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WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA Smartphone maker Xiaomi Corp. plans to raise up to USD6 billion in one of the biggest global stock market debuts in recent years as it tries to become a worldwide hardware-and-services brand alongside Apple, Google and Amazon.



TURKEY Early partial results in Turkey's presidential elections show incumbent Recep Tayyip Erdogan in the lead, with challenger Muharrem Ince in second place. Turkey's official Anadolu News Agency said that with 22 percent of the country's ballot boxes counted, Erdogan was at 59.1 percent of the vote, with Ince at 26.5 percent. More on p15



THAILAND's capital has hosted the Indian film industry's biggest annual event, with awards given to top Bollywood actors and movies, and dazzling performances by Indian artists. The event was previously held in Macau.

SRI LANKAN police yesterday arrested two men accused of beating a leopard to death in an attack caught on video and widely condemned by wildlife activists.

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São João Festival draws locals, tourists to the St. Lazarus district

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São João Festival more local this year

Renato Marques

THE 12th edition of the São João [Saint John] Festival was held over the weekend in the Saint Lazarus district, welcoming partygoers who joined in with the celebrations.

This year's edition was impacted by the heavy rainfall that affected Macau on Friday and Saturday. According to organizers, that made the event more challenging to hold, particularly in regards to the setup of the street party on Friday and in the early hours of Saturday, but the celebration was still considered successful.

With "less participation of tourists" noted by many, the party rebalanced with a presence of locals that was highlighted to the Times. "What matters is the celebration itself," a group of local Portuguese and Macanese said while singing, sipping beers and waiting for a barbecued sardine.

In fact, the sardines (a must-have element for such celebrations) were one of the only elements that caused a little concern, especially on the first day, the organization noted. "This year, and contrary to [earlier] editions, the IAMC (Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau) didn't allow us to barbecue the sardines the traditional way [charcoal grilled]," one of the cooks on duty confided to the Times. "We have to use electric grillers... Well, in



a way, it's faster to cook, but the taste isn't the same," he noted.

As for the partygoers, although they noted the difference, they remarked, "The most important [thing] is the gathering of the community."

Maria Amélia António, president of the association Casa de Portugal, said this year's edition would aim to exhibit "quality" and "tradition," a wish that seems to have been fulfilled. Most of the stalls looked professionally decorated and offered a wide range of products. Some of them displayed several sources of information on the products on sale in trilingual versions (Portuguese, English and Chinese), making sure that no one would be excluded.

It was noted that there were apparently less people this year, especially in regards to tourists, but attendees also noted that there were more locals that "filled that space" and "the same great atmosphere."

Local residents Donald Heung and his girlfriend told the Times, "We come every year since four or five years ago," adding with laughter that the reason they come to the event is "craving for foods mostly," but that it is also a "nice place to come on a Sunday afternoon."

Coming from Guangdong province, the Zhang couple found the party "by chance as they were exploring the city" with their young child. Zhang told the Times that he

was attracted by the people and the smell of the barbecued sardines, but he confessed he did not know what they were. His wife then asked about the fish and, upon discovering that they were sardines, he felt compelled to "try." He said, "I have eaten sardines before but only the [canned] ones, never like this." In his opinion they "are more tasty [barbecued]."

Walking along the Calçada de S. Lazaro were the Mok sisters, Viviana and Wanda, local residents with Portuguese ancestry. The sisters told the Times that they had come to the event to support family members who are operating one of the stalls that sells Portuguese and Macanese snacks and drinks.

Although neither of them can speak Portuguese, they have Portuguese heritage and find in the events of the Portuguese and Macanese communities a "way to connect to our roots."

"We both have a Portuguese passport and our mother speaks Portuguese but we don't," they said, adding, "We like very much the food as well as the atmosphere of these events [in which they also included the Lusophonia Festival]. We usually don't miss it."

As for the event, it continued in a lively fashion with several performances from local and Portuguese artists, which helped to keep the visitors in the St Lazarus district entertained for a while.

ASK THE VET

by Dr Ruan Du Toit Bester

CAUSES OF SEIZURES IN CATS

SEIZURES in cats are a common neurological disorder. If a cat has a seizure, prompt medical attention should be sought, as this could be a sign of a more serious disorder.

SEIZURES AND PHASES

A seizure is when neurons in the brain fire incorrectly and excessively, independently of each other. As a result, the muscles in a cat will begin to contract without his or her control. A seizure has three phases: the Aura period, Ictus period, and the Postictal period. The Aura period is the time right before the seizure happens. A cat may show signs that he or she is about to have convulsions by acting unusual, nervous, salivating, etc. The behavior a cat has during this time is different for every feline.

In the Ictus period, the cat will lose control of his or her muscles and fall down. The muscles will begin to contract involuntarily and strongly. A cat may look like it is paralyzed and shaking at the same time. The cat may lose control of bodily functions and begin to salivate.

The Postictal period is right after the seizure.

A cat will be disoriented and may be unresponsive at first. The cat may then begin to pace or seek his or her owner for comfort. Every cat is different in this period.

A seizure can last up to five minutes, depending on the strength. A petit mal, the least severe form of seizure, can last up to one minute. A grand mal can last up to five minutes. A status epilepticus, the most severe form of seizure, is when the Ictus period lasts longer than five minutes.

CAUSES OF SEIZURES IN CATS

Epilepsy is a common cause of seizures in cats. This is a chronic disease that is incurable, but controllable.

Toxoplasmosis has been known to cause seizures in cats. This is caused by a parasite, which can cause an infection that can damage a cat's central nervous system.

The feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) depresses a cat's immune system. As a result, it is harder for a cat to fight bacteria or viruses which a healthy cat could fend off easily. The viruses or bacteria a cat with FIV could contract may cause seizures. A cat with FIV can also begin to have seizures because of the



virus itself, which weakens a cat over time. Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP) is a viral disease that affects younger and older cats. This serious disease can attack specific parts of a cat's body. If the virus attacks a cat's brain, for example, a seizure may present itself as a symptom.

Like FIV, the feline leukemia virus (FeLV) affects a cat's immune system. FeLV can cause secondary infections or even cancer in a cat. One of the symptoms of this virus is a neurological disorder, like seizures.

Seizures in cats can often be treated with the aid of a veterinarian. If your cat has a seizure,

take him or her to the vet, learn about the cause of the episode and follow up on care.

Hope this info helps
Till next week
Dr Ruan

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GREATER BAY AREA

Gov't: No plans yet for allowing votes outside the region

Renato Marques

THE Macau government does not have any plans yet for allowing the establishment of polling stations and the bestowal of voting rights to residents living abroad and namely on the mainland, the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau (SAFP) told the Times in response to questions on the topic.

According to the SAFP, "the 'Legislative Assembly Election Law of the Macau Special Administrative Region' clearly defines the subject matter of the voting process in order to ensure fairness and justice in this process," adding, "this Law does not contain in its provisions, a mechanism that defines the establishment of polling stations outside Macau." In its reply to the Times, the Bureau also said "the MSAR government, currently, does



not have plans for the introduction of such a mechanism."

Recently the Hong Kong government has said that it would consider giving voting rights to citizens living and working in mainland China, calculated to be about half a million people. The proposal is part of the Greater Bay Area initiative and has triggered questions from the pro-democratic wing about whether such extensions should be

implemented worldwide.

Although denying such plans, SAFP noted that such a process of establishing polling stations outside of Macau could be possible so as long as it "[complied] with a proper [manner] and process, such as the transportation of ballot papers, the number of polling stations and the choice of the locations [for the polling stations], human resources [to supervise the process], coordination with the local autho-

riety, among other uncertain factors," reasons that justify the lack of plans for the time being, and would require a prior weighing of all mentioned factors.

The proposal made by the Hong Kong government has turned into a point of concern from several lawmakers in the neighboring region, who identified issues related to the organization of the electoral process, as well as the coordination and supervision of work on polling stations, among others. Members of the Legislative Council stated that all relevant electoral legislation, risks and unforeseen incidents have to be carefully reviewed and considered, while the pro-democrats called for a broader implementation of such a rule worldwide and not just for the mainland territory, giving in this way and to all Hong Kong residents the same voting rights.

Six arrested during 'Thunder 18' operation

The Unitary Police Service carried out its "Thunder 18" operation on Friday, arresting six people illegally residing in Macau. Nearly 300 police officers took part in the operation in the casinos and nightclubs of Macau and Cotai, in conjunction with Guangdong and Hong Kong authorities. A representative from the Unitary Police said that tackling illegal immigration is one of the authorities' top priorities this year. The "Thunder 18" operation resulted in one man being arrested for illegal immigration, with another three men and two women arrested for overstaying. All were Chinese nationals.

Morais José, Alice Kok appointed to Macau Literary Festival

Journalist Carlos Morais José and artist Alice Kok will be the new faces of the Script Road Macau Literary Festival, the organizers announced in a press statement. Morais José, who is the director of the newspaper Hoje Macau, will be the new program director of the festival, replacing Hélder Beja, one of the founders of the event, who left the position of program director in light of the controversial cancellation of the participation of some of the writers invited to take part in the event. Alice Kok, president of the Arts For All Association, will take the position of executive director of the festival. Ponto Final director and Script Road founder Ricardo Pinto remains as the director of the event. The upcoming edition of the Script Road is expected to take place next year from March 15 to 24.

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Cosmetic shops convicted of illegal importing

Three cosmetic shops have been convicted of illegal importing, according to a statement released by the Macau Customs Services and the Health Bureau (SSM). The three shops are located in the northern district. In total, more than 500 medicines without import licenses were seized from three shops, including 21 Western medicines and seven kinds of proprietary Japanese medicines. The main types of medicines seized were Japanese eye drops, acne creams, rheumatism medicines and pain killers, cough drops and vitamins. The three shops involved in the case will be prosecuted, Customs and SSM announced.

Minimum capital for taxi licenses set at MOP5m

The local government has proposed to only issue taxi licenses to companies with capital over MOP5 million. The Third Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL) discussed the government's proposal concerning the city's taxi law, with members of the committee expressing different stances towards the proposal related to the minimum capital requirements. Lawmakers declared that the government is firm on corporatizing taxi services. Some of them are worried that taxi service corporatizations will transfer costs to the passengers. The government claimed that the taxi fares can only increase after the government's approval.

Fifteen locals arrested for phone scams

Fifteen local residents suspected of being involved in phone scams have been arrested, the Judiciary Police (PJ) reported last week. Recently, the PJ received reports from seven people claiming that they had fallen victim to phone scams. The victims, aged between 18 and 24 years old, reported losses of MOP1.26 million. Following the reports, the PJ arrested 16 people from 13 local telecommunication shops, 15 of whom are Macau residents who are either managers or ordinary employees of the shops in question. The 16 suspects are aged between 22 and 70 years old, consisting of 10 men and six women.

Half of elderly pension beneficiaries live outside

Between 2015 and 2017, more than 50 percent of the beneficiaries of Macau's subsidy for Senior Citizens were found to be living outside Macau, according to the Social Affairs Bureau (IAS). These residents did not report to IAS that they had moved out of the territory. Furthermore, 7.5 percent of beneficiaries' deaths were not reported to IAS, and approximately 25 percent of the beneficiaries were unreachable, or their locations could not be identified. In 2018, IAS spot-checked about 900 old-age pensions.

New Macau Association against Taipa crematorium

Julie Zhu

THE New Macau Association (ANM) has proposed the local government explore additional ways of disposing of human body remains, ANM stated in a press conference on Friday.

The proposal comes after the government's plans to build a crematorium in Taipa were met with opposition from neighboring residents.

Earlier this month, the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) announced a draft plan for building a cemetery facility on a land located in Estr. da Ponta da Cabrita, in Taipa.

ANM member Chan Lok Kei said that a number of relevant residents have filed a complaint to ANM expressing their concern and opposition to the government's proposal.

