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SULU SOU'S SUSPENSION

No appeal may result in return to parliament

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WORLD BRIEFS



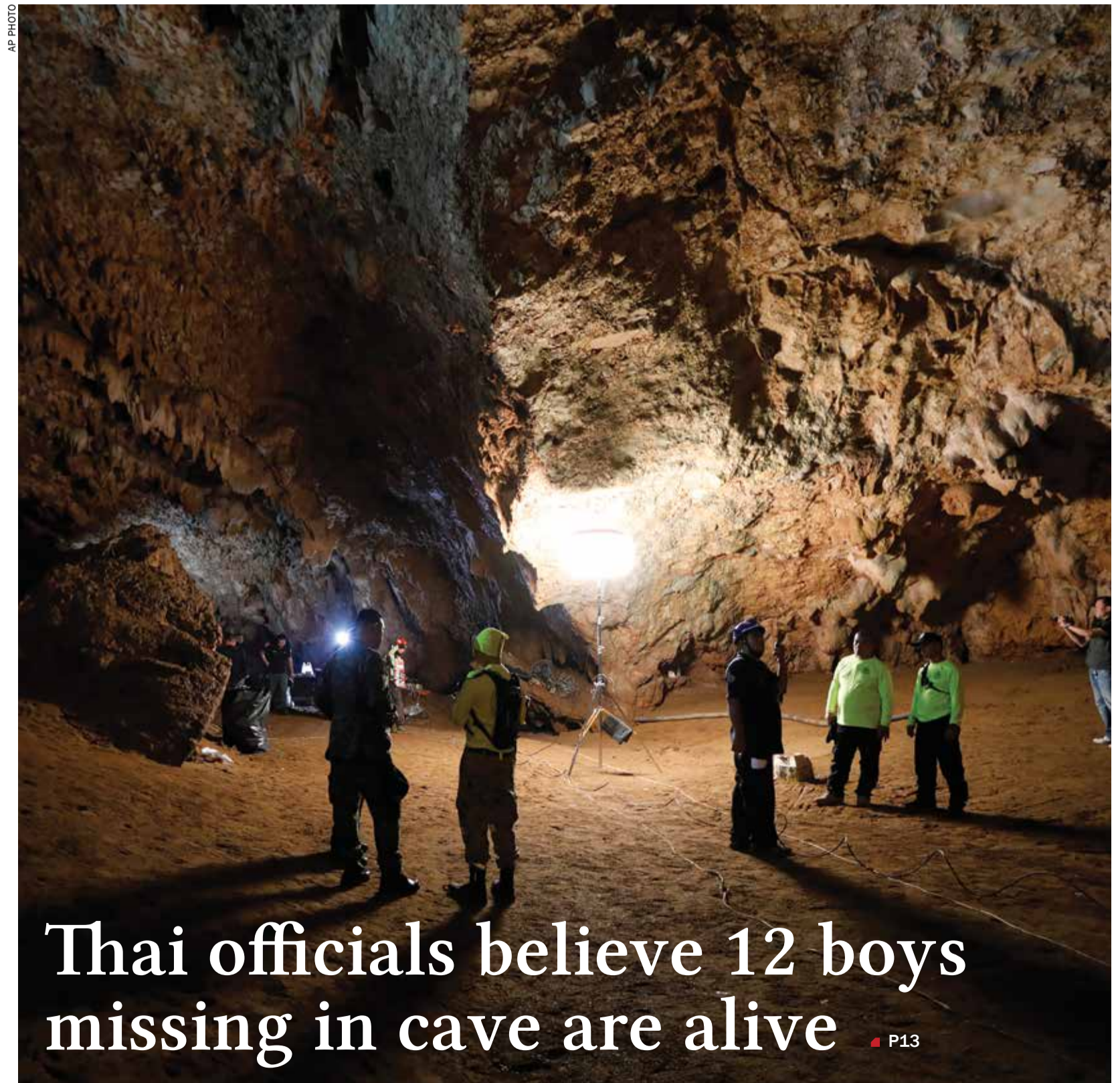
VIETNAM Flash floods and landslides triggered by heavy rains have killed at least seven people and left 12 others missing in northern Vietnam, officials said yesterday.

INDONESIA has identified the suspected location of an overcrowded ferry that sank last week in a deep volcanic crater lake but will need international help to recover the wreck.



KOREA The rival Koreas are discussing the possible relocation of North Korea's long-range artillery guns away from the tense Korean border. More on p13

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Thai officials believe 12 boys missing in cave are alive

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RELIGION

Macau, HK bishops visit Pope Francis in the Vatican

POPE Francis received the bishop of Macau, Stephen Lee, in the Vatican. The visit also included the bishops of Hong Kong, Michael Yeung and Joseph Ha, according to media reports.

The topics discussed during the meeting included the assessment of relations of the Holy See with Chinese central government authorities as well as the current relationship between the Catholic Church, the young generations in the Special Administrative Regions and China in general. Held last Saturday, the meeting marked the first time in 10 years that the local bishops met the Pope in Rome. According to the same news source, the bishops' delegation also met with Secretary of State, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, on the previous day where they discussed the progress of the ongoing dialogue with the Chinese government.

"There is a need to continue dia-

logue with China, despite issues about which we do not agree," Cardinal Parolin said, adding that it was also important to continue to "Pray for the Pope, the Church in China and for all those who have sacrificed their lives for their faith." The Cardinal noted "the impatience of young people, frustrated by the lack of perspectives and freedom."

On that topic, Yeung said, "Regarding China, the Vatican position is clear. The Vatican does not want to irritate anyone; it does not want to make any wrong moves [for the Church], but at the same time it must do something for the good of the Church and of Chinese society." He further added, "For the religious question, it is a bit like in commercial matters. The United States and China agree on something, disagree on other things, but they continue to talk. It's the same for us too: we need to keep talking, as diplomatic relations are not established overnight."



Bishop Stephen Lee

Arts and cultural festival to debut in July

THE inaugural "Encounter in Macao – Arts and Cultural Festival between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries" will be held in July, organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) and featuring five main activities.

During a press conference last week, the IC confirmed that the festival's highlights will include a China and Portuguese-speaking Countries Film Festival, the exhibition "Chapas Sínicas – Stories of Macao in Torre do Tombo" and various seminars.

The China and Portuguese-speaking Countries Gala Performance, the Cultural Forum between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries and the Annual Arts Exhibition between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries will also be held at the festival.

The festival aims to strengthen Macau's role as a bridge between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

As such, the SAR has launched the "Cultural Exchange Centre between China and Portuguese-speaking countries" which uses the SAR as a platform to promote regular cultural exchange between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

The festival will feature 23 screenings of 24 films and introduces audiences to contemporary films and masterpieces from China and Portuguese-speaking countries, as well as movies shot in Macau by Portuguese filmmakers.

The "Chapas Sínicas – Stories of Macao in Torre do Tombo" exhibition celebrates the successful inscription of the "Chapas Sínicas", the "Official

Records of Macao During the Qing Dynasty (1693-1886)."

It was jointly nominated by the Archives of Macau and the National Archive of Torre do Tombo of Portugal for UNESCO's Memory of the World Register.

The exhibition will also feature a talk and the release of commemorative stamps in collaboration with the Macao Post and Telecommunications Bureau.

The exhibition aims to share with the public some records of historical events, which despite happening in Macau, are relevant to China and Portugal.

Meanwhile, the China and Portuguese-speaking Countries Gala Performance will feature the Gansu Performing Arts Troupe from mainland China and art groups from eight Portuguese-speaking countries.

The Cultural Forum between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries is themed "cultural diversity" and will feature cultural experts and scholars from mainland China, Macau and Portuguese-speaking countries.

The forum is intended to be a communication platform and means of promoting cultural exchange and communication between China and Portuguese-speaking countries through thematic talks, site visits and exchange seminars.

The "Annual Arts Exhibition between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries" presents four thematic contemporary art exhibitions, namely Alter Ego, The Universe, Penetrate and Aiya, with MGM Cotai as special partner in Alter Ego.

Wong Sio Chak proposes relocating Lotus Flower checkpoint

THE Macau government has floated a proposal to move the Lotus Flower Bridge border checkpoint from Cotai to Hengqin Island in Zhuhai. According to media reports, this proposal is now under review by the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office.

The proposal was initially revealed through the comments of Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak, who spoke to reporters on Friday on the sidelines of a graduation ceremony for the Institute for Tourism Studies.

Wong revealed that the preliminary proposal includes various issues such as land use, modes of clearance, and the implementation of laws and regulations of the two jurisdictions – Macau and the mainland.

Wong said that the proposal has already been shared with the Central Government. He said that it might include a "new mode



of clearance," according to local media reports, but did not elaborate on how the new system might operate.

Wong confirmed that the preliminary proposal now rests with mainland authorities to consider the feasibility of the plan.

According to mainland news reports, the Macau government hopes that the future checkpoint complex in Hengqin will make

it possible for the Macau side of the checkpoint to move there. The Macau government report calls for a "new mode of clearance" to be adopted at the future Hengqin checkpoint so that it will be more convenient for people to travel between Macau and Hengqin.

The Macau Secretary cautioned that the proposal would need to be approved by the Central Govern-

ment. As such, no further details of the proposal can be announced prior to obtaining the green light from mainland authorities.

Macau's border checkpoint in Cotai is linked to Zhuhai's border checkpoint in Hengqin via the Lotus Flower Bridge. It originally came into service in 2000, before it was demolished and replaced with a newer building in late 2014.

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Sulu Sou appeal period expires without action

THE appeal period for the Court of First Instance ruling on suspended lawmaker Sulu Sou expired last night, with no indication that the prosecution or defense intended to contest the court's decision.

On May 29, the young democrat was found guilty of the crime of unlawful assembly and was sentenced to 120 days worth of fines, together with fellow political activist Scott Chiang.

The suspended lawmaker and the Public Prosecutions Office were given an extended period of 25 days in which to appeal the court's decision.

As of last night, neither party appeared to have filed an appeal. According to a Radio Macau report, they could still appeal even after the court office closed yesterday afternoon. To do so, they could fax an appeal to the court before midnight.

If no appeal is filed, it is the opinion of several legal experts in Macau that Sulu Sou is by law automatically reinstated as a le-



RENATO MARQUES

gislator. The lawmaker in question also holds this view, and told media earlier this month that he would not require approval from his peers to return to his seat.

Sou has previously declared the conviction to be unlawful as he was convicted for a crime other than the one that led to his suspension. His comments, made on the sidelines of an event earlier this month, suggested he was contemplating an appeal, even as his colleagues within the New Macau Association ur-

ged him against such action as it would serve to impede his return to the Legislative Assembly.

Lawmakers in the Macau SAR normally enjoy prosecutorial immunity that prevents charges from being brought against them. However, Sou was suspended by a Legislative Assembly intervention in December last year, which lifted his immunity and permitted him to stand trial, accused of the more serious crime of aggravated disobedience.

Macau investors eye Aussie real estate

INVESTORS are opting to put their money into Australian real estate over reinvesting it in their Macau-based businesses.

That's according to news website Financial Review, which found that cash-rich individuals from the SAR prefer to invest in property in Hong Kong, Singapore, London and the Australian Gold Coast, among other areas.

Colliers International's Vince Kernahan who recently sold a prized office tower in Sydney's Chinatown to an Adelaide-based - and China-backed - firm, said that Macau investors are increasingly looking toward Australian real estate as an investment vehicle.

"We have seen a rise in Macau investors since June last year [...] buyers from Macau and Hong Kong are now looking at Australia while previously they were looking at London," Kernahan told Financial Review, adding that the number one preference was commercial properties with a strong holding income.

