



## TAIWAN OFFICIAL PRAISES SARS

Links between Taiwan and the SARS have not been affected by tensions with mainland China, a top official said

P3 MDT REPORT



## PANSY HO RECEIVES HIGHEST FRENCH ORDER OF MERIT

P3



## MIGRANT GROUPS CRY FOUL

The exclusion of domestic workers and people with disabilities from the minimum wage stirs controversy

P7

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**KOREAS** The rival Koreas agreed yesterday to fully restore their cross-border communication lines after holding rare high-level military talks on reducing tensions. [More on p13](#)

**PHILIPPINES** The government is delaying a resumption of peace talks with communist guerrillas to allow public consultations, an official said yesterday, adding that efforts to end one of Asia's longest rebellions were "now at the cusp of some major breakthroughs."

[More on backpage](#)



## FOOTBALL FEVER

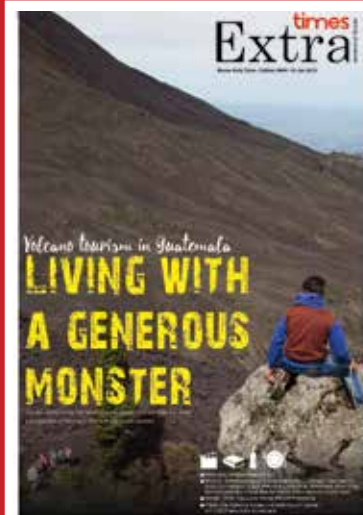
# World Cup kicks off with Russia win

P19



## Protest against road traffic law tomorrow

P5



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# Macau Lifestyle hopes to help establish digital media in town

Lynzy Valles

**F**ROM suggesting local eateries, guides to city hotspots and stories on different activities held in the SAR, Macau Lifestyle aims to bring more to the table as it celebrates its second year on the market. The online lifestyle publication showcases the best of the city's offerings, including its culture and heritage.

Co-founded by Moscow-born Katya Maia and Australian-born Sally Victoria Benson, Macau Lifestyle has published over 1,000 articles, event listings and city guides.

Speaking to the Times, the founders recalled their participation in the government's financial support scheme for young entrepreneurs, which provided them with an interest-free loan. However, the pair admitted that the financial assistance was not enough to run a business in the SAR.

"There is some help available from the government but it's not enough. Another thing that helps businesses grow and be sustainable is the community," said Benson, who is currently based in Hong Kong. "I've been running some of our operations in Hong Kong and there is so much more community spirit, positivity and help available. There is more negativity around having a startup and being an entrepreneur in Macau than in Hong Kong, which is a shame."

Benson worries that there are



Sally Victoria Benson (left) and Katya Maia

many talented people in Macau with unique ideas who do not have enough space, community support and financial help to grow. "We are so lucky to have the support of a few hotels in Macau, but the amount of businesses who think we should work for free is appalling and I think many SME owners would agree, that is a big challenge," Benson said.

Meanwhile Maia revealed that the team still does not have a physical office as all its contri-

butors work from home, which she considers both an advantage and challenge in the new media sector. "We all work independently; we're truly digital. We're proud of this but it's also a challenge. It's better in terms of stronger operations to still have an office," said Maia.

Currently, Macau Lifestyle also collaborates with public institutions including the Macao Government Tourism Office and Cultural Affairs Bureau, along with private clients, including

the city's several integrated resorts. The online platform curates stories on local eateries, art exhibitions, activities to do on the weekend and much more.

The co-founders also expressed that the rapid development of new media has given them further opportunities to expand their business. "We've seen some lifestyle publications close over the last two years and we see much more engagement with new media, including social media and digital [media],"

said Maia.

Maia added that the firm had also experienced challenges communicating with their clients who did not understand the value of new media and the advantages of having information accessible online in a rapid manner. "[At] the end of the day we're spending the time most on our computers and phones. It's just the way it is. It's not going anywhere, [rather] it is going to be more of that."

**There is more negativity around having a startup and being an entrepreneur in Macau than in Hong Kong.**

SALLY VICTORIA BENSON

Macau Lifestyle also invests in search engine optimization for both local residents and incoming tourists to find their website when seeking relevant information. The team is also creating relevant information for tourists, particularly English-speaking tourists to be aware of what the city has to offer.

"I think new media is the future. I think people want news and information delivered as fast and as easily as possible. Social media has completely changed the way we receive information," said Benson. "I'm really curious what things will be like in two to three years given how fast everything is changing and developing."

**A**PPPLICATIONS are now open for owners of Macau-registered private vehicles to seek the right to drive over the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB).

Eligible individuals and companies may make an application to the Transport Bureau until June 26, according to a dispatch published yesterday in the Official Gazette.

Under a regular quota initiative, there are 600 permits available for owners of Macau-registered private vehicles. Each permit is valid for one year and offers unlimited access – during the

## Applications open for Macau-registered vehicles to use HKZMB

permit period – to the road link on the bridge, a structure that spans the Pearl River Delta, in order to travel to Hong Kong and back.

Of the 600 permits, 300 are being offered via application from individual owners of vehicles; and 300 are being offered to respective companies that have registered a vehicle.

Individual applicants must be holders of Macau permanent identification and hold

a valid driving license for light vehicles. Other conditions for individual applicants are that they must be either an employee with remunerated work in Hong Kong or have established a registered company in Hong Kong. Company-based applications must be from a company registered in Macau and hold more than 50-percent share in a subsidiary company in Hong Kong.

Not more than two designated drivers are allowed under the individual quota regime, and the named applicant himself or herself must be one of the designated drivers. For the company portion of the quota system, firms can nominate a maximum of three staff members as designated drivers.

The Transport Bureau will hold a draw on June 29 to determine the recipients of the permits.



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# Fewer local students in Taiwan, tourism booming

Julie Zhu, Taiwan\*

**T**HE relationship between Taiwan and the SARs has not been affected by the relationship between Taiwan and mainland China," declared Du Jiafen, Secretary of Taiwan-Hong Kong Economic and Cultural Cooperation Council.

On the second day of the visiting Macau media group's trip to Penghu County, Du met with the group having spoken about several topics related to the SARs relationship with Taiwan, in particular the relationship with Macau.

According to data provided by Du, in 2017 more than 1.06 million Taiwan residents visited Macau, while 150,000 Macau residents travelled to Taiwan.

"The number of Macau and Hong Kong students studying in Taiwan has been increasing [overall]," said Du. "Currently, 13,400 Hong Kong and Macau students are studying in Taiwan, approximately 5,200 of whom are from Macau."

However, a decrease in the number of Macau students has been seen since 2016 when 5,529 students studied in Taiwan. The number went down to 5,116 in 2017.

The decline may be related to families having fewer children, while mainland China has simultaneously been attracting Macau students.

"Mainland China's recruitment of Macau students appeals to them. [The decrease in the number of Macau students in Taiwan] is related to mainland China's measures and policies," said Du, who is also head of the Department of Hong Kong and Macau Affairs for the Mainland Affairs Council of the Executive Yuan of Taiwan.



The delegation visited the Dashi Old Railway Bridge Wetland Park in Kaohsiung city. Du Jiafen (inset pictured) talks with journalists

Nevertheless, SAR students are still the largest group of foreign students in Taiwan. Independently, the number of Macau students ranked third among foreign students in Taiwan, with mainland China in first place and Hong Kong in second.

In Taiwan, there are policies benefit students who come from the SARs and wish to stay after finishing their studies. According to Du, 80 percent of SAR students who applied for a work and stay permits in Taiwan through these policies were successfully approved.

Generally speaking, SARs students normally choose to study in Taiwan due to the influence of their parents.

"I am still positive about the future number of Hong Kong and Macau students studying in Taiwan," declared Du.

In recent years, many SAR residents have travelled to Taiwan through the free travel schemes instead of packaged tours. Free-travel-scheme tourists from the SARs represent the majority of

all free-travel-scheme tourists. On average, SAR free-travel-scheme tourists visit Taiwan four times per year. "Young people come to Taiwan during winter and summer vacations," said Du.

The Taiwan government representative also made a few comments on Taiwan's overall environment. "Taiwan's officials do not seem like officials. [...] We don't have bureaucracy. [...] It is related to Taiwan's democracy. Young people like it and like Taiwan's rather open and friendly environment," said Du.

"Policies concerning Hong Kong and Macau residents are rather [relaxed] compared to policies for foreigners," said Du. "Because mainland China has antipathy towards Taiwan, Taiwan has tight control over mainland China [residents]."

While addressing other policies related to the SAR residents, in particular Macau residents who are in possession of both a SAR passport and foreign passport, Du noted that Taiwan

offers more relaxed policies for SAR passport holders than for foreign passport holders.

"Regarding Hong Kong and Macau residents, before 1997 and 1999, the policies were rather relaxed. Since [Hong Kong] and [Macau] became SARs of mainland China, [Taiwan] hopes to continue beneficial policies [for the SARs]," said Du. "Macau students studying in Taiwan enjoy beneficial policies, including health insurance and the right to work while studying, which foreign students do not enjoy," she added.

"[Taiwan immigration] recommends [Macau residents] to make a choice between [either using a SAR passport or a foreign passport] to enter Taiwan," explained Du, adding that the current legal regime is not able to apply beneficial policies to SAR residents if they enter Taiwan with a foreign passport. Beginning last year, Taiwan eased visa application procedures for residents of both SARs.

Taiwan has always been regarded by the Chinese community

as a place where outstanding Chinese movies are produced. On the topic of movie-making with Hong Kong and Macau, Du said that Taiwan is "supportive" of such cooperation.

"As to the exact actions [for cooperation], they need to be discussed with the cultural department," said Du, adding that Taiwan hopes to export more of its own movies.

Previously, several Taiwanese citizens holding passports with Republic of Taiwan stickers were denied entry to Macau.

When questioned by the Times, Du said that Taiwan's foreign affairs authority, "has been intensifying publicity to advise Taiwanese not to modify their passports."

Speaking with the Macau media, Du acknowledged that the relationship between mainland China and Taiwan has "not been so good" for the past two years. The relationship became more tense after Tsai Ing-wen started her presidency.

As explained by Du, "The constitutional law of the Republic of China is a law inclined to unification."

"Regardless of whether it is the Democratic Progressive Party or the Kuomintang, [...] they all need to maintain stability across the Taiwan Straits."

As stated by Du, Ma Ying-jeou, the previous leader of Taiwan, and the Taiwan government had several meetings with mainland China regarding the 1992 Consensus. During the meeting, leaders of both regions agreed to jointly respect the One China with Respective Interpretations policy.

"However, after Tsai stepped into position two years ago, mainland China kept talking about the 1992 Consensus, but the One China with Respective Interpretations has disappeared," said Du, who also remarked that, "Taiwan does not have the conditions to pursue independence."

