



CHUI SAI ON VISITS GREATER BAY AREA CITIES

The CE will visit Zhuhai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen today and tomorrow, and Zhongshan and Jiangmen on June 25

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TRAILHIKER WITH A NEW 20KM CATEGORY



P5



US LEAVING HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

The United States is leaving the UN's Human Rights Council criticizing "its chronic bias against Israel"

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WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA One in five foreign companies in China feels compelled to hand over technology for market access, a business group said yesterday, highlighting a key irritant in an escalating U.S.-Chinese trade dispute. [More on p11](#)



INDONESIA Distraught relatives slammed Indonesia's government for not enforcing basic safety measures on passenger boats and pleaded Wednesday for a bigger search effort for more than 190 people presumed drowned after a ferry sank on a picturesque Sumatran lake early this week. [More on p13](#)

INDIA's federal government took direct control of Kashmir state yesterday after the ruling Hindu nationalist party ended its long-troubled alliance there with a Kashmiri political party.

SINGAPORE is setting targets to reduce cash and cheque usage as it prepares to allow companies to use its digital payments service in a move towards digital economy. Cheque will no longer be in use by 2025 while cash withdrawals from automatic telling machines will come down significantly, according to the plan.

UK-US British Prime Minister Theresa May says the United States is wrong to separate migrant children from their parents, but has rejected calls to cancel President Donald Trump's visit to Britain next month.

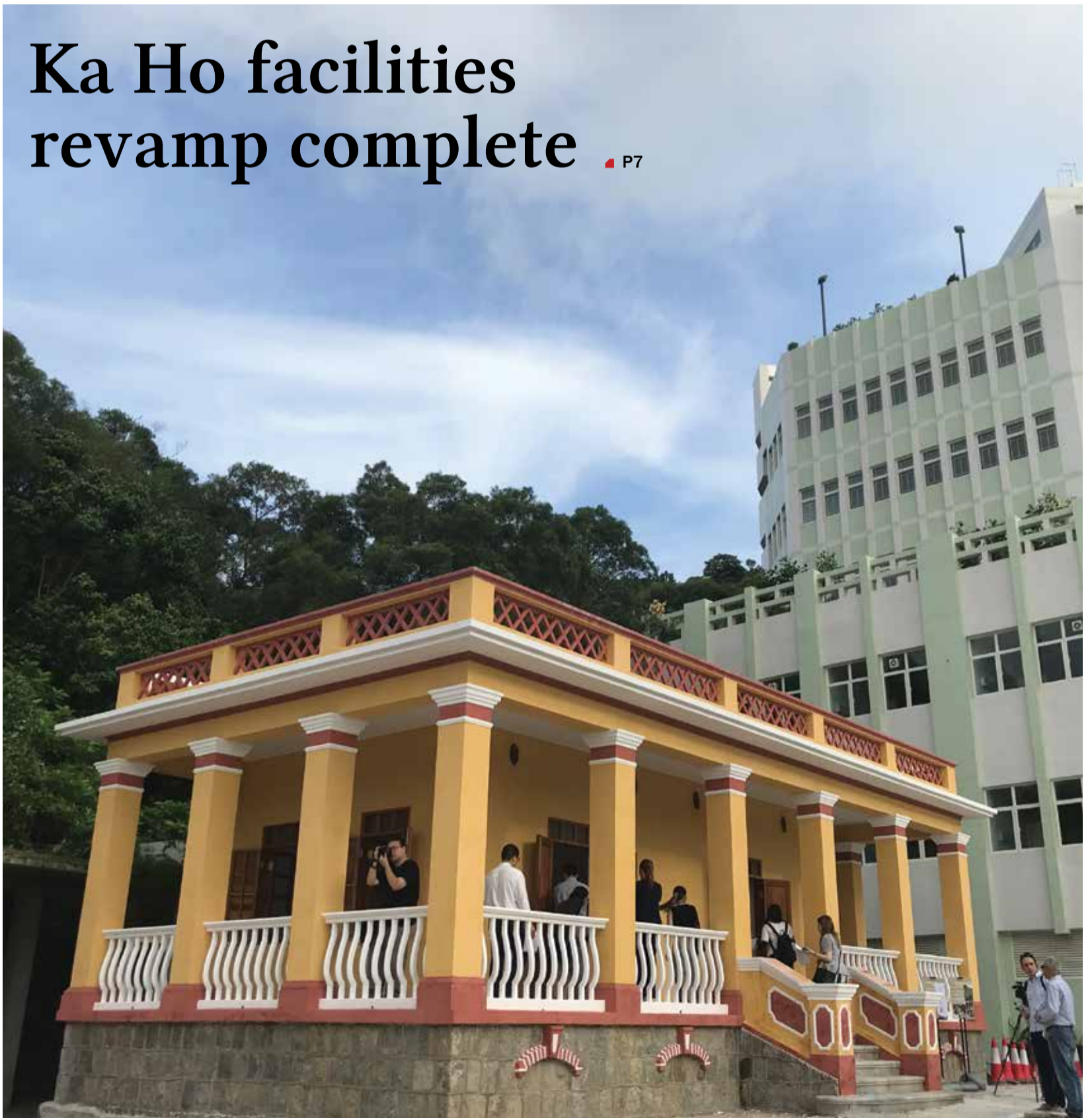
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Sulu Sou's appeal reaches top court

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Ka Ho facilities revamp complete

P7



CE visits Greater Bay Area cities

The Chief Executive, Chui Sai On, will lead a delegation on a series of visits covering nine cities within the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area. The program includes trips to the cities of Zhuhai, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhongshan and Jiangmen in Guangdong Province. According to a statement issued by the Government Information Bureau, the visits aim to enhance preparation for the launch of the Greater Bay Area Development Plan. Chui Sai On will visit Zhuhai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen today and tomorrow, and Zhongshan and Jiangmen on June 25. During the visits, the Chief Executive will meet with leaders of those cities to exchange views on the development of the Greater Bay Area and pay visits to industrial development project sites.

School sexual assault investigation to finish in July

The Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) expects to conclude in July the investigation of the case of pedophilia that allegedly occurred at the D. José da Costa Nunes Kindergarten. According to Kong Chi Meng, deputy director of DSEJ, the bureau has received requests for assistance from the parents of 10 children thus far. DSEJ has finished taking most of the necessary statements from the kindergarten and has also placed two counsellors (one Chinese and one Portuguese) at the school to assist staff and students. The school has also recruited more staff and DSEJ will continue to monitor the situation.

Wife suspected of stealing husband's casino money

A local woman has been sent to the public prosecutor under suspicion of stealing one million yuan from her husband. The victim believes that his wife stole the money from his casino VIP account in the Philippines. The woman is believed to have taken her husband's phone card and pretended to act on his behalf in order to use the money. Despite denying the accusations, phone records showed that the woman contacted a casino VIP room in the Philippines. The woman was arrested on Monday while crossing the border to enter Macau from mainland China and was sent to the Judiciary Police (PJ) for further investigation.

Sou's appeal for suspension annulment moves to top court

Renato Marques

LAWMAKER Sulu Sou has officially forwarded his appeal for the annulment of his suspension from the Legislative Assembly (AL) to the Court of Final Appeal (TUI), the Times learned.

The move comes after the Court of Second Instance (TSI) rejected Sulu Sou's appeal to void his mandate suspension in April. Sou claims that the process contained several irregularities leading up to AL vote December 4 last year, when the majority of lawmakers decided in favour of his suspension.

In an 85 page document to which the Times had access, Sou and his lawyer, Jorge Menezes, call upon the higher instance court to determine whether the lawmakers, the president of the AL, and the president of the House of Rules violated the law in the process of suspending Sou's mandate. The appeal to the top court focusses on the procedural precondition for there to be "jurisdiction," in other words, that "there is no manifest lack of jurisdiction from TSI and the Macau SAR courts" to rule on the case.

As explained in the appeal filed in the TUI, what is primarily on the line in the appeal "is not to determine if TSI and the courts of MSAR have jurisdiction to decide upon the legality of the deliberations and decisions of the AL", but instead to decide whether the TSI's claim to having no jurisdiction is in fact true.

The appeal claims a misjudgment on the matter in the final dispatch from TSI, claiming that TSI "based its decision on an incorrect ruling criteria." In the extensive document that comprises Sou's appeal to the TUI, Menezes addresses the topic in four different chapters. The first two consist of an analysis of the context of the proceedings, including the suspension process and the mistakes found in the ruling and dispatch by the TSI. In the third and fourth chapters, the lawyer argues that this is not a case of "manifest lack of jurisdiction" and that the MSAR courts are in fact capable and possess jurisdiction to make a decision on the issues in dispute.



Menezes mentions that in his 25 years of law practice he has never seen a similar case in which the court has, in fact, not pronounced any decision, either by deferring or refusing the appeal, as he noted, "The court ignored the appeal. Since it is the duty of the courts to make a decision, the TSI made a mistake."

There are no processes without rules, except in the world of Kafka.

APPEAL

As he explained further, in practical terms, this error denied his client the right to appeal the decision, "a right that was denied without any clear justification and leaving the appeal to decide, violating the law."

The appeal quotes the Lawmaker's Statute to further note that article 19 foresees and

provides a "right of defense," which is a general principle of any law and not an exception.

According to Sou's defense, the "mandate suspension is not a political act since it is not an ability that results directly from the Basic Law."

"The suspension of mandate is not foreseen in article 81 [of the Basic Law], that regulates the loss of mandate, a legal figure that is clearly different from the mandate suspension," the appeal reads. It also notes that article 80 of the same law, which sets out the immunity of lawmakers does not make any reference to the possibility of a mandate suspension. According to the appeal, the provision provides for the "lifting of the immunity in cases in [which the lawmaker] is caught in the act of committing an offence." Still, the fact that immunity "can be lifted only means that the lawmaker can be tried, not meaning that he can be suspended."

The appeal notes "there are no processes without rules, except in the world of Kafka" and continues stating that "processes without rules shouldn't occur

in a region governed by the rule of law principle."

Contrarily, there is the "need to reason by analogy within existing laws and principles to find the rules that should be applied to the process of suspension," the appeal reads.

According to Sou's defense, TSI made a rushed and premature decision without giving enough time and paying enough attention to the analysis of such a complex matter noting, "TSI 'solved' a long and detailed allegation about a violation of fundamental rights in just 3 lines," refuting such an allegation simply by stating that "[it] does not constitute a violation of the right and principles of access to justice as claimed by the appellant..."

In the decision announced last April, the collective of judges of TSI upheld the previous decision by the TSI rapporteur, claiming that Sou's mandate suspension did not qualify as an administrative act "since it did not come from any organ of the administration. [...] It was, instead, practiced by a legislative body with a political framework."

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08:00 for 30 km Corporate Challenge (Registration time: 06:30am)
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09:00 for 20 km Corporate Challenge (Registration time: 08:00am)
20公里挑戰線 於早上九時正開始 (登記時間: 早上八時正)
10:00 for 10 km Family & Fun Course (Registration time: 09:00am)
10公里樂遊線 於早上十時正開始 (登記時間: 早上九時正)

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2018年6月20日 (額滿即止)

Inquiries 查詢

2871 6081 Ms. Yang/ Ms. Cheang
2871 6081 楊小姐/ 鄭小姐

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MGM leaves extension of gaming licenses to gov't



Grant Bowie pictured yesterday

AS gaming licenses are set to expire in 2020, MGM China is hopeful that its license will soon be extended to 2022.

Speaking to the press, CEO and executive director of MGM China Holdings Limited, Grant Bowie, remarked that the gaming operator has left that decision to the government.

"The extension of gaming concessions is clearly a decision of the government and we at MGM

will work diligently with the government and [be] clearly hopeful that our concessions will be extended," said Bowie on the sidelines of the Eco TrailHiker press conference held at MGM Cotai.

