longer-term residential or hotel conversion, as the strip is

changing.

The report noted that buyers of Sydney office towers including Zone Q and Greaton are chasing upside risk by charging higher levels of rent, rather than undertaking short-term developments.

Meanwhile, Loi's family will also benefit from the

multi-tenanted building due to the city's rising rent.

Built in 1992, the building has retail space on the ground floor and four basement levels of parking.

The tower has a weighted average lease expiry of 3.9 years.

Man commits suicide on second attempt

Renato Marques

A mainland China resident aged over 50 years old committed suicide at around 1.30 a.m. yesterday morning. The resident was found dead near the PRC Liaison Office building. According to the Public Security Police Force (PSP) spokesperson, the man jumped from the lift tower located near Guia Hill, which has been built to provide easy access between the ZAPE area and Guia.

According to the PSP, this is the same person seen in a recent video footage posted on several social media platforms depicting an individual throwing themselves in front of a vehicle driving around Avenida da Amizade near the World Trade Center building.

The spokesperson said that



the footage dates from June 2 (Saturday) when the man attempted suicide for the first time. He was injured but not severely hurt, and taken to the Public Hospital.

Early yesterday, before the police had identified the reasons behind the man's first suicide attempt, the man fled the hospital and jumped from the lift tower located only a

few hundred meters away.

The police found personal documents as well as cash and bankcards in his possession.

There was no note or anything that could help to explain the causes of the suicide. Police are still investigating the case.

In a separate case, two men from Hong Kong have been arrested and accused of criminal

activities. The men were found during a police operation that began with a complaint from the owner of the apartment where they were staying in Avenida da Amizade.

The woman is said to have been warned by the real estate agency in charge of renting out the apartment that it was full of computers and other technology. Out of fear that the unit was being used for illegal activities, the landlord reported to the PSP.

The police found nine screens connected to a computer on an office desk and another six screens on the floor, and the two men, both aged over 20 years old.

Upon questioning, the men said they had been hired by a company to perform stocks and share trading online.

The PSP spokesperson said the suspects claimed they had been hired by a company to trade, and have transferred part of the case to the Labour Affairs Bureau to follow up on the illegal hiring of the Hong Kong residents.

COOPERATION

Brazil highlighted in China's International Fair

THE Brazilian pavilion was elected the best stand of the 5th China Beijing International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS), the Brazilian Ministry of Industry, Foreign Trade and Services has announced.

Participating in the biennial event as a guest of honor, Brazil was elected as the country with the best stand in an award delivered last Friday, the last of the five-day event.

As a guest country, Brazil also enjoyed the opportunity of having a specially dedicated day, the "Brazilian Day," on which a range of talks were delivered by Brazilian officials and on which the Secretary-General of the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries, Xu Yingzhen, was also one of the guest speakers.

The CIFTIS is organized by the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China in cooperation with the Beijing Municipality Government, and is held every two years. In the 2018 edition, it featured 12 professional sectors especially dedicated to the services field defined by the World Trade Organization. According to the Brazilian Minister of Industry, Foreign Trade and Services, Marcos Jorge, the country's strategy was to present business opportunities available in Brazil that could be used by Chinese businessmen and corporations.

According to the minister, Brazil's participation in the fair, with an approximate delegation of 90 people, including businessmen and representatives of state and municipal governments, represented an opportunity to leverage strategic projects in areas related to the digital economy, e-commerce, tourism and infrastructure, among others. **RM**

DSAT admits penalties for taxi infractions are 'light'

TRANSPORT Bureau (DSAT) Director Lam Hin San said that the DSAT will support any suggestions coming from the taxi industry as long as they improve the industry's service quality.

Regarding the recent reports of the many suspected taxi violations in Macau, Lam admitted that current penalties for taxis in Macau, are relatively light, and even if the transport and police authorities have strengthened their powers against illegal taxi drivers, the issue of



Lam Hin San

non-compliance in the taxi industry has not shown signs of slowing down.

Lam noted that the content of the relevant laws concerning the taxi industry does not specifically deal with taxi vio-

lations.

Presently, Lam hopes that the legislative procedure relating to the taxi industry will achieve immediate results in the matters under concern.

When asked about the

taxi industry's desire to cooperate with the DSAT in the development of Quality Taxi accreditation, which proposes to place signs on taxis that provide high quality taxi services, Lam said that the government will support any suggestions that are demonstrated to improve taxi services.

Regarding the shortage of bus drivers, Lam said that the DSAT has already asked bus companies to review safety hazards presented by operations carried out by short term drivers.

According to Lam, most of the short term bus drivers of the three bus companies are already complying with the DSAT's requirements, including driving relevant bus routes for a minimum of four days a week.

The majority of part-time bus drivers are only engaged in full-time bus driving work.

Currently, there are a total of 46 part-time bus drivers from the three bus companies who have resumed driving.

The transport head expects the number of bus accidents this year to decrease by ten percent compared to last year.

As for the bus concession renewal, Lam said that it is still in the process of negotiations.

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Over 50 foreign gov't officials to attend 9th IICF

Julie Zhu

THE 9th Intentional Infrastructure Investment and Construction Forum (IICF), jointly organized by the China International Contractors Association and the Macau Trade and Investment Promotion (IPIM) Institute, will be held at The Venetian Macau from June 7 to 8. Over 1,500 politicians, businessmen and academics from more than 60 countries and regions – including over 50 government officials at the ministerial level or above from over 30 countries or regions – will attend. The press conference of the IICF was held yesterday at IPIM. According to Sam Lei, Executive Director of the Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute, the 9th IICF has the theme, “Fostering New Drivers is Development to Boost Infrastructure Construction and connectivity”.



The ninth IICF will also discuss the cultivation of infrastructure development and international cooperation through innovation and technical changes in the international context. During the event, a networking breakfast event for Macau and mainland enterprises will be organized. A parallel panel on the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge and the Greater Bay Area, and the seminar on the infrastructure construction between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries will also be held.

Yu Xiaohong, vice presi-

dent of the China International Contractors Association, said that a panel session, two thematic forums and 11 parallel panels and other activities will be held at the 9th IICF, while the 4th China-LAC Infrastructure Cooperation Forum will also be held concurrently and hosted by the Ministry of Commerce of China.

During the event, the Belt and Road Infrastructure Development Index (2018) and the Annual Report on Development of the Belt and Road Construction, will also be released to provide China and the countries along the Belt

and Road with statistics and trends relating to the development of infrastructure and business co-operation.

It is worth nothing that Macau's elements of will be further highlighted at this forum.

Nineteen officials from the countries along the Belt and Road Initiative and six from Portuguese-speaking countries will join the forum and highlight the role of Macau as the economic and trade cooperation service platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

More than 1,000 Chinese and foreign speakers have been invited over the past eight editions of the forum, with over 10,000 guests from 60 countries and regions joining the forum, including 191 ministerial-level officials in charge of infrastructure.

A total of 54 cooperation agreements were signed, covering hydropower, roads, railways, airports, ports, housing and other infrastructure projects.

HKZMB believed to offer no improvements to logistics industry

THE president of the International Logistics and Forwarding Association of Macau, Lei Kuok Fai, said that Macau's logistics industry has already been marginalized in Zhuhai, Hong Kong and Macau.

Lei believes that the opening of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau bridge (HKZMB) will not assist Macau's logistics industry.

In Lei's opinion, only the interests of “China and Hong Kong logistics” have been considered in plans to open the bridge.

The Macau logistics operator declared that when considering the flow of people and traffic across the three places, there was no mention of the development and facilitation of logistics between Macau and mainland China.

However, according to Lei, the Macau logistics industry has previously voiced the view that the local government did not mind the industry's opinion.

Moreover, Lei highlighted that the industry is disappointed with the upcoming opening of the HKZMB.

Lei also believes that the opening of the HKZMB may aggravate the problem of overcrowding in Macau.

Lei, who is also a member of the Economic Development Council, asked “what do you [the government] want us to do? How can the logistics merge into the Greater Bay Area? How can it merge into the One Belt and One Road initiative? It has been more than ten years until we could finally see the bridge, but were there any improvement in the logistics sector? [...] No.”

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June 4 vigil turnout rises, but attendance still low

Daniel Beitler

THE annual June 4 vigil was held last night in Senado Square attracting approximately 200 attendees as the weather improved later into the evening. The turnout marks a rise compared to last year, when organizers were able to muster only 50 to 60 people.

The vigil commemorates the anniversary of the Tiananmen Square incident, when the government of the People's Republic of China forcibly suppressed student-led demonstrations in Beijing and more than 400 other locations across the country. The

demonstrators were demanding democratic reforms, freedom of speech and freedom of the press, as well as an end to corruption within the Communist Party.

Twenty-nine years on, the incident remains controversial, both on the mainland and in Hong Kong and Macau.

Last night's vigil attracted scores of demonstrators who, wielding candles and electric lights, gathered around a black banner on the floor of the square to listen to several speakers.

The banner, written in Chinese poetry form, read: "The people who died for democracy will live forever. The courage of the people at Tiananmen Square will

stay forever."