\*The journalist is in Taiwan at the invitation of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Macau

## Pansy Ho receives highest French order of merit

**PANSY** Ho, co-chairperson and executive director of MGM China Holdings Limited, has been bestowed the Chevalier de L'Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur. The order of merit was presented to her by Eric Berti, the Consul General of France in Hong Kong and Macau.

"To me, the significance of this award is much more than to honor a particular individual, but to salute the concept of service for common benefit. [...] This



is a decoration the French President grants to me for acknowledging the humb-

le role I play in my lifelong advocacy of French art and culture, and promo-

tion of cultural exchange and economic development between France and China, Hong Kong and Macau," Pansy Ho said during the bestowing ceremony.

Describing the influence of French art and culture on her, Ho said: "Little did I know then that my childhood visits would evolve into a lifelong journey of promoting French art and culture, spanning my career path, different businesses and industry sectors, different regions,

and for a multitude of good reasons."

"Connecting people and nations, and promoting common development and peace, are enormous tasks that require individual and collaborative efforts," she added.

Apart from her involvement in organizing Le French May, Pansy Ho brought prominent French art exhibitions like the "Biennial of the Lions, Edgar Degas: Figures in Motion" and "A Golden Way of Life - Très'Ors to

Macau" to make French art and culture more accessible to the Hong Kong and Macau communities.

Ho was previously bestowed with the honor of Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Merite in April 2009. She was appointed as Ambassador of the Louvre in China in 2012.

The Order of the Légion d'Honneur was created by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802. It is the highest civilian award given by the French Republic for outstanding service to France.



## 15-year-old people smuggling mastermind arrested

A 15-year-old male mainland resident was arrested for people smuggling, according to a statement released by Macao Customs Service. Another mainlander was also arrested for the same crime. The 15-year-old suspect is reportedly the mastermind of a people smuggling ring. Customs also detained another two mainland residents for people smuggling. The two suspects claimed to have entered Macau to catch oysters. The 15-year-old was sent on to the public prosecutor, while the other three illegal immigrants were transferred to the Public Security Police Force.

## 12 severe infractions in the continuing education scheme

The Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) announced 12 severe infractions related to the third phase of the Continuing Education Development Plan, which goes on until the end of May. During the third phase, the DSEJ carried out approximately 1,700 inspections of Continuing Education organizations, and the department issued 150 warning letters. According to Wong Chi Iong, Chief Executive of the DSEJ's Division of Continuing Education, 12 cases of fraud and documents forgery were referred on to the public prosecutor.

# Hengqin relaxes requirements for Macau vehicles

**T**HE Administration Committee of Hengqin New Area has reportedly approved an amendment to the regulation for Macau vehicles entering Hengqin, allowing more drivers from the SAR to take their vehicles into the neighboring region.

According to media reports, the Committee confirmed that requirements for local residents have been relaxed, allowing them to drive to Hengqin if they buy properties on the island. Local residents who are employed and pay social security there can also apply for permission to drive in the region.

Earlier this year, the Hengqin Free Trade Zone allowed a maximum of 800 Macau



single-plated cars to enter the zone. This number is seven times more than it was previously.

Macau's single-plated cars will also be exempted from annual checks within the next six years.

The Guangdong Security Department previously announced

18 measures to assist the Greater Bay Area plan across six fields, including cooperation of security forces, border entry of people and vehicles, and skilled peoples' residence in the three regions.

The Hengqin authorities are already printing and distributing the amendments.



## Foreign Ministry Spokesperson in town

**F**oreign Ministry Spokesperson, Lu Kang is in Macau to speak about his experiences with local government press officers. Yesterday in a seminar on the dissemination of government information held by the Office of the MSAR Government Spokesperson, Lu discussed international affairs with participants and explained the country's foreign policy direction. Approximately 200 people attended the seminar, including the heads of and press officers from a number of Government departments.

During the question-and-answer session, Lu shared views on the functions of the spokesperson system, requirements of a government spokesperson, as

well as skills in handling media enquiries.

Lu Kang joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in 1993. He is now the Director-General of the Department of Information for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China.

This was the seventh seminar on the dissemination of government information held by the Office of the MSAR Government Spokesperson. Since the first seminar in 2009, the Office has invited experienced spokesperson officers from several Central Government ministries and departments, as well as scholars and journalism experts, to share fresh insights on dissemination of government information with Macau officials.

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# DSAT suspends road traffic law consultation, protest continues

**T**HE Transport Bureau (DSAT) has suspended public consultation on changes to the road traffic law in order to review the proposal, the Bureau has advised in a statement.

According to the statement, accounting for "community opinion, the government has decided to suspend the public consultation planned for the end of this month."

Despite the recall of the proposal, groups that have planned to protest tomorrow against the government's proposed increased parking fines said the protest will not be suspended.

According to the organizers, namely a group that includes lawmaker Ng Kwok Cheong and gaming workers' rights activist Cloee Chao among others, the protest will go ahead as the fundamental issue has not yet been addressed by the government.

"The fundamental problem is the lack of parking spaces and the unreasonable allocation of the parking spaces," Ng Kwok Cheong said to journalists. "The government is en-



tirely aware of this deeply-rooted problem and yet is deciding to increase parking fines to provoke public reaction," Ng said, while also calling for an increase in the number of parking spaces to address the large number of illegally parked vehicles, an opinion shared by Chao, heard by the Times.

According to organizers, the street protest will start at 3 p.m. tomorrow at Vasco da Gama Garden. The march will progress toward the Nam

Van Lake area.

This is not the first time groups have organized demonstrations to protest DSAT's increase of taxes and fines. A street protest was held in January last year, where the organizers claimed to have gathered around 5,000 people to march against the government's proposed increases in fees for several DSAT-related services, especially those concerning vehicle removal for parking infringements. **RM**

## AMCM: Cost of borrowing money may increase

**Y**ESTERDAY the Monetary Authority of Macao (AMCM) raised the discount window base rate by 25 basis points to 2.25 percent. According to a statement issued yesterday by the AMCM, since the Macau pataca is linked to the Hong Kong dollar, "The movements of policy rates in Hong Kong and Macau should be [...] consistent, in order to maintain the effective operation of the linked exchange rate system."

As a result, the AMCM followed its Hong Kong counterpart in raising the base rate by 25 basis points. The US Federal Reserve also raised the federal funds rate target range by 25 basis points on 13 June (US time). The Hong Kong dollar is linked to the US dollar under a similar linked exchange rate system.

Local interest rates have broadly increased since the base rate was raised 25 basis points to

2 percent on 22 March this year. The AMCM expects that Macau banks would gradually adjust deposit and lending rates at the retail level, along with developments in the financial market and funding costs.

The statement notes, "The gradual upward adjustment of mortgage interest rates would increase mortgagors' financial burden; hence, those who rely on mortgages to purchase properties should prudently assess their ability to repay." The AMCM says that borrowers of other types of loans should also pay attention to the financial risk associated with rising interest rates and conduct relevant cost analyses and cash flow planning. Meanwhile, local banks should assess the impact of interest rate adjustments on operations and strengthen risk management.

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# Migrant groups find proposed bill discriminatory

A public consultation report issued by the government indicates that nearly 90 percent of the 2,461 opinions support the exclusion of domestic workers from the minimum wage.

During the 45-day public consultation that began in November 2017, over 90 percent of opinions supported the minimum wage legislation.

However, migrant groups are not satisfied with the report, calling the bill (which recommends the exclusion of domestic workers and people with disabilities) discriminatory.

Nedie Taberdo, chairperson of the Greens Philippines Migrant Workers Union (GPMWU) slammed the report, saying that the treatment to domestic workers in Macau is akin to modern slavery. "This is not just



Migrant workers in Macau

unfair. It is blatant discrimination and slavery. With no labor protection, no minimum wage, no time limit of work, not to mention those who are not gi-

ven decent food, it could be likened to slavery," Taberdo told the Times. "They keep on proposing [bills] that worsen our situation." Taberdo noted that

**This is not just unfair. It is blatant discrimination and slavery.**

NEDIE TABERDO

if the hiring of domestic helpers in China becomes legal soon, many will opt to move out of Macau to go for "higher paid offers and better labor protection." Meanwhile, some in the report claimed that wages in Macau are already far higher than those in the domestic helpers' places of origin, hence calling for their exclusion from the minimum wage protection bill. Others suggested that these vulnerable

groups should not receive minimum wage as they reside in their employers' residence.

Yosa Wariyanti, president of the Indonesian Migrant Workers Union, lamented that city has turned a blind eye to household workers, disregarding their contribution to the lives of local residents. "We also suffer from paying high rents in Macau, then with transportation and medical fees, [so] increasing the salary of migrant workers will improve our welfare and we can work better with less worries about our needs," said Wariyanti.

The two migrant groups hope that the government will also consider proposing bills to benefit domestic workers. However, in the report the Labor Affairs Bureau said that it would recommend exempting domestic helpers from minimum wage protection in future legislation, due to the "uniqueness of the nature" of their jobs. It also noted that their salaries will be examined and assessed against the going market rate when a work permit application is made.

Renato Marques

MORPHEUS, the latest addition to Macau's resort panorama opens today. The hotel was designed by late Pritzker Architecture Prize winner Dame Zaha Hadid and heralds Phase 3 in the development of Melco Resorts & Entertainment's City of Dreams (COD).

From the outside, the hotel impresses with its avant-garde free-form and exoskeleton-bound design. During yesterday's media visit, journalists saw the interior of the building, including the common areas, dining venues, hotel rooms and duplex villas.

Morpheus is also said to be the first hotel brand wholly developed and created by Melco to set "a

## Morpheus opens today with 'ultra-luxury hospitality' concept



new benchmark for ultra-luxury hospitality in Macau."

In the dining area, a whole floor is dedicated to Monegasque chef, Alain Du-

casse, with two restaurants that make up The World of Ducasse. The new property also features other gastronomic highlights such as The Universe of Pierre



Hermé and the unusual Chinese fine dining restaurant Yi, which is located in the Sky Bridge at the center of the hotel. Yi serves regional Chinese dishes in

omakase-style. This means the restaurant will not have a fixed menu, but an array of choices depending on the season and on the best ingredients available.

The sky pool is located all the way at the top of the building, 130 meters above ground with a 360 degree view of Cotai and the surrounding areas.

There is a 12,000-square foot retail area in the lobby featuring mostly designer brands and pop-up shops, which now connect to the COD retail galleries.

Along with the eye-popping design, Morpheus also houses an art collection that features Charles Pétillon's six-meter-high fabric bubble installation '200 Litofairhour', 'Echoes of the Infinity', a corridor of Japanese-style floral panels by Japanese artist Shinji Ohmaki, and KAWS' 'Good Intentions,' a large sculpture in the Contemporary Visual Art Gallery on the 23rd floor.

