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The animal rights group handed 650 adoption applications with the complete information of potential adopters

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FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Goldenhuys EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho

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WORLD BRIEFS



THAILAND A court sentenced a human rights lawyer to 16 months in prison yesterday, finding him guilty of sedition for material he posted online but dropping charges of royal defamation.

INDONESIA President Joko Widodo's allies led in key provincial races in elections held across the country, giving him a major boost before the presidential vote next year. *More on p11*



MYANMAR Amnesty International released a report yesterday that details new evidence of atrocities inflicted on Myanmar's Rohingya population and names 13 top military commanders the human rights group says should be prosecuted for crimes against humanity. *More on p12*

JAPAN A leader of Japan's ruling party has sparked an uproar by calling people without children selfish, in the latest comment by a senior politician urging women to have more babies. The country is struggling with an aging and declining population.

IRAN's supreme leader is urging the country's judiciary to take measures to secure people's "businesses and lives" amid economic protests that have struck the capital.

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LAWMAKER HOPES TO RETAKE SEAT

Sou retracts 'merely defensive' appeal . P4

AP PHOTO



Lawyers: Case against 2 in murder of Kim Jong Nam feeble

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Unemployment rate remains stable

The unemployment rate stood at 1.8 percent and the unemployment rate of local residents was 2.5 percent for the period between March to May. According to the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), total employment was 383,100 and the number of employed residents totaled 282,500, both up from the previous period by 1,600 and 1,700 respectively. Analyzed by industry, employment in wholesale and retail trade, and gaming and junket activities registered increases while that in transport, storage and communications decreased. The number of unemployed was 7,200, down by 200 from the previous period. Fresh labour force entrants searching for their first job accounted for 5.6 percent of the total unemployed, up by 0.5 percentage points.

World Cup dampens Macau gaming

HSBC Global Research estimates that the first 24 days of June have yielded a total of MOP19.7 billion in gross gaming revenue (GGR), adding that the last week has seen an average of MOP716 million per day, down from MOP863 million per day in the previous week. The firm attributes the slowdown mainly to the effect of the FIFA World Cup, which acts as a diversion for casual gamblers. By segment, both VIP and mass market gaming are tracking flat compared with the previous month. Gross gaming revenue last month reached almost MOP25.5 billion, up 12.1 percent year-on-year, but has registered little change over the previous two months. Citigroup expects this month to record an 18 percent growth over June 2017. With one week remaining, HSBC Global Research says gross gaming revenue for June should reach MOP24 billion. This would mean a second quarter growth of around 20 percent year-on-year.

Mainlander snatches police officer's gun

A mainland woman has been charged with grievous bodily harm, for refusing to obey police orders and aggressively reacting to a Public Security Police Force (PSP) officer's inspection request. The suspect in her 30s failed to produce proof of identity for inspection upon request from the PSP officer. In addition, she tried to snatch the officer's gun. The suspect also tried to hit the officer in the face but failed, although she eventually kicked the police officer. The woman declared that her behavior was the result of her feelings of insecurity when facing the police officer.

Lam suggests private translation sector's development

LAWMAKER Agnes Lam has suggested that Macau should explore the private translation market in order to supply the city with more translators for a wider set of languages.

In a written inquiry sent to local government, Lam noted that "once the special finance of international commercial arbitration center [policies] are implemented [in Macau], thus bringing in foreign capital and legal research, various matters will require translation. I am afraid that the demand for translators will surpass the over 200 Chinese-Portuguese translators that the public departments [have] hired. More languages might be needed as well."

Citing research, Lam noted that Macau lacks translation companies, and that customers of these companies are



Agnes Lam

confined to the government itself, gaming operators and their surrounding companies.

Lam noted that "Macau's translators have uneven quality" due to the fact that a large number of translators have background in translation but lack knowledge regarding the information they translate.

"These translators frequently work in jobs that are not directly related to their professions. Moreover, the salaries of these translators are not high. [...] Many are often unrelated to the expertise they have to translate," said Lam, adding, "in the long term, Macau will need mature

translation professionals and a mature translation market."

Lam brought three questions to the government as well.

The lawmaker asked the government what the current estimates or specific statistics are on employment status, and prospects for Chinese, Portuguese and other language translation students who had graduated from local universities.

"Will the government refer to [foreign] experience and study the introduction of a translation professional verification and certification system in line with international standards?" Lam questioned. "Will the government refer to examples [of other places] in the future to study the introduction of supportive policies and legal norms to encourage professional translation development?"

Employment agencies should be locally-registered or owned

SOME lawmakers are suggesting that recruitment agencies should be owned by locals or registered locally.

The employment agencies bill was discussed by the Third Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL) during a meeting this week.

Chairman of the AL Third Standing Committee Wong Hin Fai reported after the meeting that lawmakers proposed that employment agency registration applicants should be Macau residents, or that applicants to employment agency registration companies or associations should be companies or associations registered in Macau.

Lawmakers justified their proposal by saying that employment agencies relate to the implementation of labor law, therefore the connection between agency registration applicants and Macau is indispensable.

Government representati-



ves claimed that the government would consider the committee's concern, and conduct research into the proposal.

In addition to the above-mentioned discussion, government representatives said that it would also consider imposing a 180-day transitional period in order to allow existing employment agencies to adjust to the new law.

The new bill also stipulates that employment agencies cannot set up their operational locations within residential or industrial buildings, hotels, public facilities or within parking lots.

According to the government, three of the city's employment agencies do not currently meet these requirements, as one of them is located in an industrial building, and the other two in hotels. The former pledged to move out of its current location soon. Regarding the latter, one agency said it would cancel its license on July 1, while the second one promised to move out from the hotel on the same date.

The bill also listed a set of requirements for skills and capabilities of agency leaders. Lawmakers hope the government will relax relevant requirements.

Mi Jian appointed as Policy Research Office director

CHIEF Executive Chui Sai On has appointed Mi Jian as the new director of the Policy Research Office, the government spokesperson's office announced yesterday.

"Mi Jian has always been directly involved in policy research work and project coordination work, and has had a wealth of experience in the area of governance policies and leadership skills since the establishment of the Policy Research Office's preparatory in July 2010," the government statement reads. "Mi Jian knows the management of public departments well, as well as their operation."

"With his appointment, there is certainly that it will be possible to ensure an effective transition in the work of the Policy Research Office, as well as the continuity of policy research and the department's operation."

Lau Pun Lap, current Director of the Policy Research Office who will step down tomorrow, is said to have reached the legal age limit for performing public office functions.

In addition, "considering that Lau Pun Lap has extensive experience in the field of policy research, he will be appointed advisor to the office of the Chief Executive, with advisory functions on governance policies," the statement reads.

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ANIMAL RIGHTS

Anima hands 650 adoption forms to Canidrome

Lynzy Valles

LOCAL animal rights group Anima handed 650 adoption applications with the complete information of potential adopters to the Macau (Yat Yuen) Canidrome Company, calling for the soon-to-close site to collaborate with the association on effective adoption process.

The president of Anima, Albano Martins, handed the filled and signed application forms validated by Anima and by an international organization to a representative of the company.

"The Canidrome will take care of it but we'll give updates later," the representative briefly told the press.

Previously, the Canidrome said that it intended to send the animals to the mainland, an option Martins criticized.

"Mainland China already has many problems. How can Macau create more problems in China? We have to solve our own problems here," Martins told the press yesterday.

Additionally, the animal rights



Albano Martins speaking to a Canidrome representative

activists slammed the company owned by lawmaker Angela Leong for failing to prepare a proper adoption campaign, noting that they could have had two years to arrange the process.

With only a few weeks left before its closure on July 21, Martins implied that the Canidrome was not capable of running an adoption program, after failing to run background checks on adopters.

Meanwhile, Martins hoped that Anima would be able to save all

650 dogs, citing its previous efforts in establishing dialogue with Canidrome.

"The point is that during [this] business in Macau, no dogs went out alive up to 2014. We are talking about 15,000 to 19,000 animals killed. At least now, there are no more killings," he said.

"If we cannot save these animals, at least we did one very important thing, which was to stop the killing. Maybe these are the martyrs of the greyhounds of Macau but we hope

to save them," Martins added.

Canidrome will hold its second adoption day this Sunday, where Martins hopes adopters will be committed to adopting a greyhound.

According to him, someone who had adopted on Sunday had brought the greyhound back to the Canidrome on Tuesday.

"Some of them will go back as I know. Yesterday one of them was sent back and is already in the Canidrome again because the adopter said the dog destroys furniture," he said.

"We have experts to help these animals to be adopted. [The greyhounds] should not be given to people just because they want to be famous and take good pictures for the press," Martins criticized.

Commenting on the upcoming adoption day, the animal rights activist said, "if it's a circus or theater play like last time, we [will be] very upset," yet hoping that local residents would be able to adopt the canines to "keep them for a while."

On June 24, the Canidrome held its adoption program that was attended by over 100 potential adop-

ters from Macau, Hong Kong, mainland China and Taiwan.

According to the Canidrome's website, the entire adoption process takes some 60 working days and residents over 18 years old are eligible to adopt as long as they provide a copy of their identity card and proof of address.

■ ■
If we cannot save these animals, at least we did one very important thing, which was to stop the killing.

ALBANO MARTINS

Martins noted, "I really fear for the future of these dogs. According to my information, one vet in Macau got three greyhounds through middlemen for the purpose of using them for blood transfusions."

In recent years, allegations of blood transfusion abuse of greyhounds have surfaced repeatedly around the world, as the blood of these canines is seen as lucrative, due to higher levels of red blood cells than other breeds.

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Xi Jinping to visit Portugal this year

The President of Portugal, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, has announced that Chinese President Xi Jinping will visit the European country by the end of the year, according to reports by Portuguese media outlets. De Sousa made the comments during his visit to the United States, prior to meeting President Donald Trump. "Before the end of the year," said de Sousa, "the president of another great nation will visit Portugal." According to the media reports, the Portuguese head of state was referring to Chinese president Xi Jinping.

IFT students design map for hotel

Students from the Tourism Retail and Marketing Management at the Institute for Tourism Studies engaged in a consultancy project to serve the Pousada de Mong-Há (Educational Hotel of IFT). The course leader, Dr. Fernando Lourenço, led students to incorporate the idea of community-based tourism to create new values for hotel guests. The aim of the project was to develop a map to guide hotel guests to explore the community around the location of the hotel. In order to do this, students researched the community and produced a database with information of all the businesses in the area, public facilities, traditions and heritage, and events. Subsequently, students developed and produced many innovative concepts for a new map. The outcomes from the research and development were greatly appreciated and the hotel manager noted that they will apply the ideas derived from the project.

HK's Carrie Lam meets China vice premier

China's Vice Premier Han Zheng met on Tuesday with Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam in Beijing. Han, also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, heard Lam's comments and suggestions on the master plan for developing Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area. According to Xinhua, Han said Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macau should draw on each other's strengths and seek "win-win cooperation" in developing the greater bay area. Lam said she believed that the people of Hong Kong hold high hopes for the Greater Bay Area.

