



## INDONESIAN CELEBRATE END OF RAMADAN

Around one hundred Indonesian Muslims have celebrated Eid-al-Fitr at the Macau Mosque

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## TOURISM EXPERTS GATHER IN MACAU

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## HO, LEONG VISIT PORTUGAL

Edmund Ho and Lionel Leong are in Lisbon for an event to mark the 15th anniversary of the Forum Macau

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## CAMBODIA

# Casinos sprung in once-sleepy city

P9,10 FEATURE



## WORLD BRIEFS

**CHINA** accused the US of using bullying tactics and blackmail in threatening to impose tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars of Chinese imports, ramping up criticism that the measures levied in the name of balancing trade would harm both countries' companies and the world economy. [More on p11](#)



**N KOREA-US** A majority of Americans now approve Donald Trump's handling of U.S. relations with N. Korea, a change that comes after his summit with that country's leader, Kim Jong Un. But most don't believe Kim is serious about addressing the international concerns about his country's nuclear weapons program.

**MYANMAR** A social media account run by the office of Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi quotes her as saying that "hate narratives from outside the country" have fueled tensions between Muslim Rohingya and Buddhist Rakhine communities in the country's west.

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## PEARL HORIZON

# Aggrieved home buyers seek refund from developer

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Renato Marques

**T**HE Anima - Society for the Protection of Animals in Macau is giving the government its last "wake-up call" after nine years of campaigning to call attention to the problem of greyhounds at the Canidrome facilities, the president of the association, Albano Martins said in press conference this week.

While conducting a review of all the processes that began approximately nine years ago, Martins noted the "constant warnings" that Anima gave to the government, in particular to the office of the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong who "never gave us one single reply to all our letters."

In the letter to the Secretary, Anima reaffirmed its intention to provide solutions for the adoption of the 650 greyhounds currently in the possession of the Canidrome Company.

As shown to the media, the association claims to have found, through several international organizations, adopters for all the dogs currently in the Canidrome. "To prove to them that we have adopters, we [found organizations that accept the dogs for adoption]. In just two days we found 650 adopters, and we have here 650 adoption forms filled and signed by me and validated by Anima and by the international organization," Martins said, while showing off a big pile of forms and adding,

RENATO MARQUES



Albano Martins (center)

## Anima makes its last 'wake-up call' to the gov't

"Now I want to see what the Canidrome will say."

As explained by the president of the association, these applications will be delivered today to the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM).

According to the same representative and due to the fact that the Canidrome says that it cannot find local adopters and intends to send the animals to the mainland, the government needs to "finally

wake-up and make a decision." There are two possible solutions: "Either we take care of the place [Canidrome facilities] on our own or in cooperation with IACM, or the government should take

care of it through IACM." In either situation, Martins claims it is necessary to keep the facilities where the dogs are kept operational in order to allow the adoption and shipping processes to happen quickly in accordance with the rules of each country or region. "That's why we ask the government to allow the Canidrome to continue being operational for one more year but without the gambling [betting and greyhound races] to allow us enough time to process the adoptions." He noted, for instance, that to be allowed to travel to Europe, the dogs required blood tests at least three months prior to travelling, while to be adopted in and shipped to the neighboring region of Hong Kong, "there is a quarantine period of four months."

Since there is no possibility for the local market to absorb the current high number of dogs, the Anima proposes to partner with international organizations to Europe (Italy) and the USA to allow the transfer and adoption of the animals in Europe and in American continents, and become responsible for the adoptions in Macau, Hong Kong and Australia.

According to the list of potential adopters, only around 10 percent of the greyhounds currently possessed by the Canidrome could stay in Macau or Hong Kong. The remaining ones will be redistributed worldwide for adoption, "free of charge."

## Indonesian Muslims celebrate Eid-al-Fitr in town

**S**OME one hundred Indonesian Muslims in the city have celebrated Eid-al-Fitr at the Macau Mosque and Cemetery, with an Eid prayer and following its tradition of asking and receiving forgiveness from one another.

Popularly known among Indonesians as "Lebaran," the tradition marks the end of Ramadan, making it one of the country's most important holidays.

In Macau, Indonesian Muslims are served by a few Indonesian Islamic migrant organizations, such as Majlis Taklim and Halimah, in addition to the city's only mosque in the Nossa Senhora de Fatima

district.

Kumbang Toh! News, Macau's Indonesian radio talk show and news program, also celebrated the Lebaran festival, holding a "Lebaran Special" on its Sunday show with guests including Indah Ponco and Amalia from Majlis Taklim, Vitri Esposito from trio Devita, one of Indonesia's female pop music groups in the 90s, as well as Aya Ibrahim, vocalist of Indonesian band Fatik.

Esposito, who has been a resident in Macau for a few years, told Kumbang Toh! News that this year's festival was "merrier" because she invited her family members from Indonesia

to celebrate the festival.

"It's my second time [celebrating] Lebaran in Macau. The first time was a few years ago and I remember going to Macau Mosque and came back home alone right after [...] I felt so lonely and sad that I decided to book a flight on that day and flew back to Indonesia the next day," Esposito recalled.

During the radio show, the guests talked about their new year's resolutions, as the festival is considered by many Indonesians to signal the start of a new year.

"I will get in touch with my family back home more often and I will try to finish

my work here in Macau as soon as possible so that I can go back and be reunited with my family sooner," said Ponco.

"Even though Indonesians come from different religious and cultural backgrounds, let's continue to be united," Esposito added.

There are currently some 4,900 Indonesian migrant workers in the SAR, the majority of which come from Indonesia's western region.

Yet Indonesian community leaders noted that the number of undocumented Indonesians, including those working illegally in the city, may be up to a hundred.



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PEARL HORIZON

# Buyers call for refund and meeting with developer

Julie Zhu

A group of approximately 70 Pearl Horizon buyers gathered at the Polytec Asset Holdings Limited headquarters to request a meeting with the company's chairman Or Wai Sheun.

Accompanied by lawmakers Si Ka Lon, Wong Kit Cheng, Lei Cheng I, Ho Ion Sang and Song Pek Kei, the buyers delivered a letter to the company's office with the hope of achieving a face-to-face discussion with Or to get a refund for the payment they already made for their investment in the project.

However, the company's employees refused to accept the letter which was signed by about 300 Pearl Horizon buyers.

"It's an indisputable fact that the Pearl Horizon [...] land has been taken back by the SAR government, and that the related housing project cannot be developed. On this ground, we [buyers] issue our formal notice to the company, strongly requesting a full refund and compensation in light of the contract," the letter reads.

Since the letter was rejected



by the Polytec employee, lawmaker Lei Cheng I noted that the lawmakers and associations they represent will mail the letter to the Polytec Group.

"We request Polytec to pay [...] our debt to the bank immediately. I am unhappy with

both of Polytec's proposals," said one Pearl Horizon buyer, surnamed Fong.

Another buyer said: "We have been waiting for their proposal, but there hasn't been one yet. The government also does not care."

According to lawmaker Lei Cheng I, buyers have different compensation requests as many of them are in different situations.

"Executives of the Polytec Group should have met with buyers to discuss ways to solve the problem, [...] and how to resolve the issue surrounding buyers' contributions to banks," declared Lei.

According to the buyers' letter, they will go through the judiciary to obtain compensation if Polytec Group's execu-

tives do not meet with them.

"If all buyers sue, the issue will be delayed," said Lei, adding "if Polytec meets with buyers, [maybe] there is no need to solve the problem through judicial methods because [lawsuits] place heavy pressure upon buyers and heavy costs upon the society."

"As a responsible developer, if they already said they will solve the problem, then, at least, developers should meet with buyers. Polytec took the money. If they can't provide houses, at least they should refund payments," said Lei.

According to Lei, many buyers plan to sue Polytec if their attempts to meet with the Polytec group's executives fail, and if no solutions are provided.

## Casinos said to be preparing to join non-mandatory fund

Macau's Non-Mandatory Central Provident Fund System has received a total of 15,215 applications from individuals for the Provident Fund Scheme. Long Kong Lo, President of the Administrative Committee of the FSS reported this yesterday. The system, which commenced on January 1 this year, has received 50 applications from companies (Joint Provident Fund Scheme). None of the applications to join the scheme were made by a gaming operator, according to Long. He also claimed that the Social Security Fund (FSS) been in continuous contact with gaming operators, with FSS aware that gaming operators are carrying out works in relation to joining the scheme.

## Health Bureau says appetite suppressant is dangerous

The Health Bureau (SSM) has issued a statement warning the public about consuming a potentially dangerous appetite suppressant known as "Sparkle Twins." The statement comes after the Bureau received information from its Hong Kong counterparts that the product contains a substance known as "sibutramine." According to studies performed in several countries and regions around the world, this substance can increase the risk of heart attack and stroke. The SSM also added that the importation of the product into Macau had never been authorized due to these known side effects. The bureau has called on residents not to consume this product and if they have it in their possession, to deliver it to the health authorities.

### GOVERNMENT OPENS FB PAGE FOR BUYERS

THE MSAR government created a Facebook page called the Government Concern Group for Pearl Horizon Case in order to communicate with Pearl Horizon buyers. "The government intends to transmit, in a timely and comprehensive manner, all information to the buyers of the Pearl Horizon project, and to the various social

sectors through this page. It is expected that through this page all buyers, along with their representatives and their associations, can communicate with the government to present their opinions, suggestions and requests," reads a statement released by the Office of the Secretary for Administration and Justice.



# Tourism experts suggest finding niche products in the SAR

Lynzy Valles

**EXECUTIVES** of Skål International remarked that Macau has a variety of unique offerings which have effectively attracted millions of tourists annually, yet it faces challenges in creating a new niche product.

President of Skål International Susanna Saari, and CEO of the company, Daniela Otero, is in the SAR to attend the 47th Skål Asia Area Congress – themed “gastronomy tourism” at Fisherman’s Wharf, held until Sunday.

According to Saari and Otero, who are both first timers in the MSAR, the region has “unique things,” to offer to its massive number of annual visitors.

“It’s an amazing, unique combination of East and West cultures, and altogether creates a new one. This is something different. With our fresh eyes, it’s easy to see this product,” Saari told the Times.

“The geographical position is unique [with] easy access. Now the challenge again is to try to think [whether] the destination wants to create a new niche product or not,” she added.

With Macau expecting up to 40 million tourists annually by 2025, Otero suggested that the SAR determine ways to identify which proportion of this significant number would come to the SAR for gambling and for leisure.

“This is something that we would recommend to test and work on. The intelligent way is to maintain this number and to think about another option including gastronomy or cultural things,” said Otero.

“There are other types of products that exist here that are possible to combine and live together, then Macau will have a market for three of four seg-



Susanna Saari (left) and Daniela Otero

ments,” the CEO added.

The executives also noted that the SAR could create a brand not just for tourists coming from the neighboring regions, or even Asia more broadly, but also for those coming from Western countries.

Both the president and the CEO observed that the buildings in Rua de Felicidade could be restored to create a “unique ambience,” which could potentially offer typical teahouses or cultural shops to attract visitors, particularly from the West.

“These would be a very nice area for those European tourists who are not here for gambling

but for local authentic culture and offerings that Macau has,” said Saari.

