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**WORLD BRIEFS**

**CHINA** Southern Airlines Co. will invest 10 billion yuan (USD1.5 billion) in Xiongan, the new city spearheaded by Chinese president Xi Jinping that aspires to be a model for China's future urban development.



**INDIA** Police in India's capital said they found 11 bodies at a home under mysterious circumstances yesterday, including 10 that were blindfolded and hanging. Handwritten notes were found that point "toward observance of some definite spiritual or mystical practices by the whole family," police said.

**SINGAPORE** faces its highest terrorism threat level since the time of the September 11 attacks in the U.S. in 2001 and the 2002 Bali bombings, Singapore's defense minister said. More on p13

**US-NORTH KOREA** President Donald Trump's national security adviser said yesterday the U.S. has a plan that would lead to the dismantling of North Korea's nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs in a year.

**IRAN** Gunfire erupted as Iranian security forces confronted protesters early yesterday amid demonstrations over water scarcity in the country's south, violence that authorities said wounded at least 11 people, mostly police.

More on backpage

**Crematorium protest with wider agenda** P3



LYNZY VALLES



BLOOMBERG

**HONG KONG**

**Flats left vacant over six months charged 200pct rate of rental value**

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# First Greater Bay youth internship program launched

Julie Zhu

To promote the integration of local young people in the development of the Greater Bay Area, the Talents Development Committee and the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office of the People's Government of Guangdong Province have jointly launched the Macau Youth Internship Program in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau Greater Bay Area.

A launching ceremony was conducted on Friday at the Macau Youth Incubation Center. This is the first time the SAR government has organized an internship program, hoping to provide more learning opportunities to the local youth.

Local interns will start their journey to Guangdong on July 7, to engage with top companies in Guangdong for a



one-month internship, which will finish on August 4.

The internship positions include information technology, creative design, accounting finance, tourism, conventions

and railway maintenance management.

It is believed that the internship program will assist to the interns' future career planning and integration into

the development of the Greater Bay Area.

One of the interns, surnamed Wong, who is a student at the University of Macau majoring in mechanical and electrical engineering, said that Macau has a relatively concentrated industry and limited internships.

Speaking to the Times, Wong said he believes that it is difficult for young people to get a chance to study railway maintenance management at Guangdong Metro Corporation.

In the long term, Wong said he still hopes to stay in Macau in order to serve the local community. He also hopes that the internship can afford employment advantages to all the interns.

Another intern, surnamed Lei, who is studying fashion commercial design in the UK,

said that creative industries in mainland China are developing rapidly and that the opportunity can help interns to explore the realities of commodity design in the mainland market, thus bringing new ideas to the interns' future.

Among the 23 participating in this program, half have studied abroad in the past.

Director of the Tertiary Education Services Office, Sou Chio Fai, said during the launching ceremony that Macau youth should be aware of the latest developments in the country and be brave enough to step out of Macau, so as to explore their personal future from various perspectives in order to fully make use of their talents.

According to Sou, this program aims to teach Macau students about Guangdong's employment situation and accumulate good work experience.

Sou hopes students can take advantage of this opportunity to explore personal development possibilities in the Greater Bay Area. Sou also hopes that more local students can join the program.

## Leong meets with Rio vice governor to talk PSC trade

SECRETARY for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong met with the vice governor of Rio de Janeiro, Francisco Dornelles, as one of the final stops on his combined trip to Brazil and Portugal last week.

Leong briefed his hosts on various economic initiatives concerning Macau, including the city's participation in the realization of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area project, the Belt and Road Initiative, the advancement of Macau as a platform for trade with Portuguese-speaking countries (PSC) and the evolution of Macau as a renminbi currency-clearance center for Portuguese-speaking countries.

According to a statement from Macau's Government Information Bureau, Leong said Brazilian enterprises should seize the unique opportunity to enter – through



Lionel Leong (standing, center) visits a startup center in Rio

what he termed a "soft landing" – the Chinese market using Macau as a platform.

Macau would make use of its functions as a platform in order to provide governmental departments in Brazil, and Brazilian enterprises, with the latest information about the mainland China market, he said. This would enable Brazilian entities to enter the Chinese market.

Leong further noted that the China-Portuguese-speaking Countries Cooperation and Development Fund had established its headquarters in Macau. In future, this fund will promote investments between China, Brazil and Macau.

To this end, various Macau government entities would work jointly with the Secretariat for Economic Development of

the Rio de Janeiro government in order to implement the related work.

Leong mentioned that the Macau government was actively promoting the MSAR's aims of economic diversification and fostering nascent industries. These included specialized financial services and the convention and exhibition industry, with a particular focus on conventions.

He invited the State Government of Rio de Janeiro to organize delegations of government departments and industries to Macau. He also invited them to participate in three major convention and exhibition events held in the city; namely, the International Infrastructure Investment and Construction Forum, the Macau International Environmental Co-operation Forum and the Macau International Trade and Investment Fair.

## Import surge led by mobile phones, motor vehicles

TOTAL merchandise import grew by 28 percent year-on-year in May to MOP7.18 billion, of which imports of mobile phones and motor vehicles soared by 182.6 percent and 70.3 percent respectively, according to information released by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC).

At the same time, total merchandise export for May amounted to MOP1.07 billion, up by 20.1 percent year-on-year, with the value of re-exports increasing 23.7 percent to MOP932 million. Accordingly, the merchandise trade deficit in May amounted to MOP6.1 billion.

For the first five months of 2018, total value of merchandise export increased by 9.8 percent year-on-year to MOP5.14 billion, of which value of re-exports (MOP4.46 billion) grew by 13 percent. Total value of merchandise import went up by 26.3 percent year-on-year to MOP36.32 billion. The merchandise trade deficit widened to MOP31.18 billion for the first five months of 2018.

Meanwhile, the biggest markets for exports in the first five months of the year were Hong Kong (MOP3.26 billion) and mainland China (MOP824 million), growing by 9.8 and 15.7 percent year-on-year, respectively. Exports to the European Union (MOP70 million) and the U.S. (MOP54 million) declined by 16.3 percent and 28.3 percent respectively during the same period.

By place of origin, merchandise import from mainland China (MOP12.55 billion) and the EU (MOP9.34 billion) increased by 31.5 and 26.4 percent, respectively, year-on-year in the first five months of 2018.

Imports from the Portuguese-speaking countries (MOP322 million) and the Belt & Road Countries outside of Greater China (MOP3.16 billion) increased by 28 and 24.5 percent, respectively.

External merchandise trade totaled MOP41.46 billion from January to May 2018, up by 24 percent compared to MOP33.43 billion a year earlier.

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# Protesters raise concerns over crematorium, other issues

Lynzy Valles

**H**UNDREDS of residents took the streets yesterday to express their opposition to the government's suspended project – the establishment of a crematorium at Taipa's Sa Kong Municipal Cemetery.

According to organizers, some 1,000 residents, mostly from Taipa, attended the rally, while police figures estimate 480 protesters.

The group rallied at Tap Seac Square, marching to the government's headquarters to submit a petition letter featuring 1,300 signatures of local residents who are against such a project.

Although the project has been suspended following public criticism and complaints from residents, lawmakers Sulu Sou and José Pereira Coutinho believe that residents are not happy with how the government proposed such a project without much public consultation.

"Even though the government



withdrew the project, residents cannot believe the attitude [of] the government because the [SAR] has no data to prove their point that the crematorium has no environmental pollution," said Sou.

Such a proposal was previously made in 1998 but was also withdrawn, a fact which Sou argued showed the government should not repeat this particular proposal.

"I think the government should explain whether Macau has the conditions to build this faci-

lity and if cremation is the only option to handle dead bodies," the lawmaker added.

Just last week, the New Macau Association proposed that the government explore additional ways of disposing of human remains.

It noted that since the government announced in 2016 it was time to build a crematorium, plans have not been properly communicated with residents for nearly two years.

Meanwhile, Coutinho said he and Sulu Sou would call for a de-

bate over the crematorium project at the Legislative Assembly, criticizing the SAR's public consultation system, saying that decisions about the subjects under consultation were made previously. The lawmaker also said that Sulu Sou is expected to resume his post as lawmaker today after some 200 days of suspension.

"People don't want to have a crematorium close to their residence. It is as simple as that. If they want to build it, do it at Santa Sancha [where the Chief Executive official residence is located], or in the Penha area. The farther away it is [from people's residences] the better," Coutinho added.

Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau head José Tavares previously said that the idea of building a crematorium facility had been a request of many citizens in recent years and that it was related to both change in the society and its cultural roots, as well as the lack of space in the region.

## More CCTV cameras go into operation

The second and third phases of CCTV surveillance cameras officially started operations on Saturday, according to a dispatch released in the Official Gazette. In total, 601 new cameras were put into operation. On Saturday, Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak visited the control center of the CCTV surveillance system, where he underlined the beneficial results of the police work that resulted from the first phase of CCTV surveillance cameras. Wong pointed out that the new cameras symbolize the extension of the monitoring system coverage to different districts in town.

## Mother charged for beating infant

A mainland resident has been arrested for conducting corporal punishment on her three-year-old son. The case was reported to the police force by the boy's kindergarten. According to police information, the wound was discovered by a hospital doctor after the boy's teacher took him to a hospital following the boy telling his teacher he was not feeling well. The mother, who holds a family visit visa, said she punished her son because he did not behave well in class. Such instances of physical abuse occurred more than once, police revealed.

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## News At Hand



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# Vet clinic to file legal action against animal rights group chief

A veterinary clinic is set to take legal action against president of Anima, Albano Martins, for defaming the Royal Veterinary Center clinic in NAPE, following Martins' statements claiming that one vet acquired three greyhounds through middlemen for the purpose of using them for blood transfusions.

The statements were by Martins in a reply to a comment on his public Facebook post. After two netizens asked which vet he was referring to, Martins replied, "a vet in [the] NAPE area in Macau."

Hong Kong's South China Morning Post also reported on the story on Wednesday, quoting Martins as saying: "According to my information, one vet in Macau got three greyhounds through middlemen for the purpose of using them for blood transfusions."

Speaking to the Times, Ruan Bester of the Royal Veterinary Center said that Martins' statement is false, stressing that the clinic did not adopt any greyhounds from the soon-to-close Canidrome.

Although Martins did not drop any names, he told the media last week that the vet clinic doing the alleged infraction is located in the NAPE area, to which Bester argued that he is the only vet in that district.

