



**NEW CULTURAL FESTIVAL KICKS OFF**

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**POLICE SETS UP TAXI COMPLAINT HOTLINE**

A hotline to address complaints related to taxi infractions registered 10 calls during the first two days of operation

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**FORMER MALAYSIAN LEADER ARRESTED**

While claiming innocence, Najib Razak was arrested by anti-graft investigators and will be charged today

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**WORLD BRIEFS**



**INDONESIA** At least 12 people were killed and a frantic rescue operation was underway yesterday off the Indonesian island of Sulawesi for dozens of passengers of a sinking passenger ferry run aground by its captain in a desperate bid to save lives. *More on p12*

**AUSTRALIA** The most senior Roman Catholic cleric to be convicted of covering up child sex abuse was sentenced to 12 months in detention by a court yesterday.



**INDIA** At least five people were injured yesterday when part of a pedestrian bridge at a Mumbai train station collapsed during morning rush hour amid heavy rains, officials said, as authorities struggled to restore the busy station. Hours after the incident, a platform at another rail station in Mumbai, India's financial capital, caught fire due to a short circuit, police said.

**PAKISTAN** Torrential monsoon rains lashed many cities and towns across Pakistan before dawn yesterday, flooding streets and killing six people, as authorities struggled to restore normalcy in rain-affected areas.

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**CIVIL PROTECTION LAW**

**Concerns over proposed 'false alarm' crime** P7 MDT REPORT



**Thai official: Boys may have to dive from cave despite peril** P13



Lei Heong lok

## IPM president to retire next month

The President of the Macao Polytechnic Institute (IPM), Lei Heong lok, will retire on August 31. Lei disclosed news of his retirement to the media yesterday, saying that he has reached the maximum legal age designated to the office of IPM president. Following his retirement, Lei will continue his research into the Portuguese language. His successor will be announced later by the relevant government department. In August, it is expected that IPM will start offering postgraduate degrees at both Masters and PhD levels. Lei said that IPM is well prepared for the new programs.

## Signboards need approval of 50pct of owners

From next month, the erection of overhanging signboards outside buildings must be approved by half of other property owners, the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) announced yesterday. The new regulation will come out along with the city's new building management regime, which will come into effect in August. Yesterday, the Association of Advertising Agents of Macau expressed its desire for the government to allow the installation of such signboards outside buildings without the consent of other building owners. In 2017, IACM received 3,870 applications for signboard installations.

## FEC implies interest in Macau gaming concession

Managing Director of Far East Consortium International Limited (FEC), Chris Cheong Thard Hoong, has reportedly implied that FEC might be interested in bidding for a Macau gaming concession. According to a report by the Hong Kong Economic Journal, Hoong said that "if there are opportunities, [I] will certainly consider Macau." Back in 2005, FEC planned to operate casinos and hotels in Macau in collaboration with Sands, however, FEC eventually gave up on the plan. Hoong is optimistic about his company's business in Australia in the gaming sector because the taxes applied to casino VIP zones in Australia are far lower than in Macau.

# 'People losing trust in the government,' say Ung, Ho



Ho Ion Sang



Ung Choi Kun

**R**ECENT events such as the consequences of Land Law enforcement and street protests aiming to force the government to stop projects approved without public consultation have ignited criticism against both former and current lawmakers.

During interviews with *Jornal Tribuna de Macau* (JTM) and TDM Radio, Ung Choi Kun and Ho Ion Sang claimed that people are losing confidence in the government headed by Chui Sai On.

Interviewed by JTM, Ung, a former lawmaker until 2013 and the current president of the Association of Property Agents and Realty Developers of Macau, reaffirmed his criticism of the current Land Law, claiming that it was approved "in a rush" five years ago. "At that time, lawmakers did wrong by trusting [the government when they] granted that cases from the past would not come out harmed [regarding land concession expiration dates]." Ung noted that it is the government's duty to oversee the inspection and supervision of properties in order to combat "the many deceiving marketing strategies" used by many real estate promoters;

and financial leverage, among others, cannot be regulated," he said, noting that, once again, it is the government's inaction that is leading to this situation, "although the government says that is not pleased with this [situation]."

Ung said that besides housing being a basic need for everyone, "the construction of housing depends [ultimately] on ... land [availability]," noting that for the past over 18 years since the handover "there was only one land auction." This situation has led to people questioning how Macau is building so many houses, and where the land plots are coming from. Some think that there is some hidden scheme to grant land plots to developers, but in reality this is not true, as "most housing projects being built at the moment are being done on land plots granted prior to 1999." Ung noted that in addition to the lack of land and the exponential growth of Macau's population, "the lack of transparency has led to a ridiculous increase in house prices." He noted that current laws on the matter "are lagging behind, failing to keep pace with market needs. And, when laws are behind schedule, some market behavior such as speculation, misleading marketing strategies,

and financial leverage, among others, cannot be regulated," he said, noting that, once again, it is the government's inaction that is leading to this situation, "although the government says that is not pleased with this [situation]."

In a similar vein, Ho spoke to TDM Radio on Monday and remarked on the latest controversy, which resulted in the suspension of the crematorium project at Sa Kong Cemetery in Taipa and a consequent public demonstration held on Sunday, which called on the government to be more transparent in its processes and consult with the public before agreeing to measures that will directly affect residents' lives.

Ho said that the source of the controversy was "the lack of transparency on the administrative procedures," noting, "the disclosure of information [by the government] was like squeezing toothpaste, and even so the access to information was only partially granted, which resulted in the residents' loss of confidence in the government." Ho also noted that the government's strategy to abandon or suspend projects afterwards without any prior discussion

has been seen on other occasions. Some examples Ho gave were the Light Rail Transit system, regarding the layout in the peninsula that has been "repeatedly changed and it is not yet known when it will be done," and the discussion on the location of the Infectious Diseases Building, which will be built in the surrounds of the Conde de São Januário hospital, and has also raised many questions and faced several delays and changes on the project due to social protests.

In Ho's opinion, aside from these well-known examples, what is more concerning is that "the government apparently has not taken any lessons away from previous cases, nor has it learned anything from them," continuing and insisting on presenting "incomplete policies, unsatisfactory information disclosure and awareness raising [on the measures that are planning to be taken]." This situation has created a "society-wide distrust regarding the impartiality [of such decisions] and evidence-base of such policies, as well raising doubt over the capacity of the government [to deal with such situations]." **RM**

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# News At Hand



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“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”

# Arts festival between China and Lusophone countries kicks off

Renato Marques

**T**HE first edition of "Encounter in Macau – Arts and Cultural Festival between China and the Portuguese-speaking Countries" kicked off yesterday with a screening of the movie "Wrath of Silence" from director Xin Yukun.

Before the screening an official opening ceremony was held in the presence of several guests, including the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam.

At the opportunity, the president of the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) Mok Ian Ian, noted that the festival - which will last until July 13 featuring a total of 24 films - falls in line with the "national policies of strengthening Macau's role as a bridge between China



Mok Ian Ian pictured during the opening ceremony

and Portuguese-speaking countries," and, at the same time, "highlighting the charm of a multicultural city."

Mok added that the festival and its related activities also aim to "establish a cultural exchange and cooperation mechanism between China and Portuguese-speaking countries," as well as to "enhance communication and mutual trust through promoting

cross-cultural understanding and thus creating favorable conditions for mutual benefits."

In her speech the IC president extended special thanks to the Cinemateca Portuguesa – Museu do Cinema (Portuguese Film Institute – Film Museum) for lending a collection of 35mm short films to be shown in the festival, containing images filmed in Macau decades ago, mate-

rial that Mok noted to be of "profound historical and cultural interest."

As for the festival, the 24 film screenings will be separated into three different sections: "Films in Chinese," "Films in Portuguese" and "Image, Macau." There will also be a series of activities, including a gala performance, a cultural forum, an annual arts exhibition and the exhibition "Chapas Sincras – Stories of Macao in Torre do Tombo."

The exhibition halls that compose this event are distributed in various districts in Macau with the aim of bringing public artworks to the community and taking the spirit of the Cultural Exchanges Centre between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries to all corners of the city and closer to the population.

# Gov't establishes suppliers database for public services

**A**s of yesterday, the government has implemented a new database that aims to provide a list of suppliers of goods and services so that different government departments can search through it as they need, the Financial Services Bureau (DSF) informed in a statement.

The new database aims to improve transparency of the government's acquisition of goods and services, and create a platform for several public services to share resources. For now, the "Goods and Services Suppliers Database" will operate as a trial project aiming to promote the addition of new suppliers, and optimize information on existing suppliers through monthly updates.

The DSF noted that the database will also allow different services to check market prices and quotations prior to the acquisition of the good or service by direct agreement. Additionally, it will provide "appropriate and reliable options" of suppliers, who can be invited to provide quotations on tender, which will serve to reduce administrative costs. The list will be public and can be accessed by anyone through the general directory of suppliers on the website of DSF. Suppliers who wish to join the database or request a change of information may download an application form available on the website and return it to the services in person or by email.

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**L**AWMAKER Sulu Sou officially resumed his duties yesterday, having attended the Legislative Assembly (AL) Third Standing Committee meeting.

“After 210 long and hard days, I have resumed my duty as a deputy. I will never forget how regrettable it was for me and my constituents to be deprived of our political rights. I will never forget the courage and professionalism of my lawyers. I will never forget the support of my friends and partners in the New Macau Association, as well as the confidence, encouragement and concern of many Macau citizens,” Sou wrote in a Facebook post.

“We cannot afford to wait any longer to let the citizens’ voice resound again throughout the chamber of the Legislative Assembly. It is a relief to be reinstated, but it is not something glorious. We should not be too happy because the exercise of our civil rights and freedom is under extreme and unprecedented pressure. The support of every citizen is indispensable and paramount for our cause to be an effective check on the government,” his Facebook post continues.

Sou also submitted a written inquiry urging the govern-

# Sulu Sou resumes post as lawmaker

ment to consider introducing additional ways of handling human remains, such as procession.

**I will never forget the confidence, encouragement and concern of many Macau citizens.**

SULU SOU

Additionally, Sou urged the government to explain its existing communications with the public and clarify how it intends to improve such communication, as some governmental decisions have been kept secret from the public for a period of time. **JZ**



RENATO MARQUES

## Chief Executive continues visit to Guangdong

The Chief Executive, Chui Sai On, will continue leading a delegation representing the Macau government on a series of visits to Zhaoqing, Foshan, Huizhou and Dongguan from July 9 to 11. During the visit, the delegation will meet with leaders of those cities to exchange views on the path of development for the Greater Bay Area, and pay site visits to industrial development projects. Between June 21 and 22, Chui visited Zhuhai, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, and visited Zhongshan and Jiangmen on 25 June. The delegation which the Chief Executive is leading to Zhongshan and Jiangmen includes the Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan.