According to Chan, those who live in the vicinity of the proposed crematorium location, together with parents of students from the Anglican College, expressed their worries to the association.

Until now, the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) has not disclosed any details concerning the crematorium's construction, or its related facilities.

Chan pointed out that IACM should hold meetings for residents to attend while providing persuasive and firm evidence to testify regarding the



Chan Lok Kei (left) and Sulu Sou

Sou said that cremation could be more beneficial than the long term

government's plan.

In Chan's opinion, the government should still testify that cremation is the only option the city has to bury body and skeletal remains. Otherwise, the government should adopt other burial techniques, he said.

Lawmaker Sulu Sou commented that "during its press release, IACM said it had visited places, such as Beijing,

Hong Kong and Singapore, where it toured their crematorium management facilities, having then thought that Macau could be pollution-free [when building a crematorium]."

"Can cremation be pollution-free and is it the only option for Macau? We need IACM to clarify," requested Sou.

In 2016, the government planned to build a crematorium in Coloane, but received opposition from Coloane's residents.

Sou suggests that the local government not simply choose another location to build a crematorium but instead focus on how to fully solve the city's burial problems.

According to Sou, those living nearby the location have already submitted their opi-

nions to DSSOPT on Friday.

Somewhere between 600 to 700 residents of Edificio do Largo also signed their names on submissions addressing the governmental proposal.

"In recent days, the association received at least 10 complaints from residents of Edificio do Largo and parents of Anglican College students expressing their concerns," revealed Sou, adding, "ANM believes that Macau needs local facilities to handle human body remains. [...] If Macau has the capability and techniques, why [can't] Macau handle its own issues?"

Sou said that promession (an environmentally friendly way to dispose of human remains by way of freeze drying) could be more beneficial than cremation in the long term.

COOPERATION

Chui visits local companies operating in Hengqin

CHIEF Executive Chui Sai On led a delegation to Zhuhai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen on June 21 and 22, in order to form agreements with officials of those cities to enhance cooperation.

The delegation visited the Macau-Hengqin Youth Entrepreneurship Valley and the Guangdong-Macau Traditional Chinese Medicine Science and Technology Industrial Park, both located in Hengqin New Area, Zhuhai, amongst other sites.

Representatives of local enterprises ope-



During the trip, the CE visit the Shenzhen Stock Exchange

rating businesses in Hengqin held presentations during a seminar, in which Chui pledged that the SAR and Zhuhai governments would jointly consider policies and measures to help them develop.

Meeting with the secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Zhuhai Municipal Committee, Guo Yonghang, Chui suggested that under the framework of the Greater Bay Area development

plan, Zhuhai and Macau could enhance cooperation in the development of specialized financial businesses.

Joint plans also include a "smart city" building and growth in the role of the Traditional Chinese Medicine Science and Technology Industrial Park.

The Chief Executive said he believed that supporting cross-boundary movement of talented people would in turn facilitate flow of capital, materials and information. Meanwhile, the delegation also held a visit to an artificial intelligence technology

enterprise and an urban development firm, where they gained a better understanding of the most recent industrial trends on display in Guangzhou.

Chui said he hoped Macau would enhance its cooperation with Guangzhou based on the existing cooperative relationship, and in particular that it would develop such ties in accordance with the directions set out in the Greater Bay Area development plan, once it is released.

As the region's economy is less diverse than that of some of its neighbors, in terms of the range of its industries, he expressed hope that he would receive support from Guangzhou in order to promote technological development through regional cooperation.



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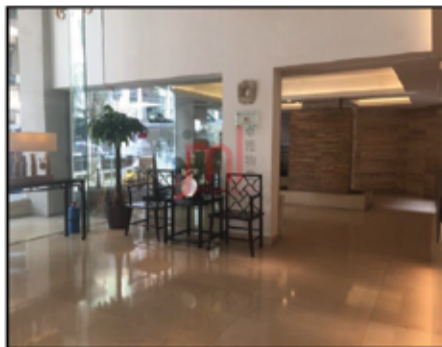
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Tai Nin – Macau

(Ref: 18050679)
850 sq.ft. HKD 8,800

Lovely furnished one bedroom apartment near Senado Square. Bright open planned living room, dining room and kitchen. Great size double bedrooms built in wardrobe in bedroom. Fourth floor of a walk up building very close to cafes, shops, banks, bus stop, a unique chance to live in Central Macau.

FOR SALE



Jubilee Court, Macau

(Ref: 18030672)
2,200 sq.ft. HKD 15.98M
Rate: HKD 7,263

Great size four bedroom apartment in downtown Macau, across the road from Star World and next to the Landmark this apartment is well located. Two double bedrooms have built wardrobes and walk in shower rooms. The other two bedrooms share a bathroom. Plenty of bespoke storage throughout the property.



Panorama Penthouse Apartment

(Ref: 18015542)
4,851 sq.ft. HKD 28M
Rate: HKD 5,772

Lower level comprising open plan lounge and dining area. This level also includes an indoor pool, 4 bedrooms & 4 bathrooms. The upper mezzanine level has a room ideal for use as a study, this area also provides access to the roof area dedicated to this apartment. Asking price includes use of one parking onsite parking space.



Bauhinia Court, Hellene Gardens

(Ref: 18015543)
1,663 sq.ft. HKD 6.8M
Rate: HKD 4,798

Stunning 3 bedroom top floor apartment with twin-carpark that accommodates 3 cars. The master bedroom has green views over the mountains and has a large fitted wardrobe the length of one wall, with modern en suite bathroom. The other two guest rooms are a good size sharing the charcoal / white modern shower room. All rooms fully air conditioned including the kitchen.



Va Nam Top Floor

(Ref: 18045550)
750 sq.ft. HKD 4.18M
Rate: HKD 5,573

This property is centrally located in Taipa and enjoys exclusive access to the corresponding rooftop area. The internal area does need some TLC which makes it a unique opportunity for investors to renovate and force appreciation. The property is currently tenanted but can be viewed with prior arrangement.



Calçada da Surpresa, 12, Ching Fai Court, Macau

(Ref: 18035547)
2,000 sq.ft. HKD 11.5M
Rate: HKD 5,750

LOFT in the centre of Macau. A unique opportunity to live in this sleek, modern property. The large open space area on the ground floor houses the open plan living and dining areas with fabulous designer kitchen located at back of the property. Viewing can be arranged by appointment.



The Buckingham, Unit C, Taipa

(Ref: 18025544)
1,186 sq.ft. HKD 9.48M
Rate: HKD 7,993

Great two bedroom apartment in Central Taipa. Open plan kitchen with fitted appliance. Two double bedrooms sharing one walk in shower room. Good size living area with balcony.



Violet Court, Hellene Gardens, Coloane

(Ref: 18035546)
2,530 sq.ft. HKD 20M
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Its unusual to find such a beautifully designed apartment in Macau especially with stunning views over Hac Sa beach. The interior renovation has been thoughtfully designed by the owners cousin a well known architect in Portugal. The quality of this apartment is second to none and a real show piece.



Choi Long Meng Chui, Taipa

(Ref: 18045555)
3,398 sq.ft. HKD 21M
Rate: HKD 6,180

Fabulous apartment with stunning open views across to Macau. Originally four bedrooms converted to three bedrooms with three bathrooms, two en suite. The open plan dining area at the back of the property has another balcony with a view of the original University of Macau. Two parking spaces (one covered and the other open).

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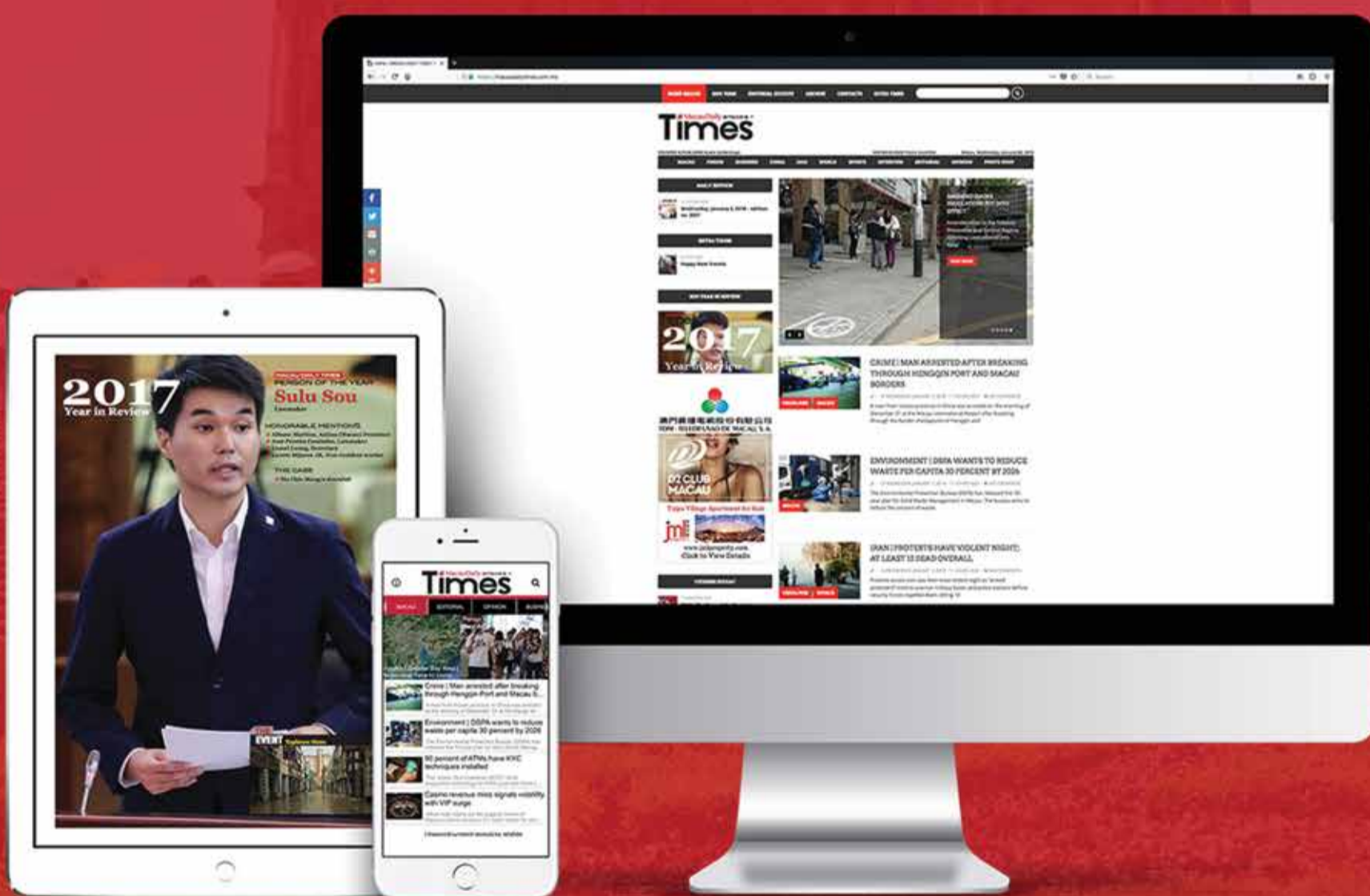
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ENVIRONMENT

Gov't questioned about progress on charge for plastic shopping bags

LAWMAKER Agnes Lam has urged the government to report the progress of its environmental levy plan on plastic shopping bags. "The Macau Solid Waste Resource Management Plan (2016-2017) planned to start charging for plastic bags in order to reduce their use. Concurrently, [Macau] will improve its recycling system to enhance efficiency. What is the actual progress concerning these two measures and what other specific measures can be launched during the year?" Agnes Lam asked in her written inquiry to the government.

Recently, Taiwan considered restricting the use of plastic straws to reduce plastic waste. However, the proposal caused controversy there.

Lam asked the government whether it is considering establishing composition standards for plastic bags, plastic straws and other plastic items.