When commenting on the banning of gaming employees in casinos, Bowie said MGM China would work with the government to develop ways to implement consequences, as it would be challenging for the gaming operator to distinguish their gaming employees from customers.

"This is the best approach that they believe supports the safety of [gaming] workers," said the executive.

"We will need the support of the government to advise us on this. The notion of being able to identify individuals is going to be a significant issue as it also [concerns] privacy issues for individuals," he added. LV

TOURISM

MGTO attends UNWTO meeting in Fiji

THE Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) attended the 30th joint meeting of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Commissions for East Asia and Pacific, and for South Asia in Fiji.

The three-day event, which ended yesterday, has gathered 87 top tourism officials and representatives from 24 countries and provinces across the region. MGTO noted in a statement that its deputy director, Cheng Wai Tong, together with the Head of Communication and External Relations Department of MGTO, Kathy Iong, represented the office.

Named "Regional Seminar on Climate Change, Biodiversity & Sustainable Tourism Development", the program of the one-day seminar included a high level dialogue among tourism leaders on "How to Address the Issue of Climate Change in Tourism Development" in the Asia Pacific region, followed by technical presentations on UNWTO projects on biodiversity protection and

sustainable tourism, along with panel discussions. On Tuesday participants gathered together for the 30th CAP-CSA joint meeting, with the agenda including reports on the implementation of the program of work and regional activities conducted over the past year.

UNWTO's secretary-general, Zurab Pololikashvili, will also present his review of major tourism trends for 2017-2018, as well as UNWTO's management vision and priorities ahead, namely how to move towards United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, making tourism smarter, more competitive and more responsible.

Several UNWTO committees will also review their activities during the meeting, including the Committee on Tourism and Competitiveness, and the Committee on Statistics and Tourism Satellite Account, of which "Macau, China" is the current representative for the Associate Members of the organization.

AD

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Robert Kirby



Aspect of last year's edition

TrailHiker debuts 20km course at MGM Cotai

Lynzy Valles

THE ninth edition of the annual MGM Macau Eco TrailHiker 2018 is slated to be held on November 3, introducing a new 20 km category in addition to the existing 10km and 30km categories.

This year's TrailHiker will see 600 teams, comprising 2,400 participants, at its new venue, MGM Cotai.

According to the organizers, the event aims to promote wellness, teamwork, environmental awareness and contributions to the community. In a press conference yesterday it was announced that the beneficiaries of this year's event will be the Association of Parents of the People with Intellectual Disabilities of Macau (AFEDMM) and the Association of Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers of Macao (ARTM).

AFEDMM said it will use this year's donations to help dual-aging families and those with severely intellectually disabled members, while ARTM will use the proceeds to finalize its "grosserie" inside its center that will be run by clients as part of their training skills to support their reintegration into the community.

Robert Kirby, director of Macau TrailHiker Limited, said that the event would continue

to reduce the use of disposable items during the event as part of its "eco commitment."

Organizers will continue to reduce its carbon footprint by planning the event with the mindset of "think reusable, not disposable."

The director also noted that the event would emphasize proper ways to become healthy, treating wellness as a lifestyle and sharing wellness with the community.

"We are planning on upgrading our Wellness Boulevard. [...] The plan is to feature more health and wellness booths." A program of health and wellness activities will run throughout the event day.

According to Kirby, the 20 km course has long been requested by participants, particularly those who had been joining the 10km course.

"I seem to feel that the interest was high last year but the interest this year is even higher. [...] There were many 10km teams that would like to move up,"

Kirby told the Times, noting that there would be at least 100 team entries for the new course.

Meanwhile, the CEO and executive director of MGM China Holdings Limited, Grant Bowie, recalled that last year's registration figure – 2,200 participants – was reached within 60 minutes of registrations opening.

"With the MGM Cotai now opened, we are proud to present this newest integrated resort in Macau to be the starting and finishing point of this annual major sports event in Macau."

From the inaugural event held at Hac Sa beach in 2010 with 560 participants, the event has seen significant yearly increases in the number of participants, raising over MOP2.6 million in donations to the local community and charitable organizations.

Team entries opened yesterday at 4 p.m. after the event's press conference concluded.

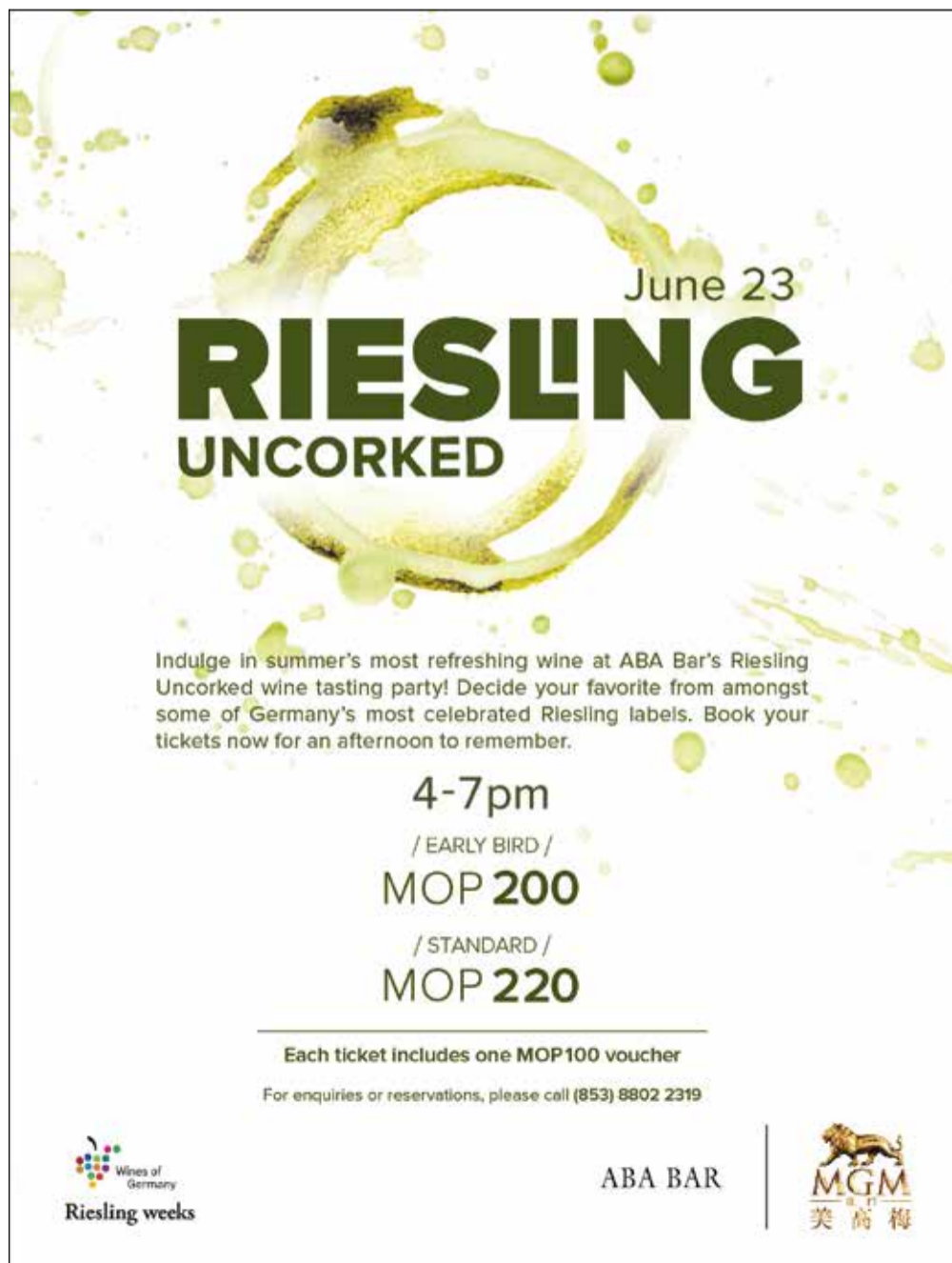
MDT is TrailHiker's official media partner

ORGANIZERS HOLD TEST RUN FOR NEW COURSE

ON SUNDAY, the organizers of the TrailHiker running event held a test run for the new 20 km Corporate Challenge Course, starting and finishing at the newly open MGM Cotai. According to Robert

Kirby, 30 participants took part in the test run and all provided positive feedback about the new event. The Corporate Challenge Course is designed to appeal to 10km teams who desire to go a longer distance.

AD



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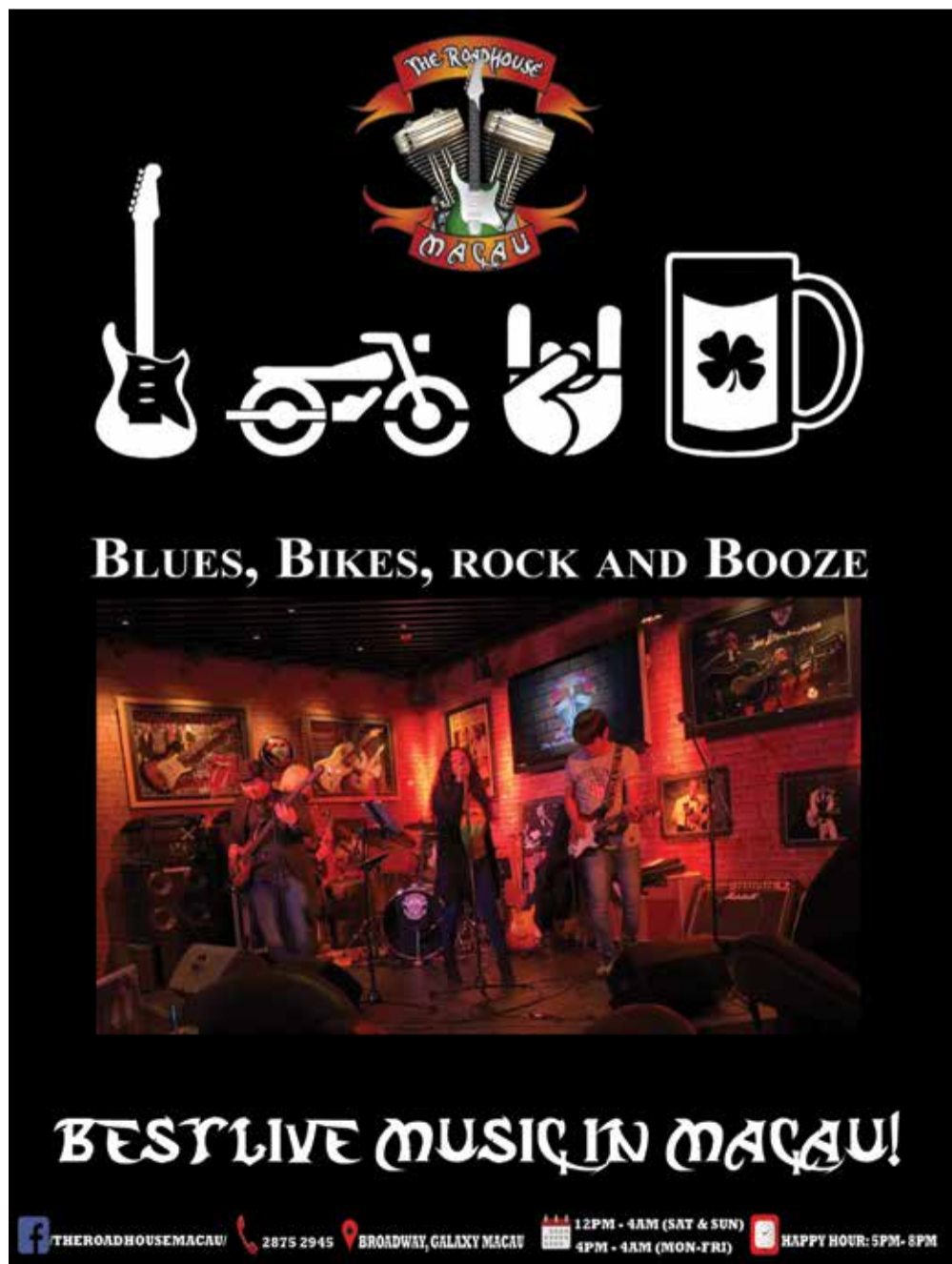
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“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”



The Our Lady of Sorrows Church

Ka Ho old leproseery revamp complete

Julie Zhu

THE revamp of the Ka Ho old leproseery is now complete and the site will be used for youth education and tourism, the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam announced yesterday.