The news website speculated that Macau casino developers see little benefit to reinvesting in their businesses, especially given a recent reduction to the number

of days granted to a Chinese transit visa, as well as the possibility of a resurgence of the mainland's anti-corruption campaign in the future, which might once again deter the high-rollers only beginning to return.

Instead they are looking for passive assets for income and capital growth.

"Previously there was so much money coming in from China to Macau but the casino industry realized with the Chinese government prohibitive on casino visits, their business may suffer," Colliers International's Asia Markets expert Steam Leung said, as cited by Financial Review.

"They would normally re-invest profits in their businesses, but now with a potential crimp to growth, they would rather put it in buildings in Singapore, London and now Australia."

Another reason that Australia has become such an attractive country for real estate investment is down to fluctuations in the foreign exchange rate. This provides an opportunity for investors in a way that investments into Hong Kong and the U.S. cannot.

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CRIME

Taxi driver has 116 infractions in less than two years

Renato Marques

THE police caught a taxi driver after he committed an offence against the taxi service regulations by overcharging a customer. After checking his record, the authorities confirmed that the driver had previously been charged for similar violations 115 times since 2016. The figure constitutes a new record in Macau, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) spokesperson revealed yesterday during a conference.

The case initially surfaced on the Internet last Saturday and led the police to investigate by contacting both the driver and the alleged victim, who posted several photos of the case on social media networks accompanied by a short story of her case.

The driver admitted to the PSP to picking up passengers around 10 a.m. on Saturday at the border gate taxi stand and driving to the Outer Harbor Ferry Terminal, where he asked her to pay a fee of MOP200.

The victim, a local woman in her 20s, elaborated on the ac-



count that she had published on a social network, adding that she had hailed the taxi on the border gate together with a friend.

After entering the taxi, the driver told them that since a rainstorm signal had been hoisted, he would not turn on the taximeter, instead asking for a fixed fare of MOP200 for the trip.

The victim also noted that the taxi driver had not placed his working permit in the proper place of the vehicle.

When questioned, the PSP spokesperson noted that accor-

ding to past records, the majority of the driver's previous violations were also either in relation to overcharging or refusing transportation to costumers.

Last week it was reported that another taxi driver was caught after locking a group of tourists inside his car, following a dispute. The driver had 87 previous violations of taxi service regulations on his personal record for the same period (within two years). Nevertheless, he was able to continue working despite his impressive record of infractions and unpaid fines.

In a separate case reported by the PSP, another taxi driver is being accused of unlawfully appropriating a client's purse which had been left inside the taxi.

The case occurred on Sunday around 1 a.m., when the client, a tourist from the Philippines, entered the taxi at the crossroads between Rua de Nam Keng and Rua de Lagos in Taipa and headed to a hotel located in Cotai.

Upon arriving at the location and noticing his bag was no longer with the rest of his belongings, he immediately sought help

from the police, noting that the bag contained cash in different currencies amounting to around MOP4,000, as well as his documents, cards and the hotel room door card.

The police managed to identify the driver, a local woman over 60 years of age and called her to the police station.

At the station, the woman claimed to be unaware of any bag left inside her taxi, claiming to have transported several clients subsequent to leaving the man in Cotai.

During the investigation, the PSP noticed that the taxi had a camera installed which records video and sound, used by many drivers as a security device.

Reviewing the device's footage, the police discovered that the bag was found by a group of women who had entered the taxi immediately after the man was left in Cotai. One of the passengers handed the bag to the driver who said it belonged to her. After that, the driver called a friend and drove in her direction to Areia Preta district, leaving the bag with her.

After that, she received the call from the PSP and drove to the station.

The driver is being charged for the unlawful appropriation of lost property, and the friend is being charged for being an accomplice to receiving stolen goods. Both have been presented to the Public Prosecutions Office.

Health Bureau plans to set up 'Medical Academy'

THE Council for Medical Affairs has met to address topics related to the launch of a local Medical Academy as well as to analyze the draft law on the Qualification and Enrollment Regime for the Health Professionals, whose public and sector consultation has been concluded. The bill has now entered into

the legislative phase, the Health Bureau (SSM) informed in a statement. According to a statement issued by the SSM, the meeting was attended by specialists from the neighboring region of Hong Kong who introduced the history of the Hong Kong Medical Academy, its development and the system of medical internships.

Some of the experts at the meeting expressed their opinion that specialized training in public hospitals and through private partnerships is not unified, and there are problems with existing specialists even prior to the implementation of the new regime.

Council adviser Hung Chi Tim said that the

Working Group gathered opinions and analyzed the specialized training scheme of two local hospitals, establishing some guidelines and frameworks that constitute the first step towards the creation of the Medical Academy and the unified system of specialization training, along with the coordination of medical

internships. The measures are intended to provide for the recognition of medical specialists' qualifications and continuing education for such specialists.

Adviser Lai Fok Meng added that the future training program requires more standardization and needs its contents to be based on the

Hong Kong academy. The director of SSM, Lei Chin Ion, who is also Chairman of the Council, noted that, with the creation of the Medical Academy, the level of specialized health care services provided is expected to grow as well as be able to create a unified platform that will unify the public and private sectors.

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'Art Is Play' brings colorful installations to MGM Macau

Lynzy Valles

ART Is Play", a colorful art exhibition, will be open to the public at MGM Macau from tomorrow until September 9.

The exhibition at MGM Art Space features a journey of "awakening, self-discovery and social interaction" through colorful art installations by five international artists.

These artists include Cindy Ng from Macau, Ayumi Adachi from Japan, 'tomtom' from Hong Kong, Camille Walala from the United Kingdom and Janice Wong from Singapore.

Inspired by her memories of childhood in Macau, local artist Cindy Ng, who is currently based in Beijing, highlights the unique essence of ink in her art "Mindscape."

Layers of curtains are hung in the room with light and shadows shone around them to create an "abstract dreamscape."

"Macau has inspired me, and my stay here allows me to think of my future works and what I can do with all this lighting, the clouds



"Walala x Play" by Camille Walala



"Sugar Glow Garden" by Janice Wong (pictured)

and the sea," said Ng during a media preview yesterday.

"I hope we [MGM] can work more. MGM has got the space to extend the work. I hope we can work together to make Macau arts more promoted," she added.

For Ayumi Adachi, it only takes one "setsuna" (split second), that equals to 0.013 seconds, to awaken consciousness.

The Japanese artist's exhibition "Setsuna = 0.013 second" features calming sounds and shadows of bubble installation. "Time is very short. It's a circulation of happenings," Adachi noted.

In the third room of the art space, vibrant yellow and orange balloons in different sizes ranging from six feet to seven

inches have been selected to "inspire joy and happiness," in the room, which is orange-scented.

Hong Kong artist "tomtom" described the "Orangelicious" room as a "selfie paradise."

"The idea that I want to bring is a feeling of summer, freshness and also just to remember childhood," she explained. "I

designed in an organic shape. [...] I want people to kind of feel their place on this earth. I want them to feel quite small. That's what you feel with these giant balloons," she said.

Meanwhile, "Walala x Play" by UK-based artist Camille Walala exhibits a maze of colors and patterns, using hallways, and mirrors.

The artist has woven inconsistencies and asymmetries throughout the maze that create broken geometries and distorted patterns.

The last room of the space features an edible artwork of MGM Cotai's celebrity chef, Janice Wong, as she exhibits "Sugar Glow Garden," featuring 20,000 sugar flowers that have been hand painted with glowing UV paint.

"I wanted to do a different art piece. I've never done any artwork like this before," said Wong, who revealed that 50 kilograms of gum paste were used in the installation.

"The whole idea for this is to bring you through another space. [...] I wanted to create something different, push the boundary a lot with food and to give people inspiration as well," she added.

An opening ceremony for the exhibition is scheduled for this afternoon at MGM Art Space.

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Macau to adapt diagnostic criterion for video game addiction

THE World Health Organization (WHO) has officially included gaming disorder in its list of mental health conditions, after announcing late last year that the addiction would be classified as a mental health disorder to be included in the 11th revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11).

Last week, the organization announced that gaming disorder would be listed under "disorders due to addictive behaviors" in the globally recognized compendium of medical conditions and diagnoses.

The draft will be presented at the World Health Assembly in May 2019, and is scheduled to come into effect on January 1, 2022.

The organization noted in a statement that the disseminated information was an "advance preview" to give coun-

tries time to prepare and train people for its implementation.

A diagnostic criterion for video gaming addiction will be published this year, which will be adapted by Macau with minor adjustments in accordance with local conditions.

A consultant at the Health Bureau (SSM), Chen Chan Hang, observed that video gaming addiction in the SAR seems to be less serious than that in the neighboring region, noting that SSM receives an average of three to five cases of children suspected of having such an addiction.

According to a TDM report, the youngest patient was in junior primary school. "For example, if a person has to go to school for six hours but is unable to do so due to video games, then this is considered an impact on their performance," said Chen.

"Another criterion is psycho-

logical. [...] This creates an internal struggle and affects their mental health being," he said.

The doctor encouraged parents to use video games as a reward to motivate their children to achieve better academic performance.

"If they are not doing well, restrictions should be imposed. This creates a principle of reward and children will work for it," explained Chen.

He also suggested that more activities should be organized for children and teenagers to distract them from turning to video games.

Earlier this year, a scholar told the Times that the disorder can receive additional clinical and research attention if the addiction has been classified as a disorder.

Brian Hall, associate professor at the University of Macau's Department of Health,



BLOOMBERG

Behavior and Society, previously acknowledged that there is limited data available on video gaming addiction on Macau.

He expressed the hope that there would be more population-representative studies on such issues for locals so that they could be more aware of the true prevalence of behavioral health issues.

"We currently don't have the data to support these kinds of casual statements – most of the work in the area is cross-sectional," the scholar said.

The inclusion of gaming addiction as a mental disorder has gathered some criticism from mental health professionals, however WHO has said that the decision was "based on a full review of global evidence, as well as consultation with experts from all regions of the world." LV

UM students visit Dalian on exchange trip

The University of Macau (UM) Student Affairs Office recently organized an exchange trip for outstanding students, in response to the 'Youth Exchange Program in the Mainland' launched by the local government. According to a statement issued by the UM, the visit "aimed to enhance participants' sense of belonging in China, strengthen their national identity, and increase exchange and collaboration between young adults and universities in Macau and Dalian." This is the first time that a higher education institution in Macau has arranged for a large group of students to visit Dalian.

Greater Bay Area promoted in France

Representatives of the Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau governments travelled to France to jointly promote the commercial and investment advantages of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area, the Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) said. The three governments jointly organized a seminar which took place on 20 June in Paris, France, attended by more than 400 representatives of the government and the business community in the country. At the meeting, government officials from Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau encouraged French companies to invest in the Greater Bay Area, making use of the commercial advantages of the three territories.

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TRADE WAR

Harley, stung by tariffs, shifts some production overseas

HARLEY-Davidson, up against spiraling costs from tariffs, will begin to shift the production of motorcycles headed for Europe from the U.S. to factories overseas.

The European Union on Friday began rolling out tariffs on American imports like bourbon, peanut butter and orange juice. The EU tariffs on USD3.4 billion worth of U.S. products are retaliation for duties the Trump administration is imposing on European steel and aluminum.

President Donald Trump has used Harley-Davidson as an example of a U.S. business that is being harmed by trade barriers. Yet Harley has warned consistently against tariffs, saying they would negatively impact sales.

Harley-Davidson Inc. sold almost 40,000 motorcycles in the Europe Union last year, generating revenue second only to the United States, according to the Milwaukee company.