"At the same time, will the government fine those who use sub-standard plastic bags by spot-checking merchants in the market, and will the government encourage the market to reduce

the use of plastic bags by increasing their cost?" Lam asked.

In addition to the abovementioned questions, Lam also suggested the government improve technological innovation to enhance Macau's environmental protection.

"Will the government consider setting up some research funding measures to encourage domestic and overseas scientific research personnel to come to Macau to set up laboratories to research and develop more environmentally friendly alternative materials?" Lam questioned, adding "it could strengthen Macau's research capability and increase environmental protection in Macau."



A 111-MILLION-TON TRASH PROBLEM

FEW PEOPLE consider used plastic to be a valuable global commodity. Yet China has imported 106 million tons of old bags, bottles, wrappers and containers worth USD57.6 billion since 1992, the first year it disclosed data. So when the country announced last year that it finally had enough of everybody else's junk, governments the world

over knew they had a problem. They just didn't know exactly how large it was. Now they know. By 2030, an estimated 111 million metric tons of used plastic will need to be buried or recycled somewhere else—or not manufactured at all. That's the conclusion of a new analysis of UN global trade data by University of Georgia researchers.

MSAR, Portugal sign protocol to enhance taxation transparency

SECRETARY for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong signed a protocol on the avoidance of double taxation and prevention of fiscal evasion with Portugal's secretary of State of Tax Affairs, António Mendonça Mendes, on June 21.

The signing occurred during a courtesy visit to Portugal by Leong, along with the vice chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Committee (CPPCC) Edmund Ho.

The main aim of the protocol is to enhance transparency and improve avoidance of double taxation standards, but also to maintain confidentiality when exchanging infor-



Lionel Leong (left) Edmund Ho and António Costa

mation between the two governments, thus protecting taxpayers' privacy, it was noted.

The signing of the protocol satisfies the requirements regarding peer review called for under the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax

Purposes.

As such, the protocol would be conducive to creating a fair tax environment, according to a statement issued by the Government Information Bureau.

At the signing ceremony, Leong said that Macau would continue to strengthen cooperation with other countries and regions in establishing a fair tax environment that meets

international standards.

In welcoming the delegation led by Ho, Portugal's Prime Minister António Costa said the Portuguese government would provide the SAR with support – via the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank of Portugal – regarding talent cultivation and technology development for the SAR.

Ho said that the Office of the Secretary for Economy and Finance, the Monetary Authority of Macau and other relevant departments of the SAR would contact the appropriate Portuguese government departments to discuss cooperation in the SAR's role as a commercial and trade cooperation service platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

TOURISM

MGTO marketing plans highlight HKZMB and gastronomy

THE Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) gathered for three days between June 18 and 21 for its annual meeting with the industry in which, in addition to the review of plans and activities already undertaken this year, they drafted plans for the forthcoming year.

According to a MGTO statement, during the three-day meeting, representatives from different markets evaluated the results of their work over the past year and reported their current projects and the progress of preparations for the next half of 2018. They also discussed new marketing plans which will be carried out in 2019.

Such plans, although not revealed in detail, usually include opportunities to promote Macau through different measures, such as organizing large-scale promotional events, participating in travel fairs, organizing destination presentations and networking sessions for trade, as well as bringing familiarization groups to Macau.

The meeting was attended by a total of 46 market representatives of MGTO, consultants, and representatives of promotional entities from different parts of the world. The focus for the next year will continue to be creative strategies combined with gastronomic ele-

ments to encourage travel to Macau given its new status as a Creative City of Gastronomy. The Macau Tourism Mascot, named "Mak Mak", will be part of promotions around the world as one more attraction for visitors from different markets.

During the meeting, MGTO director Maria Helena de Sena Fernandes briefed the representatives on the current tourism situation in Macau and the lineup of major local events in the second half of 2018, which include the 29th Macao International Fireworks Display Contest, the Global Tourism Economy Forum - Macau 2018, the 18th Macau Food Festival, the Macao Light Festival 2018, and the 3rd International Film Festival & Awards. The tourism head also offered an update on the latest development of the Anim'Arte Nam Van area and the promotional campaign tailored to spotlight Macau's designation as a Creative City of Gastronomy. She additionally explored the possibilities which will arise after the opening of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau bridge, primarily focusing on the opportunities to bring more tour operators across to offer new multi-destination itineraries and products under different themes in order to draw more visitors to the Greater Bay Area.

Visitor arrivals in May up by 5.2pct

INFORMATION from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) indicated that visitor arrivals totaled 2,704,745 in May 2018, up by 5.2 percent year-on-year.

As the number of visitors in April was higher due to the Easter holiday and the influx of mainland Chinese arrivals on the eve of Labour Day, visitor arrivals in May dropped by 8.7 percent month-on-month.

Meanwhile, overnight visitors (1,449,431) and same-day visitors (1,255,314) grew by 5.3 percent and 5.1 percent respectively year-on-year.

The average length of stay of visitors held steady year-on-year at 1.3 days, and that of overnight visitors and same-day visitors remained at 2.2 days and 0.2 days respectively. Visitors from mainland China increased by 9.3 percent year-on-year to 1,860,906 in May, with those travelling under the Individual Visit Scheme rising by 8.2 percent to 853,979.

Meanwhile, visitors from the United States (15,144), Australia (6,667), Canada (6,214) and the United Kingdom (4,722) decreased. Visitor arrivals by land grew by 7.5 percent year-on-year to 1,538,364, with those arriving through the Border Gate at 1,337,136, increasing by 7.2 percent.

Visitor arrivals by sea decreased by 2.5 percent year-on-year to 899,059, while those disembarking at the Outer Harbor Ferry Terminal (521,282) dropped by 6.5 percent, and those arriving at the Taipa Ferry Terminal (377,777) rose by 3.6 percent. Visitor arrivals by air totaled 267,322, surging by 23.5 percent year-on-year. In the first five months of 2018, visitor arrivals totaled 14,211,337, up by 7.8 percent year-on-year; overnight visitors (7,321,640) and same-day visitors (6,889,697) increased by 8.5 percent and 7.0 percent respectively.

From HK to London to NYC, the priciest offices on earth

BLOOMBERG

The Cost of Doing Business

Prices of prime office space around the world

■ Occupancy cost per square foot

Hong Kong (Central)	\$307
London (West End)	235
Beijing (Finance Street)	201
Hong Kong (Kowloon)	190
Beijing (Central Business District)	189
New York (Midtown Manhattan)	184
New York (Midtown South)	172
Tokyo (Marunouchi-Otemachi)	171
New Delhi (Connaught Place)	153
London (City)	145

Kristy Westgard

THE rent is due, the rankings are out and it's another year at the top for Hong Kong, the most expensive office market in the world.

Occupancy costs - which include rent, local taxes and service charges - for the city's notoriously pricey Central district are 30 percent higher than in London's West End, which took the No. 2 spot in a survey by CBRE Group Inc. of prime office real estate in the first quarter.

This is the third year in a row that Hong Kong's Central district has outstripped its peers in the survey. Its pricing power has helped spur a spate of deals, with mainland Chinese and domestic investors alike scooping up properties for record-breaking sums. Last week, Swire Properties Ltd. sold its stakes in two Hong Kong office towers to a

local businessman for HKD15 billion (USD1.91 billion).

This isn't the first time midtown Manhattan, for all its prestige, has failed to make the top five. It was the third-most-expensive market in last year's report but ninth in 2016. This time around, Midtown was third among the top decliners, after Dubai and Shanghai (Puxi).

Meanwhile, businesses leasing prime space south of Midtown are paying more than ever at \$172 a square foot, up 10 percent from a year earlier. Midtown South, which stretches roughly from 35th Street down to Canal Street, includes landmarks such as the Empire State Building.

Globally, the cost of prime office space rose 2.4 percent in the first quarter from a year earlier, driven by strong economic growth. Demand from finance, technology and e-commerce tenants played an

especially important role in the list of top gainers: Durban, South Africa; Bangkok; Marseille, France; downtown Vancouver; and Oslo.

Occupancy costs in the Americas rose 3.2 percent, with downtown Vancouver leading the pack. The markets of Europe, the Middle East and Africa followed, at 2 percent, while Asia Pacific had a 1.7 percent gain.

For the first time in the current economic cycle, growth in all three regions is above the usual trends, CBRE Global Chief Economist Richard Barkham said.

"While occupancy-cost growth in the Americas slowed slightly compared to a year earlier, it remains the region with the overall largest increase in costs," Barkham said. "We expect global office-occupancy costs to increase by approximately 2 percent in the year ahead." **Bloomberg**

Car tariffs? Europe is ready to retaliate as trade dispute grows



Richard Bravo, Marie Mawad

THE European Union says it will continue a tit-for-tat escalation in its trade dispute with the U.S. while countering President Donald Trump's assertion that the U.S. is being treated unfairly by the 28-nation bloc.

Jyrki Katainen, the EU commissioner in charge of jobs and growth, told the French newspaper *Le Monde* in a story posted Saturday that if Trump applies new tariffs to European cars, as he threatened this week, the bloc "again, would have no choice but to react."

The EU imposed tariffs on 2.8 billion euros (USD3.3 billion) of American products this week in response to duties on its metals exports deemed to be a threat to U.S. national security. The commission, the bloc's executive arm, said that the 1 trillion euros in commerce between the EU and U.S. is equitable, and it disputed Trump's assertion that the EU needs to be punished because of unfair trade practices, according to an internal EU memo obtained by Bloomberg.

The U.S. had a surplus in services trade with the EU of \$45 billion in 2017, according to the memo, citing U.S. statistics. The memo also said the EU is the largest investor in the U.S., accounting for 72 percent

of inward foreign direct investment and that EU-headquartered firms employed 3.2 million people in the states.

Including trade in goods, services and primary income from investments, the U.S. runs a 12 billion euro surplus with the EU, according to the memo.

"Based on the Tariffs and Trade Barriers long placed on the U.S. and its great companies and workers by the European Union, if these Tariffs and Barriers are not soon broken down and removed, we will be placing a 20% Tariff on all of their cars coming into the U.S. Build them here!" Trump said in the tweet.

The European tariffs target politically resonant products, including 25 percent duties on Harley-Davidson Inc. motorcycles, Levi Strauss & Co. jeans and bourbon. The countermeasures, which went into effect on Friday, hit U.S. consumer, agricultural and steel products in many key Republican constituencies, putting pressure on Trump ahead of crucial midterm elections in November.

"Members of U.S. Congress, from both parties, don't necessarily share the views of the president, nor does the private sector," Katainen told *Le Monde*. "Once the measures start making an impact, the pressure will mount." **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

MGM PARTICIPATES IN ENERGY SAVING WEEK



For the eighth consecutive year, MGM participated in the Energy Saving Week organized by the Office for the Development of the Energy

Sector (GDSE). This year's event took place between June 10 and June 16.

The gaming operator joined the "Lights-Off" action

organized by the GDSE as one of the highlights of the "Macau Energy Saving Week 2018" and participated in the "Casual Wear Day," encouraging members to wear cooler clothing to keep air-conditioning at lower levels. To raise awareness about energy conservation within the company, MGM also hosted a series of activities during the Energy Saving Week 2018, the company said in a statement.

The kick-off event was the Interdepartmental Energy Saving Champion Competition in which each department was asked to submit ideas on how to reduce energy consumption in their own context and participated in a quiz about the general awareness of energy saving.

CEM HOLDS SEMINAR ON SMART ENERGY



CEM recently held the "Smart City Smart Energy" seminar at its premises, hoping to deepen the knowledge of its personnel in the field of smart energy, the electrical company announced in a statement.

The company said that it is currently formulating medium and long-term development strategies, and that it hopes to broaden employees' perspectives through training.

Professor Yonghua Song,

rector of University of Macau (UMAC), was the guest speaker of the seminar, as he has long been engaged in electrical power system research.

During the seminar, the rector discussed opportunities and solutions for the power grid.