Sulu Sou retracts 'merely defensive' appeal

SUSPENDED lawmaker Sulu Sou informed via a statement yesterday that he will retract his appeal of last month's sentencing following news that the Public Prosecution's Office (MP) is not seeking a harsher sentence for the young democrat.

Sou and fellow activist Scott Chiang submitted a last-minute appeal to the Court of First Instance by fax in after-office hours Monday night. The duo reportedly were disinclined to appeal the sentence, but were also unsure whether the MP would file its own appeal before the June 25 deadline expired.

In a statement issued via the New Macau Association, Sou explained that his appeal was "merely defensive."

"Specifically, it was to prevent



an enhanced sentencing which might result from the MP's appeal," he wrote. "Since there was no appeal from the MP [...] I will withdraw my appeal as planned and pay the fine as the judgment demands."

"It is an effort to have my sus-

pension ceased so that I could perform my duties to strive for justice and public interest on a much broader platform, just as the Macau people have mandated."

Sou was suspended by a Legislative Assembly interven-

tion in December last year that lifted his prosecutorial immunity and permitted him to stand trial. For more than half a year, the directly-elected lawmaker has been stripped of his voting rights.

The young lawmaker is said to believe that pursuing the appeal will serve only to delay his return to the Legislative Assembly. Instead, he will settle his fine of some MOP40,800 and take up his seat. According to several legal experts interviewed by the Times earlier this month, the suspension should be automatically lifted once the fines is paid.

Nevertheless, "despite the withdrawal, I still insist of my guiltlessness and I will elaborate this argument elsewhere," wrote Sou.

Meanwhile, co-defendant Scott Chiang has applied to separate his part in the case so that his appeal may proceed.

"Fundamental questions about exercising our basic right to peaceful assembly and demonstration are at stake," the statement cautioned.



IC calls for Fringe Festival proposals

THE Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) is now calling for program proposals for the 18th Macao City Fringe Festival which will be held in January next year, showcasing the city's "creative and innovative spirit". According to the IC, local cultural associations, artists and producers are invited to submit proposals by 5 p.m. on July 23.

Macau artists and cultural associations registered with the Identification Services Bureau are welcome to submit their applications. The programs can be local or site-specific art projects, overseas works or cross-regional collaborations produced in any art form.

Adopting the concept "All around the city, our stages, our patrons, our artists," the Fringe Festival brings a variety of artistic and creative works to the city, breaking the barriers of traditional performance venues.

For the last two festivals, the majority of the programs were selected through an open call for proposals that, according to the IC, had a remarkable response from art groups and producers.

In order to create more opportunities for exchange between local groups and foreign artists, the festival organizers will invite industry professionals, event planners and producers from other regions to come to the city.

Additionally, some of the productions in the 18th Macao City Fringe Festival that "show greater potential" will have the chance to be presented at the 31st Macau Arts Festival.

16 prizes proposed for recipients of Science and Technology Awards

Julie Zhu

THE preliminary results of the Macau Science and Technology Awards 2018 were announced at the Macau Science Center this week. A total of 16 prizes proposed by the awards' evaluation committee will be distributed amongst the winners.

The 16 winning projects were the top seven projects in the list of the Natural Sciences Awards category, the top six projects in the list of the Technology Invention Awards category and the top three projects in the list of the Science and Technology Progress Awards category.

This year, a total of 45 projects applied for the prizes, with 44 entering the first evaluation phase after a formal evaluation.

The first evaluation was conducted by experts recommended by the Office for National Science and Technology Awards of the Ministry of Science and Technology of China.

Forty-two projects eventually entered the second evaluation, which was conducted by the evaluation committee.

The Science and Te-

chnology Development Fund decided upon the final 16 winning projects. This year, there were no first-class prizes awarded.

The evaluation committee proposed five prizes for the University of Macau (UM) in the National Science Award category. The grant of another two to the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) has been recommended.

In the Technological Invention Award category, the award to UM of four prizes and the award of two prizes to MUST have been recommended.

The proposed recipients of the Science and Technology Progress Award are Synopsys Macau Limited, Air Macau and UM.

When commenting on this year's awards, Member of the Macau Science and Technology Commission Tsui Lap-Chee said that "the prize standards have not been lowered, and the level [of the projects] has been increasing."

Another member, Yeung Tsun Man Eric, when talking about this year's Science and Technology Progress Award winner Synopsys, said "with re-

gard to Synopsys Macau Limited, it was a small team formed by Macau people, and was then bought by Synopsys."

"It consists 100 percent of Macau young people, which is the highlight," said Yeung, adding "many other applicants [of the prizes] are new Macau residents or mainland residents."

In addition, Yeung called on the government to expend effort in applying its human resources policies.

"We really need talented human resources, particularly in terms of software and Chinese medicine. [Macau] must import more talented human resources," said Yeung. Another member, Zhong Nanshan, said he would talk with the Guangdong provincial government to provide special policies to foster the Greater Bay Area's Chinese medicine research and other technological research.

"I believe the Greater Bay Area will quickly flourish [in terms of technological development]," said Zhong.

The results will be forwarded to the Chief Executive for approval. The awards ceremony will be held in October.

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ANALYSIS | HKZMB

Shenzhen's exclusion is a missed opportunity for Macau

Daniel Beitler

THE long-anticipated Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB) is expected to finally enter operation on July 1, marking a milestone in the formation of the Central Government's Greater Bay Area policy.

Having faced numerous setbacks including delays, cost overruns and construction-related controversies, the 55-kilometer monumental structure is the longest sea-crossing bridge in the world and is expected to enhance logistics and transportation between some 66 million people living in the Greater Bay Area.

Though Macau is involved in the project and will be home to one of its three terminals, the benefits to the city of this increased connectivity are still in question, especially as the MSAR already enjoys strong transportation links with both Zhuhai and Hong Kong.

Instead, Macau might have benefited from a project that connected it to other major cities in southern China, like Shenzhen.

The Greater Bay Area, a plan advanced by the Chinese Central Government, seeks greater integration between nine cities in the Pearl River Delta area and the two special administrative regions of Hong Kong and Macau.

Little information has been released by the Central Government concerning what the plan actually entails. What is known is that deeper economic integration with Guangdong Province – however marginal – is likely to entail an erosion of the SARs' economic autonomy.

The biggest step to date in the formation of the Greater Bay Area, which may soon become the wealthiest bay area worldwi-



de, is the opening of the giant infrastructure project.

However, overshadowed by the major import-export hubs of Hong Kong and Shenzhen, and with Zhuhai eyeing a seat at the top table, Macau's contribution to the initiative will be limited, and its benefits are similarly not so clear-cut.

Greater access to the populous province across the border could be a boon for Macau businesses, but it could also disadvantage small- and medium-sized companies against larger competitors on the mainland with access to cheaper labor and greater economies of scale.

That is not the narrative espoused by business leaders and influential individuals in Macau, who have almost unanimously backed the HKZMB. They predict that the project will bring a host of benefits to the MSAR, including reduced logistics costs via a quicker rou-

te to Hong Kong's international airport and improved transportation infrastructure intended to ease congestion at the Border Gate.

Indeed, a central objective of the infrastructure project is the creation of a tri-city tourism hub encompassing Hong Kong's city attractions, Macau's gambling facilities and Zhuhai's beaches and natural scenery. But why not a quad-city tourism hub?

Expected soon to overtake Shanghai as China's second city, nearby Shenzhen is notably excluded from the project. And yet Macau, with far less to offer Hong Kong and Zhuhai, is permitted to have its own terminal in the HKZMB.

Shenzhen might also see its exclusion from the project as a missed opportunity.

Dissatisfied with having been left out of the project, Shenzhen officials are working on their own sea link to connect

the Chinese tech hub to Zhongshan across the Pearl River. At 51 kilometers in length, the bridge is expected to cost USD4.83 billion; about 30 percent of the estimated \$16 billion for the 55-kilometer-long HKZMB.

That is because Shenzhen is a natural choice for a bridge terminus, considering its rapid development into an export hub of southern China. The city generated \$338 billion in GDP last year, slightly less than Hong Kong's \$340 billion. While Hong Kong's economy grew by a respectable 3.8 percent in 2017, Shenzhen surged past that, expanding at a rate of 8.8 percent.

According to the Civil Aviation Administration of China, the international airports of Guangzhou Baiyun and Shenzhen Bao'an handle the third and fourth highest volume of cargo respectively, only behind Shanghai Pudong and Beijing Capital.

Hong Kong International Airport remains by far the busiest cargo-handling air facility in the world, serving around 30 percent more volume than that of Shanghai Pudong and more than 2.5 times Beijing Capital.

After more than a decade of trying to transform Macau into a service platform for Sino-Lusophone trade, cargo volume at the international (albeit regional) airport stands at 0.7 percent of that of Hong Kong. Data from the Statistics and Census Service show imports, rather than exports, constitute the vast majority of that trade.

Shenzhen officials are working on their own sea link to connect the Chinese tech hub to Zhongshan

As well-developed land and ferry connections already exist with both Zhuhai and Hong Kong, the exclusion of Shenzhen from the HKZMB represents a lost opportunity for Macau and, in relative terms, diminishes the value that the infrastructure project could provide.

Even the authorities of the three cities recognize that Macau's gain from the project will be significantly smaller than the benefits reaped by Hong Kong and Zhuhai.

According to a Hong Kong LegCo paper, "the three governments have agreed that it is most appropriate to allocate the project cost of the HZMB Main Bridge in proportion to the direct economic benefit to be received by them," while they will finance their own terminals and access links separately.

The authorities of the three cities have agreed that Macau will contribute about 12.6 percent of the costs for the main section of the bridge, proportionate to the benefits it will purportedly receive.

Residents' investment abroad surges

MACAU residents' investment in securities issued by unrelated non-residents (excluding foreign exchange reserves) reached MOP662.9 billion at current market value at the end of last year, according to statistics released by the Monetary Authority of Macau, representing a rise of 36.8 percent from end-2016.

Among the various ins-

truments of portfolio investment, equity securities, long-term debt securities and short-term debt securities were valued at MOP240.4 billion, MOP393.3 billion and MOP29.2 billion respectively. As compared with end-2016, equity securities, long-term debt securities and short-term debt securities rose by 30.8 percent, 37.6 percent and 95.4 percent

respectively.

By geographical distribution, the Asian region continued to occupy the largest share of Macau residents' external portfolio investment, at almost 60 percent, while the rest was mainly placed in the North Atlantic and Caribbean regions (15.1 percent), Europe (11.9 percent), North America (10.5 percent) and Oceania (2.2 percent).

Investment in securities issued by mainland Chinese entities, including those securities listed on non-mainland exchanges, continued to hold the leading position, occupying 43.1 percent of local residents' portfolio investment outside Macau.

Meanwhile, the share of investment in securities issued by Hong Kong entities fell from

13.6 percent to 12.7 percent, yet the corresponding market value rose by 27.4 percent to MOP83.9 billion.

The market value of Macau residents' investment in countries along the "Belt and Road" (excluding mainland China) rose by 22.6 percent from end-2016 to MOP21.4 billion, equivalent to 3.2 percent of the total portfolio investment abroad.

Meanwhile, the market value of portfolio investment in Portuguese-speaking countries was MOP91 million, which was placed in securities issued by entities in Brazil and Portugal.