"It's a hundred percent not true. We're not hoarding any greyhounds, we didn't adopt any greyhounds and we're not bleeding any greyhounds. It's totally false claims that they are making against us," said the veterinary physician.

Bester told the Times yesterday that he is set to take legal action against Martins, claiming he was heavily affected by the state-

ment. He argued that some Chinese media outlets also reported that Martins was referring to a vet clinic located in NAPE. "I called him, he shouted at me, he swore at me and threw the phone down. It's just bizarre, totally bizarre," Bester lamented.

"I need to let this get out because they can't do anything about this, because we've done nothing wrong and they are accusing us," he added.

The vet added that the Royal Veterinary Center has even offered free services, including dental and neutering services, to greyhounds who have been adopted at the Canidrome.

"We've done a bunch of dental and [other] services already. People are trying to bring them here for the service that we provide [for free]. It's excellent but we don't adopt them or house them," he stressed. LV



Ruan Bester (left)

## ONE SHOT NEWS



Roadworks to fix the pumping system at Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro (popularly known as San Ma Lou) have commenced and are expected to last until August 31. The Transport Bureau predicted traffic jams in the area would become "very serious" given changes to both buses and private cars, potentially leading to traffic jams at multiple points.

## MARTINS NOT THREATENED BY POSSIBLE LEGAL CASE

LOCAL RIGHTS activist Albano Martins said that he would not comment on Ruan Bester's move to file a legal action against him, as he did not refer to Bester's name

in his statement. "What I wrote is that it was according to my sources. [...] If he thinks I'm referring to him, then it's his opinion, I don't care too much," he told the Times.

## UM FORMER DEAN SCANDAL

# Tam says higher standards needed for teachers

ALEXIS Tam has declared that the requirements for teachers should be higher than those for ordinary civil servants.

The Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, claimed that the SAR government has higher standards in terms of both professional ethics and of professionalism for teachers when compared to ordinary civil servants.

Tam's comment came last week, following reports of an alleged sex crime involving the former dean

of the Graduate School of the University of Macau, John Mo Shijian.

Tam said he had been informed of the incident from media reports, upon which he immediately asked UM's Rector to conduct an investigation and submit a report on disciplinary procedures.

UM said last week that the school had already submitted a report to Tam and had terminated its employment contract with the suspect, who was also the former dean of the UM Faculty of Law.

UM further stated that

an interim dean of the Graduate School had already stepped into Mo's position to ensure a smooth transition.

Secretary Tam said that the SAR government places great importance on the development of higher education in Macau.

The region's Tertiary Education Service Office (GAES) released a statement last week following the revelation of the case.

"The Tertiary Education Service Office dedicates much attention to the case of a teacher from a higher education institu-

tion who is suspected of a crime. GAES has been supporting the institutions in building a team of excellent teachers and researchers. There should be a rather higher demand for teachers and researchers, both at the academic level, as well as a higher professional deontological conduct and moral quality," the GAES statement reads.

The former UM leader, taken into custody, is accused of raping a mainland female student from another university in the city.



John Mo Shijian



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#### Fountainside

(Ref: 18040677)  
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### FOR SALE



#### Jubilee Court, Macau

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

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



#### Old Macau, Unique Walk Up

(Ref: 18065557)  
950 sq.ft. HKD 4.48M  
Rate: HKD 4,715

Located close to St Lazarus church on the Macau peninsula this apartment has three bedrooms (one on the rooftop), it's a duplex the property has a lofty feel about it. Modernised a few years ago it needs little renovation.



#### Bauhinia Court, Hellene Gardens

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

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



#### Va Nam Top Floor

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

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



#### Calçada da Surpresa, 12, Ching Fai Court, Macau

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#### The Buckingham, Unit C, Taipa

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

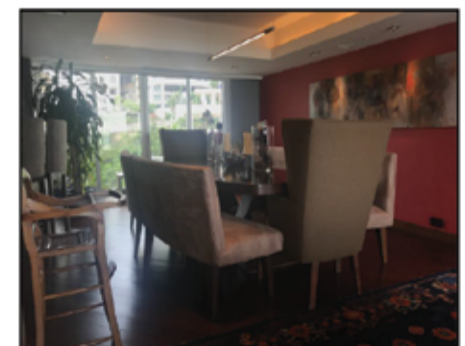
Great two bedroom apartment in Central Taipa. Open plan kitchen with fitted appliance. Two double bedrooms sharing one walk in shower room. Good size living area with balcony.



#### Violet Court, Hellene Gardens, Coloane

(Ref: 18035546)  
2,530 sq.ft. HKD 20M  
Rate: HKD 7,905

Its unusual to find such a beautifully designed apartment in Macau especially with stunning views over Hac Sa beach. The interior renovation has been thoughtfully designed by the owners cousin a well known architect in Portugal. The quality of this apartment is second to none and a real show piece.



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GAMING

# June GGR disappoints, attributed to World Cup

**G**ROSS gaming revenue in Macau grew 12.5 percent year-on-year in June to a total of MOP22.49 billion, according to the latest data from the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau, making the month the 23rd consecutive to post gains.

However, June gross gaming revenue came in far below analysts' predictions of between 17 and 21 percent year-on-year growth, partly attributed to the effect of the football World Cup.

The moderate rise was in line with the year-on-year growth seen in the previous month, but the actual revenue was about 12 percent less than the MOP25.5 billion recorded in May. The last two monthly postings represent a deceleration



from the 20 percent plus growth seen in both March and April.

The latest data means that gross gaming revenue for the first six months of 2018 stands at just over MOP150 billion, up 18.9 percent over the MOP126 billion recor-

ded in the same period in 2017. This year's posting is the strongest start to the year since 2014, when the first six months recorded MOP193 billion in gains.

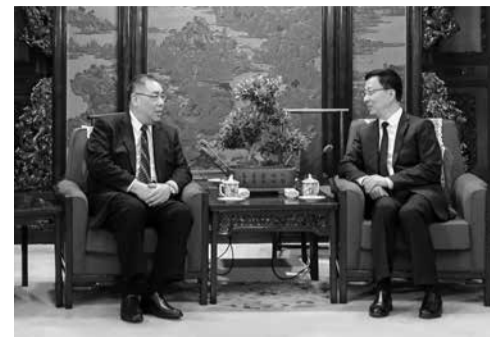
Analysts expressed their concern last month that the football World Cup might

dampen June gross gaming revenue. On past occasions of the tournament, gamblers have turned their attention away from Macau's baccarat tables and onto World Cup wagering.

JP Morgan Securities (Asia Pacific) wrote last week that June revenues were "quite decent/resilient in our view," especially given the "negative impact from the World Cup."

Other analysts have maintained the view that there is little evidence to support the link between the World Cup and Macau gross gaming revenues.

During the UEFA Euro 2016, which fell between June 10 and July 10, Macau revenues hit their lowest point of the recession, recording just MOP15.88 billion in June 2016. **DB**



Chui Sai On (left) and Han Zheng

## CE submits report on Greater Bay Area opinions

**L**AST week Chief Executive Chui Sai On submitted a report to the Vice Premier of the mainland's State Council, Han Zheng, regarding opinions and recommendations on the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area.

The report was submitted during a meeting held at the Ziguang Pavilion at Zhongnanhai in Beijing.

According to a statement from the Macau government, the report contained opinions conveyed by local authorities and "various sectors of the Macau community."

Chui expressed during the meeting that the anticipated development plan for the Greater Bay Area should address two important issues in relation to Macau: the advantages that Macau may exploit within the Greater Bay Area to advance its economic diversification, first, and the benefits to life and work quality of local residents, second. Furthermore, according to the report the development plan for the Greater Bay Area should facilitate the ability of residents of the SARs to work and live in mainland China.

According to the statement, the Chief Executive also promised that the Macau SAR government would "follow the strategy of the Central People's Government," by tapping into Macau's advantages and developing synergies with its neighboring cities.

He said that the MSAR has taken several steps thus far to support the development of the Greater Bay Area. For example, the city has adhered to the principles outlined at the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in regard to its development. Meanwhile, it has also commenced a series of preliminary studies and begun preparatory work in order to facilitate the merger of the Macau SAR's Five-Year Development Plan and the country's development of the Greater Bay Area.

# US Consul 'optimistic' on Macau as investment prospect

**T**HE U.S. Consulate General in Hong Kong and Macau sees potential for the world's largest economy to continue investing in the MSAR, particularly as the city widens its tourism sector offerings.

Speaking to public broadcaster TDM on the sidelines of an anticipatory celebration for the country's upcoming Independence Day, Consul General Kurt Tong said he remains both positive and "optimistic" about future investment prospects.

Tong said that U.S. companies were interested in helping Macau to develop additional tourism offerings, for



Secretary for Justice Sonia Chan (left) and Kurt Tong

example within the food and beverage sector and in the conventions and exhibitions sector.

"We're quite optimistic about the future, actually," he told

TDM. "We think that the formula of foreign participation in the Macau economy is a mutually beneficial thing."

The most noteworthy U.S. investments in Macau are the

local subsidiaries of American gaming companies Wynn Resorts, MGM International Resorts and Las Vegas Sands, who together control a share of approximately 45 percent of the world's largest gambling market.

Each year, the U.S. Consulate General in Hong Kong and Macau organizes a celebration for the country's Independence Day, held on July 4.

The date commemorates the 1776 declaration made by the American colonists which recognized the United States as a new nation, separate from the British Empire.

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MGM invests in creating a workplace where wellbeing is promoted by offering healthy food options, holding specialist-run health talks, providing a comfortable environment with relaxing places to take breaks, as well as organizing team sports through our Golden Lion Sports Teams.

Achieving well-being however requires a balanced emphasis on ensuring we are both healthy physically, and well as mentally. From end May to mid-June, MGM launched the 3-week "Healthy Mind, Healthy Life Campaign", for our 10,000 employees with a wide array of wellbeing-related activities promoting the importance of a healthy lifestyle, both at work and at home.



Some of the key activities included:

## The "Let's Walk for Love" charity walk



The Campaign kicked off with "5.20 - Let's Walk for Love", co-organized by the Fuhong Society of Macau and MGM, including a 3km walk with the core aim to promote social inclusion and create awareness on mental health. The event attracted more than 500 community members and more than 200 MGM staff, proudly sporting t-shirts designed by, as well as walking alongside, persons with disabilities.

## Medical check-ups



MGM invited 14 medical practitioners from the Chinese Medicine Association of Macau to provide free one-on-one consultations to more than 800 team members, who also received a customized herbal tea mixture for staying in tip top health. MGM also arranged a professional team of medical staff to come onsite to offer 700 interested team members complimentary medical check-ups and health assessments to understand health indicators such as blood glucose and cholesterol levels, as well as body mass index.