According to them, there is a significant opportunity for Macau to further expand its tourism offerings, as they cited the UNESCO World Heritage Sites within the city.

Susanna Saari told the Times that Skål International is working on various improvements including its statutes and membership categories.

She added that as the tourism sector continues to approach a new era, it aims to become more digital, and focused on business functions.

However, Saari and Otero admitted that it remains a challenge for the organization to swiftly respond to modernization, as the way users buy and sell products has significantly changed in the last ten years.

“We need to adapt to this era. For this we took a decision to make a big transition and to look into digital transformation in a worldwide level,” said Otero. “We are very clear that it will be a permanent task for us to follow the technology,” she added.

Otero noted that the organization gives modern tools to its

members, with a goal to provide networking amongst its members, as well as business opportunities.

Promoting destinations has become easier and more accessible due to the increasing number of individuals who aim to travel, aspiring to experience what they see on social media platforms or travel review websites. Thus the relevance of recommendation by other users’ word of mouth has become increasingly significant.

“Now you take anybody’s word in recommendation. This is a challenge but an opportunity for us,” the president noted.

“It’s something that we need to live with and in the future, it’s going to be the same, it’s a challenge,” Otero echoed.

**■ The relevance of recommendation by other users’ word of mouth has become increasingly significant.**

The two noted that tourism experts should think more about innovative solutions to promote their destinations, as customers have become more aware of current travel trends or destinations, and have access to multiple choices on where to buy travel products.

“We tend to have aging members. This is honestly a huge challenge, in how to bring them into the digital world. [...] It’s also more on the awareness and willingness to actually jump on board and to be open to the change,” said Saari.

The Skål International Macau Club is hosting a four-day event in town, which includes the signing of a MoU between Pacific Asia Travel Association and Skål International, as well as talks by industry experts.

## Int’l Youth Dance Festival to kick off with 650 dancers

Julie Zhu

**THE** biennial International Youth Dance Festival will be held between July 20 and 26, the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) announced.

The purpose of the festival is “to provide a platform for young dance lovers from around the world to cultivate friendship, exchange cultures and display diverse dances, and to provide an opportunity for local

residents and tourists in Macau to appreciate and experience the art and culture of different countries and regions from a different perspective.”

This edition will feature a total of 27 teams hailing from Europe, Africa, North America, Oceania and Asia.

Among the participants, 17 teams are non-local teams from Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cape Verde, Canada, Slovenia, Finland, Israel, Latvia, Norway,

New Zealand, Portugal, Turkey, Sichuan Province of China, Yunnan Province of China, and Hong Kong.

The 10 local teams include dance groups from Choi Nong Chi Tai School Dance Team, Macao Youth Dance Association, Macao Youth Street Dance Association and Macao Pop Dance Association, among other middle schools and dance associations.

The 2018 International Youth Dance Festival

also includes parades, an outdoor carnival and exhibitions. Furthermore, street artists will interact with audiences.

In total, 650 dancers will perform in this edition of the festival.

In addition to dancers, 200 volunteers will help with the running of the festival.

Chan Iok Wai, chief of DSEJ’s Training and Support Division for Youth Association, disclosed the budget for this edition’s festival, having

explained that an extra MOP2 million have been allocated to 2018’s edition compared to previous editions. According to Chan, the budget for this year’s festival is estimated at MOP17 million.

“The actual expenditure is temporarily unknown,” said Chan, adding that the increase of MOP2 million is related to “the adjustment of the transportation costs of non-local teams. Compared to the previous edition, two

more teams are coming from North America, and one more team is coming from Africa. The number of teams from Europe also increased from five to eight. There has also been an increase in publicity on newspapers, and live broadcasts.”

On July 25 and 26, two indoor performances will be available for public view at the Macau Forum. Residents can register for the two performances from June 20 on the DSEJ website.



# Edmund Ho and Lionel Leong visit Lisbon

**EDMUND** Ho, vice chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and former Chief Executive, met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Portugal, Augusto Santos Silva, in Lisbon on June 19. Ho was accompanied by the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong.

The Macau delegation is visiting Portugal for an event to mark the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Forum Macau). According to a statement issued by the Government Information Bureau, both parties exchanged views on enhancing economic and trade, tourism, culture, and education cooperation between Macau and Portugal.



Augusto Santos Silva (left) and Edmund Ho

Edmund Ho stated during the meeting that the success in the implementation of "One country, two systems" in Macau "demonstrated the powerful vitality of this principle, and the sincere commitment shown by China and Portugal, to the Sino-Portuguese Joint Declaration." He said that Portuguese residents played important roles in Macau.

The former CE also noted that the master development plan of the Greater Bay Area is about to be launched. As one of the Greater Bay Area ci-

ties, Macau is expected to build on its advantages in order to assist enterprises from Portuguese-speaking countries to operate in the Greater Bay Area.

Leaders of some major financial institutions in mainland China also took part in the visit to Lisbon with the aim of facilitating in-depth and systematic cooperation and promoting the development of Macau's specialized financial businesses.

The Portuguese Foreign Minister said that Portugal and China have long maintained a good relationship, with frequent high-level

exchanges. Santos Silva stated Portugal looked forward to exporting more Portuguese products, such as meat products, into the Chinese market. He also argued that Macau has been enriched by Portuguese culture.

The Portuguese Republic's Secretary of State of Internationalisation, Eurico Brilhante Dias, also attended the meeting with the Macau delegation. He said the Portuguese Government attached great importance to convention and exhibition activities in Macau, and would this year again assign officials and organize participation by Portuguese enterprises and exhibitors in the annual Macau International Trade and Investment Fair.

China's Ambassador to Portugal, Cai Run, also attended the meeting, and hosted a banquet for the Macau delegation in the evening.

## ENVIRONMENT

# Report shows continual air quality improvement in PRD

**THE** Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Pearl River Delta Regional Air Quality Monitoring Network released a report on its 2017 monitoring results, which showed continual improvement in the air quality of the Pearl River Delta (PRD) last year, according to a statement released by the Environmental Protection Bureau and a statement released by the environmental protection authority of Hong Kong.

Compared with the 2016 levels, the average annual concentration levels of sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and carbon monoxide (CO) in the PRD in 2017 decreased by 8 percent, 3 percent, and 6 percent respectively.

While the average annual concentration levels of respirable suspended particulates (RSP) and fine suspended particulates (FSP) in 2017 increased by 7 percent compared with 2016 levels, the long-term

downward trend of pollutant levels is evident despite the short-term fluctuations.

Compared with the 2006 levels, the annual concentration levels of NO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub> and RSP in 2017 decreased by 26 percent, 77 percent and 34 percent respectively.

The figures reflect that measures implemented by Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau in recent years have contributed to the improvement of air quality in the PRD.

The 2017 average annual concentration level of ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) increased by 21 percent and 16 percent respectively compared with the 2006 and 2016 levels, indicating that further reduction of the regional photochemical pollution is required.

Both Guangdong and Hong Kong were said to have achieved their respective 2015 reduction targets and have finalized the reduction targets for 2020.

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# Galaxy accused of secretly tracking staff social media posts

**G**AMING operator Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) is being accused of using illegal measures to track social media posts by their staff members after complaints over working conditions sparked by last year's Typhoon Hato, South China Morning Post reported.

According to the report, GEG employees have been closely watched and targeted with "online manipulation" as part of a "secret contract" between GEG and YouFind, a Hong Kong-based digital marketing firm.

The South China Morning Post claimed to have had access to several internal company documents providing details and proof of an operation intended to weed out online comments that were detrimental to Galaxy's image and to "create positive comments in Facebook groups, etc." to "neutralize" any negativity. As the report explains, the Hong Kong company was in charge of identifying and contradicting online posts capable of making the company look bad, as well as to "spread positive news about it,"



making use of several online profiles to do so.

The "monitoring" and "seeding" operation – which Galaxy said adhered entirely to "standard global industry practice" – was, according to sources familiar with the matter, contractually agreed upon.

Such processes were established as a direct response to the online criticism Galaxy faced at that time from netizens after allegations surfaced online that the casino operator had asked its staff to volunteer to clean a swimming pool at its flagship resort, while many other organizations in the city had their staff cleaning the streets.

The Times reported earlier that the average Facebook review ra-

ting for the resort plummeted from 4.8 to 3.0 within a matter of hours, following the influx of more than 8,000 reviews with just one star, the lowest that the platform permits, and further dropping on the days that followed.

The poor reviews were accompanied by critical messages, some of which accused GEG of lacking compassion, while others alleged it had mistreated its employees.

Speaking to the SCMP, an online security and data privacy protection expert described the deal between GEG and YouFind as "the tip of a very big and very worrying iceberg."

In Macau, the Office for Personal Data Protection has been "closely monitoring the situation and will

follow up accordingly," TDM reported yesterday.

In Hong Kong, the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data said both companies are obliged to follow Hong Kong privacy laws, even though the monitoring allegedly occurred in Macau.

Sources quoted by the media within the company and the gaming employee unions say that there was no agreement or information on the matter given to the staff members, although the GEG claims to have done "nothing wrong." In a statement, the company said it acted, "in accordance with standard global industry practice," noting it had "appointed outsourcing suppliers to provide social media marketing services to GEG in order to measure and enhance the group's online social media presence."

Furthermore, GEG said it "has not and will not authorize any illegal use of social media," adding that it will proactively fulfill its social responsibilities and strive to ensure that the conduct of its business complies with the laws of [Macau and Hong Kong]. **RM**

## Loi expands Australia property portfolio

Local gaming mogul Loi Keong Kuong has reportedly acquired a new property to add to his Australian property portfolio, The Australian reported.

According to reports, Loi spent some MOP505.8 million (AUD85 million) on the acquisition of a Queensland property located at Soul tower at Broadbeach. The property was first listed for sale back in 2015 by PricewaterhouseCoopers after the complex was taken into receivership in 2012.

Soul Boardwalk is a 77-level building which includes an area of 7012 square meters of retail space over three levels. According to the report, it returns around MOP41.7m (AUD7m) in net annual rental income from tenants.

While the property was on the market, Colliers International's Matt Meynell and Stewart Gilchrist were said to have received more than 100 inquiries for the property. Herron Todd White Gold Coast commercial director, Ryan Kohler, said he was unsurprised that the center took such a long time to sell despite its beachfront location.

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REAL ESTATE MATTERS

Is diversification good? Systemic vs. unsystemic risk

Sam Lee is a marketing manager and property consultant at JML Property. JML was established in 1994 and offers Investment Property & Homes. It specializes in managing properties for owners and investors, and providing attractive and comfortable homes for tenants.