The information comes from the Coordinated Portfolio Investment Survey, jointly conducted by the Monetary Authority of Macau and the Statistics and

Census Service, which follows the methodology advocated by the International Monetary Fund.

Huawei executive warns Australia risks economy with 5G ban

Rod McGuirk

AUSTRALIA could damage its economic future if it bans Huawei from the nation's next-generation mobile network technology, the Chinese telecommunication giant's Australian boss said yesterday.

Australia barred Huawei, the world's largest telecommunications equipment supplier, on national security grounds from bidding for contracts in 2011 for the national broadband network which is being rolled out countrywide.

According to media reports, the government is now poised to ban Huawei from supplying 5G networks, the next evolution in phone technology that will start commercial services in Australia next year.

Huawei Australia Chairman John Lord told the National Press Club his Shenzhen-based company was having discussions with government "at all levels" on its involvement in 5G. He dismissed media reports of an imminent ban as "supposition," adding that Huawei had not contemplated that outcome.

"In saying 'no' to one of the leading 5G suppliers in the world, what are we really doing?" Lord said. "This is not just a tough political decision, this is a long-term technology decision that could impact our growth and our productivity for generations to come," he added.

Huawei has been under



Huawei Technologies Australia Chairman John Lord

intense scrutiny in several countries over its links to the Chinese government. The private Chinese company started by a former People's Liberation Army major in 1987 suffered a setback in the U.S. market in 2012 when a congressional report said it was a security risk and warned phone companies not to buy its equipment.

The House Intelligence Committee found that Huawei and Chinese rival ZTE Corp., which is partly state-owned, were tied to the Chinese government.

"China is known to be the major perpetrator of cyber-espionage, and Huawei and ZTE failed to alleviate serious concerns throughout this important investigation. American businesses should use other vendors," the committee's chairman, Rep. Mike Rogers, R-Mich, told a news conference.

The report said the companies failed to provide

responsive answers about their relationships and support by the Chinese government, and detailed information about their operations in the United States. It said Huawei, in particular, failed to provide thorough information, including on its corporate structure, history, financial arrangements and management.

Huawei denied being financed to undertake research and development for the Chinese military, but the committee said it had received internal Huawei documentation from former employees showing the company provided special network services to an entity alleged to be an elite cyber-warfare unit within the People's Liberation Army.

Lord at the time urged Australia not to be swayed by the U.S. report, which he said was about protectionism rather than security.

Huawei was revealed this week as the biggest corporate sponsor of overseas travel for Australian federal lawmakers, flying 12 to the company's headquarters in southern China.

Lord, a retired Australian navy rear admiral, said he had been debriefed by government officials about the 2011 decision to ban the company from the national broadband network, but had not been told of any assessment of the telecom made by security agencies.

"I will be open and honest and say we were told that we were no longer [...] allowed to bid for NBN contracts, and it [...] was just based on that we were a Chinese company and they could not guarantee our equipment at that time," Lord said.

Huawei has since grown into the largest provider of 4G mobile broadband in Australia and had expanded into cybersecurity, he said.

"We realize that as a Chinese company — we knew then, but we now realize more — we have to be squeaky clean. It's a matter of building trust and that takes time," Lord said.

Treasurer Scott Morrison, asked on Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio why the government seemed to distrust Huawei, replied: "We always act in accordance with the advice of our national security agencies when it comes to matters of national security." AP

ENTERTAINMENT

Burlesque is back at Atlantic City casino that went bust

Wayne Parry, Atlantic City

THINGS are going bust again inside the casino at the northern end of Atlantic City's Boardwalk. And that's good news for Ivan Kane's Royal Jelly Burlesque Nightclub, the rock 'n' roll burlesque club that was one of the things that went right among the many that didn't at the former Revel casino.

Now, the dancers are getting their pasties out of storage as the club resurfaces with the reopening this week of the former Revel, rebranded as the Ocean Resort Casino.

Nightclub impresario Kane never thought he'd get a second chance to revive Royal Jelly when Revel closed in September 2014.

"For me to walk into this pristine USD8 million to \$9 million nightclub in a \$2.4 billion building and to see it sitting there forlornly waiting for a crowd to energize it, that was truly sad," he said. "I was afraid the place was never going to reopen."

Royal Jelly is one of a handful of Revel successes that are being brought back for Ocean Resort, including its outdoor pool day club, its spa and some well-known restaurants.

The club is not your typical burlesque show. Fan dances and boas are the stuff of 1930s Vaudeville acts; this one rocks to Guns 'N' Roses, Nirvana and Kid Rock tunes cranked out by a live band as lasers flash around. Dancers strut onstage with the band, climb hydraulic lifts, and prance along an elevated catwalk that hovers over the gamblers at the club's blackjack pit and bar.

"If this blackjack pit isn't



Dancers rehearse with the band at the Royal Jelly night club inside the Ocean Resort Casino

the most profitable one in the place, I don't know why," Kane said. Referring to blackjack hands, Kane said, "I've seen guys with 18 looking up at a dancer hanging off the catwalk and saying 'Hit me,' and the dealer goes, 'But sir, you're at 18,' and the guy goes, 'I don't care, hit me anyway.'"

Another popular aspect of the club that will be returning: Saturday afternoon burlesque classes.

Kane had to negotiate a new lease with Ocean Resort owner Bruce Deifik, but said it was easily accomplished. Kane sold his Kiss Kiss nightclub at Atlantic City's Tropicana casino about four months ago.

Ocean Resort and the Hard Rock, which is the former Trump Taj Mahal, are reopening Thursday. Together, they are restoring about 6,000 of the 11,000 jobs Atlantic City lost when five of its 12 casinos shut down since 2014. Dancer Lindsey Dunn performed with Royal Jelly at Revel, and is back at center stage with the new production.

"It feels amazing to be back," she said. "There is no place like this in the world. It's like a dancer's playground. There's tons of stuff to climb on and hang off of and swing on." AP

corporate bits

MGM'S DRAGON BOAT TEAM WINS SECOND RUNNER-UP



The MGM Women's Dragon Boat Team has won second runner-up in the Macau International Invitation Standard Dragon Boat Race – Women's

Category 500 meters, after 10 months of practice.

The men's team was the only team to represent Macau at the 2018 Hong Kong International

Dragon Boat Races, with an invitation from the Hong Kong China Dragon Boat Association.

In the final round of the Macau International Invitation Standard Dragon Boat Race – Women's Category 500 meters, the MGM Women's Dragon Boat Team competed amongst several strong national teams from Asia and eventually won second runner-up.

As cited in a statement issued by the gaming operator, its team members have maintained a five-day training every week after work, which allowed them to place in the top three of the Macau International Invitation Standard Dragon Boat Race, an achievement compared to sixth place last year.

OVER 150,000 VIEWS OF W. CUP MATCHES ON TDM



It is estimated that over 160,000 viewers will watch the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia through TDM TV and multimedia platforms, as cited in a TDM statement.

Over the first 10 days from June 14 to June 23, approximately 150,000 views of World Cup matches have been recorded on the TDM's website and App.

TDM pledged to monitor the performance of the webcast and ensure the viewers' experience.

TDM is the Official Broadcaster of the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia in Macau. The local public broadcaster is showing all 64 matches of the tournament live.

ENI group discovers more oil in Angola

ITALIAN group ENI has discovered oil in the Kalimba sector of Block 15/06, in Angola's deep waters about 150 kilometres off the coast, which is expected to contain between 230 million and 300 million barrels of light oil, the group said in a statement released this week.

The group's drilling reached a depth of 1,901 metres, adding that the collected samples point to "high quality" oil with excellent "petrophysical" properties, and the well can produce more than 5,000 barrels per day.

"This finding opens up new opportunities for oil exploration in the southern part of Block 15/06, which has until now been considered mainly gas-prone, thus creating new possibilities to add potential value to the bloc," said the ENI group.

The Italian oil company is the operator of block 15/06, with a stake of about 36.8 percent, the same as Sonangol, and the remaining 26.3 percent is held by SSI Fifteen Limited.

Angola's Minister of Mineral Resources and Oil, Diamantino Azevedo, said last week in Vienna, Austria, that steps will be taken next August to increase production in oil fields that are



in natural decline and new fields will come on stream.

The minister was speaking at the end of the fourth meeting of the mechanism of cooperation between the members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the

countries that are producers but

are not members of the cartel, which brings together 25 countries and a representative of the African Petroleum Producers' Organisation (APPO).

At the meeting a quota of 1.637 million barrels per day was set for Angola, with production in the last semester totalling arou-

nd 1.5 million barrels of oil per day.

The latest OPEC report on oil production for June 2018 said that Angola's oil output increased in May against the previous month by 14,000 barrels per day (bpd) to 1,525 million bpd, according to secondary sources,

and fell by 12,000 bpd to 1.486 million bpd, according to direct communication.

Meanwhile, Angolan state oil company Sonangol and Equinor ASA (formerly Statoil) have signed a memorandum of understanding for the Norwegian state company to continue to invest in exploration and contribute to increased oil production in Angola, in a ceremony held on Tuesday in Luanda.

"Equinor already has some oil concessions in Angola for exploration work, such as block 5/06, and block 18/15 among others. We have other opportunities, both in the Congo basin and in the Kwanza basin, the trend is to enter the Benguela basin," Sonangol chairman Carlos Saturnino said at the signing ceremony, quoted by Angolan news agency Angop.

The document sets out the guidelines through which Sonangol and Equinor should strengthen cooperation and lays the foundations for potential future investments to be made by Equinor following its decision to continue investing in Angola and jointly consider an approach on the opportunities and technical challenges related to oil exploration and development. **MDT/Macauhub**

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Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR

U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and his Chinese counterpart struck a positive note as they sat down yesterday to tackle the thorny issue of how to get North Korea to fulfill a pledge to abandon its nuclear program.

Mattis said he and Defense Minister Wei Fenghe opened discussions in Beijing with a “very open and honest dialogue.”

Wei said the visit is important to increase strategic trust and enhance the cooperation between them.

In a later meeting, Chinese President Xi Jinping — who also heads the commission overseeing the People’s Liberation Army — called relations between the militaries a “model component of our overall bilateral relations.”

Mattis, a retired Marine Corps general, said the U.S. assigns the same degree of importance to the relationship.

“So I’m here to keep our relationship on a great trajectory, going in the right direction,” he said.

None of the leaders mentioned specific issues in their opening statements in front of reporters, but North Korean denuclearization was expected to top the agenda.

President Donald Trump’s announcement of a suspension of major annual military exercises with South Korea fulfilled a long-time Chinese wish.

Mattis positive on talks over thorny North Korea issue

China is the North’s main source of aid, trade and diplomatic support and backs Pyongyang’s call for a “phased and synchronous” approach to denuclearization, as opposed to Washington’s demand for an instant, total and irreversible end to the North’s nuclear programs.

The visit also comes amid a brewing trade war between the world’s two largest economies and sharp U.S. criticism over China’s militarization of its island holdings in the South China Sea.

The Pentagon disinvited the Chinese navy from a multinational naval exercise the U.S. is hosting this summer in what it called “an initial response” to China’s fortressing of man-made islands in the crucial waterway.