The maker of the iconic American motorcycle said in a regulatory filing yesterday that EU tariffs on its motorcycles exported from the U.S. jumped between 6 percent and 31 percent, which translates into an additional, incremental cost of about \$2,200 per average motorcycle exported from the U.S. to the EU.

"Harley-Davidson maintains a strong commitment



to U.S.-based manufacturing which is valued by riders globally," the company said in prepared remarks. "Increasing international production to alleviate the EU tariff burden is not the company's preference, but represents the only sustainable option to make its motorcycles accessible to customers in the EU and maintain a viable business in Europe. Europe is a critical market for Harley-Davidson."

Harley-Davidson will not raise its prices to avert "an immediate and lasting detrimental impact" on sales in Europe, it said. It will instead absorb a significant amount of the cost in the near term. It anticipates the cost for the rest of the year to be approximately \$30 million to \$45 million.

Harley-Davidson said that shifting targeted production from the U.S. to international facilities could take at least nine to 18 months to be completed.

The company is already struggling with falling sales.

In January, it said it would consolidate its Kansas City, Missouri, plant into its York, Pennsylvania, facility. U.S. motorcycle sales peaked at more than 1.1 million in 2005 but then plummeted during the recession.

More potential pitfalls for Harley-Davidson and other U.S. manufacturers could be on the way.

Last week German auto-maker Daimler AG cut its 2018 earnings outlook, a change that it says is partly due to increased import tariffs for U.S. vehicles in China. Daimler produces vehicles in the U.S.

Yesterday, the vice president of the European Union's governing body said that Europe and China will form a group aimed at updating global trade rules to address technology policy, government subsidies and other emerging complaints in a bid to preserve support for international commerce.

European Commission Vice President Jyrki Katainen said unilateral action by U.S. President Donald Trump in disputes over steel, China's technology policy and other issues highlighted the need to modernize the World Trade Organization to reflect developments in the world economy.

The Wall Street Journal reported that the Trump administration plans to impose curbs on Chinese investment in American technology companies and high-tech exports to China. **AP**

Apple is said to amplify its audio-device strategy in 2019

Mark Gurman, Debby Wu

APPLE Inc. is about to pump up the volume on its audio-device strategy, planning higher-end AirPods, a new HomePod and studio-quality over-ear headphones for as early as next year, according to people familiar with the matter.

The Cupertino, California-based company is working on new AirPods with noise-cancellation and water resistance, the people said. Apple is trying to increase the range that AirPods can work away from an iPhone or iPad, one of the people said. You won't be swimming in them though: The water resistance is mainly to protect against rain and perspiration, the people said.

Slated for 2019, the earbuds will likely cost more than the existing USD159 pair, and that could push Apple to segment the product line like it does with iPhones, one of the people said. Apple is also working on a wireless charging case that's compatible with the upcoming AirPower charger.

The company has also internally discussed adding biometric sensors to future AirPods, like a heart-rate monitor, to expand its health-related hardware offerings beyond the Apple Watch, another person said. The current AirPods will be refreshed later this year with a new chip and support for hands-free Siri activation, Bloomberg News reported.

There are over-ear headphones coming from Apple, too. Those will compete with pricey models from Bose Corp. and

Sennheiser. They will use Apple branding and be a higher-end alternative to the company's Beats line. Apple originally intended to introduce the headphones by the end of 2018, but has faced development challenges, and is now targeting a launch as early as next year, the people said. They asked not to be identified talking about unreleased products. An Apple spokeswoman declined to comment.

The consumer-electronics giant uses unique accessories like the AirPods to round out its hardware and software ecosystem. Accessories have become an important revenue source in recent years, helping Apple's Other Products unit generate sales of \$12.9 billion in the 2017 fiscal year. That's cushioned a slowdown in iPhone unit growth.

The upcoming audio push builds on Apple's earlier success in the field. The iPod and iTunes digital music store helped revive the industry and began a transformation that turned the company from a computer maker into a mobile-device giant.

In 2012, Apple declared itself one of the largest shippers of audio speakers because of the earbuds that come bundled with its devices and the built-in speakers in iPhones, Macs and iPads. Two years later, Apple bought headphone maker and streaming-music company Beats for \$3 billion, its largest acquisition. An in-house audio-product team is run by Gary Geaves, formerly an engineer from B&W Group Ltd., a maker of speaker systems and head-

phones.

Apple is shaking up its supply chain in preparation for the latest audio products, expanding a partnership with iPhone manufacturer Foxconn Technology Group and lessening its reliance on smaller hardware maker Inventec Corp., the people said.

Apple plans to ramp up AirPods production by working with Foxconn, people familiar with the arrangement said. Thus far, it has mostly worked with Inventec, but builds about 30 percent of the units with Luxshare Precision Industry Co. When the earbuds first came out in 2016, they were delayed, and there was limited supply after the product finally went on sale.

Apple's latest music-focused device, the HomePod, was also delayed, and has seen sluggish sales so far - although reviewers praised the sound quality. It was originally built with Inventec, but Apple has since expanded production to Foxconn. Apple is working on a new version of the HomePod for as early as next year, and it could switch production away from Inventec for the latest model, according to people familiar with the relationship.

Inventec executives met with Apple executives in California in recent weeks to discuss future HomePod orders, but a final decision on working with Inventec on the new model hasn't been made, the people said. An Inventec spokeswoman said the company "will try its best to secure new orders."

Bloomberg

corporate bits

SANDS CHINA RECEIVES AWARDS FROM MACAU GREEN HOTEL AWARD



The Venetian Macao has been awarded a Macau Green Hotel Platinum Award, and is the first and only hotel in the SAR to earn the new top designation of platinum, which was introduced in the latest awards.

According to a statement

issued by the gaming operator, the award criteria met by the integrated resort included showing evidence of year-on-year waste reduction, availability of electric vehicle parking spaces and charging stations for staff and guests, and the establishment of an

eco-friendly mattress replacement program.

The group also monitored the environmental performance of shuttle buses, establishing a management plan for reducing food waste, and carrying out regular carbon audits to identify areas for improvement.

The Parisian Macao received its first award in the Gold category, as did the Four Seasons Hotel Macao, Cotai Strip.

Five other hotels at Sands China properties maintain Gold designations from previous years' awards: Sands Macao; The St. Regis Macao, Cotai Central; Conrad Macao, Cotai Central; Sheraton Grand Macao Hotel, Cotai Central; and Holiday Inn Macao Cotai Central.

BNU SIGNS COOPERATION PROTOCOL WITH PARENT COMPANY



Caixa Geral de Depósitos (CGD), BNU's parent company, and BNU recently signed a cooperation protocol, marking a more comprehensive cooperation between the two banks.

Via the global network of CGD and BNU, a platform of information and communication channels will be created to share market information on China and the Portuguese Speaking Countries. The pla-

form will promote cross-referrals of individual, corporate and financial and institutional businesses, and also strengthen cooperation in settlement and credit-related business.

Both parties agree that a closer business relationship will support the SAR in the creation of a cooperative platform for trades and businesses between China and Portuguese speaking countries.

The protocol was signed by CEO of CGD, Paulo Macedo, president and vice-president of the Board of BNU, José João Guilherme and Carlos Cid Álvares.

The signing occurred during a business delegation organized by the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute, which included BNU.

Mattis focusing on strategic security issues in China talks

Lolita C. Baldor,
Eielson Air Force Base

DEFENSE Secretary Jim Mattis laid out plans for a less contentious, more open dialogue with Chinese leaders as he travels to Asia, less than a month after he slammed Beijing at an international conference for its militarization of islands in the South China Sea.

Speaking to reporters on his plane Sunday en route to a stop in Alaska, Mattis avoided any of the sharp criticism of China that he had voiced recently. Instead, he insisted that he is going into the talks with Chinese leaders without any preconceived notions, and wants to focus on larger, more strategic security issues.

According to officials, a key topic of the discussions later this week will be the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and the role China can play, considering its longstanding friendship with North Korea.

"I want to go in right now without basically poisoning the well at this point. I'm going there to have a conversation," said Mattis. "I do not want to immediately go in with a certain preset expectation of what they are going to say. I want to go in and do a lot of listening."

Mattis' more diplomatic tack reflects the U.S. administration's recognition of China's crucial influence on Korea as negotiations move ahead to get North Korea to abandon its nuclear program.

One senior U.S. official said that



Chinese structures and an airstrip on the man-made Subi Reef at the Spratly group of islands are seen from a Philippine Air Force C-130

while Mattis will willingly lay out America's position on China's military buildup in the South China Sea and other points of contention, the Pentagon chief doesn't want to open the conversations with "the irritants." Instead, the goal is to have higher quality talks about the two countries' military relationship, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations on the trip.

Last month, however, Mattis abruptly disinvited China from a multinational exercise in the Pacific that will begin in a few days, in retribution for Beijing putting weapons systems on manmade islands in the South China Sea. And days later he publicly threatened "much larger consequences in the future" if the militarization continued.

China recently has deployed anti-ship missiles, surface-to-air missiles, electronic jammers and other equipment on the Spratly Islands, and landed a bomber aircraft at Woody Island. China says it is within its rights to build up defenses on islands in the South China Sea that it believes are its sovereign territory.

Many nations fear that Beijing will use the construction on the islands to extend its military reach and potentially try to restrict navigation in the South China Sea.

It's all but certain the Chinese will raise those issues with Mattis, as well as Beijing's long-held opposition to increasing U.S. contacts with Taiwan. China claims the self-ruled island as its territory.

For the U.S., however, North

Korea will be a primary topic in the talks with senior Chinese leaders. And while the U.S. would like to see China use its influence to reinforce the denuclearization negotiations with North Korea, it also wants Beijing to remain committed to enforcing sanctions against the North, as part of the pressure campaign.

China also is likely pleased that the U.S. has suspended any major military exercises with South Korea as part of the nuclear negotiations.

Mattis said Sunday that the Pentagon cancelled two Marine military exchanges as well as the larger Ulchi Freedom Guardian exercise this fall, because the defense department considered them consistent with what President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un had

agreed on at the summit about two weeks ago.

The U.S. has also long been frustrated that China doesn't share much information about any war scenarios or other contingencies it has in place in the event of a conflict on the Korean peninsula or the collapse of the North Korean government.

By improving its relationship with Beijing, Washington believes it could better prepare for any problems and be able to coordinate more effectively with China.

This is Mattis' first trip to China, both personally and as defense secretary. He said he has been in Hong Kong several times. The last Pentagon chief to visit China was Chuck Hagel in April 2014.

But both Mattis and his immediate predecessor, Ash Carter, have spent a great deal of time in Asia, in the wake of the much-vaunted U.S. increased emphasis on the Indo-Pacific region. Mattis has traveled to Asia seven times during his 17-month tenure as defense secretary, and this marks his third visit so far this year.

During his stop in Alaska, Mattis will visit a key element of the America's missile defense system at Fort Greely, the strategic missile interceptors. Sen. Dan Sullivan, R-Alaska, flew with Mattis from Washington and is expected to go to Fort Greely with him.

The Pentagon budget calls for increasing the number of interceptors from 44 to 64, and that additional 20 will be located at Fort Greely. Critics question the reliability of the interceptors, arguing that years of testing has yet to prove them to be sufficiently effective against a sophisticated threat.

In addition, Mattis will travel to South Korea and Japan to meet with his defense counterparts as well as other national leaders. **AP**

Meituan reveals USD2.9b loss after filing for Hong Kong IPO

Lulu Yilun Chen

MEDITUAN Dianping, the world's fourth-most valuable startup, filed for an initial public offering in Hong Kong and revealed the scope of its losses for the first time.