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Real estate is widely considered one of the best investment vehicles for creating personal financial wealth. But there is also the perception that it is one of the most inaccessible investments due to the high price of properties, especially in Macau and Hong Kong.

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The first option is to invest in a Real Estate Investment Trust, or REIT. A REIT is a company that owns, manages or finances income-producing real estate. REITs often trade on major exchanges like other securities such as stocks to provide an avenue for investors to have a liquid stake in real estate. REITs are required to pay out at least 90% of their income as dividends, and have at

least 100 shareholders where no five shareholders can own more than 50% of the shares. There are two major types of REITs. Equity REITs generate cash flow by purchasing properties and leasing them out to tenants like traditional portfolio investors. They also capitalize on appreciations in property prices over time.

Mortgage REITs make money by borrowing money at low short-term interest rates and buying mortgages that pay higher long-term interest rates and keeping the spread. Mortgage REITs can be volatile due to fluctuations in the short-term interest rate while Equity REITs are traditionally more stable.

Another way is to get involved as a passive investor in a real estate syndicate. A syndicate is basically a group of investors pooling their funds to invest in a development project under the management of the Sponsor. Syndicates and REITs share

a similar fundamental operating model but syndicates are usually much smaller in size, less formal and typically focus on a specific development project. Syndications are not common in Macau or Hong Kong, but can be commonly found in overseas investment markets such as the US.

The last and perhaps the most passive form of real estate investing is to purchase Secured Loan Notes (SLNs). A SLN is a type of loan that is backed by the borrower's assets, which in this case would be real estate. If the borrower defaults on the SLN, the pledged asset that is securing the loan can be sold to repay the note. SLNs typically pay a fixed interest rate on the principal for the duration of the loan until the loan is settled in full. If you are an investor looking for secured, predictable returns on your money SLNs might be the right option for you.

BLOOMBERG



SAUDI ARABIA

## Deal to gradually boost OPEC output 'inevitable'

SAUDI Arabia's oil minister said it's "inevitable" that OPEC and its allies will agree to boost oil output gradually, giving the most definitive signal yet that the cartel will alleviate high prices for consumers.

"I think we'll come to an agreement that satisfies most importantly the market," Khalid Al-Falih told reporters in Moscow yesterday, when asked about the outcome of the meeting between the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies in Vienna next

week. "I think it will be a reasonable and moderate agreement" but nothing "outlandish," he said.

Russia and Saudi Arabia, leaders of the deal that curbed crude output and boosted prices to three-year highs are discussing their next move in Moscow. They face growing pressure, not least from the Twitter account of U.S. President Donald Trump, to increase supply to offset disruptions caused by the economic crisis in Venezuela and renewed

American sanctions on Iran.

For Al-Falih, the assertion of inevitability is a gamble on his ability to persuade those two nations to drop their opposition to an output increase in face-to-face meetings in the Austrian capital next week. So far, Caracas and Tehran have been adamant that OPEC doesn't need to boost production this year and have warned against responding to political pressure from Washington. **Bloomberg**



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Youkyung Lee, Seoul

**S**AMSUNG Electronics Co., the world's biggest smartphone maker, joined yesterday a growing list of companies that are promising to increase their use of solar and other renewable energy to help curb global warming.

Samsung, part of South Korea's biggest corporate group, is the first Asian electronics manufacturer to join a movement spearheaded by Apple Inc. and other Silicon Valley companies.

The South Korean tech giant said it would use more renewable energy at factories and other operations in the United States, Europe and China but still would rely on local power grids that use fossil fuels and, to compensate for that, would buy credits from outside renewable energy suppliers. The company said it had not determined which providers it might use.

Other companies that have joined the renewable energy pledge, dubbed RE 100, include automakers General Motors Co. and BMW AG and a handful of other manufacturers. Most are in less energy-intensive technology and service industries.

The maker of Galaxy smartphones faces bigger challenges due to its vast factory network in more than 30 countries, while many of the Silicon Valley names on the

# Samsung joins global pledge to increase renewable energy use



list rely on outside contractors for manufacturing.

"Samsung's commitment represents a big step forward in reducing the impact that our technology is having on the planet," the environmental group Greenpeace said in a statement.

Activists began pressing Samsung a year ago to set a renewable energy target.

The company faced growing pressure from clients for its ma-

nufacturing services, some of whom had called on their suppliers to make a similar commitment.

Apple, a major customer for Samsung's chips and display panels, said in April it would push its supply chain to switch to renewable energy.

Samsung gave no renewable energy target for facilities in its home country of South Korea, where about three quarters of the

energy comes from coal and nuclear power.

It also declined to give a target for Vietnam, which has become its largest manufacturing base for smartphones.

Samsung, also a major producer of computer chips, said its plans include installing 42,000 square meters of solar panels this year at its headquarters in Suwon, South Korea, and two other cities where it operates

major semiconductor plants.

The effect of that would be largely symbolic because the portion of renewable energy in Samsung's South Korean business still would be minimal.

**Samsung's commitment represents a big step forward in reducing the impact that our technology is having on the planet.**

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP GREENPEACE

South Korea gets 6 percent of its energy from renewable sources. The government aims to increase that to 20 percent by 2030. **AP**

## GAMING

# New Jersey set to begin taking legal sports bets

Wayne Parry, Atlantic City

**I**N 1978, the Democratic governor of New Jersey threw the first dice at an Atlantic City casino to kick off an era of legal gambling in the state. Forty years later, another Democratic governor will place the state's first legal bet on a sporting event.

Gov. Phil Murphy plans to place a pair of bets Thursday morning at Monmouth Park, a horse racing track near the Jersey shore in Oceanport. (He won't reveal in advance who he plans to risk his money on.)

And like Gov. Brendan Byrne, who shared the first toss of the dice with entertainer Steve Lawrence in the 1978 opening of Resorts casino, Murphy will usher in a new form of gambling intended to take it out of the shadows and the domain of organi-



zed crime, and into the light of regulation, consumer protection and government taxation.

British bookmaker William Hill partnered with Monmouth Park to offer sports betting years before it was even possible, in anticipation of the day when a federal prohibition on such wagering in all but four states would be reversed.

"I'm super-excited," said Joe Asher, CEO of William Hill US. "A lot of people have worked a long time to make this happen." Asher said he contacted Dennis Drazin, who runs Monmouth, in 2012 about getting in early on a U.S. sports betting market that did not yet exist. They signed a contract to do it in 2013, and have been

preparing ever since.

The track will take the first bets in the state, starting at 10:30 a.m. EDT. Thirty minutes later and about 112 kilometers to the south, the Borgata will become Atlantic City's first casino to begin taking such bets. Other casinos and tracks eventually plan to offer sports betting, but none has announced plans to do so in the next few days.

New Jersey won a U.S. Supreme Court case last month, overturning a federal law that restricted legal sports betting to just four states: Nevada, Delaware, Montana and Oregon; only Nevada had offered bets on single games. Delaware started taking single-game sports bets last week.

Experts predict in-game betting, in which customers use smartphones to wager on developments over the course of a game, will quickly become a major component of sports betting in the U.S.

But online sports betting will not start for at least 30 days in New Jersey; until then, it is limited to casinos and horse tracks. **AP**



ENTERTAINMENT

# Tokyo Disney operator to invest USD2.3b in expansion

**T**HE operator of Tokyo Disneyland is investing 250 billion yen (USD2.3 billion) in the biggest expansion to the Japanese resort in almost two decades as Walt Disney Co. continues to upgrade its theme parks in Asia.

Oriental Land Co., which is licensed to operate the Tokyo resort, will expand the DisneySea park to include a hotel and new areas based on movies such as "Frozen" and "Peter Pan," according to a statement Thursday. The investment is in addition to a previously announced about 100 billion yen upgrade to DisneySea and the Disneyland park. Oriental Land said it extended its license with Disney for an additional 30 years, to 2076.

The new areas are set to open by mid-2022 and will

add 50 billion yen in annual revenue, according to Kyochiro Uenishi, chief operating officer of Oriental Land. Uenishi said the resort may consider raising ticket prices if there is an opportunity. He declined to give a specific target for visitor numbers with the new attraction areas.

Tokyo Disneyland opened in April 1983, becoming the first Disney park built outside the U.S., while the adjoining DisneySea opened 18 years later. Disney is continuing to expand its parks in Asia. Earlier this year, it opened the first expansion, Toy Story Land, to its two-year-old Shanghai resort, and is in the middle of a \$1.4 billion upgrade of its Hong Kong resort, which will include "Frozen" and Marvel-themed lands. **Bloomberg**



CHINA'S government renewed its threat yesterday to scrap deals with Washington aimed at defusing a sprawling trade dispute as the White House prepared to release a list of Chinese goods targeted for tariff hikes.

President Donald Trump has threatened to raise tariffs on up to USD150 billion of Chinese goods in response to complaints about Beijing's trade surplus and technology policy. As part of that, the White House is due to issue a list on Friday of \$50 billion of Chinese goods targeted for a 25 percent tariff.

# Beijing warns US trade deals off if tariff hike goes ahead

Beijing has promised to buy more American soybeans, natural gas and other exports but warned after June 3 talks between U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and China's top economic official, Vice Premier Liu He, that all deals were off if Trump's threatened tariffs went ahead.

"We made clear that if the U.S. rolls out trade sanction including the imposition of tariffs, all outcomes reached by the two sides in terms of trade and economy will not come into effect," said a foreign ministry spokesman, Geng Shuang. "I just want to repeat this point today."

Beijing also has announced plans to cut import duties on autos and some consumer goods and to ease limits on foreign ownership in auto manufacturing, insurance and some other industries, though those don't directly address U.S. complaints.

Economists also warn that Beijing will resist changing technology development policies Washington dislikes but that Chinese leaders see as successful.

The first round of tariff hikes planned by Washington is in response to complaints Beijing steals or pressures foreign companies to hand over technology in violation of its World Trade Organization market-opening commitments.

China also has threatened to retaliate with its own tariff hikes



Shipping containers stand in a terminal at the Yangshan Deep Water Port, Shanghai

## ONE SHOT NEWS



Hong Kong Secretary for Transport and Housing Frank Chan Fan (center) speaks to the media surrounded by pro-democracy lawmakers outside the legislative chamber in Hong Kong. The Hong Kong Legislative Council passed a controversial bill yesterday on the co-location checkpoint arrangements for a cross-border Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong express rail link, a high speed rail link that connects Hong Kong and mainland Chinese cities.

on \$50 billion of U.S. exports including pork and soybeans, though authorities avoided renewing that threat following the latest round of talks.