He gave an introduction to the background for promoting EVs and charging facilities, followed by discussion on the potential of EVs as flexible resources.

He also proposed related plans to develop an EV charging network and photovoltaic system, and smart charging at different levels, suggesting that the interactions between smart energy and intelligent traffic will be the developmental direction of smart cities in the future.

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Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, who has accused China of “intimidation and coercion” in the South China Sea, is visiting Beijing this week as the countries increasingly spar over U.S. arms sales to Taiwan and Beijing’s expanding military presence overseas.

Mattis will be the first defense secretary in President Donald Trump’s administration to visit China. His trip highlights the need for the U.S. and its chief rival in East Asia to engage each other despite increasingly stark differences and mutual suspicion.

Mattis’ mission comes at a difficult time as the Trump administration is set to start taxing USD34 billion in Chinese goods in two weeks while Beijing has vowed to retaliate with its own tariffs on U.S. products. The U.S. appears likely to rely on China for help getting North Korea to deliver on denuclearization promises made at a summit in Singapore between Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Below are some of the thorny issues:

SOUTH CHINA SEA SPARRING

The South China Sea will likely be near the top of the agenda in discussions between Mattis and Chinese officials, with the U.S. issuing threats against Beijing for its continued militarization of the waters. “There are consequences that will continue to come home to roost, so to speak, with China, if they don’t find a way to work more collaboratively with all of the nations who have interests,” Mattis said earlier this month. He said China’s weapons were placed in the region for “intimidation and coercion.” The Pentagon last month withdrew its invitation for China to participate in a large-scale multinational naval exercise in what it called “an initial res-

Mattis to visit Beijing as Taiwan, S. China Sea tensions rise



Defense Secretary Jim Mattis (center)

ponse” to the militarization of the South China Sea.

KOREAN PENINSULA

China was seen as taking home a major win when Trump announced at the summit with Kim that the U.S. would suspend joint U.S.-South Korea war games that North Korea and China have long opposed. Both Mattis and South Korea were seen as caught off-guard by the decision. U.S. and South Korean officials now see the pledge as helping advance nuclear negotiations with North Korea. China welcomed the move, and Kim met with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing last week but no new measures toward denuclearization have been announced. Trump said last week that “total denuclearization” has “already started taking place.” Mattis, however,

was asked Wednesday whether he had seen any sign that North Korea had begun steps toward denuclearization and replied: “I’m not aware of any. Obviously, we’re at the very front end of the process.”

TANGLING OVER TAIWAN

China’s complaints about U.S. contacts with Taiwan have grown louder as the U.S. has sought to increase exchanges with the self-ruled island Beijing claims as its territory, and sells more weapons to it. Mattis will likely hear those arguments made even more forcibly after Trump this year signed the Taiwan Travel Act encouraging high-level visits between the two sides, and the Department of Defense agreed to give American contractors marketing licenses for diesel-electric submarine technology sought by Taiwan’s ar-

med forces. The U.S. government also approved a \$1.4 billion arms sale to Taiwan last year, although in an effort to mollify Beijing, has been reluctant to supply everything the island’s leadership wants.

TRUMP’S “SPACE FORCE” CALL

Trump’s announcement last week that he was directing the Pentagon to create a new “Space Force” drew attention in China and may be among the items for discussion in Beijing. Trump framed space as a national security issue, saying he does not want “China and Russia and other countries leading us.” While the U.S. has dominated in space since its 1969 moon landing, China is making strong headway, while Russia is in decline. China says it opposes the militarization of ou-

ter space, but demonstrated its growing prowess in the field in 2007 when it fired a missile that destroyed a defunct Chinese satellite, creating an enormous debris field and drawing concerns from the U.S. and others.

PLA’S OVERSEAS EXPANSION

In addition to its increased presence in the South China Sea, the People’s Liberation Army is expanding its footprint in areas where the U.S. and its allies have traditionally held sway. Most strikingly, China opened its first foreign military base in Djibouti last year, joining the U.S. and a number of other countries with military installations in the Horn of Africa nation. Operating in closer proximity has at times created friction — the U.S. issued a formal complaint to Beijing over the use of lasers that targeted U.S. aircraft in Djibouti on several occasions. The U.S. has also complained about dangerous maneuvers by Chinese military aircraft tailing U.S. surveillance planes in the South and East China seas.

CHINA’S TECHNOLOGICAL THREAT

Department of Defense officials last week warned lawmakers that China and other countries were threatening America’s “technological and military dominance.” Michael D. Griffin, undersecretary of defense for research and engineering, told the House Armed Services Committee’s Military Personnel Subcommittee that China was stealing technology and intellectual property in a way that was “significant and intentional.” AP

Hainan unveils plan to allow tourists to bypass censors

Robert Fenner

HAINAN, the Chinese tropical island seeking to become a global tourism attraction, plans to allow foreign visitors access to currently blocked sites such as YouTube.

Usage of services including Facebook and Twitter would be allowed in areas of Hainan’s two biggest cities of Haikou and Sanya, according to the provincial government’s three-year plan posted on an official website.

The document said access would be granted in areas where tourists ga-

ther, without being more specific. It also didn’t say if the proposal has the support of the national government.

China blocks a raft of foreign websites and social networks through a sophisticated network

of censors known as the Great Firewall, restricting access to Instagram and Snapchat as well as foreign media including the New York Times and Wall Street Journal. Google has had most of its services blocked for years

“Within the two important tourist cities of Haikou and Sanya, we have a plan to build a foreign tourism zone.”

PLAN



after the company refused to self-censor search results.

“Within the two important tourist cities of Haikou and Sanya, we have a plan to build a

foreign tourism zone based on the development experiences of Bangkok, Spain’s Majorca and other cities,” the document read. “Within those zones, foreigners will

be able to use as normal popular overseas services such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.”

Hainan is located off China’s southern coast, close to Vietnam. Bloomberg

ADVERTORIAL

SANDS CHINA NEWS

Sands China Team Members Take the Clean Plate Challenge

Team members reduce food waste in support of World Environment Day

Sands China Ltd. team members completed the Clean Plate Challenge June 5-7, in support of the U.N.'s World Environment Day. Held annually on June 5, World Environment Day encourages global awareness and action for the protection of the environment.

The three-day activity challenged team members at the company's staff dining rooms to take only what they would eat and turn in a clean plate. An initiative of the Sands ECO360 global sustainability strategy, the Clean Plate Challenge has the goal of increasing team members' awareness of living green and minimising food waste.

For this year's event, team members completed the Clean Plate Challenge a total of over 65,000 times. Team members serving as Clean Plate Ambassadors were on hand to note any food waste, paying attention to the different types of waste in order to make future improvements to the effort.

"I don't usually think about food waste on a daily basis, so this was a good reminder for me to look at how much food I'm grabbing," said one of the participating team members. "Even though I'm just one person – when you think about how many team members we have – it really makes a big impact if we're all careful about how much we waste."

Sands China's senior vice president of resort operations and development, Mark McWhinnie, said: "At our company, we try to approach environmental sustainability from as many angles as possible, so that we can minimise our carbon footprint. Being a large operation, the success of each measure is significantly multiplied due to our massive scale. Initiatives like the Clean Plate Challenge not only support worthwhile endeavours like World Environment Day, but also significantly contribute to increasing the effectiveness and reach of Sands ECO360."

Sands China's participation in World Environment Day is one of the many ongoing efforts of the Sands ECO360 global sustainability strategy, which utilises measures like energy saving, resource recycling, conservation and community engagement. Sands ECO360 is designed to help minimise the company's environmental impact and lead the way in sustainable building development and resort operations.

Sands China's support of World Environment Day also included an eco-conscious nature walk in Coloane June 3, where team members from the Sands Cares Ambassador volunteer programme cleaned up debris along the Long Chao Kok Coastal Trail.



Sands China team members take the Clean Plate Challenge June 5 at The Venetian Macao. The three-day event took place June 5-7 throughout Sands China's properties in support of World Environment Day, which seeks to encourage global awareness and action for the protection of the environment. The Clean Plate Challenge is one of the efforts of the Sands ECO360 global sustainability strategy.

John Oliver blocked on social media after scathing show

A popular Chinese social media site is censoring discussion of "Last Week Tonight" and its HBO host John Oliver after he mocked Chinese President Xi Jinping, his apparent sensitivity about being compared to Winnie the Pooh and his country's crackdown on human rights.

Attempts to send posts with either the terms "John Oliver" or "Last Week Tonight" on the Sina Weibo microblog Friday were met with failure messages saying "the content contains information that violates relevant laws and regulations."

Oliver's show last week made satirical references to Xi and the way that Chinese internet users often joke that he resembles Winnie the Pooh. The show also referred to China's internment of hundreds of thousands of members of the Muslim Uighur minority groups in political indoctrination camps.

Oliver called Xi "the man who is now emperor for life," referring to the Chinese leader's power grab earlier this year when presidential term limits were eliminated.

On YouTube, the video of the 20-minute segment was viewed more than 3.3 million

times by Friday.

The show also turned a critical eye to Xi's signature anti-corruption crackdown that has ensnared political rivals and his hallmark program of overseas infrastructure projects known as the "Belt and Road" initiative.

Oliver's show included a parody of a propaganda music video made to promote the initiative in which children sing about China being an autocracy that abuses its citizens' human rights. "This is the China Xi doesn't want you to see," they sing in chorus.

It also discussed moves to build up a cult of personality around Xi, the ruling Communist Party's attacks on human rights campaigners and the death of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Liu Xiaobo last year while serving a prison term for subversion.

The censoring of social media posts was the latest sign of the country's increasing sensitivity over political content and satire. China maintains some of the world's toughest restrictions on content online as well as on foreign news and entertainment broadcasters such as HBO.

Weibo did not immediately respond Friday to a request for comment. **AP**

Central bank to unleash USD108b in reserves cut

CHINA'S central bank will cut the amount of cash some lenders must hold as reserves, unlocking about 700 billion yuan (USD108 billion) of liquidity, as it seeks to control leverage and support smaller companies.

The required reserve ratio for some banks will drop by 0.5 percentage point, effective July 5, the People's Bank of China said on its website yesterday. The aim is to support small and micro enterprises, and to further promote the debt-to-equity swap program, according to the central bank. The cut will apply to major state-run commercial banks, joint-stock commercial lenders, postal banks, city commercial lenders, rural banks and foreign banks.

Such a reduction had been wi-

dely expected, especially after China's cabinet said on Wednesday that it would use monetary policy tools, including cutting reserve ratios for some banks, to boost credit supply to smaller companies.

The PBOC designed the cut to do two different things. The 500 billion yuan unlocked for the nation's five biggest state-run banks and 12 joint-stock commercial lenders will be channeled to debt-to-equity swaps, which can reduce companies' debt burdens and help cleaning up banks' balance sheets. The 200 billion yuan freed for smaller lenders such as the postal bank and city commercial lenders will be used to support funding for smaller businesses. **Bloomberg**

OBITUARY

Ex-S. Korean premier Kim Jong-pil, spy agency founder, dies

Hyung-Jin Kim, Seoul

KIM Jong-pil, the founder of South Korea's spy agency whose political skills helped him also serve twice as prime minister, first under his dictator boss and later under a man his agency kidnapped, has died. He was 92.

Kim was declared dead on arrival at Seoul's Soonchunhyang University Hospital from his home on Saturday, said hospital official Lee Mi-jong. He described the cause of death as age-related complications.

South Korea's presidential office released a statement saying Kim's "fingerprints and footprints that marked South Korea's modern political history will not be easily erased."

A retired lieutenant colonel, Kim was a key member of a 1961 coup that put army Maj. Gen. Park Chung-hee in power until his 1979 assassination. Park was the father of Park Geun-hye, South Korea's first female president, who was ousted from office last year over an explosive corruption scandal and is now serving a 24-year prison term.