While the company didn't disclose how much it was planning to raise from the stock sale, it unveiled a net loss of 19 billion yuan (USD2.9 billion) last year on revenue of 33.9 billion yuan, according to its initial filing. After adjusting for share-based compensation and other items, the loss for the year was 2.9 billion yuan.

Meituan joins smartphone maker Xiaomi Corp. in targeting an IPO in Hong Kong after the former Bri-

tish colony revised regulations to attract the major tech listings it's lost out on in the past. The food delivery and restaurant reviews service was said to have been targeting a \$6 billion fundraising at a valuation of roughly \$60 billion, rivaling Xiaomi's goal of as much as \$6.1 billion in what would be the world's largest IPO in two years. Xiaomi is also unprofitable and lost more than \$1 billion in the first three months of 2018 alone.

Meituan's debut is another signal of China's rising technology might - a flashpoint for tensions with the U.S. A generation of up-and-comers like Meituan and ride-hailing giant Didi Chuxing

are emerging to build out an internet industry long dominated by social media giant Tencent Holdings Ltd., e-commerce player Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. and search engine operator Baidu Inc. Bloomberg News reported its filing and results Friday.

Meituan was most recently valued at \$30 billion, making it the world's fourth most valuable startup according to CB Insights. The joint sponsors of the IPO are Goldman Sachs Group Inc., Morgan Stanley and Bank of America Merrill Lynch. China Renaissance is sole financial adviser, according to the filing.

Chief Executive Officer Wang Xing founded

Meituan.com in 2010 as a group-buying site similar to Groupon Inc. before a 2015 merger with Dianping, which provided reviews of restaurants and other local businesses.

The combined company handled \$57 billion of transactions last year between more than 300 million annual active buyers - about the size of the American population - and more than four million merchants. It's more recently expanded into areas such as ride-sharing, bikes and travel. With a few taps to navigate its smartphone apps, Chinese customers can order up hot meals, groceries, massages, haircuts and manicures at home or in the office.

An IPO would give Mei-



tuan additional capital to compete and expand. The company however faces formidable rivals in key businesses. It's competing with entities backed by Alibaba in food delivery, with Didi Chuxing in ride hailing, and even with its own backer Tencent in payments. It also expanded into bike sharing with a deal for Mobike.

Meituan is also considered a prime candidate to eventually sell Chine-

se depositary shares, a government program to give more opportunities to domestic investors and stem a corporate exodus to overseas markets. Its other existing backers include Booking Holdings Inc., Sequoia Capital, Canada Pension Plan Investment Board, Trustbridge Partners, Tiger Global Management, Coatue Management and Singaporean sovereign wealth fund GIC. **Bloomberg**

PRC, Europe warn trade war could trigger global recession

CHINA and the European Union vowed to oppose trade protectionism in an apparent rebuke to the U.S., saying unilateral actions risked pushing the world into a recession.

Vice Premier Liu He - President Xi Jinping's top economic adviser - said China and the EU had agreed to defend the multilateral trading system, following talks yesterday in Beijing. The comments, made at a press briefing with European Commission Vice President Jyrki Katainen, come as both sides prepare to face off against President Donald Trump's tariff threats.

"Unilateralism is on the rise and trade tensions have appeared in major economies," Liu said. "China and the EU firmly oppose trade unilateralism and protectionism and think these actions may bring recession and turbulence to the global economy."

Both China and the EU are coming under pressure from Trump, as the U.S. president seeks to remake a global trading system that he sees as rigged against the world's largest economy.

After months of rhetoric and threats, the trade fight seems to be coming to a head, with Europe imposing tariffs on USD3.3 billion of American products Friday in response to U.S. barriers on imports of aluminum and steel. That triggered threats of further tariffs on European cars from Trump.

Later this week, the U.S. Treasury Department is expected to release fresh rules on Chinese investment in technology companies, Bloomberg reported on Monday, putting additional



Jyrki Katainen (left) listens near Jean-Luc Demarty, Director General for Trade, European Commission during a press conference in Beijing

pressure on China - which hit back against the plans. Chinese investment has provided jobs and tax income for the U.S., and it should view commercial activities "objectively," Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told reporters in Beijing yesterday.

The U.S. is due to impose tariffs on \$34 billion of Chinese imports from July 6, and Trump has threatened to impose levies on another \$200 billion of Chi-

nese goods. If that threat is realized, it could cut as much as half a percentage point off China's economic growth, and also hit the American economy, economists have said.

Anxiety over the economic fallout is cutting deep in financial markets, with China's yuan sliding to a six-month low Monday, and the country's stocks slipping with U.S. index futures.

As the conflict over trade has intensified, China has sought to

align itself with Europe as a way of pushing back against the U.S. Both sides agreed in yesterday's talks to promote globalization and forged a consensus on climate change, Liu said.

But despite their alignment against the U.S. trade threat, the EU and China remain at odds over issues including the lack of reciprocal access for European firms and the EU's reluctance to endorse China's Belt and Road trade and infrastructure

program. As China steps up its engagement in Europe, the EU, too, is working on measures to tighten screening of outside investments to protect critical technologies and infrastructure.

A survey released last week by the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China showed that a slim majority of members thought foreign-invested companies are treated unfairly, and almost two-thirds see a lack of reciprocity between the access to China's markets that they get, and the access Chinese companies get to Europe.

China and the EU will exchange offers related to market access at an upcoming summit in July

China and the EU will exchange offers related to market access at an upcoming summit in July, Liu said yesterday. He also said both sides agreed to connect the Belt and Road initiative to the EU's development strategies.

The EU and China agreed to set up a working group to update the WTO to better equip it for the contemporary world, Katainen said at a press conference late Monday in Beijing. While the details have yet to be decided, the EU hopes the working group is at vice-minister level, he said.

In what Katainen described as "a big step forward," the two sides will also exchange a list regarding a bilateral investment agreement at the upcoming summit. Still, that doesn't mean the accord will be reached immediately, with different views outstanding on overcapacity, forced technology transfer and cyber security, he said. **Bloomberg**

Jack Ma embraces blockchain for Ant but warns of bitcoin bubble

Lulu Yilun Chen

BILLIONAIRE Jack Ma has declared Bitcoin a potential bubble, reiterating his caution over the volatile cryptocurrency as his Ant Financial yesterday launched blockchain-based money transfers between Hong Kong and the Philippines.

The founder and chairman of Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. extolled the possibilities of the decentralized ledger on which Bitcoin is based but war-

ned that the digital currency itself may be driven by torrid speculation. Ma made his comments after officially launching a blockchain-based remittance service with Standard Chartered Plc and GCash, Ant's venture with the Philippines' Globe Telecom Inc.

Bitcoin set a 2018 low on Sunday before bouncing back a tad, underscoring the volatility that stems from increased scrutiny by regulators even as global central bankers and

business chiefs raise questions about its viability.

"Blockchain technology could change our world more than people imagine," Ma told reporters in the former British colony, home to a large population of Filipino workers and domestic helpers who send money home regularly. "Bitcoin however could be a bubble."

Ant Financial, an affiliate of Alibaba's backed by some of the biggest names in global finance and investment, has explored

blockchain technology for years, including to clean up China's murky charities. But the remittance service marks one of the first instances of the internet giant using the technology in mainstream finance.

Yesterday, Ma also took potshots at the traditional banking industry, saying financial institutions were over-charging for overseas payments. Ant Financial, blocked from buying Moneygram International Inc., now wants to build



something better and take blockchain-based remittances beyond just Hong Kong to the Philippines. He didn't elaborate.

"Traditional financial institutions serve 20 per-

cent of people and make 80 percent of profits. New financial institutions should serve 80 percent of people, and make 20 percent of profit," said Ma. **Bloomberg**

JAPAN

Abe sees approval rating jump as scandal fears recede

Colin Keatinge

JAPANESE Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's approval rating jumped in two public opinion surveys, in the latest sign his premiership had escaped danger after a series of domestic scandals earlier this year.

Approval for Abe's government climbed 10 percentage points to 52 percent, according to a poll conducted by the Nikkei newspaper and TV Tokyo. Disapproval dropped to 42 percent in the poll conducted between Friday and Sunday, compared with 53 percent in May. Separately, a poll by the Mainichi newspaper found the cabinet's support climbed 5 percentage points to 36 percent.

The polls suggest that Abe has survived another political close-call after allegations of cronyism and abuse of power drove down his popularity just months ahead of a crucial party election. The September vote to decide leadership of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party will probably deter-



mine whether Abe can stay on to become Japan's longest-serving prime minister, since a fragmented opposition poses little electoral threat.

The surveys reduce the risk of a more dramatic course shift on Japan's ultra-easy monetary policy, next year's planned consumption tax increase or proposals to amend the anti-war

provision of the country's post-war constitution. Abe recovered from similar popularity declines last year - going on to win a landslide election victory in October - and in 2015, after pushing through controversial legislation to expand the powers of Japan's military.

This year's downturn was seen as Abe's biggest political challenge

since he stepped down amid a public relations maelstrom in September 2007, citing a chronic digestive ailment. The latest polls suggest Abe's repeated public apologies, as well as a decision by Finance Minister Taro Aso - a key figure in several scandals - to take a pay cut had satisfied some government critics.

"The approval rating is someti-

mes high, sometimes low, I don't think every move will make me or us happy," Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told a briefing Monday in Tokyo. "As an administration, it's important to conscientiously respond to domestic and international issues and through policy to create results one by one."

■ This year's downturn was seen as Abe's biggest political challenge since he stepped down amid a public relations maelstrom in September 2007

Abe still faces a potential challenge by former Defense Minister Shigeru Ishiba, 61, in the September LDP election. While Ishiba hasn't declared whether he'll run, he told Bloomberg News that an uncontested election would be bad for the ruling party and said he would try to make a decision this month. **Bloomberg**



Charlott Salwai Tabimasmas (center) meets with Malcolm Turnbull and Julie Bishop

Australia and Vanuatu to negotiate security treaty

Rod McGuirk

AUSTRALIA said yesterday that it would negotiate a security treaty with Vanuatu, weeks after the Australian prime minister warned China against building a military base in the South Pacific island nation.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull announced the negotiations during a visit to the Australian Parliament House by Vanuatu Prime Minister Charlott Salwai Tabimasmas.

"We agreed to commence negotiations on a bilateral security treaty on common security interests, such as humanitarian assistance and disaster response, maritime surveillance and border security, police and defense cooperation," Turnbull said in a statement.

Turnbull said he and Salwai had reinforced their commitment to a deep and enduring economic and security partnership.

A Vanuatu government spokesman did not immediately respond to a request

for comment yesterday.

In May, China and Vanuatu denied media reports that the Chinese had approached the former joint British-French colony, which has a population of 280,000, about building a permanent military presence in the South Pacific.

Turnbull said at the time that Australia "would view with great concern the establishment of any foreign military bases in those Pacific island countries and neighbors of ours."

New Zealand Prime Min-

ister Jacinda Ardern had said her country takes "a strong position in the Pacific against militarization."

Vanuatu's infrastructure minister, Jotham Napat, told Australian Broadcasting Corp. last week that Salwai would use his Australian visit to ask Turnbull for Australia to help pay for a high-speed telecommunications cable from Sydney to Vanuatu.

The request follows the Australian government's announcement last week that it would pay most of the 137 million Australian dollar (USD101 million) price tag for such an undersea cable to South Pacific neighbors Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands.

Australia stepped into that project after the Solomons' government signed a contract with Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei in 2017 to build a cable to the Sydney broadband hub. The Solomons consequently scrapped the Huawei deal.