Yesterday, a Commerce Ministry spokesman said some Chinese exporters are rushing to fill orders due to concern about possible trade risks. The spokesman didn't mention Washing-

ton and Trump's threat of tariff hikes.

"A few companies have increased the number of 'short orders' to avoid risks," Gao Feng said at a regular briefing. "However, this is not the mainstream and will not affect our country's situation of steady and healthy development of foreign trade." AP

AD



## BUBBLES AND PEARLS

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# US seeks to assuage Asian allies after North Korea summit

Josh Lederman,  
Christopher Bodeen

**T**HE United States and its Asian allies worked yesterday to paper over any semblance of disagreement over President Donald Trump's concession to Kim Jong Un that the U.S. will halt military exercises with South Korea, with Trump's top diplomat insisting the president hadn't backed down from his firm line on North Korea's nukes.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, meeting with top South Korean and Japanese diplomats, put a more sober spin on several moves by Trump after his summit with Kim in Singapore fueled unease in Washington, Tokyo and Seoul. He said Trump's curious claim that the North's nuclear threat was over was issued with "eyes wide open," and brushed off a North Korean state media report suggesting Trump would grant concessions even before the North fully rids itself of nuclear weapons.

"We're going to get denuclearization," Pompeo said in the South Korean capital. "Only then will there be relief from the sanctions."

Pompeo flew from Seoul to China's capital, Beijing, later yesterday for a meeting with President Xi Jinping, whose country is believed to wield considerable influence with North Korea as its chief ally and economic lifeline. Pompeo also met with Foreign Minister Wang Yi, who described the Singapore summit as of "great historic significance" that could lead to "enduring peace."

Pompeo said there was still a risk that denuclearization might not be achieved and added there "is still more work to be done by China and the United States to get to that outcome."

At a daily briefing, foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang reiterated China's support for a political settlement, while also pointing to an eventual lifting of United Nations Security Council economic sanctions.

"We believe that the sanctions themselves are not the end," Geng said.

China has been praised by Trump for ramping up economic pressure on the North that the U.S. believes helped coax Kim to the negotiating table.

On the joint U.S.-South Korea drills that Trump — after meeting Kim — said would be terminated, Pompeo emphasized a key caveat: If the mercurial North Korean leader stops negotiating in good faith, the "war games" will be back on.



Pompeo (left) met with Foreign Minister Wang Yi

The words of reassurance from Pompeo came as diplomacy continued at an intense pace after Tuesday's summit in Singapore, the first between a sitting American president and North Korea's leader in six decades of hostility. In the village of Panmunjom along the North-South border, the rival Koreas yesterday held their first high-level military talks since 2007, focused on reducing tensions across their heavily fortified border.

Yet even as U.S. and South Korean officials sought to parlay the momentum from the dramatic summit into more progress on the nuclear issue, there were persistent questions about whether Trump had given away too much in return for too little.

Trump's announcement minutes after the summit's conclusion that he would halt the "provocative" joint military drills were a shock to South Korea and caught much of the U.S. military off guard, too. Pyongyang has long sought an end to the exercises it considers rehearsals for an invasion, but U.S. treaty

allies Japan and South Korea view them as critical elements of their own national security.

So Pompeo had some explaining to do as he traveled to Seoul to brief the allies on what transpired in Singapore.

In public, at least, South Korea's leader cast the summit's outcome as positive during a short meeting with Pompeo at the Blue House, South Korea's presidential palace. President Moon Jae-in, an avowed supporter of engagement with North Korea, called it "a truly historic feat" that had "moved us from the era of hostility towards the era of dialogue, of peace and prosperity."

Still, there were signs as Pompeo met later with the top Japanese and South Korean diplomats that concerns about the freeze had not been fully resolved. South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha, speaking in Korean, told reporters afterward that the military drills issue "was not discussed in depth."

"This is a matter that military officials from South Korea and

the United States will have to discuss further and coordinate," Kang said.

The U.S. has stationed combat troops in South Korea since the end of the Korean War and has used them in a variety of drills. The next scheduled major exercise, involving tens of thousands of troops, normally would be held in August.

The summit in Singapore did mark a reduction in tensions — a sea change from last fall, when North Korea was conducting nuclear and missile tests, and Trump and Kim were trading threats and insults that stoked fears of war.

Kim is now promising to work toward a denuclearized Korean Peninsula and state media heralded the meeting as victorious, with photos of Kim standing side-by-side with Trump on the world stage splashed across newspapers in Pyongyang. On Thursday, North Koreans finally got a glimpse of video of Trump and Kim together, as official Korean Central Television broadcast the first footage of Kim's trip to Singapore.

Trump seemed equally ecstatic. As he landed Wednesday in Washington following the summit, he declared on Twitter that America and the world can "sleep well tonight."

"There is no longer a Nuclear Threat from North Korea," Trump wrote, even though North Korea has yet to give up any of its fissile material, estimated by independent experts to be enough for between about a dozen and 60 nuclear bombs.

Pompeo rejected the suggestion that Trump's assertion was premature. He said Trump was proceeding "with eyes wide open" to the prospect that diplomacy may falter, and that Trump was merely reflecting the historic nature of his confab with Kim. The Korean War ended in 1953 without a peace treaty, leaving the United States and North Korea in a technical state of war.

## Wang Yi described the Singapore summit as of 'great historic significance'

With the Trump-Kim summit concluded, the baton was being passed to lower-level U.S. and North Korean officials, who Pompeo said would likely resume meeting as early as the next week to hash out details of a disarmament deal, sure to be a complex and contentious process. He said the U.S. was hopeful North Korea would take "major" disarmament steps before the end of Trump's first term in office, which concludes in January 2021.

In the brief, four-point joint statement signed at the summit, North Korea committed "to work toward complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula" — a promise it has made and reneged on several times in the past 25 years.

The statement made no mention of verification, despite Trump's longstanding insistence on "complete, verifiable and irreversible" denuclearization. But Pompeo bristled at reporters who pressed him about that apparent omission, calling questions on the topic "insulting and ridiculous."

The omission is irrelevant, Pompeo said, adding that he was confident the North Koreans fully understood that verification would be a necessity. He pointed out that the statement makes reference to a previous agreement that did mention verification, and argued that as a result, the Trump-Kim statement automatically "incorporates" verification without having to state it outright. AP



## JAPAN

# Utility eyes scrapping 2nd Fukushima nuclear plant

Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

**T**HE utility responsible for meltdowns at a nuclear power plant in northeast Japan seven years ago said yesterday for the first time publicly that it will start making concrete plans to decommission another plant in Fukushima that narrowly escaped the crisis.

Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings said it will decide on the timeline and other details before formally announcing the dismantling four reactors at the Fukushima Dai-ni, or No. 2, plant, which has never restarted since the 2011 disaster.

The Fukushima Dai-ichi, or No. 1, plant was heavily damaged in a March, 11, 2011, earthquake and tsunami. Three reactors had meltdowns and a fourth had damage to its building. Decommissioning of those reactors has started and the two others are set to be scrapped.

An additional decommissioning in Fukushima would mean all 10 of TEPCO's

reactors in Fukushima would be dismantled eventually. Fukushima officials and residents have demanded TEPCO decommission its remaining reactors, saying uncertainty has hampered reconstruction.

TEPCO president Tomoaki Kobayakawa, who met Fukushima Gov. Masao Uchibori at the governor's office, announced the plan following the governor's renewed request to scrap Fukushima No. 2.

"We thought prolonging the ambiguity would hamper

**■ Nuclear energy now accounts for less than 2 percent of Japan's energy mix since most reactors were idled after the 2011 disaster**

local reconstruction," Kobayakawa said.

Uchibori welcomed the decision, saying TEPCO's plan for Fukushima No. 2 decommissioning would help alleviate negative image and safety concerns.

TEPCO had kept mum on its decision on Fukushima No. 2, which has been offline since the tsunami and its restart was thought to be a difficult proposition because of local protests.

In addition, its four reactors are more than 30 years old and would have required TEPCO to make huge investments to improve safety to get approvals for restarts.

TEPCO would be left with only Kashiwazaki-Kariwa plant in Niigata, northern Japan, to produce nuclear power. Local restart approvals for two of its seven reactors are pending.

When Fukushima No. 2 decommissioning becomes official, the number of workable reactors in Japan would fall to 35, down from 54 before the disaster.



This February 2018 aerial photo shows Fukushima Dai-ni, or No. 2, nuclear power plant

Nuclear energy now accounts for less than 2 percent of Japan's energy mix since most reactors were idled after the 2011 disaster. Only five reactors have since restarted.

While the government of pro-business Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is pushing to start up as many reactors as possible, restarts are coming slowly as anti-nuclear sentiment remains strong and regulators have stepped up screening process.

Still, the government says nuclear energy should ac-

count for 20-22 percent of Japan's energy mix by fiscal 2030 in a draft energy plan that experts say as unrealistic.

Japanese utilities have been opting to scrap aging reactors nearing their 40-year lifespan rather than take advantage of an exemption that would allow them to extend their operation for up to 20 more years. Meeting new safety standards put in place after the Fukushima disaster costs more, making nuclear power more expensive than it used to be. AP

## INDIA

# Rumors spread on social media fuel deadly mob attacks

Wasbir Hussain, Omer Farooq

**T**HE rumors circulated through the hills of northeastern India on Facebook and WhatsApp. There were photos of dismembered corpses in some messages, and of an injured child lying in the street.

The messages said hundreds of people, sometimes disguised as beggars, were stalking the towns and villages of India's Assam state, slipping into houses at night. One message said the outsiders were criminals. Another said they'd come from the poor, nearby state of Bihar. All said the gangs had one goal: kidnapping children. "Be aware, people of Assam!" one message read.

There was no truth to the rumors, police say, but fear ignited by those messages led to the brutal deaths last week of two Indian tourists, the latest in a wave of mob attacks fueled by social media rumors that have left well over a do-

zen people dead across the country.

Days after the messages began to circulate in Assam, two friends returning from a trip to a waterfall were driving through a village when a mob stopped their car and yanked them out.

In video footage shot by someone in the crowd, one of the tourists, his face already bloody and swollen, is shown begging for his life, calling out his name and the name of his father to try to prove he was native-born Assamese. The other man tries to reason with the crowd, but eventually gives up, dropping to the ground and curling up to protect himself as much as possible. At least a dozen men appear to be punching, kicking and beating the two with sticks.

The attack did not stop until both men — Nilotpal Das, a 29-year-old musician and sound engineer, and Abhijeet Nath, a 30-year-old businessman — were dead.



"False news and rumors being spread on social media platforms were largely responsible for what happened," said Mukesh Agarwal, a police official based in Assam. Police have arrested 15 people for the attack, and 35 more on charges of spreading rumors, false news and hate crimes.