Despite that, both sides reaffirmed the importance of maintaining exchanges, with Mattis saying he was visiting because of the importance that “we in the U.S. military place on the military-to-military relationship with the [People’s Liberation Army].”



Jim Mattis (center left) and Wei Fenghe stand together during a welcome ceremony at the Bayi Building in Beijing

Beijing reaffirms Taiwan threats following naval mission

CHINA yesterday reaffirmed its threats to take action to block “independence separatist plots” by self-governing Taiwan, following the recent passage of Chinese navy ships through the Taiwan Strait.

Spokesman for the Cabinet’s Taiwan Affairs Office Ma Xiaoguang made the comments in response to a question about whether the mission by a destroyer and cruiser was intended as a warning to the island’s independence-leaning government.

“We have the stern will, full confidence and sufficient capability to defeat any form of Taiwan independence separatist plots,” Ma said at a news conference.

China “absolutely will not permit Taiwan independence forces to [...] interfere with the course of China’s great rejuvenation,” he said in reference to Beijing’s drive to take its places among global powers.

Ma’s comments came as U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis is visiting



Beijing for talks, during which Chinese officials are expected to reiterate their opposition to U.S. military assistance to Taiwan.

Beijing has cut all contact with the government of Taiwan’s President Tsai Ing-wen over her

refusal to acknowledge China’s claim to the island as Chinese territory, while stepping-up its campaign to isolate Taiwan diplomatically. The sides split amid civil war in 1949 and Beijing threatens to use force to assert control over

Taiwan.

China has sharply criticized moves by Congress and President Donald Trump’s administration, including closer military cooperation and high-level government exchanges with Taiwan, as encouraging Tsai’s resistance to Beijing.

“Taiwan independence is a dead-end street and what is harmed are the interests of the Taiwan compatriots,” Ma said. “We warn the Taiwan independence forces not to play with fire.” AP

■ ■
We warn the Taiwan independence forces not to play with fire.

MA XIAO GUANG

International cooperation leads to cocaine bust

CHINESE police worked with authorities from Hong Kong, Peru and Australia in foiling an international drug smuggling plot, resulting in the seizure of 117 kilograms of cocaine, the head of the country’s drug enforcement agency said yesterday.

The Nov. 18 operation led to the arrests of six suspects, including two from Russia, one from India, one from Spain and one from Hong Kong, head of the Narcotics Control Bureau Liang Yun told reporters, hailing it as a sign of China’s growing cooperation in international anti-drug efforts.

China has strict anti-drug laws and has cracked down heavily on domestic production. However, rising affluence has made it a growing market for imported narcotics, such as cocaine.

The case shows the drug problem is growing “increasingly severe” in both the region and globally, Liang told reporters. However, the successful operation shows the “high expertise of Chinese drug enforcement agencies in combatting maritime drug trafficking crimes,” he said.

The cocaine had been stored aboard the freighter South Wisdom that sailed from South America and arrived in the northeastern Chinese city of Tangshan on July 25, Liang said. Though members of the gang traveled to the city, they were unable to unload the drugs, after which a search turned up 22.3 kilograms of cocaine, he said.

Following a trip to Shanghai for maintenance, the ship returned to Tangshan where a further search turned up 94.6 kilograms of cocaine hidden behind a panel in the steering department. The six suspects were caught while making a second attempt to retrieve the illicit cargo.

Liang also introduced three other cases of drug seizures at sea, including one on Jan. 24 in which the crew set their boat on fire as coast guard vessels appeared, in an apparent attempt to destroy the evidence.

Police boarded the burning boat, arrested the crew and towed it to port where inspections found it had been carrying approximately 1 ton of methamphetamine, Liang said. AP

Malaysia values items seized in ex-PM probe at USD273m

Eileen Ng, Kuala Lumpur

THE total value of cash, jewelry, watches and handbags seized from properties linked to former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak in a money-laundering investigation amounted to at least USD273 million, police said yesterday, calling the haul the biggest in Malaysia's history.

The items comprised 12,000 pieces of jewelry, 567 handbags, 423 watches and 234 sunglasses, said commercial crime investigations chief Amar Singh. The jewelry includes 2,200 rings, 1,400 necklaces, 2,100 bracelets, 2,800 pair of earrings, 1,600 brooches and 14 tiaras, he said.

"Definitely we are shocked. This is the biggest seizure in Malaysia's history," he told a news conference.

Allegations of corruption at the defunct 1MDB state investment fund that Najib set up led to his shocking defeat in May 9 elections and the end of the 60-year unbroken rule of his coalition. Najib and his wife have been barred from leaving the country and have both been grilled by anti-graft officials. They have denied any wrongdoing.



An officer shows pictures of jewelry during a press conference

Police have raided 12 locations, including Najib's family home and apartments at a high-end Kuala Lumpur condominium, as part of the probe into a criminal breach of trust involving the 1MDB fund.

Singh said that among the most expensive valuables were a 6.4 million ringgit (\$1.6 million) diamond necklace and a 3.5 million ringgit (\$869,000) Rolex Daytona watch. Of the 567 handbags, 272 were the exclusive Hermes Birkins bags

with a market value of at least 51.3 million ringgit (\$12.7 million), he said.

Police will soon call Najib and his wife, Rosmah Mansor, as well as people who allegedly gave them some of the items as gifts for questioning, Singh said.

Rosmah was reviled by many Malaysians as an avaricious first lady who loves Birkin bags and leads an opulent lifestyle, but television footage of the huge police haul has Malaysia

gasping with shock. It is possibly the most sensational image of elite corruption in Asia in the three decades since Imelda Marcos, who was infamous for her massive collection of designer shoes and jewelry, was the Philippines' first lady.

Najib set up the 1MDB fund when he took power in 2009, but it accumulated billions in debts. U.S. investigators say Najib's associates stole and laundered \$4.5 billion from the fund from 2009 to 2014, some

of which landed in Najib's bank account. They say \$27.3 million was used to buy a rare diamond necklace for Rosmah.

New Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad reopened investigations into 1MDB that were suppressed under Najib's rule. Mahathir, who previously was prime minister for 22 years until 2003, was spurred out of retirement by the 1MDB scandal. He has vowed there will be no deal for Najib, saying he will face the consequences if found guilty of wrongdoing.

Police will soon call Najib and his wife, Rosmah Mansor, as well as people who allegedly gave them some of the items as gifts for questioning

The government has said Najib's administration had conducted an "exercise of deception" over 1MDB and misrepresented the country's financial situation to Parliament. The country's new anti-graft chief warned of criminal charges against Najib soon. **AP**

INDONESIA

Provincial elections point to second term for Jokowi

Karlis Salna,
Harry Suhartono

INDONESIAN President Joko Widodo's allies led in key provincial races in elections held across the country yesterday, giving him a major boost before the presidential vote next year.

Polls were held in 171 regions that collectively hold more than 152 million registered voters across Southeast Asia's biggest economy. Analysts were particularly watching the results in Java, home to more than half of Indonesia's population, to gauge whether Widodo would face a tough re-election fight. Official results are expected to be announced July 9.

Early counting showed West Java, which alone has more voters than the combined populations of Australia and Singapore, was likely to be won by Ridwan Kamil, the po-



Indonesian President Joko Widodo

Unofficial tallies showed the major provinces of Central Java and East Java were set to deliver results favorable to Widodo

pular mayor of Bandung who has voiced support for Widodo, known by the nickname Jokowi.

As the country's biggest electorate, which also has its highest jobless rate, the result in West Java will be

seen as an assessment of Widodo's economic performance, including a promise to tackle inequality and develop the archipelago. While the Indonesian economy is growing at about 5 percent, that's still well short of the 7 percent Widodo promised when he came into office almost four years ago.

The reform program implemented by the president has helped secure sovereign rating upgrades and much-needed foreign investment, yet questions have been raised over his commitment to that agenda. A series of measures announced in recent months aimed at keeping the cost of living in check have prompted criticisms that he may be putting populism first and the nation's long-term development at risk in a bid to win a second term.

A strong showing yesterday by candidates for

Gerindra, the main opposition party, would have likely provided a boost to Prabowo Subianto, the former general who lost to Jokowi in the 2014 presidential election, and who is set to run again. The provinces of East Java, Central Java as well as North Sumatra are regarded as the other key races.

Unofficial tallies showed the major provinces of Central Java and East Java were set to deliver results favorable to Widodo.

In Central Java, Ganjar Pranowo, a member of Widodo's Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle, or PDI-P, was on course for a strong victory. Khoffah Indar Parawansa, who is backed by several parties in Widodo's ruling coalition as well as the Democrat Party run by former President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, was set to take East Java. **Bloomberg**

Tassanee Vejpongsa,
Kaweewit Kaewjinda

ALONG a muddy mountain path not far from the entrance to a flooded cave where 12 young members of a Thai soccer team have been missing for four days is a shrine to a mythical princess whose spirit is said to inhabit the caverns below.

A steady stream of visitors come to kneel down, light candles and incense and pray in front of a statue of a young woman wearing a pink traditional outfit, surrounded by flowers and other offerings.

For the past four days, the wish has been a simple one: Please let our boys come home.

The youngsters aged 11-16 have been missing since their 25-year-old coach took them to the sprawling cave on Saturday after a practice match. Rescuers led by elite navy divers have been frustrated by incessant rain and flooding that has slowed their search of the kilometers-long underground complex.

The statute is of Jao Mae Nang Non — which roughly translates as the reclining goddess — and her name is shared with the cave, Tham Luang Nang Non, as well as the surrounding mountain, Doi Nang Non.

Her legend, and in turn how her spirit came to linger in the cave in Chiang Rai province's far northern Mae Sai district near Myanmar, is similar to dozens of other tales across a country whose belief system and folklore are heavily influenced by Brahmin, Buddhist and animist traditions.

It also speaks to the spiritual and mythical significance that caves hold in the Southeast Asian nation, where the ordeal of the young soccer players has spawned an outpouring of media coverage of ghost stories and supernatural explanations for the incident.

The legend goes that in ancient



A Buddhist monk prays for 12 boys and their coach, in Mae Sai

THAILAND

Spirit of mythical princess looms over cave crisis

times a beautiful princess fell in love with a stable boy and became pregnant. Knowing their love was forbidden, they fled and eventually settled in the cave to rest. When the stable boy went out in search of food, he was caught by the princess' father's army and killed.

Distraught, the princess stabbed herself and bled to death in the cave. The legend says it is her blood that became the water that flows through the cave, while her body is the surrounding mountains, said to look like a sleeping woman.

Runchanok Nganjit, a student and native of Mae Sai, said she has heard the story of the princess since she was a child and that local residents believe her spirit now guards the cave.

"We all believe that all places have guardian spirits, places like mountains, caves and houses," she said. "We may not see them, but they can see us so we need to respect them when we go into their places."

She said she believes the princess' spirit is playing a role in the disappearance of the boys but she isn't sure how.

Caves throughout Thailand have shrines, many of them Buddhist, and often bear stories about the Buddha's travels in the region and how he pacified fearsome giants or spirits, said Andrew Alan Johnson, an anthropology professor at Princeton University and author of "Ghosts of the New City," about development and tradition in northern Thailand.

