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The Macau Security Force Superior School is planning to improve the school's dormitories and facilities

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## WORLD BRIEFS

**CHINA** An Australian citizen and former executive of the mining giant Rio Tinto was released from prison in Shanghai yesterday after serving a sentence on corruption charges, the Chinese foreign ministry said.



**MALAYSIA** Former Prime Minister Najib Razak was charged yesterday with criminal breach of trust and corruption, two months after a multibillion-dollar graft scandal at a state investment fund led to his stunning election defeat. More on p13

**INDIA**'s government says it has asked WhatsApp to take "immediate action" to prevent the social media platform from being misused to spread rumors and irresponsible statements like those blamed for recent deadly mob attacks in the country. More on p12

**RUSSIA** A committee of the Russian parliament has recommended the adoption of a proposed law that would require journalists working for media outlets designated as foreign agents to register as agents themselves.



**ISRAEL-PALESTINE** Israeli police are scuffling with activists protesting the planned demolition of a Bedouin hamlet in the West Bank.

More on backpage

## HONG KONG

# Court upholds decision on same-sex couple

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# Mothers against central hospital's policy regarding births, ultrasounds

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## Tam says no interference in private life matters

Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam has said he is no one to interfere in private activities, responding to online sources which implicated sex crime suspect Mo Shijian, the former Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Macau (UM). The sources claim that Mo Shijian invited female students to meals and for possible sex purposes on other occasions. Tam claimed that he was unaware of the information, reiterating his hope that UM can continue hiring professors with a strong work ethic.

## 2,000 rodents seized every year

On average, the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) and the Health Bureau seize more than 2,000 rodents every year. Biannually, IACM carries out rodent control in five districts across the city in locations that include hidden areas, such as ditches. IACM has been putting out bait boxes on public streets. In the beginning, only 200 boxes were set out. Now there are approximately 800 bait boxes.

## Construction of flood discharge project planned for Q4

The Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) has received 11 tenders for the Inner Harbor rainwater pumping station and drainage culvert. The project is expected to improve the drainage capacity of the Inner Harbor. Construction is expected to start in the fourth quarter of this year and it is recommended that the construction period does not exceed 900 working days. This project has a rainwater collection area of 46.5 hectares and flood discharge capacity is 14.28 cubic meters per second.

# Police school plans campus expansion and revamp

MACAU Security Force Superior School (ESFSM) is planning to improve the school's dormitories and facilities, Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak said yesterday on the sidelines of the ESFSM's 30th anniversary ceremony.

"I hope there can be a plan within this year," said Wong, who explained that the expected improvements include new training technologies and facilities.

"The campus is rather worn out and the relevant teaching facilities can't keep up with new security issues," said Wong.

Meanwhile, the academy is planning to use the city's cur-



rent Coloane Prison land after the new prison, located in Ka Ho, is put into operation.

"Several security departments are working on the campus, including the Police Dog Unit.

[...] In 2019, the building of the Police Dog Unit should be ready, which will give us extra space to make plans," said Hoi Sio Iong, president of ESFSM, who also said, "the campus has been used for 30 years, [we] will make a new overall study [and consider] whether we can build a pool and add another floor [to the building]."

In addition, Hoi disclosed that ESFSM hopes to offer a master's degree, at the earliest, in the academic year 2019-2020.

"It depends on the progress of [the] law amendment," said Hoi, explaining that for ESFSM to offer a master's degree, it requires that the city amends the laws relating to school management. **JZ**

## MSAR records improvement in real estate transparency

MACAU has risen in the rankings of property consultancy firm JLL's biannual Global Real Estate Transparency Index 2018, becoming a "semi-transparent" market.

The rise, one of the steepest seen in this year's ranking, is associated with the local government's recent efforts to tackle money laundering, as well as its embrace of increased monitoring by financial regulators.

Macau now ranks 60th on a list of 100 jurisdictions worldwide, just below Argentina and above Vietnam. This represents a 10-spot increase from the 2016 index.