After the senior Park seized power, Kim created and headed the Korean Central Intelligence Agency, a predecessor of the current National Intelligence Service, before serving as his prime minister, the country's No. 2 post, from 1971 to 1975.

Park Chung-hee used the spy agency as a tool to suppress his political rivals at home, including then-opposition leader Kim Dae-jung, who became South Korea's president in the late 1990s.

A government fact-finding panel said in 2007 that KCIA agents



Kim Jong-pil pictured in 2016

kidnapped Kim Dae-jung from a Tokyo hotel in 1973, days before he was to start a coalition of Japan-based South Korean organizations to work for their country's democratization. It was the first official confirmation of one of the most notorious KCIA operations to stifle dissent.

Kim Jong-pil didn't direct the agency at the time of the 1973 kidnapping, and 25 years later he joined forces with Kim Dae-jung and helped him win the 1997 presidential election. He served as Kim Dae-jung's prime minister from 1998 to 2000 under a power-sharing plan.

The 2007 panel report did not draw a clear conclusion on whether the kidnapping was ultimately aimed at killing Kim Dae-jung, who said his abductors nearly

dumped him from a ship at sea before they stopped when a U.S. military helicopter made a low pass over the vessel.

Related to Park by marriage, Kim Jong-pil was his No. 2 man for much of his rule. But after Park was gunned down by his intelligence chief during a late-night drinking party in October 1979 and a new military junta led by Maj. Gen. Chun Doo-hwan seized power through a coup, Kim was accused of corruption and surrendered property worth millions of dollars before moving to the United States.

Kim returned to South Korea after Chun, bowing to weeks of massive public protests, allowed a free, direct presidential election in 1987, which marked South Korea's transition toward a genuine

democracy. Kim founded his own conservative party and ran for the hotly contested 1987 election to compete with Chun's army buddy and government candidate Roh Tae-woo, Kim Dae-jung and another opposition leader, Kim Young-sam.

Roh won the election largely thanks to a split in opposition votes, while Kim Jong-pil placed fourth. The three opposition candidates came to dominate South Korean politics in the so-called "era of the three Kims."

Kim Jong-pil had enjoyed strong support from his home turf in central Chungcheong province and people who valued the rapid economic development during Park's rule. But he never reached a level of support to seriously contend for the presidency

and instead became a kingmaker by exercising his political leverage in presidential races.

In 1990, he and Kim Young-sam merged their parties with Roh's ruling party in a landmark three-way alliance, which eventually helped Kim Young-sam win the 1992 presidential election. The merger of pro-democracy fighters and former coup members invited long-running criticism that it dampened democracy.

■ Park was the father of Park Geun-hye, South Korea's first female president, who was ousted from office last year

After supporting Kim Dae-jung's successful 1997 presidential bid, Kim Jong-pil and his conservative party members were given several Cabinet posts in the new government. But their coalition fell apart in 2001 because of a dispute over Kim Dae-jung's famous "sunshine policy" of engaging North Korea with aid and exchange programs. Kim Dae-jung won the 2000 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to reconcile with North Korea and promote democracy in South Korea.

Dubbed as "perennial No. 2 man," Kim Jong-pil served as a member of the National Assembly nine times. He quit politics in 2004 after his now-defunct United Liberal Democrats suffered crushing defeats in parliamentary elections.

"I've been completely burned to ashes," he said at a retirement news conference.

Kim is to be buried at a family cemetery in central South Korea after five days of mourning, according to South Korean media. **AP**

EAST TIMOR

New gov't marred by corruption allegations

Oki Raimundos, Dili

EAST Timor's president has refused to swear in 11 Cabinet ministers because of corruption investigations in a rocky beginning for a new government formed after a protracted political stalemate in the young nation.

Former President and independence fighter Jose Maria Vasconcelos, commonly known as Taur Matan Ruak, was sworn in as prime minister on Friday after a three-party alliance won a majority of parliament seats in a May 25 election.

President Francisco Guterres Lu Olo said eight nominated ministers, including for finance and defense, and three vice-ministers can't be sworn in because the public prosecutor's office is investigating corruption cases against them. Some also have previous corruption convictions, he said.

The election in May followed the collapse of a minority government that was in power for just a few months.

Despite the shaky start, Matan Ruak said the new administration would be a "confident government"

that develops the country without leaving anyone behind.

"The time of lacking dialogue, of non-compliance, deadlock or crisis, is fortunately past, and was overcome by the exemplary behavior of the different parties and leaders, and by the political maturity shown by our citizens," he said.

Independence hero Xanana Gusmao, who led the biggest party in the winning alliance, did not attend the swearing-in ceremony in protest at the president's decision to block 11 of the nominees for

the 43-member Cabinet.

East Timor, a former Portuguese colony, was occupied by Indonesia for a quarter century. It gained independence after a U.N.-sponsored referendum in 1999 but reprisals by the Indonesian military devastated the East Timorese half of the island of Timor.

Today, the country of 1.3 million people still faces extreme poverty. Leaders including Gusmao, who was East Timor's first president from 2002 to 2007 and prime minister from 2007 to 2015, have focused on big-ticket infrastructure projects to develop the



Prime Minister Taur Matan Ruak reads out the oath of office during his inauguration in Dili

economy, funding them from a dwindling amount of oil riches, but progress is hardly discernible.

Presidential and parliamentary elections last year were the first held without U.N. supervision. **AP**

THAILAND

Junta chief says he'll decide political future by September

THAILAND'S Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-Ocha said he may decide whether to enter the political fray in September while reiterating that his military government is committed to holding an election early next year.

In an interview in London last week, Prayuth said he was considering joining a political party to ensure that his policies continue under the new administration. The former army chief seized power in Thailand in May 2014 after a prolonged period of sometimes bloody unrest, pledging to restore stability and revamp the country's political system.

"It depends on the Thai people," Prayuth, 64, said when asked if he would join a political party. "When I made overseas trips, some Thai people I met want continuity of my policy in Thailand."

"I can probably give you my answer in September," he added. "I might have more clarity then. I still have time."

The current stretch of military rule is one of Thailand's longest



since the 1970s, in a nation with frequent coups since the end of absolute monarchy in 1932. Prayuth has unfettered executive power as head of the National Council for Peace and Order, the formal name of the junta, and politicians have speculated he may seek to retain power after the election.

In the years before the most recent army takeover, fissures in Thai society triggered violent

clashes between urban royalists and rural backers of exiled former leader Thaksin Shinawatra. Allies of Thaksin have won every election dating back to 2001, only to be unseated by the courts or military.

Prayuth's administration has repeatedly pushed back the timeline for elections, most recently to February 2019. Earlier this week, Prayuth said the pending coronation of King Maha Vajiralongkorn

would precede the polls, stirring fresh doubt about the latest schedule.

In the interview, Prayuth said the royal event won't affect the plan for a poll possibly in February. Under Thailand's constitutional monarchy, the king is the head of state and all legislation requires his seal of approval.

"I think we can work on both in tandem," Prayuth said of the election and the coronation. "We just want to make sure they go smoothly because both events are important."

The baht gained 0.2 percent to 32.886 per dollar as of 2 p.m. in Bangkok after Prayuth reaffirmed the election timeline.

The next vote will be under a military-backed constitution, which critics say gives appointed soldiers, judges and bureaucrats the power to stifle elected politicians. The charter makes it possible for Prayuth to be reappointed as premier in certain circumstances -- even if he doesn't join a political party.

It's not clear whether a fresh election will inspire confidence in

Thailand's outlook, or revive memories of its destabilizing cycle of violent protests and military intervention to oust elected governments. While economic growth is at a five-year high, the military government faces a fight for support as people in rural areas say they aren't seeing the benefits of the expansion.

While the European Union had accused Prayuth's government of severely curtailing civil rights and freedom of expression, in December it said it would pursue a gradual political re-engagement because of the prospect of an end to military rule. The junta had banned political activity after seizing power and continues to impose the prohibition, although it has permitted parties to make some initial preparations for elections.

Prayuth visited British Prime Minister Theresa May on Wednesday and meets French President Emmanuel Macron today. He and Macron are expected to preside over the signing of an agreement for Thailand to purchase a satellite from Airbus SE.

Prayuth said the political system implemented by his government is intended to stop the cycle of unrest and coups.

"We don't want to see intervention in the future," he said. "The system that we designed and put in place now is to make sure that Thailand will become a fully functional democratic country." **Bloomberg**

AD

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Aya Batrawy, Riyadh

SAUDI women steered their cars through busy streets for the first time yesterday after the world's last remaining ban on women driving was lifted.

It's a historic moment for women who have had to rely on their husbands, fathers, brothers and drivers to run basic errands, get to work, visit friends or even drop kids off at school. The ban had relegated women to the backseat, restricting when and how they move around.

But after midnight Sunday [Saudi Arabia time], Saudi women finally joined women around the world in being able to get behind the wheel of a car and simply drive.

"I'm speechless. I'm so excited it's actually happening," said Hessah al-Ajaji, who drove her family's Lexus down the capital's busy Tahlia Street after midnight.

Al-Ajaji had a U.S. driver's license before obtaining a Saudi one and appeared comfortable at the wheel as she pulled up and parked. As for the male drivers on the road, "they were really supportive and cheering and smiling," she said.

In a few hours, she says she'll drive herself to work for the first time in Saudi Arabia.

For nearly three decades, outspoken Saudi women and the men who supported them had called for women to have the right to drive. They faced arrest for defying the ban even as women in other conservative Muslim countries drove freely.

In 1990, during the first driving campaign by activists, women who drove in the capital, Riyadh, lost their jobs,



Hessah al-Ajaji drives her car down the capital's busy Tahlia Street after midnight for the first time in Riyadh

Saudi women hit the roads after driving ban is lifted

faced severe stigmatization and were barred from travel abroad for a year.

Ultraconservatives in Saudi Arabia had long warned that allowing women to drive would lead to sin and expose women to harassment. Ahead of allowing women to drive, the kingdom passed a law against sexual harassment

with up to five years in prison for the most severe cases.

Criticism against women driving has largely been muted since King Salman announced the lifting of the ban last year. But at least 10 of the most outspoken supporters of women's rights were arrested just weeks before the ban was lifted, signaling

that only the king and his powerful son, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, will decide the pace of change.

With state-backed support for the move, many Saudis now say they support the decision allowing women to drive and see it as long overdue.

Tahani al-Dosemani drove

her husband and two kids to the store Sunday morning, the kind of errand she'd need a man for in the past.

"As you can see here, I am heading to the supermarket with my family," she said. "I am depending on myself. All the family shopping needs, and going to school and everything. All these things I can now do by myself."

Not all women are driving at once, though. The overwhelming majority of women in Saudi Arabia still don't have licenses. Many haven't had a chance to take the gender-segregated driving courses that were first offered to women only three months ago. There's also a waiting list of several months for the classes on offer in major cities. And the classes can be costly, running several hundred dollars.

Other women already own cars driven by chauffeurs and are in no rush to drive themselves. In many cases, women say they'll wait before rushing to drive to see how the situation on the streets pans out and how male drivers react.

"I will get my driver's license, but I won't drive because I have a driver. I am going to leave it for an emergency. It is one of my rights and I will keep it in my purse," said 60-year-old Lulwa al-Fireiji.

While some still quietly oppose the change, there are men openly embracing it.

"I see that this decision will make women equal to men and this will show us that women are capable of doing anything a man can do," said Fawaz al-Harbi. "I am very supportive and in fact I have been waiting for this decision so that my mother, my sisters will drive." AP

HERITAGE

France, Belgium seek UNESCO recognition for WWI memorials

Raf Casert, Brussels

FRANCE and Belgium are urging UNESCO to designate scores of their World War I memorials and cemeteries as World Heritage sites as the centennial remembrance of the 1914-1918 war nears its end.

Both sides of the Franco-Belgian border, where much of the fiercest fighting of World War I took place, are dotted with monuments to the dead who fought on the decisive Western Front battlefields like Verdun in France and Passchendaele in Belgium.