## AACM divulges stories of aviation professionals

The Civil Aviation Authority of Macau (AACM) will launch the “Youth Project – Interviews with aviation professionals” program starting from July and concluding in January next year. The event will share interviews with different industry professionals who will talk about their personal experiences and give advice to young people. A total of 27 professionals, representing seven organizations, will participate in this project and tell their stories, which will be categorized into nine chapters. The AACM will publish one story every week on Wednesdays, starting from today.

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# Lawyers critical of Wong's tightening grip on information

Daniel Beittler

**S**ECRETARY for Security Wong Sio Chak's latest proposal concerning the Civil Protection Basic Law will seek to strengthen the government's grip on information during periods of crisis, such as natural disasters, the outbreak of diseases or terrorist attacks.

Now in its official public consultation period (which lasts until August 11), authorities claim the proposal is needed to "ensure the efficient dissemination of important information by the authorities" and "to prevent the spread of false rumors to society."

If approved, offenders might face an increased penalty of up to three years' imprisonment should they propagate falsified information that results in social alarm.

In response, critics argue that the government's proposal has the potential to violate two articles of the Macau Basic Law, concerning freedom of speech and the right to privacy of communications.

Article 27 of the Basic Law entitles Macau residents to enjoy freedom of speech and freedom of the press, while article 32 dictates that the "freedom and privacy of communication of Macau residents shall be protected by law."

"No department or individual may, on any grounds, infringe upon the freedom and privacy of communication of residents," article 32 reads, "except that the relevant authorities may inspect communication in accordance with the provisions of the law to meet the needs of public security or of investigation into criminal offences."

The President of the Association of Lawyers, Neto Valente, told Radio Macau that the proposal was just "one more [measure] to make the lives of citizens hellish."



PLA soldiers conducting cleaning operations in the aftermath of Typhoon Hato

Valente said that the law already provides for serious cases of spreading falsified information, and implied that the authorities were pursuing this course to control information that displeases the government.

"Certainly if there are rumors favorable to government authorities, they will not be punished," he said. "Only something that displeases the authorities will [trigger] the law into action."

But for lawyer and former lawmaker Leonel Alves, the issue belongs in the public domain, warranting an inclusive discourse from all segments of society.

"In freedom of expression, there are always limits. It is never unlimited and we must discuss these limits as a society," he told the Times in an interview yesterday. "We need to protect the public, and false alarms have the potential to create social harms. However, if someone says something [that is not true], but did not intend to provoke social harm, that may be different."

In other countries, several popular exceptions to free speech exist. These may include hate speech or offensive comments, obscenity, speech owned by others or false statements of fact.

Other governments have gone further. In Malaysia, the government has already introduced an "Anti-Fake News" bill, while India, the United Kingdom and France are among other countries contemplating laws against misinformation.

Critics in Macau fear that the local government is seeking not only to prevent the spread of false information, but to close down narratives that run contrary to state propaganda - and the media will be no exception.

"There is a civic responsibility of the media when divulging the civil protection information issued by the authorities," said Secretary Wong at a press conference late last week, adding that public media organizations would be required to disseminate information according to "go-

vernment guidelines."

Wong even went as far as to describe information provided by the government as "correct, precise and simple," and recommended that private media organizations should defer to the official narrative in times of crisis.

The Macau Association of Portuguese and English Press admitted that the proposal could inhibit the way that journalists operate in the city, but said it needed more time to study the new law.

"We are paying close attention to it, but right now we need to study the proposed legislation in more detail," association president José Carlos Matias told the Times last night.

"It is understandable that the authorities want to improve the laws concerning civil defense," he added, "the question lies with the means and with the specific details. [...] What we don't want from this is an outcome where the journalists [are encouraged to] self-censor."

The Journalists Association of

Macau, a separate entity, reported in August last year that the Macau government had pressured at least five local media outlets to report "positively" on the government's response to Typhoon Hato and not to hold Chief Executive Chui Sai On responsible for any unpreparedness or inadequacy.

"I think the media outlets all have freedom of expression but in situations of public risk, I believe that the media also has its [share] or responsibility," said Wong last week, "that is, of disclosure information that is correct and precise."

**■ Critics fear that the gov't may seek to close down narratives that run contrary to state propaganda**

"This is a responsibility to be assumed by everyone," he continued, and "to disclose false or irresponsible information is not [the] right way to react."

Last year, two local siblings, a 73-year-old man and his 68-year-old sister, were prosecuted for spreading rumors related to Typhoon Hato. The two had spread messages via Wechat claiming that the Macau government had covered up information regarding five dead people found in a parking lot located in Fai Chi Kei.

One lawyer in Macau, who requested to speak with anonymity, questioned to what extent the government hopes to prevent the spread of rumors by criminalizing those who share information - especially in times of uncertainty and alarm, like those seen in August last year.

The lawyer also wondered whether parents could be held responsible for a rumor started by a child under the age of adulthood, or whether the thousands of people who share inaccurate photographs on social media could be seen as accomplices.

## Taxi complaint hotline records 10 calls in two days

**T**HE Public Security Police Force (PSP)'s inclusion of a specific telephone line to address complaints related to taxi infractions which launched on June 29 has recorded a total of 10 notification calls during the first two days of operation, a PSP spokesperson

said during yesterday's press conference at PSP facilities.

To access this new line, people who wish to report taxi malpractice should call the PSP Hotline on 2837 4214.

According to the same spokesperson, the 10 calls received on the first

two days were mostly related to cases where the transport was denied by drivers, or overcharging matters.

With the introduction of this line, the police are seeking to be warned as quickly as possible about these cases in order to dispatch a traffic offi-

cer to the location of the event.

According to a statement released by the PSP, a total of 399 taxi offences were detected in June. Over 300 of those offences were related to overcharging and drivers refusing to carry passengers.



RENATO MARQUES



## Ryanair faces summer strikes

Ryanair Holdings Plc is facing pilot strikes in its Irish home market for the first time, in what may become its most significant confrontation with organized labor to date. Pilots in Ireland, where Europe's biggest low-cost airline is based, voted 94 to 1 in favor of industrial action including strikes, a spokesman for the Irish Air Line Pilots' Association said yesterday, confirming a Bloomberg News report. It comes just amid the airline's busy summer season. The ballot is the latest in a series of labor battles flaring up across Europe with the airline, which agreed in December to recognize unions for the first time in its 32-year history. Ryanair didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

# Roger Federer leaves Nike for Uniqlo in blockbuster deal

John J. Edwards III,  
Jeff Sutherland

**TENNIS** great Roger Federer, long all but synonymous with Nike Inc., has parted ways with the swoosh to join Japanese casual clothing brand Uniqlo.

The eight-time Wimbledon champion surprised many fans when he walked onto Centre Court for his first-round match Monday afternoon in an outfit by Fast Retailing Co.'s Uniqlo. The Swiss star's apparel contract with the Beaverton, Oregon-based athletic-wear giant expired March 1.

"Our partnership will be about innovation on and off court," Fast Retailing Chief Executive Officer Tadashi Yanai said in a statement Monday.

Federer's name recognition boosts Uniqlo's global expansion efforts, especially in Europe, where the brand is opening new stores. Uni-

qlo has seen strong growth in places like China, helping international sales top domestic revenue for two straight quarters. But the retailer may face challenges in markets where rivals such as Inditex SA's Zara and Hennes & Mauritz AB's H&M are more established.

Uniqlo said Federer, who has won a men's record of 20 Grand Slam titles, would represent the brand at all tennis tournaments throughout the year. ESPN reported that the deal guarantees him USD300 million over 10 years - a time period that will take him well into retirement from the tennis circuit.

A Fast Retailing spokeswoman said the company doesn't disclose the details of its contracts.

"While the reported deal may appear excessive for an athlete approaching the twilight of his career, the meaningful boost he should provide Uniqlo's overseas

expansion could make such a partnership worthwhile for both parties," said Bloomberg Intelligence Consumer Analyst Thomas Jastrzab.

Fast Retailing shares rose as much as 1.9 percent in early trading in Tokyo yesterday. Nike fell 1.7 percent in New York on Monday.

The new relationship gives a Uniqlo another shot at exploiting one of the sport's all-time greats. The brand endorsed 12-time Grand Slam winner Novak Djokovic for five years, but he signed with Maus Freres SA's Lacoste last year. Uniqlo continues to endorse Kei Nishikori, the most successful Japanese player ever.

Federer, who turns 37 in August, signed his first contract with Nike in 1994. He continues to wear the brand's shoes, as Uniqlo doesn't make athletic footwear. Nishikori also wears Nike shoes, having left Adidas AG last year. **Bloomberg**



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# Beijing 'fully prepared' if trade war kicks off this week

Gerry Shih, Beijing

**C**HINA said yesterday it's "fully prepared" for a trade war with the United States as hopes dwindle for a breakthrough in tensions this week between the world's two biggest economies.

Washington is due to start charging tariffs on USD34 billion in Chinese imports as of Friday while Beijing has pledged to retaliate with equal tariffs on \$34 billion in U.S. goods.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang told reporters that China is "fully prepared to take a package of necessary measures" to safeguard its national interests.

U.S. companies ranging from soybean farms to whiskey distilleries to automakers like Ford and Tesla could suffer if China ramps up retaliatory measures. China's list is designed to inflict pain on U.S. farmers and other groups that are important to President Donald Trump's political base.

Trade friction also threatens to ensnare major Chinese companies, with China Mobile the latest to encounter obstacles in the U.S. market. A U.S. agency under the Department of Commerce recommended Monday against giving operating licenses to China's largest telecom carrier, citing national security risks posed by the state-run firm.

Lu yesterday called the warnings "unfounded speculation



Workers carry boxes of LED lights into a renovation site in Beijing

and an irrational clampdown" stemming from a Cold War mentality.

"We hope the US will provide a level-playing field for Chinese companies' investment and operation in the US and do something conducive to the mutual trust," he said.

China's stock market has fallen nearly 10 percent in recent weeks on fears of a trade war while its currency has dro-

pped sharply against the U.S. dollar.

In comments yesterday, central bank governor Yi Gang said the yuan's 3 percent depreciation over the past two weeks reflects a strengthening of the U.S. dollar and "the effect of external uncertainties." The yuan, whose exchange rate is tightly controlled, is at its lowest level against the dollar since December.

Despite that, Yi said financial risks were under control. "The fundamentals of the Chinese economy at present are good," he said.

"Our country implements a floating exchange system consulting a basket of currencies and based on market supply and demand," Yi said. "Years of practice have shown this system to be effective and must continue to be adhered to."

Responding to questions over a safety warning to Chinese citizens traveling to the United States issued by the government late last week, Lu, the foreign ministry spokesman, said the government was merely fulfilling its duty to warn travelers of "potential dangers."

## The move to reclassify all loans overdue for 90 days or more will lead to a 14 percent jump in Chinese banks' non-performing loans

The warning to Chinese travelers noted the high cost of medical treatment in the U.S., the importance of guarding against crime and terrorist attacks and the considerable powers wielded by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents.

Trump has accused China of unfairly acquiring U.S. technology through coercion and theft and limiting market access for U.S. finance and technology firms — claims that China denies.