As a region, Asia-Pacific has made the strongest transparency gains in JLL's index, led by jurisdictions including Macau, Myanmar, Thailand and India.

Leading the list were the Anglophone countries of the United Kingdom (1), Australia (2), the United States (3) and Canada (5), which qualified as "highly transparent". France placed fourth on the list.

Meanwhile, Singapore (12) edged out Hong Kong (13) to top the list of "transparent"

jurisdictions. China is ranked 33rd, the highest among the "semi-transparent" cohort, while Taiwan is 26th, one spot below Portugal. The worst performers on the list were Libya and Venezuela.

On several occasions last year, the MSAR was praised for actions taken to combat money laundering, including closer financial supervision of the gaming and junket industry.

Nevertheless, Macau was given mixed reviews at a meeting of the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering last year, when member states concluded that local authorities lacked willingness to prosecute and had low conviction rates for money laundering crimes.

The Global Real Estate Transparency Index is updated every two years and records the evolution of real estate transparency. It is based on a combination of quantitative market data and survey results. It takes into account factors such as market fundamentals, the regulatory and legal framework and governance of listed vehicles.

## MGM holds seminar on Chinese culture



MGM organized the "Seminar on the Development of Chinese Tradition and Culture" for some 300 team members at MGM Cotai last week, which aimed to explore the historical roots and core values of Chinese traditions and cultures.

The seminar is one of the highlights of the gaming operator's Talent Development Series, with the objective to cultivate local talent and develop the SAR into the tourism education and training hub.

CEO and executive director of MGM China Grant Bowie kicked off the seminar with a speech stressing the importance of understanding Chinese culture.

"Our future is determined by our understanding and appreciation of our past. This seminar aims to ignite enthusiasm of our team members to understand and have a greater appreciation on how we are so lucky today to be part of this rich history of China."

"More importantly, the understanding of the Chinese culture can inspire us on how to create a stronger and more vibrant China in the future," he added.

The gaming operator has invited Mao Feng, a professor from the Beijing Normal University to speak at the seminar. Mao Feng is also the Project Director of "The Chinese Dreams - Strategic Study of National Communication," endorsed by The National Social Science Fund of China.

At the seminar, he noted, "every country develops along its own distinctive path," recalling that the country has a history of over 5,000 years, claiming that its culture remains as China's most significant strengths.

The seminar was supported by the Economic Affairs Department of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the MSAR. **LV**

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# Mothers raise doubts over hospital's policy regarding births, exams

Lynzy Valles

**S**EVERAL mothers have expressed concern over hospitals' policy of not allowing fathers to attend pregnancy ultrasound examinations, a significant moment for parents.

In other countries and regions, family members are allowed to attend a pregnancy ultrasound in hospitals and to be present during the birth. Yet, that is not the case at the Hospital Conde S. Januário, where "privacy reasons" are invoked to prevent significant others from attending pregnancy ultrasound examinations. To attend their children's births, only fathers with special permission from the hospital director (and under special conditions, such as the absence of other mothers in the maternity ward) are allowed.

Since they are not permitted to have a companion in the public hospital, some expecting mothers are opting to go to private clinics.

The Times spoke to several mothers about the issue. Some, particularly first-time mothers, were upset with the policy. "I didn't know that fathers were not allowed in the ultrasound room, so when we got there, that was the first time we found out," said Judith Caragay.

Caragay, who was a first-time mother, remarked that there are significant numbers of pregnant women who are sensitive about their pregnancy and need support from their partners.

"Especially during birth delivery, particularly if it's C-section, it's always better to have one's partner in the room for you to be able to draw strength from because it's not easy, it's scary."

Echoing the same sentiments, Mayi Pacada expressed

RENATO MARQUES



frustrations over the policy, which also forbids fathers from attending the childbirth delivery.