Yesterday, a media group guided by Tam's Secretariat and the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) was taken to visit the Ka Ho village.

During the visit, it was announced that repairs of the five Portuguese-style houses in the former Ka Ho leper colony were finished in May, costing a total of MOP6.7 million. Renovations of

the houses have taken five years to complete since 2016.

An IC representative revealed that the properties will be used as training base for young people and to educate the public about the history of leprosy in Macau.

"In the future, the government plans to use this area, which offers a special environment, to let young people use it as a camp site to learn about old architectural history and about the lifestyle of leprosy patients," said the IC representative.

A church near the newly-repaired houses will also be repaired shortly.

"It was a church in the past.

Hopefully it can be renovated as an exhibition space to exhibit social welfare or medical history," the IC representative said.

AGED CARE CENTER EXPECTED TO OPEN IN 2018

THE HEALTH complex for the elderly located at Ka Ho is expected to open by the end of this year at the earliest and the beginning of next year at the latest, the Secretary Alexis Tam revealed yesterday. Tam visited the facilities, accompanied by government officials from the Health Bureau (SSM) and the Social Affairs Bureau. Upon acknowledging that it felt like "a first class" facility,

Tam said that all conditions for the facility to commence operations have been met. According to Tam, SSM had 4,355 employees in 2017. The health sector has 588 doctors and over 1,200 nurses in total. "Last year, [the government] already started preparing to increase human resources. In 2019, [the health authority] will hire more [staff]," said Alexis Tam.

The small church, named Our Lady of Sorrows Church, was built in 1966 to serve the needs of the Ka Ho settlement, predominantly made up of the families of cured lepers and those newly afflicted with the disease. It has a bronze crucifix over the north door which was created and given to Ka Ho by the Italian sculptor Francisco Messima.

The Secretary Alexis Tam said, "Not only can they be education centers, they can also be used by tourists for leisure purposes. It's not just these five houses. There are hills on the back. Hopefully it can be made into a leisure, culture and art area. I believe that more residents, tourists and youth will use the facilities."

A sixth house is currently under evaluation regarding its renovation plan, with its renovation expected to finish in 2019.

Once complete, this house will also be used for educational and tourism purposes.

"Not only they can be used by young people to exhibit their artwork, they can also be used by artists, residents and tourists to exhibit their work," said Alexis Tam, adding, "I encourage residents and tourists to [get to] know Ka Ho. There are many famous places of interest."

The government also revealed that there is discussion between the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau and the Transport Bureau regarding the provision of ancillary transport facilities to the village.

IC to sponsor 15 new local short films

The Macao Cultural Centre (CCM) has selected 15 brand new local productions commissioned by the newest edition of "Local View Power". After assessing 66 proposals, the jury invited by the Cultural Affairs Bureau came up with a final selection comprising seven documentaries, four short fictions and four short animations. Focusing on a range of themes, this year's new projects will be granted nearly MOP1 million. Besides a CCM representative, this edition's jury includes Ding Yuin Shan, an experienced film producer and member of the Academy for Performing Arts, and renowned critic Ka Ming Fung, both from Hong Kong. Over the past decade, CCM has commissioned a total of 104 works directed by local film talents.

Subsidy for senior citizens increased to MOP9,000

The subsidy for senior citizens has officially been increased to MOP9,000 since Tuesday, according to a dispatch released in the government Official Gazette. Permanent residents of Macau aged 65 on or before 31 of December in the year of application may apply to the Social Welfare Bureau for the subsidy. Back in 2005, the Macau government first granted the subsidy "in order to show care for senior citizens of Macau and advocate respect for the elderly." The increase is MOP1,000 more than it was in 2016.

ONE Bus Hong Kong Macau Limited's Chairman Teddy Chung disclosed that tickets for cross-border bus services between Hong Kong and Macau, over the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB), will have a price tag ranging from HKD170 up to HKD220.

According to Hong Kong media reports, Chung said that his company would operate 19 round trips once the bridge opens.

The bus will depart from Kwun Tong APM (HK) and pass through the Hung Hom railway station to reach StarWorld Hotel in Macau, then Ga-

HK-Macau bus fee to range between HKD170 and HKD220

laxy and the Venetian.

Together with immigration checks, the journey will take a total of one hour and 45 minutes.

The bridge's tolls have not yet been finalized, and are still under discussion regarding two options (RMB200 and RMB450).

Chung noted that if the final toll is fixed at RMB200, then the bus fare would be HKD170 for a day trip (6 a.m. to 6 p.m.) and HKD190 for a

night trip; if the final toll is set at RMB450, then the bus fare would be HKD200 and HKD220 for a day trip and night trip, respectively.

The One Bus Hong Kong Macau Limited's HK-Macau bus operation has a daily maximum capacity of 2,000 passengers.

Chung expects an 80 to 85 percent actual passenger load in the initial period following the bridge's opening.



First local Dengue case reported

On Tuesday, the Health Bureau confirmed the detection of one Dengue fever patient who was infected in Macau. The virus was detected in a 58-year-old Macau male resident who denied visiting any place outside Macau during the 14 days before his diagnosis. However, he declared that he had frequently exercised next to reservoirs. According to an epidemiological analysis, this case is the first local Dengue fever case recorded in 2018. The patient's fever has already gone.



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US | GAMING

Business up at New Jersey track, casino with sports bets

ARTHUR Rosen puzzled over the photocopied sheet of paper listing all sorts of exotic bets on baseball games, including one in which the number of runs scored and hits made in Tuesday night's New York Yankees-Seattle Mariners game had to exceed 29.

"I lived in Vegas 20 years and I never heard of a bet like that," the 83-year-old retired truck driver said.

Rosen was one of more than 100 people at a New Jersey racetrack at 1:30 on a Tuesday afternoon, ready to plunk down money on professional sports in the first week it has been legal here. Although revenue figures won't be released for a few weeks yet, Monmouth Park racetrack and Atlantic City's Borgata casino say they're delighted with the extra business sports betting has generated in its first few days.

"We're really pleased with the early results, especially considering it's a slow time on the sports betting calendar," said Joe Asher, CEO of William Hill US, which runs the sports book at Monmouth Park.

Likewise, the Borgata is seeing an uptick in business at its race book, which has been expanded to cover sports bets. "The revenue was definitely beyond what it would have been," said spokeswoman Liza Costandino.

Sports betting is bringing new demographics into what was traditionally an older, male clientele at the Borgata's horse racing betting operation. Younger customers are stopping in to bet on sports, including more women.



"A full bachelorette party came in and they all made sports bets," Costandino said.

The casinos and tracks report their sports betting revenue to the New Jersey Division of Gaming Enforcement, which will publicly release monthly totals along with traditional casino revenue. The next such report is due for release July 12, and neither the Borgata nor Monmouth would reveal their totals before then.

Last month, New Jersey won a U.S. Supreme Court case that

cleared the way for all 50 states to offer sports betting, including wagers on individual games, should they desire. Delaware was the first state to begin doing so after the court decision; New Jersey was the second.

So far in New Jersey, just the Borgata and Monmouth Park are offering sports betting. The soon-to-open Ocean Resort Casino, formerly known as Revel, is due to open June 28 and plans to offer sports betting on its first day of operation, owner Bruce Deifik said.

The property will go before state gambling regulators on Wednesday to seek a casino license. William Hill will run the sports betting operation for Ocean Resort as well as Monmouth Park. Eventually, most of Atlantic City's casinos (there will be nine by the end of next week) and its three racetracks plan to offer sports betting.

Both facilities said the early action has been mostly on individual baseball games and World Cup soccer matches. Customers

also are making long-term bets on who will win the World Series or Super Bowl, a market segment expected to increase as the baseball playoffs and the start of the NFL season draw closer in the fall.

Michael Black, of Tinton Falls, New Jersey, was at Monmouth Park to wager on Tuesday's Cubs-Dodgers baseball game, betting that the two teams combined would score 9 or more runs. A boiler installer, Black tends to be busier in the fall, and has been able to visit Monmouth Park several times since sports betting began last Thursday. He's up \$175 so far, he said. "As soon as football opens, this place is going to be packed," he said. "This has been a long time coming."

Fred Reyes, of Jersey City, had been to the track four times since last Thursday, and had yet to lose a sports bet. "So far I'm up close to \$1,000," he said, betting on the Cubs to win Tuesday.

Rosen was enjoying the many novel ways he could risk money on sporting events, particularly on a bet combining runs and hits in a baseball game.

"The Mets and Colorado is 32," he said. "That's a whole lot. You think the Yankees will score in the first inning? It's tough, huh?" AP

JAPAN

Construction app offers fix for super-tight labor market

Yuko Takeo, Yuki Furukawa

ONE of Yosuke Kobayashi's biggest headaches has been finding enough workers to build hotels, restaurants and bath houses for his construction company.

That was until the manager at construction company Luckland Co. found Sokedachi, a mobile app that connects contractors and tradespeople. Nowadays, he's hiring carpenters, painters and glaziers with just a few taps on his smartphone.

Japan is in the middle of a building boom, thanks to infrastructure projects, a shortage of hotel rooms and the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games around the corner. That's fueling the tightest labor market in a generation, with 4.3 jobs available for every construction worker, according

to the labor ministry. The industry is woefully inefficient; workers usually find gigs via referrals, word-of-mouth and printed job listings.

"Our projects were outpacing our people," said Kobayashi, adding that he had staff working nights and weekends to finish construction jobs.

While most people in Japan can find work on websites and apps, Sokedachi is the first that caters to the construction sector, which often needs workers on short notice. Yoichi Wagatsuma, the Sokedachi app's creator, estimates that he can capture 30 percent of

a potential market of 3.6 million workers by 2021. The one-year-old startup, whose name means "to the rescue" in Japanese, debuted last year and raised 530 million yen (USD4.8 million) in financing in April.

There could be one downside in all this for the Bank of Japan. If the app, and any other like it, alleviate pressure for wage gains, that could counteract the central bank's efforts to spur inflation. While the labor mismatch is a headache for construction managers, the industry has seen the kind of pay hikes that are needed

across the whole economy.

"Construction workers all have smartphones, they all play games," said Wagatsuma, a 15-year construction-industry veteran. Because they're working at job sites and seldom use laptops, mobile apps are the best way to reach them, he said. "Japan's construction sector faces a critical shortage of workers."

Since the Android and iOS version debuted seven months ago, with the iOS version following soon after, the app has amassed over 10,000 users. Sokedachi also handles job payments, so that employers can pay workers on the same platform.

"Right after a job, I went to a Seven Bank ATM and received part of my wage," said Yuki Seki, a 34-year-old laborer who found a one-day plumbing job on



Sokedachi. Usually, it can take as long as two months to get paid, he said.

The app will help workers earn a more stable income, according to Ryo Owada, a construction company executive in Fukushima, north of Tokyo. "Fewer people are joining the industry, but this could be one way to bring more people in," he said.