Speeches were delivered by democrat lawmaker duo Au Kam San and Ng Kuok Cheong, the latter of whom criticized a lack of progress in the democratization of the mainland's political system, even compared with three decades ago. Ng also criticized the distribution of wealth in China, saying it has been amassed in the hands of the few and the general populace is little better off than in 1989.

Suspended lawmaker Sulu Sou, who has become a stalwart of the city's pro-democracy bloc, also made an appearance.

"This is a memorable historical matter for us," said Sou. "As

Macau and Chinese citizens, we have the responsibility to remember this matter [...] and share it with the youngest people in our society."

Regarding the turnout of the event, which had been steadily

dropping in recent years, Sou believes that there are a number of factors at play. Perhaps the most important, he said, was a lack of formal education about the sensitive topic in Macau's schools.

"One reason is that the young people cannot [find] a connection with this history matter from their school – or even the media," he argued.

"Macau schools do nothing [to talk about this matter]. Some teachers teach the students themselves from independent material... but not from what is written in the textbooks. In the new textbook from the Education [and Youth Affairs] Bureau, there is nothing about this matter," he said. "This is a big concern for the future."

Nevertheless, this year's turnout was slightly higher than in previous years. In 2016 and 2017, just 50 to 60 people attended the evening vigil, spurning concerns over diminishing interest.

Sou also took the opportunity last night to stress that he appreciates that events like the June 4 vigil can still be held in Macau. "I treasure that Macau still has this freedom to hold this rally and talk about this matter," he said.

SULU SOU STILL MULLING APPEAL

ASKED ON the sidelines of the June 4 vigil whether the young lawmaker plans to appeal his sentencing last week, Sulu Sou said that he is still unwilling to commit either way at this point. "We will take more time to consider the whole picture before we make our

final decision [over whether to appeal]," he told reporters, adding that his decision was unlikely to come before the deadline later this month. Stressing the seriousness of the case, he warned "this is not just a judicial issue, but also a political issue."

THOUSANDS of people took part in a candlelight vigil in Victoria Park to remember the victims of the 1989 Beijing massacre.

The protesters called for an "end to one-party dictatorship" despite warnings from pro-Beijing officials of potential repercussions.

The former top Beijing official in charge of Hong Kong's affairs said in April that people who call for an "end to one-party dictatorship" are breaking the law and should be barred from running for political office in Hong Kong.

According to a RTHK report, the rainy weather did not deter people from turning up to the vigil, "even though this meant they had to stand on the football pitches after a heavy shower instead of sitting on the ground."

The annual event was organized by the Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements of China. This

Protestors call for an 'end to one-party dictatorship' in HK



University students place flowers on the "Pillar of Shame" statue, a memorial for those injured and killed in the Tiananmen crackdown



Tens of thousands of people attended the annual candlelight vigil in HK

year's themes are: "the struggle against authoritarian rule and mourning victims of the 1989 crackdown."

Perry Dino, a painter, told RTHK that he attends the vigil every year to capture what he sees with his brush. "I can capture the moment of Hong Kong people, because the

freedom of Hong Kong has now become squeezed and decreased. Two years before, I can draw on the flyover near the public library, but now it cannot," he said.

Another participant, surnamed Law, brought her two-year-old son to the vigil: "It is very important to pass the history

on, and let more young people know about what had happened in China in 1989," she said. "That's why I bring my son here and hope to encourage all the young people that we need to keep fighting for democracy. I hope we can uphold Hong Kong's core values. I will keep coming. I'm scared about

that because that's our freedom of speech will be limit[ed]."

According to a speech released ahead of Monday's event, Chow Hang-tung, a vice-chairwoman of the Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements of China, will urge participants to resist pressure

not to use the political slogan.

"They want us to accept this reality: China is under the rule of the Communist Party, and the regime is going to last forever," Chow's speech says.

"We must clearly tell them, we will never accept," the text says.

I hope we can uphold Hong Kong's core values. I will keep coming.

PARTICIPANT

Concerns have grown in Hong Kong that Beijing is eroding the semiautonomous southern Chinese city's civil liberties despite promises to maintain them following its 1997 handover from Britain.



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In Indonesia, the cost of a curry just got a lot pricier

Karlís Salna

COOKING up Indonesia's national dish is a lot more expensive these days. A sharp rise in the cost of some of the key ingredients that make up a rendang curry - chili peppers, shallots and beef - is putting the popular dish out of reach for many Indonesians. It's also driving up inflation in a country that's struggling to contain a currency rout and a surge in oil prices.

The cost of chili - ubiquitous in Indonesian cooking and an essential ingredient in rendang - peaked at 41,350 rupiah (USD2.98) a kilogram on May 18. That's up 24 percent from a year earlier, according to data published on a Bank Indonesia price monitor.

While figures show consumer-price growth was fairly subdued at 3.2 percent in May, food prices picked up considerably. They climbed 4.5 percent from a year ago, following a 5.2 percent gain in April - the fastest pace since December 2016.

Price pressures also coincided

with the start of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan in May, when Indonesians usually stock up on food for evening feasts.

"The driver of May inflation is volatile food and administered prices," said Josua Pardede, an economist at PT Bank Permata in Jakarta. He said the government has to do better at anticipating food price increases, particularly during the festive season.

■ Even though the country boasts a coastline of 50,000 kilometers, it's been running low on salt

The rising costs also reflect persistent supply-chain problems. Even though Indonesia - an archipelago of more than 17,000

islands - boasts a coastline of 50,000 kilometers, it's been running low on salt. And to keep a lid on rice prices, the government has enlisted the help of state-owned banks to sell the staple food.

"Volatile food inflation is growing faster than headline inflation, indicating that the supply of food commodities needs to be improved," Pardede said. "The logistics management also needs to be improved to solve the shortage supply of food commodities in several regions."

Rising food costs come amid a slide in the currency, which could further stoke inflation. The central bank has already raised interest rates twice to help stem an emerging market selloff that's seen the currency fall more than 3 percent against the dollar since the beginning of February.

The central bank said last week it will pursue a "pre-emptive, ahead-of-the-curve and front-loading policy rate response" to stabilize the rupiah, while consistently controlling inflation within the target range of 2.5 percent to 4.5 percent. **Bloomberg**

Japan Air sets sights on AirAsia's turf for first low-cost route



Kyunghee Park

JAPAN Airlines Co. has decided to go head-first into the home turf of Asia's largest low-fare carrier.

The Japanese operator, which is starting its own budget carrier next month, will begin flying to Southeast Asia initially, Masaru Onishi, a director at Japan Airlines, said in an interview in Sydney yesterday. The new company will be able to lower per-seat costs by 50 percent compared with the parent airline, he said, without providing more details including the first destination.

Japan Airlines will compete with Sepang, Malaysia-based AirAsia Group Bhd., whose businesses include affiliates in Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. The

Japanese carrier, which has said it plans to fly medium-to-long-haul international routes from the Narita International Airport serving Tokyo, is also assessing when it can begin services to Europe and the U.S., Onishi said.

The new budget airline will add two 787s every year, Onishi said. Japan Airlines is in talks with Boeing Co. about possibly converting some of its existing 787s for the low-cost unit or ordering new planes. It expects to make a decision in about a year.

AirAsia Group also has a long-haul arm, AirAsia X Bhd., whose more than 20 destinations include Auckland, Tokyo, Sapporo, Chengdu, Shanghai, Melbourne, the Gold Coast and Honolulu. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

SANDS CHINA AWARDS OUTSTANDING TEAM MEMBERS



Sands China Ltd. held the ninth edition of its Because We Care Team Member Awards on May 31 at The Venetian Theatre, where it honored outstanding team members who exemplify Sands China's Because We Care shared service values of friendliness, professionalism, active listening and teamwork.

"Our company's success is made possible by the dedication of our team members," said Dr. Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China Ltd.

"It is our pleasure to acknowledge some of the more exceptional examples of teamwork and commitment with these

awards," he added, as cited in a statement issued by the gaming operator.

Sands China team members cast more than 33,000 votes for this iteration of the awards, resulting in 379 nominations comprising 809 team members in all.

A judging panel shortlisted the top 68 individual and team nominations, amounting to 248 team members in total.

In all, there were 16 individual awards and five team awards, delivered in gold, silver and bronze designations, with the result that 430 team members won awards in total.

CUPPA COFFEE CELEBRATES TENTH ANNIVERSARY

Cuppa Coffee, a Western-style coffee store founded and owned by local Portuguese & Chinese entrepreneurs, is celebrating its tenth anniversary this month, and will offer patrons a token of its appreciation on June 10.

The store has not only kept its doors open despite its rent increasing 350 percent since its opening, but also expanded its services to include a take-away branch and an online store, according to a statement issued by the

company.

"It's been a challenge, but we are very happy to be able to celebrate a decade of our brand. We feel that we are a small landmark in Taipa," said founder & manager Cristiana Figueiredo.

"Now, we would like to take this unique Macau brand & experience further, to open more stores in Macau and expand into Hong Kong, China, and even Malaysia, and we're actively looking for partners to do so," she added.