"I hope the policy allows fathers during labor until the childbirth delivery. It can help us physically and emotionally, since that is the kind of support the hospital cannot give," she said.

"The emotional support fathers can give is very different to what the hospital can provide during these events," said Pacada.

Some argued that it is reasonable for fathers to be present during a doctor's consultations for them to better understand both the mother's and the baby's needs.

"I wish I could also go inside the ultrasound room to support my wife but I can't," said a father who was waiting at the

public hospital.

"I never understood that. I think fathers or family members should be able to attend the ultrasound. Having another mind and pair of ears to listen to the doctor's explanations is very important," expressed another.

"It's more important for first-time moms to have this support than for those who are [giving birth to] their second or third child," said another, who was also at the public hospital.

Thus, most of the mothers to whom the Times spoke also attended a private clinic, in addition to the consultations in the city's public hospital.

According to them, being looked after by a private doctor is better as the information is provided clearly, as well the ability for fathers to attend the ultrasound.

Some mothers also noted that hospitals would only call fathers after they have given birth, after being left alone during hours of labor.

"We're all alone during labor, so the fact that the hospital only calls the father after the mother gives birth is strange. Especially now that they have raised their fees for migrant workers, I hope they change [their] services and policies," said Pacada.

"There are also some nurses who are careless and they don't really care much about how they handle you, so we

really need someone who can understand and assist us," Caragay echoed.

Meanwhile, others suggested that the SAR should work on making provision for alternative forms of delivery, such as water births and home births.

**The emotional support fathers can give is very different to what the hospital can provide during these events.**

MAYI PACADA

Although some have noticed the improvements regarding maternity services in the region, others recommend that the region should be more "open-minded" in improving maternity services.

"They can try to change and have more options in terms of labor, maternity options and try to actually be more open-minded," said a first-time mother who refused to be identified. She is set to give birth in the fourth quarter of this year and also commented on the lack of maternity resources available in English.

According to her, most information is only provided in Cantonese. She hopes that the government will also consider non-Chinese speakers.

"I fully understand Chinese but I think the government has to take consideration of the fact that there are a lot of people who don't know how to read Chinese, and that it is not accessible to migrants," she added.

"I think we would like to see more classes catering to an international audience, including prenatal workouts in [...] water and activities like that, which help mothers relax during pregnancy," she added.

Although she commended the extension of maternity leave, which increased from 56 days to 70 days, she hoped that the MSAR could work on providing activities and support programs for the community that cater to the whole nine-months of pregnancy.

The Times first contacted the Health Bureau on May 17 to enquire about the procedures a father must follow to be able to attend a birth, and whether the central hospital is excluding fathers from information they should have access to by forbidding them to attend ultrasound sessions. The Times also inquired about "privacy reasons" which may justify a father being unable to have access to the abovementioned information.

No answers were provided by press time.

## NHS ENCOURAGES 'BIRTH PARTNERS' DURING AND BEFORE LABOR

**THE UNITED** Kingdom's National Health Service, which is known worldwide, has a policy for pregnancy ultrasounds whereby mothers can bring family or friends to the scan appointment. However, most hospitals do not allow children to attend scans as childcare is not usually available. Hospitals offer pregnant women at least two ultrasound scans during their pregnancy. During labor and birth, women can be accompanied by a "birth partner," who can be

"the baby's father, a close friend, partner, or a relative," according to the NHS website. The NHS posted a long list of how the "birth partner" can help, including helping the mother to "explain to the midwife or doctor" what she needs "and the other way round." According to the NHS, this can help mothers "feel much more in control of the situation." Birth partners may even be able to cut the umbilical cord, provided that the midwife is previously informed.