The war between a group led by Germany against France, the British Commonwealth and the United States saw some 3 million people die around the front line, which stretched from the Belgian coast to the Swiss border. More than 2 million men are buried in the region, hailing from almost 80 present-day nations.

"These sites force us to draw lessons from the past in order to construct a more peaceful future," said Minister-President Geert Bourgeois from Belgium's Flemish region, which was particularly hard hit

during the war.

France and Belgium are seeking recognition for 139 sites. UNESCO's World Heritage committee will assess their request and 29 other nominations for inclusion on the list during a meeting in Bahrain that starts Sunday and runs until July 4.

Even though the scenes of dank trenches and pockmarked battlefields where nerve gas could kill thousands a day are iconic, France and Belgium are centering on the dead and the cemeteries and memorials instead. They stress they do not want to glorify

war.

"Immediately after the war, these were mainly places for mourning, for pilgrimages of the ones who had lost their loved ones. But quite quickly they became much more than that," said Luc Vandael, project manager for the Flemish region.

"They became an appeal for peace and reconciliation. The slogan 'no more wars' is quickly associated with those sites. So yes, there is something larger than just being a cemetery," Vandael said.

Now people make pilgrimages from across the



A sculpture entitled "Mourning Parents" looks over a German WWI cemetery in Vladslo, Belgium

world to remember those who gave their lives in western Europe. The appeal of the sites has spiked during the four years of centennial remembrances that will end with the marking of the Nov. 11, 1918, armistice.

The Menin Gate in western Belgium is one of the most iconic memorials. It is etched with the names of

almost 54,000 soldiers killed in the months-long battles around Ypres, many of whose remains were never recovered or did not receive proper burials.

"Through these sites, the nations and people involved can accommodate a shared part of their history. And this is truly a heritage of the world," said Bourgeois. AP

TURKEY

Polls close in elections that are test for Erdogan

POLLS closed yesterday in Turkey's high-stakes presidential and parliamentary elections, which could consolidate President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's grip on power or curtail his vast political ambitions.

Opposition leaders had cast their ballots vowing to be vigilant against voting fraud. The elections will complete Turkey's transition to a new executive presidential system, a move approved in a controversial referendum last year.

Erdogan, 64, is seeking reelection for a five-year term with hugely increased powers under the new system, which he insists will bring prosperity and stability to Turkey, especially after a failed coup attempt in 2016 that has left the country under a state of emergency. His ruling Justice and Development Party, or AKP, is hoping to retain its majority in parliament.

Still, Erdogan — who has been in power since 2003 — is facing a more robust, united opposition

this time. Opposition candidates have vowed to return Turkey to a parliamentary democracy with strong checks and balances and have decried what they call Erdogan's "one-man rule."

Muharrem Ince, Erdogan's main challenger, warned civil servants involved in the vote count to do their jobs "abiding by the law" and without fear, suggesting they were under pressure by the government. He asked all Turks to be vigilant at polls and not be "demoralized" by what he called the possible manipulation of news.

Five candidates are running against Erdogan in the presidential race. Although Erdogan is seen as the front-runner, he must secure more than 50 percent of the vote Sunday for an outright win. If that does not happen, a runoff would be held July 8 between the leading two contenders.

"With these elections, Turkey is achieving a virtual democratic revolution," Erdogan told reporters after voting in Istanbul. He

said turnout appeared to be high and that "no serious incidents" had occurred. Supporters outside the polling station chanted his name and urged the Turkish president to "Stand tall!"

Ince, a 54-year-old former physics teacher, is backed by the center-left opposition Republican People's Party, or CHP. He has wooed crowds with an unexpectedly engaging campaign, drawing massive numbers at his rallies in Turkey's three main cities of Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir.

Also challenging Erdogan is 61-year-old former Interior Minister Meral Aksener, the only female presidential candidate in the race. She broke away from Turkey's main nationalist party over its support for Erdogan and formed the center-right, nationalist Good Party.

More than 59 million Turkish citizens — including 3 million expatriates — were eligible to vote. Erdogan called the election more than a year early in what analysts say was a pre-emptive



AP PHOTO

move ahead of a possible economic downturn.

Turkey was also electing 600 lawmakers to parliament — 50 more than in the previous assembly. The constitutional changes have allowed parties to form alliances, paving the way for Ince's and Aksener's parties to join a small Islamist party in the "Nation Alliance" against Erdogan.

Selahattin Demirtas, the presidential candidate of the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party, or HDP, was forced to run his campaign from prison, where he is being held in pre-trial detention on terrorism-related charges. Demirtas denies any wrongdoing, saying his imprisonment is politically motivated so Erdogan's government can

stay in power.

The pro-Kurdish HDP was left out of the anti-Erdogan alliance and needs to pass a 10 percent threshold to win seats in parliament. If that happens it could cost Erdogan's AKP and its nationalist ally in the "People Alliance" dozens of seats — leading it to lose its parliamentary majority.

The vote is taking place under a state of emergency declared after the failed coup attempt, which allows the government to curtail civil rights. Some 50,000 people have been arrested and 110,000 civil servants have been fired under the emergency powers, which opposition lawmakers say Erdogan is using to stifle dissent. AP

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Offbeat

Zsa Zsa, THE ENGLISH BULLDOG, WINS WORLD'S UGLIEST DOG TITLE



A 9-year-old English bulldog was named the winner of the 2018 World's Ugliest Dog contest in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Zsa Zsa won the title Saturday night at the Sonoma-Marin Sonoma-Marin Fairgrounds in Petaluma.

The dog's owner Megan Brainard of Anoka, Minnesota, will receive \$1,500 for Zsa Zsa's win. Brainard found Zsa Zsa on a pet-finding site, according to the contest bio.

Dogs in the annual competition flaunt their imperfections - some have hairless bodies, others have lolling tongues. The dogs and their handlers walk down a red carpet. The dogs are evaluated by a panel of judges.

The contestants included a blackhead-covered Chinese Crested-Dachshund mutt, a bulldog mix with excess wrinkly skin and a Pekingese named Wild Thang.

Last year's winner was a 125-pound (57-kilogram) gentle giant named Martha - a Neopolitan Mastiff with gas and a droopy face.

The contest is in its 30th year. It is usually held on Friday nights, but organizers moved the competition to Saturday in an effort to draw a bigger audience.

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13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:35	Miscellaneous
17:55	Non-daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:10	FIFA World Cup Diary
19:35	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Sports
22:10	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

21 - 27 JUN



HOTEL ARTEMIS

ROOM 1

2:30, 9:30pm

ROOM 3

4:30pm

Director: Drew Pearce

Starring: Jodie Foster, Dave Bautista

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 94min



JURASSIC WORLD: FALLEN KINGDOM

ROOM 1

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

Director: J.A. Bayona

Starring: Chris Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard, BD Wong

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 135min



OCEAN'S EIGHT

ROOM 2

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

Director: Gary Ross

Starring: Sandra Bullock, Cate Blanchett, Anne Hathaway

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 110min

THE LEAKERS

ROOM 1

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

Director: Herman Yau

Starring: Francis Ng, Julian Cheung, Charmaine Sheh

Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 100min

this day in history



South Korean President Syngman Rhee

1950 UN CONDEMNS NORTH KOREAN INVASION

North Korea has invaded South Korea at several points along the two countries' joint border.

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has denounced North Korea's actions as a breach of the peace and has called for an immediate ceasefire.

The United States President Harry S Truman has gone a step further and urged western nations to go out to Korea and help repel the communist invasion.

"By their actions in Korea, communist leaders have demonstrated their contempt for the basic moral principles on which the United Nations is founded," he said.

The invasion took the international community by surprise, even though the American Economic Co-operation Administration has its biggest mission - about 2,000 staff - in South Korea.

The seven-power commission of the United Nations in Korea (Uncok) confirmed North Korean troops crossed the border - known as the 38th parallel - in 11 places after artillery bombardments were reported in South Korea at 0400 local time.

Uncok has identified northern forces in the Ongjin peninsula and the north-western town of Kaesong and northerly town of Chunchon and landings on the east coast around Skagnung, almost 40 miles from the border.

Their statement also contained details of machine-gun attacks by four 'Yak' aircraft on military and civilian airfields outside the South Korean capital Seoul, destroying aircraft and jeeps and setting fire to petrol tanks.

President Syngman Rhee of South Korea - who denied early rumours of war - told Uncok at least 36 North Korean tanks and armoured cars had been counted on their way to Seoul by the shortest routes.

The North Korean wireless station, in the capital Pyongyang, justified the invasion saying communist forces were counter-attacking against border incursions by the South Koreans in the early hours of the morning and reported a state of war shortly after noon local time.

After an emergency meeting with his cabinet South Korea's foreign minister Ben Limb urged the people of the republic to resist the "dastardly attack".

The UN Security Council met at Lake Success, Detroit after the Korean Ambassador John Myung Changan sent an urgent petition to the State Department in Washington.

Korea has been divided since the Japanese withdrawal at the end of World War II left the USSR occupying the area north of the 38th parallel and the US to the south.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

For the first time the UN asked broadcasters - including the BBC and Voice of America - to transmit the UN ceasefire resolution to North Korea. The republican government fled Seoul and the following day America offered military aid - including air and sea support - to South Korea.

On 28 June North Korean troops entered the capital and took control. The UN invoked military sanctions shortly afterwards.

President Truman and his government interpreted the invasion as Russian-backed communist aggression.

The USSR and North Korean authorities claimed they were responding to attacks from the republican south.

The war cost about two million lives.

Fighting did not stop until 1953 with the signing of the armistice on 27 July.

But a peace deal has never been reached. American troops remain stationed in the de-militarized zone on and around the 38th parallel separating North and South Korea.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 At this point, you really don't know what else to do. It seems obvious that someone you've been friends with for some time has misrepresented themselves in a great big way.

Taurus April 20-May 20 At the moment, however, you may need to muster up some of that world famous patience and persistence - and summon your intuition, too - to actually have what you want.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Just don't waste your time or energy on monetary bets. Take a chance on a relationship, and rest assured that if that charming gift of gab holds up - and when has it ever let you down?

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Get into your comfiest clothes and whip up one of those wonderful meals you've always been able to prepare in no time flat. Pop in your favorite video and put your feet up. There.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Your friends have come to count on that freewheeling attitude, so they've been putting since you started this hibernation. Once they arrive, though, after inviting themselves over.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 It's still your time - your chance to let your feelings show proudly, without any trace of self-consciousness. This is your opportunity, and you're oh, so ready for it.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 The individual who'll put that flush in your cheeks may also be arranging a lovely surprise for you, too - something you'll never see coming. They'll be amply rewarded for their efforts, of course.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Your sense of smell goes well beyond the physical. You can sense a storm by simply taking in the air - and that goes for all kinds of storms. So when you get a whiff of a problem with a coworker.