In the myths of the northern region, there is a link between danger and caves and the idea that these dangerous female spirits, or Jao Mae, can also help humans who can appeal to them, he said.

"The Jao Mae of caves seem to suggest something constant about caves in the human imagination," he said. "Here are spirits who stand at the bridge between life and death — indeed, if we think of women as those figures that are able to bring life into the world, it's unsurprising that these spirits are for the most part female — dwelling in these liminal spaces. They are places of danger, but also of possibility."

Edoardo Siani, a cultural anthropologist at Kyoto University who specializes in Buddhism and

power in contemporary Thai society, said caves in Thailand are thought to hold a special kind of power that those who enter can accumulate.

He said this is why ascetic religious practitioners like monks and hermits sometimes go to meditate in caves. It's also the genesis for the shrines and offerings.

■ The youngsters aged 11-16 have been missing since their 25-year-old coach took them to the sprawling cave on Saturday

"The reason why you find offerings and even shrines built inside caves throughout Thailand is that people try to appease the spirits or the gods that may inhabit the caves, and who have already domesticated that power," he said.

As for the tale of the reclining goddess, "because she has killed herself in it, she has indeed become part of that otherworld, and, very much like the cave itself, she has become simultaneously attractive and scary," he said.

Yesterday afternoon, as the rain poured around them, Naruemon Saowake and her friends made their way to the Jao Mae Nang Non shrine with an offering that included soda, boiled eggs, fruit and desserts.

"I don't know what upset her. But we will make an offering to please her," she said. "I hope she will be kind and let the boys come home." AP

MYANMAR

Amnesty Int'l urges trials for military over Rohingya

AMNESTY International released a report yesterday that details new evidence of atrocities inflicted on Myanmar's Rohingya population and names 13 top military commanders the human rights group says should be prosecuted for crimes against humanity.

The report is titled "We Will Destroy Everything." Amnesty said those words, spoken by a military commander in a recording of a telephone call obtained by the group's investigators, sum up the mindset of Myanmar soldiers in dealing with the Muslim

Rohingya.

About 700,000 Rohingya have fled into neighboring Bangladesh since last August to escape what United Nations and U.S. officials have called an "ethnic cleansing" campaign by Myanmar's government.

Amnesty said its investigative team spent nine months gathering evidence of the brutal treatment of Rohingya in a crackdown that began in August after a radical Rohingya group attacked Myanmar security force posts in the country's western Rakhine state.

The report said the Am-

nesty team interviewed hundreds of victims and collected harrowing new evidence of the murderous methods used to drive the Rohingya out of Myanmar. Photographs and video clips, as well as expert forensic and weapons analysis, were used to bolster information.

Amnesty said its evidence implicates Myanmar's military commander in chief, Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, and 12 others in the commission of nine out of 11 types of crimes against humanity listed in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. It says

those 12 — nine of the general's subordinates and three border guard police officers — are "those with blood on their hands." It urged that they be put on trial by the international court.

"The explosion of violence — including murder, rape, torture, burning and forced starvation — perpetrated by Myanmar's security forces in villages across northern Rakhine State was not the action of rogue soldiers or units," Matthew Wells, an Amnesty crisis researcher who spent weeks at Myanmar's border with Bangladesh,



said in the report. "There is a mountain of evidence that this was part of a hi-

ghly orchestrated, systematic attack on the Rohingya population." AP

MALAYSIA

Lawyers: Case against two in murder of Kim Jong Nam feeble

Eileen Ng, Shah Alam

CIRCUMSTANTIAL evidence against two women accused of poisoning to death the estranged half brother of North Korea's leader is feeble, the women's lawyers told a court yesterday, as they urged the judge to acquit their clients.

Siti Aisyah, 25, of Indonesia and Doan Thi Huong, 29, of Vietnam are accused of smearing the banned VX nerve agent on Kim Jong Nam's face in a crowded airport terminal in Kuala Lumpur on Feb. 13, 2017. The women, who face the death penalty if convicted, have pleaded not guilty, saying they thought they were taking part in a harmless prank for a hidden-camera show.

They were charged with colluding to murder Kim with four North Koreans who fled the country on the day of the incident. The crux of the case revolves around whether the women intended to kill Kim or if they truly were scapegoats duped by North Korean agents into taking part in a high-profile political assassination.

Aisyah's lawyer, Gooi Soon Seng, said the prosecution's case has "left many questions and issues unanswered."

"There were doubts and gaps that stood out like a sore thumb [...] what actually happened at [the airport] at the material time has remained a mystery," Gooi said in his closing argument. "The role purportedly played by the four persons still at large will continue to remain a mystery until they are brought to the court of justice."

Defense lawyers and prosecutors are expected to wrap up their closing arguments by Fri-



Siti Aisyah is escorted by police as she arrives for court hearing at Shah Alam High Court

day, after which the judge could take up to a month to make a ruling. If he decides there isn't a case, the women will be freed. If he decides there is, the women will be called to make their defense, which could take several months.

Defense lawyers and prosecutors are expected to wrap up their closing arguments by tomorrow

Hisyam Teh Poh Teik, one of three lawyers for Huong, said there was "no suspicious conduct or behavior that portrays she had committed an act of murder." Huong was detained after she returned to the airport

two days later wearing the same black shoes and sling bag, he said.

"In our combined 90 years of legal practice, we have not come across a murder case where an accused commits murder in broad daylight and in full view of the CCTV cameras, goes back to the scene of crime two days later in similar circumstances. [...] The strength of this piece of subsequent conduct evidence buries the prosecution's case," Teh said.

Both lawyers said the women didn't know Kim and had no motive to kill him.

Gooi said there was no video footage of Aisyah physically attacking Kim, of anyone putting any substance on her palm or of Aisyah washing her hands after the incident. She didn't suffer any symptoms of VX poisoning, and no trace of VX was found in her fingernails, as was the case with Huong, he said.

In security video replayed in court yesterday, a blurry and unidentified figure standing

near Kim was seen hurrying away after Huong clasped her hand over Kim's face.

The defense lawyers said the women's conduct — including not wearing gloves, not disposing of their tainted clothing, failing to flee and cooperating with police — showed their innocence. Aisyah had even boasted about her role as an actress in prank videos on social media, while Huong had a plane ticket to return to Vietnam on Feb. 23 last year, the lawyers said.

In contrast, the four North Korean suspects changed their attire at the airport before fleeing right after the incident, indicating their guilt, they said.

"This is a political assassination undertaken by North Korea. It is obvious. It is equally obvious that the killers were the North Koreans," Teh said. "Without the [four] North Koreans, any conviction of the two accused will not be safe, will not be fair."

Gooi said the presence of a degradation product of VX found

on Aisyah's sleeveless shirt was questionable because a chemist had disposed of the tainted part after testing and didn't preserve it for the court's verification and scrutiny.

Both lawyers slammed the police investigation as shoddy and lopsided, saying the women would not have been charged if the probe was objective. Gooi also said that police failed to investigate where the VX came from and that it would have been "tantamount to a declaration of war" if it was brought in by the North Koreans.

This is a political assassination undertaken by North Korea. It is obvious. It is equally obvious that the killers were the North Koreans.

HISYAM TEH POH TEIK

The lawyers said prosecutors failed to present a solid case against the women and urged the judge to acquit them.

Kim, the eldest son in the family that has ruled North Korea since its founding, had been living abroad for years after falling out of favor. It is thought he could have been seen as a threat to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's rule. Malaysian officials have never officially accused North Korea of involvement in Kim's death and have made it clear they don't want the trial politicized.

"No scapegoats can accomplish this mission," prosecutor Wan Shaharuddin Wan Ladin told The Associated Press before yesterday's court session began. "You must be trained. No room for failure." AP

US envoy Haley sees opportunities for expanded India-US ties

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley yesterday said she saw opportunities in developing stronger ties with India in multiple ways, especially in countering terrorism and military cooperation. Haley said her two-day visit to India is aimed at solidifying the partnership between the two countries.

Haley, the South Carolina-born daughter of Indian immigrants, told reporters

in New Delhi that both countries have a willingness to strengthen their partnership. "We see those opportunities between the United States and India in a multiple level of ways. Whether it's countering terrorism [...] whether it's the fact that we're going to start to work together more strongly on the military aspect. There is a lot of things that India and the U.S. have in common," she said.

U.S.-India relations have

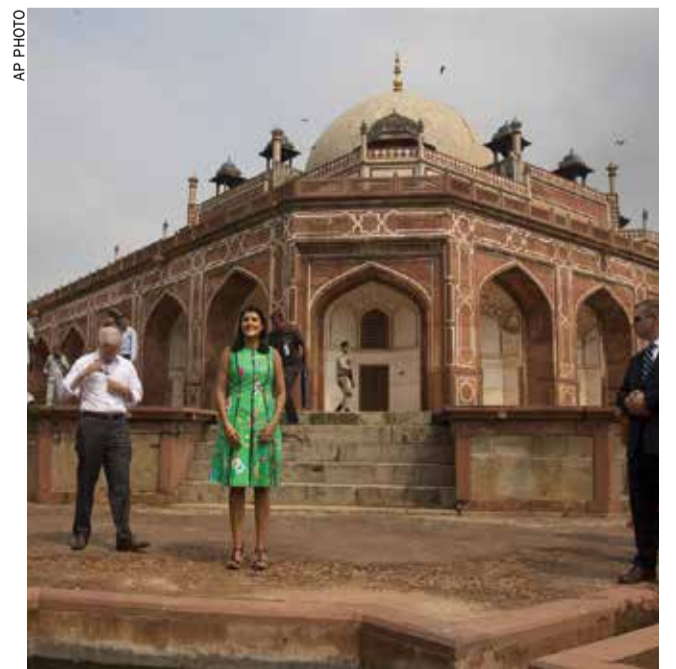
generally prospered in the past decade, in part because of their shared concerns about the rise of China. Both sides share goals of security, free navigation, free trade and fighting militants in the Indo-Pacific region.

To improve India's military capabilities, the United States has offered to sell it unarmed Guardian surveillance drones, aircraft carrier technologies and F-18 and

F-16 fighter aircraft.

Haley was scheduled to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj.

Earlier yesterday, Haley visited the majestic tomb of Mughal emperor Humayun and Save Childhood Movement, a center for rescued children run by 2014 Nobel Peace Prize winner Kailash Satyarthi. She ends her visit to India today. AP



Trump backs off imposing China investment limits

Paul Wiseman, Ken Thomas

PRESIDENT Donald Trump is shifting away from a proposal to impose limits on Chinese investment in American technology companies and high-tech exports to China. Instead, the president is calling on Congress to enhance an existing review process.

The announcement yesterday followed intense internal battles over the issue and published reports of impending bans on Chinese investment that had sent financial markets into a nose dive at the beginning of the week.

Instead of immediate bans on Chinese investment designed to protect sensitive U.S. technology industries, the administration said it would work with Congress to pass a bill that will provide "enhancements" to the foreign investment reviews under the existing Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, who chairs the investment committee, rejected the idea that the administration had softened its stance after seeing the turbulence in financial markets. Published reports have said the administration was about to embark on a far tougher approach.