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SAM LEE

Risk. Just seeing that word may have made you balk. It's an uncomfortable and irksome word for most people, and if we think about it too long it can make the palms sweat. We mostly think of risk as being one dimensional. Something is either risky, or it's not. But like most things in life, risk comes in different shapes and sizes. In the securities investment world, risk is often separated into two kinds - systemic and unsystemic. There are many ways to differentiate between the two, but for our purposes we will stick to two differences. Systemic risk is market-wide and undiversifiable, while unsystemic risk is business-specific and diversifiable. Basically, systemic risk is built into the system and affects the entire market, such as interest rate risk or the peaks and troughs caused by market cycles. Unsystemic risk is specific to the particular industry, business or investment, such as the risk of the company you invested in going bust from misma-

nagement, and can generally be mitigated to a degree through diversifying your portfolio. Your total risk is the combination of the systemic and unsystemic risk. To raise an example closer to home, say that you walk into a local casino as a forced participant at a Roulette machine. You are only allowed to bet on either red or black where each bet can be considered to be a mini business investment with an ROI of either 100% or -100%. In this oversimplified example, the unsystemic risk here would be betting on the wrong colour and losing all of your money, and the systemic risk would be the risk of the Roulette machine breaking down and you losing your money by default. If you just pick a colour and put your chips down, you would be exposing yourself to both the systemic and unsystemic risks, but you also enjoy the potential upside of doubling your money. But if you are a risk adverse investor, you can diversify away ALL of the unsystemic risk by betting on

both red AND black. However, systemic risk exposure is not mitigated and if the machine breaks down or the ball lands on 0, you will still lose your money. The crucial thing to take note of here is that while the old adage of "Never put all of your eggs in one basket" might help you decrease unsystemic risk, you are also diversifying away the potential upside as much as the downside. If you bet on both red AND black, you'll never make any money, but you still might lose some! That's why when we at JML make investments into the UK we go by Andrew Carnegie's philosophy of "Put all of your eggs in one basket, but watch that basket very carefully" instead of being overly worried about diversification. We conduct careful due diligence upfront to make sure that the deal makes sense to begin with and make sure we know what we are doing in order to minimize the downside and still maximize the upside for clients and our own investments.

Carmakers seen wasting billions on electric, autonomous vehicles

David Welch

AUTOMAKERS are in a pickle. If they don't invest in electric cars and self-driving technology, investors shun them. If they do, they risk burning billions of dollars on cars that won't make money, according to a new study from consulting firm AlixPartners.

The auto industry and technology players looking to get into transportation are spending USD255 billion on 200-plus electric models, many of which will be unprofitable, and \$61 billion toward autonomous vehicles that consumers aren't prepared to buy, the consultants said in the study, released Wednesday. It predicts a "pile-up of epic proportions."

"Tens of billions of dollars will be thrown away," John Hoffecker, global vice chairman at AlixPartners, told reporters at an Automotive Press Association presentation in Detroit. "Not everyone can be successful. We're going to have to have a falling out of auto-



makers and suppliers."

Automakers are budgeting to build 207 electric models by 2022, the study said. Many of them will lose money because the cars are still expensive to build and the competition for sales for relatively few consumers is intense.

The billions invested in autonomous models may also go begging for a return, AlixPartners said. The firm conducted a consumer survey that concluded that people are willing to pay \$2,300 for a self-driving capabilities. The systems currently cost about \$22,900, AlixPartners said.

Adding to the profit challenges presented by technology investments

is the fact that global auto sales are leveling off. AlixPartners forecasts vehicles sales to grow 2.4% a year through 2025, lagging expected worldwide GDP growth of 3.3 percent. Meanwhile, U.S. light-vehicle sales will fall to 16.8 million this year from 17.2 million in 2017 and to 15.1 million in 2020, the study said.

AlixPartners consults in a variety of industries and has advised most carmakers and major auto suppliers worldwide. While the bulk of its work is for non-distressed companies and private equity firms, it also played a major role in the bankruptcies of General Motors and the city of Detroit. Bloomberg



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Sheridan Prasso

## CAMBODIA

# Chinese influx stirs resentment in Sihanoukville

**I**T'S against the law for Cambodians to gamble. Yet in Sihanoukville, a once-sleepy resort town where three dozen casinos have sprung up, most in the past two years, Cambodians are betting that an infusion of Chinese-built infrastructure will pay off with jobs and prosperity. So far, they've also won increased crime, higher housing costs and more than a little ethnic tension.

The casinos in Sihanoukville, a city named for a former king, cater to thousands of Chinese tourists and workers who have descended on this nub of land on Cambodia's southern coast. At the Golden Sand Hotel's casino near Ochheuteal Beach, businessmen from places like Shenyang peel USD100 bills from thick wads of cash as they suck on Chunghwa cigarettes. Even on weekday nights, the place is packed and filled with smoke. Young Cambodian women in short, tight skirts stand behind tables dealing cards. Chinese security guards dressed in black circle the room.

The influx of Chinese — they arrive on 87 flights a week at a single-runway airport that can't yet handle jumbo jets — is tied to China's Belt and Road Initiative, an ambitious plan to build an estimated \$1 trillion worth of infrastructure across Asia and parts of Africa, dwarfing the post-World War II Marshall Plan.

In Sihanoukville, projects include a special economic zone, where more than 100 Chinese-owned factories are already operating, and a four-lane toll road to the capital city of Phnom Penh, about 225 kilometers away which, will be built by China Communications Construction Co. In all, Chinese state-owned and private companies are involved in about \$4.2 billion of infrastructure projects on Cambodia's southern coast, including power plants and offshore oil exploration, according to RWR Advisory Group in Washington, which tracks Chinese investment.

All that investment, designed to pull Cambodia more closely into China's orbit and open up new areas of investment in tourism, manufacturing and construction,

is paying off. A dozen hotel-condo projects aimed at Chinese tourists and second-home buyers are going up. Two other tax-free economic zones are being built. And, of course, more casinos are planned, none with Belt and Road financing but all hoping to cash in on the investment flow.

"The scale of these projects is just enormous," said Andrew Klebanow, a senior partner at Las Vegas consulting firm Global Market Advisors, who called Sihanoukville the world's fastest-growing gaming jurisdiction in a May report. "I've never seen anything like that."

■ **A paradise lost is no big deal in a country with many other paradises when the trade-off is needed revenue and the creation of jobs**

The construction has kept Sihanoukville, a port city with a population of about 160,000, coated in dust and humming with the sound of machinery. It has boosted the local economy, now growing at almost 8 percent annually, a percentage point higher than the rest of the country. But it has also brought resentment. The concentration of Chinese casinos, hotels, restaurants, factories, businesspeople, gamblers and laborers resembles what, in another era,

might have been called a colonial concession, an area carved out from sovereign territory and given over to an occupying power, much to the consternation of local residents.

Earlier this year, Sihanoukville's provincial governor voiced his concerns in a report to Cambodia's Ministry of the Interior. The presence of so many foreigners "gives opportunity to the Chinese mafia to commit crimes and kidnap Chinese investors due to increased insecurity in the province," Governor Yun Min wrote. He reported unhappiness among Cambodians displaced or evicted because of suddenly soaring housing prices, and from local businesses competing with Chinese shops whose signs are written only in Chinese. "Some foreigners do not respect the traffic laws; they drink alcohol, get drunk, yell, have arguments, and are fighting each other at restaurants and in public places."

Local newspapers are full of reports of money laundering, internet scams, illegal gambling, human trafficking and drunk driving. Electricity outages are frequent, often at dusk as the lights of the casinos suddenly power on, draining the grid.

Yet letting this Belt and Road outpost boom, even with its unintended negative consequences, is part of Cambodia's strategy for luring foreign investment and fostering growth. The country, one of the poorest in Asia, wants to climb the development value chain, and China is offering a ladder. Of the \$1.3 billion invested in Sihanoukville from the beginning of 2016 through the end of March, \$1.1 billion has come from China, according to the provincial government. China is now Cambodia's biggest foreign investor, and it sends more tourists than any other country.

"We want to grab the occasion to develop our country, because we don't have any assistance from other countries," Cambodia's information minister, Khieu Kanharith, said in an interview in Phnom Penh. "If we want to catch up with the world, if we want to catch up with other countries, we need investment."

From the viewpoint of Phnom Penh, where Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen is facing elections next month, any dystopian side effects come at a relatively small price. A paradise lost is no big deal in a country with many other paradises when the trade-off is needed revenue and the creation of jobs for 100,000 Cambodians entering the workforce every year. Sihanoukville, with more than half a dozen white-sand beaches, is being transformed into an industrial city. Cambodians on holiday and Westerners, formerly the primary visitors to Sihanoukville, can go elsewhere, government officials say.

One of the keys to this transformation is the tax-free Sihanoukville Special Economic Zone, the province's biggest Belt and Road project. Taking up an area 20 times the size of Vatican City, it promises to turn Sihanoukville into a Cambodian version of China's Shenzhen by 2020. It will have about 300 factories, most of them owned by Chinese, employing 70,000 workers making garments and consumer goods at cheaper wages than in China. And they'll be able to take advantage of Cambodia's free-trade status within Southeast Asia and with the European Union.

Meanwhile, the debt is piling up. Cambodia owes almost half of its \$6 billion in foreign debt to China, and an additional \$3.5 billion in lending for Belt and Road infrastructure is in the pipeline, according to the Center for Global Development, a Washington research group. Kanharith, the information minister, says the country can handle it. But a March report by the group placed Cambodia on a list of eight nations considered at high risk of debt distress as a result of loans to help finance Belt and Road projects.

How the boom is playing out in Sihanoukville could have international repercussions. Cambodia, which has no gambling regulator, no laws governing online gaming sites and lax money-laundering controls, has seen its casino industry flourish after crackdowns in other gambling centers, such as Macau and Manila, where betting online and by proxy has been curtailed.

Sihanoukville's casinos offer live-dealer online gaming, which allows viewers to watch baccarat tables in real time and place bets remotely, according to Klebanow at Global Market Advisors. Behind the scenes, site operators rent offices on upper floors or backrooms, often sharing the casino's gaming license, according to the operator of one site, who asked not to be identified. A law that would establish a gaming regulator and set rules for online gambling is expected to be adopted this year.

The lack of a legal framework makes it easier for gamblers to launder money or evade currency controls. In most online or remote-gambling operations, money from other countries is paid out in the local jurisdiction of the casino, which in the case of China can violate currency controls prohibiting the exchange of more than \$50,000 per person a year. Macau banned proxy gambling in 2016 because of money-laundering risks. ►►

(Continues on page 10)



## CHINESE INFLUX STIRS RESENTMENT IN SIHANOUKVILLE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

Such risks at Cambodia's casinos are "medium-high," according to a report last year by the intergovernmental Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering. Cambodian banks "do not have adequate supervisory oversight commensurate with the risks," the report said. It noted that even though suspicious transaction reports by foreign bank branches and subsidiaries more than doubled to 2,109 in 2016 from the previous year, Cambodia has had only three investigations of money laundering and no prosecutions. Casinos are required only to self-report unaudited quarterly data to the Ministry of Economy and Finance, which issues licenses. A ministry spokesman didn't reply to emails or text messages seeking comment.

Ministry officials told the report's authors that only the country's largest casino operator, NagaCorp Ltd., which holds a gaming monopoly around Phnom Penh and accounts for 44 percent of industry revenue, understands anti-money-laundering requirements. Smaller casinos, like the ones in Sihanoukville that typically have a dozen baccarat tables and a single row of slot machines, do not, the report said.