## Authorities find 89 illegal workers in May

The Public Security Police Force (PSP) has issued their final report regarding the operation to fight illegal work in Macau. In a statement, the PSP said that in May this year a total of 89 suspected illegal workers were found through joint operations launched by the PSP, the Labor Affairs Bureau and other government departments. The authorities also noted that these people were found during inspections done in 270 locations. The inspection locations consisted of construction sites, private residences, commercial and industrial establishments. This is a significant increase when compared with April, in which a total of 41 illegal workers were found in 283 inspection sites.

## UM students win engineering competition

Students Zhang Ailun, Zheng Huimin, and Kong Hou from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Macau (UM) recently won first prize in the 10th Inter-University Invitational Civil Engineering Competition. According to UM, this year's competition required contestants to design a curved bridge that could withstand both static loading and dynamic loading. Each team was required to design the structure of a bridge model, write a design proposal, produce a model, give a presentation and test the model, all within two days. The biennial competition aims to provide a platform for civil engineering students from around the world to showcase their creativity and skills, and to exchange ideas. This year's event attracted 15 teams from different universities.

# Uncertainty driving away some of Macau's high rollers

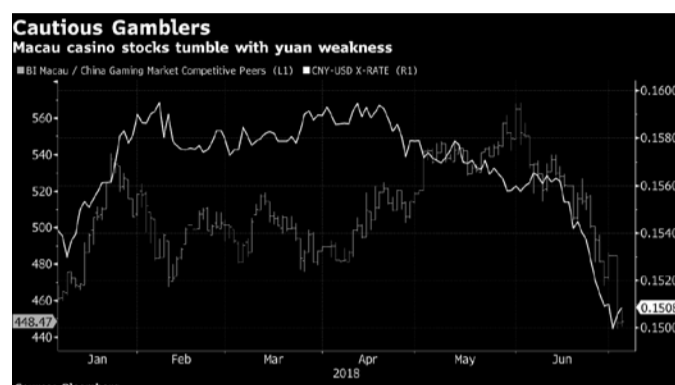
Daniela Wei

**T**he financial market turmoil triggered by escalating U.S.-China trade tensions and a weaker Chinese currency is threatening a two-year recovery in the world's biggest casino hub.

Some high-end players have stayed away from Macau in the past two weeks, citing the fluctuations in the stock market and the looming trade war, said Andrew Lo, executive director of Suncity Group Holdings Ltd., the listed vehicle of the enclave's biggest junket operator.

"The market conditions have more uncertainties, including the potential trade war escalation," said Lo. "High rollers are more cautious, betting less or reducing trips to Macau."

Macau, the former Portuguese colony that gets the bulk of its visitors from mainland China, has seen



gaming revenue dragged down in the past by steep drops in equities and volatility in the yuan. The latest upheaval in the markets risks denting Macau's casino business if gamblers' worries intensify.

The caution is already surfacing in Macau's gaming data, with revenue showing two straight months of slowing growth. It's expected to maintain low double-digit gains in July, according to a survey of analysts by Bloomberg News.

The sentiment contributed to a 21 percent tumble in the Bloomberg Intelligence index for Macau casinos from a four-year high at the end of May. Shares of MGM China Holdings Ltd., Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd. and Wynn Macau Ltd. have fallen more than 22 percent from their peaks this year. The index advanced 0.1 percent in Hong Kong yesterday.

High rollers are concerned about the "message from the weakening

yuan," said Fielding Chen, Bloomberg's China economist based in Hong Kong. "The trade-war risk, stock market turmoil, and impact on the property sector from deleveraging - these factors hurt the pockets of the rich."

The yuan's depreciation may also deter casual gamblers, who are more price sensitive, said Bloomberg Intelligence analyst Margaret Huang. Hotels, restaurants and entertainment costs in Macau are priced in Hong Kong dollars or Macau patacas, which will become more expensive when the yuan depreciates.