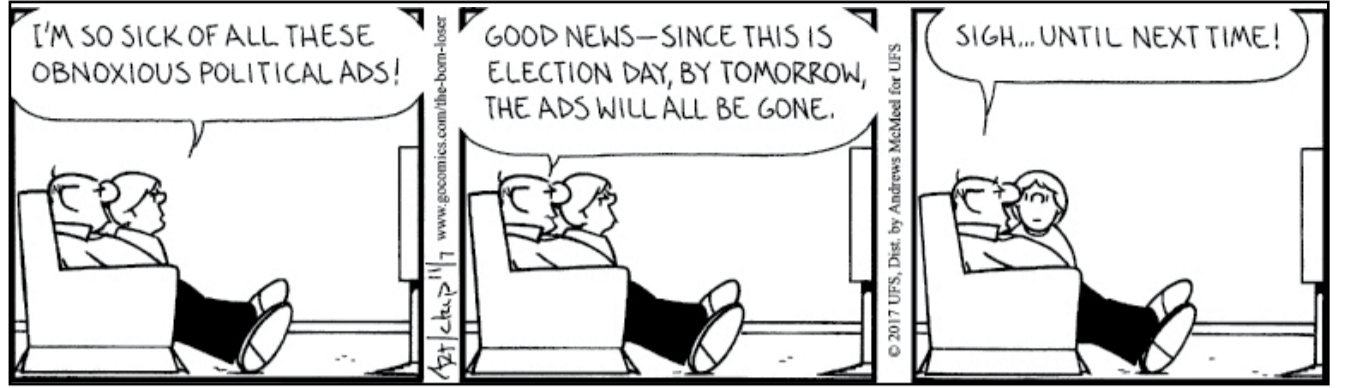
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Aren't you glad you did some socializing? You may not realize it just yet, but that person you ran into recently - you know, the one you haven't been able to stop yourself from thinking about.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Stop tapping and get moving. When you're this restless, there's usually only one reason: There's something you know you need to do and you're unable to do it. In this case.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 For the second day in a row, you just can't seem to stop yourself from going on at length - big time. You're so darned chatty, in fact, that even people who know you well may end up exchanging glances.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 The way you see it, you've earned it. Before you pull out the plastic and hire the band, though, think about how many inexpensive ways there are to have fun. The best things in life may not be free....

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



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Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

MIN MAX CONDITION

CHINA

Beijing 25 34 cloudy/thundershower
Harbin 16 23 moderate rain
Tianjin 28 33 cloudy/thundershower
Urumqi 21 32 clear
Xi'an 23 35 overcast/cloudy
Lhasa 15 27 shower
Chengdu 22 29 rainstorm/shower
Chongqing 26 36 cloudy
Kunming 17 23 moderate rain
Nanjing 24 34 cloudy
Shanghai 23 33 drizzle/overcast
Wuhan 26 35 cloudy
Hangzhou 24 34 cloudy
Taipei 26 33 overcast/cloudy
Guangzhou 26 33 thundershower
Hong Kong 26 30 cloudy

WORLD

Moscow 15 22 drizzle
Frankfurt 9 23 overcast/drizzle
Paris 11 25 overcast/clear
London 10 24 cloudy/clear
New York 18 28 drizzle

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Take an oath; 6- Manila hemp plant; 11- Santa ____, Calif.; 14- Championship; 15- Polynesian porch; 16- Designer Claiborne; 17- Not joined; 19- Phila. clock setting; 20- Any huge creature; 21- Yes ____, Bob!; 23- Mrs. McKinley; 24- Zealot; 25- Pines for; 29- Big; 30- Cornerstone abbr.; 31- London gallery; 32- Narrow inlet; 35- In spite of; 39- Common ID; 40- Effortless; 41- January, in Juarez; 42- Right-hand page; 44- Climbed; 45- States; 48- Fine; 49- Black magic; 50- Based on geology; 55- Old California fort; 56- Uncertainty; 58- Call __ day; 59- Wispy clouds; 60- Snooped (around); 61- __ Kapital; 62- Sharp; 63- First name in cosmetics;

DOWN: 1- Stump; 2- Fermented grape juice; 3- __ - a -Sketch; 4- Lotion ingredient; 5- Chinese money; 6- Prince Valiant's wife; 7- German composer; 8- Hill dweller; 9- Roman capital of Palestine; 10- Assisting; 11- On one's toes; 12- Japanese-American; 13- Montezuma, for one; 18- Agrees tacitly; 22- Actress Charlotte; 24- Containing fat; 25- Hankering; 26- Those, to Juan; 27- Env. notation; 28- Uncooked; 29- Cowboy's tool; 31- __ Amore; 32- Monetary unit of Cambodia; 33- As to; 34- Yes, there is __!; 36- Constructive; 37- It may be plunging; 38- Modern-day evidence; 42- Skin color of Washington football players; 43- Beethoven's Third; 44- Chimney grime; 45- Shun; 46- A bit, colloquially; 47- Fountain treats; 48- Eagle's home; 50- Goldfinger portrayer Frobe; 51- Western Indians; 52- Sudden blast of wind; 53- __ fixe; 54- Surrender; 57- French vineyard;

Friday's solution

Grid with crossword solutions filled in.

Large crossword puzzle grid with some numbers.

Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



AD

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WORLD CUP 2018

More than ever, and without a team, it is China's tournament

John Leicester, Moscow

OUTSIDE Moscow's giant Luzhniki Stadium, in a sea of Mexican and German fans frothing with World Cup pre-game fervor, four Chinese football enthusiasts huddled together and agonized: Should they sell their tickets?

Dressed for the sold-out match in a Die Mannschaft jersey, 34-year-old primary school worker Bian Jitao argued that he'd regret not seeing the world champion Germans start their title defense against El Tri.

The other three wanted to cash in. Seeing Lionel Messi's Argentina play the previous day had been their highlight. Mexican fans were offering thick wads of notes. Back and forth, the four debated: Money or match?

Money, eventually, won. Two Mexicans handed over the equivalent of \$2,200 in dollars, euros and rubles. The Chinese then headed off to a Moscow bar to watch Mexico beat Germany 1-0 on television.

The scene neatly told the broader story of this World Cup: Despite having no team at the showcase tournament, China is making its presence felt as never before. China's economic clout, its surging influence in the global game and its corridors of power, and tens of thousands of football-knowledgeable, passionate, and well-heeled fans traveling from all over China to Russia are lending a strong Chinese feel to the World Cup, even though the national team has qualified for the tournament

only once, in 2002. Corporate China also is using the mega-event as a stepping stone to conquer new markets.

Ambitious Chinese corporations that partnered with FIFA in the wake of the tournament organizer's leadership-shaking corruption scandals, when some other sponsors walked away, are being repaid with global visibility. Illuminated signs at the 64 matches are tattooing Chinese names into the subconscious of the world's consumers. Most visible: Property conglomerate Wanda, the first Chinese firm to sign as a top-tier FIFA partner, in 2016, and smartphone manufacturer Vivo, signed last year for this and the next World Cup. Chinese electronics maker Hisense, also signed last year, is displayed when match scores are shown on TV. Pitch-side boards also flash up yoghurt adverts, in Chinese, for dairy company Mengniu, signed in December.

"They've realized that the world is their oyster," FIFA's chief commercial officer, Philippe Le Floch, said in an interview with The Associated Press. "China is the biggest population in the world, it's a massive economy. They have some very, very good companies who are eager to have a presence abroad and I think it was just a nice fit. We are providing the best platform for them to push and show their competence and their products."

Also important: The governing body's Chinese backers seemingly have zero qualms about American and Swiss corruption and bribery investiga-

tions that hastened the end of Sepp Blatter's 17-year reign as FIFA president and saw Gianni Infantino elected in his place in 2016.

"A terrible phase for FIFA," said Le Floch. "We're not proud of it."

Appointed in 2016 as part of Infantino's new team, Le Floch added, however, that in courting new sponsors, "Nobody told us 'Oh, no, we don't want to work with you because you are too toxic.'"

From being almost invisible at previous tournaments, Chinese fans have become impossible to miss at Russian stadiums. The world-shaking growth of China's economy, second in size now only to that of the United States, means that jetting off for a packaged week of sought-after matches with good seats has become affordable for plenty of Chinese enthusiasts of the game.

While many fans stayed away from other countries that, like China, failed to qualify, Chinese fans have come in droves to see their favorite stars from Europe's top leagues. Surging from 7,400 at the 2014 World Cup and 3,300 in 2010, the more than 40,000 tickets allocated to Chinese fans this time

Chinese fans have come in droves to see their favorite stars from Europe's top leagues

put China in the top-10 countries for sales.

The likes of 22-year-old Xu Wenbo have banked World Cup memories for a lifetime.

On his first-ever voyage outside China, the student and part-time football coach from central Henan province got to see Messi, his football hero, play in Argentina's 1-1 opening-match draw with Iceland. Xu traveled with a group of fans who paid 38,000 yuan (USD5,800) each for a two-game package or 43,000 yuan (\$6,600) for four games and feasted on sausages and beer while watching other matches on TV in a Moscow restaurant.

"Seeing the kickoff of Argentina against Iceland live in the stadium was so exciting I wanted to cry," Xu said. "I saw many Argentina fans dancing and singing. Even though I don't speak their language, I wore an Argentina jersey, and jumped and shouted with

them. It was amazing. Unforgettable."

The next big ambitions for Chinese fans: Having their own team to cheer for at future tournaments and a World Cup in China. Both prospects are becoming more likely as China sinks resources into the game, encouraged by football-fan President Xi Jinping. With Qatar hosting in 2022 and a joint US-Canada-Mexico tournament in 2026, the earliest possibility for China would be 2030.

"It's a legitimate ambition for a country like China to be willing to host a World Cup at some point," Le Floch said. "It's great that President Xi likes football, it's fantastic. But the Chinese population loves football. Anywhere you go in China you see people playing around. Football has picked up. Is it just a fashion? I don't think so. There's really a movement."

Bian, the fan who succumbed to peer pressure in reluctantly selling his Germany vs. Mexico ticket, grew misty eyed just imagining a China World Cup.

"If that day comes, I'll take my kids and family," he said. "No matter how expensive, I'll definitely get tickets. Seriously, it would be so exciting." **AP**

LATEST RESULTS

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
Argentina	0	3	Croatia
Nigeria	2	0	Iceland
Brazil	2	0	Costa Rica
Serbia	1	2	Switzerland
Germany	2	1	Sweden
Korea Republic	1	2	Mexico
Belgium	5	1	Tunisia
England	6	1	Panama
Japan	2	2	Senegal



Suarez celebrates his side's first goal against Saudi Arabia

PREVIEW

Russia faces Uruguay with knockout round ahead

COACH Stanislav Cherchesov insists Russia's success at the World Cup is about much more than home-team advantage. Russia will face its toughest challenge — so far — against Uruguay. The undefeated teams play today [10 p.m. Macau time] in Samara for the top spot in their group, with both already assured a spot in the knockout round.

"It is not an accident that we have two wins under our belt," Cherchesov said. "It is a group that works together well. It is a group of solidarity and cohesion."

It is the farthest Russia has advanced in the post-Soviet era. And it will no doubt get harder following the match against Luis Suarez and Uruguay because the top finishers in Group A go on to face the best two from Group B, which includes Portugal and Spain.

The hosts entered the tournament with the lowest FIFA ranking in the field at No. 70. Russia comes to Samara following a 5-0 victory in the opener against Saudi Arabia with Vladimir Putin on hand, followed by a 3-1 win over Egypt to spoil Mohamed Salah's World Cup.

Cherchesov said preparation is the key to Russia's success.

"We did our homework," he said. "We learned from our mistakes that didn't allow us to be successful in the past."

Uruguay, however, is a much more skilled team than Russia's first two opponents. Ranked No. 14, La Celeste defeated Egypt 1-0 in its tournament opener and then had the same result against Saudi Arabia on Wednesday.

Uruguay is making its 12th appearance at the World Cup, which it won in 1930 and 1950. More recently, the team finished fourth in South Africa in 2010 and made the round of 16 in Brazil four years ago.

Because Russia has the advantage in goal differential, it would win the group with a draw. Still, Uruguay coach Oscar Tabarez sees the match as an opportunity to fine-tune the team for the next round.

"We have to work on a few aspects. We will be playing against Russia. They're playing at home for their public, so it will be a great atmosphere," Tabarez said. "It's a great opportunity for us to test improvements in the team." **AP**

WORLD CUP 2018

Germany's message after stunning win: 'We're still alive'

Tim Booth, Sochi

IN the aftermath to one of the most memorable victories in Germany's long history of success, Toni Kroos and Marco Reus had a message for the critics back home waiting to see them fail.

"We got a lot of criticism and some of it was justified," Kroos said. "We had the feeling that a lot of people in Germany would have been happy if we'd gone out today, but we don't make it that easy."