That would help alleviate a broader job shortage. The jobs-to-applicant ratio for Japan's construction sector has almost

tripled since 2012, and the measure for the broader economy hit a 44-year high in December. A steadily recovering economy, Olympics-related demand and a shrinking population has meant that employers are scrambling for workers, according to Hiroaki Muto, chief economist at Tokai Tokyo Research Center in Tokyo.

"Japan's labor market is dysfunctional," Muto said. If more services like this emerge, "the jobs-to-applicant ratio should start to fall," he said. **Bloomberg**

Japan's labor market is dysfunctional.

HIROAKI MUTO
TOKAI TOKYO RESEARCH CENTER

Kim urges 'step-by-step' nuclear talks in meeting with Xi

KIM Jong Un doesn't appear to be in a rush to dump his nuclear weapons. In talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping this week, the North Korean leader reiterated his call for a gradual process to carry out the results of last week's summit with U.S. President Donald Trump. Chinese state media cited Kim as saying that denuclearization would open up new prospects for both sides, if they could "implement the consensus of the summit step by step solidly."

Kim's remarks were another sign of lingering disagreements between Washington and Pyongyang over the pace and sequence of North Korea's disarmament and sanctions relief. Trump has said Kim could only see penalties relaxed after he "completely denuclearized," while North Korean state media has previously said the U.S. president had agreed to a "step-by-step" process.

Kim's China's visit - his third since March - reaffirmed Xi's



Xi Jinping (2nd right) and his wife Peng Liyuan (1st right) pose for photos with Kim Jong Un and his wife Ri Sol

role as a key player in U.S. efforts to ensure Trump's landmark summit Kim in Singapore leads to a more specific commitment to disarm. The statement Trump and Kim signed June 12 included no timetable

for North Korea's denuclearization, and Trump told reporters that he didn't know how long it would take, "but it will be quickly."

In the wake of the Singapore summit, China said the United

Nations Security Council should revisit economic sanctions against the regime. Still, China believed that sanctions relief should be tied to North Korea's progress on denuclearization, South Korea's Yonhap News Agency reported Wednesday, citing a briefing by an unnamed Chinese official.

“We hope that both sides - the DPRK and the U.S. - can implement the outcome of the summit.”

XI JINPING

In their talks in Beijing, Xi praised Kim for being proactive in realizing the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

“We hope that both sides - the DPRK and the U.S. - can implement the outcome of the summit, and relevant parties can work together to advance the peace process on the peninsula.” Xi said. “China will continue to play a constructive role.”

The visit illustrated how far relations between China and Kim have improved since Kim's decision earlier this year to open talks with South Korea and the U.S. Until March, Xi and Kim had not yet met, even though they had both been in power for more than five years.

Kim said the two countries were now “as close and friendly as family,” according to China's official Xinhua News Agency, and thanked Xi for his “affectionate care and support.” China contributed the Air China Ltd. passenger jet the ferried Kim to and from the summit in Singapore.

Meanwhile, South Korea Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha told reporters Wednesday in Seoul that sanctions have cut off a “significant” part of North Korea's economy and would remain in place until denuclearization was “complete.” She said she expected commitments to denuclearization and peace to proceed expeditiously. **Bloomberg**

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John Harney, Jonathan Stearns

THE world economy lurched closer to an all-out trade war as the Trump administration accused China of threatening U.S. economic interests and as the European Union made good on its threat to hit American goods with retaliatory tariffs.

A scathing report, posted late Tuesday by the White House, blamed Beijing for hijacking intellectual property and pursuing destructive industrial policies, saying the nation's spectacular economic growth "has been achieved in significant part through aggressive acts, policies and practices that fall outside of global norms and rules."

"Given the size of China's economy and the extent of its market-distorting policies, China's economic aggression now threatens not only the U.S. economy, but also the global economy as a whole," according to the 35-page document.

The White House report came out just before the EU triggered the first phase of retaliation against the U.S. over its metal-import tariffs, approving a 25 percent duty on 2.8 billion euros (\$3.2 billion) of U.S. products including Harley-Davidson Inc. motorcycles and Levi Strauss & Co. jeans. It opens up a second contentious trade front for Trump, who ordered U.S. officials on Monday to consider imposing tariffs on an additional \$200 billion in Chinese imports -- with another \$200 billion to be added if Beijing retaliates.

The EU countermeasures will hit U.S. consumer, agricultural and steel products in many key Republican constituencies, putting pressure on Trump ahead of crucial midterm elections in November.

"We did not want to be in this position," European Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom said in a statement yesterday. "However, the unilateral and unjustified decision of the U.S. to impose steel and aluminum tariffs on the EU means that we are left with no other choice."

Trump faults China's economic policy as threat to US security



Donald Trump

Despite the brewing dispute, U.S. futures advanced, tracking gains across Asia and Europe. Every sector rose in the Stoxx Europe 600 Index, which jumped following three days of losses. The Stoxx Europe 600 Index rose 0.6 percent as of 7:16 a.m. New York time, while futures on the S&P 500 Index gained 0.2 percent.

On the other side of the Pacific, economists are starting to run the numbers on what kind of dent to growth such actions will have on China's economy. Bloomberg Economics' Tom Orlik and Fielding Chen write that the impact of decreased exports and lower manufacturing investment could mean a 0.5 percent blow to gross domestic product.

A pull back in Chinese investment in the U.S. is already evident. Research from Rhodium Group LLC showed Chinese companies completed acquisitions and greenfield investments worth \$1.8 billion in the first half, representing a drop of more than 90 percent from the same period in 2017 and the

lowest level in seven years.

The trade skirmishes are not holding back the U.S. economy just yet, which is booming this quarter as tax cuts power consumers and businesses. Still, as risks to that outlook mount, economists are pointing to higher checkout prices on a range of tech, apparel and household goods for U.S. consumers should Trump follow through with his latest tariff threats.

China's economic aggression now threatens not only the U.S. economy, but also the global economy.

WHITE HOUSE REPORT

Just last week, Trump unveiled plans to implement previously announced tariffs on \$50 billion in primarily industrial goods. China has said it will match those levies in kind, and has already responded to earlier duties on metals imports.

The U.S. government has long complained that China obtains American intellectual property and technology through underhanded means, and the White House report restated many of those concerns, including about hacking, physical theft of trade secrets and evasion of export control laws.

The Chinese government says that it is working to improve intellectual property protection. Companies surveyed by the European Union Chamber of Commerce do see some improvement, though a slim majority say protection of intellectual property in China is still inadequate.

"Physical theft through economic espionage by company insiders or others who have trusted

access to trade secrets and confidential business information provides China with a significant means to acquire U.S. technologies and intellectual property," the White House report charges.

What's Intellectual Property and Does China Steal It?: QuickTake

The report, titled "How China's Economic Aggression Threatens the Technologies and Intellectual Property of the United States and the World," does not make any specific policy recommendations. Yet it codifies some of the administration's arguments for a more aggressive stance toward China over trade.

Besides the volleys of tariffs on goods from China, the Trump administration is also considering measures that would restrict Chinese investment in sensitive American technology.

The report also accuses China of openly protecting domestic industries from competition and imports through tariffs, regulation and restrictions on foreign ownership. It also says China offers financial support to bolster its exports to foreign markets.

It adds that Chinese state-owned companies pose an additional threat to overseas firms, given their close ties to the Beijing government.

The government itself dominates many industries and plays an enormous role in investment decisions and strategy. For instance, the report says, until 2014, state-supported foreign investment funds were directed toward acquiring natural resources. Now, that focus has shifted to technology.

The U.S. imported \$505 billion of goods from China last year and exported about \$130 billion, leaving a 2017 trade deficit of \$376 billion, according to U.S. government figures. **Bloomberg**

SURVEY

Foreign companies feel pressure to give up tech

ONE in five foreign companies in China feels compelled to hand over technology for market access, a business group said yesterday, highlighting a key irritant in an escalating U.S.-Chinese trade dispute.

The European Union Chamber of Commerce in China's report follows President Donald Trump's order for tariffs on additional Chinese goods in response to complaints Beijing steals

or pressures companies to hand over technology.

Out of 532 European companies that responded to a survey, 19 percent "felt compelled to transfer technology in exchange for market access" despite Chinese assurances that it isn't required, the chamber said.

"China has pursued an implicit strategy of trading domestic market share for new foreign technology," the report said.

Trump is pressing Beijing to scrap or roll back technology development strategies its trading partners say include stealing or pressuring companies to give up know-how in violation of its market-opening commitments.

European companies have been bystanders to the U.S.-Chinese dispute but share the complaints of their American counterparts about market barriers and unfair regulation.

Some industries had higher rates of companies reporting they felt compelled to hand over technology, according to the European chamber. That included 36 percent in aerospace and 27 percent in autos -- both industries cited in Chinese plans to develop global competitors.

The survey was conducted in February and March, before the latest escalation in U.S.-Chinese trade tensions. **AP**



EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom speaks in Beijing

On North Korean side of DMZ, it's change in the air

Eric Talmadge, Panmunjom

LT. Col. Hwang Myong Jin has been a guide on the northern side of the Demilitarized Zone that divides the two Koreas for five years. He says that since the summits between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and the presidents of South Korea and the United States, things have quieted down noticeably in perhaps the last place on Earth where the Cold War still burns hot.

"A lot of things have changed. Listen to how quiet it is," he said as he stood on the balcony of a large building overlooking the blue and white barracks and concrete demarcation line that mark the boundary between North and South.

"The South used to blast psychological warfare propaganda at us," he said. "But since the summits, they have stopped. Now there is a peaceful atmosphere here." Indeed, all is quiet — deceptively so — in the DMZ these days.

Yesterday, as Kim Jong Un was in Beijing for his third summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping [see page 11], the northern part of the zone was buzzing with busloads of Chinese tourists taking selfies and eating ice cream cones outside the surprisingly well-stocked souvenir shop near the DMZ entrance.

A group of ethnic Korean high school students from Japan fi-



A North Korean soldier marches at the truce village at the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) which separates the two Koreas

led out of their tour bus as North Korean People's Army soldiers watched disinterestedly with automatic rifles slung over their shoulders. Inside the souvenir shop, still more tourists, from Europe, looked over hand-painted propaganda posters. American tourists are still banned from visiting North Korea under an order issued last year by President Donald Trump that restricts all non-essential travel.

Though the DMZ has taken on something of a tourist trap atmosphere over the years — the South side is also a popular tourist destination and also has its share of kitschy souvenirs — Lt. Col. Hwang stressed that it remains first and foremost a military site.

"It's not that we want tourists to come, but people want to see," he said. "There are dangers."

The dangers are, in fact, all

around the DMZ, though they are invisible to the throngs of day-tripping tourists.

While world attention tends to focus on the North's development of nuclear weapons, North Korea has for decades stationed most of its conventional fire near its border with the South. South Korea's capital, Seoul, is only about 80 kilometers (50 miles) away from the DMZ and would be vulnerable to a heavy artillery attack, potentially aug-

mented by chemical shells, that could cause hundreds of thousands of casualties.

Getting North Korea to agree to move at least some of its big guns away from the border will likely be a key topic of negotiations in the months ahead, particularly now that the U.S. and South Korea have agreed to halt their next set of annual war games, which never fail to outrage the North and heighten tensions on the peninsula.

Hwang generally follows a strongly patriotic and unapologetic script as he shows visitors around the usual spots — the building where the armistice that ended the 1950-53 Korean War was signed, a giant stone engraved with North Korean founder Kim Il Sung's last words, various other spots where talks took place. He still stays strongly on message — his job is to get the North's position across to the tourists, even if they aren't especially interested in listening.