Joe McDonald, Beijing

ANALYSIS

For Beijing, smaller trade surplus

NARROW our trade surplus with the United States? No problem, say Chinese negotiators. But change technology tactics that are China's path to prosperity and its rightful place as a global leader? Absolutely not.

China highlighted the sensitivity of the issue with its threat Sunday to scrap deals aimed at settling a trade dispute with Washington if President Donald Trump's tariff hike on USD50 billion of Chinese technology goods goes ahead.

It sheds more light on where President Xi Jinping's government might compromise and where it rejects any challenge to a Communist Party-led model for technology development that it sees as hugely successful.

"Where China does not budge is in areas it considers to be its fundamental development strategy," said Louis Kuijs of Oxford Economics, a former World Bank economist in Beijing. "If the U.S. is asking China to stop these industrial policies to become a global technology leader, that is where China says, 'Look, that's not possible.'"

The desultory end to weekend talks led by Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and China's top economic official, Vice Premier Liu He, revived worries Beijing and Washington are sliding again toward open conflict.

The dispute is in two largely unrelated halves: American frustration with China's overall trade surplus with the United States — a record \$375.2 billion last year and forecast to grow — and more narrowly focused complaints about Beijing's technology policy.

China already agreed to address the first with a May 19 pledge to buy more American farm goods, energy supplies and other products. That is fairly easy, say private sector analysts. Beijing can buy more U.S. natural gas and soybeans and less from Russia and Brazil. Its overall trade balance would stay the same.

The focus on China's trade surplus is politically appealing, economists say, but distracts from goals that matter more to American companies and that Washington's European and Asian partners support. Those include gaining the same access to Beijing's markets that its companies enjoy abroad and improving protection of intellectual property such as patents and trademarks.

Before Beijing joined the World Trade Organization in 2001, such "technology transfer" often was an explicit requirement for foreign companies that wanted access to China's state-dominated economy. Today, regulators say no one is obliged to give up technology. But

foreign companies in autos, pharmaceuticals and other fields are required to operate through local partners. That forces them to share know-how with potential rivals or help them to create their own.

Xi's government sees Chinese strength in technology as a path

re know-how with potential rivals or help them to create their own.

Xi's government sees Chinese strength in technology as a path

re know-how with potential rivals or help them to create their own.

Xi's government sees Chinese strength in technology as a path



AP PHOTO

AP PHOTO

CHINA has balked at stepping up its purchases of American products, raising the odds of a trade war, if President Donald Trump follows through on his threat to tax billions of dollars' worth of Chinese imports.

The warning from Beijing came after delegations led by U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and China's top economic official, Vice Premier Liu He, wrapped up talks on Beijing's pledge to narrow its trade surplus. White House advisers were insisting on fundamental changes in ties between the world's two biggest economic powers.

At the outset of the event Ross said the two sides had discussed specific American exports China might purchase, but the talks ended with no joint statement and neither side released details.

"Both sides appear to have hardened their negotiating stances and are waiting for the other side to blink," said Eswar Prasad, professor of trade policy at Cornell University. "Despite the potential negative repercussions for both economies, the risk of a full-blown China-U.S. trade war, with tariffs and other trade sanctions being imposed by both sides, has risen significantly."

TRADE WAR

Two sides harden their negotiating stance



AP PHOTO

Asked specifically on Fox's "Sunday Morning Futures" if the U.S. is willing to throw away its relationship with China by proceeding with threatened tariff hikes, Peter Navarro, director of the White House National Trade Council, pointed in part to an unfair relationship involving a multi-billion dollar trade deficit, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis' warning of China's activities in the South

China Sea and the threat of China stealing U.S. intellectual property.

"That's a relationship with China that structurally has to change," he said. "We would love to have a peaceful, friendly relationship with China. But we're also standing firm that the president is the leader on this."

The United States has threatened to impose tariffs on up to \$50 billion of Chinese products in a dispute

over Beijing's aggressive tactics to challenge U.S. technological dominance; Trump has asked U.S. Trade Rep. Robert Lighthizer to look for another \$100 billion in Chinese products to tax. China has targeted \$50 billion in U.S. products for possible retaliation.

Tensions temporarily eased on May 19 after China promised to "significantly increase" its purchases of U.S. farm, energy and

other products. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said then that the U.S. tariffs were suspended and the trade war was "on hold." The purchases are meant to reduce America's massive trade deficit in goods and services with China, which last year came to \$337 billion, according to the U.S. Commerce Department.

After the apparent ceasefire, global financial markets rallied in relief.

But Trump upended the truce last Tuesday by renewing his threat to impose 25 percent tariffs on \$50 billion in Chinese high-tech goods. The tariffs are meant to pressure Beijing for allegedly stealing trade secrets and forcing foreign companies to hand over technology in exchange for access to the Chinese market. Navarro later called Mnuchin's conciliatory comments "an unfortunate soundbite."

Ross nonetheless journeyed to Beijing Friday to work out details of the vague agreement Mnuchin had earlier cobbled together with the Chinese vice premier. China balked at making concessions unless the U.S. lifted the tariff threat.

"If the United States introduces trade sanctions including a tariff increase, all the economic and trade achievements negotiated by the two parties will not take effect," said a Chinese government statement, carried by the official Xinhua News Agency.

The negotiating process should be "based on the premise" of not fighting a "trade war," the statement said. AP

OK. But tech concessions? No.



but an earlier tentative list included telecoms, medical and other technology.

Beijing is ready to make concessions to avoid a real trade war with Washington, but worries about the economic and political costs, said Shi Yinhong, a professor at Renmin University's School of International Studies in Beijing.

"The Chinese government believes that if the concessions are too huge and hasty, it might not be workable for the Chinese economy or the Chinese government may feel it is being placed in a vulnerable political and diplomatic position by easily making concessions," said Shi. "It won't be the case that the United States can get whatever they want."

On Sunday, Ross said the two sides discussed specific exports Beijing might buy, but the meeting ended with no commitments.

An hour later, a statement carried by China's official Xinhua News Agency said if tariff hikes or other U.S. sanctions go ahead, then "all the economic and trade achievements negotiated by the two parties will not take effect."

Since November, China has announced plans to end limits on foreign ownership in its insurance and auto industries and to reduce import tariffs on autos and a range of consumer goods.

"China has shown flexibility in most areas where Washington is seeking greater market access," said Rajiv Biswas of IHS Markit. "However, a major challenge for

China will be to reduce the bilateral trade deficit by \$200 billion per year over the medium term as requested by Washington, since that will be a mammoth task."

■ The desultory end to weekend talks led by Wilbur Ross and Liu He, revived worries Beijing and Washington are sliding again toward open conflict

Beijing has promised to give market forces the "decisive role" in allocating resources but also is building up state-owned companies that dominate fields including banking, telecoms and energy.

The Communist Party said in 2013 would increase its direct role in business decisions. That runs counter to the trend in economies such as Japan and South Korea that became more open and market-oriented as they de-

veloped.

Governments including Germany increasingly express concern Beijing is carrying out state-sponsored technology acquisition disguised as purchases by enterprises that officially are private.

They say Chinese leaders blur the lines between state and private by providing the money for deals such as automaker Geely's 2010 purchase of Volvo Cars and appliance manufacturer Midea's 2016 acquisition of German robotics maker Kuka.

In 2017, Trump vetoed the sale of a U.S. semiconductor manufacturer to a Chinese investor on national security grounds after Washington concluded the financing came from China's government.

The White House and business groups cite Beijing's "Made in China 2025" development strategy as an example of policies they say hamper market access and violate free-trade commitments.

It calls for China to develop global leaders in electric cars, renewable energy, robotics, artificial intelligence and other fields. Business groups say that inevitably will involve subsidies and protection against foreign competitors.

"It's tantamount to a country competing with a company," the chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce in China, William Zarit, said last week.

Kuijs of Oxford Economics said an extended conflict could lead to a "technological cold war" that would carve up the global market into isolated regions with different standards for mobile phones and other products.

"That will dampen productivity growth in the long term," he said. **AP**

to restoring the country's political and cultural greatness after two centuries of what nationalists see as humiliation by foreigners.

"Make no mistake about this: China aims to be the world's largest economy, its advocate of free trade, its geopolitical leader," Carl B. Weinberg of High Frequency Economics said in a report.

Beijing has staked out a role as defender of free trade in response to Trump's support for import controls. That is despite China's status as the most-closed major

economy — a paradox some foreign businesspeople call, "free markets abroad, socialism at home."

Trump's tariff threat targeting technology goods reflects American alarm about China's status as a potential competitor in profitable fields from solar power to electric cars to biotechnology.

After a lull in tensions following China's May 19 pledge, the White House renewed its threat last week. It said details of goods targeted would be released June 15,

JUNE 4

US urges China to release Tiananmen death toll



Tiananmen Square in Beijing where the massacre took place, 29 years ago

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has urged China to disclose the details of people killed, de-

tained or missing during the Chinese military's crackdown on pro-democracy protesters centered on Bei-

jing's Tiananmen Square 29 years ago.

Pompeo marked yesterday's anniversary of the

suppression of demonstrations on June 4, 1989, saying: "We remember the tragic loss of innocent lives."