Still, Macau's gaming revenue, historically, has higher correlation with China's producer price index and residential price index, said Robin Yuen, an analyst at UOB Kay Hian. "Interestingly, those indexes have yet to dip." **Bloomberg**

AD

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# Wynn Workshops Equip SMEs for Exciting New Opportunities

Over 90% of businesses in Macao are SMEs. As such, Wynn has always been committed to enhancing the business environment, using different initiatives to strengthen the competitiveness of local SMEs and support Macao's economic development. Hosting numerous meetings for local SMEs since 2016, Wynn also collaborated with the University of Macau and the Macao Productivity and Technology Transfer Centre (CPTTM) to co-organize a series of workshops for local SMEs on relevant topics.

The more than 780 local vendors that have signed up to the workshops to date have gained in-depth knowledge on the nature of innovation & entrepreneurship, financial management, marketing strategies, what constitutes quality service, human resources, cash flow management & pricing strategies, online marketing, information technology and negotiation skills, among other disciplines.



## SHARING SUCCESS WITH SMES



Wynn has emphasized supporting local SME development to promote a moderately diversified economy in Macao. In recent months, Wynn has hosted four workshops where veteran consultants and industry insiders shared invaluable experience through interactive discussions, equipping SMEs for current and future opportunities. Participants who successfully completed the workshops received a certificate, enabling them to track the skills and knowledge they had learned.

Tailored specifically to SME entrepreneurs and managers, 'Entrepreneurial Spirit - Driving Innovation with Disruption and Design Thinking' helped owner-managers of local SMEs - and prospective entrepreneurs - take the bull by the horns in a workshop led by veteran Management Consultant, Facilitator and C-Suite Coach Dr. Ngan Lei Tjen. She sought to inspire attendees to convert a small revolutionary idea into an innovative and profitable business whilst guiding prospective entrepreneurs into identifying their entrepreneurial journey. The endgame? Designing their own business model.

Tapping new resources and economizing on expenses are major challenges for many entrepreneurs. Thus, Wynn's 'Workshop on Managing Cash Flow & Competitive Pricing for SMEs' touched a nerve. Auditors Leong Kam Chun and Lai Hong Choi elaborated on how to increase cash inflow and reduce cash outflow, citing real-life cases to illustrate ways to determine target price and enhance company value through strategies such

as brand building and promotional tactics.



Human resources management is an equally important aspect of business administration. Wynn therefore also organized the 'HR 101 Workshop' hosted by Maurine Yeung, Senior Vice President of Human Resources of Wynn Macau. Addressing a range of topics ranging from Macao's manpower challenges to human resources essentials and how to improve employee engagement, Maurine provided managers from local SMEs with the keys to success in a famously competitive labor market.

Jointly organized with the University of Macau, the 'Seminar on Negotiation Skills' sought to bolster the negotiation capabilities of participants. It taught them when to negotiate, how to develop the flow of a negotiation and, crucially, how to involve opponents and third parties in the process.

Dr. Lau Siu Keung noted the importance for SME operators of generating win-win results through superior negotiation and communication skills to resolve conflicts and reach consensus, as SMEs have limited access to resources due to their comparatively small size.



Mr. Sun, a participant from an event planning company, identified human

resources as the biggest challenge for his company, which focuses mainly on offering services. Unlike businesses that sell products, contact and communication with clients are fundamental. When viewpoints vary, only strong negotiation skills can resolve dilemmas to the benefit of all involved.

Meanwhile, the 'Wynn Local SME Network' has effectively extended the scale of Wynn's co-operation with local SMEs and fostered new business relationships - speaking to the company's efforts to make Macao more competitive.

## WOODPAK: SHARPENING ITS COMPETITIVE EDGE



Founded in 2013, Woodpak Engineering & Construction (Woodpak) is a small-sized construction company in Macao comprising 20 employees, specializing in project design, interior and exterior renovations plus the installation and maintenance of facilities. Wynn's vendor since 2015, it mainly provides Wynn Palace with renovation and maintenance services.