"For those who want to say this is being weak on China, the answer is no," Mnuchin told reporters at briefing on the decision. "I don't think this is a question of weaker or stronger. [...] The question was: What were



Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin walks out to speak with reporters at the White House

the appropriate tools?"

Mnuchin noted that the House approved by a lopsided vote legislation to enhance the powers of the committee that decides whether foreign investment would pose a security risk to the United States. He said if this measure does not ultimately make it through Congress, the administration would return to a review of the powers at its disposal to protect sensitive U.S. technology.

The administration's move, after weeks of escalating ten-

sions between the world's two largest economies, was likely to be viewed as a conciliatory effort to lessen the risks of a full-blown trade war.

The comments yesterday stood in contrast to a White House statement on May 29 that said "the United States will implement specific investment restrictions and enhanced export controls for Chinese persons and entities related to the acquisition of industrially significant technology." That announcement said that controls would

be announced by June 30 and would "be implemented shortly thereafter."

Asked about this apparent change in position, Mnuchin said, "It is not a question of whether we are focusing on China or we are not focusing on China" but rather an issue of using all available tools to deal with US-China trade disputes. Mnuchin also said that recent adverse market reactions to rising trade tensions had not played a role in the president's decision.

President Donald Trump on

Tuesday pushed back on recent reports that the U.S. was preparing the investment restrictions. He said the interagency investment committee, known as CFIUS, provided a lot of ways to protect technology.

"We have to protect these companies. We can't let people steal their technology," Trump said Tuesday.

The House on Tuesday approved a bill that would strengthen the CFIUS law and that bill was expected to be considered as part of a joint House-Senate conference committee reviewing a Senate-approved defense policy bill.

For those who want to say this is being weak on China, the answer is no.

STEVEN MNUCHIN
TREASURY SECRETARY

The debate inside the administration on how to deal with China had reportedly become intense between hardliners urging for a tough approach with China and moderates led by Mnuchin who argued for a less confrontational approach.

Mnuchin told reporters that these differences had been overblown and there was unanimous backing for the approach being unveiled yesterday when it was presented to the president for his final approval at a White House meeting the day before.

"At the end of the day, all the president's advisers were 100 percent unanimous when we sat down with the president," Mnuchin said. **AP**

Rouhani outlines what Iran wants to remain in nuclear accord

Golnar Motevalli,
Arsalan Shahla

IRAN has sent a list of demands to France, Germany and Britain as its price for staying in the nuclear accord, as tough U.S. moves on oil sales make European commitments increasingly urgent.

The statement on the official government website, dolat.ir, didn't give details of the letters Iranian President Hassan Rouhani sent to French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and British Prime Minister Theresa May. But it said Rouhani decided to spell out Iran's conditions for staying in the deal to

his European partners, the statement said.

Iran and the five remaining parties are scrambling to salvage the accord after President Donald Trump announced last month that the U.S. was withdrawing and would reimpose sanctions on the Islamic Republic. Trump warned at the time that other nations would face sanctions unless they stopped trading with the Islamic Republic, and on Tuesday, the State Department said it is pressing allies to end all imports of Iranian oil - the country's economic lifeline - by Nov. 4.

Iran has said if it cannot reap any economic bene-

fits from remaining in the deal, which traded sanctions relief for curbing the Iranian nuclear program, then it would have little incentive to comply with its terms and would significantly ramp up uranium enrichment. The deal curtailed Iran's enrichment activities because they can eventually be a key component of bombmaking. Iran has always maintained that as a policy, it would not pursue nuclear weapons.

The EU has pledged to defend the agreement, protect European companies hurt by the U.S. decision and offer alternative financing for Iranian investments. However, fin-

ding practical ways around U.S. sanctions has proved tricky - and grew more complicated with Trump's hardball approach to oil sales - making it increasingly difficult for European partners to persuade Tehran to stay in the deal.

The Iranian president, a champion of the nuclear agreement, has come under increasing pressure from supporters who had thought it would deliver economic salvation, and from opponents who say the government has been ineffectual against the U.S. campaign to batter Iran's economy.

One of the few tangible financial gains Iran has seen from the nuclear



deal has been an increase in its oil exports. A dramatic reduction could pummel economic growth and deepen a foreign currency shortage. In a sign that Trump's policies were already emptying people's pockets, the Central Bank of Iran reported on Tuesday that consumer prices in June rose to their highest in three years, to 13.7 percent.

The economy, long hurt by international sanctions, mismanagement and corruption, has gone into a downward spiral over the unraveling of the nuclear deal, and protests against the country's leaders have broken out in recent months. On Monday, gold and jewelry traders shut down Tehran's Grand Bazaar to protest rising prices and poor business. **Bloomberg**

ENVIRONMENT

Tropical forests see high loss of tree cover for second year

Sarah DiLorenzo, Sao Paulo

COLOMBIA saw a dramatic increase in forest degradation last year and levels in Brazil remain historically high, according to new satellite data released yesterday.

The data from the University of Maryland show tropical forests around the globe lost 15.8 million hectares of tree cover in 2017 — an area the size of Bangladesh. That makes 2017 the second-worst year on record, after 2016, since researchers began gathering the data in 2001. Losses in Brazil, home to most of the Amazon rainforest, made up nearly 30 percent of the total — more than losses in any other single country.

“These numbers show an alarming story of the situation for the world’s rainforests,” Andreas Dahl-Jorgensen, deputy director of Norway’s International Climate and Forest Initiative, told reporters when the figures were presented. “It’s really a call to action for everyone.”

This week, Norway is hosting



A forest in the Amazon is burned illegally near Novo Progresso, in the northern Brazilian state of Para

the Oslo Tropical Forest Forum, which will address how protecting forests can contribute to meeting the Paris climate goals.

While Colombia’s losses were a much smaller proportion of the total, the South American country experienced a worrying jump: Tree cover loss rose 46 percent in 2017 from the previous year, and the number of hectares lost

— nearly 425,000 — was more than double the average loss from 2001 through 2015.

The World Resources Institute, which released the data on its Global Forest Watch platform, linked the increase to the Colombian government’s peace deal with FARC rebels, who had severely limited commercial use of large forested areas they controlled for decades.

With the rebels no longer in control, land speculators and people who are clearing land for farming, mining and logging have rushed in.

The data released yesterday measure “tree cover loss,” or the death of a tree’s leaves. The data might give a more pessimistic picture than other deforestation figures since they don’t take into account whether the loss is permanent, while also recording leaf-loss in small areas and capturing forest cover lost to fire. But such data are useful because they can provide a more complete snapshot of disturbances to the world’s forests.

Many other deforestation figures, for instance, don’t count trees lost to fire, which doesn’t necessarily result in the permanent loss of a tree, but increases carbon emissions, make trees more vulnerable to future fires and can lead to less biodiversity. Fires are becoming an increasingly important part of the picture in the Brazilian Amazon, where they accounted for 31 percent of tree cover loss last year, according to the data.

Fires are increasing partially because of the effects of climate change but the majority are set by people clearing land for other uses, Weisse said. A lack of enforcement of bans on setting fires and other forest destruction as well as a rollback in environmental protections by Brazilian President Michel Temer’s government were likely leading to the increase in human-set fires, experts from the institute said.

Other data monitoring deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon have noted that destruction appears to be up again after a decrease last year. The most recent data from the nonprofit Institute of Man and the Environment of Amazonia showed that the area deforested in May 2018 was about 70 percent larger compared to the same month a year earlier.


The University of Maryland data also looked at the African nation of Congo, where tree cover loss reached a record high last year, and the Caribbean, where hurricanes caused significant losses. While destruction from storms is part of a natural cycle, experts worry that increasingly powerful storms may make it harder for forests to recover.

The data had some good news from Indonesia, where tree cover loss in primary forests dropped 60 percent last year. Experts attributed that largely to increased protection of peat areas in that Asian nation. **AP**

AD

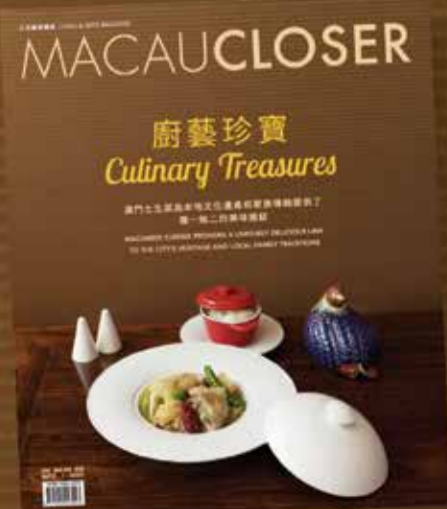
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what's ON



SCULPTURE – A JOURNEY, EXHIBITION BY ANTONIO LEÇA

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

UNTIL: October 21, 2018

VENUE: A2 Gallery, Albergue SCM

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550

EXHIBITION OF SHIWAN CERAMICS FROM THE MAM COLLECTION

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

UNTIL: August 12, 2018

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

IN LOVE WITH MACAU – CALLIGRAPHY AND PAINTINGS OF MACAU

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

UNTIL: August 12, 2018

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE

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

VENUE: Macau Science Center

ADMISSION: MOP25 (Exhibition Centre)

MOP60 (Planetarium 2D dome or 2D

sky shows)

MOP80 (Planetarium 3D dome or 3D

sky shows)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

Offbeat

POLICE: SHIRTLESS MAN ON TARMAC ARRESTED, JUMPED ON PLANE



Authorities say they've arrested a 19-year-old man accused of sprinting shirtless toward a jet at Atlanta's airport and jumping on the wing.

News outlets report Atlanta Police have charged Jhryin Jones with criminal trespassing, public indecency and obstruction of law enforcement officers.

Atlanta police spokeswoman Stephanie Brown tells The Atlanta Journal-Constitution that Jones scaled a fence Tuesday at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport and ran onto an active taxiway. She says he then jumped on the wing of a recently landed Delta Air Lines flight from Miami and pounded on windows.

Video obtained by WSB-TV shows a shirtless man sprinting across a grassy area toward an aircraft. Photographs showed the man being detained on the ground by officers.

The airport tweeted there was no impact on operations. It wasn't immediately clear if Jones has a lawyer.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:05	C.O.PA - History of all World Cups
17:55	Maternity
18:45	What's Up Sr.2
19:10	FIFA World Cup Diary
19:35	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	Non-daily Portuguese News
21:25	Tech Tree
21:30	You, Me and the Apocalypse
22:20	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:45	Miscellaneous
00:20	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:05	RTPi Live

Cinema



CINETEATRO

28 JUN - 03 JUL

BUYER BEWARE

ROOM 1

2:30, 9:30pm

Director: Jeffrey Chiang

Starring: Carlos Chan, Carmen Soup, KK Cheung

Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)

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



ESCAPE PLAN 2: HADES

ROOM 2

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

Director: Steven C. Miller

Starring: Sylvester Stallone, Dave Bautista, Huang XiaoMing

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 96min

OCEAN'S EIGHT

ROOM 2

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

Director: Gary Ross

Starring: Sandra Bullock, Cate Blanchett, Anne Hathway

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 110min



COLORS OF WIND

ROOM 3

2:30, 4:45, 7:15pm

Director: Kwak Jae-Young

Starring: Furukawa Yuki, Fujii Takemi

Language: Japanese (Chinese & English)

HOTEL ARTEMIS

ROOM 3

9:30pm

Director: Drew Pearce

Starring: Jodie Foster, Dave Bautista

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 94min

this day in history



2004 US TRANSFERS POWER BACK TO IRAQ

The United States has handed power back to the Iraqi people at a low-key ceremony in Baghdad.