"We join others in the international community in urging the Chinese government to make a full public accounting of those killed, detained or missing," Pompeo's statement said.

■ We remember the tragic loss of innocent lives.

MIKE POMPEO
US SECRETARY OF STATE

He cited the Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo, who wrote in his 2010 Nobel Peace Prize speech, delivered in absentia: "the ghosts of June 4th have not yet been laid to rest." Liu last year

became only the second Nobel Peace Prize winner to die in police custody.

Pompeo's statement also called on Chinese authorities to release those who have been jailed for their efforts to keep alive the memory of the crackdown and to stop harassing the protest's participants and their families.

Hundreds, if not thousands, of unarmed protesters and onlookers were killed late on June 3 and the early hours of June 4, 1989, after China's Communist leaders ordered the military to retake Tiananmen Square from the student-led demonstrators.

The topic remains taboo in mainland China and any form of commemoration, whether public or private, is banned. In Hong Kong, tens of thousands of people gather every year in Victoria Park on the evening of June 4 to remember the victims in the only large-scale public commemoration held on Chinese soil. **AP**

TRUMP-KIM SUMMIT

Don't expect North Korea to foot the bill

Eric Talmadge, Tokyo

WHEN North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump hold their summit at an exclusive venue in Singapore, one of the priciest destinations in Asia, they will no doubt run up quite a bill. And if past precedent is any indication, expect Pyongyang to pay as little of it as possible.

Speculation over how North Korea will handle the costs for Kim's June 12 meeting with Trump has taken off after a Washington Post report cited two anonymous U.S. officials suggesting the Trump administration has been "seeking a discreet way" to help pay Kim's hotel bill.

The report suggested host nation Singapore might take care of it.

But what exactly needs to be paid for isn't yet clear.

Sure there are the costs of summit venue and the hotels, with one reported option, the Fullerton, coming with a USD6,000-a-night price tag for its presidential suite. But that would hardly break the North Korean bank.

While Kim could decide to stay the night, or maybe even two, he might also be in a hurry to get back home, in which case the North wouldn't need a room so much as a base camp. North Korea has an embassy in Singapore, but that likely wouldn't be good enough to meet the logistical and security demands of a full-on summit.

The North may want to send a large delegation to accompany Kim and provide its own security. If there are any feelers going out about cost-sharing, that's a likely topic. But it would be more of a sweetener than a necessity.

Whatever the venue, it's debatable why an outside party would need to pay.



Seoul reportedly spent somewhere in the range of USD5 million to cover the costs of Moon's first summit with Kim in April

North Korea's government, which is no stranger to hosting lavish events like military parades and party congresses of its own, has ample funds to cover important meetings for Kim.

While highly speculative — Kim is even more averse to divulging details about his personal wealth than Trump — the North Korean leader is believed by some foreign experts to be worth well over \$1 billion and have access to billions dollars more thanks to the full backing of his country.

But as history has shown, summits with the Kim family don't come cheap.

Seoul reportedly spent somewhere in the range of \$5 million to cover the costs of President Moon Jae-

in's first summit with Kim in April — a day-long affair that was held in publicly owned buildings on the South Korean side of the Demilitarized Zone.

And though this falls in a category all of its own, former South Korean President Kim Dae-jung's administration secretly paid \$500 million to just to get Kim Jong Un's father to agree to the first-ever North-South Korea summit in 2000.

The South Korean president won that year's Nobel Peace Prize, before the payment was made public. One of his aides was convicted and went to prison.

Hosting North Koreans at sports events can also have extra costs attached.

South Korea paid \$2.5 million

to cover the costs of more than 400 North Koreans, only 22 of whom were athletes, at the Pyeongchang Games in February.

The Olympics were the first big step of Kim's ongoing diplomatic campaign, which he announced with great fanfare in January. But they weren't the first time Seoul had shelled out in the name of Korean unity.

For the Asian Games in Busan in 2002, it gave about \$1.3 million, then \$836,000 for a Universiade in 2003 and another \$385,000 for the Asian Games in 2014.

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert has denied the U.S. would pay for North Korea in Singapore and said Washington wasn't

asking anyone else to, either.

In keeping with normal practice, Singapore, as the host nation, will have to put out for general security and various other expenses.

The Washington Post report suggested host nation Singapore might take care of it

Singapore announced yesterday that it was declaring part of its city center a "special event area" from June 10 to 14 for the summit. The designation will allow for greater security in the area, which is near the U.S. Embassy as well as several hotels, including the Shangri-La.

The Shangri-La has been mentioned as a possible venue for the talks due to its experience as the site of an annual security conference that draws defense officials from around the globe.

Singapore's Defense Minister Ng Eng Hen on Saturday confirmed the country would foot some costs, while steering clear of the details or whether Pyongyang or Washington had made any specifics requests.

"We want to contribute in our small way so that this summit can occur," he told reporters.

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons has also offered to chip in a share of the million dollars it was awarded for winning the Nobel Peace Prize last year. AP

INDIA

A trio of unlikely heroes wages war on plastic

FOR more than 25 years, Ram Nath has lived on the banks of the Yamuna River under a 19th-century iron bridge. Each morning, the wiry man walks a few steps from his makeshift hut and enters the black, sludgy waters of one of India's most polluted rivers. He is fishing for trash.

"This is the only work we have," said the 40-year-old, sorting through a pile of plastic bottles, bags, and cast-off electronics.

Hundreds of garbage collectors live on the Yamuna's banks in New Delhi,



Ram Nath, 40, sorts reusable trash he fished out from Yamuna, India's sacred river that flows through New Delhi

making USD2 to \$4 per day recycling plastic waste collected from the river.

While Nath doesn't think of himself as an environmentalist, he is one of a

handful of New Delhi residents waging war against the tsunami of plastic threatening to swamp India. They include a 9th-grade student who convinces posh restaurants to give up plastic straws and a businessman whose company makes plates and bowls from palm leaves.

India, which hosts U.N. World Environment Day on June 5, can use all the help it can get. This year's theme is "Beat Plastic Pollution."

With more than 15 million people, New De-

li and its surrounding cities produce an estimated 17,000 tons of trash daily, according to Indian officials and environmentalists. That requires immense dumps, hills of stinking trash that measure up to 50 meters tall. Last year, two people were killed when a large part of one of the city's dumps crashed down onto them.

"All these products which we use because of convenience take many hundreds of years" to even partially decompose, said Chitra Mukherjee, an environmental expert

and head of operations at Chintan.

Mukherjee, who has spent years raising awareness and creating localized efforts to curb plastic pollution credits the Bharatiya Janata Party-led government for making waste management and pollution a more serious issue.

"It is a collaborative effort between not only bureaucrats, but researchers, environmentalists who have been brought on board to make some progressive policies," she said. AP

JAPAN

Finance minister takes pay cut, officials punished

Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

JAPAN'S Finance Minister Taro Aso has taken a voluntary one-year salary cut after 20 officials were penalized for tampering with documents related to a government property sale linked to the Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's wife.

The Finance Ministry has acknowledged tampering with hundreds of pages of documents related to the 2016 land sale to a school where Akie Abe once held an honorary position.

Aso apologized yesterday over the tampering by lower level officials and resulting damage to public trust, but said Akie Abe was not directly involved.

"I would like to do my best to fulfill my duty as the finance minister," Aso said. "I am not thinking about resigning."

Aso is reportedly returning only 1.7 million yen (USD15,600) of his annual salary as Cabinet minister, but not giving up his income as lawmaker.

The scandal relates to the sale

AP PHOTO



Japan's Finance Minister Taro Aso

of government land to a right-wing school operator, Moritomo Gakuen group in Osaka, at one-seventh of its appraised price. There are allegations Akie Abe's influence might have enabled

Moritomo to get favorable treatment for a planned new private elementary school, which in the end failed.

Abe has denied any wrongdoing by him or his wife. The

tampering with the documents, including removing references to his wife, took place in February-April 2017. The fiddling was done to ensure the documents matched explanations by

top finance officials to parliament during questioning about the scandal, Aso said.

The case was also investigated by Osaka prosecutors, though they recently dropped the case, citing lack of evidence to prove criminal acts in the tampering.

Scandals have caused Abe's support ratings to fall as low as the mid-30 percent range. But so far there is no indication they might force him from office.

Taro Aso apologized over the tampering by lower level officials and resulting damage to public trust

Opposition lawmakers criticized the ministry probe for failing to clear doubts over a systematic ministry cover-up of Akie's alleged involvement in the land deal and demanded Aso's resignation.

Nobuhisa Sagawa, who headed a Finance Ministry department in charge of state property deals at the time, stepped down in March over the document tampering. **AP**

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SCIENCE

Study finds rare gain for tough-to-treat pancreatic cancer

Lindsey Tanner, Chicago

PATIENTS with pancreatic cancer that hadn't spread lived substantially longer on a four-drug combo than on a single standard cancer drug, a rare advance for a tough-to-treat disease, researchers reported yesterday.