China accuses Washington of protectionism, pointing to the struggles of Chinese companies like China Mobile and telecoms equipment maker ZTE, which briefly shut down in April after the Department of Commerce temporarily banned it from purchasing U.S. chips. **AP**

# Bank's capital almost wiped out as loan rules tighten

**A** surge in bad loans has nearly wiped out the capital of a Chinese rural bank, according to a local ratings firm, raising fresh doubts about the financial health of the nation's smaller lenders.

Guiyang Rural Commercial Bank Co., based in the southwestern Guizhou province, was downgraded by China Chengxin International Credit Rating Co. after its non-performing loans rose to 7.8 billion yuan (USD1.2 billion) in 2017 from 841 million yuan two years ago. That caused the lender's capital adequacy ratio to fall below 1 percent, compared with 11.8 percent at the end of 2016, Chengxin said in a statement dated June 29.

Guiyang Rural's woes stem from recent moves by Chinese regulators to force



lenders to classify as non-performing all loans that are overdue for more than 90 days, the ratings company said. Such overdue loans accounted for about 24 percent of Guiyang Rural's total advances in 2017, resulting in a fourfold jump in the bank's NPL ratio, to 20 percent of total loans, Chengxin said.

The China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission has been clamping down on various risks in the financial sector, including poor corporate governance, violation of lending policies, and cross-holding of financial products. The International Monetary Fund warned last year that Chinese

banks need to increase their capital buffers to protect against any sudden economic downturn.

The move to reclassify all loans overdue for 90 days or more will lead to a 14 percent jump in Chinese banks' non-performing loans, with most of the impact falling on city and rural commercial lenders, according to analysts at UBS Group AG. "We think the very purpose of these new rules is to bring the smaller banks in line," UBS analyst Jason Bedford wrote in a note dated June 20.

"There are other banks out there in a very similar situation to Guiyang Rural Commercial Bank," Bedford said by email yesterday. Those most at risk of having their profit and capital eroded, should they top up bad-loan pro-

visioning to 150 percent of NPLs, include Bank of Liuzhou Co., Shandong Guangrao Rural Commercial Bank Co. and Laishang Bank Co., he said.

Chinese lenders have been grappling with a growing mountain of bad debt after flooding the financial system with cheap credit for years to prop up economic growth. While their reported non-performing loan ratio stood at 1.75 percent as of March 31, according to official data, many analysts say that understates the problem. Lenders frequently flatter their reported figures by resorting to techniques such as rolling over credit for state-owned enterprises that lack the ability to repay.

At a time of tighter liquidity in the financial system,

Guiyang Rural has stepped up sales of short-term bonds even as regulators are trying to curb financial leverage. It sold a record 2.6 billion yuan of negotiable certificates of deposit in the first half, compared with 480 million yuan a year earlier, data compiled by Bloomberg showed.

Guiyang Rural officials couldn't be reached for comment as calls to the bank's head office were unanswered.

The lender's high proportion of overdue loans sparked market jitters in 2016. In that year, Chengxin International downgraded the bank's rating outlook following a jump in its overdue loans to 30 percent of the total, compared with just 3 percent at the nation's biggest lenders. **Bloomberg**

# Central banker says currency slide under observation

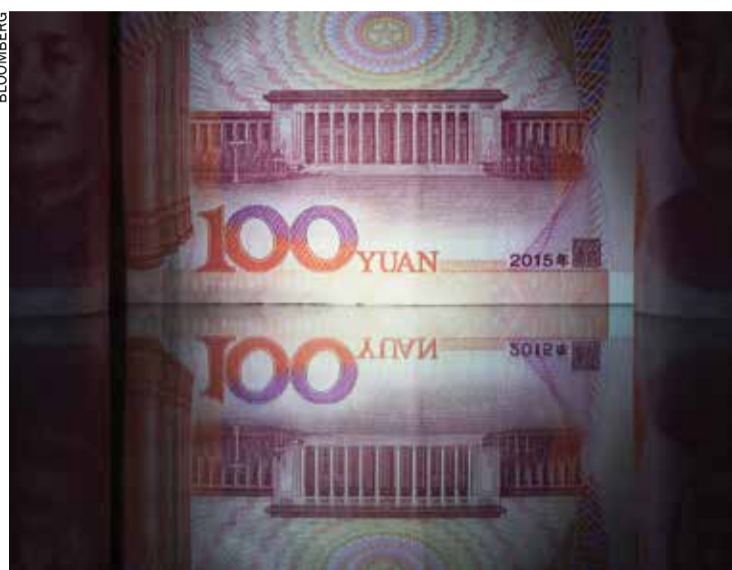
**T**OP Chinese central bank officials yesterday vowed to keep the nation's currency stable, helping to reverse declines, and pledged that yuan devaluation won't be used as a weapon in the trade conflict with the U.S.

People's Bank of China Governor Yi Gang said China will "keep the yuan exchange rate basically stable at reasonable and balanced level," a repetition of standard language that helped stoke speculation that policy makers are prepared to take tougher actions to arrest the plunge in the currency.

Later yesterday, Sun Guofeng, head of the central bank's financial research institute, said that the currency's decline isn't the result of China deliberately weakening it to gain an advantage over the U.S.

"Recently the yuan's exchange rate has shown some weakness. This is entirely due to changes in market expectations as external uncertainties rise rather than intended guidance of the central bank," Sun said in exclusive comments provided to Bloomberg News. "China upholds multilateralism, globalization, free trade and rule-based international guidelines, and will not make the yuan's exchange rate a tool to cope with trade conflicts."

The yuan is the worst performing currency in Asia over the past three weeks, losing 3.7 percent against the dollar as



the domestic economy slows and the nation slides closer to a trade war with the U.S. A failure to contain the tumble will feed speculation that officials are effectively depreciating the currency to defend against the effects of trade tariffs. The yuan erased losses to advance in onshore and overseas markets after Yi's comments.

"The PBOC is sending a verbal warning and intervention that the recent slump in the yuan was too quick," said Zhou Hao, an economist at Commerzbank AG in Singapore. "In the short term, the yuan could strengthen as traders take profit from the recent slide. But if the market ignores the PBOC and keeps pushing the yuan weaker quickly, the central bank may conduct heavy intervention to send a stronger signal."

While there were no heavy-handed actions in the market, there were some signs of mild, suspected intervention during morning trading yesterday. Some major Chinese banks sold the dollar after the yuan slid past 6.7 per greenback, a move that strengthened the currency above that level, according to four traders who asked not to be named.

"The market sentiment is very one-sided, all the hedging and trading flows are all pointing to further weakening of the yuan," said Ryan Lam, head of research at Shanghai Commercial Bank Ltd. "The yuan is going through a very bad cycle now."

China's economic fundamentals are sound and financial risks are controllable, Yi said, adding that the nation must stick with its foreign-ex-

change policy of "managing a floating currency exchange rate mechanism, which is based on market supply and demand and with reference to the basket of currencies." The central bank will maintain a prudent, neutral policy stance, he said.

Policy makers are "confident" that the yuan can be kept basically steady, PBOC Deputy Governor Pan Gongsheng said at a conference in Hong Kong yesterday. The nation's balance of payments are generally balanced, and it has plenty of foreign reserves, rich experience and plenty of policy tools, he added.

The onshore yuan rallied 0.24 percent to 6.6500 per dollar as of 4:52 p.m. in Shanghai yesterday, after posting its worst monthly plunge since 1994 in June. The currency traded overseas was 0.39 percent stronger. The Bloomberg replica of the CFETS RMB Index, which tracks the yuan against 24 peers, fell for a 10th straight day, to 95.1.

"The central bank is ready to use stronger measures to turn the market trend, as further sharp depreciation of the yuan would drive the market to panic while the stock sentiment has already been poor," said Tommy Xie, economist from Oversea-Chinese Banking Corp Ltd. "Further weakness will be limited as the market is concerned about potential PBOC intervention."

**Bloomberg**

## Malaysia seeks sharp cuts in USD20b China-backed rail link

**M**ALAYSIA'S government said yesterday a major China-backed rail link project can only be viable with a "drastic" price reduction by the Chinese contractor as the actual cost of the venture is 81 billion ringgit (USD20 billion).

The 688 kilometer East Coast Rail Link is a key part of China's regional Belt and Road infrastructure initiative. It would connect Malaysia's west coast to rural eastern states. It is largely financed by China and the main contract was awarded in 2016 to the China Communication Construction Company, or CCCC, by former Prime Minister Najib Razak, who was defeated in May 9 elections.

Finance Minister Lim Guan Eng said the project's final cost, which is nearly 50 percent higher than estimated by the previous government, includes land acquisition, interest, fees and other operational costs.

## ■ The 688 kilometer East Coast Rail Link is a key part of China's regional Belt and Road infrastructure initiative

"We expect that the ECRL project will only become financially and economically feasible if there is a drastic price reduction of the project by the CCCC. Discussions on cost will be held with the contracting parties and others involved in the project," Lim said in a statement.

Lim said the government has given China Communication 10 billion ringgit (\$2.5 billion) in advance payment and 9.67 billion ringgit (\$2.4 billion) as a progress payment. The advance payment can be recovered in a "worst case scenario" if the project is withdrawn, he added.

Malaysia's new government has axed a high-speed rail line to Singapore because it is too costly and is reviewing other large infrastructure projects financed by China. The cost-cutting came after officials revealed the national debt has surged sharply, partly due to corruption under Najib's rule.

Najib is under investigation for alleged theft and money-laundering at the 1MDB state investment fund, and has been barred from leaving the country. **AP**

## Li Ka-shing calls for fast end to trade dispute



**B**ILLIONAIRE Li Ka-shing said a trade war between the U.S. and China will hurt both the countries and urged the world's two biggest economies to end the dispute soon.

"I certainly hope the two find a way," Li told reporters after a university event recently in southern China. "I certainly don't want to see the trade war getting worse. Both countries are going to lose." The spat will inflict pain on Hong Kong as well, he added.

Unless President Donald Trump ba-

cktracks, the U.S. on July 6 will impose 25 percent tariffs on USD34 billion of Chinese imports, with further levies on another \$16 billion in imports under consideration. China has threatened to impose countervailing duties the same day and vowed retaliation of "the same scale and intensity."

The city's richest man is the latest voice beseeching the two countries to step back from the brink as manufacturers globally warned consumers will suffer from rising costs due to the an-

nounced tariffs. General Motors Co. last week told the Trump administration that the tariffs could force it to cut jobs while Volvo Car Group owner Li Shufu said carmakers will need to start building factories in each market to avoid the levies.

Li, 89, whose net worth is about \$32 billion, has been the face of Hong Kong during an era when a handful of Chinese immigrants built large empires across Asia. The conglomerate he founded spans retail, energy, ports to telecommunications worldwide. The tycoon formally stepped down in May as the head of his group, ending a nearly seven-decade career.

**Bloomberg**

**E**VIDENCE of new efforts by Kim Jong Un to expand his nuclear arsenal shows the challenge facing U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo when he returns to Pyongyang this week to seek a detailed disarmament plan.