The attack apparently began when Das and Nath had an argument with a local man at the waterfall. When they left, police say the man messaged area villagers that Das and Nath were kidnappers. Soon after, the villagers stopped

their car.

India has seen a string of similar attacks in the past few months. The victims are often outsiders in some way, targeted because they look different, or don't speak the local language.

In just one day in Assam, police rescued six people in three separate mob attacks. All the victims had been accused by crowds of looking for children to kidnap.

While police have no national statistics on mob deaths, there have been at least 16 people killed in a half dozen attacks since early May, and dozens

more people have been injured.

What's behind the attacks? Experts point to all sorts of reasons, from the power of social media to India's hobbled school system to widespread distrust of the police and the courts, both of which are burdened by corruption and poor training, leading people to take the law into their own hands.

"We have repeatedly issued denials of the presence of any such (kidnapping) gangs. There have been no incidents to suggest any such activity," said V. Satynarayana, a top official in south India's Telangana state, which has faced a series of the attacks. "But still the rumors have continued and created serious problems." Some of those sending warnings truly fear for their children, he said. Some only want to sow trouble.

Syed Ghouse Mohiuddin, who runs the news portal Indtoday.com from the southern city of Hydera-

bad, is a prominent local voice on social media. But he also worries it's becoming dangerous.

"Some people forward these messages and videos under the impression that they are doing a service to the people and alerting them against a potential threat to their families," he said. "But there are also people active on social media who do it to create mischief."

He also wonders whether the Indian media — which is dominated by shouting TV anchors — adds to the problem by sometimes running stories based on questionable reporting.

"They are in a hurry to beat the competition and report without understanding" a situation, he said.

Das, the musician who was killed, told his parents there was no cause for concern when he drove out to the waterfall.

"Don't worry," he told his father, who repeated the comments later to reporters. "I will be fine." AP



Kim Tong-Hyung, Seoul

**T**HE rival Koreans were holding rare high-level military talks yesterday to discuss reducing tensions across their heavily fortified border.

It's possible North Korean officials during the talks at the border village of Panmunjom will seek a firm commitment from the South on stopping its military drills with the United States.

U.S. President Donald Trump said after his summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Tuesday that the allies should stop the war games during nuclear negotiations in "good faith." South Korea's presidential office has said it's trying to discern Trump's meaning and intent, but also that the allies should explore various ways to "further facilitate" dialogue with the North.

Seoul's Defense Ministry said the military talks would focus on carrying out agreements from a summit between Kim and South Korean President Moon Jae-in in which they vowed to take steps to reduce military tensions and eliminate the danger of war.

The discussions are the first general-level talks between the militaries since December 2007.

"We will invest our best efforts to

# Koreas holding military talks to reduce tensions on border

bring in a new era of peace on the Korean Peninsula," South Korean Maj. Gen. Kim Do-gyun told reporters before the talks.

At a building on the northern side of Panmunjom, the South Korean officials were greeted by a North Korean delegation led by Lt. Gen. An Ik San, who joked that he was "very jealous" of the major general who he thought was probably the first Korean soldier to cross the military demarcation line that bisects the Koreas by foot and while wearing a uniform.

Kim Do-gyun told An that he was honored to meet him and expressed hope for a meaningful breakthrough in the talks.

An didn't get his history right — top North Korean military official Hwang Pyong So, in uniform, stepped into the southern side of Panmunjom on August 2015 for talks with South Korean government officials.

The Korean military officials may discuss holding military talks on a regular basis and establishing a



hotline between their top military officials. They may also discuss efforts to recover the remains of soldiers missing and presumed dead from the 1950-53 Korean War.

Moon met Kim Jong Un in April and again in May as Pyongyang made a diplomatic push following a provocative run of nuclear and missile tests in 2017. The Koreans have agreed to various sets of peace talks, including planned discussions to set up reunions between war-separated families and to field combined teams at the Asian Games in Jakarta, Indonesia, in August.

The Korean Peninsula remains technically at war, because the 1950-53 conflict ended in an armistice, not a peace treaty.

Annual military drills between Washington and Seoul have long been a major source of contention between the Koreans. North Korea, which sees the exercises as invasion rehearsals, last month broke off a high-level meeting with Seoul over South Korea's participation in a two-week military exercise with the United States.

A second summit between Kim and Moon, in late May, put the senior-level talks between the

Koreas back on track. Still, North Korea's state media continued its criticism of allied military exercises, demanding Washington days later "stop the acts of threatening its dialogue partner by force."

Since the 1970s, the United States and South Korea have held a major summertime exercise called Ulchi Freedom Guardian that involves tens of thousands of troops.

Choi Hyunsoo, spokeswoman of South Korea's Defense Ministry, told reporters yesterday that the allies "were closely coordinating and holding discussions" on the drills, which usually begin in August. She didn't elaborate on what was being discussed.

Critics say the allies would be sending a bad signal to North Korea if they stop the drills before the North takes concrete steps toward denuclearization. There are lingering doubts on whether Kim would ever agree to fully relinquish the weapons he may see as his strongest guarantee of survival. **AP**

AD

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US

# Videos show Vegas police helping people duck, escape gunfire

Ken Ritter, Las Vegas

SOME of the first Las Vegas police officers to respond to the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history huddled with people taking cover, organized escape routes, carried wounded victims to safety and ducked behind barriers as bullets rained around them, according to video released yesterday [Macau time].

"It's coming from the Mandalay Bay!" an officer is heard saying on one video. "Stay down!" he tells unseen people during bursts of rapid gunfire, while a dispatcher on his police radio says multiple people have gunshot wounds. "Over here! Get behind the police car!"

The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department released 28 clips of police body-camera video ranging from a few seconds to more than two hours, totaling about 10 hours of footage. It was the sixth batch of information released under court order in a public records lawsuit from media organizations, including The Associated Press.

Names of the officers were not provided. Police and the FBI have declined to comment on any of the material released months after the Oct. 1 shooting, which killed 58 people and injured hundreds of others attending an outdoor concert.

Video, audio and documents have not shed light on a motive for the massacre. Clark



County Sheriff Joe Lombardo, the elected head of the Police Department, has said the investigation has not identified one.

One 28-minute clip shows an officer helping terrified concertgoers duck beneath the stage of the country music festival on the Las Vegas Strip to escape helicopter-sounding gunfire. He carried a wounded woman to a makeshift triage center in a parking lot, banding her bleeding leg with a tourniquet and driving her to a hospital.

"You gotta go! We're in the firing zone! He can see us from here!" the unidentified officer tells people near the stage after the concert turned to chaos.

Another clip has a radio dispatcher reporting "multiple casualties" before an officer parks and jumps from his patrol vehicle. He and other officers use it as a shield from the gunfire.

More shots are fired, and someone among the officers says, "I'm down, I got shot!"

Another video, lasting about

30 minutes and not identified with a time stamp, shows officers in a hallway outside the Mandalay Bay hotel suite where authorities say gunman Stephen Paddock killed himself before police reached him. The back of an officer's hand was sweating as he uncaps a bottle of water.

Another snippet shows the view from the collar of a male officer armed with a rifle while he and other officers search the hotel's casino floor.

The department also released 511 additional audio clips

from 911 calls — a similar number to those made public last week.

In one, an unidentified man whispers to an emergency dispatcher that he's hiding in a broom closet at the Planet Hollywood resort, several blocks away from the shooting.

"We want to know if it's safe," he says in the call time-stamped two hours and 30 minutes after the gunfire began.

■ The 28 clips of police body-camera video released total about 10 hours of footage

The information released by police has provided sometimes graphic and heartbreaking details of people screaming for help, falling during rapid gunfire and helping each other escape the carnage as gunfire rained down from the windows of a hotel room on the 32nd floor.

Newly released video bolstered written reports from officers who raced from casino to casino on the Las Vegas Strip debunking reports of multiple shooters and bomb threats.

A preliminary police report released in January said Paddock, a 64-year-old high-stakes gambler, researched police SWAT tactics, rented hotel rooms overlooking other outdoor concerts and investigated potential targets in at least four U.S. cities.

Lombardo has said he expects a final investigative report will be released next month. The FBI plans to release a report by the anniversary of the shooting. AP

RUSSIA

# Opposition leader Navalny released from custody

RUSSIAN opposition leader Alexei Navalny walked free yesterday after spending 30 days in custody for staging an unsanctioned protest, noting with sarcasm that a Moscow jail where he was held has received a massive facelift ahead of the World Cup.

Navalny, President Vladimir Putin's most visible foe, said the authorities apparently feel that "they may need to arrest British fans for drunken rampages and don't want things to look bad" during the Russia-hosted World Cup that opened yesterday.

Contrasting the facility with regular conditions in Russian prisons, which are notoriously miserable, Navalny observed that all cells in the jail where he spent his sentence have been freshly painted and the usual pit latrines were replaced with flush toilets.

Normally poor rations were replaced with rich menus offering ample choice complete with halal options, alcohol-free beer and various desserts, Navalny said.

On top of all that, huge TV sets were put in each cell, an improvised soccer

field was set up in the yard and English-speaking university students were added to the staff.

"Without any foreigners in sight, the students feel bored and complain loudly, demanding mass arrests to make acquaintances," he added.

"Anticipating your 'I want to be arrested' comments, I would like to note that the number of available seats is limited, and if you plan violating public order you need to hurry up: After the World Cup is over, the golden carriage will turn back into a pumpkin."

Navalny called a series of rallies in the Russian capital and other cities on May 5, just before Putin's inauguration for a new term. Demonstrations under the slogan "He is not our czar" took place throughout the country.

A court in Moscow convicted Navalny on charges of organizing an unauthorized rally and resisting police, and ordered him jailed for 30 days.

The anti-corruption campaigner has served several weeks-long jail terms in the past for organizing other protests. AP





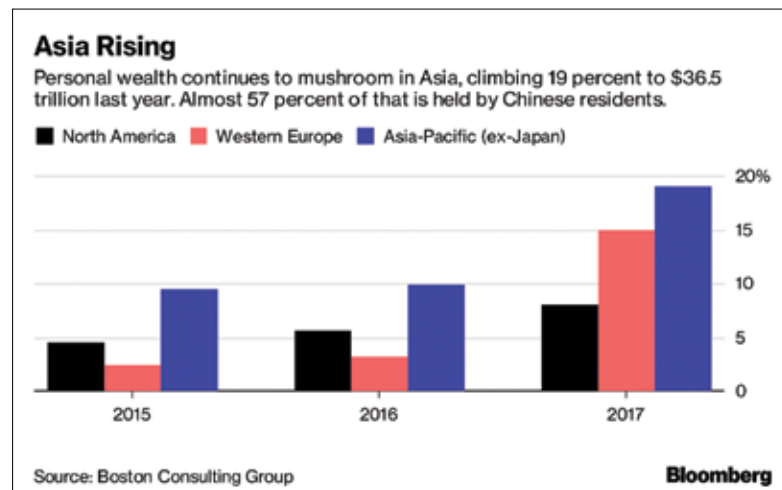
# Millionaires now control half of the world's personal wealth

Suzanne Woolley

**T**HE rich are getting a lot richer and doing so a lot faster. Personal wealth around the globe reached USD201.9 trillion last year, a 12 percent gain from 2016 and the strongest annual pace in the past five years, Boston Consulting Group said in a report released yesterday. Booming equity markets swelled fortunes, and investors outside the U.S. got an exchange-rate bonus as most major currencies strengthened against the greenback.