Huawei has been flagged by U.S. intelligence officials as a national security threat because of its links to the Chinese Communist Party. Australia has barred Huawei on security grounds from bidding for contracts in a national broadband network that is currently being rolled out Australia-wide. **AP**

INDONESIA

Three dead in gun attack on airport in Papua

GUNMEN killed three people in an attack yesterday at an airport in Indonesia's easternmost Papua that targeted a light plane transporting paramilitary police, the military said.

Col. Muhammad Aidi, the army's spokesman in Papua province, said three civilians were killed and two people, including the pilot, were injured in the attack, which occurred after the plane landed at Kenyam airport in remote Nduga district.

The dead civilians were migrant traders from South Sulawesi province, including a husband and wife, who were shot and stabbed as the attackers fled the airport, Aidi said.

A pro-independence insurgency has simmered in the formerly Dutch-controlled Papua region since it was annexed by Indonesia in 1963.

Under Indonesian rule, indigenous Papuans have been largely shut out of their region's economic activity, which is dominated by extraction of natural resources by Indonesian and foreign companies including the giant U.S.-owned Grasberg gold and copper mine.

Aidi said the chartered Twin Otter plane was transporting paramilitary police from the highlands town of Wamena to Nduga to provide security during regional elections tomorrow.

He said the assailants were members of the "Armed Civilians Criminal Group" that had previously shot dead a worker on the trans-Papua highway project. Indonesia's police and military frequently blame attacks in Papua on criminals rather than admitting an insurgency. **AP**

Hyung-Jin Kim, Seoul

Koreas discuss removing North's artillery from tense border

THE rival Koreas are discussing the possible relocation of North Korea's long-range artillery guns away from the tense Korean border, South Korea's prime minister said yesterday, as the countries forge ahead with steps to lower tensions and extend a recent detente.

If realized, it would be yet another conciliatory step by North Korea since it entered talks on giving up its nuclear weapons earlier this year. But some experts say it might be a tactic to push Seoul and Washington to withdraw their more sophisticated artillery systems from front-line areas in return for pulling back its outdated conventional weapons.

In a speech marking the 68th anniversary of the start of the 1950-53 Korean War, Prime Minister Lee Nak-yeon said that "moving [North Korea's] long-range artillery to the rear is under discussion," as he explained what types of goodwill steps between the Koreas have been taken in recent months.

Lee's comments appeared to be Seoul's first official confirmation of media reports that South Korea demanded that North Korea reposition its forward-deployed artillery pieces during inter-Korean military talks on June 14. Seoul's Defense Ministry, which has denied those reports, said it had no immediate comment on Lee's speech.

North Korea has deployed an estimated 1,000 artillery pieces and rockets along the 248-kilometer border, putting the Seoul metropolitan area within its striking distance. Seoul, a capital city with 10 million people, is about 40-50 kilometers from the border.

Many experts have called the North Korean artillery threats "significant" because it can



War veterans salute during yesterday's ceremony to mark the 68th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War in Seoul

inflict massive casualties and devastate much of Seoul in the initial hours of a war before the much-better-equipped U.S. and South Korean militaries could fully respond.

But there are also views that such an assessment may be an exaggeration as the North's artillery guns in general have poor accuracy and cannot destroy hard concrete structures. During a North Korean artillery strike on a South Korean border island in 2010 that killed four people, 90 of the 170 shells fired by the North fell into the sea while 30 of the 80 shells that reached the island didn't explode, according to military commentator Lee Illwoo.

North Korea's pullout of its

artillery would be "meaningless" or a symbolic "gesture for peace," Lee said.

South Korean media speculated that during the June 14 military talks, North Korea likely demanded that South Korea and the United States

■ Military officers of the two Koreas met and agreed to fully restore their military hotline communication channels

withdraw their own artillery systems from the border as a reciprocal measure. Local media reports said North Korea also proposed the two Koreas and the United States stop flying surveillance and other aircraft near the border.

Shin Won-sik, a retired three-star South Korean general, said in a newspaper column last week that the South may not be able to find any place to reposition its artillery assets in densely populated rear areas if it pulls them from the border.

North Korea has said it's willing to give up its nuclear program if it's provided a reliable security assurance from the United States. But it hasn't taken any serious steps toward

disarmament while repeating a vague pledge to achieve "complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula," a phrase it has used in the past when it requested the United States to withdraw its 28,500 troops from South Korea and stop military exercises with the South.

North Korea's outreach to Seoul and Washington has still produced a temporary detente on the Korean Peninsula, with U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un holding a landmark summit on June 12.

South Korea and the United States recently announced the suspension of their annual military exercises called Ulchi Freedom Guardian and two other small-scale drills in part of efforts to increase the chances of successful nuclear diplomacy with North Korea. Some experts say the drills' suspension could weaken the allies' combined defense posture against North Korea.

Yesterday, military officers of the two Koreas met and agreed to fully restore their military hotline communication channels, the South's Defense Ministry said.

The U.S. military said Saturday it moved 100 wooden coffins to the inter-Korean border to prepare for North Korea's return of the remains of American soldiers who have been missing since the 1950-53 Korean War. The two Koreas last week also agreed to restart temporary reunions of families separated by the war in August. **AP**

THAILAND

Officials believe 12 boys missing in cave are alive

MULTIPLE attempts to locate 12 boys and their soccer coach missing in a flooded cave complex in northern Thailand for nearly two days have failed, but officials said yesterday they believe they're still alive.

The boys, aged 11-15, are believed to have entered the Tham Luang Nang Non cave in Chiang Rai province with their 25-year-old coach late Saturday afternoon. A mother reported that her son did not return from soccer practice that day, setting off the search.

"We are still searching right now," Chote Narin, an

officer at Mae Sai district police station, said yesterday afternoon. "We've found traces but no people yet."

He said footprints and handprints were found inside the cave complex and that officials believe the boys are still alive. He said the fact that they're athletes should help them endure the situation.

Navy SEAL divers were trying to reach a large chamber deep inside the cave complex where officials thought the students might be. The chamber is about 4 kilometers from the entrance of the cave,

which is thought to be about 6-8 kilometers long.

The cave, cut into a mountainside in far northern Thailand near the border with Myanmar, is a local tourist attraction but can flood severely during Thailand's rainy season, which runs from June to October. Rain continued to fall in the area yesterday afternoon and officials said parts of the cave were flooded under at least 5 meters of water.

Kamolchai Kotcha, an official at the forest park where the cave is located, said yesterday morning that attempts to reach

the chamber had failed as the passage is extremely small, "flooded and covered with sand and mud."

"Right now, our family is hoping that the children trapped inside will have formed a group and are safe and waiting for officials to go in and save them in time. That's what I'm hoping," Noppadol Kantawong, the father of one of the missing boys, told Thai PBS on Sunday.

Footage on Thai television showed bicycles, backpacks and soccer cleats left outside the entrance to the cave. The area was filled with soldiers and res-



Bicycles left by a group of missing boys lean against a railing at the entrance of a deep cave in Chiang Rai

cue personnel. Buddhist monks offered prayers.

According to Kamolchai, tourists trapped in the cave by past floods have been rescued after the water receded a few days later. **AP**

Sam Mednick, Juba

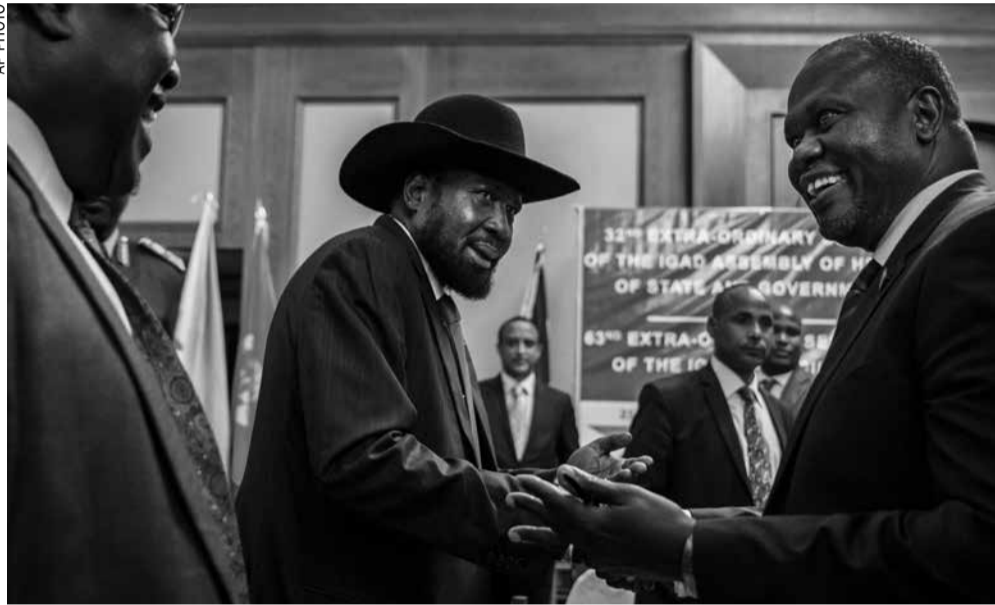
SOUTH Sudan President Salva Kiir met again with rival Riek Machar yesterday in neighboring Sudan amid fragile efforts to end their country's five-year civil war, while the new U.S. ambassador to Juba told The Associated Press the U.S. is skeptical of the latest talks.

The meeting mediated by Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir in Khartoum resulted in "some points that enable South Sudan's people to enjoy peace," Sudan's state-run news agency SUNA quoted Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni as saying. It did not give details.

Kiir and Machar met face-to-face last week for the first time in nearly two years in neighboring Ethiopia, but South Sudan's government rejected the idea of Machar returning again as Kiir's deputy. The East African regional bloc's leaders later said Machar could leave house arrest in South Africa but was not welcome in any member country except to participate in peace talks.

Tens of thousands of people have been killed in South Sudan's civil war, which has created Africa's largest refugee crisis since

South Sudan's rival leaders meeting again for talks



Salva Kiir (center) and opposition leader Riek Machar (right) shake hands during peace talks at a hotel in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

the 1994 Rwandan genocide and left millions near famine. A power-sharing peace attempt failed when Machar fled his vice president post, and the country, amid fresh fighting in the capital, Juba, in July 2016.

Kenya is expected to host

another round of talks between the rivals in the weeks ahead.

The United States, the top humanitarian donor to South Sudan, has expressed growing impatience with the warring sides, sponsoring a resolution adopted by the U.N.

Security Council early this month that threatens an arms embargo on South Sudan and sanctions against six people, including the country's chief of defense, if fighting doesn't stop and a political agreement reached.

The new U.S. ambassador to South Sudan told the AP in an interview that the U.S. is skeptical of the latest peace talks.

"If it's just a repeat of the failed 2015 agreement [that returned Machar to his role as Kiir's deputy] it's not going to work," Ambassador Thomas Hushek said.

The ambassador called the closed-door session between Kiir and Machar last week in Ethiopia a "very backwards step" in terms of inclusivity.

Hushek also cited concerns over the "lack of outcome" and the lack of action by heads of state and government in the regional bloc leading the talks, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, on punitive measures against those who violated the latest cease-fire in December.

South Sudan's government yesterday said Kiir should be applauded for meeting with Machar.

Meanwhile, the armed opposition said fighting continued.

"The regime in Juba should refrain from the negative thinking of continuing with war and accept peace to come politically," spokesman Lam Paul Gabriel said in a statement. AP



EU slaps sanctions on Venezuelan vice-president, 10 others

THE European Union banned travel and froze the assets of 11 senior Venezuelan officials yesterday, including new Vice President Delcy Rodríguez, pressuring the nation's leaders to hold fresh elections and return to democratic rule.

The people "listed are responsible for human rights violations and for undermining democracy and the rule of law in Venezuela," EU headquarters said in a statement.