## Health and wellness seminars



Both MGM MACAU and MGM COTAI hosted a series of health and wellness including: a seminar on maintaining optimum health during shift work, which was organized by representatives of Labour Affairs Bureau; an acupuncture for insomnia seminar, held by a Chinese herbalist from the Chinese Medicine Society in Macau; as well as a seminar by a physiotherapist discussing common body strains and pains, while providing simple strategies, such as how to have correct posture, to alleviate and prevent these symptoms.

## World Challenge Day 2018



In support of "World Challenge Day" co-organized by the Sports Bureau, the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau and the Health Bureau, MGM arranged a large-scale fitness exercise activity led by MGM's gym fitness trainers as well as our company CEO, Mr. Grant Bowie. The activity was held simultaneously at the Grande Praça of MGM MACAU and the Spectacle of MGM COTAI on May 30 with over 320 team members involved to celebrate the event.

Rounding up the benefits of the campaign, Ms. Wendy Yu, Senior Vice President of Human Resources of MGM, said, "Achieving work-life balance at MGM is our continuous goal and we strive to incorporate wellness in all aspects of our team members' life, especially in the workplace. Our 'Healthy Mind Healthy Life' campaign is a way for MGM to give back to our team members and it generates many positive outcomes. We want to take this opportunity to acknowledge our Golden Lion Team's hard work and to help them reach their full potential in their career by providing a wide array of ongoing wellness campaigns, therefore developing a positive and healthy lifestyle."

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## Hyundai warns US auto tariff would be 'devastating'

Sohee Kim

**H**YUNDAI Motor Co. joined a chorus of rebuke from global automakers against possible import tariffs by the Trump administration, warning the duties would be "devastating" to the Korean automaker and its U.S. operations.

The tariffs "would not only harm Hyundai Motor's U.S. business operations and the American workers and communities the company supports, but it would also jeopardize Hyundai Motor's plans for additional U.S. investments," Hyundai Motor said in comments submitted to the U.S. Department of Commerce on June 29.

Threats of a 25 percent tariff on imported cars and parts contemplated by the U.S. has sent shivers through the global auto sector. Hyundai joins other automakers and suppliers, including General Motors Co. and Toyota Motor Corp., in slamming the plan, which seeks to place import restrictions under Section 232 of a 1960s U.S. trade law in the name of national security.

The Seoul-based carmaker insisted that its imports of cars and automotive parts into the U.S. don't constitute a security threat, adding the U.S. and South Korea "share a common national security interest in halting North Korea's nuclear



ambitions." Restrictions on auto-related trade would "severely weaken Korea's ability to advance shared U.S.-Korea security interests in the region," Hyundai said.

Hyundai has invested about USD8.3 billion in the U.S., directly employs 25,000 workers there and indirectly provides another 47,000 jobs through its dealership network, according to the document. The world's fifth largest automaker together with affiliate Kia Motors Corp. disclosed in 2017 a plan to spend \$3.1 billion in the U.S. in the five years through 2021.

The South Korean automaker, which domestically manufactures about half of all Hyundai cars sold in the U.S., said that a 25 percent import tax on auto parts would push up its production costs by a 10 percent a year at its plant in Alabama, the document said. **Bloomberg**

## HSBC is in talks to pay Russian claim in politically-charged case

**H**SBBC Holdings Plc's Russian unit is in talks with local authorities to pay 1.4 billion rubles (USD22 million) in obligations related to the politically-charged case of investor William Browder.

The bank's lawyers said in Russia's Supreme Court in Moscow last week it is also seeking written assurances from tax authorities that it won't face future charges or claims related to the high-profile case, but so far hasn't reached agreement. The court set another hearing for July 30 after the bank asked for more time to reach a settlement.

HSBC was both trustee and manager for Browder's Hermitage Fund, which was the largest foreign portfolio investor in Russia before his visa was annulled in 2005. Later, Browder alleged that police had taken control of local companies owned by the fund and used them to steal \$230 million from the government through fraudulent court decisions and tax refunds. A Hermitage auditor, Sergei Magnitsky, who exposed

the scheme, was jailed and died in custody in 2009.

Russia later charged Browder and Hermitage with stealing the money and tried the investor in absentia and sentencing him to nine years in prison. Browder, who now lives in London, has led a campaign to impose sanctions on Russian officials over the case, and succeeded in getting laws on them passed in the U.S. and several other countries.

Last year, a different Russian court ordered HSBC to pay the 1.4 billion rubles. At the time, the bank said it was disappointed in the ruling and would consider an appeal. An admission of guilt by HSBC could be a boost for Russian authorities' efforts to legitimize their version of events as they pursue further charges against Browder.

"We believe we acted at all times in accordance with the law and applicable banking regulation," HSBC said in a statement. "The matter is on-going and we make no further comment." **Bloomberg**



Wayne Parry, Atlantic City

GAMING

# Hard Rock still eyes New Jersey casino near NYC

**E**VEN after spending a half-billion dollars on an Atlantic City casino, Hard Rock still hopes to build one in northern New Jersey near New York City one day.

Hard Rock CEO Jim Allen said the company has made significant investments of money and time preparing for casino gambling at the Meadowlands Racetrack in East Rutherford. "We have an ownership in the Meadowlands, and we have an exclusive right to operate the [casino] gaming operation there," he said.

A proposal to allow that was resoundingly defeated by voters in 2016. But Allen said the company has not dropped the idea. Speaking last week at the opening of Hard Rock's new casino at what used to be the Trump Taj Mahal, Allen said every study projects a casino at the Meadowlands would do well, with 14 million people living within 50 miles of it. "Yes, we would certainly be interested," he said.

An Associated Press analysis of the Meadowlands casino proposal in 2016 found it could be among the most successful in the country — at least until a casino is opened in New York City itself, if that ever happens. Jeff Gural, who operates the



Jim Allen, CEO of Hard Rock International, speaks at the grand opening celebration

Meadowlands track, estimates a Meadowlands casino would take in USD800 million to \$900 million a year from gamblers, ranking it among the most successful in the nation. Some analysts think a Meadowlands casino could exceed \$1 billion

in annual revenue, at least before it has a nearby competitor in northern New Jersey.

And since that time, the U.S. Supreme Court cleared the way for all 50 states to legalize sports betting, which New Jersey quickly did. The Meadowlands

plans to start taking sports bets on July 15.

Allen's comments last week echoed those he made right after the statewide referendum was defeated by roughly 80 percent to 20 percent. But key details about the project were never spelled out, including precisely where the casinos would go and the rate at which they would be taxed.

And at least for now, there remains little appetite among the state's Democratic-controlled Legislature to try again for another public vote on casino expansion. New Jersey's constitution restricts casino gambling to Atlantic City; changing that would require a constitutional amendment.

New Jersey Senate President Steve Sweeney told the AP in December that casino expansion is on the back burner, at best. "I don't see it anytime soon, if ever," he said at the time. "I don't see any way where it comes back; it was crushed."

Sweeney said he can't guarantee a future state Senate president won't try to revive a public vote. "I just don't see it reasonably coming back and making sense," he said.

Sweeney reiterated that stance on Friday.

Hard Rock was one of two shuttered Atlantic City casinos that sprang back to life Thursday. The former Revel casino, which closed in Sept. 2014, reopened as the Ocean Resort Casino.

The Trump Taj Mahal closed in October 2016, and Hard Rock bought it from former owner Carl Icahn in March 2017. While reiterating his company's long-term plan of developing a Meadowlands casino, Allen said it is committed to making its Atlantic City property a success.

"If that [Meadowlands casino] looks like it's going to happen, we will certainly not forget about the half-billion dollars we have invested in this building," he said. **AP**

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# Xiaomi's IPO raises USD4.7 billion after pricing on low end

Crystal Tse

**X**IAOMI Corp. and some existing investors raised USD4.7 billion after pricing a Hong Kong initial public offering at the low end of a marketed range, a person with knowledge of the matter said.

The Beijing-based smartphone maker priced the sale of 2.18 billion shares at HKD17 each, the person said, asking not to be identified because the details are private. Xiaomi had offered the shares at HKD17 to HKD22 apiece. The pricing values Xiaomi at about \$54 billion, roughly half the company's initial goal.

Billionaire George Soros and Chinese investment firm Hillhouse Capital were among investors that placed orders for Xiaomi IPO shares, people with knowledge of the matter said earlier.

"Xiaomi's exceedingly thin margins from hardware significantly drags down its valuation for potential investors," said James Yan, an analyst with Counterpoint Research in Beijing. "I expect it to invest more in the smartphone unit, especially on international expansion.



It also needs cash to beef up its ecosystem in markets like India. All those fronts are extremely capital-intensive."

The offering is Hong Kong's biggest first-time share sale since September 2016, when Postal Savings Bank of China Co. priced a \$7.6 billion IPO, according to data compiled by

Bloomberg. Xiaomi, led by serial entrepreneur Lei Jun, is the first major tech listing in Hong Kong since the city changed its rules to allow founders to keep outsized voting rights.

A Soros-backed fund placed an early order for a small amount of Xiaomi stock, according to one of the people with

knowledge of the matter. Hillhouse placed an order of around \$600 million, while U.S. asset manager Capital Group Cos. placed an order for more than \$500 million of stock, the people said.

A price at the low end of Xiaomi's IPO range translates into 22.7 times its forecast 2019 earnings, assuming a so-called over-allotment option is fully exercised, Bloomberg News reported earlier.

Xiaomi had already scaled back its ambitions for the offering. Top executives were initially pushing for an IPO valuation of as much as \$100 billion when listing preparations began last year, Bloomberg News reported at the time.

The company was also planning to raise funds from mainland Chinese investors nearly simultaneously with the Hong Kong IPO. It has since delayed the plan to float so-called Chinese depositary receipts in Shanghai, which reduced its overall fundraising target.

Goldman Sachs Group Inc., Morgan Stanley and CLSA Ltd. led Xiaomi's IPO as joint sponsors. **Bloomberg**



Mahmood Ali (left) chats with Wang Yi before a meeting

## Beijing offers aid to Bangladesh over Rohingya crisis

**C**HINA will offer humanitarian assistance to Bangladesh to help shelter and feed hundreds of thousands of Muslim Rohingya refugees from neighboring Myanmar, the foreign minister said Friday.

Wang Yi also told reporters that China hoped repatriation of refugees could begin "as early as possible," following a meeting with his Bangladeshi counterpart Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali in Beijing.