No, Germany didn't make it easy. Nothing in this tournament has come easy for Die Mannschaft. Yet the Germans sit with three points after Saturday's 2-1 victory over Sweden and a chance to avoid what befell Italy and Spain, the previous two defending champions who failed to advance from the group stage.

It's all unexpected in a way. Germany's lackluster opening performance and loss against Mexico was unexpected. Falling behind the Swedes 1-0 at halftime was unexpected. And certainly after going down to 10-men, Kroos' curling strike in the fifth minute of stoppage time to secure Germany's win was unexpected.

After nearly a week of hearing what was wrong with German soccer following the loss to Mexico, the defending champions were on the verge of an even louder uproar.



Toni Kroos (far left) scores his side's second goal

One moment, one strike changed it all.

"I think that's an impression we have that many people in Germany were looking forward to us bowing out of the tournament here," Reus said. "But I think we've shown a team spirit here despite Sweden going up 1-0. That was a setback but we had to digest that first but we knew we could claw our way back."

If Kroos' shot was deflected, a little too high, or didn't have the perfect whipping curl, Germany would be sitting with one point, needing a victory on its last group game and a lot of help to keep alive a streak of making the knockout round in every World Cup since 1938.

But Kroos was perfect. The perfect pace. The perfect curl, the combo play with Reus catching Sweden by surprise just enough that defenders and goalkeeper Robin Olsen were unable to react. It was the latest goal ever scored by Germany in a World Cup match that didn't go to extra time.

It also created chaos in Group F. What seemed straight forward deep into stoppage time was turned upside down. Mexico, which has been among the more impressive teams in the tournament with two wins, could be eliminated if it doesn't get at least a draw against Sweden. Even South Korea after two losses could still advance with a win over Germany and help

from Mexico. The situation will create a lot of scoreboard watching on Wednesday when Mexico and Sweden play in Yekaterinburg and Germany and South Korea meet in Kazan.

"We have to put our foot on the gas and take our chances," Kroos said.

The lineup Germany coach Joachim Loew will use against South Korea will again be different. Loew made four changes to the lineup against Sweden, including benching Mesut Ozil for the first time in his senior team career in a major international tournament. The moves eventually seemed to pay off, especially the decision to insert Reus into the lineup and letting him attack from the midfield. **AP**

Group A	PL	W	DRAW	L	GF-GA	PNT
Russia	2	2	0	0	8 - 1	6
Uruguay	2	2	0	0	2 - 0	6
Egypt	2	0	0	2	1 - 4	0
Saudi Arabia	2	0	0	2	0 - 6	0

Group B	PL	W	DRAW	L	GF-GA	PNT
Portugal	2	1	1	0	4 - 3	4
Spain	2	1	1	0	4 - 3	4
Iran	2	1	0	1	1 - 1	3
Morocco	2	0	0	2	0 - 2	0

Group C	PL	W	DRAW	L	GF-GA	PNT
France	2	2	0	0	3 - 1	6
Denmark	2	1	1	0	2 - 1	4
Australia	2	0	1	1	2 - 3	1
Peru	2	0	0	2	0 - 2	0

Group D	PL	W	DRAW	L	GF-GA	PNT
Croatia	2	1	1	0	5 - 3	4
Nigeria	2	1	0	1	2 - 2	3
Argentina	2	0	2	0	4 - 4	2
Iceland	2	0	1	1	1 - 3	1

Group E	PL	W	DRAW	L	GF-GA	PNT
Brazil	2	1	1	0	3 - 1	4
Switzerland	2	1	1	0	3 - 2	4
Serbia	2	1	0	1	2 - 2	3
Costa Rica	2	0	0	2	0 - 3	0

Group F	PL	W	DRAW	L	GF-GA	PNT
Mexico	2	2	0	0	3 - 1	6
Germany	2	1	0	1	2 - 2	3
Sweden	2	1	0	1	2 - 2	3
Korea Republic	2	0	0	2	1 - 3	0

Group G	PL	W	DRAW	L	GF-GA	PNT
England	2	2	0	0	8 - 2	6
Belgium	2	2	0	0	5 - 1	6
Tunisia	2	0	0	2	2 - 4	0
Panama	2	0	0	2	1 - 9	0

Group H	PL	W	DRAW	L	GF-GA	PNT
Senegal	2	1	1	0	4 - 3	4
Japan	2	1	1	0	4 - 3	4
Poland	1	0	0	1	1 - 2	0
Colombia	1	0	0	1	1 - 2	0

opinion

Sport Views

Leonid Bershidsky, Bloomberg

VIDEO REPLAY FOR REFS MAKES WORLD CUP BETTER

Football can be annoying, especially to those who watch only the big tournaments. There are too many fouls, baffling referee errors and players without a scratch on them rolling in the grass as if in unbearable pain — and too few goals. But the 2018 World Cup has been surprisingly different (with a few exceptions). The improvement probably comes down to a single rule change: Referees now have access to video replays.

A little more than a week into the monthlong competition, it's too early to know for sure how much the technology called Video-Assisted Referees will change the game. But there are signs it's making it better. So far, there have been fewer serious fouls than usual and no referee errors that affected match outcomes. In addition, compared with previous World Cups, the players appear to be more singularly focused on scoring or preventing goals, and less on hurting and intimidating opponents or trying to trick referees into favorable decisions.

Replays have been used to settle disputes in U.S. professional sports for years, but soccer is extremely conservative and every tweak to the rules causes a controversy because players and coaches consider the game perfect as it is. But some innovations turned out to be very effective. For example, the 2006 decision that referees should send off players for deliberately elbowing opponents to the head reduced head injuries by 29 percent.

The introduction of Video-Assisted Referees, known as VAR, to the World Cup for the first time this year was hotly contested, though. Football is a defiantly analog, pointedly democratic game that's played and loved as much in poor countries as rich ones. VAR is a rich-country addition. It has been tested, for one season, in some wealthy leagues, including in Germany and Italy, where it wasn't an unqualified success. In both countries, fans complained about long decision times of two minutes or more while referees stopped play to consult monitors.

By mid-season, delays had been reduced. Still, in one German game, after reviewing play thanks to VAR, the referee recalled the teams from the halftime break to take a penalty kick. In a high-stakes game in Australia, the technology broke down at a crucial moment, and a winning goal that should have been disallowed was counted. In Italy, a stubborn referee repeatedly overruled the technology, making outcome-changing errors.

Nonetheless, statistics from the trials show that VAR has achieved some important results. In the Italian Serie A last season, it reduced the percentage of mistaken referee decisions to 1 percent from 6 percent. At the same time, the number of fouls dropped by 8.8 percent, the number of yellow cards for serious fouls by 14.7 percent and the number of dives, or fake fouls, by 43 percent.

The technology seems to be paying off in the 2018 World Cup. There is no talk of the kind of disastrous referee errors that plagued previous tournaments. VAR doesn't remove all subjectivity from the decisions of referees, who assess the situation on the screen as best they can. But it gives them the capacity to have the same vantage point as fans watching TV at home, ensuring that there are no blatant miscalls or oversights.

A Leuven University paper published just before the World Cup shows that referees who watch bits of the game in slow motion tend to be stricter when meting out punishment: They are more likely to see fouls as reckless or intentional than accidental. If players sense that nothing will escape the referee, they should be less likely to commit fouls.

Anyone who has watched most of the games so far will have noticed that players spend less time simulating injuries than at previous World Cups, and that there's surprisingly little dirty play. Nonetheless, yellow and red card statistics indicate that this may turn out to be the nicest World Cup in at least two decades.

THE HARD ROCK CASINO INSTALLS BIG GUITAR WITH MISPELLED WORD

The soon-to-open Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Atlantic City had to work quickly to fix a misspelling on a 9-meter-tall guitar installed this week.

The sign, modeled after a Gibson Les Paul guitar, was put up Thursday morning without officials noticing the word "rhythm" was misspelled on the rhythm and treble switch. It included the letter "E."

The guitar is one of two expected to go up at the new resort, with the second slated for installation Saturday at the resort's entrance.

Hard Rock officials say the typo was corrected Thursday afternoon by removing the extra vinyl letter.

The Hard Rock Hotel & Casino will open at noon on June 28 the same day as the new Ocean Resort Casino.



Station	Air quality	
Roadside	20-40 Good	😊
High Density Residential Area	10-30 Good	😊
Ambient	20-40 Good	😊

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS



NEW ZEALAND Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and her partner have named their baby daughter Neve and say they want her to grow up in a world in which she can make choices about her family and career based on what she wants.

MALAYSIA Prominent Malaysian politician Anwar Ibrahim was taken to a hospital after complaining of back and shoulder pain. The 70-year-old was being treated late Saturday following a trip to Turkey, said Fahmi Fadzil, a spokesman for Anwar's People's Justice Party.



SOUTH KOREA The U.S. military said it moved 100 wooden coffins to the inter-Korean border to prepare for North Korea's returning of the remains of American soldiers who have been missing since the 1950-53 Korean War.



EU The idea of screening Europe-bound asylum-seekers in North Africa and the Balkans gained support from several European Union leaders yesterday as tensions over how best to handle new arrivals threatened to undermine the bloc's unity.

SYRIAN government forces advanced deeper into the southern province of Daraa yesterday under the cover of airstrikes, entering new villages amid reports that the U.S. has told rebels not to expect an American intervention to defend them from the army's offensive.

Michelle Obama's memoir conveys lessons of an eventful life



Chevel Johnson, New Orleans

FORMER first lady Michelle Obama said Friday that her upcoming memoir "Becoming" is a "re-humanization effort" that shares the "ordinariness of a very extraordinary story" that she hopes will give voice to people who feel voiceless.

Obama made the remarks as she helped kick off the American Library Association's annual conference in New Orleans. Librarian of Congress Dr. Carla Hayden moderated the conversation before an estimated crowd of 8,000 inside the city's convention center.

Obama shared snippets from the book, including the experiences that have shaped her, from her childhood on the South Side of Chicago to her years as an executive and her time at the White House.

She told the crowd that much of who she is today results from the influence of her parents, Fraser and Marian Robinson.

"My parents had a strong sense of how to parent and taught us at an early age to figure it out," Obama said. "They let us know, that as children, our opinions mattered. But they encouraged us to contribute to the solution. You could air it out, but you had to be the one to solve whatever it was."

She said her parents taught her and her brother

about the work ethic and the value of doing what you say you're going to do.

"When I go throughout my day, I often ask myself, 'Am I doing what I think Marian and Fraser would expect me to do?'" she said.

Obama said her mother's "no nonsense" energy has always been a part of her life and was welcome at the White House.

It truly takes a village to raise children. Build your village wherever you are. It will be your salvation and keep you sane.

MICHELLE OBAMA

"We had butlers and housekeepers at the White House, but my mother would tell them, 'Don't touch my underwear. I got it,'" she said, drawing a round of laughter. "She's the one who taught my girls how to do laundry. She keeps us humble and focused on what's important. She's also my sounding board.

She'll sit and just listen and then ask me, 'What do you think you should do about that?'"

Obama said the book gave her a chance to reflect on the whirlwind of her life as a working executive and mother with a high-profile husband in a high-profile job.

"I didn't come into (being first lady) with a blank slate," she said. "I had big jobs. I went to Princeton. I went to Harvard. I am a lawyer. But as Barack's ascent got faster and higher, I had to figure out and balance marriage and balance becoming a spouse. I've learned that you can have it all, but not all at the same time."

Obama also talked about the value of strong friendships, noting she could not have gotten through her time in the White House without a "posse who kept me sane." She told the young, single mothers in the audience, "you weren't meant to parent in isolation."

"It truly takes a village to raise children. Build your village wherever you are. It will be your salvation and keep you sane," she said, drawing a roar of applause.

The book is being released in November in the U.S. through the Crown Publishing Group, a Penguin Random House division.

The conference, which ends tomorrow, is expected to draw more than 15,000 participants. **AP**