US administrator Paul Bremer transferred sovereignty to an Iraqi judge at a handover brought forward two days in an attempt to prevent the occasion being marked by bloodshed.

Mr Bremer flew out of the country shortly after. His departure ends 15 months of US control in Iraq.

Iraq's interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi, who attended the handover in the city's heavily-guarded "Green Zone", said it was an "historic day" for Iraq.

Mr Allawi's cabinet were sworn in at a later ceremony, also held in secret.

The new prime minister made a televised address after formally taking office.

He told Iraqis: "I call on our people to stand united to expel the foreign terrorists who are killing our children and destroying our country."

Although power is back in Iraqi hands, US President George Bush said American troops would remain in the country as long as they were needed.

The president added that US presence would also be at the request of the newly-formed interim government.

Mr Bremer defended his country's reasons for being in Iraq, referring to recently discovered graves where thousands victims of Saddam Hussein's regime are believed to be buried.

The former Coalition Provisional Authority administrator said: "Anybody who has any doubt about whether Iraq is a better place today than it was 14 months ago should go down and see the mass graves in Hilla.

"Anybody who has seen those things that I have will know that Iraq is a much better place."

The power handover was welcomed by world leaders. The European Union and Nato alliance both pledged their support for Mr Allawi's government.

Mr Bush and Mr Blair were apparently the only leaders at the current Nato summit who knew the transfer of sovereignty would take place early.

The news was revealed by Iraqi foreign minister Hoshyar Zebari, speaking after talks with the UK prime minister.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Bringing the handover forward and holding it in secret meant the transfer of power was not marked by attacks by insurgents.

But frequent attacks on US and UK forces as well as on Iraqi civilians have continued to take place in the country.

Neither the US nor Britain have yet committed to a date when troops will be removed.

Iraq held its first multi-party elections in 50 years in January 2005. An interim democratically elected government was sworn in on 3 May 2005 with Shia Ibrahim Jaafari as prime minister.

But finding an acceptable balance of power in the government between Iraq's national groups has proved difficult.

In December 2005 Iraqis voted for the first full-term government since the American-led invasion.

In January 2006 the Shia-led United Iraqi Alliance emerged as winners of the elections but without an absolute majority.

After four months of deadlock, President Talabani asked Shia compromise candidate Jawad al-Maliki to form a new government.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Conflict is never fun, but today's conflict is something you need to try to enjoy - after all, you're on the right side. This storm may be raging more at the people around you than at you directly.

Taurus April 20-May 20 You've got a very restless energy inside you now, and you would benefit from being able to channel it toward a useful direction. These new obligations are, in their way, a gift.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Clues are popping up at work or school about a possible new addition to the crew. Give it some thought and you can figure it out easily. Don't ruin the surprise for others.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 There's no need to work toward a goal every day. Some days, it's okay to just enjoy the beauty and wonder that's all around you. Work and relationship concerns can wait for tomorrow.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Every time you turn a corner, you expect to see the finish line looming ahead, giving you the encouragement you need to keep going. If these corners have disappointed you lately, have faith!

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Concentrate on other people - their motivations, their fears, and their needs are going to affect your life more than you realize, so it's best to get a handle on them early.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Something may happen that you can't influence - instead of feeling powerless or frustrated, take advantage of the situation and steer it in a direction that's better for you and your people.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Are you getting tired of the same old same old? Well, then, you're in for a real treat - a great change is coming soon. The slate is about to be wiped clean, and you'll be given a second chance to start over again.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 There's a ton of stuff going on around you, although you won't be able to get in on as much of the action as you'd like. Be prepared to elbow your way into the more tantalizing activities.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 From time to time, the awful truth arises: Not everyone has your best interests at heart. Believe the rumors or whispers you're hearing, but don't alter who you are or what you're about.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Who says that only the rich and famous get to walk the red carpet? A strut in the public eye awaits you, so dress for success and wear your best smile. The attention you receive may lead to bigger opportunities.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 As inviting as the water may look, it could be freezing cold. Dip a toe into a potential new experience and get a feel for what you may be in for. Ask people who have gone before for their insight.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

MIN MAX CONDITION

CHINA

Table with 4 columns: City, Min, Max, Condition. Includes Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, Urumqi, Xi'an, Lhasa, Chengdu, Chongqing, Kunming, Nanjing, Shanghai, Wuhan, Hangzhou, Taipei, Guangzhou, Hong Kong.

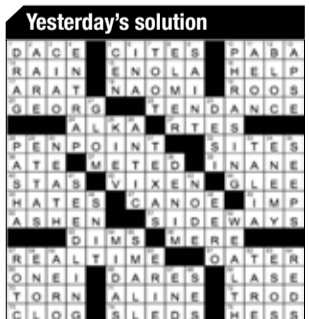
WORLD

Table with 4 columns: City, Min, Max, Condition. Includes Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Songwriters' org.; 6- Following; 11- First name in advice; 14- Mazda model; 15- The Wreck of the Mary...; 16- ___-hool; 17- Heartfelt; 19- Bambi's aunt; 20- Half-pike; 21- Quest; 23- Snitch; 24- Books of maps; 25- One of the three Magi; 29- City in Tuscany; 30- Violinist Zimbalist; 31- ___ Valley, Calif.; 32- Cattle call; 35- In spite of; 39- Song syllable; 40- Roughly; 41- Down source; 42- Narrow street; 44- Out of it; 45- Learned; 48- Wander about; 49- Go at full speed; 50- Laborious; 55- Fed. fiscal agency; 56- Speech sound; 58- "Michael Collins" actor; 59- Siouan speakers; 60- Truth ___; 61- West ender?; 62- Tuckered out; 63- Closes;

DOWN: 1- French friends; 2- Ninny; 3- Crime boss; 4- ___ impasse; 5- Deli meat; 6- Numbskull; 7- Noble gas; 8- Convert into leather; 9- Aeschylus trilogy; 10- High-speed skiing; 11- Australia's ___ Rock; 12- Time being; 13- ___ Ark; 18- Skyrocket; 22- Bond rating; 24- We ___ please; 25- Penny; 26- Get an ___ effort; 27- Mex. miss; 28- Church seat; 29- Actress Spacek; 31- Cut into small pieces; 32- Calf-length skirt; 33- Like Nash's lama; 34- Man-eating giant of popular folklore; 36- Put up with; 37- Unnecessary; 38- Cacophony; 42- Fruit drink; 43- Stay out of sight; 44- Uttered; 45- Cross the goal line; 46- Circus performer; 47- Living in a city; 48- Ticklish; 50- Wedding cake feature; 51- Dagger; 52- Other, in Oaxaca; 53- Handle roughly; 54- Shade trees; 57- Feather scarf;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



AD

Real estate advertisement for JML Property. Includes 'FOR SALE' and 'FOR RENT' sections with details for properties in Taipa, Macau, and Coloane. Features the JML Property logo and contact information.

Rotary Club celebrates local heroes at anniversary ball



The Rotary Club of Macau's 71st Anniversary Charity Ball held at The Venetian Macao last month celebrated both real-life and aspiring heroes who act in service of others with bravery, selflessness, and ingenuity. More than 400 attendees responded to the theme "Heroes" not only by playing their favorite heroes but contributing generously to funds for Rotary Club of Macau's many service projects.

The year 2017/2018 witnessed the Rotary Club of Macau helping children with special needs and their families at the Club's 18th annual Christmas party; taking home-alone elderly people on two separate day-trips around the University of Macau, new Cotai Strip, and a Portuguese lunch in Taipa; and providing free dental treatment for residents in Santa Maria elderly home.

The Club also continued its annual blood donation day project, its horticulture therapy for people with mental illness in rehabilitation, and the Guangxi Project for Education and Poverty Alleviation, in which grants and awards were given to primary and middle school students in rural areas.

During the deadly fire in Portugal in 2017, the Club donated 2,500 euros to local Rotary Clubs in the disaster area to help reconstructing three houses that were burned down by the fire. One of the special heroes hailed at the Ball was Loreto Mijares, who during Typhoon Hato in August 2017 rescued three elderly locals desperately struggling in the flood waters near his home in Barra, Macau. Rotary Club of Macau President Fatima Ferreira conferred the Paul Harris Fellow to Mijares in recognition of his extraordinary selfless act.

Rotary Club of Macau Ball Chair and President-elect Elvo Sou in his opening remarks made a special plea to the less dramatic, yet no less selfless act of lending a helping hand and being charitable.

"Locally, the Rotary Club of Macau has served the community in Macau and beyond for 70 years," he said. "Many of our projects in recent years aim at improving the lives of children with special needs and the elderly in Macau, as well as providing educational opportunities for underprivileged students in China. And we can only do it because of your support."

Like in previous years, all funds raised during the Charity Ball will be donated to the various projects.

The Rotary Club of Macau was officially established in 1947 and is composed of professionals from different walks of life in Macau's society. English is the working language for Club meetings and proceedings to accommodate the 21 nationalities present among the Club's members.



Mr. Mijares, accompanied by his wife, being recognized as the Paul Harris Fellow



Recognition of Diamond Sponsor Ms. Catherine Lu, Senior Manager of Corporate and Community Relations of Galaxy Entertainment Group



Recognition of Diamond Sponsor to Mr. Raymond Lo, Executive Director of Strategic Marketing of Melco Resorts & Entertainment



Recognition of Diamond Sponsor to Mr. Gene Capuano, Senior Vice President of Convention and Exhibition Operations



Recognition of Diamond Sponsor by Mr. Elvo Sou, Ball Chair and President-Elect 2018/2019 to the representative of Wynn Resorts Macao



Recognition of Gold Sponsor by Ms. Fatima Ferreira to the representative of Casa de Cambio Soi Cheong



Recognition of Silver Sponsor by Ms. Fatima Ferreira, President 2017/2018 to a representative of MGM



Group Photo of Rotary Club of Macau, Rotaract Club of Macau, and Rotaract Club of University of Macau's Students Union

WORLD CUP 2018

Messi finally scores, Argentina advances



Steve Douglas, St. Petersburg

FROM his thigh to his foot to the back of the net, Lionel Messi finally scored a goal at this year's World Cup. The exquisite strike from the Argentina great sparked the first of several celebrations from an animated Diego Maradona, who screamed, shouted and made obscene gestures — and raised concerns for his health.

Argentina staved off elimination with a 2-1 victory over Nigeria yesterday [Macau time], getting a late goal from Marcos Rojo. Maradona showed both middle fingers to the crowd after the 86th-minute winner.

A short time later, videos posted on social media showed Maradona needing help out of the stands and into an adjoining luxury box at the stadium. He appeared to have his eyes closed and a later photo showed a pair of paramedics attending to him.