"We will contribute our efforts [to help with offering more humanitarian aids] in line with Bangladesh's needs," Wang said.

Ali said the two had had "detailed discussions" about the status of the refugees and that he sought China's support for the "early repatriation of these displaced people back to their homeland" in Myanmar's Rakhine state.

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. Ali gave the number of refugees at 1.1 million.

The U.N. refugee agency has signed a preliminary agreement for the return of the refugees with Bangladesh and Myanmar provided the conditions for a safe and orderly repatriation are fulfilled — something aid workers say still has not happened on the ground in Myanmar.

China maintains close ties to Myanmar's powerful military and has refused to join international condemnation of the campaign of organized violence. The Foreign Ministry has previously described the issue as an internal affair containing "complicated historical, national and religious factors."

Myanmar has denied Rohingya citizenship and other rights and considers them immigrants from Bangladesh, even though many have lived in Myanmar for generations. **AP**

Patrick Whittle, Portland

**A** new set of Chinese tariffs on U.S. seafood including items made from shark fins could further erode what remains of the American industry for the controversial products.

China announced the 25 percent tariffs in mid-June that are expected to apply to exported American goods such as lobster and salmon beginning in July. They also will apply to whole or cut shark fins, as well as shark fin products that are canned or preserved, according to a Chinese government website.

The U.S. has long banned "shark finning," a practice long reviled by animal welfare groups that involves removing the fin from a shark and discarding the animal at sea. It is still legal to remove and sell the fin of a legally harvested shark after it is brought to land.

The steep tariffs, which could turn away business from U.S. exporters, might have implications for Ame-

## Tariffs could erode remaining US shark fin business



A worker collects pieces of shark fins dried on the rooftop of a factory building in Hong Kong

rican shark fishermen and processors. China is one of the biggest buyers of shark fins, as the product is used to make shark fin soup, an Asian delicacy.

"My sense is that's going to decrease demand for sustainably fished U.S. shark fins, and increase demand from countries with less sustainable fisheries," said Shaun Gehan, an

attorney for Sustainable Shark Alliance, which represents shark fishermen and dealers. "It'll just be a hardship for the small fish houses and the fishermen that participate in this fishery."

Hundreds of fishermen in the U.S. seek numerous species of shark for their meat and fins in a tightly regulated fishery. The

fins represent about a quarter of the value of a shark, and fins that U.S. fishermen harvest are often shipped to Asia for processing.

Animal advocates and environmentalists have long called for a complete ban on the shark fin trade because they believe it jeopardizes threatened species of shark. Oceana campaign director Whitney Webber said a national fin ban would "reinforce the status of the United States as a leader in shark conservation."

But China's new tariffs could have the opposite effect, potentially increasing demand for shark fins from countries where fisheries are not as well managed, said Robert Hueter, a senior scientist and director of the Center for Shark Research at Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota, Florida.

"They can get fins from anywhere, and they don't need it from

us," Hueter said. "This is hurting U.S. fishermen, not really solving any kind of problem."

Beijing announced the tariffs, which also apply to agricultural products and cars, as retaliation against President Donald Trump's tariff increase on Chinese products. The two countries, the world's two largest economies, are in the midst of escalating trade hostility.

But some in the U.S. shark fin business do not believe fins will be a casualty of a U.S.-China trade war. Raymond Wong, a New York-based shark fin dealer, said the tariffs can be easily bypassed by shipping fins to Hong Kong, which is a common destination for them anyway.

"If I get dogfish fin from Maine or wherever, I can send it to Hong Kong," he said. "I've been sending dogfish to Hong Kong for a while. I am OK." **AP**

David Tweed

HONG KONG

**H**ONG Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam said new housing policies announced on Friday were a demonstration of her government's political determination.

"The housing policies announced two days ago won't immediately boost supply, and can hardly suppress the rise of property prices," Lam said at a ceremony to mark the 21st anniversary of Hong Kong's return to Chinese rule. "But these measures demonstrate the political determination and innovation of this government."

Subject to approval by the Legislative Council, Hong Kong will charge additional rates on unsold new apartments in a bid to limit hoarding by developers and cool the city's red-hot property market. Apartments left vacant for more than six months will be charged a 200 percent rate of the rental value, or equivalent to about 5 percent of the unit's price.

"We hope such a move will bring a focus to the debate on land supply. Citizens can see the fruits of increasing land supply are opportunities to affordable housing," Lam said, beginning her second year in charge of the former British colony.

Cooling measures rolled out previously by the government have failed to prevent Hong Kong from becoming one of the world's least affordable markets for residential property, with prices more than



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doubling over the past decade.

Since taking office a year ago, Lam, 61, has managed to bring a less confrontational tone to city politics without straying far from Beijing's agenda. City residents give her a job approval rating of 54.3 out of 100, according to University of Hong Kong surveys, compared with 46.4 for predecessor Leung Chun-ying at the same point in his term.

Lam began her term last year promising more frequent meetin-

gs with lawmakers and taking a veiled swipe at Leung, whom she served as top aide for five years. In subsequent months, she backed an official's decision to a bar young activist from running for the city's legislature because an official deemed her calls for "self-determination" as an illegal separatist platform.

President Xi Jinping, during a visit to Hong Kong last year to swear in Lam, warned that challenges to Chinese rule wouldn't be tolerated.

# New housing policies will bring focus, Carrie Lam says

He urged the city's leaders to find new ways to profit from Chinese economic clout and build political consensus.

Lam has also advanced controversial Beijing-backed proposals to let Chinese agents operate at a local high-speed rail terminus, start incorporating Hong Kong into a regional development plan and approve a satellite campus for the capital's Palace Museum. Lam was elected in March last year by a committee of 1,200 insiders stacked with Beijing loyalists.

Lam's efforts to avoid a repeat of the mass democracy protests that gripped the city in 2014 have been helped by a booming economy that has allowed her to splurge on popular programs. The city's gross domestic product expanded by 4.7

percent in the first quarter, the fastest pace in almost seven years. And unemployment is at a two-decade low.

Still, there are reasons to think the honeymoon might not last. Lam's approval rating already lags those of the Hong Kong's first two post-colonial executives, Tung Chee-hwa and Donald Tsang.

Rising U.S. interest rates could force Hong Kong to tighten monetary policy thanks to its pegged currency, during a year in which the benchmark Hang Seng Index has fallen 3.2 percent amid worries about President Donald Trump's tariff threats. Meanwhile, the local property market - the world's least affordable - continues to defy government cooling efforts. **Bloomberg**

## LEONG TO STUDY MEASURES FOR MACAU

**SECRETARY FOR** Economy and Finance Lionel Leong said that the government is considering similar property measures to control house prices in the MSAR. Specifically, Leong wants to target vacant apartments that

were never sold using the measures introduced in neighboring Hong Kong as a model. The Secretary reportedly told journalists that the government plans to study whether such measures are feasible in Macau.

# Police stop protest at handover anniversary event

**P**OLICE in Hong Kong stopped about 20 pro-democracy protesters from getting near a flag-raising ceremony yesterday marking the anniversary of the city's handover from Britain to China.

The protesters carried a coffin symbolizing a death of democracy and chanted slogans against one-party rule in China, demands for universal suffrage in Hong Kong and mainland China and freedom for Liu Xia, the widow of Nobel Peace Prize winner Liu Xiaobo.

The ceremony, held beside Victoria Harbour, continued uninterrupted with Beijing-backed Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam in attendance. At a reception later yesterday, she expressed confidence in Hong Kong's future without



One hundred drones are remote-controlled to form a shape of number 21 in Hong Kong

mentioning any politically sensitive topics.

Hong Kong became part of China in 1997 after more than a century of British rule. China guaranteed a 50-year transition period under which Hong Kong would retain considerable autonomy and keep the rule of law and its own legal and financial system.

However, the ruling Communist Party has made it clear those liberties are limited by its bottom line on sovereignty over the territory - a warning to a generation of young political activists who emerged after failed nonviolent protests in 2014 over Beijing's decision to restrict elections in semiautonomous region.

During last year's

20th handover anniversary, Chinese President Xi Jinping warned in a speech that any activities in Hong Kong seen as threatening China's sovereignty and stability would be "absolutely impermissible."

A larger protest march, an annual event that attracts tens of thousands of people, is scheduled for yesterday afternoon. **AP**



Hospital workers attend to a person injured in a coach-truck collision accident in Hengdong County

# 18 killed, 14 injured in bus-truck highway collision

**EIGHTEEN** people were killed and 14 others injured in a head-on collision between a passenger bus and a truck on a highway in central China, police said Saturday.

The accident took place Friday evening in Hunan province south of Beijing. Video from the scene showed both heavily damaged vehicles along the rain-slicked highway. It appeared that one of the vehicles may have crossed a center divider.

Speeding, dangerous passing, poorly maintained vehicles and fatigued drivers

are most often the cause of serious traffic accidents in China. Friday's accident appeared to be one of the worst in recent months.

Despite vast improvements in safety, the World Health Organization says about 260,000 Chinese die each year in traffic accidents, many of them pedestrians, bicyclists or motorcycle riders. Long-distance buses are a cheaper alternative to high-speed trains or planes for the vast majority of working-class Chinese traveling around the vast country.

Tassanee Vejpongsa, Mae Sai

THAILAND

**T**HAI navy divers leading the search for 12 boys and their soccer coach in a cave have failed to make much headway in their effort to push through the murk of a kilometer-long chamber to what is believed to be a clear area leading to where the missing may be sheltering, officials said.

Sunday's fresh reckoning came a day after a break in the constant rainfall had lowered water levels, bringing hope that the muddy water inside the crucial but clogged chamber would recede and expedite divers' movement forward.

The boys, aged 11 to 16, and their 25-year-old coach entered the sprawling Tham Luang Nang Non cave in the northern province of Chiang Rai after a soccer game on June 23. There is hope they can survive if they have found a dry spot in which to shelter.

An announcement on the Facebook page of the Thai navy SEAL unit shortly before midnight on Saturday said they had penetrated only about 200 meters - one fifth of the way forward in the crucial chamber, about as far as they had made it much earlier in the search before being forced to retreat by rising waters.

An army commander, Maj. Gen. Bancha Duriyapat, said that authorities remain hopeful.

"Overall, it's good. It is good news that rain has stopped. We continue to work in all areas, including pumping the water out from water sources all around the mountain so that we can help those who work inside the cave," he said.