But he also pointed out a tree planted by Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in when they held their first summit here in April, and the pavilion where Kim hosted Moon when he came to the North's side last month. And when speaking to an American journalist, Hwang also seemed a tad less belligerent — or perhaps just a bit more relaxed — on Thursday.

"War only brings disaster to our people. Nobody wants a war," he said. "We held military talks with the South here, too. The talks are moving in the direction of what humanity wants. That's peace. That's a positive thing." **AP**

Pearl Harbor survivor says goodbye before leaving Hawaii

Audrey McAvoy, Pearl Harbor

NEARLY eight decades ago, Ray Emory, then a young sailor, watched in disbelief as Japanese torpedoes tore into American ships in Pearl Harbor.

Emory survived the devastating attack but didn't forget his fellow sailors and Marines who died and were buried in Hawaii without anyone knowing their names.

His relentless efforts in the years that followed led to nearly 150 of those servicemen finally being identified so their families could find closure.

Now frail with white-hair, the 97-year-old Emory arrived Tuesday in a golf cart at the pier where his ship, the USS

Honolulu, was moored on Dec. 7, 1941. He came to say what could be his final goodbye to the storied naval base.

More than 500 sailors were there to greet him. They lined the rails and formed an honor cordon, shouting cheers of "Hip, Hip, Hooray!" Emory saluted them. "I'm glad I came and I'll never forget it," Emory told reporters after a ceremony in his honor.

Emory wanted to visit the pier before leaving his Hawaii home for Boise, Idaho. His wife died about a month ago and he plans to live with his son and go fishing.

During the attack on Pearl Harbor, Emory managed to fire a few rounds at the airplanes that dropped the torpedoes. He

still has an empty bullet casing that fell to his ship deck.

In 2012, the Navy and National Park Service recognized Emory for his work with the military and Department of Veterans Affairs to honor and remember Pearl Harbor's dead.

Bureaucrats didn't welcome his efforts, at least not initially. Emory says they politely told him to "go you-know-where." It didn't deter him.

First, thanks to legislation sponsored by the late U.S. Rep. Patsy Mink of Hawaii, he managed to get gravestones for unknowns from the USS Arizona marked with name of their battleship.

In 2003, the military agreed to dig up a casket that Emory was convin-

ced, after meticulously studying records, included the remains of multiple USS Oklahoma servicemen. Emory was right, and five sailors were identified.

It helped lay the foundation for the Pentagon's decision more than a decade later to exhume and attempt to identify all 388 sailors and Marines from the Oklahoma who had been buried as unknowns in a national cemetery in Honolulu.

Since those 2015 exhumations, 138 sailors from the Oklahoma have been identified. About 77 have been reburied, many in their hometowns, bringing closure to families across the country.

"Ray, you're the man that did it. There's nobody else. If it wasn't for



Pearl Harbor survivor Ray Emory (right) salutes sailors who stood in an honor cordon

you, it would have never been done," Jim Taylor, the Navy's liaison to Pearl Harbor survivors, told Emory during the brief ceremony Tuesday at the USS Honolulu's old pier.

Taylor presented Emory with a black, folded POW/MIA flag printed with the words: "You are not forgotten."

Some of the remains, es-

pecially those burned to ash, will never be identified. But the military aims to put names with 80 percent of the Oklahoma servicemen who were dug up in 2015.

Altogether, the Pearl Harbor attack killed nearly 2,400 U.S. servicemen. The Oklahoma lost 429 men after being hit by at least nine torpedoes. **AP**

Binsar Bakkara, Niniek Karmini

INDONESIA

DISTRAUGHT relatives slammed Indonesia's government for not enforcing basic safety measures on passenger boats and pleaded yesterday for a bigger search effort for more than 190 people missing since a ferry sank on a picturesque Sumatran lake early this week.

The wooden vessel, overcrowded with passengers as well as dozens of motorbikes, didn't have a manifest and disaster officials have several times raised the number of people it was carrying as family members who rushed to Lake Toba in northern Sumatra provided information.

The boat was five times over its passenger capacity and equipped with only 45 life jackets, National Search and Rescue Agency chief Muhammad Syaugi told a news conference. The latest information is that 192 people are missing, he said.

Only 18 survivors have been found — in bad weather within hours of the sinking Monday evening, which according to Syaugi occurred in waters more than 300 meters (984 feet) deep but only half a kilometer from an island that's popular with visitors to the lake.

It's possible many of the victims were still inside the sunken ferry, said North Sumatra province police chief Paulus Waterpau.

"Many survivors told authorities that less than half of them had jumped into the water before the boat sank," he told The Associated Press.

Suwarni, whose 20-year-old son and his girlfriend were on the ferry, criticized the search and rescue operation as slow and insufficient.

"Millions of questions keep

me from sleeping," said Suwarni, who uses one name, between desperate sobs.

"What kind of government is this that can't protect their own people from unnecessary accidents? And after the accident they're not able to find the victims," she said. "I beg help to everyone to quickly find my son and his girlfriend, even if their remains, please find my son, return him to me."

Several dozen divers were searching at depths of 25 meters (82 feet) and will deploy

an underwater drone to 200 meters (656 feet) below the surface, Waterpau said. The 1,145-square-kilometer Lake Toba, formed out of an ancient super volcano, is a popular sightseeing destination on the island of Sumatra. It's more than 400 meters deep.

The search and rescue effort involving 350 personnel and at least half a dozen boats has turned up items of clothing, bags and traces of oil from the ferry but just several victims.

Syaugi said four deaths were confirmed after three more

bodies were found yesterday. He defended the search and rescue effort by saying that the agency, police, military and other personnel have been working non-stop.

Survivor Juwita Sumbayak, from Medan, said she had crossed the lake many times on the same boat but on Monday it was terribly overcrowded because of holidays for the end of the Muslim holy month. In an interview with AP, the distraught mother wept uncontrollably and called out the names of her hus-

band and children who she believes drowned inside the boat.

She said that about 20 minutes into the journey, strong high waves caused the ferry to list to the right and take on water, sparking a panic among passengers. Then it was smacked hard by more waves and an empty small wooden boat. The ferry seemed to shake, Sumbayak said, then suddenly capsized.

"Many passengers without a life jacket jumped into the deep lake, but others drowned with the boat," she said. "I jumped, I cried with fear." She saw dozens of people in the water "but nobody can help."

Cellphone video released earlier in the week by the National Disaster Mitigation Agency showed the crew of another ferry attempting to rescue people struggling in the waters shortly after the sinking but being hampered by bad weather and rough waters.

The disaster has cast a tragic pall over the holidays marking the end of Ramadan when tens of millions of Indonesians return to their hometowns.

Ferry tragedies are common in Indonesia, an archipelago of more than 17,000 islands, with weak enforcement of safety regulations often to blame.

A grief-stricken Muhaimin, 61, said he had lost eight members of his family including two sons, their wives and children.

"My sons, my daughter-in-laws and my grandchildren have been the victims of greedy businessmen who just want to take advantage of the holiday season without thinking of people's safety," he said. "It would not happen if they follow the rules. But they made money over our misery." AP



A search and rescue team carries a victim body of a ferry sinking at Tigaras port in Toba lake

INDIA

Ruling coalition loses a second ally as pressure builds

Bibhudatta Pradhan

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi's ruling coalition lost a second political ally in three months after his Bharatiya Janata Party withdrew its support from the government in the troubled northern state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Blaming the state government-led by Mehbooba Mufti of the regional People's Democratic Party for its failure to maintain law and order and curb a rise in terrorist activities, the BJP announced it had ended the alliance in India's only Muslim-majority state.

Ram Madhav, a general

secretary of the BJP, told a press conference in New Delhi that "the continuation of BJP with the government has become untenable."

Modi is unlikely to benefit politically from the situation within Kashmir, said Shailesh Kumar, Asia director at political risk firm Eurasia Group. "But he will leverage his hawkish tough-on-terror posture to shore up support amongst his base elsewhere in India ahead of the 2019 election," Kumar said. "It will also likely incentivize Pakistan to become more active in funding militant groups in Kashmir to counteract the

Indian army's advances."

Since December, Modi's been facing rising political turbulence. He won his home state of Gujarat on a wafer-thin majority, lost crucial by-elections in the country's largest state, failed to form the government in Karnataka and witnessed protests by students, farmers and Dalits.

In March, regional Telugu Desam Party quit Modi's federal coalition, blaming the government for failing to fulfill the promise of accord special category status to India's southern state of Andhra Pradesh, where the party is based.

Adding to his woes, Mo-

di's other allies are restive, while opposition parties have begun to form alliances in an attempt to check his influence.

Following the withdrawal of support by BJP, Mufti tendered her resignation as chief minister and the state's administration was brought under federal rule.

India has been fighting rebels in Jammu and Kashmir for close to three decades. Control over Kashmir, the Himalayan territory divided between India and Pakistan, poses one of the biggest hurdles to improve relations between the neighbors. **Bloomberg**



Prime Minister Narendra Modi



United States Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley



A general view of the Human Rights Room at the European headquarters of the UN in Geneva

US leaving UN's Human Rights Council, cites anti-Israel bias

Matthew Lee, Josh Lederman

THE United States is leaving the United Nations' Human Rights Council, which Ambassador Nikki Haley called "an organization that is not worthy of its name." It's the latest withdrawal by the Trump administration from an international institution.

Haley said yesterday [Macau time] the U.S. had given the human rights body "opportunity after opportunity" to make changes. She lambasted the council for "its chronic bias against Israel" and lamented the fact that its membership includes accused human rights abusers such as China, Cuba, Venezuela and Congo.

"We take this step because our commitment does not allow us to remain a part of a hypocritical and self-serving organization that makes a mockery of human rights," Haley said.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, appearing alongside Haley at the State Department, said there was no doubt that the council once had a "noble vision."

But today we need to be honest," Pompeo said. "The Human Rights Council is a poor defender of human rights."

The announcement came just a day after the U.N. human rights chief, Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein, denounced the Trump administration for separating migrant children from their parents. But Haley cited longstanding U.S. complaints that the 47-member council is bia-

sed against Israel. She had been threatening the pull-out since last year unless the council made changes advocated by the U.S.

"Regrettably, it is now clear that our call for reform was not heeded," Haley said.

Still, she suggested the decision need not be permanent, adding that if the council did adopt reforms, "we would be happy to rejoin it." She said the withdrawal notwithstanding, the U.S. would continue to defend human rights at the United Nations.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office called the U.S. decision "courageous," calling it "an unequivocal statement that enough is enough."

The move extends a broader Trump administration pattern of stepping back from international agreements and forums under the president's "America First" policy. Although numerous officials have said repeatedly that "America First does not mean America Alone," the administration has retreated from multiple multilateral accords and consensus since it took office.

Since January 2017, it has announced its withdrawal from the Paris climate accord, left the U.N. educational and cultural organization and pulled out of the Iran nuclear deal. Other contentious moves have included slapping tariffs on steel and aluminum against key trading partners, recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital and moving the U.S. Embassy there

from Tel Aviv.

Opposition to the decision from human rights advocates was swift. A group of 12 organizations including Save the Children, Freedom House and the United Nations Association-U.S.A. said there were "legitimate concerns" about the council's shortcomings but that none of them warranted a U.S. exit.

■ The announcement came just a day after the Trump administration was denounced for separating migrant children from their parents

"This decision is counterproductive to American national security and foreign policy interests and will make it more difficult to advance human rights priorities and aid victims of abuse around the world," the organizations said in a joint statement.

Added Kenneth Roth, the executive director of Human Rights Watch: "All Trump seems to care about is defending Israel."

On Twitter, al-Hussein, the U.N. human rights chief, said it was "Disappointing, if not

really surprising, news. Given the state of #HumanRights in today's world, the US should be stepping up, not stepping back."