The results indicate the powerful chemotherapy treatment known as folfinox will likely become standard of care for the minority of patients whose pancreatic cancer is diagnosed early enough to be removed by surgery, experts not involved in the study said.

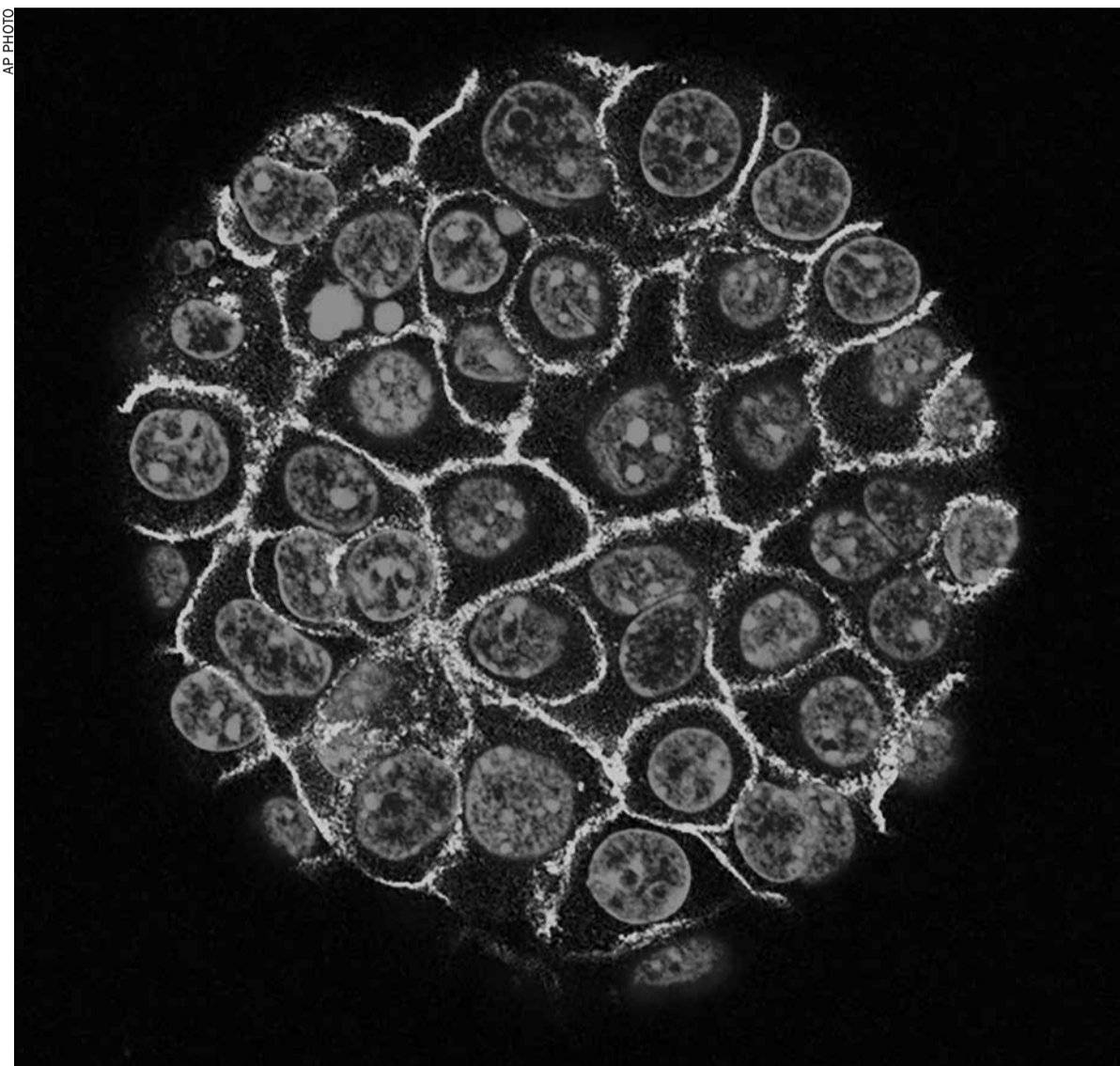
After an average three years of follow-up, almost 40 percent of the folfinox patients were disease-free compared with about 20 percent who had the standard drug, Gemzar. Overall, almost two-thirds of folfinox patients were still alive compared with almost half of Gemzar patients, unexpectedly good results, said Dr. Thierry Conroy, the lead author and a cancer specialist at the Cancer Institute of Lorraine in Vandoeuvre-les-Nancy, France.

Results were presented at an American Society of Clinical Oncology conference in Chicago.

Dr. Richard Schilsky, the group's chief medical officer, called the research an "immediately practice-changing study" and said it's the biggest advance for pancreatic cancer in 25 years.

Folfinox is already standard treatment for patients whose pancreatic cancer has spread.

The outlook has been bleak for



This microscope image from USC via the NIH shows pancreatic cancer cells growing as a sphere encased in membranes

patients with pancreatic cancer, an uncommon disease for which there is no screening. Symptoms including fatigue, weight loss and abdominal pain often don't occur until late, after the disease has spread.

About 330,000 cases are diag-

nosed each year worldwide, including about 55,000 in the United States. About half are diagnosed after the disease has spread; most die within a year of diagnosis and only about 6 percent survive for five years.

About 15 percent of patients

are candidates for surgery; generally their disease was detected early and has not spread widely beyond the pancreas.

The new results are "reassuring for a disease where unfortunately on average people only live several months rather than seven

months. This is a new standard of care for this illness," said Dr. Andrew Epstein, an expert at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York.

Nearly 500 patients at 77 centers in France and Canada were enrolled in the study from spring 2012 through fall 2016. They either received the four-drug combo through an IV every two weeks for about six months or Gemzar three times a month for six months. The study was funded by philanthropic groups in France and Canada.

Participants had early ductal tumors, the most common kind of pancreatic cancer.

■ The results indicate the powerful chemotherapy treatment known as folfinox will likely become standard

Side effects are common for both drugs including low blood counts, fatigue and diarrhea, and they occurred more often in folfinox patients. There was one death in the study in the Gemzar group.

Folfinox and Gemzar are available as generics. Schilsky said both treatments are "pretty inexpensive" since the drugs are available as generics. Insurance typically covers both for metastatic cancer and gemcitabine for operable cancer, and it's likely it would cover folfinox for operable cancer if guidelines are revised and it becomes standard of care, which several experts say is expected. **AP**

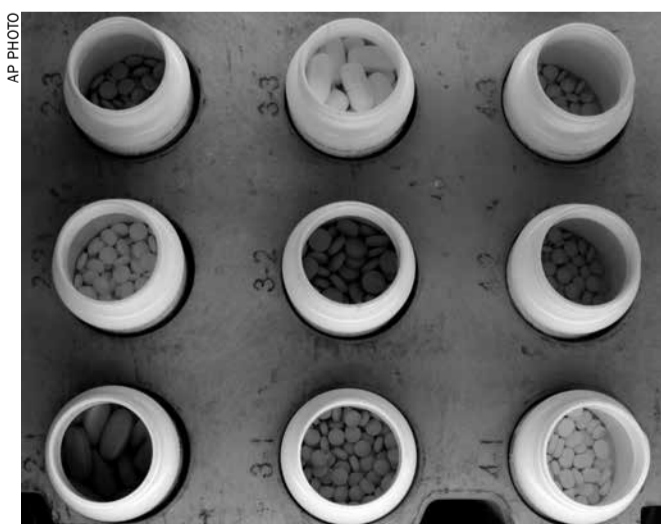
USA

Skimping can't save seniors from upped med cost

MEDICARE recipients filled fewer prescriptions for pricey brand-name drugs — but spent more on such meds anyway, says a government report due out today [Macau time]. It blames rising manufacturer prices for squeezing older people and taxpayers.

The Health and Human Services inspector general's office says it found a 17 percent drop in the overall number of prescriptions for brand-name medications under Medicare's "Part D" drug program over a recent five-year period.

But beneficiaries' share of costs for branded dru-



gs went in the opposite direction. From 2011 to 2015, their annual costs rose by 40 percent, from USD161 in 2011 to

\$225 on average. Data for 2011-2015 were the most recent available for the analysis.

"Increases in unit prices

for brand-name drugs resulted in Medicare and its beneficiaries paying more for these drugs," said the report. Rising Medicare payments for brand-name drugs "will continue to affect Part D and its beneficiaries for years to come."

A copy of the report was provided to The Associated Press.

Although new drugs priced at \$100,000 a year or more grab headlines, the report emphasized that the most persistent problem for Medicare beneficiaries is the high cost of maintenance medications for common chronic conditions like diabetes. To-

tal out-of-pocket costs for patients were highest for brand-name insulin, cholesterol drugs and asthma inhalers.

The affordability of maintenance medications "directly impacts Medicare beneficiaries and their ability to access the prescription drugs they need to stay healthy," Ann Maxwell, assistant inspector general, said in an interview. "This has an immediate direct impact on their quality of life and their health."

The data driving the report predate the Trump administration, but its conclusions dovetail with how officials view the pro-

blem. HHS Secretary Alex Azar says two of the main issues for the U.S. are high list prices for drugs and high out-of-pocket costs, especially for Medicare beneficiaries.