AP PHOTO



Chaiwat Dusadeepanich of the Department of Groundwater Resources explained Saturday that his team, which had been drilling for two days, found a small underground water source near the cave. He said they would keep drilling deeper in order to find a way to release the water at a high rate.

The search has been going slowly, largely because flooding has blocked rescuers from going through chambers to get deeper into the cave. Pumping out water hasn't solved the problem, so the attention has focused on finding shafts on the mountainside that might serve as a back door to the blocked-off areas where the mis-

sing may be sheltering.

Teams have been combing the mountainside looking for fissure that might lead to such shafts. Several have been found and explorers have been able to descend into some, but so far it is not clear whether they lead to anywhere useful.

"We surveyed all areas and the-

re were reported to be about 20, and out of that there are about 10 with possibility of having shafts," Chiang Rai Gov. Narongsak Osatanakorn told reporters yesterday. "But at the moment, we have narrowed it down to two. Today we're working inside those two shafts."

■ The search has been going slowly, largely because flooding has blocked rescuers from going through chambers to get deeper into the cave

Experts in cave rescues from around the world continued to gather at the site. An official Australian group has now followed a U.S. military team, British cave experts, Chinese lifesaving responders and several other volunteer groups from various countries. **AP**

## Asian economies discuss trade pact amid rising protectionism

Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

**J**APANESE Prime Minister Shinzo Abe yesterday called for an early conclusion of a regional trade pact that ensures free and rules-based commerce in the face of an increasingly protectionist United States under President Donald Trump.

At a meeting of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, or RCEP, which is co-chaired by Japan and Singapore, trade ministers and officials from 16 Asian countries agreed to speed up negotiations on outstanding issues and reach a basic agreement by the end of the year.

Japan seeks to take leadership in shaping the pact as an alternative to a Pacific Rim free-trade grouping that Trump abandoned early this year.

At a joint news conference after the talks, Japanese Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Hiroshige Seko and his Singaporean counterpart, Chan Chun Sing, noted there are differences that still need to be resolved, but the participants see achieving a pact as a chance to show Asia's commitment to defend free trade.

"This is indeed a moment for us to seize the opportunity against a global backdrop where we are facing headwinds in the trade relationships and the trade regimes," Chan said. Achieving a pact would be a powerful statement to show what RCEP countries stand for, he said.

In a joint statement, the ministers said achieving a pact is important especially "in view of the current global trade environ-

ment, which faces serious risks from unilateral trade actions and reactions, as well as their debilitating implications on the multilateral trading system." They also pledged to seek breakthroughs in politically challenging areas.

In his opening remarks earlier yesterday, Abe said a pact among the countries that together make up half the global population has enormous growth potential.

"As we are faced with concerns of the rise of protectionism in the world, all of us in Asia must unite, and our future depends on whether we can keep hoisting our flagship principle of free and fair trade," Abe told the meeting in Tokyo. "Let us be as one and achieve a free, fair and rules-based market in this region."

Trump, who says he prefers bilateral deals, has pulled the U.S. out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, leaving the remaining 11 countries, from Chile to New Zealand, to work on a revamped version of that pact.

Trump has imposed high tariffs on steel and aluminum imports and has threatened to add automobiles to reduce America's trade deficit. He has singled out Chinese products, prompting fears of a trade war.

Japan, already hit by increased U.S. steel and aluminum tariffs, has told the World Trade Organization that it may retaliate against U.S. goods totaling about 50 billion yen (USD450 million). Japan's government warned the U.S. Department of Commerce on Friday that a higher U.S.

AP PHOTO



Shinzo Abe (center) joins hands with trade ministers from Asian countries for a group photo

tariff on auto imports could backfire, jeopardizing hundreds of thousands of American jobs created by Japanese automobile industry-related companies, raising prices for U.S. consumers and causing a disaster for the U.S. and global economy.

Trump's moves have resonated in Asia, where many countries have prospered thanks to free trade and the expansion of global supply chains.

Members of the initiative, launched in 2013, have struggled with issues including tariffs, trade in services and investment rules, as well as protection for intellectual property rights. Japan is also cautious about China's influence. China, which is not part of the TPP, plays a key role in RCEP.

RCEP also includes Southeast Asia, Australia, New Zealand, India and South Korea. **AP**

SINGAPORE

# Terrorism threat at highest since 9/11, minister says

Jason Koutsoukis

**SINGAPORE** faces its highest terrorism threat level since the time of the September 11 attacks in the U.S. in 2001 and the 2002 Bali bombings, Singapore's defense minister said.

"There are no signs to indicate that this will abate within even the next decade," Ng Eng Hen told reporters on Friday ahead of the country's armed forces day on July 1. "This is a long-term problem, and we have to deal with it as a long-term problem."

Citing recent terrorism incidents including the May suicide bombings in the Indonesian city of Surabaya and the five-month-long armed conflict with militants linked to Islamic State in Marawi, a city in the southern Philippines, Ng said the metrics pointing to an increased terrorism threat, as well as the number of actual attacks, were all going up.

To deal with a long-term problem such as terrorism meant that the Singapore Armed Forces would need to continue to undergo structural change, Ng said, adding that there was also a greater need for regional and international partnerships to deal with trans-national terrorist threats.

Southeast Asian governments have for years highlighted the risk from returning fighters alongside those radicalized at home via the Internet. In March, Ng said that Singapore would send more troops to Iraq this year to help train the country's security forces.

"You can't deal with it as a single country," Ng said. "You have deal with partnerships, you deal with it at source."

Ng said the June Singapore summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Ko-

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Singapore's defense minister Ng Eng Hen

rean leader Kim Jong Un had been invaluable to the Singapore Armed Forces to validate its defense systems, and also helped to send a message to would-be attackers that the SAF meant business.

"Short of a real war, or terror attack, this is as close to a real threat that the SAF can respond to," Ng said.

Ng said he was very proud of how the SAF performed, adding that "most importantly, the

strong show of deterrence kept would-be attackers at bay."

Overall, Ng said he gave the SAF performance an A-grade, "not A+ because we identified some gaps, which we are closing."

Ng said he expected Singapore to soon be in a position to announce what fighter jet would replace its current fleet of 60 F-16 aircraft after 2030.

"We have thought long and hard about it, taken our time to choose a replacement, and we'll be making a definitive decision, likely in the next few months," he said.

**There are no signs to indicate that this will abate within even the next decade.**

NG ENG HEN  
SINGAPORE'S DEFENSE MINISTER

One of the most important considerations was whether the new jets would be able to work with Singapore's existing platforms, Ng said. Singapore has previously indicated that it's seriously evaluating Lockheed Martin Corp's F-35 fighter jet.

Ng also said he had had a very good first meeting with Malaysia's new defense chief Mohamad Sabu.

"I think we clicked," Ng said.  
**Bloomberg**

## ONE SHOT NEWS



This combination of photos shows the failed launch of a Japan's privately developed rocket, MOMO-2, in Taiki, northern island of Hokkaido.

INDIA

# Overcrowded bus plunges into gorge, killing 48

**A**T least 48 people were killed yesterday when an overcrowded bus plunged off a mountain road into a gorge in northern India, officials said.

Chief Minister of Uttarakhand state Trivendra Rawat said the bus fell into a 213-meter deep gorge in the Himalayan foothills. He said about a dozen other people were injured and hospitalized.

Police official Manoj Kumar said rescuers recovered 48 bodies from the accident site.

"People were packed like sardines," said another police officer, Jagat Ram Joshi. He said at least seven of the injured were in critical condition.

Earlier, rescue and retrieval work was hampered by inclement weather, said senior police official

Sanjay Gunjiya. Police said the 28-seat bus was carrying about 60 people.

It wasn't clear what caused the crash, but Gunjiya said bad weather could have caused the bus to skid off the road.

"It is raining [in the area] since morning. Two days back there was a landslide in that area," he said, adding that residents were the first to reach

the site and help the victims.

Gunjiya said the terrain was inhospitable and communications were poor.

India has the world's deadliest roads, with more than 110,000 people killed annually. Most crashes are blamed on reckless driving, poorly maintained roads and aging vehicles. **AP**

AP PHOTO



The area of a deadly bus accident in Uttarakhand's Paudi Garhwal district



# Protesters flood US cities to fight Trump immigration policy

Ellen Knickmeyer, Washington

**T**HEY wore white. They shook their fists in the air. They carried signs reading: “No more children in cages,” and “What’s next? Concentration Camps?”

In major cities and tiny towns, hundreds of thousands of marchers gathered Saturday across America, moved by accounts of children separated from their parents at the U.S.-Mexico border, in the latest act of mass resistance against President Donald Trump’s immigration policies.

Protesters flooded more than 700 marches, from immigrant-friendly cities like New York and Los Angeles to conservative Appalachia and Wyoming. They gathered on the front lawn of a Border Patrol station in McAllen, Texas, near a detention center where migrant children were being held in cages, and on a street corner near Trump’s golf resort at Bedminster, New Jersey, where the president is spending the weekend.

Trump has backed away from family separations amid bipartisan and international uproar. His “zero tolerance policy” led officials to take more than 2,000 children from their parents as they tried to enter the country illegally, most of them fleeing violence, persecution or economic collapse in their home countries.

Those marching Saturday demanded the government quickly reunite the families that were already divided. A Brazilian mother separated from her 10-year-old son more than a month ago approached the microphone at the Boston rally.

“We came to the United States seeking help, and we never imagined that this could happen. So I beg everyone, please release these children, give my son back to me,” she said through an interpreter, weeping. “Please fight and continue fighting, because we will win,” she said. The crowd erupted.

In Washington, D.C., an estimated 30,000 marchers gathered in Lafayette Park across from the White House in what was expected to be the largest protest of the day, stretching for hours under a searing sun. Firefighters at one point misted the crowd to help people cool off.

Lin-Manuel Miranda, creator of the musical “Hamilton,” sang a lullaby dedicated to parents unable to sing to their children. Singer-songwriter Alicia Keys read a letter written by a woman whose child had been taken away from her at the border.

“It’s upsetting. Families being separated, children in cages,” said Emilia Ramos, a cleaner in the district, fighting tears at the rally. “Seeing everyone together for this cause, it’s emotional.”

Around her, thousands wa-

ved signs: “I care,” some read, referencing a jacket that first lady Melania Trump wore when traveling to visit child migrants. The back of her jacket said, “I really don’t care, do U?” and it became a rallying cry for protesters Saturday.

“I care!! Do you?” read Joan Culwell’s T-shirt as she joined a rally in Denver.