The growing ranks of millionaires and billionaires now hold almost half of global personal wealth, up from slightly less than 45 percent in 2012, according to the report. In North America, which had \$86.1 trillion of total wealth, 42 percent of investable capital is held by people with more than \$5 million in assets. Investable assets include equities, investment funds, cash and bonds.

"The fact that the wealth held by millionaires as a percent-



ge of total wealth is increasing does not mean that the poor are getting poorer," Anna Zakrzewski, the report's lead author, said in an emailed statement. "What it means is that everyone is getting richer. Specifically, we believe that the rich are getting richer faster."

Last year's big winner was China, which now ranks second globally in terms of financial wealth after overtaking Japan in the past five years, Zakrzewski said. While China trails

only the U.S. in the number of millionaires and billionaires, the biggest driver of growth in the Asian country was its so-called affluent segment, or those with \$250,000 to \$1 million of investable assets.

"China will continue to experience similar growth as in the past and this will mean that over the next five years, there will be more wealth created in China than in the U.S.," she said, adding the number of millionaires there is expected to grow four

times as fast as in the U.S.

Without the boost from a weakening dollar, the global wealth gain would have been 7 percent. The region that benefited the most from currency appreciation was Western Europe, where a 15 percent advance in U.S. dollar terms shrinks to 3 percent in local currency.

## In HK, individuals with more than USD20 million hold 47 percent of investable riches

Eastern Europe and Central Asia had the greatest concentration of wealth at the top, with billionaires alone holding almost a quarter of investable assets. The 28 Eastern Europeans in the Bloomberg Billionaires Index have a total net worth of

\$294 billion, which includes a gain of \$3.4 billion so far in 2018.

Wealth is also highly concentrated in Hong Kong, where individuals with more than \$20 million hold 47 percent of investable riches.

Money in investment funds and publicly traded equities gained the most, while bonds were the only core asset class to post negative growth last year, falling 7 percent.


The Middle East was the region with the greatest share of wealth held in investable assets — \$3.1 trillion of a total \$3.8 trillion. Western European residents held 56 percent in currency and deposits, while in North America the emphasis was on equities and investment funds, with 62 percent of \$47 trillion of investable wealth parked in those assets.

If personal wealth creation continues at the rate of the past few years, Boston Consulting projects a compound annual growth rate of about 7 percent from 2017 to 2022, in U.S. dollars. Events like stock market corrections and geopolitical uncertainties could knock that down to 4 percent.

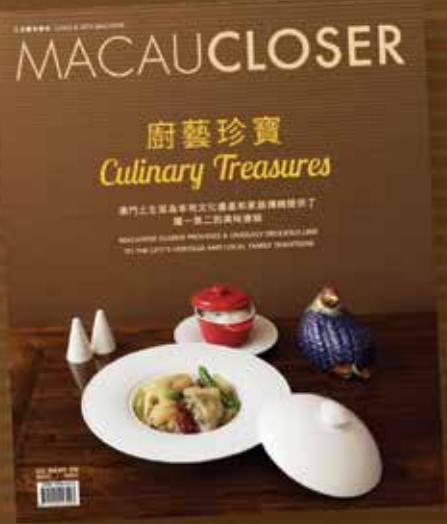
In a worse-case scenario, such as a major economic crisis, global wealth might produce a compound growth rate of only 1 percent over five years, the study found. **AP**


AD

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生活藝術雜誌 · LIVING & ARTS MAGAZINE


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4PM - 4AM (MON-FRI)  HAPPY HOUR: 5PM - 8PM



TV canal macau



FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:50	Miscellaneous
18:25	Miscellaneous
18:55	Brazilian Soap Opera (Repeated)
19:45	Non-daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:50	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	Portuguese Mini Serie
22:10	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Road to the 2018 FIFA World Cup
23:55	Movie
01:45	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
02:35	RTPi Live

SATURDAY

10:30	Comedy
11:35	Miscellaneous
12:30	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast (PT)
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:55	Miscellaneous
17:50	Miscellaneous
18:35	Miscellaneous
18:35	Miscellaneous
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (PT)
21:00	Grimm Sr. 3
22:30	Miscellaneous
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Road to the 2018 FIFA World Cup
23:55	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:10	RTPi Live

SUNDAY

10:25	Kids Serie
11:00	Sunday Mass (Live)
12:00	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:55	Brainstorm
17:40	Got Talent Portugal
19:20	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-daily Portuguese News
22:00	Documentary
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Road to the 2018 FIFA World Cup
23:55	Miscellaneous
00:35	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:10	RTPi Live

Offbeat

HER LIFE SAVED, BULGARIAN COW  
PENKA WAITS TO REJOIN HERD

Swatting away the flies with her long tail, Penka the cow happily munches on hay, unaware of the international stir she has caused.

The cow from the Bulgarian village of Kopilovtsi has won fame and Europe-wide support since she wandered into neighboring Serbia for two weeks last month and authorities threatened to put her down on her return.

Bulgaria is a European Union member, Serbia isn't. EU rules state that any animal entering the bloc from the outside must have proper veterinary approvals and Penka didn't, so she faced a death sentence.

But after the outcry — pro-Penka campaigners included former Beatle Sir Paul McCartney — authorities ran tests on Penka that proved she was healthy.

"So many people saw our story and expressed their support," owner Raina Georgieva said this week. "I believed that there would be mercy for our Penka."

Nonetheless, Penka has been confined to a separate quarantine box in the village waiting for the authorities to allow her to join the rest of the herd.

Georgieva said she and her husband got Penka only several months ago and were worried how the tests would come out.

"It turned out she is absolutely healthy," Georgieva smiled.

Thousands of people have signed a petition to save Penka and her case was discussed during a European Commission daily briefing. McCartney wrote on Twitter: "She's done nothing wrong."

cinema



CINETEATRO

16 - 18 JUN



JURASSIC WORLD: FALLEN KINGDOM

ROOM 1

2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45pm

Director: J.A. Bayona

Starring: Chris Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard, BD Wong

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 135min



OCEAN'S EIGHT

ROOM 2

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

Director: Gary Ross

Starring: Sandra Bullock, Cate Blanchett, Anne Hathway

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 110min



DEATH WISH

ROOM 3

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

Director: Eli Roth

Starring: Bruce Willis, Vincent D'Onofrio, Elisabeth Shue

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 107min

THE LEAKERS

ROOM 3

4:30pm

Director: Herman Yau

Starring: Francis Ng, Julian Cheung, Charmaine Sheh

Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 100min

this day in history



2000 BRITISH MARINES  
LEAVE SIERRA LEONE

The major contingent of the British military task force sent to help restore order in the West African state of Sierra Leone has left the country.

The departure of the prestigious Royal Marines was overseen by British Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott, who said his government was proud of what they had done to restore stability.

Britain, the former colonial power in Sierra Leone, is handing responsibility for security to the United Nations.

About 300 UK troops and support staff will stay on in the war-torn African country for the next six to eight weeks to help establish a UK military advisory training team.

Most people in Freetown would prefer to see the British military continuing their confidence-building street patrols, but British ministers always insisted their mission to help the UN forces there was a short-term one.

Brigadier David Richards, commander of the British forces in Sierra Leone, told BBC Radio's Today program: "The UN have a much stronger resolve now and are clearer about their mandate and have shown that they have the resolve to fight."

"When we arrived here about six weeks ago, they did appear on the verge of collapse. Today they have been transformed."

At the core of the continuing British effort will be the re-training of the demoralized Sierra Leone army.

Many of its soldiers - some of whom are children - are poorly trained and equipped.

Sierra Leone continues to face horrendous problems. A war is being fought in the countryside about which there is little reliable information.

The UN says that one million people have been affected.

The rebels hold the main diamond-producing area, which deprives the government of revenue and, it is alleged, attracts support for the rebels from neighboring Liberia.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Sierra Leone's civil war saw nearly half the country's 4.5 million population displaced.

At least 50,000 people died in the fighting and there were an estimated 100,000 victims of mutilation.

The economy was left in ruins and the country's infrastructure collapsed.

British troops entered Sierra Leone because a peace deal between government and rebels had broken down and rebel forces were scoring successes against the Sierra Leone army and the UN peace-keeping force.

In 2002 more than 17,000 foreign troops disarmed tens of thousands of rebels and militia fighters. The country now faces the challenge of reconstruction.



YOUR STARS

Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

This is probably one of your favorite times of the year. Everyone is a bit more sociable - and even the meekest among us are a lot more willing to try something new, at least once.

Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

All of a sudden, you're feeling quite emotional - and even showing your feelings in public. This isn't what you're usually known for, so you may be a bit embarrassed, but don't stop yourself.

Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Your friends - the ones who've been tried and true for years now - are expecting you to join them tonight. Unfortunately, you're tempted to go along with your curiosity.

Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

Ready for yet another day of romance, sidelong glances and sweet stuff in general? Sure you are. It's your sign's job, and you'd better prepare yourself because this could well continue for quite some time.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You're in that mood - the one that makes your friends either avoid you or cancel their appointments to spend all their time with you, depending on their general dispositions.

Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You should also expect for all your sign's 'usual' traits to be doubly potent: rebelliousness, outrageousness and an even more eager willingness to shock and amaze the masses in any way you can.

Taurus

April 20-May 20

No other sign enjoys shopping like yours under the current astral energy. Of course, you've probably been trying to go easy in that department since you're still trying to pay off the credit card bills.

Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

The way you're feeling now - secretive, but with a burning need to tell someone what's on your mind and in your heart - there's really only one thing to do.

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

You're due for some serious changes on the job, and you'll see a hint of what's coming soon - but there's no need to worry about it. The higher-ups who've had their eyes on you are already quite pleased.

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Oddly enough, you'll also need to make some time to tend to the needs of your family members. No, this won't be easy - so you'd better get started. Make lots of lists, and don't be afraid to ask a friend for help.