At least one Sihanoukville casino tries hard to accommodate money transfers from China. The money-exchange page on Jin Bei Casino's otherwise English-language website is written entirely in simplified Mandarin, gives the rate of Chinese yuan to U.S. dollars and directs users to a Cambodian online money-transfer service called Huione Pay. That service accepts transfers from China's online payment platforms WeChat Pay and Alipay, which are linked to bank accounts in China. Jin Bei and Huione didn't respond to emails.

Prostitution is also following the money trail. Advertisements shoved under the door at a Chinese-run casino hotel depict a barely clothed woman offering a "Dongguan-style set," a two-hour series of sexual positions starting with a striptease.

The attempts to lure Chinese gamblers at Sihanoukville casinos, including free cigarettes and Chinese food rolled in on carts, don't appeal to everyone. "I have to say the conditions are really not great," said Zheng Guofu, a businessman in his mid-50s from Wenzhou who came for four days to visit a friend with a Sihanoukville factory and stayed at the Golden Sand. "The infrastructure and facility development is far slower than in China, and it's dirty. Why should I waste my money in casinos where I need to put up with the fog of smoke and noise?"

None of that seemed to bother a cheerful 23-year-old who gave his name as Pet. Like 1 million other Cambodians, he was working in Thailand because jobs were scarce locally, but he returned for a casino gig where he makes \$130 a month delivering fruit, cigaret-



tes and beer to gamblers. His girlfriend, who deals cards, makes more than \$200 a month plus tips, he said. The workers operate in three shifts, 24 hours a day. Pet isn't bothered by the disparity between them and the richer Chinese. "Maybe all this money will come to me someday," he said. "Who knows?"

Most of the workers live in dormitories provided by the casinos. But for those who don't, like Pet and his girlfriend, it's getting harder to find affordable housing. Most rooms in the newly built casinos are reserved for gamblers, and many guesthouses are rented to Chinese workers. Lack of housing has driven up prices and displaced long-time residents.

From his small clinic and drug dispensary where he has treated bloody noses of Chinese workers who get into fights at nearby restaurants, nurse Sing Saroeun pointed at several houses. "Before you could get that one for \$200-\$300 a month, and now it's \$2,000-\$3,000," he said. "It's good for the people who have their own homes. For Cambodian workers, they're having a difficult time to rent a room in the center of the city."

Not a single friend of Liubov Ivanova, a Russian who came to Sihanoukville seven years ago, has managed to stay in the same residence over the past year. Rents have doubled or tripled, said Ivanova, the guest relations officer at the Independence Hotel, and tenants are kicked out with only a few days' notice. She and her family had to move once last August and then again in February. "The Chinese brought in two-level beds and started living 10 people in one apartment where we were two adults and one child," Ivanova said, noting that the next time they have to move it will likely be out of Cambodia.

Daniel Mackevili, an American who's lived in Cambodia since 2009 and runs the website Cambodia Expats Online, said that on a trip to Sihanoukville in late May he was shocked at how much the

city had changed since his previous visit four months earlier. "It was just so quick," he said. "It's like a total Chinese city now. It seems like it's a part of China."

While the governor's report on crime said most of the kidnapping, drunken fighting and traffic violations happened among Chinese people, the impact spills over, creating a feeling of lawlessness. On the last weekend of May, the news from Sihanoukville on Mackvili's website depicted a crash involving a Chinese driver in a Lexus that killed a Cambodian woman and seriously injured a man and child; the robbery of a Chinese man of \$10,000 and his iPhone; and a Chinese man driving without a license and crashing into a motorbike. The site also carried a report from a Taiwanese newspaper about a British man vacationing in Sihanoukville who was beaten by 10 Chinese for having the word Taiwan tattooed on his forehead.

## ■ Cambodia has no gambling regulator, no laws governing online gaming sites and lax money laundering controls

Frustrated police, speaking anonymously because they aren't authorized to talk, say they try to enforce the laws but are powerless against what they call the culture of intervention. When they're stopped, Chinese drivers take out their mobile phones and make calls, and then the police get a call from a superior telling them to let the motorists go. Worse, they say, when police set up road blocks to



stop drunk driving, the Chinese speed up and cause them to dive for cover.

There were 28 traffic deaths in Sihanoukville in the first three months of the year, 10 more than last year, according to Cambodia's official news agency. Cambodians say Chinese are to blame. "Even when the Chinese are walking on the road, they walk like they bought the road, too," said Srei Un, who runs one of the few Cambodian seafood restaurants on Ochheuteal Beach not undergoing renovation in order to rent out to Chinese for triple the revenue.

Hun Sen, prime minister for the past three decades and an increasingly reliable advocate for China's foreign-policy goals, has tried to tamp down resentment by reassuring the public that the influx of Chinese workers is temporary, necessitated by shortages of skilled Cambodian workers and the high demand for development. The 2 million visitors a year China has promised Cambodia by 2020 will be different from the workers coming now.

"Don't worry that Chinese want to live in Cambodia," he said at a groundbreaking ceremony for a Chinese-funded university building in northeast Cambodia in late April. "Those people want to finish their work and get paid, and then go back to their country."

Yet so elevated was the concern over Chinese behavior earlier this year following the governor's report that China's ambassador to Cambodia, Xiong Bo, made a rare public statement to address it. He blamed "a small amount of low-educated people" who break the law, according to Cambodian newspaper reports. The Chinese embassy in Phnom Penh didn't reply to an email request for comment and didn't answer its telephone.

Hun Sen chastised the governor for his letter, according to a senior government official who asked not to be identified. Word then came down from Phnom Penh that it's up to provincial officials

and police to enforce the law, and that Chinese behavior shouldn't be singled out in public statements lest it deter future investment, the person said. Police began 24-hour patrols, particularly in areas where 1 a.m. bar fights were breaking out.

The police chief in the district where many of the casinos are located likes to tout his big victory: the arrest last year of six Chinese kidnappers who had followed a casino owner from China and nabbed him when he left the premises one evening, demanding \$10 million for his return. The armed suspects were caught within 24 hours, after a security camera spotted the license plate, Chief Sam Prak said, and they're now in a Cambodian prison.

Kidnapping attempts continue, however. On Wednesday, Cambodia Expats Online reported that nine Chinese men were arrested for beating and attempting to abduct two other Chinese men near the New Golden World Casino. Police caught the getaway car, the report said.

Min, the provincial governor, is now quick to accentuate "small negative but big positive things" about the Chinese investment influx. "I'm very happy when many are coming because they come to invest," he said in an interview. "We welcome all investors, but they have to respect our law. It doesn't matter whether they're Chinese, French or American. We welcome them. We will protect their security."

At the Seabreeze Resort, a casino-free oasis on Sihanoukville's Otres Beach, Ukrainian manager Natalia Shuba has been monitoring the new projects. Chinese-built hotels are starting construction here too, the skeletons of their towers visible all along the shoreline. Even early on a Sunday morning, Chinese workers are banging away.

"Before this was countryside, and now they're building skyscrapers," she said. "In two years, this will be like a new country." **Bloomberg**



AP PHOTO



# China says US swinging 'big stick' of unfair trade tactics

CHINA yesterday accused the United States of using bullying tactics and blackmail in threatening to impose tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars of Chinese imports, ramping up criticism that the measures levied in the name of balancing trade would harm both countries' companies and the world economy.

Commerce Ministry spokesman Gao Feng said the U.S. was damaging the global trading order and that its methods would harm its own business interests as well as those of trading partners.

"We oppose the act of extreme pressure and blackmail by swinging the big stick of trade protectionism," Gao told reporters at a news conference. "The U.S. is abusing the tariff methods and starting trade wars all around the world."

U.S. President Donald Trump has ordered 25 percent tariffs on USD50 billion in Chinese goods in response to Beijing's forced transfer of U.S. technology and alleged intellectual property theft, and threatened to impose duties on \$400 billion more in Chinese products. All told, the scope of the tariffs would be equivalent to 90 percent of the goods that China shipped to the United States last year.

Trump's order of 25 percent tariffs, which are set to take effect July 6, were quickly matched by Beijing on U.S. goods exported to China.

Gao said accusations of forced technology transfer and intellectual property theft "seriously distorted the history and reality."

U.S., European and other governments have repeatedly complained their firms operating in China are being compelled to surrender technology as part of Beijing's bid to create world-leading companies in fields such as robotics and electric cars under a program it calls "Made in China 2025."

Economists note the U.S. global trade deficit started to

balloon several years before China's surplus started to surge. They say that suggests the reason behind the imbalance lies somewhere other than China.

Trump's thinking on trade is largely misguided, said Yukon Huang, senior fellow in the Asia program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

"The reason why we have a trade war is the fundamental assumptions which triggered this, in my view from a White House perspective, is totally wrong," Huang said.

**The U.S. is abusing the tariff methods and starting trade wars all around the world.**

GAO FENG

Such assumptions, he said, included the idea that the trade deficit is a problem and that there's too much American investment in China — when in fact there's too little.

Economists say the bulk of China's trade surplus with the United States stems from the country's role as the final assembly point for components imported from South Korea, Taiwan and other economies. Meanwhile, China's imports of food, clothes, cosmetics and other consumer goods from United States are growing, but with Chinese incomes at about one-tenth of U.S. levels, spending power is limited.

"If you begin with faulty assumptions, you're going to come (up) with faulty policies," Huang said. "And that's why we're having a very difficult time trying to figure out what is the solution." AP

ADVERTORIAL

## SUMMER IN STYLE

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Michelle Jamrisko

**EMERGING** markets are in far greater danger of a financial crisis than their developed peers, and Hong Kong has the most to fear, according to an update of Nomura Singapore Limited's collection of early-warning indicators.

Hong Kong and China are the only constituencies in grave danger of a financial crisis or sharp drop in domestic demand in the next three years, with the red flags more prominent for Hong Kong than even during the peak of the Asian financial crisis in 1997-98, according to the research note published Wednesday by Nomura's Rob Subbaraman and Michael Loo.

"The results continue to show that EM countries are considerably more vulnerable than DM countries to credit and financial stress," Subbaraman and Loo wrote. At the same time, they found tentative evidence that China's status is improving amid deleveraging efforts.

Taking some cues from work by the Bank for International Settlements, the Nomura economists tested the reliability of indicators used to gauge conditions across 30 countries dating to the ear-

# HK in most 'crisis' danger in next 3 years, Nomura says

ly 1990s and separated equally among Asian economies, emerging markets, and developed markets.

The economists found that five gap measures were most accurate in predicting a financial crisis within the ensuing 12 quarters:

Private credit-to-GDP Private debt-service ratio Real effective exchange rate Real property prices, and Real equity prices

Judging by the most reliable 60 signals, Nomura determined that a financial crisis or demand plunge is typical for those economies that see at least 30 of those signals flashing red. Hong Kong is "well in the danger zone" with 52, and China still should be on guard at 33.

Thailand, Colombia, and the Philippines are the closest to the unfavorable threshold at 21, 20, and 19, respectively. The only Asian economies among the 14 that have zero signals flashing red are India and South Korea, the data show. **Bloomberg**

BLOOMBERG



## Xiaomi: A startup out to challenge Google, Amazon

**XIAOMI**, a Chinese startup that helped pioneer the trend toward ultra-low-priced smartphones, is preparing for what would be the biggest initial public offering since e-commerce giant Alibaba's in 2014.