**We came here to let the president know that this is not acceptable.**

BARRY HOOPER  
SAN FRANCISCO RESIDENT

“We care!” marchers shouted outside Dallas City Hall. Organizer Michelle Wentz says opposition to the Trump administration’s “barbaric and inhumane” policy has seemed to transcend political lines.

“This is the issue crossing the line for a lot of people,” said Robin Jackson, 51, of Los Angeles, who protested with thousands carrying flags, signs and babies.

Singer John Legend serenaded the crowd and Democratic politicians who have clashed with Trump had strong words for the

president, including U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters who called for his impeachment.

The president took to Twitter amid the protests, first to show his support for Immigration and Customs Enforcement as some Democrats called for major changes to the agency. Tweeting Saturday from New Jersey, Trump urged ICE agents to “not worry or lose your spirit” and wrote that “the radical left Dems want you out. Next it will be all police.”

He later tweeted that he never pushed House Republicans to vote for immigration overhaul measures that failed last week, contradicting a post three days ago in which he urged GOP congressional members to pass them.

In Trump’s hometown of New York City, another massive crowd poured across the Brooklyn Bridge in sweltering 90-degree heat, some carrying their children on their shoulders, chanting, “Shame!” Drivers honked their horns in support.

“It’s important for this administration to know that these policies that rip apart families — that treat people as less than human, like they’re vermin — are not the way of God, they are not the law of love,” said the Rev. Julie Hoplamazian, an Episcopal priest marching in Brooklyn.

Though seasoned anti-Trump

demonstrators packed the rallies, others were new to activism, including parents who said they felt compelled to act after heart-wrenching accounts of families who were torn apart.

Marchers took to city parks and downtown squares from Maine to Florida to Oregon; in Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico; on the international bridge between El Paso, Texas, and Juarez, Mexico; even in Antler, North Dakota, population 27. People braved the heat in Chicago and Atlanta to march.

Some of the demonstrations were boisterous, others were quiet.

Five people were arrested outside an ICE office in Dallas for blocking a road. At least one arrest was made in Columbus, Ohio, when protesters obstructed a downtown street. Light-rail service was temporarily shut down in Minneapolis as thousands of demonstrators got in the way of the tracks. A rally in Portland, Maine, grew so large that police had to shut down part of a major street.

But in Dodge City, Kansas, a 100-person rally led by a Catholic church felt more like a mass than a protest.

In rural Marshalltown, Iowa, about 125 people gathered for a march organized by Steve Adelmund, a father of two who was inspired after turning on the news on Father’s Day and seeing children being separated from their families and held in cages.

“It hit me in the heart. I cried,” he said.

“If we can’t come together under the idea of ‘Kids shouldn’t be taken from their parents,’ where are we?” he asked. “We have to speak out now while we can, before we can’t.”

Drum beats and horns sounded as thousands of protesters hit the streets of San Francisco.

“We came here to let the president know that this is not acceptable,” said San Francisco resident Barry Hooper, who attended with his wife and two daughters.

His 7-year-old daughter Lillian clutched a sign she made, saying, “Stop the separation.”

Three thousand miles away in Washington, protesters ended their march at the white-columned Justice Department. They stacked their protest signs, written in English and Spanish, against its grand wooden doors. “Fight for families,” one sign demanded.

In Portland, Oregon, police ordered participants in a march by Patriot Prayer to disperse after officers saw assaults and projectiles being thrown. Some arrests were made.

The problems occurred as two opposing protest groups — Patriot Prayer and antifa — took to the streets. People in the crowd were lighting firecrackers and smoke bombs and police used flash bangs to disperse the clashing protesters. **AP**

MEXICO

# Elections center on disgust with corruption, violence

Christopher Sherman, Mexico City

**M**EXICANS vote today [Macau time] in a potentially transformative election that could put in power a fire-brand vowing to end politics and business as usual in a country weary of spiraling violence, unchecked corruption and scandal-plagued politicians.

But his rivals warn that a victory by leftist Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador could set the country back decades with an interventionist economic policy and are also promising to fight corruption and bring change to Mexico. All the candidates are lambasting President Donald Trump's policies against migrants and Mexico.

Today's elections for posts at every level of government are Mexico's largest ever and have become a referendum on corruption, graft and other tricks used to divert taxpayer money to officials' pockets and empty those of the country's poor.

This is Lopez Obrador's third bid for the presidency and some



A campaign rally by candidate Manuel Lopez Obrador

see it as his best shot after 12 years of near-permanent campaigning. His railing against the "mafia of power" that has long ruled Mexico and in favor of the poor appears to be falling on receptive ears with polls showing him with a wide lead over three rivals who have failed to ignite voters' interest.

"The corrupt regime is coming

to its end," Lopez Obrador, a 64-year-old commonly known as AMLO, said at his final campaign event Wednesday. "We represent modernity forged from below."

Much of the popular ire has been aimed at unpopular President Enrique Pena Nieto's Institutional Revolutionary Party. Its candidate, Jose Antonio Meade, failed

to gain traction with voters who would not give him the benefit of the doubt in spite of his ample resume in government and being an outsider to the ruling party.

Ricardo Anaya is the candidate of a right-left coalition. He has tried to harness the youth vote with an emphasis on technology and new ideas, but he divided his own conservative party to take its candidacy and it's unclear if his new allies in the leftist Democratic Revolution Party will actually turn out for someone from the other end of the ideological spectrum.

This will be the first time that an independent candidate appears on the ballot. Jaime "El Bronco" Rodriguez fought for attention with a horse-mounted "everyman" campaign and by tossing out policy bombs like his proposal to cut off the hands of public officials caught stealing. Without the big party machinery it was an uphill battle.

But "independent candidacies are here to stay in Mexico," Janine Otalora Malassis, president of the electoral court, said on Friday.

It is also the first time Mexicans living abroad can vote for down ballot races like senators. More than 181,000 received ballots and the 97,000 that the National Electoral Institute had gotten back by Friday morning were already double what they got in 2012.

Juan Carlos Enriquez, 30, said he supports Lopez Obrador but warned him that he better not steal.

"Of course, I want him to win. But it has to be made clear that he has to deliver what he promises and not become like the rest," he said.

Hovering over the election is the specter of vote fraud, though electoral officials deny it is a possibility with the modern balloting technology and institutions now in place.

In both of Lopez Obrador's previous two presidential losses he alleged fraud. In his first loss — by a mere 0.56 percent to conservative Felipe Calderon in 2006 — his supporters held months-long protests in Mexico City and he referred to himself as "the legitimate president."

His allies are warning even before today's presidential vote that there better not be any funny business.

"They shouldn't dare commit a fraud, because if they do they will meet the devil," said Yeidckol Polvinsky, president of Lopez Obrador's Morena party. "We will not accept it." 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

CATALOGUE EXHIBITION IN CELEBRATION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF MACAU MUSEUM

TIME: 10am-6pm (closed on Fridays)

UNTIL: August 30, 2018

VENUE: Kun Iam Ecumenical Centre

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 1516

TREASURE OF SACRED ART OF ST. JOSEPH'S SEMINARY

TIME: 10am-5pm daily (closed on Wednesdays, open on public holidays)

VENUE: St. Joseph's Seminary and Church, Rua do Seminário

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

MANDARIN'S HOUSE

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (last admission at 5:30pm; closed on Wednesdays, open on public holidays)

ADDRESS: No. 10, Travessa de António da Silva

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8820

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

MONKEY KING

TIME: 4pm & 8pm daily (except on Thursdays)

VENUE: Sands Cotai Theatre

ADMISSION: MOP380, MOP480, MOP680,

MOP980, MOP1280

COTAI TICKETING: (853) 2882 8818

KONG SENG TICKETING: (853) 2855 5555

## Offbeat

## RARE GREAT WHITE SHARK IN MEDITERRANEAN NEAR SPAIN

A Spanish marine conservation group says it seen a great white shark in Spanish waters in the Mediterranean Sea, a rare sighting.

The Alnitak-Conservation in Action group posted a photo on its Facebook page of what it says is a 5-meter (16½-foot) great white shark that its researchers spotted Thursday near the Balearic Island of Cabrera just south of Mallorca.

The group says a great white shark as not been spotted in Spanish waters in nearly 30 years.

Spain's Ministry of Ecological Transition, which handles environmental policy, could not verify the sighting.

## TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:35	Miscellaneous
17:55	Non-daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:00	Miscellaneous
19:10	FIFA World Cup Diary
19:40	Portuguese Serie - Final
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	Miscellaneous
22:10	Tech Tree
22:25	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Miscellaneous
00:20	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:05	RTPi Live

## Cinema



## CINETEATRO

28 JUN - 04 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



## 1992 IRA MURDERS 'INFORMERS'

The IRA has admitted killing the three men found by the army at different roadsides in South Armagh last night.

They claim the men were informers for MI5 and the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) Special Branch and they had been tried and killed by the IRA.

The victims were from Portadown, County Armagh and have been identified as Gregory Burns, 33, John Dignam, 32, and Aidan Starrs, 29.

In a style typical of IRA ritual killings the bodies were found in ditches, naked and hooded with evidence of beatings and single bullets through the backs of the heads.

The IRA tried to justify the murders in an unusually detailed statement, outlining the intelligence work of the three and linking them to the murder of civil servant Margaret Perry, 26.

Her body was found on Tuesday in a shallow grave over the border in Mullaghmore, County Sligo after she disappeared on her way to work in Portadown over a year ago.

The IRA claim that Ms Perry was having an affair with one of the dead men, Mr Burns, but says she had threatened to expose the group's intelligence links to the IRA, so they had kidnapped and murdered her.

All three men disappeared from their homes a few days ago and their bodies were dumped close to the border within 10 miles of each other, at Newtownhamilton, Bessbrook and Crossmaglen.

The army left them overnight in case they had been booby trapped.

These are the first killings in Northern Ireland in eight weeks, and come in the wake of recent progress at talks in Stormont, Belfast and London.

Speaking in the House of Commons, Prime Minister John Major said, "The IRA's actions demonstrate yet again the true nature of terrorism".

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The three men were buried within days of their discovery, along with Margaret Perry, in Portadown.

The exact truth behind their activities and deaths remains unclear, but letters written by the men shortly before their disappearances suggest that they knew they were going to die.

Some evidence suggests that at least one of them was involved in the recovery of Ms Perry's body.

Peace talks at Stormont continued until December 1993 when Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds and British Prime Minister John Major agreed The Downing Street Declaration.

It laid the foundations for future multi-party talks and aimed to achieve self-determination based on consensus in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Whenever you seek information, you run the risk of learning bad news. Today you'll discover that your effect on the world is much more dramatic than you thought.