Several reports released in recent days suggest that Kim continued to ramp up his weapons production before his June 12 summit with President Donald Trump, after which the U.S. leader declared North Korea was “no longer a nuclear threat.” The reports published by independent researchers and media organizations detail efforts to increase fuel production, build more missile launchers and expand a key rocket-engine manufacturing facility.

The moves illustrate how far Kim remains from surrendering his nuclear weapons despite committing to “work toward complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula” during his meeting with Trump. While the reports - some relying on satellite imagery predating the summit - haven't been officially verified, they suggest Pompeo has a difficult task when he leaves Thursday for his trip to Pyongyang.

“This meeting is absolutely critical,” said Sue Mi Terry, a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. “One can argue that the North Koreans are doing all of this to get maximum concessions out of the United States, if and when they decide to give up their nuclear program. But at some point they have to sit down and actually produce something. Maybe this trip - but I'm not holding my breath.”

#### MISSILE DEFENSE

In the days since the summit, North Korea has expanded ties with rivals and allies alike, visiting China and holding talks on economic cooperation with South Korea. Trump has touted the agreement in campaign-style rallies despite criticism by arms-control experts that the lack of a clear implementation framework makes it unlikely Kim will fully surrender his nuclear program.

In a Twitter post Tuesday morning, Trump touted “many good conversations with North Korea” and asserted that “all of Asia is thrilled.”

“If not for me, we would now be at War with North Korea!” he added. Meanwhile, the U.S. and South Korea have suspended regular military exercises that North Korea sees as a threat. And the Seoul-based Munhwa Ilbo newspaper reported Monday that South Korea was considering canceling or scaling back missile-defense plans.

#### SEPTEMBER MEETING?

Axios reported Monday that Trump was considering meeting Kim in September in



U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo

## Fresh N. Korean weapon gains raise pressure on Pompeo trip

New York, although White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said the administration had no announcements to make. She also declined to discuss reports of North Korea's weapons advances, instead citing the country's eight-month hiatus from weapons tests as evidence of success. “What I can tell you is that we're continuing to make progress,” Sanders said.

**Despite hopes for denuclearization, Kim Jong Un is committed to increasing North Korea's stockpile of nuclear-armed missiles.**

MIDDLEBURY INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Although Kim has pledged to halt nuclear-weapons tests and demolished a facility used for all six of the country's atomic bomb detonations, he has said nothing about production and made no commitment to unilaterally disarm. U.S. defense analysts have said North Korea retains as many as 60 nuclear bombs and a range of missiles, including some that are capable of striking the U.S.

#### 'SLEEP WELL'

That undercuts Trump's own rosy take after the summit. “President Obama said that North Korea was our biggest and most dangerous problem. No longer - sleep well tonight!” he said in a June 13 tweet.

Moreover, the Middlebury Institute of International Studies released an analysis Sunday that found North Korea has recently expanded a factory complex in the eastern city of

Hamhung that produces key engines for solid-fuel ballistic missiles. The construction came after Kim made a similar “denuclearization” pledge during his April 27 meeting with South Korean President Moon Jae-in.

The factory in question produces wound-filament airframes and nozzles for engines used in solid-fuel missiles, particularly the Pukguksong series of rockets, the report said. Such missiles are more concerning to U.S. military planners because they can be kept hidden while fueled, making them easier to deploy and harder to target during any attack.

“The expansion suggests that, despite hopes for denuclearization, Kim Jong Un is committed to increasing North Korea's stockpile of nuclear-armed missiles,” the report's authors David Schmerler and Jeffrey Lewis wrote.

#### FUEL, LAUNCHERS

In addition, the North Korea-focused 38 North website said Thursday that satellite imagery taken after the Singapore summit suggests the Kim regime was carrying out improvements at a nuclear facility used to produce plutonium fuel. A U.S. National Air and Space Intelligence Center assessment found the country has stepped up the production of advanced missile launchers, the Diplomat websi-

te reported Saturday.

Pompeo told a U.S. Senate committee last month that the administration was seeking transparency from the North Koreans about what nuclear material they have, the engineering of it and the missiles that would deliver those nuclear weapons, as well as other weapons of mass destruction. He had previously said that the U.S. would seek “major disarmament” from Kim by the end of Trump's first term, or about two and a half years from now.

#### ONLY WORDS

U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton, meanwhile, said on CBS's “Face the Nation” Sunday that Pompeo would visit North Korea to discuss “how to dismantle all of their WMD and ballistic missile programs in a year.”

Shin Beomchul, director at the Asan Institute for Policy Studies' Center for Security and Unification, said the reports of North Korean weapons advances were “just a good reminder of how complicated and difficult it is to denuclearize the North.”

“North Korea's intent to denuclearize has been verified only by words,” Shin said. “Now with Pompeo expected to make another visit to Pyongyang, it's time to prove them with actions.” **Bloomberg**

## MALAYSIA

# Former leader arrested, to be charged for graft

Eileen Ng, Kuala Lumpur

**F**ORMER Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak was arrested yesterday by anti-graft investigators and will be charged over his alleged role in the multibillion-dollar looting of a state investment fund.

A government task force probing alleged theft and money laundering at the 1MDB state investment fund said Najib's arrest was linked to a suspicious transfer of 42 million ringgit (USD10.6 million) into his bank account from SRC International, a former 1MDB unit, using multiple intermediary companies.

It said in a brief statement that Najib will be brought to court today to be charged, but didn't give details of the charges against him. Najib's arrest comes nearly two months after his coalition's stunning rejection by voters in a May 9 general election.

The new government has reopened investigations into 1MDB that were stifled under Najib's rule. Najib and his wife, who have been questioned over the SRC issue by the anti-graft agency, have been barred from leaving the country. Police have also seized jewelry and



valuables valued at more than 1.1 billion ringgit (\$272 million) from properties linked to Najib, who has denied any wrongdoing.

The anti-corruption agency earlier Tuesday questioned Riza Aziz, Najib's stepson and a Hollywood film producer, as it stepped up its probe on 1MDB. Riza was solemn as he arrived at the anti-graft office and didn't speak to reporters.

U.S. investigators say Riza's company, Red Granite Pictures Inc., used money stolen from 1MDB to finance Hollywood films including the Martin Scorsese-directed "The Wolf of Wall Street." Red Granite in March agreed to pay the U.S.

government \$60 million to settle claims that it benefited from the 1MDB scandal.

The civil suit against Red Granite was part of an effort to recover some of the \$4.5 billion that U.S. prosecutors say was stolen from 1MDB. They say hundreds of millions from 1MDB landed in Najib's bank accounts.

The 1MDB government task force this week said 408 bank accounts involving funds of nearly 1.1 billion ringgit had been frozen. It said the accounts, belonging to 81 people and 55 companies, are thought to have received funds from 1MDB between 2011 and 2015. **AP**

## INDONESIA

# At least 12 dead as sinking ferry run aground off Sulawesi

**A**T least 12 people were killed and a frantic rescue operation was underway yesterday off the Indonesian island of Sulawesi for dozens of passengers of a sinking passenger ferry run aground by its captain in a desperate bid to save lives.

The latest in a succession of boat tragedies in Indonesia comes on the same day that officials called off a search for 164 people presumed drowned when a wooden ferry sank two weeks ago in a deep volcanic crater lake on the island of Sumatra.

South Sulawesi province police spokesman Dicky Sondani said the Lestari Maju ferry was about 200 meters from shore. It had 139 passengers on board, according to its manifest, as well as cars, trucks and motorcycles.

Photos distributed via the National Disaster Mitigation Agency showed passengers perched on the listing vessel as others descended into the heavy seas using ropes hung over its

side. Most appeared to be wearing lifejackets.

The agency said 12 people were dead, including two children aged 2 and 3. Sondani said the captain steered the 48.5-meter-long vessel toward shore after it began sinking on a voyage from the port of Bira to Selayar island, just south of the main Sulawesi island.

Director-General of Sea Transportation Agus Purnomo said in a statement that the captain's actions were helping the rescue effort.

More than 30 people have been rescued and eight of them were being treated in a hospital, said Selayar district chief Basli Ali. "We are still trying to evacuate the passengers with help from the police, army, search and rescue agency as well as locals," Ali said.

Ferry tragedies are common in Indonesia, an archipelago of more than 17,000 islands, with weak enforcement of safety regulations often to blame. The Lake Toba sinking was the worst in about a decade. **AP**

AD



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## ESMALTE ENAMEL

cód. 1804190036



monitora/monitor: Cristina Vinhas

horário/schedule:  
Terças e Quintas  
Tuesdays and Thursdays  
18h30-21h30

total: 15 horas/hours  
05 sessões/sessions

inicio/starts: 10/07/2018  
fim/finishes: 31/07/2018

propina/fee:  
MOP 600 \*

lingua/language: Português e Inglês/Portuguese and English \*\* patrocínio/sponsor: Fundação Macau

local/venue: Avenida do Dr. Francisco Vieira Machado n° 431- 487 Edf. Industrial Nam Fung 8° andar B, sala 1, Macau

número máximo de participantes/maximum number of participants:  
10 (Será respeitada a ordem de inscrição sendo esta efetiva mediante o pagamento de propina).  
10 (The registration order will be respected and registration is considered when payment is done).

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## INDIA

# Pedestrian bridge collapse at Mumbai train station injures 5

**A**T least five people were injured yesterday when part of a pedestrian bridge at a Mumbai train station collapsed during morning rush hour amid heavy rains, officials said, as authorities struggled to restore the busy station.

The concrete slab fell onto empty train tracks, damaging part of the platform roof and high-tension electric wires. Rescuers were cutting through the concrete and iron of the fallen slab, while engineers were working to restore power and train services.

The continuing rains were hampering rescue and relief operations at the Andheri station in Mumbai, India's financial capital. The overpass connects the eastern and western portions of the Andheri railways station, and the collapse stranded passengers during the morning rush.

Railroad spokesman Ravinder Bhakar said no trains were passing in the area at the time of the collapse around 7:30 a.m. He said the in-



cessant rains seemed to have caused cracks in the bridge, resulting in the collapse. Aaj Tak television news channel said the bridge was more than 50 years old.

Police official Yaibhav Nigade said at least five people who were walking on the bridge were injured and hospitalized. He said all the people trapped in the debris had been rescued, but that rescue teams using sniffer dogs were still searching the debris. Nigade did not say how many people had been trapped.

India Today TV quoted an eyewitness saying he heard someone calling out to be saved. Another witness said some people were trapped under the concrete debris.

India's railway minister,

Piyush Goyal, ordered an investigation. In a tweet, Goyal "directed officials to speed up repair work and rapidly restore traffic in close coordination with other departments."

Many streets and roads were waterlogged in Mumbai as monsoon rains continued lashing the city. Weather officials forecast heavy rains in the coming days.

Every day, millions of commuters use the sprawling train network in Mumbai and its suburbs.