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

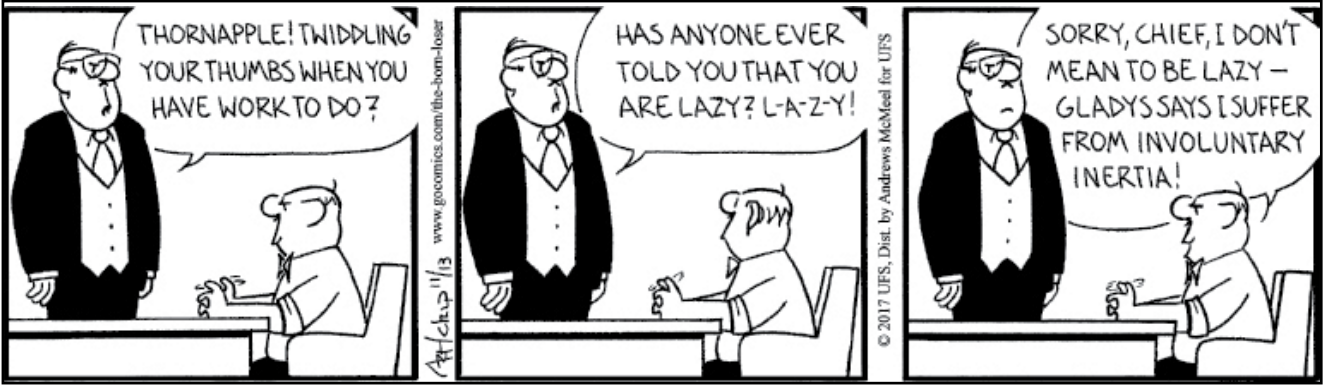
For the next day or so, instead of being a friend's 'designated Visa chaperone,' you may need to hire someone to play the part for you. Careful, though: If you surrender your plastic to someone who's truly dedicated.

Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

You've definitely had your hands full lately - full of secrets. Now, you've always enjoyed intrigue, but there comes a point when secret meetings, secret admirers, and secret conversations get to be a bit too.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Hawk's home; 6- Movie award; 11- Cry out loud; 14- Speak in a slow manner; 15- Wynonna's mom; 16- Soccer standout Hamm; 17- Stationery brand; 18- High-fives; 19- Building annex; 20- Perfect; 22- Runs in neutral; 24- Macaroon flavoring; 28- "Peer Gynt Suite" dancer; 29- Celtic paradise; 30- Model Cheryl; 32- Tear; 33- Leg joints; 35- Breaks bread; 39- Part of QED; 40- Unit of corn; 41- \_\_\_ impasse; 42- Mustachioed artist; 43- Land measures; 45- Kemo \_\_\_; 46- Religious recluses; 48- Spanish rice dish; 50- Runners-up; 53- Walked like a duck; 54- Butler's love; 55- Trunk; 57- Convert into leather; 58- Macbeth, for one; 60- "Caddyshack" director Harold; 65- Quattro minus uno; 66- \_\_\_ Park, Colorado; 67- Clear the slate; 68- \_\_\_ the ramparts we watched...; 69- Kick off; 70- "Peter and the Wolf" bird;

DOWN: 1- Fruit drink; 2- Memorable time; 3- Snitch; 4- \_\_\_ Jima; 5- Pacific weather phenomenon; 6- Get-go; 7- Room in a casa; 8- Carbonized fuel; 9- Sound booster; 10- Ascending; 11- Refine metal; 12- Exxon Valdez, e.g.; 13- Light wood; 21- Dip into coffee; 23- Ill; 24- Gave a hoot; 25- \_\_\_ barrel; 26- Artificial waterway; 27- Veteran; 28- DDE's rival; 30- Eye drops; 31- Able was \_\_\_; 34- Bottle part; 36- In the least; 37- Put off, as an agenda item; 38- Slamin' Sammy; 43- Ques. response; 44- Health resorts; 47- Speaks publicly; 49- Idolizes; 50- Numbers game; 51- Chicago's airport; 52- Less bananas; 53- Take away by force; 55- Ciaol; 56- Lulu; 59- DDE's predecessor; 61- Altar in the sky; 62- Pas' partners; 63-like; 64- Where the buoys are;

Yesterday's solution

E	V	A	D	E	T	H	E	N	T	A	P	E
T	A	N	Y	A	I	A	G	O	A	L	A	N
U	T	T	E	R	P	L	A	T	H	A	R	T
D	I	E	W	I	S	E	N	H	E	I	M	E
E	C	S	T	A	S	I	G	N	O	R	E	
T	A	K	E	H	E	N	R	I				
I	D	E	M	S	N	R	A	G	E	A	M	S
A	N	S	E	L	E	O	S	T	R	E	A	T
M	A	P	L	O	S	S	E	S	O	R	E	L
R	A	N	T	S	N	A	S					
R	E	S	A	M	E	J	A	N	E	D	O	E
C	A	M	P	A	N	O	L	O	G	Y	E	T
A	T	O	P	E	R	I	K	O	W	L	E	T
P	A	L	E	S	E	R	E	N	O	T	R	E
E	T	T	E	S	O	A	R	E	N	S	O	R

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency calls 999

Fire department 28 572 222

PJ (Open line) 993

PJ (Picket) 28 557 775

PSP 28 573 333

Customs 28 559 944

S. J. Hospital 28 313 731

Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333

Commission Against

Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300

IACM 28 387 333

Tourism 28 333 000

Airport 59 888 88

Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283

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**The Buckingham, Unit C**  
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Coloane  
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# Scalpers still operating at World Cup despite crackdown

James Ellingworth, Moscow

**SCALPERS** are still operating at the World Cup, despite claims of a crackdown by FIFA and Russian organizers on illicit ticket sales. Sellers have been visible outside the main ticket office in Moscow, buying spare tickets from foreign fans and sell at inflated prices.

An Associated Press reporter was approached six times within an hour and offered tickets including a luxury Category 1 seat at the opening game between Russia and Saudi Arabia. One was offered at USD700, or \$150 above the standard price.

The most in-demand tickets, such as for Argentina's opening game, are being offered online for as much as \$2,300, though buyers have no guarantee they're getting genuine access to the games.

FIFA has tried to cancel some tickets and last week filed a criminal complaint against ticket resale website Viagogo. Russia

AP PHOTO



Fans from different countries gather at the main ticket office in Moscow

has made World Cup scalping punishable by a fine for individual sellers of up to 25 times the ticket's face value.

Despite the tough talk from Russian authorities, police stationed at the ticket office on a night earlier this week did little besides briefly inspect one seller's documents.

Each World Cup ticket must be registered to an individual,

but sellers exploit a loophole in FIFA's system allowing fans to buy up to four tickets then change the registered names to three of them. So long as the new recipient has at least one ticket of their own — and so is registered in Russia's Fan ID system — a switch is possible.

"You just need ID," said one seller, who said he was from France and had sold "lots" of

tickets in the last month. He offered two tickets that had been issued under Russian men's names while standing next to the ticket office sign that said "tickets are not available for most games."

**■ The most in-demand tickets are being offered online for as much as USD2,300**

Like others, he declined to give his name because the reselling is illegal.

Another seller claimed he'd received complimentary tickets and was selling them to fund his World Cup journey. "Because FIFA's given me this ticket, it's like a game to make money," he said, displaying tickets to four different games. He then ex-

changed phone numbers with a fan, apparently to arrange a handover elsewhere.

Five men with English accents worked as a group, splitting up to approach fans in the queue for the sales office. One held a thick wad of tickets.

Still, it's a case of buyer beware. There's no reliable way to check if the tickets are fake, have been canceled or whether the seller really changed the registration.

"A significant number of unauthorized online ticket sales, offered via websites and on social media originating from various countries, have been stopped," FIFA said in a statement. "Overall FIFA counts on the cooperation of the respective authorities to protect fans from scalpers in line with the applicable regulations." FIFA didn't respond to a question regarding scalpers operating outside the ticket office.

FIFA policy states registrations should only be changed to a person with "a pre-existing relationship with the ticket purchaser."

FIFA's system doesn't allow the original buyer of a group booking to change their own registration, only those of other guests, so a fan could end watching the game next to their scalper. **AP**

AD





Cheryshev dribbles past Saudi Arabia players to score his side's second goal



Russian President Vladimir Putin delivers his speech prior to the opening match

# Russia routs Saudi Arabia 5-0 in opening game of World Cup

James Ellingworth,  
AP Sports Writer

**I**NSPIRED by the home crowd in the opening match of the World Cup, Russia ended a 16-year wait for victory.

Substitute Denis Cheryshev scored two goals today [Macau time] to lead the host nation over Saudi Arabia 5-0 in Group A with President Vladimir Putin watching from the stands alongside FIFA president Gianni Infantino.

It was Russia's first World Cup win since 2002 and ended a seven-game winless run overall — the national team's longest winless streak in 20 years.

Yuri Gazinsky initially put Russia ahead with a header from Alexander Golovin's cross when the Saudis failed to clear a corner in the 12th minute. Gazinsky charged forward to meet the ball as Saudi player Taisir Al-Jassam stumbled, leaving him a simple finish.

Putin and Infantino smiled and shrugged as they sat next to Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in the VIP box. Putin then reached over to shake the prince's hand.

Cheryshev chipped the ball over two Saudi defenders in the 43rd minute and shot over goalkeeper Abdullah Al Muaiouf's right side. He later

chipped the ball in for Russia's fourth goal in stoppage time.

After Cheryshev's first goal, Artyom Dzyuba made an instant impact off the bench to make it 3-0 in the 71st with a header from Golovin's cross. Golovin added the fifth from a free kick.

Following a lavish opening ceremony featuring British singer Robbie Williams, Putin welcomed visiting fans and promised Russia would be a "hospitable and friendly" host.

In a World Cup first, the video assistant referee system was available for the match between the tournament's lowest-ranked teams, though it wasn't used.

The Saudis, who last won a match at the World Cup in 1994, failed to get a single shot on target.

Russia's players were significantly taller and heavier than the Saudis, a help when challenging for the ball and

when the penalty area was crowded. That had an effect on Gazinsky's goal, which came after the Saudis struggled to clear a Russian corner, and the header from the tall and stocky Dzyuba.

One concern for Russia, however, is that creative midfielder Alan Dzagoev appears to have injured a hamstring in the first half.

Saudi Arabia sent some players to the Spanish league for experience this season but they didn't get much playing time while there. **AP**

## GROUP DYNAMICS

**THE WIN** for Russia is a big boost to its hopes of advancing, but it will still face a tough test against Egypt on June 19 and Uruguay six days later. But with the five goals against the Saudis, a draw could be enough against

either of its two remaining opponents. Saudi Arabia's route to the knockout round is much more difficult. The Saudis will face Uruguay on June 20 and then Egypt on June 25. Egypt and Uruguay play Friday in Yekaterinburg.