The administration has proposed a long list of measures to increase competition, shed light on pharmaceutical pricing and straighten out industry and government practices seen as artificially raising costs. But drug pricing is cryptic and complex; it remains unclear how long the administration will take to put plans in place, and how dramatic an impact that would have. **AP**

Sonia Perez D., El Rodeo

A fiery volcanic eruption in south-central Guatemala sent lava flowing into rural communities, killing at least 25 as rescuers struggled to reach people where homes and roads were charred and blanketed with ash.

The death toll rose yesterday [Macau time] with 18 bodies found in the community of San Miguel Los Lotes, disaster agency spokesman David de Leon said, adding to the seven victims previously confirmed elsewhere earlier in the day.

At least 20 people were injured, and authorities have said they feared the death toll could rise with an undetermined number of people unaccounted for.

The Volcan de Fuego, or "Volcano of Fire," exploded in a hail of ash and molten rock shortly before noon, blanketing nearby villages in heavy ash. Lava began flowing down the mountain's flank and across homes and roads around 4 p.m.

Eddy Sanchez, director of the country's seismology and volcanology institute, said the flows reached temperatures of about 700 degrees Celsius.

Dramatic video showed a fast-moving lahar, or flow of pyroclastic material and slurry, slamming into and partly destroying

AP PHOTO



In this image taken with a long exposure, the Volcan de Fuego, or Volcano of Fire, spews molten rock from its crater in Alotenango

GUATEMALA

Volcanic eruption sends lava into homes, kills 25

a bridge on a highway between Sacatepequez and Escuintla.

Sacatepequez television published images of a charred landscape where the lava came into contact with homes. Three bodies lay partially buried in ash-colored debris from the volcano,

which lies about 44 kilometers west of Guatemala City.

Other videos from local media showed residents walking barefoot and covered in muddy residue.

"Not everyone was able to get out. I think they ended up buried," Consuelo Hernandez, a resident of the village of El Rodeo, told the newspaper Diario de Centroamerica.

"Where we saw the lava fall, we ran to a hillside" to escape, she added.

Homes were still burning in El

Rodeo late Sunday, and a charred stench hung over the town.

Hundreds of rescue workers, including firefighters, police and soldiers, worked to help any survivors and recover any more bodies amid the still-smoking lava.

Firefighters said they had seen some people who were trapped, but roads were cut by pyroclastic flows and they had been unable to reach them.

Amid darkness and rain, the rescue effort was suspended until early Monday morning, municipal firefighters' spokesman Cecilio Chacaj said.

Among the fatalities were four people, including a disaster agency official, killed when lava set a house on fire in El Rodeo village, National Disaster Coordinator Sergio Cabanas said. Two children were burned to death as they watched the volcano's second eruption this year from a bridge, he added.

Zmbulance. At an ad-hoc morgue in the town of Alotenango, at least three bodies lay covered with blue sheets.

Guatemala's disaster agency said 3,100 people had evacuated nearby communities, and ash fall from the eruption was affecting an area with about 1.7 million of the country's 15 million or so people. Shelters were opened for those forced to flee. AP

AD

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what's ON



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

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

UNTIL: July 31, 2018

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

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

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911 & 8394 1208

LA PARISIENNE - CABARET FRANCAISE

TIME: 8pm (Tuesdays to Fridays)

2pm & 8pm (Saturdays)

2pm & 5pm (Sundays)

UNTIL: June 17, 2018

VENUE: Parisian Theatre, Parisian Macau

ADMISSION: MOP188, MOP388, MOP488

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 8818 / 2855 5555

DISCOVER MACAU: MUSEUM OF TAIPA AND COLOANE HISTORY

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

ADDRESS: Rua Correia da Silva, Taipa

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

THE EXHIBITION "SWISS STYLE NOW"

TIME: 10am-9pm

UNTIL: June 17, 2018

VENUE: Tap Seac Gallery, located at No. 95, Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

Offbeat

GIRLS DISCOVER WORLD WAR I PRACTICE BOMB IN MICHIGAN LAKE



Page, 10, and Sage, 9, discovered the WWI artefact

Two girls have found what authorities say is a World War I-era practice bomb while swimming in a lake in Michigan.

The Flint Journal reports that 10-year-old Paige Burnett and 9-year-old Sage Menzies were searching for items below the surface of Lobdell Lake last week when Paige felt something unusual.

The girls and Sage's mother dragged the 1-meter-long mystery find from the murky water. Paige says they were excited at first, but then got worried. She says she was "so scared" it might explode.

The lake is in Genesee County's Argentine Township, about 70 kilometers northwest of Detroit. Township police Sgt. Douglas Fulton says the Michigan State Police's bomb squad came out and drilled a hole in it, but "nothing but mud came out."

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
15:35	Miscellaneous
16:10	Miscellaneous
17:35	Brazilian Soap Opera (Repeated)
18:25	TDM Sports (Repeated)
19:35	Portuguese Serie Sr.1
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Interview
21:30	Documentary
22:10	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Road to the 2018 FIFA World Cup
23:55	Miscellaneous
00:45	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:20	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

31 MAY - 06 JUN



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 WALL

ROOM 2
2:30, 9:30pm

Director: Doug Liman

Starring: Aaron Taylor-Johnson, John Cena

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 119min

WHEN SUN MEETS MOON

ROOM 2
4:15, 6:00, 7:45pm

Director: Benny Lau

Starring: Kathy Yuen, Daichi Harashima, Aimee Chan

Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 149min

LOVE CHUNIBYO AND OTHER DELUSIONS

ROOM 3
2:30, 4:30, 9:45pm

Director: Tatsuya Ishihara

Language: Japanese (Chinese)

DESTINY: THE TALE OF KAMAKURA

ROOM 3
7:15pm

Director: Takashi Yamazaki

Starring: Masato Sakai, Mitsuki Takahata

Language: English (Chinese)

this day in history



1963 PROFUMO RESIGNS OVER SEX SCANDAL

Secretary of State for War, John Profumo, has resigned from government, admitting he lied to Parliament about his relationship with a call girl.

Prime Minister Harold Macmillan accepted the resignation calling it a "great tragedy".

Profumo, 48, made a personal statement to the House of Commons on 22 March in which he admitted being misleading about his relationship with 21-year-old call girl Christine Keeler.

He had made the statement in response to allegations from fellow MPs that he was involved with Miss Keeler, who has also had relations with an attache at the Russian embassy.

It was also alleged that Profumo, who has been War Secretary since 1960, had assisted in the disappearance of Miss Keeler, who had not appeared at the Central Criminal Court where she was due to give evidence in the case against a West Indian accused of possessing a firearm.

She was later discovered in Spain.

In his letter to the Prime Minister, Profumo, said: "You will recollect that on 22 March, following certain allegations made in Parliament, I made a personal statement.

"At that time the rumour had charged me with assisting in the disappearance of a witness and with being involved in some possible breach of security.

"So serious were these charges that I allowed myself to think that my personal association with that witness, which had also been the subject of rumour, was by comparison of minor importance only.

"In my statement I said there had been no impropriety in this association.

"To my very deep regret I have to admit that this was not true, and that I misled you and my colleagues and the House."

The prime minister told Profumo that he had no option but to accept his resignation and said: "This is a great tragedy for you, your family and your friends.

Profumo also sent a personal letter to the chairman of the Conservative party in his constituency of Stratford-upon-Avon where there will now be a by-election.

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State and Financial Secretary at the War Office, Mr James Ramsden, will take temporary charge of the department.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

John Profumo was educated at Harrow and Brasenose College, Oxford.

He entered Parliament in 1940 at the age of 25, representing Kettering.

At the time he was the youngest member of the Commons.

Before being appointed at the War Office he held many positions including Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies and Minister of State at the Foreign Office.

Following his resignation he devoted himself to philanthropy and in 1975

was named Commander of the British Empire for his charitable work.

He died on 10 March 2006, aged 91.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Your connections with others are growing, and this is something you should start taking seriously today.

Taurus April 20-May 20 You've been enjoying more freedom with your money - some fun shopping trips here and there never killed anyone, right? Well, you knew the time would come when you'd have to tighten your belt.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Everyone looks to you for the answers today, but that doesn't rattle you at all. You're one cool customer, and nothing (and more importantly no one) is going to get the better of you!

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 There's nothing wrong with pushing yourself, but be sure you maintain a balance between what you have and what you want to have. Your eyes are becoming bigger than your wallet.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 They say the devil's in the details, and that is especially true today. To avoid all unsound temptations that may flirt with you during the day, stay on top of the details. It sounds a lot simpler than it is...