Last year, at least 22 people died and 32 others suffered injuries in a stampede triggered by a rumor that a pedestrian overpass had collapsed after concrete chunks fell at another railway station. **AP**



Family members smile after hearing the news that the missing 12 boys and their coach were found



In this grab taken from video provided by the Thai Navy Seal, a view of the boys and their coach as they are rescued in a cave

# Thai official: Boys may have to dive from cave despite peril

Tassanee Vejpongsa, Mae Sai

A top Thai official said yesterday that heavy rains forecast for the coming days could worsen floods in the cave where 12 boys and their soccer coach were located after an exhaustive search, forcing authorities to speed up their extraction by having them dive their way out.

The 13 were located by rescue divers late Monday night in the cave in northern Chiang Rai province during a desperate search that lasted more than a week and drew international help. Officials said yesterday that the boys, aged 11-16, and their 25-year-old coach were mostly in stable medical condition and have received high-protein liquid food.

Interior Minister Anupong Paojinda, a member of the country's ruling military junta, said yesterday that the boys may need to swim out using diving equipment ahead of bad weather forecast for later in the week. He said the boys would be brought out via the same complicated route through which their rescuers entered.

While efforts to pump out the floodwaters would continue, Anupong said it's clear some areas of the sprawling cave cannot be drained and that in order

to get out, the boys may need to use diving gear while being guided by two professional divers each. He conceded that if something went awry, it could be disastrous.

**We worked so hard to find them and we will not lose them.**

NARONGSAK

"Diving is not easy. For people who have never done it, it will be difficult, unlike diving in a swimming pool, because the cave's features have small channels," he said. "If something happens midway, it could be life-threatening."

Video released early yesterday by the Thai navy showed the boys in their soccer uniforms sitting on a dry area inside the Tham Luang Nang Non cave above the water as a spotlight from a rescuer illuminated their faces.

Chiang Rai provincial Gov. Narongsak Osatanakorn said the health of the boys and coach were checked using a field as-

essment in which red is critical condition, yellow is serious and green is stable.

"We found that most of the boys are in green condition," he said. "Maybe some of the boys have injuries or light injuries and would be categorized as yellow condition. But no one is in red condition."

Cave rescue experts have said it could be safer to simply supply them where they are for now, rather than attempting to have the boys dive out. That could take as long as months, however, given that Thailand's rainy season typically lasts through October.

Family members who have kept vigil at the mouth of the cave since their ordeal began June 23 rejoiced at the news that their boys and their coach had been found.

"I want to give him a hug. I miss him very much," said Tham Chanthawong, an aunt of the coach. "In these 10 days, how many million seconds have there been? I've missed him every second."

Rescue divers had spent much of Monday making preparations for a final push to locate the missing, efforts that had been hampered much of the week by flooding that made moving through tight passageways filled with muddy water difficult.

A pair of expert cave divers

from Britain found the group about 300-400 meters past a section of the cave on higher ground that was thought to be where they might have taken shelter.

In the five-minute navy video, the boys are seen wearing their soccer uniforms and are calm, curious and polite. They are also keen to get some food.

After an initial exchange in which a rescuer ascertains that all 13 are present, one of the boys asks what day it is, and a rescuer replies: "Monday. Monday. You have been here — 10 days."

The rescuer tells them "you are very strong," but soon the traditional reserve of Thai children toward adults breaks a bit, and one tells another in Thai, "Tell them we are hungry."

"We haven't eaten," a boy says in Thai, then breaks into English: "We have to eat, eat, eat!" A fellow boy tells him they already said this, and then the rescuer assures them that "Navy SEALs will come tomorrow, with food and doctors and everything." At the end of the video a boy asks in English, "Where do you come from?" The rescue diver replies, "England, UK."

Narongsak said yesterday that the missing were given high-protein liquid food, painkillers and antibiotics. He said doctors had advised giving the medicine

as a preventative measure.

He said officials had met and agreed on the need to "ensure 100 percent safety for the boys when we bring them out."

"We worked so hard to find them and we will not lose them," he said.

Anmar Mirza, a leading American cave rescue expert, said many challenges remain for the rescuers. He said the primary decision is whether to try to evacuate the boys and their coach or to supply them in place.

"Supplying them on site may face challenges depending on how difficult the dives are," Mirza, coordinator of the U.S. National Cave Rescue Commission, said in an email. "Trying to take non-divers through a cave is one of the most dangerous situations possible, even if the dives are relatively easy."

The British Cave Rescue Council, which has members taking part in the operation, said in a statement that "although water levels have dropped, the diving conditions remain difficult and any attempt to dive the boys and their coach out will not be taken lightly because there are significant technical challenges and risks to consider."

Joining the British are other cave experts from around the world and teams from the U.S., Australia, China and elsewhere.

Authorities said efforts would also continue outside the cave, where teams have been scouring the mountainside in search of other entrances to the caverns below. Several fissures have been found and teams have explored some, though so far none have led to the trapped boys. **AP**

## SCIENCE

# Fresh grounds for coffee: Study shows it may boost longevity

Lindsey Tanner, Chicago

Go ahead and have that cup of coffee, maybe even several more. New research shows it may boost chances for a longer life, even for those who down at least eight cups daily.

In a study of nearly half-a-million British adults, coffee drinkers had a slightly lower risk of death over 10 years than abstainers.

The apparent longevity boost was seen with instant, ground and decaffeinated, results that echo U.S. research. It's the first large study to suggest a benefit even in people with genetic glitches affecting how their bodies use caffeine.

Overall, coffee drinkers were about 10 percent to 15 percent less likely to die than abstainers during a decade of follow-up. Differences by amount of coffee consumed and genetic variations were minimal.

The results don't prove your coffee pot is a fountain of youth nor are they a reason for abstainers to start drinking coffee,



AP PHOTO

said Alice Lichtenstein, a Tufts University nutrition expert who was not involved in the research. But she said the results reinforce previous research and add additional reassurance for coffee drinkers.

"It's hard to believe that something we enjoy so much could be good for us. Or at least not be

bad," Lichtenstein said.

The study was published Monday in the journal JAMA Internal Medicine. It's not clear exactly how drinking coffee might affect longevity. Lead author Erikka Loftfield, a researcher at the U.S. National Cancer Institute, said coffee contains more than 1,000 chemical compou-

nds including antioxidants, which help protect cells from damage.

Other studies have suggested that substances in coffee may reduce inflammation and improve how the body uses insulin, which can reduce chances for developing diabetes. Loftfield said efforts to explain the potential longevity benefit are continuing.

Adam Taylor, fetching two iced coffees for friends Monday in downtown Chicago, said the study results make sense.

"Coffee makes you happy, it gives you something to look forward to in the morning," said Taylor, a sound engineer from Las Vegas.

"I try to have just one cup daily," Taylor said. "Otherwise I get a little hyper."

For the study, researchers invited 9 million British adults to take part; 498,134 women and men aged 40 to 69 agreed. The low participation rate means those involved may have been healthier than the general U.K. population, the researchers said.

Participants filled out ques-

tionnaires about daily coffee consumption, exercise and other habits, and received physical exams including blood tests. Most were coffee drinkers; 154,000 or almost one-third drank two to three cups daily and 10,000 drank at least eight cups daily.

During the next decade, 14,225 participants died, mostly of cancer or heart disease.

Caffeine can cause short-term increases in blood pressure, and some smaller studies have suggested that it might be linked with high blood pressure, especially in people with a genetic variation that causes them to metabolize caffeine slowly.

But coffee drinkers in the U.K. study didn't have higher risks than nondrinkers of dying from heart disease and other blood pressure-related causes. And when all causes of death were combined, even slow caffeine metabolizers had a longevity boost.

As in previous studies, coffee drinkers were more likely than abstainers to drink alcohol and smoke, but the researchers took those factors into account, and coffee drinking seemed to cancel them out.

The research didn't include whether participants drank coffee black or with cream and sugar. But Lichtenstein said loading coffee with extra fat and calories isn't healthy. AP

AD



## Gaming corporations to establish smoking lounges in 2019 must submit statutory application documents by 28<sup>th</sup> September 2018

In view that the review and approval of casino smoking lounges takes time, the Health Bureau would like to remind local gaming corporations again to submit to the Health Bureau, the statutory information and documents approved by the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau, the Fire Services Bureau and the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau by the deadline of 28<sup>th</sup> September 2018 for application. From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019, except in approved smoking lounges that accord with the "new regulations" of the Regime of Tobacco Prevention and Control, smoking will be banned in all casinos, including mass gaming floors and VIP rooms. For queries, please call 2855 6789 during office hours.

Health Bureau  
4<sup>th</sup> July 2018

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# Bono warns that existence of UN, EU and NATO are threatened

Edith M. Lederer, United Nations

**I**RISH rock star Bono warned that the United Nations and other international institutions including the European Union and NATO are under threat — and nations must work together to ensure their continued existence.

The Dublin-born U2 singer and activist gave a sobering speech to several hundred U.N. diplomats and staff at an event launching Ireland's candidacy for a seat on the powerful Security Council in 2021-22 saying "you can count on Ireland to do its part in that work."

While Bono didn't name any countries responsible for threatening global institutions during these "troubled times," his words appeared clearly aimed at U.S. President Donald Trump, who has criticized the EU and NATO. The American leader has also pulled out of the Paris climate agreement which the singer cited, and taken aim at the World Trade Organization with new U.S. tariffs, an institution Bono said is also under threat.

Speaking of the United Nations, Bono said, "I love that it exists, and I'll tell you, I don't take for granted that it exists, or that it will continue to exist because let's be honest, we live in a time when institutions as vital to human progress as the United Nations are under attack."

He then said the EU, NATO and the Group of Seven major



industrialized nations have also been threatened.

"And not just these institutions but what they stand for — an international order based on shared values and shared rules, an international order that is facing the greatest test in its 70-year history," Bono said. "Not just these institutions but what they've achieved is at risk."

On Sunday night, the Irish government invited ambassadors from the 192 other U.N. member nations to Bono's concert at Madison Square Garden as part of its launch for a council seat.

Bono, who is also a human rights and humanitarian activist and philanthropist, joked Monday evening that it was "unusual ha-

ving a load of ambassadors jumping up and down at a rock and roll show." He told the diplomats: "at least you weren't shouting at each other, so that was good."

But his speech was both his sobering assessment of the state of the world and an appeal to the diplomats to back Ireland for a council seat.

Ireland is expected to be in a three-way race against Canada and Norway for two seats reserved for Western nations on the Security Council. Elections to fill the seats for a two-year term will be held in June 2020.

Bono said Ireland's experience of colonialism, conflict, famine, mass migration "give us kind of a hard-earned expertise in these

problems, and empathy and I hope humility."

"If you look at the agenda of what the Security Council will be addressing in the coming years, doesn't it look a lot like us?," he asked.

Bono said he just came back from Canada and praised Prime Minister Justin Trudeau as "a remarkable leader who's put together the most diverse Cabinet on the planet."

"That Canada is nice is the worst thing I can say about them," he said.

As for Norway, he said, "who could ask for a better neighbor or committed peacemaker?"