And the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank close to the Trump administration, defended the move, calling the council "notably incurious about the human rights situations in some of the world's most oppressive countries." Brett Schaefer, a senior fellow, pointed out that Trump could have withdrawn immediately after taking office but instead gave the council 18 months to make changes.

Haley has been the driving force behind withdrawing from the human rights body, unprecedented in the 12-year history of the council. No country has ever dropped out voluntarily. Libya was kicked out seven years ago.

The move could reinforce the perception that the Trump administration is seeking to advance Israel's agenda on the world stage, just as it prepares to unveil its long-awaited Israeli-Palestinian peace plan despite Palestinian outrage over the embassy relocation. Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser, Jared Kushner, is visiting the Middle East this week as the White House works to lay the groundwork for unveiling the plan.

Israel is the only country in the world whose rights record comes up for discussion at every council session, under "Item 7" on the agenda. Item

7 on "Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories" has been part of the council's regular business almost as long as it has existed.

The United States' current term on the council ends next year. Although the U.S. could have remained a non-voting observer on the council, a U.S. official said it was a "complete withdrawal" and that the United States was resigning its seat "effective immediately." The official wasn't authorized to comment publicly and insisted on anonymity.

That means the council will be left without one of its traditional defenders of human rights. In recent months, the United States has participated in attempts to pinpoint rights violations in places like South Sudan, Congo and Cambodia.

The U.S. pullout was bound to have ripple effects for at least two countries at the council: China and Israel. The U.S., as at other U.N. organizations, is Israel's biggest defender. At the rights council, the United States has recently been the most unabashed critic of rights abuses in China — whose growing economic and diplomatic clout has chastened some other would-be critics, rights advocates say.

There are 47 countries in the Human Rights Council, elected by the U.N.'s General Assembly with a specific number of seats allocated for each region of the globe. Members serve for three-year terms and can serve only two terms in a row.

The United States has opted to stay out of the Human Rights Council before: The George W. Bush administration opted against seeking membership when the council was created in 2006. The U.S. joined the body only in 2009 under President Barack Obama. AP

Noris Soto

VENEZUELA

Construction boom suddenly emerges in Caracas

YOU can still find a place to enjoy a nice steak dinner in Las Mercedes, the Caracas district once known for discos and beer-by-the-bucket pubs. Mostly, though, it's shuttered stores and graffiti-swamped apartment blocks punctuated by busted street lights. And the strangest thing: scaffolding.

On brand-spanking new construction, no less. This seems wildly out of place in the economic basket-case capital of world. But there it is on Paris Street. And over on Jalisco. And on block after block. Las Mercedes, it turns out, is where some of Venezuela's richest citizens, prohibited from moving cash out of the country, are parking it.

The mogul Oswaldo Cisneros and the hotelier Salomon Muci are among those investing in the mixed-use buildings there, with names like Luxor and Tower 302 that will boast "exclusive local shops" and marble finishes, as promotional materials tout. A few other neighborhoods are witnessing mini-construction booms, too, but Las Mercedes may be the busiest with, according to the mayor's office, an astounding 73 projects underway.

The obvious question is, who in crumbling Caracas will rent the slick retail and office spaces and buy the fancy condos? The

answer might be, at least in the short term, who cares?

"With the cash and currency-exchange controls in place, investors are wisely deciding to invest in brick," said Alfred Scheer, head of the real-estate developer Vantage Latin America. Someday it might even pay off. "We trust that a political change will come sooner or later and we want to be prepared."

The May 20 election, boycotted by the opposition and denounced by the U.S., the EU and others

“We trust that a political change will come sooner or later and we want to be prepared.”

ALFRED SCHEER
REAL-ESTATE DEVELOPER

as unfair, maintained the precarious status quo. It kept Nicolas Maduro in the presidency of a country overwhelmed by rampant crime, crippling shortages of basic goods, widespread hunger and inflation that is running over 20,000 percent.

Bank accounts pay laughable interest or none at all. For those few with spare bolivars, there aren't many options to watching its value evaporate. The currency controls first established in 2003 by the regime of the late Hugo Chavez are quite strict. And the black market isn't that big, so it's tricky to sneak money out.

Many affluent Venezuelans, of course, had protected a good deal of their wealth by shifting it abroad before the government cracked down. But they still have business interests in the country - Cisneros controls the wireless operator Digitel SA, for example, and Muci is a director of and owns shares in the Intercontinental Tamanaco Caracas - and continue to accumulate cash they have to deal with.



So the construction crews are at work in Las Mercedes, and in Chacao and in Valle Arriba in Baruta, where most embassies have their diplomatic offices and residences. The 40-floor Provincial Tower on Francisco de Miranda Avenue is being expanded to add another building. Residences Casa 27 in Campo Alegre is billed as a palatial complex that will have extraordinary views of the golf courses of the Caracas Country Club and the Avila.

On a hill overlooking the city, dozens of units are already for

sale in the unfinished Panorama Mirador de Los Campitos Residence; a four-bedroom, four-bath is asking 1.1 trillion bolivars. That's 411 times what an ordinary Venezuelan, if he or she actually has a job, earns in a month.

All the high-end building has some Caraqueños scratching their heads. "This doesn't make sense to me," said Freddy Calderon, who works in a Las Mercedes parking lot. "With the economy at its worst stage, and with all the problems we Venezuelans are facing right now - it doesn't make sense." **Bloomberg**

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what's ON



SCULPTURE – A JOURNEY, EXHIBITION BY ANTONIO LEÇA

TIME: 3pm-8pm (Mondays)
12pm-8pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)

UNTIL: October 21, 2018

VENUE: A2 Gallery, Albergue SCM

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550

EXHIBITION OF SHIWAN CERAMICS FROM THE MAM COLLECTION

TIME: 10am-7pm (last admission 6:30pm; closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: August 12, 2018

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

IN LOVE WITH MACAU – CALLIGRAPHY AND PAINTINGS OF MACAU

TIME: 10am-7pm (last admission 6:30pm; closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: August 12, 2018

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (Except on Thursdays; open on public holidays)

VENUE: Macau Science Center

ADMISSION: MOP25 (Exhibition Centre)

MOP60 (Planetarium 2D dome or 2D

sky shows)

MOP80 (Planetarium 3D dome or 3D

sky shows)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

Offbeat

THEFT OF MAMMOTH PROPORTIONS: AGENCY SEEKS STOLEN TUSK

A federal agency wants its woolly mammoth tusk back. The Bureau of Land Management in Alaska on Tuesday asked the public's help in recovering an approximately 10,000-year-old tusk stolen from the Campbell Creek Science Center, an interpretive center in east Anchorage.

The woolly mammoth is Alaska's official state fossil. The tusk was on display when the center was burglarized March 8. Anchorage police say a thief broke in through a window and took only the tusk, which weighs 45.4-kilogram.

The curved tusk is dark- and light-brown, mottled and about 1.7 meters long. The tusk is 20 centimeters in diameter on the large end and 15 centimeters in diameter at the narrow end.

BLM spokeswoman Maureen Clark said the tusk was one of several found in the mid-1980s near the Colville River, which flows into the Arctic Ocean north of the Brooks Range.

"People were allowed to touch it," she said by email. "It was a popular item at the science center."

Pat Druckenmiller, earth sciences curator at the University of Alaska Museum of the North, said mammoths generally died out at the end of the Pleistocene Era 11,000 to 12,000 years ago. A few survived on islands such as Wrangel Island off northeast Siberia until about 4,000 years ago, he said.

The legal sale of a mammoth tusk depends on whether it's found on private land. A property owner may sell tusks found on their land. Tusks cannot be sold if found on state or federal land.

Druckenmiller said he's not qualified to say how much a tusk could fetch and he's only interested in their scientific value.

"But I'm not naive. There's a market for them. The do sell and they're either used for display as is at home, or there's a thriving trade that carves mammoth ivory," he said.

The BLM is offering a \$500 reward for the return of its tusk.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:05	C.O.P.A - History of all World Cups
17:50	Maternity
18:45	What's Up Sr.2
19:05	My World Cup Moment
19:10	FIFA World Cup Diary
19:35	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Miscellaneous
21:35	Non-daily Portuguese News
21:40	Portuguese Serie - Final
22:25	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:45	Big Interview - Mariza (Portuguese Fado Singer)
00:25	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:05	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

21 - 27 JUN



HOTEL ARTEMIS

ROOM 1

2:30, 9:30pm

ROOM 3

4:30pm

Director: Drew Pearce

Starring: Jodie Foster, Dave Bautista

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 94min



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 Hathaway

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 110min

THE LEAKERS

ROOM 1

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

Director: Herman Yau

Starring: Francis Ng, Julian Cheung, Charmaine Sheh

Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 100min

this day in history



1945 US TROOPS TAKE OKINAWA

The Japanese island of Okinawa has finally fallen to the Americans after a long and bloody battle.

The island, situated 550km south of the Japanese mainland, will now provide the Americans with an invaluable air and naval base from which to launch a sustained and forceful attack on the mainland. It is estimated more than 90,000 Japanese troops were killed in the 82-day conflict.

America also suffered heavy losses - at this stage 6,990 servicemen have been reported killed or missing and 25,598 wounded.

In a statement issued today US Fleet Admiral Chester W Nimitz said: "After 82 days of fighting the battle of Okinawa has been won. "Organized resistance ceased on June 21. Enemy garrisons in two small pockets are being mopped up."

The Japanese fought a desperate battle until the bitter end with many hiding out in caves on the southern-most tip of the island.

As the US forces closed in many threw themselves off 45.7m cliffs or waded into the sea to drown rather than be taken prisoner. More than 4,000 Japanese have so far been captured.

The conflict began on 1 April, when America's newly-formed 10th Army, led by Lieutenant-General Simon Bolivar Buckner, landed on Okinawa's western coast. By 21 April most of the island had been taken by US troops but a stalemate developed in the south around Okinawa's capital city, Naha.

The Japanese were able to secure a strong defensive position in the rugged, cave-riddled terrain and it took several weeks to finally win the battle.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Japanese commander-in-chief on Okinawa, Lieutenant-General Ushijima Mitsuru, committed suicide on 22 June.

Okinawa was the last great amphibious campaign of the war.

America sent 170,000 troops and 1,213 warships and British forces also took part.

The island was defended by nearly 100,000 Japanese troops.

Lt-Gen Ushijima relied on mass kamikaze attacks as his main line of defence against the initial assault. More than 2,000 attacks were launched during the conflict.

The allies suffered unprecedented losses with 36 warships and landing craft being sunk, 763 aircraft lost and more than 12,500 servicemen killed. Only 7,400 Japanese troops survived the conflict to become prisoners of war.

America returned Okinawa to Japan in 1972.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 A good part of your mental energy will likely be going toward sorting out the aspects of the situation -- or just worrying about it. Meanwhile, family or friends are wondering where exactly your head's at.

Taurus April 20-May 20 You've been clammed up long enough - it's time to let those feelings flow. Finally breaking that dam that's been holding your flood of communication back might be a little scary.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You may be a bit moody now, particularly if you're not getting exactly what you want exactly when you want it. There's also some stuff going on beneath the surface - stuff you might like to see brought out into the open air.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 All sorts of excellent energy - emotional, physical and more - is at your disposal at the moment. Moreover, your famous sixth sense - your intuition - is even more active and apt than usual.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 The first unexpected byproduct could be a more meaningful connection with someone close to you - someone you're fully tuned in to, instead of letting the myriad other happenings distract you.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 The connections you have with others are of particular importance at the moment - the energy you get from the people in your life is both supportive and restorative.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Hoping and waiting for progress in the occupational realm - and getting upset when it doesn't come - is a dead-end street, particularly for you right now. Create your own opportunity.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Some things you've got working in your favor include an amped-up intellectual ability, heightened intuitive powers and general good fortune (for that added bit of star power).