James Cheang, Director, says the company's ability to meet Wynn's high quality requirements boosted its confidence in its future. He notes, "Other clients have more confidence in us when they know we are a provider to Wynn, and it's an experience that has added to our company's portfolio. It has also introduced to us a bigger source market while at the same time bringing more business opportunities."

He recognizes the increasing importance for Macao-based companies to integrate into the country's development and seize emerging opportunities related to the Greater Bay Area. Consequently,

Woodpak's work with Wynn has made its vision of 'growing beyond the city' a reality. Mr. Cheang added, "Our partnership with large enterprises has not only driven business growth but also given us rich management experience and enhanced our overall operations, sharpening our competitive edge."

## CI KITCHEN: LONG-TERM GROWTH BOOSTED BY WYNN



Launched in 2011, CI Kitchen Equipment Company Limited (CI Kitchen) is a local SME providing kitchen equipment and related services, including design, installation and maintenance with excellent after-sales support. The company has grown exponentially from three staff to over 20 today.

General Manager Wilson Yuan believes that maintaining a sustainable business model is key, saying, "We can enhance our competitiveness and preparedness by understanding social trends, constantly evaluating our own company and deepening our relationships with large enterprises."

CI Kitchen successfully became one of Wynn's new vendors late last year by attending the Wynn Local SME Procurement Partnership Meeting. The partnership with Wynn indirectly opened doors to new business relationships with well-known international brands and a larger business network, says Yuan. He adds, "We must transform and upgrade ourselves. Optimizing our business operations and improving our management skills when deepening our partnership with such international corporations is much more important than the added revenue itself."





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# Hac Sa Wan: Gas leak noticed two hours before blast

Julie Zhu

**S**ECRETARY for Security Wong Sio Chak has reported that at around 7 p.m. a gas leak was noticed by people prior to the Hac Sa Wan (Areia Preta) explosion which took place on Tuesday night.

The Secretary updated the information yesterday on the sidelines of the Macau Security Force Superior School's (ESFSM) 30th anniversary ceremony.

The blast occurred in a restaurant located in the Hac Sa Wan district, resulting in one death and six injuries.

The late victim, a 34-year-old local female resident, was killed by collapsing walls while she was standing in the lobby of the building next door to the restaurant. She was later pronounced dead at the hospital.

According to an investigation by the Fire Services Bureau (CB), the blast was possibly caused by the restaurant's liquid petroleum gas (LPG) bottles.



Wong Sio Chak and Chui Sai On visited the place where the accident occurred

"At 7 p.m. while [the related people were] changing the LPG, the smell of petrol was already there. They did not pay attention to it immediately," said Wong, further explaining that "according to CB's investigation, there might have been some problem while changing the gas which lead to the leakage."

"The Public Security Police Force will make a report and will send the report to the Prosecution Office. If anybody is

found to have violated [the regulations], they will be held to account for their responsibilities," said Wong, adding, "the case is still under investigation. Regarding whose responsibility it is, an investigation is still needed."

## According to the preliminary investigation, the explosion was caused by the leakage of liquid petroleum gas

Of the six injured victims, four (aged between 30 and 50) are currently in the hospital.

According to the information provided by Conde S. Januário Hospital, one of the victims has a broken thigh, one injured man has second degree burns with a burnt area of around 25 percent, and another sustained multiple cuts.

"The situation [with the inju-

red] is serious," Wong reported, expressing his sorrow on the accident.

He also said that he reported the accident to the Chief Executive as soon as possible, following its occurrence.

Wong pledged that the MSAR government would provide assistance to the victims.

Yesterday morning, the scene of the accident was re-opened.

According to CB reports, four LPG cylinders were found inside the restaurant, a number that meets the city's regulations.

From January until June, CB conducted 134 inspections over the city's LPG usage in restaurants.

The Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) also reported that on May 9, it inspected the restaurant, which is licensed by IACM, and did not find any infractions.

In addition to CB's inspections, IACM has also carried out over 2,000 safety inspections targeting LPG usage in restaurants since Macau's LPG safety law came into effect.