The 8-year-old is a star among the Chinese unicorns, a term that refers to startup companies that are valued at more than USD1 billion. It has a dedicated Chinese fan base and its media-savvy leader is an Asian celebrity. But it is untested outside the region.

Can a Chinese company be cool outside Asia? Can Xiaomi achieve its goal of expanding beyond hardware to be an internet service company? A guide to Xiaomi and its upcoming IPO in Hong Kong:

### WHERE DID XIAOMI COME FROM?

Xiaomi — pronounced "SHEE-YOW'-mee" — was founded in 2010 by CEO Jun Lei and seven colleagues who included veterans of Alphabet Inc.'s Google, Microsoft Corp. and Motorola Inc.

Their first smartphone, the Mi1 released in 2011, was an instant hit with little marketing. Consumers buzzed about its low price

of 1,999 yuan (\$305) and competitive quality.

It helped to ignite an unusual fan culture on which Xiaomi has built its product development. Customers take part in design decisions by sending suggestions over social media.

In 2013, Xiaomi sold more handsets in China than Apple. The next year, it became China's top-selling smartphone.

The company later was passed in sales volume by local rivals Huawei, Oppo and Vivo. But after a slump in 2016, Xiaomi's growth rate outpaced other smartphone makers in the following year. While Samsung, Apple and Huawei saw flat or 10 percent growth or less in 2017, Xiaomi sales jumped 58 percent, according to IHS.

Last year, the company had a 6 percent share of the global smartphone market, despite minimal presence in Europe and the United States.

### HOW MUCH MONEY DOES XIAOMI MAKE?

Xiaomi lost money last year. A lot. The company reported a loss of 43.9 billion yuan (\$6.8 billion) on revenue of 114.6 billion yuan.

Even if the company tur-

AP PHOTO



ns that around, CEO Lei has promised to keep prices low for consumers by holding profit margins on hardware sales to 5 percent, a stance that might rattle investors.

"Xiaomi is more than a hardware company," said Lei in an open letter to investors. "Although our hardware business is essential to building our user base, we do not expect it to be the main source of our profits."

Xiaomi makes 90 percent of its revenue from hardware sales but calls itself an internet content company. It wants to make money by delivering services to the more than 100 million users of its connected devices and 190 million users who use its software MIUI.

### HOW MUCH IS THE IPO EXPECTED TO RAISE?

The IPO is expected to raise billions of dollars — possibly the biggest haul since Alibaba raised \$22 billion in 2014 — though forecasts of how much have declined.

Investors are likely to value Xiaomi at \$63-\$68 billion, down from earlier expectations of as much as \$100 billion due to its "low profitability," said Choi Won-seok of Shinhan Investment Corp. in a report.

"Compared to other Chinese tech companies, it will be an attractive price point for investors," wrote Choi.

### WHY ARE INVESTORS OPTIMISTIC?

Xiaomi is the rare Chi-

nese brand that has succeeded abroad. "Xiaomi is probably one of the few Chinese companies that have gotten enough international attention not in a negative way," said Melissa Chau, associate research director at research firm IDC.

In India, it unseated Samsung as No. 1 in smartphone sales. This is a bright spot because India is one of the few remaining handset markets with big growth, said Chau.

South Korean trendsetters love Xiaomi. Other Asian fans rave on YouTube and social media about Xiaomi air purifiers, suitcases and vacuum cleaners.

Admirers compare Xiaomi's minimalist design to Apple or Japan's Balmuda, known for its sleek beauty.

It is also one of the few hardware manufacturers that have been able to use their hardware products as an entry point to selling services and software.

"If you think of other hardware makers who do that, you can only think of Apple," Chau said.

In the letter to investors, Lei said the eight co-founders wanted to make "the coolest company in the hearts of our users."

"Good companies make profits, great companies also win over people's hearts," Lei wrote. "We pride ourselves even more in being a technology company with a rare 'fan culture'."

### WHAT COMES NEXT?

But can it stir similar enthusiasm among investors and Western audiences? A key challenge will be winning over U.S. and European consumers who might be more wary of Chinese brands.

Another challenge is to show to investors that, like Google or Amazon.com Inc., it can make a profit from services, reducing reliance on handset sales.

Selling Chinese internet services to global consumers could be tougher than selling Chinese phones.

Xiaomi founder's vision however echoes that of many Silicon Valley internet companies.

"Fundamentally, the Internet is all about transparency, efficiency and equality," said Lei in his letter to investors. "We want to allow everyone, regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion, nationality, or education level, to enjoy the benefits of technology." **AP**



Binsar Bakkara, Niniek Karmini

INDONESIA

# Military vows to recover bodies from sunken ferry

INDONESIA'S military chief said yesterday that specialist navy equipment will be deployed to pinpoint a ferry that sank in the crater lake of an ancient supervolcano, offering a glimmer of hope to distraught relatives that the bodies of more than 180 people presumed drowned will be recovered.

Only 18 people, including the captain, have been rescued and four confirmed dead since the ferry, massively overcrowded with passengers and motorcycles, sank early Monday evening in waters that officials say are up to 500 meters deep.

As the search on Lake Toba continued yesterday, hundreds of people waiting at a small port for news of missing relatives performed an hour of mass Muslim and Christian prayers that were punctuated by sobs of grief.

Each time a search and rescue vessel docked, relatives ran toward it, only to turn away with faces contorted in disappointment or crying out the names of loved ones when it became clear that no family member had been found.

There was mounting anger that hardly any bodies have been recovered. TV broadcast footage of one anguished man angrily confronting a police officer about the fruitless search effort. The officer defended himself by saying he



Relatives of victims of a sunken ferry wait for news at the Tigaras port in Lake Toba

hadn't slept for three days.

The disaster, likely Indonesia's worst sinking in more than a decade, has prompted President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo to call for an overhaul of safety standards for passenger boats. Ferries are an important means of transportation in the nation of more than 17,000 islands, which cover an area that would stretch from New York to London.

Muhammad Syaugi, head of the

national search and rescue agency, said 184 people are missing, revised down from Wednesday's figure of 192 after further checks showed some victims were counted twice.

In Tigaras, on the island of Sumatra, military chief Hadi Tjahjanto told reporters that officials believe many victims are trapped inside the sunken ferry. Specialist deep water equipment was to be sent from Jakarta yesterday

afternoon, he said.

"Our navy equipment that can reach up to a depth of 600 meters will be able to determine the exact location of the ship," he said. "When we can determine where the ship is, we will determine the technique of how to retrieve the victims."

Divers have only been able to reach depths of 50 meters and an underwater drone deployed in the search has a maximum operating depth of 200 meters.

Agus Darajat, the police chief of Samosir island on Lake Toba, told MetroTV that police had detained the rescued ferry captain, who was also the boat's owner.

"We focused first on providing health care for him to recover, because his condition is still unstable and traumatized," Darajat said. "He's still unable to answer our questions, could not focus to explain nor listen to our questions. It's obvious he is in shock and traumatized."

National Police Chief Tito Karnavian said local transportation officials must also be held res-

ponsible.

About a thousand people crowded Tigaras pier yesterday, including several hundred relatives of victims, some weeping uncontrollably, others waiting in strained silence.

Cellphone video taken from another ferry that attempted to rescue people after the sinking has spread widely online and on television. The video shows dozens of people struggling in rough waters and crying for help while several of them try to swim for an orange lifesaver apparently thrown from the ferry.

Maruddin Siagian, waiting with other family members for news of his younger brother, said they're haunted by those images. "We're tormented waiting for news about him, without any certainty like this. Especially our mother," he said. "But we're determined to keep waiting until the body of our brother is found. For us, his body is precious, we want to bury him properly for his soul to be peaceful, and so we are too." AP

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## MALAYSIA

# Skyscraper project goes ahead despite stolen funds

Eileen Ng, Kuala Lumpur

**M**ALAYSIA said yesterday it will not cancel a skyscraper project billed as the tallest in Southeast Asia, even though 3 billion ringgit (USD747 million) from the venture has been misappropriated by the 1MDB state fund linked to former premier Najib Razak.

Finance Minister Lim Guan Eng said Najib's government had since 2012 guaranteed borrowings, extended advances and purchased land from TRX City Sendirian Berhad amounting to nearly 3.7 billion ringgit (\$921.4 million), but 3.067 billion (\$764 million) of that was embezzled by 1MDB, mainly to repay its loans.

The new revelation of embezzlement linked to 1MDB comes more than a month after Najib's coalition, which had ruled Malaysia since independence from Britain in 1957, suffered a shocking defeat in May 9 polls partly due to voters' anger over the scandal. The fund is being investigated in the U.S. and several other countries for alleged theft and money laundering.

Lim said the stolen TRX fund was a "classic example" of how government money was misappropriated by 1MDB and that



The Exchange 106 rises from the Tun Razak Exchange, TRX, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

he had instructed the TRX management to lodge complaints with authorities investigating the defunct fund.

TRX has sought financial assistance and Lim said the government decided to inject 2.6 billion ringgit (\$648 million) to complete the project and help recoup stolen funds, repay borrowings and potentially achieve a small surplus return. If the project were canceled, the government

would have to pay 3.5 billion ringgit (\$872 million) in compensation and lose the 3.7 billion ringgit given to TRX earlier, he said.

"We are not happy but we cannot bear to see a massive eyesore in the heart of Kuala Lumpur," Lim said, adding that it will also reassure foreign investors involved in the project. "Completing TRX will allow the full value of the project of at least 7.6 billion ringgit (\$1.9 billion) to be realized."

The Exchange 106 skyscraper, which is near completion, is in the heart of the Tun Razak Exchange, a financial district being built by TRX City in Kuala Lumpur and named by Najib after his father Abdul Razak, who was Malaysia's second prime minister. TRX City also owns a massive mixed property development in another part of the city.

Lim said TRX City, a former subsidiary of 1MDB, was trans-

ferred to the Ministry of Finance last year after it was unable to secure land sales or bank financing due to its association with 1MDB.

Najib set up the fund when he took power in 2009 but it racked up billions in debts. U.S. investigators say Najib's associates stole and laundered \$4.5 billion from the fund from 2009 to 2014, some of which landed in Najib's bank account.

New Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad reopened investigations into 1MDB that were suppressed under Najib's rule. He has also banned Najib and his wife from leaving the country.

Anti-graft officials have questioned Najib and his wife Rosmah Mansor. Police have also seized 114 million ringgit (\$28.7 million) in cash and hundreds of expensive designer handbags and jewelry from Najib's home and other properties. The country's new anti-graft chief has said Najib, who denies any wrongdoing, could soon face criminal charges.

The government has said Najib's administration conducted an "exercise of deception" over 1MDB and deceived Parliament over the country's financial situation. The government has axed a high-speed rail project to Singapore and was assessing other large infrastructure projects to cut costs. Mahathir, who was prime minister for 22 years until 2003, was spurred out of retirement by the 1MDB scandal. He has vowed there will be no deal for Najib if he is found responsible for the scandal. **AP**

## Thailand preparing total ban on import of electronic waste

Tassanee Vejpongse,  
Kaweewit Kaewjinda

**T**HAI authorities, who began a series of raids last month on factories accused of illegally importing and processing electronic waste, say they may use special powers given to the military government to impose a total ban on the import of such potentially toxic materials.

Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Gen. Surasak Karnjanarat said yesterday that he will lead an effort to amend the law to include such a prohibition. He said if that proves impossible, the prime minister could invoke special powers he was given after the army seized power in 2014 to institute a ban.

Electronic waste creates huge health hazards. Many components are laden with lead and mercury, cadmium and other

toxins. Lax controls mean that facilities often burn plastics to release encased copper and use unsafe methods to extract precious metals.

The raids have produced public awareness of the hazards. The environmental group Ecological Alert and Recovery Thailand led local activists from across the country in submitting a letter to the government yesterday demanding that it revoke an order allowing the factories to operate in agricultural areas, and demanding that the government urgently ban imports of toxic waste.

On Wednesday, the second highest member of the ruling military junta, Deputy Prime Minister Prawit Wongsuwan, who is also defense minister, told reporters the government intends to work toward a total ban.

Defense Ministry spokesman Kongcheep

Tantravanich said a committee had decided to introduce measures to immediately suspend licenses to import electronic waste for companies that do not comply with international standards on handling hazardous waste or otherwise flout Thai law and regulations. The standards are specified by the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, an international treaty that was designed to reduce the movements of hazardous waste between nations.

A U.S.-based group, Basel Action Network, suggested last month that the problem for Thailand and perhaps other Southeast and South Asian countries was growing "as China has closed down its polluting and dangerous 'backyard' recycling facilities and cracked down on waste

imports of all kinds," noting that China had been the world's main dumping ground for e-waste for the past two decades.

Thai police on yesterday raided two factories on the outskirts of Bangkok accused of illegally processing electronic waste, and said they would be closed. In the past month, police have raided over 30 factories illegally processing hazardous waste.

The first target was a factory that processed discarded computer hardware into plastic pellets. The raid was conducted after local residents filed complaints of a foul smell radiating from the processing plant. Residents who accompanied police on the raid erupted into cheers when authorities announced that they were shutting the down the factory.

One resident, Sureeporn Janseera, said more than



A raid at a factory accused of importing and processing electronic waste in the suburbs of Bangkok

500 homes in the neighborhood had become virtually uninhabitable in the past year due to the strong odor.

"No one can sit outside," Sureeporn said. "We could constantly smell plastic burning which gave us headaches. It was miserable for us."

In yesterday's second raid, police shut down a factory that was processing mountains of electronic waste. National Deputy Police Chief Wirachai Songmetta said

the factory, operated by O.G.I Co. Ltd., had falsified documents to obtain a license to process 45,000 tons of waste — which was considerably above its actual capacity — and that it was acting as a supplier to other illegal plants that had earlier been raided by police.

Wirachai said the illegal practice was a profitable business for the factory operators, who would receive around \$25,000 per ton of electronic waste they dealt with. **AP**



US

# Trump's immigration order sparks confusion, deep concern

Nomaan Merchant, Colleen Long

**P**RESIDENT Donald Trump's reversal of a policy separating migrant families at the Mexico border sparked confusion over how the new guidelines will play out and deep concern that the changes don't go far enough, allowing children to still be held in detention even if they remain with their families.

"We are pleased that the president is calling a halt to his inhumane and heartless policy of separating parents from their children," said Peter Schey, the lawyer in a lawsuit that resulted in a key agreement governing the treatment of migrant children in detention called the Flores settlement.

Despite the president's order, Schey said he was concerned that several thousand children have already been separated from their parents "without the Trump administration having any effective procedures in place to reunite children with their parents, many



Two sisters from Guatemala seeking asylum cross a bridge to a port of entry in the US from Mexico

of whom have already been deported."

Trump said Wednesday he didn't like seeing children being removed from their families, a recent practice that has sparked worldwide outrage. But he also said "zero tolerance" on illegal immigration continues, and children will be held with their parents while the adults are prosecuted.

It remains unclear what will happen with the more than 2,300

children separated from their parents at the border in recent weeks. Officials have said they are working to reunite families as soon as possible but have provided no clear answers on how that will happen.

"This is a stopgap measure," said Gene Hamilton, counsel to the U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions. Justice Department lawyers were planning to file a challenge to the Flores settlement, which re-

quires the government to release children from custody and to their parents, adult relatives or other caretakers, in order of preference.

If those options are exhausted, authorities must find the "least restrictive" setting for a child who arrived without parents.

Justice Department lawyers will seek permission to allow for the detention of families until criminal and removal proceedings are completed.

Delaware Sen. Tom Carper said he was concerned about whether parents can track down their kids. "I am also deeply troubled to hear reports that the administration, in its haste to hold innocent children hostage in order to demand funds for a border wall, failed to plan appropriately to reunite these families following their separation," the Democrat said.

Kay Bellor, vice president for programs at Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, among the largest refugee resettlement agencies in the U.S., said: "While children will no longer be ripped from the arms of their parents

for the sole purpose of deterring immigration, they will go to jail with their parents. Jail is never an appropriate place for a child."

New York Mayor Bill de Blasio on Wednesday went to a center in Manhattan that is caring for 239 migrant children separated from their parents.

De Blasio told reporters the kids at Harlem's Cayuga Center included a 9-year-old Honduran boy sent to the center 2,000 miles by bus after being detained at the border. He said the youngest child there is 9 months old.

The center is operated under a federal contract that places unaccompanied migrant children in short-term foster care. De Blasio said staff members reported seeing about 350 children since the launch of the "zero tolerance" policy.

"It looked like the kids were being treated very well," the mayor said, but added several arrived with lice, bed bugs or chicken pox.

On South Texas' border with Mexico, Manuel Padilla, chief of the U.S. Border Patrol's Rio Grande sector, told The Associated Press on Tuesday that the current situation for migrant children in the U.S. "is not ideal," but the children are treated "very well."

"The ideal situation is for these children and family units to be in their home country in a stable situation," he said. **AP**

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FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:10	C.O.P.A - History of all World Cups
18:20	Miscellaneous
18:55	Non-daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:35	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	Portuguese Mini Serie (100% Portuguese)
22:10	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Greenberg
01:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
02:05	RTPi Live

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

10:25	Kids Serie
11:00	Sunday Mass (Live)
12:00	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:55	Brainstorm
17:40	Got Talent Portugal
19:20	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-daily Portuguese News
22:00	Documentary
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Mysteries of Lisbon
23:55	Miscellaneous
00:25	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:05	RTPi Live

Offbeat

NO BEER AT THIS TIME OF YEAR?

A British trade group says there's a shortage of carbon dioxide in Northern Europe, sparking fears that drinks may lack fizz just as thirsty soccer fans fill pubs for the World Cup.

Gavin Partington, director-general of the British Soft Drinks Association, says the shortage is due to the closure of several production sites for various reasons, including seasonal maintenance. But industry publication Gasworld says the situation is worse this year because normal maintenance has coincided with technical issues at chemical plants that also produce carbon dioxide.

That shortage comes just as the World Cup is getting underway in Russia, driving up demand for beer and soft drinks. The British Beer and Pub Association predicts England fans will drink an extra 14 million pints during the group stages of the tournament, which last about two weeks.

"We will continue to monitor the situation carefully," said Brigid Simmonds, the group's chief executive. "However, given the time of year and the World Cup, this situation has arisen at an unfortunate time for the brewing industry."

The shortage could also affect meat producers, who may have trouble preserving some fresh foods.

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 Hathway  
Language: English (Chinese)  
Duration: 110min

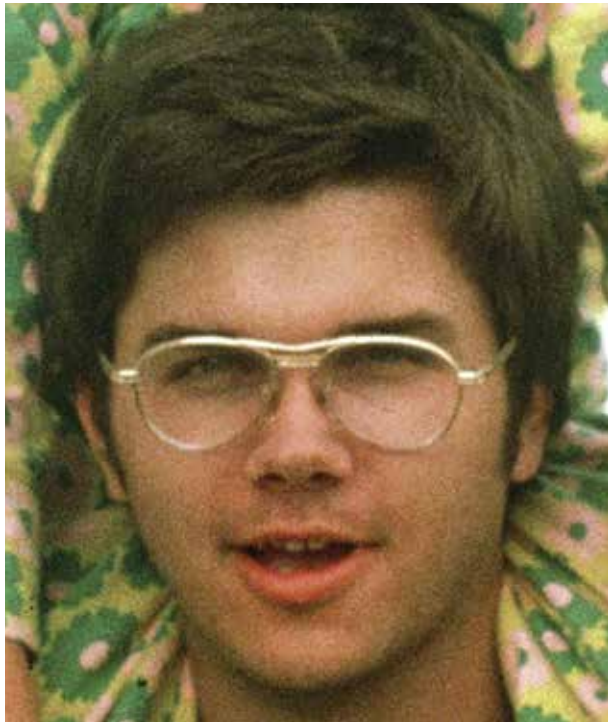
THE LEAKERS

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



John Lennon



Mark Chapman

1981 CHAPMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO LENNON MURDER

A man has pleaded guilty to shooting dead former Beatle John Lennon in New York.

The court heard Mark Chapman dramatically change his plea to admit responsibility for the murder, saying God had told him to do so.

Even his own defence team were taken by surprise by the decision, and his lawyer has asked the judge to examine his client to ensure he is mentally fit to stand trial.

Appearing at a pre-trial hearing, Chapman said nothing in open court.

The drifter now faces a minimum of 15 years imprisonment, although the judge has indicated it will be more like 20.

Lennon, 40, was shot several times as he entered his luxury apartment building, the Dakota on Manhattan's Upper West Side, opposite Central Park, in December 1980.

The musician was rushed in a police car to St Luke's Roosevelt Hospital Center, where he died.

Explaining that Chapman had decided to plead guilty after "God told him" to do so on June 8, his lawyer revealed he had "serious questions" over his client's sanity.

"I have asked that he be examined to determine whether or not he is fit to go to trial or to change his plea," he said.

The judge will receive a full report on the defendant before passing sentence in August.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Mark Chapman is serving 20 years to life in Attica prison near New York after he was deemed competent to plead guilty.

He said he had heard voices in his head telling him to kill the world-famous musician.

In 2000 the killer had his appeal for early release turned down, the same happened in October 2002 when he made another appeal for early release.

A third appeal was rejected in October 2004.

Lennon's widow, Yoko Ono, has said she would not feel safe if Chapman were released, and experts believe it is quite possible he will stay behind bars for the rest of his life.



YOUR STARS

Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Right now, you're doing so in fine style - so fine that it may be getting you noticed in a romantic way. Be sure you're tuned into the sweet little signals that someone's sending you while you're conquering your world.

Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

How you want to put this good day to use is entirely up to you. Even if someone challenges you, it'll be less of a hassle and more of a game figuring out how to talk your way around them.

Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

The kind of energy and excitement the stars are sending your way is likely to have you feeling totally connected, full of life and raring to go. It's also likely that you'll have other people taking plenty of notice of you.

Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

Sometimes too many cooks spoil the broth, and sometimes many hands make light work. The latter's the case now, so assemble a group if you really want to make some significant progress.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Whether the journey you're about to embark upon is across physical land, through your mental headspace or deeper into your heart, it's sure to hold your interest.

Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

What other people find restful and relaxing, you probably find a big yawn. Fortunately, the stars are sending you plenty of stuff to keep you busy in a way that'll make you very jolly.

Taurus

April 20-May 20

Attachments are in the stars at the moment - so who and what are you bonded to? Some new connections (work, community, maybe even romantic) are a distinct possibility now, so keep your eyes open.

Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

You may be in the mood to make an extravagant purchase, but just because you're going to go over-the-top doesn't mean you shouldn't get your money's worth. If you really deserve a treat like this.

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

If you haven't built in some wiggle room, it's time to carve some out and utilize it. When you can be flexible, you can respond to current circumstances fully and get the best possible results.

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

While asking for a raise may not be the best idea at the moment, there are some other aspects of your job you can explore. Get to the bottom of whatever's been particularly challenging to you lately.

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

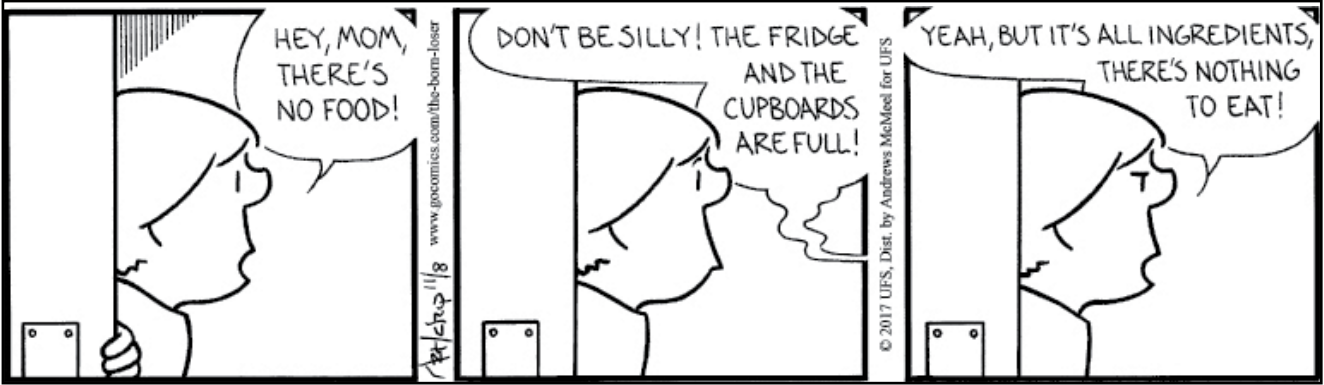
If you're feeling pressure to pony up for extravagant gifts, your economical side is likely to rebel. Sure, lovely things are lovely to give, but practicality is your stock and trade.

Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

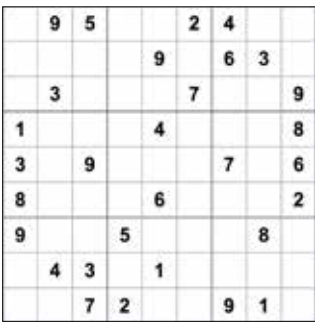
Getting involved in some intrigue at work certainly has its allure - and after all, everybody else is doing it. Before you join in the gossip or the plotting, however, think about how your boss would like you to handle it.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

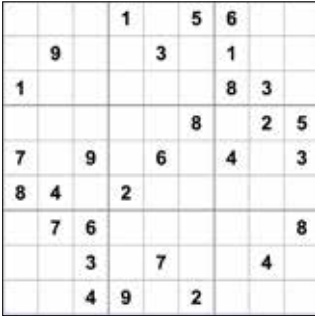
Easy



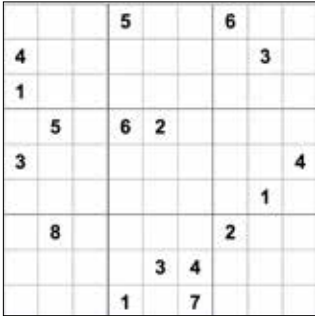
Easy+



Medium



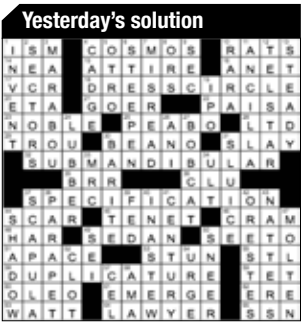
Hard



CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Just \_\_\_; 5- Cravat; 10- Timetable, for short; 14- Bubbly drink; 15- Dried plum; 16- Grow weary; 17- Stumble; 18- Lauder of cosmetics; 19- Film unit; 20- Member of the clergy; 22- Brandy; 24- \_\_\_ Is Born; 25- Axilla; 26- Part of the eye; 28- Teatime treat; 32- Wrinkle remover; 35- Health resort; 37- Reverberated; 38- Type of mouse; 39- Religion of the Muslims; 41- Hog; 42- Runners-up; 45- Bearded grazer; 46- Land in water; 47- Chew the scenery; 48- Slippery \_\_\_ eel; 50- Firstborn; 54- Resulted in; 58- Everybody; 61- Flowing water; 62- Actor Connery; 63- Drat!; 65- Story; 66- Architectural pier; 67- Distinguishing characteristic; 68- Pack \_\_\_ (quit); 69- Romance lang.; 70- Dirties; 71- Cries of discovery;

DOWN: 1- Latin stars; 2- Sensitive spots; 3- Decree; 4- Skipper; 5- Impersonator; 6- Gown renters. Abbr.; 7- More adorable; 8- Late bedtime; 9- Get ready to drive; 10- Strain; 11- Capital of the Ukraine; 12- ... \_\_\_ saw Elba; 13- Strike out; 21- Bobby of hockey; 23- Round object, often used to store computer data; 25- Venomous snakes; 27- Egyptian goddess; 29- "My fault!"; 30- Singer Sedaka; 31- Competitive advantage; 32- Lazy, inactive; 33- Chamber; 34- Roughly; 36- Math subj.; 37- Flightless flock; 40- Med. school subj.; 43- Endless; 44- Count (on); 46- Sluggishness; 49- High-pitched; 51- No-nos; 52- Diciembre follower; 53- Caravansary; 55- "Til \_\_\_ do us part"; 56- Actress Shire; 57- Signs; 58- Morales of "NYPD Blue"; 59- Let off steam; 60- I could \_\_\_ horse!; 61- Grounded jets; 64- Up to, briefly;



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Emergency calls 999

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PJ (Open line) 993

PJ (Picket) 28 557 775

PSP 28 573 333

Customs 28 559 944

S. J. Hospital 28 313 731

Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333

Commission Against

Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300

IACM 28 387 333

Tourism 28 333 000

Airport 59 888 88

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Water Supply – Report 2822 0088

Telephone – Report 1000

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Ref: 18040677

**The Buckingham, Unit C**  
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HKD 7,993sq ft  
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Ref: 18025544

**Warehouse, Keck Seng**  
Macau  
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**Outdoor Garden**  
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Ref: 18050678

**Violet Court, Hellene Gardens**  
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## FOOTBALL AMID RUINS

## World Cup inspires unusual fields in Peru

Franklin Briceno, Lima

**E**XCITEMENT for football has reached a fever pitch in Peru's crowded capital, where a lack of open spaces has forced residents to play pickup games squeezed against Incan ruins or in pre-colonial cemeteries.

Inspiring this passion is Peru's first qualification to play in a World Cup in 36 years. While the team lost its first match in this year's Cup to Denmark, it faces France on Thursday and hopes are high again.

As many watch the matches from Russia on television sets, others are organizing impromptu games in this capital teeming with archaeological ruins peppered throughout an urban sprawl that experts say grew without proper planning for parks and sports fields.

Fields used in pickup games range from manicured grass to informal quadrangles etched into the dirt — many next to ancient cemeteries, religious complexes and the remnants of pre-colonial neighborhoods.

Community leader Valeriano Amaru stands on one such field as children practice their football moves next to a vast complex of crumbling adobe walls known as the Huaquerones ruin in Lima's Ate-Vitarte district.

"A ton of us have played here," Amaru said, recalling playing on such impromptu pitches for half of his 60 years.

Lima is home to the largest number of pre-colonial archaeological sites in the Americas, with more than 400 "huacas," meaning "sacred places" or "oracles" in the Quechua language. While their use for pickup football games has surged with World Cup fever, it is a longstanding practice since the sites often provide the only open spaces in poor, crowded neighborhoods.

Playing football in the ruins is technically not allowed, but the rules are applied flexibly since games often coincide with religious festivals, community celebrations — or now with the World Cup.

The Huaquerones site served as a military base in the govern-

ment's battle against insurgents in the 1980s and "even the soldiers would play pickup games here," Amaru said.

He said the World Cup has gotten children in Peru excited about football because "they want to emulate the players on our national team," many of whom come from poor neighborhoods.

Lima's lack of open or public spaces is due to a lack of urban planning as its population exploded over a half century, growing fivefold to its current 9 million residents, experts say.

Neighborhoods sprang up around archaeological sites with few controls or restrictions.

"There was no planning for public space in many parts of Lima — a pattern only magnified in the outlying districts," said Christopher Parisano, a graduate student in anthropology at City University of New York.

Lima residents typically have barely a third the urban green space recommended by the World Health Organization.

To many Peruvians, the ruins



People play football on a rented field, next to the pre-Columbian archeological site of La Luz, in Lima

are part of their identity, something become woven into the fabric of their lives. They sit next to Peru's largest football stadium and at the edge of the National Sports Village, where the country's football team trains. The ruins sit next

to university campuses and along major roads.

"Hopefully, they won't take these fields away from us," said Amaru. "Who knows if a future star on our national team is playing football right here." AP

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WORLD CUP 2018

# Mbappe sends France into 2nd round with 1-0 win over Peru

**K**YLIAN Mbappe's first World Cup goal put France into the round of 16. The teenage forward tapped in a ball headed toward goal in the 34th minute to give France a 1-0 victory over Peru earlier today [Macau time].

At 19 years and 183 days, Mbappe became the youngest scorer in France's World Cup history.

With two wins from two matches in Group C, France is through to the next round with a match to spare while Peru has been eliminated.

France coach Didier Deschamps made a pair of tactical adjustments after an underwhelming performance in the team's opening win over Australia. He put Blaise Matuidi and Olivier Giroud in the starting lineup but kept his same 4-3-2-1 formation with Giroud out front. Both used their speed and passing to expose gaps in Peru's backline.

Paolo Guerrero started for Peru after coming off the bench in the opening loss to Denmark. He came out with energy, but he cooled down after receiving a yellow card in the 23rd minute.

Guerrero nearly missed the World Cup before having his doping ban lifted by a Swiss judge prior to the tournament. France goalkeeper Hugo Lloris was one of three opposing captains, along with Australia's Mile Jedinak and Denmark's Simon Kjaer, who signed a letter to FIFA supporting the lifting of the ban. Guerrero had one of Peru's



France's Kylian Mbappe, front, is challenged by Peru's Pedro Aquino

best chances in the 87th minute from a free kick, but his attempt went right at Lloris.