Taurus April 20-May 20 You've got some big changes coming in the near future, so use this quiet time to prepare. There are new directions you can take things in - and all that's missing is a real plan. So try to come up with one.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 As the day continues, good news will keep on coming, and this time you'll be the one applauding loudly. See how that works? Your people are much more than people, they are a community of cheerleaders.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Exploration is the key to discovery, so do some digging on your latest prospect - you will find excellent information that will give you the inspiration you need to turn someone's head.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Repeated requests for you to alter your behavior can be hard to take - after all, there's nothing quite as annoying as someone telling you to 'chill out'. You're in charge of your own feelings, and that's valid.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Big changes are happening all around you, and you should jump in! This fluctuation of energy in the environment is going to give you a happy charge, and empower you to make certain changes in your own life.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Put your feet up and relax for a while. It won't be as boring as you think, and you will learn how to prevent more stress and pressure in your life. Your mind is still very active, so don't worry about losing your edge.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Get ready to be the most popular person around, because you're the critical element in many people's plans. You've got what everyone needs. In order to avoid overextending yourself, just pace yourself.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 All work and no play is no fun, so there is nothing wrong with exploring the more recreational side of your life. Consider taking lessons or getting into a more formal environment when you can learn from other people.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 A friend's tale of woe may have you taking out the tissues and formulating a revenge plan, but hold off on moving forward, because there are three sides to every story.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 A meeting or informal discussion will reveal a problem that may send people running, but you should stand still and give it a closer look. Chances are you either know how to fix it easily or know someone who can.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Don't let your worries run your life! Thinking too much about what you haven't done or where you haven't been is going to be a huge waste of your time. There's a trap in dwelling on shortcomings and fear.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

5x5 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle.

Easy+

5x5 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle.

Medium

5x5 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle.

Hard

5x5 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle.

WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION for various cities in CHINA and WORLD.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Pierce with a knife; 5- St. \_\_\_ fire; 10- Intestinal sections; 14- Juror; 15- Depart; 16- Female servant; 17- French 101 verb; 18- On \_\_\_-to-know basis; 19- Dock; 20- Dry red table wine of Italy; 22- Republic in W Africa; 24- Ages between 13 and 19; 26- Lea; 27- Self-supporting structures; 30- It's human; 32- Trimmed; 33- Planted; 34- Plaster backing; 38- Ike's WWII command; 39- Satisfaction; 42- Sheep talk; 43- Pouches; 45- Nervous twitches; 46- Russian range; 48- Aquarium fish; 50- Rough design; 51- Secret stuff; 54- Divulge; 56- Without any flaws; 58- Elected legislator; 62- Coral formation; 63- \_\_\_ la vista; 65- Horse hair; 66- Salinger girl; 67- Ford flop; 68- Sporting blade; 69- Clairvoyant; 70- Borge's countrymen; 71- Spent, as batteries; DOWN: 1- Blueprint detail, for short; 2- 9th letter of the Hebrew alphabet; 3- Ethereal; Prefix; 4- Respire; 5- Thrills; 6- Bolshevik leader; 7- West of Hollywood; 8- Cooking appliance; 9- Dregs; 10- Adorn with "oyster gems"; 11- Scottish landowner; 12- Refrain in a children's song; 13- End in \_\_\_; 21- Requirements; 23- Neth. neighbor; 25- Impassive; 27- Simians; 28- Pro \_\_\_; 29- Gator's cousin; 31- Is in the red; 33- Agitate; 35- Like \_\_\_ out of hell; 36- Bath powder; 37- Corned beef concoction; 40- Connected; 41- Klondike territory; 44- Employee; 47- Gave a new title; 49- Opposite of WSW; 50- Takes by theft; 51- \_\_\_-ski; 52- Singer Della; 53- \_\_\_ de menthe; 55- Lauder of cosmetics; 57- I did it!; 59- Record with a VCR; 60- Draft status; 61- Marsh growth; 64- Nine-digit ID;



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



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

# BBAM holds Annual Ball with horror theme

**THE BRITISH** Business Association of Macau held its Annual Ball on Saturday, June 23 at StarWorld Macau. Guests entered into the spirit of the occasion, embracing the theme of horror to celebrate 200 years since the publication of Mary Shelley's novel, "Frankenstein".

Whilst funds from the Ball help towards the professional running of BBAM's offices, 50 percent of profits are guaranteed to go to CSR projects that support local Macau students facing financial difficulties and helping them to complete their education.



Bank of China Diamond Sponsors and guests



ICBC's group



DSL Lawyers and guests out to party hard



Henry and Vrisca Brockman



Mr and Mrs Gallagher, British Consulate General HK and Macau



MC Lovely Cox enjoys a joke with Jardines' guests



BNU's David Cheang, Seng Loi, Matt and Herby Lei, Sam Tou and Seng Loi



GEG's Monita So, Liviano Lacchia, Dale and Trevor Martin, Charles So



Michael Gu, Melina Leong, Maggie Chan, Athena and James Law



The Bessmerthy Family & a disguised Mikael Kraemer

The Shining brought to life by Keith Lawson, Juliet Risdon and Sue Kendall



Geoff Benham with Matt and Peta Houghton



Lydia Hidayati and Bob McBain

Ronald Blum, Moscow

WORLD CUP 2018

# Messi and Ronaldo exit tournament without titles

**L**IONEL Messi stared, hands on hips, pain etched across a face once boyish and filled with limitless joy, now obscured by a brown beard and hardened by expectations for his nation unmet.

Four hours later and 1,530 kilometers away, Cristiano Ronaldo's eyes were wide in anger as he shouted in protest just ahead of the final whistle, once again arguing with a referee. The tirade got Ronaldo a second yellow card that would have suspended him for the next match. No worries, Portugal's World Cup ended with a loss.

Saturday will likely mark the end of an era for the World Cup, a decade in which much of the hype and pre-tournament talk has been about the best players in the world, the Spanish league rivals who have evenly split the last 10 FIFA Player of the Year Awards. Once again, both men have failed to replicate their club success for their countries.

Messi is a week past his 31st birthday and Ronaldo 33, former phenoms unlikely to reach Qatar 2022 or retain their exceptional skill if they manage to hang on.

For both superstars, a World Cup title remained an unreachable star. On Saturday, they were both outshined by a pair of Paris Saint-Germain teammates, France's Kylian Mbappe and Uruguay's Edinson Cavani. Younger legs have more speed and endurance. Most importantly, Cavani and Mbappe had more support and less pressure.

Messi hasn't won a senior title with his nation, losing finals at the 2014 World Cup, and the 2007, '15 and '16 Copa Americas, the last when Messi failed on his penalty kick during a shootout. He faced massive criticism at home and retired from the national team only to be lured back for this World Cup cycle.

Ronaldo lost a World Cup semi-final in 2006 but never got past the second round again. He did help Portugal to its first European Championship in 2016.



Messi stands on the pitch at the end of the round of 16 match between France and Argentina

If Argentina and Portugal won Saturday, the rivals would have matched up for a spot in the semifinals. Instead, they'll race to the airport. Argentina lost to France 4-3 in Kazan and Portugal fell to Uruguay 2-1 at Sochi.

Brazil's Pele and Argentina's Diego Maradona became national treasures at home, celebrated for World Cup titles and global superstars. Fans who never saw them play for their clubs know of Pele and Maradona's accomplishments every four years at the global tournament.

Messi and Ronaldo will be remembered for great club success, but not country triumph.

Barcelona signed the 13-year-old Messi to a contract scrawled on a napkin in 2000. He was 17 when he made his competitive first-team debut. Titles accumulated at an unprecedented rate: four in the Champions League, nine in La Liga and six in the Copa del Rey. Adulation at Camp Nou turned into worship; media called him "La Pugla (The Flea)" for his small frame and unparalleled acceleration, and Arsenal

manager Arsene Wenger equated Messi's moves with a video-game creation, proclaiming he was "like a PlayStation." He scored at a rate once unfathomable: 383 goals in 418 league matches, 100 in 125 Champions League games and 552 in 637 first-team appearances overall. He was a lifer for one of the most popular clubs in the world, a brand of his own, earning love in Spain but detachment from his countrymen in South America. Too often, his World Cup failures were compared to Maradona's successes.

Ronaldo, too, debuted at 17, for Sporting Lisbon. His crossover dribble was already famous when Alex Ferguson snatched him for Manchester United ahead of the 2003-04 season and gave him the No. 7 of just-departed David Beckham. After six seasons that included three Premier League titles, one Champions League and one FA Cup, he moved to Real Madrid and scored 450 goals in 438 matches, winning four Champions League titles, and the league and cup twice each. He's set a Champions League record with 120 goals, leaving Messi a distant second.

They were football's yin and yang, Messi understated and distant, Ronaldo flamboyant with a model girlfriend and attention-grabbing hairdos. They are global spokesmen, Ronaldo for Nike, Toyota and many more; Messi for the likes of Adidas and Pepsi. **AP**

LATEST RESULTS

France	4	3	Argentina
Uruguay	2	1	Portugal
Spain	1	(3 - 4) on penalties	Russia

## World Cup fans rev up revenues for sanctions-hobbled Russia

Angela Charlton, Moscow

**M**OSCOW'S beer kegs are emptying fast and demand for Vladimir Putin T-shirts is overwhelming St. Petersburg street vendors as the World Cup sends business surging across the 11 Russian cities hosting football's biggest show.

The Russian president was counting on just such a boost after U.S. and European sanctions and low oil prices sank the country into recession, and after Russia's government spent 800 billion rubles (USD12.7 billion) to ready for the World Cup. But experts warn the boon won't last long without deeper change to the oil-reliant, corruption-tainted Russian economy. Here's a look at some businesses booming thanks to the World Cup:

**RED SQUARE REVELRY**

Among the big winners: freelance taxi drivers, da-

ting apps and bars where fans gather to watch matches or celebrate their teams' victory.

"We are so far off the chart on this, we order as much beer in one night as we would order in a month," said Doug Steele, owner of Papa's Bar & Grill on Nikolskaya Street just off Red Square. He dragged a keg on a dolly as he talked, too busy to stop.

This neighborhood has become the place to party since the World Cup opened June 14. The block-long GUM shopping mall that faces the Kremlin has seen traffic climb 80 percent compared to the same period last year, according to its manager, Teymuraz Guguberidze.

"The effect is much higher than our expectation," he said. "It makes us very happy."