"Here's the worst thing I can say about them, they're tall.

They're too tall," he said.

Bono, who is not tall, joked, "we bear no nation — even tall ones — any ill will."

But he said the world needs Ireland's storytelling talents and its ability to compromise "because that's how you achieve peace."

Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar formally launched Ireland's campaign for a council seat at the reception on the U.N.'s lawn that included Irish dancing and music — but no singing from Bono.

**Let's be honest, we live in a time when institutions as vital to human progress as the United Nations are under attack.**

BONO

"We see ourselves as an island at the center of the world," Varadkar said. "And we're deeply aware that in an interdependent world, the great challenges of our time do not know international boundaries."

Varadkar said Ireland's independence in 1921 out of war and violence, and its U.N. membership since 1955 have led the country to be a promoter of freedom and defender of human rights.

"The United Nations is the conscience of our humanity," he said. "In these troubled and uncertain times, as a global island we want to play our part in defending, supporting and promoting its values." AP

## FRANCE

# Escaped criminal had small team of loyal accomplices

Lori Hinnant, Alex Turnbull

**F**rench investigators believe a team of four or five loyal accomplices carried out the brazen prison helicopter escape of one of France's most notorious criminals.

The armed, masked men took a helicopter pilot hostage, forced him to land Sunday in Reau Prison's yard, used power tools to break through the prison yard's doors and hustled Redoine Faïd to freedom.

Faïd, a serial robber and murder convict, hasn't been seen since leaving the prison near Paris. French police have launched a massive manhunt for him.

Philippe Veroni, deputy director of France's organized crime police unit, said yesterday that Faïd had clearly planned the prison break carefully and had a band of accomplices willing to risk everything. "This kind of person thinks about nothing except how to escape," Veroni said. "He thinks about it, he reflects on it. It's his entire life under incarceration."

Faïd's brother, Brahim, was visiting him at the time of the escape. He was detained immediately afterward and freed late Monday.

"I have nothing to do with the escape," he told BFM television. Brahim

Faïd's lawyer, Keren Safar, said Redoine told his brother that someone was coming to get him and to stay where he was.

"Brahim Faïd was stunned, he was shocked by the situation. And all he did was wait for the prison guards to come," she said.

Investigators are also looking into whether Faïd had help from inside the prison. "If we didn't ask, we wouldn't be doing our jobs," he said.

Staying on the run will become increasingly expensive for Faïd as he tries to avoid capture, but authorities said they have no clear sense of how much money the serial robber of

banks and armored trucks had stashed away from his previous crimes.

Faïd has escaped from behind bars before — the previous time he used explosives hidden in tissues.

Nicole Belloubet, France's justice minister, has come under increasing criticism for the flawed security around Faïd. Speaking to skeptical lawmakers yesterday, she promised a report within two weeks detailing security shortcomings and said she would "accept all the consequences."

A prison guard union member had said the helicopter landed in the only area of Reau Prison that did not have anti-helicop-



This photo taken on Sunday, and provided by the AP on the condition that its source not be revealed shows the abandoned helicopter

ter protections. Months ago, a drone was spotted over the prison, which authorities now think may have been used to scope out an escape route.

The 46-year-old Faïd was serving 25 years for the 2010 death of a young police officer killed during a botched robbery. In the

1990s, he led a gang involved in robbing banks and armored vans.

Veroni would not speculate on how long Faïd could remain on the run.

"There are getaways that can last even longer than the sentence itself," he said. "That doesn't keep us from working on it." AP

## what's ON



SCULPTURE – A JOURNEY, EXHIBITION BY ANTONIO LEÇA

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

UNTIL: October 21, 2018

VENUE: A2 Gallery, Albergue SCM

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550

EXHIBITION OF SHIWAN CERAMICS FROM THE MAM COLLECTION

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

UNTIL: August 12, 2018

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

IN LOVE WITH MACAU – CALLIGRAPHY AND PAINTINGS OF MACAU

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

UNTIL: August 12, 2018

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE

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

VENUE: Macau Science Center

ADMISSION: MOP25 (Exhibition Centre)

MOP60 (Planetarium 2D dome or 2D

sky shows)

MOP80 (Planetarium 3D dome or 3D

sky shows)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

EXHIBITION OF NEW WORKS IN MAM COLLECTION

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

UNTIL: October 26, 2018

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

KAMEN RIDER EXHIBITION (MACAU)

TIME: 1pm-8pm daily (last entrance 7:30pm)

UNTIL: August 26, 2018

VENUE: 2/F Exhibition Hall, Broadway Macau

ADMISSION: MOP128, MOP180 (Tickets are available at Kong Seng Ticketing Service [www.macaoticket.com](http://www.macaoticket.com))

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2855 5555

## Offbeat

## PERSON, 'FEELING GUILTY,' PAYS 44-YEAR-OLD PARKING TICKET

A person has cleared their conscience by paying a 44-year-old parking ticket.

The Minersville, Pennsylvania, Police Department received a letter last week with USD5 and a note inside. The return address was "Feeling guilty, Wayward Road, Anytown, Ca."

Police Chief Michael Combs tells WNEP-TV the note said, "Dear PD, I've been carrying this ticket around for 40 plus years. Always intending to pay. Forgive me if I don't give you my info. With respect, Dave."

The fine for the 1974 parking ticket in the eastern Pennsylvania town was \$2. But the person added \$3 for interest. The same ticket today would be \$20.

Combs says the ticket was for a car with Ohio license plates, but the department did not have the technology to track out-of-state vehicles.

## TV canal macau



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

## Cinema



CINETEATRO

04 JUL



ANT-MAN AND THE WASP

ROOM 1

2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30pm

Director: Peyton Reed

Starring: Paul Rudd, Evangeline Lilly, Michael Douglas

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 118min



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

7:30pm

Director: Gary Ross

Starring: Sandra Bullock, Cate Blanchett, Anne Hathway

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 110min

COLORS OF WIND

ROOM 3

2:15, 9:30pm

Director: Kwak Jae-Young

Starring: Furukawa Yuki, Fujii Takemi

Language: Japanese (Chinese &amp; English)

JURASSIC WORLD: FALLEN KINGDOM

ROOM 1

4:30, 7:00pm

Director: J.A. Bayona

Starring: Chris Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard, BD Wong

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 135min

## this day in history



## 1976 ISRAELIS RESCUE ENTEBBE HOSTAGES

Israeli commandos have rescued 100 hostages, mostly Israelis or Jews, held by pro-Palestinian hijackers at Entebbe airport in Uganda.

At about 0100 local time (2200GMT), Ugandan soldiers and the hijackers were taken completely by surprise when three Hercules transport planes landed after a 2,500-mile trip from Israel.

About 200 elite troops ran out and stormed the airport building.

During a 35-minute battle, 20 Ugandan soldiers and all seven hijackers died along with three hostages.

The leader of the assault force, Lieutenant Colonel Yonatan Netanyahu, was also shot dead by a Ugandan sentry.

The Israelis destroyed 11 Russian-built MiG fighters, which amounted to a quarter of Uganda's air force.

The surviving hostages were then flown to Israel with a stopover in Nairobi, Kenya, where some of the injured were treated by Israeli doctors and at least two transferred to hospital there.

Speaking at the Israeli Knesset (parliament) this afternoon, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin who ordered the raid said: "This operation will certainly be inscribed in the annals of military history, in legend and in national tradition."

The crisis began on 27 June, when four militants seized an Air France flight, flying from Israel to Paris via Athens, with 250 people on board.

The hijackers - two from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and two from Germany's Baader-Meinhof gang - diverted the plane to Entebbe, where it arrived on 28 June.

The hijackers - who were joined by three more colleagues - demanded the release of 53 militants held in jails in Israel and four other countries.

Uganda's President and dictator Idi Amin arrived at the airport to give a speech in support of the PFLP and supplied the hijackers with extra troops and weapons.

On 1 July, the hijackers released a large number of hostages but continued to hold captive the remaining 100 passengers who were Israelis or Jews.

Those who were freed were flown to Paris and London.

Among them were British citizens George Good, a retired accountant and Tony Russell, a senior GLC official, who arrived in London on Friday.

The crew were offered the chance to go but chose to stay with the plane. The remaining hostages were transferred to the airport building.

The hijackers then set a deadline for 1100GMT for their demands to be met or they would blow up the airliner and its passengers. But their plan was foiled by the dramatic Israeli raid.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The mission, originally dubbed Operation Thunderbolt by the Israeli military, was renamed Operation Yonatan in honour of Netanyahu - elder brother of Binyamin Netanyahu, who was Israel's Prime Minister from 1996 to 1999.

The raid continues to be source of pride for the Israeli public, and many of the participants went on to high office in Israel's military and political establishment.

Among them was Dan Shomron, who was in overall command of the rescue operation. He became Chief of Staff of the Israel Defence Force. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated during his second term in office in 1995.

Idi Amin was humiliated by the surprise raid. He believed Kenya had colluded with Israel in planning the raid and hundreds of Kenyans living in Uganda were massacred soon afterwards.

But from this time, Amin's regime began to break down.

Two years later Idi Amin was forced into exile in Saudi Arabia. He died in Jeddah in August 2003.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Any weight you've been feeling pushing down on your shoulders lightens considerably today.

Taurus April 20-May 20 You need to take some time right now to prepare yourself for the next several days.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 When you ride a roller coaster, are you the type to hold on for dear life and close your eyes until it's over?

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 It's time for you to let someone else make some of the decisions in your life.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Lately you've been starting a lot of admirable projects - but you've fallen a bit short on the follow-through.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Today is an excellent day to gauge your progress, so take some time to look around you and assess your situation.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Today it's very important for you to find a balance between putting forth effort and putting up your feet.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 An aggressive person has their eye on a big part of your territory, so you'll need to be on the ball when they're around today.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Worrying too much about how others perceive you could hold up your progress considerably.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Inspiration comes in many forms today, so try to keep your mind open - and get rid of any (and all) expectations you may have for this day.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Just like an onion, the relationships in your life have many layers - and as you dig deeper, tears could result.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 The line between your private and public worlds is in danger of being crossed today - someone from one side wants to come over to the other.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

Table listing weather conditions for various Chinese cities like Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

WORLD

Table listing weather conditions for various world cities like Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, etc.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- "All the Way" lyricist Sammy; 5- Father of Leah and Rachel; 10- Captain of the Pequod; 14- \_\_\_ take arms against...; 15- Graceful birds; 16- Sandy tract; 17- In spite of; 20- Second-year students, for short; 21- Sugar suffix; 22- Continental cash; 23- 911 respondent; 25- Sir \_\_\_ Newton was an English mathematician; 27- Falls back; 31- Visions; 35- Dies \_\_\_; 36- Established procedure; 38- Summer sign; 39- El \_\_\_ (Spanish hero); 40- Letters on a Cardinal's cap; 41- Engage in espionage; 42- Watchdog warning; 43- Andean tuber; 44- Ready to go; 46- Irritate; 47- Annoyance; 49- Goes before; 51- Singer LaBelle; 53- Hightailed it; 54- Clan symbol; 57- From \_\_\_ Z; 59- Noted Civil War biography; 63- Direct; 66- Eccentric; 67- Tooth; 68- Years in old Rome; 69- Chamber workers; Abbr.; 70- \_\_\_ evil...; 71- \_\_\_ majesty;

DOWN: 1- Hustles; 2- Buck follower; 3- Web address starter; 4- Not anywhere; 5- D-Day craft; 6- Horton Hears \_\_\_; 7- One who plays the long-necked guitar; 8- Pays to play; 9- D.C. advisory grp.; 10- Bring forward; 11- One who has something coming?; 12- Part of A.D.; 13- Panhandles; 18- Woe \_\_\_; 19- Almost; 24- Small, sassy woman; 26- Power plug transformer; 27- Big name in copiers; 28- "Fear of Flying" author Jong; 29- Triumphant cries; 30- Work the soil; 32- Chilly; 33- Actress Oberon; 34- Sensitive spots; 37- Customer; 40- Italian sausage; 45- Saliva; 46- Subscription continuation; 48- Talks; 50- Singer Vikki; 52- Lake in the Sierra Nevada; 54- Sounds of disapproval; 55- Oklahoma Indian; 56- 1982 Disney film; 58- In the blink \_\_\_ eye; 60- Alley; 61- Sea birds; 62- "What I Am" singer Brickell; 64- Baseball execs; 65- Acapulco gold;



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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 details on various properties in Macau, including Choi Long Meng Chui, Old Macau, The Buckingham, Violet Court, Lakeview, Warehouse, and Fountainside.