Venezuela immediately responded, accusing European leaders of meddling in Venezuela's internal affairs and undermining the nation's peace.

The sanctions, which also target the army chief and a top military intelligence officer, bring the total number of Venezuelan officials under EU sanctions to 18. It makes good on a threat made shortly after a recent presidential election that was broadly considered a sham.

Venezuela must respect all democratically elected institutions, notably the National Assembly, and release all political prisoners, European officials said.

Venezuela is in the grip of a deepening political and financial crisis marked by shortages of food and medicine, causing masses of residents to flee across its borders. A broad coalition of nations in the international community has condemned Venezuela's leaders, accusing them of using the nation's resources for personal gain.

Officials in the United States have sanctioned 70 officials, including President Nicolas Maduro.

European leaders said that the measures are reversible and not designed to harm Venezuela's citizens. Officials said the measures are meant to help foster democratic solutions to the crisis, encourage political stability and address the urgent needs of Venezuelans.

Maduro coasted to victory May 20 in an election boycotted by the main opposition parties and broadly condemned as illegitimate by the U.S. and other foreign governments.

Venezuela's government issued a statement calling the new European measure an act of "ongoing aggression" and "intervention," affirming that it will not accept threats from any power or group of countries. It said the European Union is "undermining political peace in Venezuela by meddling in its internal affairs and engaging in coercive measures that undermine tranquility and dialogue."

European leaders announced in early June that they would send more than USD40 million worth of aid to help Venezuelans suffering through a deepening humanitarian crisis, though the country's leaders have steadfastly denied it needs any foreign assistance.

Most of the money was earmarked for health care, food and clean water for Venezuelans living inside and outside of the country, European Commission officials said. AP

AD

ALBERGUE SCM

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Sculpture: A Journey

Exhibition by António Leça

Celebration of Day of Portugal, Camões,
and the Portuguese Communities

Duration of the Exhibition
June 13th, 2018 until October 21th, 2018

Opening Hours
Tuesday to Sunday from 12:00pm to 8:00pm
Monday from 3:00pm to 8:00pm

Exhibition Venue
Albergue SCM - A2 Gallery
Calçada da Igreja de São Lázaro No.8, Macau SAR

Free Admission

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TURKEY

Victorious Erdogan set to assume sweeping powers

RECEP Tayyip Erdogan, who has dominated Turkish politics for the past 15 years, is set to extend his rule and take on sweeping new powers after winning landmark presidential and parliamentary elections.

Turkey's High Electoral Board declared Erdogan, 64, the winner of Sunday's polls, which usher in a new executive presidential system that was approved in a referendum last year. Under the system, the office of the prime minister is eliminated and executive powers are transferred to the president, who can rule with only limited checks and balances.

The Turkish leader, who is accused by critics of adopting increasingly authoritarian tactics but is loved by supporters for bringing prosperity and stability, may be facing rough times ahead, however. Analysts predict an economic downturn amid rising inflation and a struggling currency.

His win could deepen Turkey's rift with Western allies, who are already concerned by setbacks in democracy and human rights as well as Turkey's closer ties with Russia.

Still, Turkey's currency, the lira, rallied yesterday over Erdogan's victory, which allows the country to avoid instability in the short-term.

In his victory speech, Erdogan said he would work toward achieving his goal of making Turkey one of the world's top 10 economies by 2023, when the Turkish Republic marks its centenary.

He also pledged a more "determined" fight against outlawed



Kurdish rebels and alleged members of a movement led by U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gulen, whom he accuses of orchestrating a 2016 failed coup against his government. Gulen denies involvement.

"Turkey made its choice in favor of a more determined fight against the PKK [Kurdistan Workers Party] and [Gulenists]," Erdogan said. "We will go after terror organizations with stronger determination."

Under the new system, Erdogan will appoint ministers, vice

presidents and high-level bureaucrats, issue decrees, prepare the budget and decide on security policies.

According to unofficial results that have yet to be confirmed by the electoral board, Erdogan garnered 52.5 percent of the votes, while his ruling Justice and Development Party, or AKP, won 42.5 percent in the parliamentary vote. Erdogan's closest contender, Muharrem Ince of the main opposition Republican People's Party, won 30.7 percent.

Erdogan's AKP fell short of a

parliamentary majority but a better-than-expected performance by its nationalist ally should allow the party to control the 600-seat legislature.

Ince, who complained of unfair elections, accepted Erdogan's victory during a news conference yesterday.

"There are no significant differences between our records and the Supreme Election Council's records," Ince told reporters. "I accept the results of the elections."

The politician, who led a ro-

bust campaign against Erdogan, called on him to end his divisive policies.

"Be the president of 81 million [Turks], embrace everyone," he said. "That's what I would have done if I had won."

Erdogan said he would work toward achieving his goal of making Turkey one of the world's top 10 economies by 2023

The 54-year-old politician criticized Turkey's new system, saying: "Turkey has cut off its ties with democratic values... [Turkey] has transitioned to a one-man regime in the fullest sense."

The pro-Kurdish People's Democratic Party, whose presidential candidate Selahattin Demirtas was forced to campaign from jail, received the more than 10 percent of votes required to win seats in parliament, spilling thousands of its supporters into the streets in celebration. **AP**

IRAN

Reports: Protesters swarm Iran's Grand Bazaar in Tehran

Amir Vahdat, Tehran

PROTESTERS in the Iranian capital swarmed its historic Grand Bazaar yesterday, news agencies reported, and forced shopkeepers to close their stalls in apparent anger over the Islamic Republic's troubled economy, months after similar demonstrations rocked the country.

The unplanned demonstration came a day after protests forced two major shopping centers for mobile phones and electronics to close in Tehran. It also signaled widespread unease beneath the surface in Iran in the wake of President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw America from Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers.

It wasn't immediately

clear who led the protests. Iran's semi-official news agencies Fars, ISNA and Tasnim described the protests as erupting after the Iranian rial dropped to 90,000 to the dollar on the country's black market, despite government attempts to control the currency rate.

Videos posted to social media showed protesters at the bazaar heckling shopkeepers who refused to close, shouting in Farsi: "Coward!"

The head of Iran's Chamber of Guilds, Ali Fazeli, later was quoted by Tasnim as saying the situation at the bazaar is calm.

"Their demands are delivered through the chamber to the government, and these are being pursued by us," he said.

Tehran's sprawling

Grand Bazaar has long been a center of conservatism in Iranian politics and remains an economic force within the country — despite the construction of massive malls around the city. Bazaar families opposed the Iranian Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi and supported the 1979 Islamic Revolution that saw him replaced by the Shiite theocracy and elected officials.

At the end of last year, similar economic protests roiled Iran and spread to some 75 cities and towns, becoming the largest demonstrations in the country since its 2009 disputed presidential election. The protests in late December and early January saw at least 25 people killed and nearly 5,000 people arrested by authorities.



However, those protests largely struck Iran's provinces as opposed to Tehran itself. Analysts believe hard-liners likely encouraged the first protest that took place in Mashhad to weaken the administration of President Hassan Rouhani, a relative moderate cleric within Iran's

politics. The protests then spiraled out of control, with people openly criticizing both Rouhani and Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Rouhani's government has struggled with the economic problems, which have seen high unemployment. A government-set

exchange rate of 42,000 rials to USD1 has quickly been surpassed in the black market. Yesterday, state television quoted Iranian Central Bank chief Valiollah Seif as saying the government plans to create a parallel market next week to combat the black market.

Meanwhile, some hard-liners have called for new elections or for Rouhani's civilian government to be replaced by a military-led one. The Fars news agency, believed to be close to Iran's hard-line paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, made a point yesterday to publish an article from the Sobh-e No daily newspaper describing the government as being ready to "bow down to foreign threats and sit at the negotiation table." **AP**

what's ON



MARC CHAGALL, LIGHT AND COLOUR IN SOUTHERN FRANCE

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

UNTIL: August 26, 2018

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

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

TIME: 10am-6pm, last admission at 5:30pm

(Closed on Mondays, open on public holidays, free admission on Tuesdays and the 15th of every month)

UNTIL: July 31, 2018

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

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

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911 & 8394 1208

DISCOVER MACAU: MUSEUM OF TAIPA AND COLOANE HISTORY

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

ADDRESS: Rua Correia da Silva, Taipa

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

IN LOVE WITH MACAU - CALLIGRAPHY AND PAINTINGS OF MACAU

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

UNTIL: August 12, 2018

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

Offbeat

IN INDIA, RATS HAVE A USD19,000 MEAL



It was a cash machine heist with a difference: The attackers were hungry rodents.

At least one rat slipped through a hole in the back of an ATM in northeastern India and started eating. By the time it was finished, police say more than USD19,000 in bills were shredded.

When technicians arrived June 11 to fix a broken State Bank of India cash machine in the town of Tinsukia they found a dead rat inside it and Indian currency notes worth nearly 1.3 million rupees, or a little over \$19,000, chewed to shreds. The rat had entered the ATM through a small hole for cables, police superintendent Mugdha Jyoti Mahanta said Friday. The notes were in 500-rupee and 2,000-rupee denominations.

The ATM had been broken since May 20, officials said. A State Bank of India official said the cash machine was overseen by another company.

"We are surprised at what has happened. An investigation

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
15:50	C.O.P.A - History of all World Cups
17:25	Maternity
18:10	Portuguese Documentary
19:10	FIFA World Cup Diary
19:35	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	Documentary
21:45	Miscellaneous
22:25	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Miscellaneous
00:35	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:20	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



1963 KENNEDY: 'ICH BIN EIN BERLINER'

The US President, John F. Kennedy, has made a ground-breaking speech in Berlin offering American solidarity to the citizens of West Germany.

A crowd of 120,000 Berliners gathered in front of the Schöneberg Rathaus (City Hall) to hear President Kennedy speak.

They began gathering in the square long before he was due to arrive, and when he finally appeared on the podium they gave him an ovation of several minutes.

The president had just returned from a visit on foot to one of the Berlin Wall's most notorious crossing points, Checkpoint Charlie.

He was watched from the other side of the border by small groups of East Berliners unable even to wave because of the presence of large groups of the East German People's Police.

In an impassioned speech, the president told them West Berlin was a symbol of freedom in a world threatened by the Cold War.

"Two thousand years ago," he told the crowd, "the proudest boast in the world was 'civis Romanus sum'.

"Today, in the world of freedom, the proudest boast is 'Ich bin ein Berliner.'"

"Freedom has many difficulties and democracy is not perfect," he continued. "But we never had to put up a wall to keep our people in."

His speech was punctuated throughout by rapturous cheers of approval.

He ended on the theme he had begun with:

"All free men, wherever they may live, are citizens of Berlin, and therefore, as a free man, I take pride in the words, 'Ich bin ein Berliner.'"

After the speech, the mayor of West Berlin, Willi Brandt, spoke out for the citizens of East Germany, saying they would be brought out in a few days to greet the Soviet leader, Nikita Khrushchev, whether they wanted to or not.

"But they would much rather be with us, freely gathered here," he said.

"We tell them, we will not give up. Berlin is true to those behind barbed wire as to fellow countrymen in the West and friends in the whole world."

His words were followed by the tolling of the Freedom Bell from the belfry of the Rathaus in remembrance of those in East Germany.

For the first time that day, the massive crowd fell silent.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

President Kennedy's "Ich bin ein Berliner" speech was seen as a turning point in the Cold War.

It was a major morale booster for West Germans, alarmed by the recently-built Berlin Wall.

It also gave a strongly defiant message to the Soviet Union and effectively put paid to Moscow's hopes of driving the Allies out of West Berlin.