**PROUD PROVINCES**

The lift has reached retailers far beyond the Russian capital, helping other host cities far off the tourist

path.

The lowest-profile of the bunch, Saransk, spent hundreds of millions of dollars to build a stadium, high-rises and transport to accommodate tens of thousands of visitors who descended in recent weeks. Proud residents rented out their apartments and kept businesses open extra late to host fans after night games. High demand at restaurants so frequently caused shortages that patrons had to make a list of menu items they liked before ordering.

Mexican fans revved up business in the Ural Mountains city of Yekaterinburg, overwhelming vendors at a sports store as they bought up any available souvenirs.

Sales of Kazan's chachak dessert, Rostov's local cakes and Russian pelmeni dumplings everywhere have soared.

So have visits to lesser-known monuments and cultural sites — a World War II museum in Volgograd, a

Cossack village in Rostov, a museum dedicated to the Baltic enclave of Kaliningrad and its most famous resident, philosopher Immanuel Kant.

**SUMMER PLEASURES**

So much for Russia's chilly reputation.

Sunny days, white nights and sometimes sweltering temperatures greeted the world's football fans in Russia this month — and no city has benefited more than the Black Sea resort of Sochi.

Long popular with Russians, Sochi finally got a long-awaited spike in foreign visitors this summer as fans from Brazil, Australia and beyond are packing onto its shoreline cafes or visiting its amusement parks.

In St. Petersburg's northern latitudes, the summer season means that night never really falls, and savvy boat owners are cashing in by taking tourists through the city's canals all night long.



**REALITY CHECK**

Russia is hoping for an enduring economic boost, well beyond the World Cup final July 15. But first it has to recoup the costs of preparing for the event — and the prime minister announced this week that the government must spend an additional 800 million rubles (\$12.7 million) going forward to maintain World Cup-related sites after the crowds go home.

While it's too early to estimate the overall economic gains from the event, the government should at least break even, predicts Vladimir Ageyev, Moscow State University sports management expert, citing preliminary data estimating the "World Cup effect" at 800 billion rubles (\$12.7 billion).

Moody's ratings agency warned just before the tournament opened that despite the boost in tourism industry revenues, the World Cup would only make a "short-lived" contribution to the economy. Most host regions are unlikely to keep drawing tourists afterward, Moody's warned, because they are too hard to reach, too cold and must compete with more attractive destinations elsewhere.

Yet the tournament is bringing intangible advantages that business leaders hope leave a lasting mark.

"The World Cup has a very good influence," said Guguberidze of Moscow shopping mecca GUM. "It creates a good mood, and leaves a good impression of Russia." **AP**

opinion

**Rear Window**  
Severo Portela



**GAME OF APPEALS: CAUTION AND TACT HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**

Not knowing whether the Public Prosecution Office has filed an appeal against Sulu Sou and Scott Chiang sentencing as we draft this column... we would rather look into the affair from an angle as distant as can be from the judicial. Not exactly a direct command from the Bible's "render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's", but a profane inspiration for the separation of politics and the courts.

The Legislative Assembly (AL) managed to forge a negative collusion in order to suspend the immunity of one of its own lawmakers to stand trial on charges of aggravated disobedience. Lawmaker Sulu Sou was to be shamed in a sense by a full independent court who was to condemn to a not-so-token monetary penalty legislator for a crime (illegal assembly) other than the one that led to the suspension from the AL floor.

The court ruling should be sufficient to raise a political answer from Ho Iat Seng and the Legislative Assembly as a whole, in the form of, at least, a plain apology to Sulu Sou's political ordeal and the public proclamation that he is to be automatically reinstated as a lawmaker. Knowing the house, it will be asking too much, but at some point the paternalistic rule has to go down in a political assembly of formal equals.

Perhaps again in the ignorance of the outcome of the game of appeals, Ho Iat Seng, the alleged strong candidate to run for the office of Chief Executive Chui Sai On, could find other ways to call the suspension of maverick lawmaker Sulu Sou a "technical tie", and call it dead heat. Outside the realm of the courts in the privileged ground of politics could sound an allegorical equivalent if the defendant is to be acquitted and exempted from all further prosecution.

We would not be lying in the most obvious way if we state that without Sulu Sou, the discussion of the new judiciary framework will be impaired, given the abundance of legal expertise at the MSAR Legislative Assembly. The New Macau Association (ANM) rookie proved himself to be a real political talent in his short stint as a pro-democracy directly-elected legislator whose performance, we dare to say, was well-noted in civil society and good enough to fish supporters in waters that were traditionally more conservative turf.

For instance, take the crematorium brief. Kai Fong put up a petition to oppose Sa Kong Municipal Cemetery as the recipient of MSAR's first crematorium because it would be too close to residents and cause unacceptable pollution. It is not difficult to figure that any location would hardly be acceptable.

However, the Municipal Authority is sure that Macau residents have been long calling for a crematorium and has figures to demonstrate that longing: 2017 saw 1,600 bodies transferred to Zhuhai; approximately double the figure in 2007.

The thing is, the regulatory frame requires a crematorium to be installed exclusively in one of the MSAR's six cemeteries. But...if this regulation were to be amended...!

The same problem read by ANM and Sulu Sou has further depth. This is not an issue of location of a crematorium: it is a serious problem relating to how the city will comprehensively solve its burial problems. Fewer words can often say more.

THE BUZZ **PINK BULLET TRAIN DEBUTS IN JAPAN**

A Hello Kitty-themed "shinkansen" bullet train has debuted in Japan. Adorned with the cartoon icon inside and out, it's a dream ride for fans of the internationally popular character. The special shinkansen had its inaugural round trip Saturday between Osaka and Fukuoka, connecting Japan's west and south. It will run through September.

The stylish, eight-car train is painted pink and white, showcasing Hello Kitty images and trademark ribbons from flooring to seat covers and windows. In one car, a life-size Hello Kitty doll donning a train crew uniform and a hat — decorated with a pink bow, of course — greets passengers, offering a chance for selfies. Hours later Saturday in Osaka, the train's final stop, hundreds of fans waited for the



arrival of the first Hello Kitty shinkansen, cheering and taking photos during its 16-minute stopover before it headed back to Fukuoka, according to Japanese media reports.

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

SOURCE: DSMG

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**US trafficking report credits Thailand but progress mixed**

Kaweewit Kaewjinda, Bangkok

THAILAND'S military government praised the U.S. State Department's decision to upgrade the country in its annual report on efforts to fight human trafficking, even as an advocacy group warned that the move was premature.

The Trafficking in Persons annual report cited progress but also problems across the region, especially weak enforcement of protections against trafficking and slave and child labor.

The report released Thursday raised Thailand from a watchlist to tier 2, the second-highest ranking. Neighboring Malaysia fell from tier 2 on the watchlist. Hong Kong, China and Singapore were faulted for inadequate efforts to prevent sex trafficking and forced labor.

Thai Deputy Prime Minister Prawit Wongsuwan said Friday he was grateful for the improved assessment as it "reflects the determination and sincere intentions of the Thai government and our continued hard-work to tackle the issue of human trafficking."

Thailand has faced global scrutiny for the use of slave labor on fishing vessels and for being a transit hub for traffickers from nearby nations. The State Department report cited the government's convictions of traffickers and complicit officials, including 11 involved in the trafficking of Myanmar's Rohingya migrants.

Judy Gearhart, executive director of the International Labor Rights Forum, said although Thailand had made some progress, the upgrade came too soon, "potentially releasing the pressure on the Thai government at a time when we are still waiting for them to take concrete actions to protect migrant workers."

She said that migrant workers who power Thai export production do not have the legal right to organize and bargain collectively for better working conditions,



which makes them afraid to speak out. "It's impossible to stop human trafficking in such a context," she said.

"Instead of being treated as the victims they are, trafficking survivors who report problems risk punishment for not having proper documentation," the group said, citing a recent report by the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime and Thailand Institute of Justice saying the workers may even face detention until the conclusion of their legal proceedings.

**Thailand has faced global scrutiny for the use of slave labor on fishing vessels and for being a transit hub for traffickers**

In February, hearings began for 14 Burmese workers in Thailand who escaped from a Thammakaset poultry chicken farm in Lopburi province, where they had worked 20 hours a day for nearly five years, the group said. Rather than receiving compensation after their escape from forced labor, the workers face criminal defamation charges from the owners, and could be fined

or imprisoned for speaking about their experiences.

Myanmar was downgraded from the watchlist to the report's lowest ranking, tier 3, primarily for trafficking and other abuses of its ethnic minorities. The report said officials and government-backed militias were increasingly recruiting and using children as soldiers in ethnic areas long affected by civil conflict.

The report also cited a trend toward forcing Burmese women into marriages in China. Children of the Rohingya minority are being kidnapped and sold into forced marriages in Indonesia, India and Malaysia, it said.

North Korea has remained at the report's lowest ranking, tier 3, for years due to its use of forced labor and state-sponsored human trafficking and "negligible" anti-trafficking efforts. The report said the many North Korean refugees living in China are vulnerable to traffickers who force women into prostitution, forced marriages and domestic service or other labor.

But even in Japan, a wealthy, democratic nation listed as a tier 1 country, young women living in poverty are forced into prostitution by organized criminal networks that sometimes entrap them with promises of well-paid work as models or actors, the report said. Affluent Singapore, likewise, is a hub for sex trafficking and forced labor, facilitated by visa laws that make migrant workers vulnerable to exploitation by their employers and recruitment agencies, it said. AP



**SAUDI ARABIA** President Donald Trump said Saturday that he had received assurances from King Salman of Saudi Arabia that the kingdom will increase oil production, "maybe up to 2,000,000 barrels" in response to turmoil in Iran and Venezuela.

**TURKEY's** lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex activists planned to go ahead with a pride march yesterday despite a ban.



**ITALY** The leader of the right-wing party in Italy's populist coalition government says he envisions uniting the efforts in several countries to ensure national interests aren't eclipsed by European Union agendas.

**AFRICAN UNION** Thirty African leaders began a closed-door meeting yesterday to discuss ways to fight extremism and corruption at the 31st African Union summit being held in Mauritania's capital.

**SOUTH SUDAN** A permanent cease-fire pact reached between South Sudan's President Salva Kiir and rebel leader Riek Machar has not stopped fighting on the ground, with at least 15 civilians killed in a single incident, an army spokesman said.



**MEXICO** Citizens were voting yesterday in a potentially transformative election that could put in power a firebrand vowing to end politics and business as usual in a country weary of spiraling violence and scandal-plagued politicians. More on p15