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 If you're really feeling the pressure today, it's time to readjust. Check in with yourself and realize that you're only one person, doing the best you can. You can't hit a home run every single time you're up at bat.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Going back and forth between options (and trying them on for size) is only going to be a waste of time. You need to check with your gut instincts and commit right away to one path.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Sometimes you have to have tunnel vision if you want to stay on track. Sure, there are lots of interesting people and events going on all around you right now, but don't let them distract you.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Just because you've stumbled a few times in your past doesn't mean you won't have huge success in your future. Don't let your insecurities get the better of you right now.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Try not to isolate yourself from the folks who make you feel uncomfortable or who challenge you today. By surrounding yourself with only people who think and act just like you.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 The upcoming days will throw you some curveballs - and there is little you can do to stop it. You're not in a very good place to react quickly, so before the unexpected bomb is dropped, get prepared.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 From the moment you wake up to the last minutes of your day, you'll be filled with a strong energy that encourages you to act. This may not be a literal, physical energy, but it will be potent.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle.

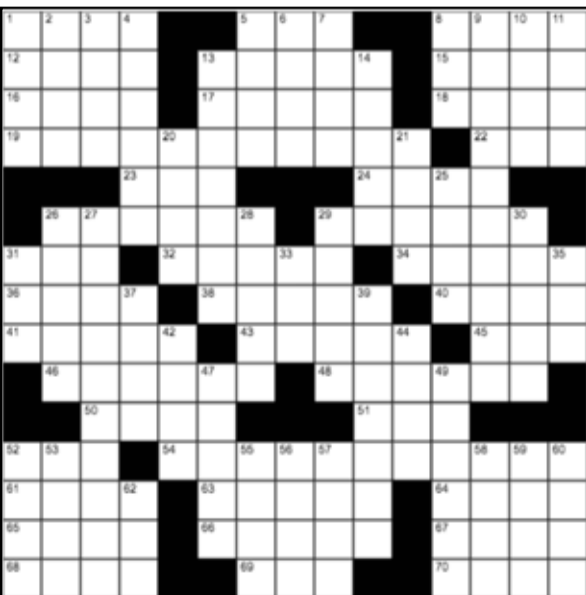
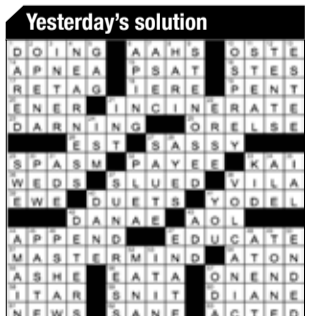
WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION for various cities in CHINA and WORLD.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- ... forgive our debtors; 5- Writing instrument; 8- River in central Switzerland; 12- Dregs; 13- Stupid person; 15- Summer coolers; 16- Salt Lake City hoopsters; 17- Prince Valiant's wife; 18- Puts two and two together; 19- Imaginary; 22- British verb ending; 23- Figs.; 24- European chain; 26- Agreement; 29- You got that right!; 31- Luau chow; 32- Woody inhabitants of forests!; 34- Wooden shoe; 36- Army N.C.O.; 38- Fertile area in a desert; 40- And here it is!; 41- Felt sore; 43- Mexican mister; 45- Nectar collector; 46- Finally!; 48- Worldwide; 50- Mater precursor; 51- HST's successor; 52- Have title to; 54- Pertaining to ownership; 61- Witches; 63- Having wings; 64- Little Tenderness; 65- Venus de ...; 66- More healthy; 67- Footnote abbr.; 68- Pace; 69- Affirmative reply; 70- Actress Russo;

DOWN: 1- Grad; 2- precedent; 3- Pay period, perhaps; 4- Ancient ascetic; 5- Voting-pattern predictor; 6- ... saw Elba; 7- Brief letter, paper money; 8- Battery size; 9- Capital of Ethiopia; 10- Ohio nine; 11- Latin being; 13- Conductor; 14- Maritime; 20- Gravy ...; 21- Building wings; 25- H.S. junior's exam; 26- Puccini classic; 27- 90° angle; 28- You can get a rise out of it; 29- Of Thee ...; 30- Alpine song; 31- Largest book of the OT; 33- Legal conclusion?; 35- kwon do; 37- Narrate; 39- Military person; 42- Moist; 44- Sat on the back of a horse; 47- Mother of Isaac; 49- Superior; 52- Resistance units; 53- Hold on!; 55- Oil of ...; 56- Lacking color; 57- Numbered rds.; 58- Commedia dell'...; 59- Tatum's dad; 60- Ivy League school; 62- Dip in liquid;



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



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WORLD CUP FRIENDLIES

Brazil's Jesus admits challenge against Firmino for No. 9

Mauricio Savarese, Liverpool

THE most loved Brazilian at Anfield, especially after Philippe Coutinho left for Barcelona, is Roberto Firmino. And it may seem likely that a striker who netted 27 goals for Liverpool last season would be strongly favored to be Brazil's No. 9 at the World Cup. But that doesn't intimidate 21-year-old sensation Gabriel Jesus, who has held that shirt for two years now.

Before yesterday's [Macau time] friendly victory (2-0) against Croatia, Jesus admitted he is facing competition from Firmino for a starting place in the team.

"This question of Firmino is good for me, for Brazil. Not only [to create competition] for the striker position, but all of them. He wants to play and that makes me want to improve too," Jesus said in a press conference.

"Since I started as a professional at Palmeiras I always had to fight for my position. It was like that in 2015, when I became professional. Palmeiras had signed more than 15 players and I was scared. But then I took the challenge," the striker said. "That was good for me because I made the extra effort."

Jesus said he didn't expect to still be wearing Brazil's No. 9, which once belonged to Ronaldo. And promised to show



AP PHOTO
Brazil's sensation striker Gabriel Jesus

he deserves to keep it.

"I didn't expect even to be a footballer, but I always dreamt of that. It is no different with wearing No. 9. Many players made history with Brazil wearing it, I want to follow their path," the Manchester City striker said.

Jesus scored seven goals and had five assists for Brazil in South American World Cup qualifiers. He also scored the team's only goal in the win at Germany in a friendly in March, seen as redemption for Brazilians after the 2014 World Cup semifinal 7-1 humiliation at home.

The 26-year-old Firmino, meanwhile, started only four games for his national team and scored only once in qualifiers. It was in April last year

in a 6-0 hammering of Bolivia.

Despite his slow return after injury this year, Jesus counts on the support of most Brazil supporters to keep his starting place.

Jesus is known and loved at home after two great seasons and a national championship with local giants Palmeiras. Firmino only played for tiny Figueirense in 2010 before he moved to Germany.

Fans also like Jesus better for his open personality.

The youngster speaks his mind in interviews, cries when he gets emotional and does not deny his boyish love for candy. He is often at the Jardim Peri favela in Sao Paulo, where only four years ago he was painting the streets with

Brazil World Cup themes.

That community loves him so much that, with the help of sponsors, they painted a 112-foot-tall mural with a depiction of the striker calling his mother in his famous goal celebration.

Firmino, for his part, is less exuberant before the cameras. Many Brazilian fans see him as too European, despite his humble beginnings in the impoverished northeast of the country.

But Jesus' apparent edge to start in Brazil's World Cup opener against Switzerland on June 17 does not make him waiver during training. His teammate Fernandinho said the fight for every position has been like a "cockfight."

The Manchester City striker also has the respect of coach Tite that extends beyond his playing position. During Sunday's clash he will be team captain, one of the youngest in Brazil's proud football history.

Tite likes to pass the captaincy armband around the team and said he will keep doing that at the World Cup in Russia.

"When I heard about the band I was very surprised," Jesus said. "But I know our coach wants us all to lead in Brazil. I was very surprised, but I accepted."

After this week's friendly Brazil will return to its London camp, where the team will stay until June 8. **AP**



AP PHOTO
DJ Linderma (left) fights Arnold Adams during the Bare Knuckle Fighting Championship event, in Cheyenne, Wyoming

BOXING

Legal bare-knuckle fighting makes bloody debut in Wyoming

THE first ever state-sanctioned bare-knuckle boxing match got a bloody this weekend — and a big response from a raucous crowd.

Arnold Adams, a 32-year-old MMA heavyweight, pounded ex-UFC fighter D.J. Linderman's face into a bloody mess in front of 2,000 rowdy fans at a hockey rink that usually hosts birthday parties and skating lessons in Wyoming's capital. Tens of thousands more tuned in for the pay-per-view event, which featured 10 bouts, including four heavyweight fights in a tournament format.

Fans were lined up outside the Cheyenne Ice and Events Center more than an hour before the first major bare-knuckle event in the U.S. since 1889. Forrest Peters, from Cheyenne, was among those in attendance. He came to cheer Estevan Payan — who served in the same Army unit as Peters — and to witness history.

"With the bare-knuckle fighting and everything, having them bring it back for the first time in over 100 years, you knew it's pretty exciting to see," Peters said, "and especially having it here in Cheyenne, kinda out here where the West is still a little wild."

Payan, of Tempe, Arizona, didn't disappoint, flooring Omar Avelar at 1:57 of the opening round of a 145-pound match.

The quickest knockout occurred when Sam Shewmaker used one punch, an overhand right, to send Eric Prindle to the canvas 18 seconds into their heavyweight bout.

"It felt like hitting a home run," said Shewmaker, a fourth-generation stone mason from the tiny central Missouri town of Gravois Mills. "I didn't think I would be able to catch him that early, but luckily I did."

Shewmaker has been an amateur boxer for years, and when he heard about the Wyoming event, he tried out and earned a chance to compete.