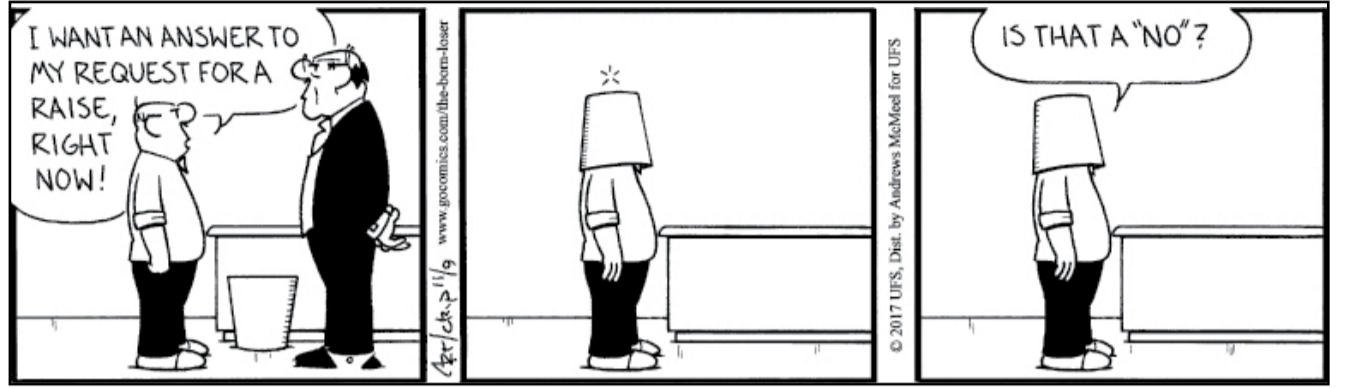
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 While you're attempting to dig down to the significant levels, though, someone else may be trying to keep things on the surface. It could be your energies are just a little mismatched.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Want to see an immediate difference in your work, your home life or a relationship? Stop putting something off. You've been meaning to do that extra project at the office, or fix that drippy faucet.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Knowing you, you're looking to the future in advance of everyone else, weighing your choices and reevaluating your plans. It's definitely big-picture stuff, but it's exactly the kind of thing you're best at.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You're soon to be getting something new, something festive, something that'll fit you without a doubt. What is this gift the cosmos has to give you? Some hints: It's not any particular color.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

Table of weather forecasts for various Chinese cities.

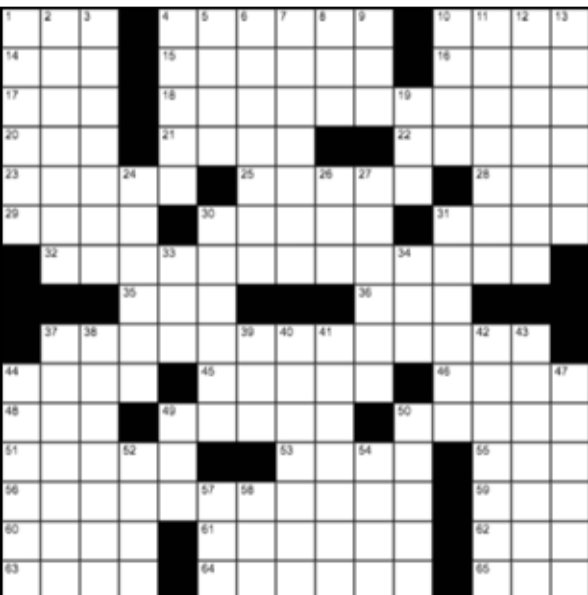
WORLD

Table of weather forecasts for various world cities.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Belief; 4- Universe; 10- Phooey!; 14- PBS benefactor; 15- Clothing; 16- Work without ...; 17- TV adjunct; 18- Theater gallery; 20- Greek letter; 21- Attendee; 22- Monetary unit of India; 23- Aristocratic; 25- Singer Bryson; 28- Old Ford; 29- Drop ... (moon); 30- Game of chance; 31- Kill; 32- Situated below the mandible; 35- It's cold; 36- Actor Gulager; 37- List of particulars; 44- Skin marking, often due to injury; 45- Doctrine; 46- Burn the midnight oil, studying; 48- Laughing syllable; 49- Family car; 50- Take care of; 51- Expeditiously; 53- Astound; 55- Letters on a Cardinal's cap; 56- Doubling of a part on itself; 59- Asian holiday; 60- Butter substitute; 61- Come out; 62- Prior to, to Prior; 63- Power unit; 64- Barrister; 65- Taxpayer's ID;

DOWN: 1- Create with the imagination; 2- Zones; 3- Carrion-eating stork; 4- Mooch; 5- Other, in Oaxaca; 6- Raise a grade?; 7- Engage in textual misprision; 8- Surgery sites, briefly; 9- Brief instant; 10- ... avis; 11- Accessory; 12- Communications satellite; 13- Stable; 19- Wall St. debut; 24- Awkward sailor; 26- Tropical cuckoo bird; 27- North American lynx; 30- Mineral used as a weighting agent; 31- Water channel; 33- Richie's dad, to the Fonz; 34- Final; Abbr.; 37- Shoulder blade; 38- Defensive wall; 39- Gave grub; 40- Agitated; 41- 100 years; 42- Brother of Electra; 43- Chats; 44- Sundial indicator; 47- Liquefied by heat; 49- Cinque follower; 50- Look of disdain; 52- Coagulate; 54- Impulse to act; 57- Cartoon frame; 58- Doc bloc;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



AD

Real estate advertisement for JML Property, featuring 'FOR SALE' and 'FOR RENT' sections with property details and the JML logo.



72 year old Vitaly Danilkin holds up memorabilia and remains of battles that took place near Stalingrad,

Volgograd provides the proper perspective at World Cup

Pan Pylas, Volgograd

NEARLY 60 years since it changed its name to Volgograd, the Russian city once called Stalingrad and its bloody history loom large even in the midst of the fun and football of the World Cup.

Stalingrad, the name of the city on the Volga river between 1925 and 1961, is now often shorthand for one of the most violent battles in history. The exact death toll can never be known, but historians believe about a million people from both sides died that savage winter of 1942-3 when the Nazi war machine was stopped from crossing the Volga, then surrounded and defeated.

The city was basically reduced to rubble and its

modern-day residents will forever remember the sacrifices of their ancestors.

"It's sacred for us because in every family in the Volgograd region, there are people who died in the battle and we mustn't forget about it and every year we do patriotic action and do some lessons for children so they know all about it," said 21-year-old Daria Kolomyichenko.

"It's our history and we are very proud."

To visitors, particularly from nations that fought against the Nazis, the monuments around the city — especially the 85-meter statue known as "The Motherland Calls!" — are also a reminder that the sacrifices of Russians at Stalingrad were crucial to the Allies winning World War II. With Britain and Rus-

sia feuding politically, the English team played their first match of the World Cup in Volgograd.

"To see the statue and have an understanding of the history reminds you that some things are even bigger than football and that's good perspective for us all," said England coach Gareth Southgate.

The battle is a constant presence in the city of around 1 million. While the monuments loom large in the Hero City — the honor granted by the then Soviet Union. Volgograd is now a thriving regional center, bustling with attractions, parks and visitors. There is more than enough to appreciate to ignore the occasional swarms of flies and mosquitoes that hounded fans as England beat Tunisia

2-1 at Volgograd Arena Monday night

The stadium was constructed on the banks of the Volga and at the bottom of the Mamayev Kurgan, the hill that was savagely fought over by the Red Army and the Nazis. Sometimes changing hands several times on any particular day, it is said the ground on the hill was so soaked in blood that the springs were poisoned.

No wonder the Soviet authorities more or less enshrined the hill's status as sacred. A collection of memorials and outsized structures on the hill include a granite pool, an eternal flame and mass graves. But it's the sculpture on the top that draws one's breath. The Motherland Calls casts a long shadow across the city.

England fans also joined up with dignitaries to lay a wreath to commemorate the dead. "I'm into football and you're into football, but when you have an event like this, you realize it's more, there's more than just football," said fan Billy Grant.

Football is a game that perhaps unites the world more than any other, and certainly more than any political or religious creed. Russia may be facing international censure for its annexation of the Crimea peninsula from Ukraine, for its alleged role in the poisoning of an ex-Russian spy and

his daughter in southern England and meddling in the U.S. election, but visitors from all over the world are reminded of the magnitude of the nation's role in World War II, regardless of what one thinks of Josef Stalin.

The battle is a constant presence in the city of around 1 million

The Panorama Museum in Volgograd, built next to the gutted remains of a ruined mill, showcases an array of tributes to the city including a sword from King George VI that was presented to Stalin by British Prime Minister Winston Churchill in 1943, and the Legion d'Honneur that French President Francois Mitterand bequeathed to the city in 1984.

The horrors of the Battle of Stalingrad are clear, but there's no antagonism towards the Germans.

In a cemetery some 40 miles northwest of Volgograd in Rossoshka, there's a dignified cemetery for German soldiers who perished at Stalingrad and nearby Rostov-on-Don.

Local historian Svetlana Kostyrykina writes in a local travel guide that

there 52,000 of them are buried in two mass graves and that another 120,000 Germans thought to be missing are inscribed on rectangular panels around the site, "like huge dice lost in the steppe."

Vitaly Danilkin, as grizzled a 72-year-old as you are likely to see, cares for the site as well as a Soviet cemetery on the other side of the road. Cutting the grass in the summer, and clearing the snow in winter, Danilkin is always on the lookout for war-related artifacts. His 43-year-old son, Alexei, with the permission of the state, runs a small team that does exactly that and is alert to anyone illegally looking for memorabilia — there's a big black market for Stalingrad-related helmets, guns, medals and tags.

Vitaly, who has been doing his job for three years, said he's the only who would do it for "only 7,000 rubles a month" when he was hired. He has since gotten a raise to 9,000 rubles (\$140) a month. "Someone has to do it," said Vitaly.

For those few who still have a connection with the battle, the pain remains. Just a few months ago, Vitaly saw an elderly lady descend into floods of tears as she kissed one of the portraits in a small museum room on the side of the Soviet cemetery.

As for the World Cup, Vitaly is not so interested but he clapped when Russia won its first match against Saudi Arabia 5-0.

"I'm a patriot," he said. "I love my Russia." Stalingrad, it's clear, was full of patriots. **AP**

AD

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WORLD CUP

Ronaldo scores in Portugal's 1-0 win, Morocco eliminated

CRISTIANO Ronaldo made European football history by scoring in Portugal's 1-0 win over Morocco yesterday, a result that makes the North African team the first to be eliminated from the World Cup.

Ronaldo's header in the fourth minute was his fourth goal at this year's tournament, and his 85th for his country. That moved him ahead of Hungary great Ferenc Puskas and alone in second place worldwide behind Ali Daei's 109 goals for Iran.

The Portugal forward celebrated his goal with a trademark run and soaring leap toward the corner flag at the Luzhniki Stadium.

Morocco lost 1-0 for the second straight Group B match and is out of contention for a spot in the next round.

The North Africans had several chances against Portugal, nearly all from set pieces, and three of them came in a five-minute spell early in the second half. Younes Belhanda was twice denied by goalkeeper Rui Patrício's diving saves, and defender Mehdi Benatia scooped a shot over the bar. In injury time, Benatia lifted another

shot too high with an even clearer chance.

Ronaldo's four goals tops the individual scoring chart at the World Cup. Buoyed by his hat trick against Spain on Friday, including a spectacular free kick late in the game, Ronaldo scored against Morocco with his first meaningful touch early in the match. He was too strong for marker Manuel Da Costa and found space in the goalmouth to meet Joao Moutinho's cross after a corner.