After getting very little out of the three-prong attack of

Mbappe, Antoine Griezmann and Ousmane Dembele in their opening win, the French trio was active in Yekaterinburg.

Griezmann had a pair of opportunities stopped within the first 15 minutes, with Mbappe and Dembele consistently getting past Peru's defense to set up scoring chances.

But it was midfielder Paul Pogba who opened things up for Mbappe's goal. Pogba beat his defender and found Giroud with a perfect pass. Giroud then chipped it for Mbappe to easily tap it past goalkeeper Pedro Gallese.

Energized by the tens of thousands of Peruvian fans, the South Americans tried to match Les Bleus' intensity early but were outshot 12-10 with only two of Peru's chances on target, with two others blocked. MDT/AP

## LATEST RESULTS

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
Iran	0	1	Spain
Denmark	1	1	Australia
France	1	0	Peru



Neymar trains on the eve of the match between Brazil and Costa Rica

## PREVIEW

## Neymar to start in unchanged Brazil team to face Costa Rica

**N**NEYMAR will start for Brazil in an unchanged lineup against Costa Rica today [8 p.m. Macau time] at the World Cup. Although Brazil coach Tite said Neymar still needs time to reach peak shape, he insisted he is not endangering the striker's health.

"Yes, he will be playing. There's no sacrifice here," Tite said through a translator Thursday. "We want to win but the coach is not going to play around with a player's health, the price would be too high to pay."

Tite also said he would use the same 11 players that were held to a 1-1 draw by Switzerland in the team's opening match. Neymar limped out of a training session on Tuesday after appearing to hurt his right ankle. But on Wednesday, the Brazilian football confederation posted photos and a video of Neymar training with the rest of the squad and said he was fine.

"It's an evolutionary process. You need to speed up the steps," Tite said. "He's already speeded up that process."

The world's most expensive player, who joined Paris Saint-Germain for 222 million euros (USD260 million) from Barcelona, only just made it to the World Cup after breaking a toe in his right foot on Feb. 25.

After recovering from surgery, Neymar played in two World Cup warm-up matches and scored in both to take his international tally to 55 goals.

But he lacked sharpness when Brazil opened its World Cup campaign with the draw against Switzerland on Sunday. Although Neymar was fouled 10 times during that match, he was still noticeably below his best.

On Thursday, Tite became angered after he was asked if he had spoken personally with Neymar to encourage him to be more unselfish.

"Absolutely not. The information you got is not true," Tite shouted, his voice rising steeply as he called it a lie. "That didn't happen."

He then said it would be pointless to restrict Neymar's way of playing.

"I'm not going to take his initiative away from him in the last third of the field, take away his genius," Tite said. "The last third of the field is where you have to go to create chances, and I'm not going to take that away from anyone."

Anything but victory could leave Brazil, one of the title favorites in Russia, in a difficult position to advance from the group stage.

Serbia leads Group E with three points after beating Costa Rica 1-0 and next plays Switzerland in Kaliningrad on Friday. Serbia and Brazil then meet on Wednesday in Moscow.

Brazil has no margin for error against Costa Rica, which won its group at the last World Cup and reached the quarterfinals. "It is a decisive game, of course," said Tite. "You can't run away from that." AP

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opinion

Bizcuits

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FROM PLASTIC-FREE-JULY TO PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP

I knew it was bad: I had sailed dinghies in that murky delta water, ignored whatever happened to be floating past; I had pulled shredded flotsam from large yacht propellers; I'd implored children to wear swimming booties on the beach; and now and again peered over wharf-side when boarding the TurboJet to dismay at the soup of heaving debris. The bloated pig carcass on the Hac Sa boat ramp that one afternoon, disgusting as it was, was unsurprising and stood as a porcine example of our rapacious and increasingly damaging, unenlightened and convenience-seeking habits.

A Decisive Moment photograph of plastic rubbish strewn on Hac Sa beach in June 2016 and a letter to the editor on the 29th recommending coordinated governmental efforts to deal with the waste in our waterways prompted me to research the problem and embark on the Plastic Free July Challenge. Then came reports of Macau to Hong Kong ferries being delayed by rubbish clogging engines. Finally, injuries - "Everyone was bleeding", read a SCMP headline - when 124 people were injured one night in October as a high-speed ferry with 174 on board hit semi-submerged junk.

We have come far down the path foretold in The Graduate when in 1967 Dustin Hoffman's Benjamin Braddock was given career advice with "One word: plastics" - the industry of the future. How completely we have embraced the lifestyle depicted in the 1950s disposable polyethylene-lined Dixie Cup advertisements saving "all the work" of dishwashing, drying and putting away; the age of convenience was upon us.

Where exactly is the "away" we throw to? Single-use plastic bags are used for 12 minutes on average and take 450 years to "decompose". Most single-use plastic is sent to landfill, only 9 percent of plastic is (down)cycled, and the rest leaks into the environment, 8 million tonnes of which end in the ocean every year (as of 2015) - waste with staying power and increasing toxicity.

We have created an ecological crisis of such proportion and permanence that it is fast being presented as the one man-made environmental disturbance that has potential to have greater impact than climate change.

People are beginning to respond, not just the savvy consumer, but governments and retailers are being forced to deal with the crisis. This month, India made the unprecedented decision to ELIMINATE ALL single-use plastic by 2022 in ALL Indian states, with Modi saying "It is the duty of each one of us to ensure that the quest for material prosperity does not compromise our environment." That puts paid to the idea that poverty alleviation and environmental responsibility are mutually exclusive.

As of yesterday, the major supermarkets in my home state have banned single-use plastic bags. Only baby steps, but the slow recognition by large corporates of after-sales responsibilities and the halting and sometimes antagonistic responses to habit change from the average shopper are case studies in themselves. Change is difficult, but it will become easier as cyclical economic systems are established.

In this category sits my new corporate hero, Ikea. Often viewed as a furniture store for young homemakers who could not afford the real deal, Ikea was cheap enough to fit right into the wasteful 'fast furniture' market: one interior today, another tomorrow. This month they announced their commitments for 2030 which include circular principles of production, improving longevity of the products (repairability, handing on), and removal of ALL single-use plastic products. Products will be designed to be repurposed, repaired, reused, resold and (the moral dilemma of them all) recycled. Ikea has leapfrogged the immediate calls from the environmentally conscious consumer movement.

Eventually, such business models will become mandated through Product Stewardship legislation. Manufacturers and sellers will then take responsibility for their environmental impact from the products, packaging, substances contained in them, and their disposal.

THE BUZZ TERMINALLY ILL MAN GETS LAST WISH TO GAMBLE IN ATLANTIC CITY

A terminally ill New Jersey man says he got one of his last wishes fulfilled this week: to drink a cold beer and play a few more hands of blackjack at his favorite casino in Atlantic City.

John Mudry and his family visited Bally's Atlantic City on Tuesday to fulfill one of the 71-year-old man's wish of having one last big day at the casino. The Press of Atlantic City

reports Mudry visited the casino with help from his hospice caretakers and health care providers.

Mudry's niece, Kelly Smentkowski, says her uncle has a rare form of non-treatable bladder cancer, and that he "didn't want to stay in the hospital anymore."

Mudry ended up winning a few hundred dollars on the casino floor.

NEW ZEALAND

PM welcomes newborn girl 'to our village'

Nick Perry, Wellington

NEW Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern gave birth to a daughter yesterday and posted a message welcoming the healthy newborn "to our village." She is the second elected world leader to give birth while holding office after late Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who gave birth to daughter Bakhtawar in 1990.

Ardern distributed a photo showing her and partner Clarke Gayford with the baby at Auckland City Hospital. The girl arrived at 4:45 p.m. weighing 3.3 kilograms. "Welcome to our village wee one," Ardern wrote in the caption on Instagram. "Feeling very lucky to have a healthy baby girl."

She thanked everyone for their kindness and wishes. "We're all doing really well," she wrote.

Ardern's pregnancy has been followed around the world, with many hoping the 37-year-old will become a role model for combining motherhood with political leadership.

Former New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark said in an email to The Associated Press that it was a very happy day for Ardern and Gayford and that New Zealanders had taken the news of the pregnancy in their stride.

"This is a sign of our maturity as a country and its acceptance that combining



career and family is a choice which women are free to make," she wrote. "Let's also celebrate Clarke as a modern man who is happy to be the full time parent of a young child."

The former prime minister said attitudes had changed since she'd entered politics and that was a good thing.

"For New Zealand, these events and the way our country has greeted them will be seen as inspirational by all who advocate for gender equality and women's empowerment," Clark wrote.

Jennifer Curtin, a professor of politics at the University of Auckland, said there was symbolic importance in Ardern giving birth, in that it showed political parties around the world that it was fine to have younger women as candidates.

She said women often tended to be older when they

entered politics. She said in other fields, women have been combining motherhood and paid work for decades, but it has only recently become more manageable thanks to paid parental leave.

Deputy Prime Minister Winston Peters has taken over as acting prime minister. Ardern plans to take six weeks of leave before returning to work.

Under the arrangement, Ardern will still be consulted on major decisions, including issues of national security. She has said she's confident the government will continue to run smoothly in her absence.

She said that after the birth, she hoped to have some quiet time to enjoy as a family.

Asked earlier this month how the couple had been faring in their quest to choose a baby name, Ardern responded: "Terribly. Do you have any suggestions?" AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Dita Alangkara



The science of brainwashing: A student and his teacher look at a computer screen during a biology class at Mangyongdae Revolutionary School, an elite military educational establishment, in Pyongyang, N. Korea. Many of the school's pupils are expected to go on to senior careers in the military.

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	25-45 Good	
High Density Residential Area	25-45 Good	
Ambient	25-45 Good	

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS



INDONESIA's military chief said yesterday that specialist navy equipment will be deployed to pinpoint a ferry that sank in the crater lake of an ancient supervolcano, offering a glimmer of hope to distraught relatives that the bodies of more than 180 people presumed drowned will be recovered. More on p13



INDIA Some 50,000 people gathered with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday in the Himalayan foothills. Modi traveled to the hill town of Dehradun for the fourth International Day of Yoga, and shortly after sunrise was doing yoga exercises with about 50,000 people.

GAZA STRIP Condoms have moved out of the bedroom and into the air in the Gaza Strip, where they've become the newest weapon against Israel. Sometimes tied together for added buoyancy, the inflated prophylactics are attached to gas-soaked rags, other burning items or explosive devices, then flown over the border like balloons into southern Israel, where they set fire to farmlands and nature reserves.



ITALY's hard-line interior minister has said he will not allow a Dutch-flagged boat that rescued some 200 migrants to land in Italy. Salvini said that he had contacted the Dutch ambassador about the ship's activities, adding "they will only see Italy on the map."

SPAIN Nobel laureate Mario Vargas Llosa is under observation at a Madrid hospital after sustaining light injuries in a fall at home. The Spanish capital's Hospital Ruber Juan Bravo says it admitted the 82-year-old Peruvian writer yesterday with a bruised left buttock and a slight head injury.