"I never dreamed that it would be legal to be able to do this," he said. "I've been in plenty of illegal bare-knuckle fights." **AP**

ON THE ROAD TO WORLD CUP

Pele comes of age as Brazil wins 1958 trophy

IT took a 17-year-old phenom to finally turn things around for Brazil.

Present at each World Cup since its start in 1930, Brazil had always fallen short — most notably in 1950 when the host country lost the final match to Uruguay.

The trauma of losing that game in front of a crowd some have estimated at more than 200,000 in the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro was so overwhelming that Brazil decided to ditch its white shirts in favor of what has become the



AP PHOTO
In this June 29, 1958 file photo 17-year-old Pelé (left) weeps on the shoulder of goalkeeper Gilmar Dos Santos Neves, after Brazil's 5-2 victory over hosts Sweden in the WC final soccer match, in Stockholm

iconic yellow shirt. It wasn't long before Brazil became champion. In 1958, Brazil won its first World Cup

in thrilling fashion, defeating host Sweden 5-2 in the final and in the process becoming the first team to win the

tournament outside its continent.

The tournament is largely remembered for the emergence of 17-year-old Edson Arantes do Nascimento. Pele, as he is better known, hadn't actually started the tournament, but coach Vicente Feola was forced into making changes after his team labored to a 0-0 draw against England.

The changes worked, none more so than the introduction of the agile and supremely skillful Pele. What astounded those who saw him was just how calm someo-

ne so young could be at moments of high drama.

Pele scored the only goal as Brazil beat Wales in the quarterfinals and he then netted a hat trick in Brazil's 5-2 semifinal victory over France. He added a further two goals in the final, with Brazil playing in blue because Sweden was wearing yellow.

His first goal, in the 55th minute, put Brazil ahead 3-1 and effectively ended the match as a contest. It is as memorable as any scored in a World Cup final. Controlling a looping ball into the penalty area with his thigh, Pele flipped it over his head, spun around and volleyed the ball past the Sweden goalkeeper.

A star was well and truly born.

opinion

Our Desk
 Renato Marques



SPACE TO PLAY

Recently opened without fanfare, the refurbished playground of Taipa's Central Park is (as far as I know) the only contemporary children's playground existing in the Macau SAR.

No, unlike other occasions, I am not saying this with any sarcasm – it's true! The playground and the park itself is what we can call an "Oasis in this Desert" of old, broken, unsafe and, above all, unattractive and unpleasant playgrounds existing across the peninsula and the islands.

In fact, that this park is so different to all the others leads me to wonder what light it was that "illuminated the minds" of its creators and planners?

I have been there a couple of times now and I must say it's a twofold joy to experience – a joy for the hundreds of kids playing there as well as for the adults who enjoy seeing them play, explore, and get sweaty.

For all those reading this and imagining what in the world this park has that makes it so "out of this world" I would say nothing really, but, at the same time, everything. It has, for example, three-story towers that need to be climbed by a spiral staircase (sorry, no lifts yet). Children have several means of sliding down from different levels, depending on their bravery or mood.

It has also a mini-climbing wall (at the very beginner's level) which, despite not rising over 2 meters from the ground, is enough to allow children to try some "cat" moves and test their capacities and skills.

In addition, it has swings (doesn't sound like a big deal I know) – but these are different swings. They are not the "individual seat" version for which a line of kids must wait for a long time until their turn and is usually is a source of conflict every time someone less patient jumps the line. These are a kind of "UFO style," in the shape of a big disc of rubbery material in which one, two, three or more kids ride together helped by the others, instead of passively waiting alongside it.

If you have not seen this yet, you must. It's an absolutely fantastic scene of fun and entertainment in which kids put aside differences in size, gender, skin color and ID cards and just play, like kids!

For those who aren't lucky enough to be allowed to play in this amazing place, due to fear of their parents or guardians, the popularity of the renewed playground also brings advantages. All the other playgrounds around Taipa have become empty, so you can even choose which (boring) thing you want to play with first.

Putting aside my personal opinion on this, I just want to congratulate – and this does not happen often – the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau for allowing this "miracle" to happen, taking the opportunity to ask also, when are you going to build more of these in other parks of the city?

I guess I know the response to that: It's too big, not enough space in other places. Well, if we made space for this one, I'm sure we can find a way to make space for others too, am I right?

And since it's about space that I keep talking about, and now that we have this space open, we just need to give kids time to enjoy this space, if you know what I mean...

THE BUZZ **BILL CLINTON BRISTLES AT QUESTIONS ON LEWINSKY, #MeToo**

Former President Bill Clinton says the #MeToo movement is overdue. Just don't ask him about Monica Lewinsky.

In an interview with NBC's "Today Show" released yesterday, Clinton bristled at questions over whether he should have resigned 20 years ago over his sexual relationship with the White House intern and whether the #MeToo movement has changed his perspective.

At the same time, the former Democratic president claimed credit for empowering wo-

men in his orbit and disputed that he might owe Lewinsky a private apology, insisting his public televised apology was adequate.

Lewinsky wrote in March that their relationship "was not sexual assault" but "constituted a gross abuse of power."

"I dealt with it 20 years ago, plus," said Clinton. "And the American people, two-thirds of them stayed with me."

Clinton is promoting his new fictional thriller, "The President Is Missing," with best-selling author James Patterson.

Mouth gets Duterte in trouble again, this time for kiss



In this video from PTV taken Sunday, Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte leans in to kiss a Filipino worker at the podium

PHILIPPINE President Rodrigo Duterte's mouth has landed him in hot water again, this time for kissing a married woman on the lips in front of thousands of his cheering supporters.

Duterte, known for his verbal outbursts and other antics, is being slammed by critics for the kiss, which took place Sunday during a town hall-style meeting with overseas Filipino workers in South Korea. One senator called the act "a despicable display of sexism and grave abuse of authority."

Duterte sought a kiss from the woman after he called her on stage to give her a copy of a book at the event in Seoul. When Duterte asked if she can explain to her husband that the antic was just a joke, and she said yes, the president leaned in and kissed her as thousands erupted in cheers.

The scene was beamed live by the state-run TV network to the Philippines.

While the woman has defended the kiss and said she was thrilled by her encounter, others said the president went too far.

"President Duterte acted like a feudal king who

thinks that being the president is an entitlement to do anything that he pleases," said Sen. Risa Hontiveros, who asked the public not to pass judgment on the woman. "Even if the act was consensual, it was the president, possessed of awesome, even intimidating, power, who initiated it."

The left-wing Gabriela women's party condemned Duterte's act, which it said underscored his "machismo and misogyny." The "macho spectacle," it said, "alarmingly makes sexual advances against women look right."

Aside from growing alarm over his bloody crackdown against illegal drugs which has left thousands of mostly poor drug suspects dead, Duterte has come under fire from women's groups for sexist remarks, including one where he told troops to shoot female insurgents in the genitals during a public outburst against communist guerrillas.

He has also publicly kissed women in the past, included at rallies during his campaign for the presidency.

The latest incident came near the end of a two-hour rambling speech, when Du-

terte offered the crowd a book about alleged corruption and abuse in the Catholic church. He pointed at two women.

"There's payment for this, a kiss. You in white, are you ready to engage in kissing? Come here," the 73-year-old Duterte said as summoned the women to the stage.

One of the women gave the president a peck on the cheek. The other woman reached for the president's hand and put it on her forehead in a traditional gesture of respect for an elderly. But the president asked her to come closer for a kiss, pointing to his lips.

Amid the roar of the crowd, Duterte asked if the woman was married and if her husband was around. He inquired if she could explain to her husband that what they were about to do was just a joke.

She said her husband wasn't around and replied yes to the president's other question. "Make him jealous," the president said.

Duterte then leaned in and kissed the visibly overwhelmed woman, who screamed in joy and covered her face. He then hugged her. **AP**

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

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS



ISRAEL A top Cabinet minister yesterday rejected international criticism of Israel's open-fire policies along the Gaza border, saying the disproportionate number of Palestinian casualties does not reflect the true story.

GREECE-TURKEY A lawyer representing eight Turkish servicemen who fled to Greece seeking asylum after the 2016 failed coup in Turkey says all his clients have been freed pending a ruling on their applications.

AUSTRIA-RUSSIA Russian President Vladimir Putin is traveling to Austria today. The visit, which marks the 50th anniversary of the start of Soviet gas deliveries to Austria, takes him to one of Europe's more Russia-friendly countries at a time when relations between the European Union and Russia are at a low ebb.

FRANCE Financial prosecutors have opened an investigation after an anti-corruption association filed a complaint against French President Emmanuel Macron's chief of staff.



GUATEMALA Rescuers used heavy machinery and shovels yesterday to search for survivors or victims of an eruption at Guatemala's Volcano of Fire, and residents said they were caught unaware by fast-moving pyroclastic flows that killed at least 25 people and left authorities fearing the toll could go higher. **More on p15**



US Frank Carlucci, who advocated an arms buildup in the 1980s and was an ambassador to Portugal in the mid-1970s, has died aged 87.