Ronaldo had two more free kick chances, though each from less than 20 meters. He could not get the ball up and over a solid wall of defenders on either occasion. Benatia, a rugged defender who plays for Juventus, led the efforts to stop Ronaldo. His hard tackles from behind, however, earned him a yellow card. **AP**



Ronaldo, with blue captain's armband, heads the ball to score the opening goal

KEYS TO SUCCESS

RONALDO WAS a clinical finisher and also one of Portugal's best defenders. His headed clearances helped out a back line that seems vulnerable to corners and free kicks despite the height of veteran center backs Pepe and Jose Fonte. Morocco, playing in its

first World Cup in 20 years, linked play neatly through midfield but relied on set-pieces for its clearest chances — a growing theme at this year's tournament. Its clearest shooting chances fell to a defender, Benatia, who could not keep them on target.

PREVIEW

France hopes luck won't be needed to get past Peru

Kyle Hightower

THE pre-tournament favorites at this World Cup have struggled so far. France is no exception — but at least it has a win.

Les Bleus, who are seventh in the FIFA world rankings, got past Australia 2-1 in their opener despite a mostly lackluster effort from their trio of elite strikers.

France benefited from some good fortune. Its first goal came after a penalty called with the aid of video review. Then it scored again on a fluky goal that



was found by goal-line technology to have crossed the line and was later determined to have been last touched by an Australian

player.

France was one of only two teams ranked in FIFA's top seven to win its opening match. The other was Belgium.

A win today [11 p.m. Macau time] against Peru at Yekaterinburg Arena would put France in position to wrap up a second consecutive appearance in the round of 16.

The Peruvians held a 17-10 advantage in shots on goal but failed to capitalize on their chances during a 1-0 loss to Denmark. Peru's task could be even harder against Group C favorite France, which it will be facing for the first time in World Cup play.

The only previous meeting between the teams was a 1982 friendly that Peru won 1-0.

France's top attackers — Kylian Mbappe, Antoine Griezmann and Ousmane Dembele — were underwhelming against Australia.

France outshot its opponent 12-6. Griezmann had five of those attempts, Mbappe had one and Dembele played 70 minutes without a shot on goal. Griezmann's goal came after a penalty, the byproduct of a video assistant referee review of a foul on the sideline.

The other goal was initially credited to Paul Pogba before a panel of former coaches and players determined it actually came off a touch by Australia's Aziz Behich.

France can't count on such good fortune against a disciplined Peru defense, and coach Didier Deschamps didn't rule out tweaking his lineup.

"I will have 11 (players) against Peru," Deschamps said. "It may be the same, it may be different ones,

but those three attacking players played as they should play. I have a good group. Each of them has his say among the 23 players."

One of the key questions for Peru will be how coach Ricardo Gareca uses the country's all-time leading scorer, Paolo Guerrero.

After having a doping ban lifted just before the start of the tournament, the 34-year-old striker came on as a substitute against

Denmark and played well in about 30 minutes of action. He almost scored twice, the last time using his unique skill set to nearly create what would have been an equalizing goal.

It's the kind of effort that could prompt Gareca to return Guerrero to a starting role for this match, which will determine whether Peru has a chance of advancing to the second round for the first time since 1978. **AP**

LATEST RESULTS

Morocco	0	1	Iran
France	2	1	Australia
Peru	0	1	Denmark
Argentina	1	1	Iceland
Croatia	2	0	Nigeria
Brazil	1	1	Switzerland
Costa Rica	0	1	Serbia
Germany	0	1	Mexico
Sweden	1	0	Korea Republic
Belgium	3	0	Panama
Tunisia	1	2	England
Colombia	1	2	Japan
Poland	1	2	Senegal
Russia	3	1	Egypt
Portugal	1	0	Morocco
Uruguay	1	0	Saudi Arabia

FAN ADVANTAGE

PERU BROUGHT one of the largest contingents of fans to Russia. Tens of thousands are following the Incas during their first World Cup appearance in 36 years. They were loud throughout Peru's opener at Mordovia Arena in Saransk, at times drowning out their Danish counterparts. That support could be a factor in trying to rattle France's stars.

Deschamps said the fans reminded him of Colombia's supporters during friendly in Paris that Colombia won 3-2. "Thirty thousand Peruvians came to Moscow, so they are very excited and enthusiastic," Deschamps said. "We played Colombia in March and we saw that they are not only aggressive, but they have very good players."

opinion

Girl About Globe

Linda Kennedy



YE GOTS! THE RISE OF 'GOT IT'.

'Got it' culture is upon us. You will surely have encountered 'got it'. A recent example in my life came on Twitter. When I logged in, I was told: 'Twitter has a new Terms of Service and Privacy Policy.' My options were: 'learn more'. Or 'got it'.

This is not a unique instance of 'got it'. Increasingly, when something is explained to me online, often my only option is 'got it!'

'Got it' used to apply to flu and jokes. And queries if one had already remembered to pick up milk in the dairy aisle. Or prefaced by the word 'still', another dominant interpretation was that one's sex appeal was holding. Just. 'I still got it.'

Now though, 'got it' is presented as the new 'I have read and understand', and a subsequent press of the 'got it' option becomes the latest version of a tick in a box. It's developed to appear as a confident answer – but it's a confusing one. What does it actually mean?

It's time to nitpick over 'got it'. What's with all these gots? And a significant question is to ask: is 'got it' a commitment?

If, say, you indicate you have 'got it' when told a site is using your data in new ways, is your gottification consenting to the dissemination of that data?

I get to the business of defining 'got it'. 'In informal contexts,' Wiktionary says, "got it" means 'I understand'. Hmm. Interesting. But not clear. One may understand that new data rules apply, but does comprehension also carry an implicit expression of consent?

The Cambridge Dictionary confuses things further. Got it, it says, is 'used to say you will quickly do what someone has asked you to do.' It then offers an example: 'would you get me a coffee?' 'Sure, you got it.'

That's another 'got it', I am thinking. Nonetheless, it emphasises the point - language has lots of gots.

At this rate, there will be the need for a test case on the level of consent carried by 'got it', when expressed as an online answer. This legal ruling may become known as the 'got it remit'.

Until then, 'got it' seems to me to be the 'friends with benefits' of language. It's something, but exactly what is unclear and it's certainly not to be relied on.

(Mind you, the lack of clarity may be precisely the point. Is it an extension of non-specific texting culture, wherein no one commits to anything?)

'Got it' also has a sidekick, which is 'I'm cool!'

When booking recently on Virgin trains, for a trip in the UK, I was told: 'we've placed cookies on your device to help make this website better. By continuing to use the site, we'll assume you're cool with this.' My option for a response was indeed: 'I'm cool!'

Ye gots, you may say. It's just how the kids talk these days. Sure. But it's the casualisation of language – and where does it expand next?

What if, one day, it influences legal terminology beyond data, turning that easy and offhand? In courts, for example.

'Are you cool or not cool being charged with the offence of shoplifting?'

'I'm not cool, Your Honour. I plead not cool.'

Or marriage vows? Had they had less of a whirlwind romance, might a Royal Wedding at a later date have featured new vows?

'Do you, Meghan Markle, take Prince Harry to be your wedded husband?'

'Got it.'

'Do you, Prince Harry, take Meghan Markle to be your wedded wife?'

'I'm cool!'

It's all, frankly, putting the fear of got in me.

THE ATLANTIC CITY'S OCEAN RESORT CASINO (EX-REVEL) SEEKS LICENSE

Eight days before it plans to open, Atlantic City's Ocean Resort Casino will go before state gambling regulators to seek a casino license.

The New Jersey Casino Control Commission will begin hearing Ocean Resort's licensing case today [Macau time], and has set aside time tomorrow should more consideration be necessary.

The casino, formerly known as Revel, shut down

in September 2014. It was sold in January to Colorado developer Bruce Deifik, who renamed it and set about changing much of what customers didn't like about it.

The casino floor has been reconfigured, smoking will be allowed and there will be a buffet starting this winter. Both Ocean Resort and the Hard Rock will open their doors on June 28.

Giant crackdown against wildlife crime in 92 countries

NEARLY 100 countries took part in a globe-spanning crackdown on the illegal wildlife trade, seizing tons of meat, ivory, pangolin scales and timber in a month-long bust that exposed the international reach of traffickers, Interpol said yesterday.

Officials also confiscated thousands of live animals, including turtles in Malaysia and parrots in Mexico. Canada intercepted 18 tons of eel meat arriving from Asia. Those arrested included two flight attendants in Los Angeles and a man in Israel whose house was raided after he posted a hunting photograph on social media.

Operation Thunderstorm, which followed similar stings in past years, yielded seizures worth millions of dollars during May, according to Interpol.

"The results are spectacular," said Sheldon Jordan, Canada's director general of wildlife enforcement.

Acknowledging the magnitude of the problem, Jordan said global wildlife crime is worth about USD150 billion annually and is fourth in value after the illegal drug trade, counterfeiting and human trafficking.

Criminal syndicates that smuggle flora and fauna often take advantage of porous borders and corrupt officials, transporting illicit cargo at an industrial scale.



A Canadian wildlife officer inspects a Polar Bear pelt for trade compliance

The Thunderstorm swoop included the confiscation of 8 tons of pangolin scales, half of which was found by Vietnamese authorities on a ship from Africa.

Africa's four species of pangolins are under increasing pressure from poachers because of the decimation of the four species in Asia, where pangolin scales are used in traditional medicine.

A total of 43 tons of contraband meat – including bear, elephant, crocodile, whale and zebra – 1.3 tons of elephant ivory, 27,000 reptiles, about 4,000 birds, 48 live primates, 14 big cats and two polar bear carcasses were also seized. Several tons of wood and timber were also seized.

China, the world's largest ivory consumer, banned its domestic trade starting this year in what conservationists hope will relieve pressure on Africa's besieged elephant populations. While some herds are recovering, a high rate of killing continues in

many areas, such as Mozambique's Niassa reserve.

Some 1,400 suspects were identified worldwide in the Thunderstorm sting, which included police, customs and other agencies from 92 countries, Interpol said. Two flight attendants were arrested in Los Angeles carrying live spotted turtles to Asia in personal baggage, said Interpol. Both suspects have been charged with smuggling protected species.

Participating nations were from Asia, Europe, the Middle East and North and South America. The Pacific nation of Vanuatu, which is not an Interpol member, took part.

Officers searched cars, trucks, boats and containers, sometimes using sniffer dogs and X-ray scanners.

The operation, Interpol Secretary General Juergen Stock said, showed that wildlife traffickers use the same routes as other criminals, "often hand-in-hand with tax evasion, corruption, money laundering and violent crime." AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



Tourists visit the Huangguoshu Waterfall in Anshun, southwest China's Guizhou Province. Affected by sustained rainfall, the waterfall yesterday saw its maximum flow in this year's flood season, with the flow rate reaching 395 cubic meters per second.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	35-55 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	15-35 Good
Ambient	30-50 Good

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

CANADA The government said yesterday it will soon announce the date when cannabis will become legal – but warned it will remain illegal until then.



TURKEY's airwaves and billboards are dominated by speeches and campaign ads for President Recep Tayyip Erdogan ahead of Sunday's presidential and parliamentary elections, drowning out the opposition candidates in a country where the media is strongly biased in favor of the government.



GERMANY Chancellor Angela Merkel's Bavarian allies warned the German leader Wednesday against offering financial concessions to other European countries to resolve a conflict over migration that has shaken her government.



HUNGARIAN lawmakers approved a law cracking down on immigration, a show of defiance by Prime Minister Viktor Orban, who's ignored threats from his European allies of being expelled from their political group.



SOUTH SUDAN's warring leaders were set to meet face-to-face for the first time in almost two years yesterday amid efforts to end a five-year civil war.