There was no immediate information on his health, but about two hours later he was photographed smiling at an airport. Another photo posted on Twitter appeared to show him sitting on a plane.

Messi's goal — his 65th for Argentina — was surely enough to impress even Maradona.

From a long pass over the defense by Ever Banega, Messi caressed the ball with his left thigh, took another touch with his left foot, and then delivered a smooth right-footed finish into the corner.

Messi fell to his knees and pointed his fingers upward in celebration. At the same time, Maradona crossed his arms with his hands on his shoulders and looked to the sky.

"I knew that God is with us," Messi said, "and he wouldn't let us get eliminated."

Messi, who later hit the post off a free kick, and Banega controlled the game in the first half. Rojo finished it off in the second by cushioning a volley with his right foot into the bottom corner and ensuring Messi's quest for a first World Cup title continued.

Argentina will play France in the last 16 in Kazan on Saturday. If Argentines win and Portugal beats Uruguay on Saturday, Messi would face Cristiano Ronaldo in the quarterfinals.

Without that late goal from Rojo, the 31-year-old Messi might have retired from international soccer for a second time — and for good this time.

Instead, it was Messi who was at the center of the celebrations. His teammates formed a circle around him while striker Gonzalo Higuain cried

nearby. Messi then clenched his fist as he turned toward the Argentina fans.

"He's above everybody else," Argentina coach Jorge Sam-

LATEST RESULTS

Iran	1	1	Portugal
Spain	2	2	Moroco
Denmark	0	0	France
Australia	0	2	Peru
Nigeria	1	2	Argentina
Iceland	1	2	Croatia
Korea Republic	2	0	Germany
Mexico	0	3	Sweden

paoli said. "The most important thing for Leo is his human side. He cries. He suffers. He's happy when Argentina wins. I know him.

"Many people say Leo does not enjoy playing for Argentina, but I do not agree. He enjoys and suffers like all the other players and that makes him even bigger."

Before Rojo's goal, Nigeria had been only a few minutes from qualifying for the last 16 for the fourth time.

Javier Mascherano gave

away a penalty with a pull on Leon Balogun at a 49th-minute corner. Victor Moses converted — and marked the goal with a somersault — to put Nigeria back in control of the race for second place in the group.

Argentina was facing finishing a World Cup without a win for the first time since 1934, but instead the team is headed to the knockout stage. "This is Messi," Nigeria coach Gernot Rohr said with a shrug.

Maradona says he's well after being treated

ARGININE football great Diego Maradona says he is well after requiring medical treatment at a World Cup game in Russia.

Footage posted on social media showed Maradona apparently disoriented and being helped to climb stairs at Argentina's 2-1 win over Nigeria yesterday.

He had earlier been seen reacting emotionally to the game and showing a middle-finger salute when Argentina scored. TV footage also showed Maradona with his eyes closed for part of the game.

Maradona says he was dizzy and his "neck hurt a lot," so he was examined at the stadium.

Writing on Instagram underneath a picture of himself with medical staff, Maradona says



"I was checked by a doctor and he recommended me to go home before the second half, but I wanted to stay because we were risking it all. How could I leave?"

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	3	1	2	0	6 - 5	5 Q
Portugal	3	1	2	0	5 - 4	5 Q
Iran	3	1	1	1	2 - 2	4
Morocco	3	0	1	2	2 - 4	1

Group C	PL	W	DRAW	L	GF-GA	PNT
France	3	2	1	0	3 - 1	7 Q
Denmark	3	1	2	0	2 - 1	5 Q
Peru	3	1	0	2	2 - 2	3
Australia	3	0	1	2	2 - 5	1

Group D	PL	W	DRAW	L	GF-GA	PNT
Croatia	3	3	0	0	7 - 1	9 Q
Argentina	3	1	1	1	3 - 5	4 Q
Nigeria	3	1	0	2	3 - 4	3
Iceland	3	0	1	2	2 - 5	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
Sweden	3	2	0	1	5 - 2	6 Q
Mexico	3	2	0	1	3 - 4	6 Q
Korea Republic	3	1	0	2	3 - 3	3
Germany	3	1	0	2	2 - 4	3

Group G	PL	W	DRAW	L	GF-GA	PNT
England	2	2	0	0	8 - 2	6 Q
Belgium	2	2	0	0	8 - 2	6 Q
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

Made in Macao
Jenny Lao-Phillips



POST-TRUTH OR INDIFFERENCE?

In these two years, we have seen quite a number of books and news articles published on the topic of "post-truth". Journalists are claiming we have entered a post-truth era ever since the news on Brexit and Donald Trump dominates a large part of both traditional and social media, and are worried about the negative effect of post-truth politics to the effective functioning of democracy. I have read in an article that even Oxford Dictionary has selected the word "post-truth" as word of the year in 2016. This got me thinking, in this part of the world, are we also living in a post-truth era where facts are becoming less influential than emotional appeal? Or have we always live in a world of alternative facts rather than actual facts? Or are we simply indifferent to objective facts?

I believe many of us have notice that most people in Macao got our information from the social media nowadays. Before Facebook, Whatsapp and Wechat, most of us do not give much attention to what's happening politically or socially. So, thanks to social media, it has given rise to information dispersion. On the one hand it has offered more channel for enhancing public concern on matters relating to our home, but has also given a great platform for spreading rumors. As there is no way for fact checking for us general citizens. How do we know if the information we receive are true or not?

We are so used to forwarding messages about news without even knowing the source, perhaps of the trusting nature of our people, that the idea of fact checking become unimportant. Though on some level most people treat these messages merely as a source of entertainment, we not aware of the danger of creating unwarranted fear, or misleading the public.

For instance, lately, there is wide circulation of the information about jaywalking. The messages indicated that police are hiding in different areas on the streets to catch people crossing the road without following the pedestrian traffic lights. It was even stated that three people have been caught and was penalized for crossing at a red light at Avenida Tamagnini Barbosa. It was my sister who pointed out that there aren't even traffic lights for pedestrians in the area. So, whoever started this chain of messages obviously missed out one very important fact.

Moreover, a search on local newspapers showed that there have already been similar rumors spread in 2017 about people jaywalking and was fined MOP 200. The rumor was spread so widely that police department had to clarify to the media that there had always been an existing law and the fine was MOP 300. Well, seems like, when it matters, authorities would come out to clarify the "wrong facts" that are spread on the Internet.

Research done by Standford University showed that most young people in the US cannot tell the difference between ads and article, or even between real accounts and fake ones. I wonder if we do a similar research in Macao, what will be the outcome. Even before the post-truth era, we already depended too much on hearsay, and have been indifference to facts and evidence. Even on important matters such as voting decisions are made based on what a friend of a friend of a friend said, or what the candidate, usually through his or her associations, offers to individuals. In a peaceful city like Macao, we have always based decision on emotion rather than facts. So, the ultimate question is, do we believe the truth is out there, or we simply do not care?

THE BUZZ GERMANY CRASHES OUT OF WORLD CUP WITH LOSS TO SOUTH KOREA

Germany is out of the World Cup, the fourth defending champion in the last five tournaments to be eliminated in the group stage.

The four-time champions lost to South Korea 2-0 yesterday, allowing a pair of injury-time goals while knowing a 1-0 victory would have been enough to advance because of the result in the other group match.

Germany ended up last in Group F while Sweden and Mexico advanced to the round of 16. South Korea was also eliminated despite the victory.

It was the first time Germany has been eliminated in the first round since 1938. Besides Germany this year, France in 2002, Italy in 2010 and Spain in 2014 were the previous defending champions to get eliminated in the group stage.



JAPAN

Space probe arrives at asteroid to collect samples



Ken Moritsugu, Tokyo

A Japanese space probe arrived at an asteroid yesterday after a 3½-year journey to undertake a first-ever experiment: blow a crater in the rocky surface to collect samples and bring them back to Earth.

The unmanned Hayabusa2 spacecraft reached its base of operations about 20 kilometers from the asteroid and some 280 million kilometers from Earth, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency said.

Over the next year and a half, the robotic explorer will attempt three brief touch-and-go landings to collect samples. If the retrieval and the return journey are successful, the asteroid material could provide clues to the origin of the solar system and life on Earth.

The mission is challenging. Hayabusa2 will spend about two months looking for suitable landing places on the uneven surface. Because of the high surface temperature, it will stay for only a few seconds each time it lands. Any samples would be sent back in a re-entry capsule that is due to arrive at the end of 2020.

The asteroid, named Ryugu after an undersea palace in a Japanese folktale, is about 900 meters in diameter. In photos released

by JAXA, the Japanese space agency, it appears more cube-shaped than round. A number of large craters can be seen, which Project Manager Yuichi Tsuda said in an online post makes the selection of landing points "both interesting and difficult."

Hayabusa2 will spend about two months looking for suitable landing places on the uneven surface

The first touchdown is planned for September or October. Before the final touchdown scheduled for April-May, Hayabusa2 will send out a squat cylinder that will detonate above the asteroid, shooting a 2-kilogram copper projectile into it at high speed to make a crater.

Hayabusa2 will hide on the other side of the asteroid to protect itself during the operation and wait another two to three weeks to

make sure any debris that could damage the explorer has cleared. It will then attempt to land at or near the crater to collect underground material that was blown out of the crater, in addition to the surface material from the earlier touchdowns.

The spacecraft will also deploy three rovers that don't have wheels but can hop around on the surface of the asteroid to conduct probes. Hayabusa2 will also send a French-German-made lander to study the surface with four observation devices.

Asteroids, which orbit the sun but are much smaller than planets, are among the oldest objects in the solar system. As such, they may help explain how Earth evolved, including the formation of oceans and the start of life.

Hayabusa2, launched in December 2014, is a successor to the 2003-2010 Hayabusa mission, which collected samples from a different type of asteroid and took three years longer than planned after a series of technical glitches, including a fuel leak and a loss of contact for seven weeks.

NASA also has an ongoing asteroid mission. Its Osiris-Rex spacecraft is expected to reach the asteroid Bennu later this year and return with samples in 2023. AP

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

WORLD BRIEFS



SYRIA International aid organizations sounded the alarm yesterday for the fate of thousands of desperate Syrians fleeing the onslaught of President Bashar Assad's forces in southwestern Syria, urging neighboring countries to take them in.

ROMANIA Thousands of anti-government protesters gathered near Romania's Parliament yesterday as the left-wing government prepared to face a no-confidence vote submitted by the opposition, which claims it has weakened democracy and the rule of law.



EU German officials say they're hopeful that fellow European Union countries will agree to limit the movement of asylum-seekers within the bloc at a summit starting today.

POLAND Lawmakers passed changes to a disputed Holocaust speech law yesterday, scrapping the threat of prison for attributing Nazi crimes to the Polish nation.



COLOMBIA As President Juan Manuel Santos prepares to step down, he says he's confident that his crowning achievement — the peace deal with leftist rebels that brought him a Nobel Peace Prize — will survive despite sharp criticism of it by the man now coming into office.

US The U.S. military wants to install missile defense radar in Hawaii to identify any ballistic missiles that are fired from North Korea or elsewhere, officials said.