Two months later, President Kennedy negotiated the first nuclear test ban treaty with the Soviet Union, in what was seen as a first step towards ending the Cold War.

But on 22 November that year, he was assassinated, shot in the head as he drove through Dallas, Texas, on his way to a political festival.

The Berlin Wall was finally brought down, piece by piece, in November 1989 as communism collapsed and the Iron Curtain fell from Eastern Europe.

Germany was re-united in October 1990.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Very few times over the course of a year, the universe taps us on the shoulder and lets us know, via a great big coincidence, that today is our lucky day. This one is yours.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
Telling you not to worry now won't last for long. Even if you temporarily believe it, it will still be only too easy for you to talk yourself into worrying about what's going on.

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
If you're attached, expect to suddenly feel much closer to your partner now - more so than you have in some time. In other words, the connection you've been after may be right around the corner.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Getting you out of the house now will be next to impossible, especially if you have friends, family or kids on hand. The more loved ones you have handy to hug, feed and nurture.

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, they'll be better.

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
If anyone should be known for specializing in establishing good working relationships, it's you. You've most likely got a better rapport with your boss that he or she has with their best friend.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
Your ability to focus to that extent will come in handy now, and you'll be glad that you've got it, so when someone less intense tosses you a glance or a comment, don't be shy. Let 'em have it.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Whether it's giving from your heart or letting others know that you're there for them because it's your duty, you're not shy about being generous. You've been put in a position of leadership lately...

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Make your reservations, and if you can, take a loved one along for the ride. Who knows what might happen when you get there? At the very least, you'll be able to enjoy yourself like you know you need to.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
It's not often that the heavens arrange themselves so perfectly that all circumstances just can't help but work out well - but when they do, we're morally obligated to indulge. It's your turn now.

Pisces
Feb.19-Mar. 20
You know all about pushing the envelope, making waves, and all those crazy things you hear about other people doing. When it comes to doing those things yourself, however, you're not the type.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	25	36	thundershower/clear
Harbin	17	26	moderate rain
Tianjin	24	33	thundershower/cloudy
Urumqi	19	27	shower/cloudy
Xi'an	23	30	Moderate rain/drizzle
Lhasa	15	27	shower/cloudy
Chengdu	23	28	Moderate rain
Chongqing	26	37	clear
Kunming	17	23	Moderate rain/shower
Nanjing	28	37	cloudy
Shanghai	27	37	cloudy
Wuhan	27	35	cloudy
Hangzhou	26	37	clear/cloudy
Taipei	26	33	cloudy
Guangzhou	27	34	thundershower
Hong Kong	27	32	drizzle
WORLD			
Moscow	13	28	cloudy/clear
Frankfurt	11	25	cloudy/drizzle
Paris	14	26	clear
London	11	24	cloudy/clear
New York	20	26	clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1-Actor Baldwin; 5- Urns; 10- Opposed; 14- Picasso contemporary; 15- Not dead yet; 16- Rind; 17- Indigo source; 18- Water-repellent cloth; 19- Sneaky guy?; 20- Food ordered to go; 22- Scoffed; 24- ___-Foy, Quebec; 25- Motorists' org.; 26- Waterfall; 29- Adult males; 32- Bring up the rear; 36- Forearm bone; 37- Resembling a foot; 39- ___-Cat; 40- In spite of; 43- Verse starter?; 44- Flat-bottomed rowboat; 45- Prefix with logical; 46- Pet ___; 48- The lot; 49- Champagne buckets; 50- How Dry ___; 52- Repair shop fig.; 53- Person who rows; 57- Wounded; 61- Bangkok tongue; 62- Rid of insect pests; 64- ___-shanter (Scottish cap); 65- Shakespearean villain; 66- Disney mermaid; 67- Lena of "Havana"; 68- Ollie's pal; 69- Bullwinkle, e.g.; 70- Phooey!;

DOWN: 1- Amo, amas, ___; 2- Director Wertmuller; 3- Actor Estrada; 4- Cabbage salad; 5- Worth; 6- Very much; 7- Caesar of comedy; 8- Nights before; 9- Medicinal shrub; 10- Become visible; 11- ___-do-well; 12- Head of France?; 13- ___ Three Lives; 21- Giant Mel; 23- Devoured; 26- Dawn; 27- Unaccompanied; 28- Free laces, say; 29- Conductor Zubin; 30- Ford flop; 31- Pertaining to birth; 33- Stage whisper; 34- Type of sanctum; 35- Corporate symbols; 37- Sch. group; 38- Kind of cross; 41- Girder; 42- Duce; 47- Sight; 49- Belief system; 51- Woman in charge of a household; 52- "The ___ has landed."; 53- Soul singer Redding; 54- At the drop of ___; 55- Hindu music; 56- Whodunit hero Wolfe; 57- Membership fees; 58- Big bash; 59- Discharge; 60- Puts on; 63- Life story;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



<p>FOR SALE www.JMLProperty.com</p> <p>FOR RENT More info, please contact us Info@JMLproperty.com (853) 2835 2699 Office</p>	<p>Choi Long Meng Chui Taipa 3,398 sq ft / HKD 21M HKD 6,180sq ft Three Bedroom Apartment Ref: 18045555</p>	<p>Old Macau, Unique Walk Up Macau 950 sq ft / HKD4.48M HKD 4,715sq ft Three Bedroom Apartment Ref: 18065557</p>	<p>The Buckingham, Unit C Taipa 1,186 sq ft / HKD 9.48M HKD 7,993sq ft Two Double Bedrooms Ref: 18025544</p>	<p>Violet Court, Hellene Gardens Coloane 2,530sq ft / HKD 20M HKD 7,905sq ft Beautifully Designed Apartment Ref: 18035546</p>
	<p>Lakeview, Macau Macau 3 Bedrooms Apartment Front Balcony HKD 30,000 / 3,430 sq ft Ref: 18060680</p>	<p>The Buckingham Taipa Two double bedroom Fully Furnished HKD 18,000 / 700 sq ft Ref: 18060681</p>	<p>Warehouse, Keck Seng Macau Third Floor Warehouse Outdoor Garden HKD 40,000 / 3,755 sq ft Ref: 18050678</p>	<p>Fountainside Macau 3 Bedrooms Apartment Furnished HKD 25,000 / 1712 sq ft Ref: 18040677</p>

PREVIEW | ARGENTINA-NIGERIA

Messi birthday overshadowed by Argentina's World Cup crisis

Debora Rey, Bronnitsy

IN any other context, the gesture would have gone unnoticed: Lionel Messi received birthday greetings from Argentina coach Jorge Sampaoli.

The best wishes, however, came amid turmoil embroiling Sampaoli and the squad, which is on the brink of elimination from the World Cup in Russia.

The captain, who turned 31 on Sunday, arrived to the training field where Sampaoli was waiting to start the session. The coach went up to Messi, giving him a kiss on the cheek and a pat on the back. But then there was no further contact between the two.

Argentina's football association was quick to deny media reports about the future of Sampaoli, who was strongly criticized for his tactical approach and the formation he put out in Argentina's humiliating 3-0 loss to Croatia last week.

The reports said that Sam-



The mayor of Bronnitsy helps a boy cut a cake to mark Lionel Messi's birthday near Argentina's training camp base

paoli would be dismissed and wouldn't take charge against Nigeria on Wednesday [2 a.m. Macau time] in St. Petersburg for the team's last Group D match.

Despite palpable tension between the players and the coach, Argentina's football

association president Claudio Tapia indicated Sunday that Sampaoli isn't going anywhere yet. But he didn't clarify what would happen afterward since Sampaoli has a contract that runs through the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

"You have seen the coach and

the team training," Tapia told reporters. "It's clear that what you are saying is a lie." Tapia didn't respond to questions.

After the defeat to Croatia, forward Sergio Aguero responded to a reporter's question asking him about Sampaoli's post-match comments

that the players hadn't adapted to his methods. Aguero, who is Messi's roommate at the training base, responded: "Sampaoli can say what he wants."

So far, this tournament has been a huge disappointment for Messi and Argentina, which finished as runner-up at the 2014 World Cup. The five-time world player of the year missed a penalty against Iceland in the first group game and played one of his worst matches against Croatia.

If there isn't a party going on at the moment within Argentina's training base in Bronnitsy, a town outside Moscow, there was certainly one happening outside.

Bronnitsy's mayor invited hundreds of people from the area to a symbolic birthday celebration for Messi. There was a huge life-size cake of the star, replete with detail including his tattoos, and typical Russian dance and folk songs. The party-goers devoured the chocolate and strawberry cake, hardly leaving a crumb.

The merriment took place on a riverbank that separates the town from Argentina's training camp. Messi wasn't there. Instead, representatives from Argentina's delegation were in attendance.

Perhaps news of the gala in Messi's honor will lift his spirits for what really counts: beating Nigeria. **AP**

England scores six but falls well short of record

ENGLAND'S 6-1 rout of Panama is the biggest winning margin in this year's World Cup. However, it falls well short of the tournament record. Here's a look at the biggest World Cup winning margins:

HUNGARY 10 EL SALVADOR 1

Hungary scored the most goals in a single World Cup match when it became the first and only team to put in 10. The huge victory over El Salvador came in their opening group match at the 1982 tournament in Spain. Substitute Laszlo Kiss scored a seven-minute hat trick. Hungary still failed to progress to the next round, however, after losing to Argentina and drawing with Belgium. El Salvador, which has lost all six matches it has played in at two World Cups, hasn't qualified since.

HUNGARY 9 SOUTH KOREA 0

The Hungary team of 1954 is one of the most-revered in World Cup history, and it had arguably the best player in the world in Fer-



Miroslav Klose performs a somersault after scoring his second goal during the 2002 World Cup match between Germany and Saudi Arabia

renc Puskas. The "Magical Magyars," unbeaten in four years, scored nine against South Korea in their opening match. Puskas got two of them, while Sandor Kocsis scored a hat trick. Kocsis would go on to be the top scorer in that World Cup with 11 goals. In its second match, Hungary beat West Germany 8-3. Hungary faced West Germany again in the final and took a 2-0 lead but lost 3-2 in what has become known as the "Miracle of Bern."

YUGOSLAVIA 9 ZAIRE 0

Zaire was the first sub-

Saharan African team to play in the World Cup in 1974. But after a fairly solid start, losing 2-0 to Scotland, Zaire was routed by Yugoslavia 9-0 with six of the goals coming in the first half. Dusan Bajevic scored a hat trick. In its next match, Zaire lost only 3-0 to Brazil. Zaire, now called Congo, has not been at a World Cup since.

SWEDEN 8 CUBA 0

Sweden's first match of the 1938 World Cup in France came in the quarterfinals, and it was

a blowout. Cuba had gotten past Romania in the first round of the knockout tournament but only after a replay. Three days later it met Sweden, which had been granted a bye into the quarterfinals as a result of Austria's decision to pull out of the tournament after it joined up with Adolf Hitler's Germany. It's a game Cuba would probably rather forget. Gustav Wetterstrom and Harry Andersson both scored hat tricks as Sweden won 8-0. Sweden was then on the other end of a rout in

the semifinals, losing to Hungary 5-1.

URUGUAY 8 BOLIVIA 0

Uruguay pulled off its own 8-0 victory in 1950 against Bolivia. Oscar Miguez scored a hat trick. For Bolivia, there was some consolation because Uruguay ended up winning the title after beating Brazil 2-1 in the final match of the tournament.