Pan Pylas, Kazan

**C**HANGING coaches on the eve of the World Cup can be fraught with danger. Just look at Spain. For Japan, the decision to sack Vahid Halilhodzic just two months before the World Cup appears to have been justified despite the team's last-minute defeat to Belgium in the round of 16 on yesterday [Macau time]. Japan was leading 2-0 early in the second half in Rostov-On-Don before Belgium came back to win 3-2 with a scintillating counterattack in the last seconds of injury time.

It was a cruel blow for Japan, which appeared to have taken control of the match through goals from Genki Haraguchi and Takashi Inui. "Devastating," was how coach Akira Nishino described the loss.

The shock of the defeat — the first time a team has lost a World Cup knockout match outright after leading by two goals since West Germany defeated England 3-2 in a 1970 quarterfinal — will clearly take some time to come to terms with.

But Japan can take immense pride from its performance both in the Belgium match and in the tournament as a whole. Four years after a hugely disappointing campaign in Brazil, Japan entered the World Cup as one of the lowest-ranked sides. Few expected the Blue Samurai to get out of their group, not least because of the change at the top.

But following victory over Colombia and a draw with Senegal, Japan advanced from its group despite a 1-0 defeat to Poland in its final group match. Admitte-



## WORLD CUP 2018 Changing coach breathed life into Japan's campaign

dly, its progress was down to the fact that it received fewer yellow cards than Senegal after the teams could not be separated on points, goal difference or goals scored.

Still, it was a triumph of sorts for a team that had been fairly uninspiring during Asian qualifying. Fans across Japan had grown pessimistic about the team's prospects in the World Cup and bemoaned its habit of grinding out results.

Japanese football can be joyous and free-flowing, but the team's performances in the run-up to

the World Cup were stilted and cause for concern. A 4-1 defeat to South Korea was followed by a 1-1 draw against Mali, and subsequently a 2-1 loss to Ukraine.

During that run, it was clear that relations between the Bos-

nian coach Halilhodzic and the players had deteriorated, and the Japanese Football Association made the decision to replace the coach in order to foster unity ahead of the World Cup. Halilhodzic had tried to turn a Japanese team with a fluid passing tradition into a counterattacking unit. He also, to the consternation of many in Japan, dropped three leading players at times: Keisuke Honda, Shinji Kagawa and Shinji Okazaki.

Nishino, who was the JFA's technical director, was given the task of rebuilding trust in the Ja-

pan camp, and the team's performances in Russia show that the players responded positively.

Nishino paid tribute to his predecessor, arguing that Halilhodzic had "nurtured this team." Though Nishino said he kept the core of Halilhodzic's tactics, he wanted to "add something."

That something was fairly clear in Russia. Japan played with a more attacking identity and a lot more freedom. Nishino encouraged his players to express themselves without fear of failure. Although he instructed his team to "stay put" and play passively in the closing minutes against Poland because a 1-0 loss would be good enough to advance, he said the strategy was "regrettable" and pledged to return to an aggressive style.

He kept his word against Belgium. Even after Belgium equalized, Japan kept trying to win instead of playing for extra time or a penalty shootout — the fallback tactic for World Cup underdogs that Russia executed successfully against Spain.

The risky approach may have ultimately cost Nishino's team in the final seconds. With the clock ticking toward extra time, Japan looked to score from a corner, but Belgium had other ideas, catching Japan off guard with a 10-second counterattack that culminated with Nacer Chadli's winner.

"I think it was me who might have lost control of the game," the 63-year-old Nishino said. "When the goal was conceded, I blamed myself, and I question my tactics." Few in Japan are likely to blame Nishino for what was a thrilling, and wholly unexpected, World Cup ride. AP

## Brazil fan who is deaf, blind follows tournament with help

Sarah DiLorenzo

**L**IKE fans all over football-mad Brazil, Carlos Junior followed every move the national team made on the field Monday in its 2-0 victory over Mexico. He wiped his brow every time Mexico closed in but failed to score. He banged the table or a drum when Brazil took a shot and missed. And he jumped up and down and hugged friends when Neymar finally put the ball in the net in the 51st minute.

But Junior did not watch or listen to the game the way most Brazilians did. Instead, the 31-year-old massage therapist who is deaf and blind experienced the match with the help of interpreters using touch communication and a model football field to recount

the passes, goals and fouls of the national team.

Junior's love of football and his way of following the World Cup moved many in Latin America's largest nation after a friend posted a video of him keeping up with Brazil's group game against Costa Rica. The video caught the attention of national and international media and has been shared and seen by millions online.

"The moment you do this, you show that a deaf and blind person is the same as any other person," Junior, who communicates with tactile sign language, said of the video and its wide viewership.

On Monday, Junior and a handful of other people with sight and hearing losses gathered at a cultural center in Sao Paulo to

follow the game with the help of interpreters.

Junior has followed football for as long as he can remember. He has Usher syndrome, which causes hearing and vision problems. While born deaf, he was able to see as a child and even played goalkeeper on a team for deaf youth. At 14, his vision began to deteriorate, and he was fully blind by 23. He continued to cheer for his beloved Sao Paulo with the help of his father.

"Before my dad would take my hand and say, 'Ehh! Look there! A goal! A goal!' But information was missing," Junior said. "I wanted to know if the ball hit the crossbar, what side was it on, the right side or the left side."

It was then that Helio Fonseca de Araujo, who is

a sign language interpreter, proposed the idea of using a model field. De Araujo had seen Maria Stella Nunes speak once about the field she built for her husband, who is deaf and has low vision and had asked for the model. Nunes interpreted Monday's game for her husband, Carlos Roberto Lopes Nunes, at the same cultural center where Junior followed the game.

Araujo then improved upon the original idea, building a bigger field and adding in the idea of using a second interpreter to give even more game information in real time.

The system they have developed is this: Junior places his hands on the interpreter's. One hand represents the ball, the other the player who has possession. The interpreter moves his



Carlos Junior, who is both deaf and blind, experiences the match between Brazil and Mexico with the help of an interpreter who uses tactile signing and a model football field

hands around the model field to indicate the action. Meanwhile, another interpreter draws on Junior's back, communicating which team and even which player [by tracing the player's number] has the ball. Through his haptic, or touch, communication, the interpreter can also note fouls, yellow or red cards, blocks and saves.

During the regular season, Junior often makes do by following games via text summaries posted online that a device translates

into Braille for him. But for major games, he calls on de Araujo and others like him. The technique is so good that Junior even knew in previous games when Neymar fell down, or when Brazil coach Tite hurt himself while celebrating the team's win over Costa Rica.

"Even though they [deaf and blind people] don't have access to lots of information, that doesn't hinder their lives," de Araujo said. "If society adapts to them, they can live normally." AP

WORLD CUP 2018

# Forsberg delivers, Sweden reaches quarterfinals

Steve Douglas, St. Petersburg

**T**HE heir to Zlatan Ibrahimovic finally delivered for Sweden at the World Cup. Emil Forsberg scored a deflected goal in the 66th minute to give the Swedes a 1-0 victory over Switzerland yesterday and a place in the World Cup quarterfinals for the first time in 24 years.

Shy and understated, the 26-year-old Forsberg couldn't be more different than the larger-than-life Ibrahimovic, who ruled the Sweden team for more than a decade and was the greatest player the country ever produced.

But Forsberg arrived in Russia shouldering the creative burden left by Ibrahimovic



Emil Forsberg (center) celebrates with teammates

following his retirement two years ago, and the attacking midfielder's skills and slick movement stood out at St. Petersburg Stadium.

The edge of the area was likely heading straight for Switzerland goalkeeper Yann Sommer, but it took a deflection off the boot of center back Manuel Akanji and landed in the net.

In stoppage time, Michael Lang was sent off for Switzerland for a professional foul on Sweden substitute Martin Olsson. The referee initially awarded a penalty kick but later gave a free kick after a video review.

Sweden became the fifth European team to reach the quarterfinals and will play either England or Colombia on Saturday in Samara.

The last time Sweden made it this far at the World Cup was in 1994, when the team reached the semifinals. **AP**

## Loew staying on as Germany coach despite exit



Germany coach Joachim Loew is staying on despite the team's shock first-round World Cup exit. The German football federation (DFB) announced yesterday it was informed by Loew that he wished to remain and "rebuild the team." In turn, the DFB promised him support, and he was "trusted to draw the right conclusions from the World Cup exit." The decision comes five days after Germany, the defending champion, finished bottom of its group after losses to Mexico and South Korea. "We had a very open and honest exchange in which we spoke about a lot of points. We are all convinced that in Loew we have a national coach who will analyze very precisely, take the right steps and lead our team back on the path of success," DFB president Reinhard Grindel said.

# Nigeria captain hid dad's abduction, played match

Gerald Imray, Nizhny Novgorod

**N**IGERIA captain John Obi Mikel played in a crucial World Cup match against Argentina four hours after being told his father had been kidnapped for ransom back home and would be shot if anyone talked to the police.

"I had to shut it out of my head and go and represent my country first," Mikel said. Mikel decided to hide the news from his teammates and coach so as not to destabilize the team and went ahead and played the game in Russia, the midfielder said in a statement released by his management company yesterday.

Mikel's father, Michael Obi, was rescued from armed kidnappers by Nigerian police following a shootout in a remote, forest area in southeastern Nigeria on Monday. That allowed the player to talk about the incident publicly. Police said Michael Obi, who was rescued along with his driver, had "recovered from the trauma of the kidnap." It was the second time Michael Obi had been



Nigeria captain John Obi Mikel

kidnapped in Nigeria. Mikel said he received a telephone call in St. Petersburg last Tuesday telling him of his father's abduction as the Nigeria team was heading to the stadium to play in the World Cup against Lionel Messi and Argentina.