## PREVIEW

# European champion Portugal overlooked facing Spain

Tim Booth, Sochi

**T**HEY'RE the reigning champions of Europe with arguably the best player in the world. And yet there seems to be little talk about Portugal and Cristiano Ronaldo heading into Saturday's [2 a.m. Macau time] much anticipated World Cup match against neighboring Spain in Group B.

In a way it's understood. Spain dominated the headlines this week with the chaos surrounding its coaching situation, to the point a large number of questions on Thursday at Portugal's news conference were based around their opponent's decision to replace coach Julen Lopetegui with Fernando Hierro just days before the game. Secondary was the fact this is the first match



between the Iberian neighbors since 2012.

"We're focused, we're united and I don't think we're concerned with anything else," Portugal midfielder Joao Moutinho said. "We have to focus

on the action of the team and what we can do to attain our goal in this World Cup. We're not really looking at what is happening with other teams."

Perhaps a bit more respect should be paid to Por-

tugal based on its last major tournament. The team won the 2016 European Championship thanks to a magical run through the knockout stage led by Ronaldo.

Spain, Germany, Brazil and France are all talked about as potential winners of this tournament. Rarely is Portugal mentioned, yet the players seem to understand their place in the hierarchy of contenders.

"The favorites are the ones you have just listed," Moutinho said. "Portugal is, I think, among the candidates to be able to take this cup home. It's normal to have other favorites with all they've obtained, all they've achieved. Of course you have favorites. We are European champions, but that doesn't give us the right to be favorites."

Any team that has the talent of Ronaldo has to be considered a threat, even though the discussion about what the Real Madrid forward could do on this stage has been sidetracked with talk of what awaits in his club career. After winning his third straight Champions League title, Ronaldo hinted that perhaps his time at Real Madrid was at an end.

"He's an extraordinary captain. He's an extraordinary player," Portugal coach Fernando Santos said. "He's very positive and a decisive influence as the captain of the team, whether it be on the pitch or off the pitch or in practice. He's an important figure."

Portugal needs Ronaldo on Saturday to overcome its nagging problem of ge-

ting off to good starts in major tournaments. It has been 10 years since Portugal won its opener at either the European Championship or World Cup — the team beat Turkey 2-0 to begin Euro 2008. At the past two World Cups, Portugal played to a 0-0 draw with Ivory Coast in 2010 and four years ago was routed 4-0 by Germany on its way to being ousted from the tournament in the group stage.

Even two years ago on its way to the European title, Portugal started with a 1-1 draw against Iceland and barely advanced to the knockout round.

Saturday's game will be only the second World Cup match between the neighbors. The previous was in 2010 when Spain eliminated Portugal 1-0 in the round of 16. **AP**



opinion

World Views

Ferdinando Giugliano, Bloomberg

MACRON MISSES A CHANCE TO SHUT UP

Two weeks before a crucial meeting of EU leaders, member countries are at loggerheads again over immigration. A diplomatic spat between France and Italy's new populist government shows how difficult it will be for the European Council to strike a meaningful deal at the end of June on topics such as re-locating refugees or deepening the monetary union.

The problem is tone as much as substance. So long as politicians keep playing to their domestic galleries, the compromises Europe needs to thrive will remain elusive.

The transalpine rift started when Italy turned away a boat full of migrants, the Aquarius, after Malta had just done the same. Spain eventually said it would welcome the vessel (the boat has currently been re-routed toward the waters around Sardinia because of adverse sea conditions.) But the Italian decision prompted furious reactions across the EU. In particular, French president Emmanuel Macron said it was "cynical and irresponsible." Rome responded angrily in turn. Its foreign ministry summoned a senior French diplomat for a dressing down. Giovanni Tria, Italy's finance minister, cancelled a visit to Paris.

There's little doubt that Matteo Salvini, Italy's new home affairs minister and leader of the anti-immigration League, used the 629 migrants stranded at sea to score cheap political points. But the intervention by Paris was clumsy – and hypocritical. France has repeatedly turned back migrants who want to cross the Italian border, hiding behind an EU rule that says asylum seekers should be processed in the state where they first enter the bloc.

Italy has punched well above its weight in rescuing migrants from the Mediterranean, receiving precious little help from the rest of the EU. However irresponsible Salvini's behavior – and troubling the signal about the populist government's attitude toward migrants – Macron could have let this one pass.

His comments were diplomatically inept too. Rome's new rulers thrive on attacks from abroad, which Salvini and his ilk depict as insults to Italy's sovereignty. The best course of action, as shown in a recent interview with Olaf Scholz, Germany's finance minister, is to steer clear of public criticism and simply recall that all countries have obligations to meet. The irony here is that neither Rome nor Paris ended up offering to rescue the migrants stranded at sea. It was Madrid. Macron missed a good opportunity to shut up.

None of this is to exonerate Italy. The continuous lashing out at other countries could take a toll diplomatically. Since the formation of the government, Rome has indulged in angry spats with Tunisia, Malta and France over refugees, and relentlessly criticized Germany about the economy. Tria has been a welcome exception. The attacks may play well at home, but might be counter-productive in the long run.

A lot depends, of course, on what the populists actually want to achieve during their time in power. Maybe the Five Star Movement and League would like to provoke their European partners to such an extent that Italy is pushed out of the EU and the euro zone – creating an "Ital-exit" by the back door. But if that's not what they have in mind, they need allies rather than sparring partners.

It's reasonable to want to change the so-called Dublin regulation to achieve a fairer distribution of asylum seekers, but this needs the backing of other countries. On the economy, Italy requires support to bring about more financial risk-sharing across the euro zone, including a joint guarantee on bank deposits and, eventually, a euro zone Treasury. With Germany very skeptical of these plans, Italy's best hope is Macron and his dreams of closer monetary union.

Unfortunately, the transalpine rift confirms a sad truth about the EU. While countries need each other to find answers to the problems affecting their voters, with immigration among the thorniest trans-national issues, politicians will always pander to their domestic audience. That's how they win and lose elections.

Yet Britain's constant sniping at the EU has already helped push that country toward its vote to leave. Without some careful leadership on both sides, this could happen again.

THE UK LIFTS IMMIGRATION CAP FOR MEDICAL WORKERS AMID SHORTAGES

Britain says it will lift a cap on the number of visas granted to foreign doctors and nurses to help ease staffing shortfalls in the National Health Service.

Prime Minister Theresa May's spokesman said yesterday that the government will remove non-European Union doctors and nurses from a cap on the number of skilled-worker visas that can be issued each year.

It's the first easing of immigration rules by a Con-

servative government with a longstanding – and unmet – goal of cutting net immigration to below 100,000. It's currently more than double that. Critics say the target is arbitrary, unrealistic and economically harmful.

People from all 28 EU countries can now live in Britain under the bloc's free-movement rules. They will lose that automatic right when the U.K. leaves the EU next year.

US returns 1493 Christopher Columbus letter to Vatican

Nicole Winfield, Vatican City

THE United States returned to the Vatican Library yesterday a rare copy of a letter written by Christopher Columbus in 1493 announcing his discovery of the New World that was stolen and replaced with a forgery.

It's the third such return in recent years after U.S. investigators, tipped off by a rare books expert, determined that several authentic copies of the Columbus letter had been stolen from libraries across Europe and replaced with forgeries without library officials' knowledge.

U.S. Ambassador Callista Gingrich presented the letter to the chief Vatican archivist, Archbishop Jean-Louis Brugues, and the prefect of the library, Bishop Cesare Pasini, at a ceremony in the Vatican library. Both monsignors thanked U.S. investigators for what Bruges said was their "keen eye and fine detective work" in locating the document.

The letter came from Mary Parsons, the widow of David Parsons, an Atlanta actuary who purchased it from a rare book dealer in New York in 2004, unaware it had been stolen from the Vatican.

The 8-page text, handwritten and copied by hand in Latin, conveys Columbus' marvel at the fertile islands he found, "full of the greatest variety of trees reaching to the stars," and the timid natives who Co-



lumbus believed were ripe for conquest by Spain and conversion to Christianity.

The letter is one of a few dozen authentic, reprinted copies of Columbus' original letter, which was handwritten in Spanish in April 1493 and almost immediately reprinted in Latin by the Rome printer Stephan Planck.

Columbus had sent the letter to Spain's King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella to offer his first impressions of the riches that were to be found in what he believed to be the eastern edge of Asia.

The Vatican had acquired the letter in 1921 as part of a collection of rare books and manuscripts.

Bruges told diplomats and U.S. officials at the handover ceremony that the Vatican doesn't know when the swap out occurred, but that the forging technique used was common in the 19th and 20th centuries "so we will probably never know for sure who the forger was."

Jamie McCall, an assistant U.S. attorney in the district of Delaware, said Parsons bought the book in good faith and was not implicated in the theft. Parsons died in 2014. When presented with evidence that the letter was stolen, his widow agreed to return it.

"She understood the significance of this particular letter to the Vatican, to the world, to the researchers who come to the library in search of answers for what occurred in that period of time," he said.

He said his office had received a tip in 2011 about several forgeries in European libraries, and so far has found three of the authentic ones and returned them.

Just last week, U.S. authorities returned a copy of the letter to Spain and replaced the forgery that had been in the National Library of Catalonia. In 2016, the U.S. returned to Italy a copy stolen from the Riccardiana library in Florence and ended up in the U.S. Library of Congress. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



Aspect of a railway station yesterday in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Hundreds of thousands of people working in Dhaka are leaving for their hometowns to celebrate the upcoming Eid al-Fitr with their families.

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	80-100 Moderate	
High Density Residential Area	50-70 Moderate	
Ambient	80-100 Moderate	

SOURCE: D5M6

WORLD BRIEFS



INDIA A senior journalist and his two police bodyguards were fatally shot by assailants in Indian-controlled Kashmir, police and the journalist's colleagues said. Shujaat Bukhari was shot by unidentified gunmen as he left his office in Srinagar, the disputed region's main city.

VIETNAM An American citizen of Vietnamese descent has been detained in Ho Chi Minh City after joining a protest over a controversial draft law on special economic zones that protesters fear would favor Chinese investors.



HUNGARY A court sentenced four human traffickers to 25 years in prison each for their roles in the 2015 case in which 71 migrants suffocated to death in the back of a refrigerated truck found on a highway in Austria.

GREEK lawmakers approved yesterday the last batch of economic reforms required by creditors, as the country approaches the end of its international bailout.



NICARAGUA Roman Catholic authorities say talks will resume today to seek a solution to a political crisis that has seen more than 160 people killed in unrest since April.

UGANDA's military says a former ally of the longtime president who was recently fired as national police chief has been taken into custody for unspecified questioning.