GERMANY 8 SAUDI ARABIA 0

Another 8-0 result came at the 2002 tournament, when Germany got a hat trick from Miroslav Klose in the victory. Saudi Arabia was eliminated from the group stage with zero goals scored and 12 conceded, while Germany went on to reach the final and lose to Brazil. **AP**

LATEST RESULTS

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	2	Tunisia
England	6	1	Panama
Poland	0	3	Colombia
Japan	2	2	Senegal
Uruguay	3	0	Russia
Saudi Arabia	2	1	Egypt



WORLD CUP 2018

Suarez scores again and Uruguay downs host Russia 3-0

Anne M. Peterson, Samara, Russia

LUIS Suarez and Edinson Cavani scored a goal each and Uruguay went on to defeat Russia 3-0 yesterday, finishing undefeated in group play and handing the host nation its first loss of the World Cup.

Both teams were already assured of spots in the knockout round, but Uruguay's victory put it at the top of Group A and looking toward a match in Sochi on Saturday against the second-place finisher from Group B.

Uruguay, which also benefited from an own-goal in the first half, had its third straight shut-out of the tournament after consecutive 1-0 victories over Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

By advancing to the round of 16 with victories over Saudi Arabia and Egypt, Russia secured its best World Cup showing in the post-Soviet era.

But Uruguay — ranked No. 14 in the world — posed a far greater challenge to the hosts.

Suarez, who seems to have put past World Cup controversies behind him, scored with a low

shot from just outside the box that sailed past the wall of Russian players and into the right corner of the goal. The Barcelona striker blew a kiss to the corner of Samara Stadium where most of La Celeste's cheering supporters were seated.

Uruguay went up 2-0 over Russia on an own-goal — the sixth of the World Cup to tie the tournament record. Midfielder Diego Laxalt's shot from long range deflected off Denis Cheryshev's foot and past goalkeeper Igor Akinfeev.

Russia, the lowest ranked team

in the field at No. 70, went down to 10 men after right back Igor Smolnikov received a second yellow card in the 36th minute. Russia coach Stanislav Cherchesov immediately took off Cheryshev for defender Mario Fernandes.

Cavani scored in the 90th minute and was taken out a short time later. The Paris Saint-Germain forward put a rebound into the left corner of the net after Diego Godin's header was parried by Akinfeev.

Uruguay was 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.

Uruguay midfielder Lucas Torreira made his first start of the World Cup. Since the 22-year-old Torreira has been in Russia there have been persistent rumors that he is headed to Arsenal. **AP**

GROUP DYNAMICS

BOTH TEAMS will face the top finishers from Group B, which includes Portugal, Spain, Iran and Morocco. By finishing second, Russia will play at the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow against the Group A winner. Because Russia had the advantage in goal differential from its first two group matches, it would have won the group with a draw.

S. Arabia beats Egypt

THE oldest person to play in a World Cup match gave up a pair of goals yesterday, allowing Saudi Arabia to beat Egypt 2-1 in a match between two teams that had already been eliminated.

Egypt goalkeeper Essam El Hadary, who is 45, took the field for his team's final group match to set the record.

Salem Aldawsari scored with almost the last kick, shooting from a tight angle inside the Egypt penalty area and poking the ball past El Hadary.

Mohamed Salah put Egypt ahead in the 22nd minute when he deftly controlled a long ball from Abdalla Said that split the Saudi defense and then lobbed goalkeeper Yasser Almosailem.



Salem Aldawsari celebrates with a flip after scoring his side's second goal

Salman Alfaraj got the Saudis level with a penalty kick in first-half stoppage time after Ali Gabr brought down Fahad Almuwallad in the area. The decision was confirmed after a video review.

Saudi Arabia finished Group A in third place with three points, while Egypt was last after losing all three games.

Group A	PL	W	DRAW	L	GF-GA	PNT
Uruguay	3	3	0	0	5-0	9 Q
Russia	3	2	0	1	8-4	6 Q
Saudi Arabia	3	1	0	2	2-7	3
Egypt	3	0	0	3	2-6	0

Group B	PL	W	DRAW	L	GF-GA	PNT
Spain	2	1	1	0	4-3	4
Portugal	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	2	0	0	5-0	6
Nigeria	2	1	0	1	2-2	3
Iceland	2	0	1	1	1-3	1
Argentina	2	0	1	1	1-4	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	8-2	6
Tunisia	2	0	0	2	3-7	0
Panama	2	0	0	2	1-9	0

Group H	PL	W	DRAW	L	GF-GA	PNT
Japan	2	1	1	0	4-3	4
Senegal	2	1	1	0	4-3	4
Colombia	2	1	0	1	4-2	3
Poland	2	0	0	2	1-5	0

opinion

Our Desk
Lynzy Valles



WHERE CAN PREGNANT MIGRANTS TURN TO?

A family friend announced at a social gathering that she is two months pregnant - happy news for all present.

Everyone was advising her to be more cautious in the way she works, also telling her to eat food that would strengthen her and the growing baby.

However, after a few days, she lost the baby, and held her tiny eight-week old fetus in grief.

She had to rush to the emergency room to remove residual pregnancy tissue from her womb, which required a surgical procedure.

She spent two nights in the hospital alone, full of sadness and a sense of failure.

This family friend, who has worked as a domestic helper in the SAR for nearly a decade, was issued a bill amounting to MOP22,000.

Thus, aside from the emotional stress that she underwent, the thought of acquiring a MOP22,000 bill could be as stressful as losing the baby.

The only way for her to resolve her unsettled bill was to seek help from the Social Welfare Bureau - which required her to submit the hospital bills and a statement declaring that she could not afford to pay the balance.

Another worry that preoccupies her is that the public hospital may not allow her to repay them on a monthly basis, and that she had to borrow money from her employer to pay enough for her to be able to be discharged by the hospital.

The nine-fold increase of delivery-related service fees for non-residents have become a burden for many. How, given that the average foreign domestic worker has a monthly wage of MOP4,500 to MOP5,500, could they resolve an outstanding balance of MOP22,000?

It is a choice for many migrants to give birth in the SAR because of convenience and I do not think that is wrong. They should not be significantly charged more just because they are in this jurisdiction.

I do not think healthcare should be made so inaccessible to anyone, especially here in the SAR.

The unsettled balance remains a big burden, particularly if that amounts to four months of one's monthly earnings. This is not just a burden for household workers but also for those migrants working in integrated resorts.

I am aware of a pregnant migrant worker who works in a hotel in the city, and is having to decide whether she will give birth here or just go back home instead due to the significant increase of child birth fees.

The current service fee of natural childbirth for non-local workers was increased from MOP975 to MOP8,775 - an amount that equals a month's salary for these workers.

The logic that "domestic workers should not be included in the minimum wage plan because they already earn higher than what they earn back home" - "opinions" produced during the public consultation before this increase was implemented - should not be applied here.

In fact, it should not even be uttered in any cases or situations, as it purely does not make sense. It is offensive, and degrading.

The easy access to healthcare should be provided to these migrant workers at a more sensible price.

I agree that it is important for the government to prioritize locals, as that is how it normally works even in other countries; but overcharging workers in its jurisdiction is something that remains questionable.

It is an issue that remains despite how the city claims to experience "rapid development" in all aspects.

THE BUKZ BANKSY SPLASHES PARIS WITH WORKS ON MIGRANTS

Banksy is believed to have taken his message on migration to Paris, which has seen seven works attributed to the provocative British street artist. The works attributed to Banksy have been discovered in recent days, including one near a former center for migrants at the city's northern edge that depicts a child spray-painting wallpaper over a swastika.

Nicolas Laugero Lasserre, editor of the Artistikre-

zo website that broke the story, said he heard a few weeks ago through contacts in the French street art world that Banksy was planning a trip.

He said he started looking for the works and came across the one in the northern Porte de la Chappelle neighborhood. The same wallpaper stencil was used in a 2009 exposition at the Bristol Museum, he said, describing it as "a real signature" of the elusive artist.



PHILIPPINES

Duterte slammed for calling God 'stupid'



Jim Gomez, Manila

THE Philippine president, notorious for having cursed the pope and world leaders like former U.S. President Barack Obama, has sparked new outrage by calling God "stupid" in Asia's largest Catholic country.

Opposition Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV shot back yesterday by describing President Rodrigo Duterte as "one evil man" and his remarks as "very much consistent with the deceitfulness, heartlessness and ruthlessness of his policies." Even some of Duterte's political allies were critical.

A Catholic Bishop, Arturo Bastes, called the president a "madman" and urged Filipinos to pray for an end to Duterte's "blasphemous utterances and dictatorial tendencies."

"Duterte's tirade against God and the Bible reveals again that he is a psychological freak, a psychopath, an abnormal mind who should have not been elected as president of our civilized and Christian nation," Bastes said.

Another bishop, Ruperto Santos, said the president had crossed a line.

Duterte questioned in a televised speech Friday the Biblical story of man's creation and asked why God created Adam and Eve only to allow them to succumb to temptation that destroyed their purity.

"Who is this stupid God? This son of a bitch is then really stupid," said the 73-year-old leader, known for his rambling public statements. "How can you rationalize a God? Do you believe?"

Duterte lamented that Adam and Eve's sin in Christian theology resulted in all the faithful falling from divine grace. "You were not involved but now you're stained with an original sins [...] What kind of a religion is that? That's what I can't accept, very stupid proposition," he said.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, a former national police chief, said he has often backed Duterte's policies, but after the president's utterances against God "to whom I pray every single day and with whom I've found solace and comfort in all my difficult times, I don't even have to think of my choice."

"May my God forgive him and make him atone for all his sins," Lacson said.

Duterte's spokesman defended his remarks, saying the president has the right to express his opinion on religion and cited his previous disclosure that he was once sexually abused as a student by a priest.

Duterte stressed that right in another speech yesterday. "Why do you bind me with something very stupid? I was given my own mind by God."

Duterte shocked Filipino Catholics in 2015 when he cursed visiting Pope Francis for having triggered a mons-

trous traffic in Manila. He later apologized, but has repeatedly lashed out at bishops and the dominant Catholic church, which has criticized his bloody crackdown on illegal drugs.

Why do you bind me with something very stupid? I was given my own mind by God.

RODRIGO DUTERTE

Obama, who also raised alarm over the drug killings under Duterte, was also a target of the Philippine leader's tongue-lashing. He once said the American leader should "to go to hell."

The former longtime city mayor has repeatedly declared he does not care about human rights and has threatened drug dealers and other criminals with death. He warned he would withdraw the Philippines from the United Nations after its human rights experts called for an independent investigation into extrajudicial killings under his rule. He described the world body as hypocritical for failing to prevent genocides worldwide. AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	45-65 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	70-100 Moderate
Ambient	70-100 Moderate

WORLD BRIEFS

JAPAN Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's approval rating jumped in two public opinion surveys, in the latest sign his premiership had escaped danger after a series of domestic scandals earlier this year. More on p12



IRAN Protesters angered by Iran's cratering economy confronted police in front of parliament yesterday, with security forces firing tear gas at them, according to online videos, the first such confrontation after similar demonstrations rocked the country at the start of the year. More on p15

JORDAN-SYRIA Jordan will not take in Syrians fleeing their government's latest offensive in the country's south, officials said yesterday, as violence in the Syrian province of Daraa claimed more lives and displaced thousands.

ROMANIA faces Russian aggression on a daily basis in the Black Sea, and is fending off a wave of cyber-attacks and political interference, the defense minister said yesterday.



GERMANY Lawmakers are voicing growing frustration that a much-touted migration "master plan" is dominating the country's political debate although hardly anybody has seen it.

EU-VENEZUELA The European Union banned travel and froze the assets of 11 senior Venezuelan officials yesterday, including new Vice President Delcy Rodriguez, pressing the nation's leaders to hold fresh elections and return to democratic rule.

U.S. President Donald Trump compared people entering the country from Mexico to invaders and said they should be immediately sent back without appearing before a judge.