Nigeria lost 2-1 after a late Argentina goal and was eliminated from the World Cup as a result. "I was emotionally distraught but had to make a decision about whether I was mentally

ready to play the game," Mikel said in his statement. "I was confused. I did not know what to do, but in the end I knew that I could not let 180 million Nigerians down.

"I could not even inform the coaches or NFF [Nigeria Football Federation] staff, and only a very tight circle of [...] my friends knew. I was told that they would shoot my dad instantly if I reported to the authorities or told anybody."

The kidnappers demanded a ransom of USD28,000 for Mikel's father, according to Nigerian police in the southeastern state where his father was rescued.

But police spokesman Ebere Amaraizu told The Associated Press that Michael Obi was rescued along with his driver after a shootout and no ransom was paid. The two men had been held by the kidnappers for nearly a week after being abducted on a road while traveling from the central city of Jos to a funeral in the southeastern state of Enugu.

Kidnappings for ransom targeting family members of wealthy people are common in Nigeria, an oil-rich nation of nearly 200 million people and Africa's most populous country.

Mikel, one of Nigeria's most successful players, was at Chelsea in the Premier League from 2006-17. He moved to Chinese club Tianjin Teda last year.

His father was also kidnapped in 2011, when the kidnappers demanded a \$4 billion ransom from Chelsea.

On that occasion, Michael Obi was kidnapped in Jos and rescued in the northern city of Kano, 190 miles away, 10 days later.

Mikel said he desperately wanted to talk about his father's latest kidnapping with Nigeria coach Gernot Rohr at the World Cup but thought it would upset the team, and so kept quiet.

"I did not want my issue to become a distraction to the coach or the rest of the team on the day of such an important game," Mikel said. "So as much as I wanted to discuss it with the coach, I could not do it. Thankfully he [Mikel's father] is now safely released." **AP**

## Poland coach fired after 2-loss, 1-win

The head of the Polish Football Federation says national coach Adam Nawalka will not have his contract extended after Poland failed to advance from the group phase at the World Cup. Nawalka will stay in the job only until July 30. In Group H games in Russia, Poland lost to Senegal 2-1, and to Colombia 3-0. Poland beat only Japan 1-0. Nawalka said he felt responsible for the team failing to meet expectations at the World Cup, and did not do a very good job choosing the players. He has coached Poland since November 2013.

## Real Madrid denies report of USD360m offer to buy Neymar

Real Madrid has denied a report that it has offered to buy Neymar from Paris Saint-Germain for a world record transfer of 310 million euros (USD360 million). Madrid says the report by Spanish public broadcaster TVE is "absolutely untrue," adding the team "made no offer of any kind to PSG or the player." The statement was published hours after Neymar scored to help Brazil beat Mexico 2-0 and advance to the World Cup quarterfinals. Paris Saint-Germain is under pressure from UEFA to raise cash from selling players. The French club needs to help comply with "Financial Fair Play" rules which monitor overspending on transfers and wages. PSG spent a record 222 million euros (\$260 million) last year by buy Neymar from Barcelona. UEFA warned the French champions three weeks ago they will "remain under close scrutiny" when they submit accounts for the financial year, which ended last Saturday.

### ROUND OF SIXTEEN

France	4	3	Argentina
Uruguay	2	1	Portugal
Spain	1	1 (3 - 4 on penalties)	Russia
Croatia	1	1 (3 - 2 on penalties)	Denmark
Brazil	2	0	Mexico
Belgium	3	2	Japan
Sweden	1	0	Switzerland

opinion

**Macau Matters**

Richard Whitfield



**COFFEE RECYCLING**

The natural world is an excellent recycler – biological processes consume natural resources to live and produce waste, and other processes then further “eat” those wastes and the cycle continues. Carnivores eat herbivores which eat plants; when they die the carcasses of animals and plants are decomposed by microbes and become plant food. Humanity is not a good recycler and we are gradually destroying the environment that sustains us by consuming resources to create products and wastes that are not (or cannot be) recycled. Burning fossil fuels to generate energy and load the atmosphere with CO2 is the classic example.

Another case is coffee. It is an increasingly popular drink all round the world. You take the seeds from the berries of the coffee plant, roast them and then grind them up into a powder. You then filter hot water through the coffee powder to create a flavoursome drink and throw away the used coffee grounds. These used coffee grounds then mostly end up in landfills where they anaerobically decompose with methane gas being a resulting waste product. Among other things, methane is a greenhouse gas which is 34 times more potent than CO2!

Pollution and environmental issues are increasingly important in this region. China, for one, has major environmental problems that are garnering ever increasing government and community attention and action. Measures to contain pollution are also receiving much greater attention in Macau. These trends will only continue and there will be ever increasing demand to reduce polluting activities.

In keeping with this trend towards reducing pollution and recycling wastes, people can scatter coffee grounds in their gardens to improve their soils. Even better, coffee grounds can be used in composting to create an excellent soil fertilizer. Composting is the aerobic decomposition of vegetable matter that does not product methane. Coffee grounds are rich in nitrogen, phosphorous, zinc, and iron and adding 20% coffee grounds to compost makes an especially good soil conditioner for subsequently growing vegetables. Coffee grounds also encourage the growth of microbes and worms that are an essential part of composting – they “eat” the decomposing plant matter to release the nutrients. In this way waste coffee grounds become an excellent gardening and farming resource and do not release methane into the atmosphere, thus reducing global warming.

There is a very good social enterprise in Melbourne, Australia ([www.reground.com.au](http://www.reground.com.au)) that collects used coffee grounds from food outlets and delivers it to individuals, community gardens and other organizations where it is used as a feedstock for composting. Cafés and the like are happy to pay a small subscription to cover the collection and redistribution costs for the waste coffee grounds because they receive a recycling certification and can promote their good environmental practices to customers. The cost is small and the marketing value is large because most people understand and appreciate being “environment friendly”, even if some governments do not.

In Macau we, and the many, many tourists who visit here, drink a lot of coffee. We also have a lot of casinos and public spaces with extensive gardens, and just across the border we have a lot of market gardens. All of these need good compost. I am sure that an organization like Reground could be set up here and be very successful. I suspect that extending the idea to Hong Kong and China in the future would also be a “no brainer”. Anybody interested?

**THE CHINA ISSUES WARNING FOR CITIZENS TRAVELING TO UNITED STATES**

China has issued a safety warning to its citizens traveling to the United States amid rising tensions between the sides over accusations of unfair trading practices and other disputes.

The warning issued late last week and posted on the Website of the Chinese Embassy in Washington touches on issues from the high cost of medical treatment in the U.S. to the importance of guarding against crime and ter-

rorist attacks and the powers wielded by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents.

In Beijing, Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said yesterday that China’s government was merely fulfilling its duty to warn travelers of “potential dangers.”

U.S. tariffs meant to punish China for allegedly unfair trading practices are due to take effect Friday. Friction has also grown over the South China Sea and Taiwan.

JAPAN

**Plan setting ambitious nuke energy goals approved**

Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

JAPAN yesterday approved an energy plan that sets ambitious targets for nuclear energy use and sustains a struggling program for spent-fuel recycling despite setbacks after the 2011 Fukushima disaster.

The plan approved by the Cabinet noted for the first time the need to draw down the plutonium stockpile, given international security concerns. The stockpile results from technical challenges in achieving fuel recycling and from slow restarts of reactors to burn it amid widespread anti-nuclear sentiment.

Japan repeatedly has stated its commitment to transparency and appropriate handling of the plutonium, but the U.S. in particular has raised concerns in recent years. It has urged Japan to suspend the planned launch of its key reprocessing plant in northern Japan’s Rokkasho. It is in the final stages of safety approvals that have been postponed more than 20 times due to technical issues.

Japan is scrapping its failed plutonium-burning test reactor Monju, which was meant to be the centerpiece of its fuel recycling program. It never really functioned after a 1995 accident, causing a major setback to Japan’s plutonium balance.

Despite criticism and oppo-



Cleaning works at the troubled Fukushima nuclear plant

sition, Japan is still seeking to develop a replacement for it.

“The energy plan makes clearer our commitment to reducing the amount” of plutonium, Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Hiroshige Seko told reporters. “The government will actively work to appropriately manage, use and reduce the plutonium.”

The plan, however, did not give a timeline or other details for shrinking the stockpile.

Japan has nearly 47 tons of plutonium, more than three-quarters of which is kept in France and Britain where Japanese spent fuel has been reprocessed since Japan is not able to reprocess it into plutonium-based MOX fuel pellets at home. The total is enough to make 6,000 atomic bombs, though the Rokkasho plant operator has insisted there is no risk of proliferation, saying all plutonium is stored safely and closely monitored by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The energy plan calls for further development of renewable energy but still stipulates that nuclear energy should account for 20 to 22 percent of Japan’s power generation by fiscal 2030. It sets a 22 to 24 percent target for renewable energy, with the remainder coming from fossil fuels in line with goals set in 2015. The plan urges further progress in meeting pledges to reduce carbon emissions by 80 percent from 2013 levels by fiscal 2050.

Experts say attaining that goal is almost impossible since utilities are opting to scrap aging reactors rather than to invest in meeting tighter post-disaster safety standards. Uncertainty over what to do with massive radioactive waste in the crowded and earthquake-prone island nation is another big concern.

Japanese utilities have decided to scrap 19 reactors, cutting the number of usable reactors to 35. AP

**THE DECISIVE MOMENT**

AP Photo/Firdia Lisnawati



Tourists watch Mount Agung erupt in Karangasem, Bali, Indonesia. The volcano on the Indonesian tourist island of Bali erupted Monday evening, ejecting a 2,000-meter-high column of thick ash and hurling lava down its slopes.

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

SOURCE: DSI/MG

**WORLD BRIEFS**



IRAN issued a new warning over Mideast oil supplies as the United Arab Emirates said yesterday it could increase its own production, the latest remarks to follow President Donald Trump’s demand for lower global energy prices.

**ISRAEL-PALESTINE**

The Israeli military said yesterday it had uncovered a plot by Hamas militants to spy on soldiers by befriending them on social media and then luring them into downloading fake dating applications that gave Hamas access to their smartphones.



POLAND An aide to the Polish President says the Supreme Court’s chief justice has no choice but to retire even though she says her term runs until 2020 under the Constitution of Poland. The forced resignation of Supreme Court First President Malgorzata Gersdorf comes as a new law takes effect that lowers the mandatory retirement age for justices from 70 to 65, forcing more than a third out.



FRANCE Investigators believe a team of four or five loyal accomplices carried out the brazen prison helicopter escape of one of France’s most notorious criminals, Redoine Faïd. More on p15

MEXICO’s President-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador is at the country’s National Palace to meet with current President Enrique Pena Nieto about his transition to office in December.