In total, less than 100 violations of this law have been registered.



The Forum Macau delegation meets with Cape Verde president, Jorge Fonseca (center)

## Forum Macau delegation toured Cape Verde

A delegation from the Permanent Secretariat of the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Forum Macau) has toured Cape Verde recently, in the company of several businessmen from the port city of Qingdao in Shandong province.

A delegation led by deputy secretary-general of Forum Macau, Ding Tian, met with several government officials from the African country and paid special visits to two ongoing major projects with links with both China and Macau.

The first visit was about the building of the University of Cape Verde campus, paid for and supported by China. The second visit was related to a tourism development project being built in the Gamboa and Santa Maria Islet areas by local businessmen David Chow.

The project includes a hotel, marina, convention center and casino, and has already granted Chow a tourism merit medal from the Cape Verdean government for his contribution to the country's economic development. During the tour, Ding took the opportunity to present the conclusions of work done during the 15th anniversary of the establishment of Forum Macau, namely its method of external evaluation and Permanent Secretariat structure. The group also met with the president of Cabo Verde TradeInvest, Ana Barber, who noted the importance of the Forum Macau as an instrument of excellency for business purposes. Barber also suggested a reinforcement of the organization's work in this field, as well as research and promotion of the Cape Verde market, namely concerning to project financing. **RM**

## Structure of Edifício Pak Lei not impacted

**T**HE building structure of Edifício Pak Lei, where the restaurant is located, has not been affected by the blast, according to the Li Can Feng, director of the Land, Public Works, and Transport Bureau.

Yesterday, Chief Executive Chui Sai On, the Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak, the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam together with other government officials visited the scene.

Li said that the building shows no signs of structural damage and that the damage was recorded on the roof of the related location and partition walls.

Electrical and water supply have all been restored, although work is still required in order to eliminate potential danger.



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**JAPAN'S** largest e-commerce company is betting that it has found the key to selling clothes online: a size-measuring bodysuit and its own line of clothing.

Start Today Co., which runs a shopping site in Japan called Zozotown that's popular with younger consumers, unveiled its own made-to-fit private label T-shirts, jeans and business suits as it pushes deeper into web-based apparel sales. The clothes are meant to be sold to customers using a body-scanning suit and app developed by the company, which is renaming itself Zozo Inc. from October.

Selling clothing online has been a big challenge for web retailers because sizes, colors and looks are hard to gauge on the web. Sellers often offer free returns to spur purchases, but that also drives up costs and risks alienating customers. Start Today's billionaire founder Yusaku Maezawa is betting that his strategy of offering made-to-fit apparel will help it expand overseas and quintuple its market capitalization in the next decade.

"Anyone in the world can relate to worries about clothing size," Maezawa, 42, said in an interview. "When we looked overseas, we couldn't find any companies that were offering lower-cost clothing that fit well. There was a need for that."

Amazon.com Inc., which has been making an aggressive push into online apparel, last year bought Body Labs, a 3-D body-scanning startup that lets people create a digital avatar of them-

## INNOVATION

# Top Japan fashion site bets big on private brand, body scanning

selves to try on virtual clothes. In response to Start Today's announcement of private brand men's business suits and dress shirts — offered at a discounted 24,800 yen (USD225) for a limited time — shares of Japanese suit sellers Aoyama Trading Co. and Aoki Holdings Inc. fell on Tuesday.

“When we looked overseas, we couldn't find any companies that were offering lower-cost clothing that fit well.”

YUSAKU MAEZAWA  
START TODAY'S FOUNDER

The key to a perfect fit with Start Today's new clothing line hinges on the Zozosuit, a polka-dot studded bodysuit that lets



users measure their proportions with a smartphone camera. Sales initially started with T-shirts and jeans, and the company added men's business suits to its lineup. It also announced that the service and private brand would be available in 72 countries including the U.S. by the end of July.

"If they can build a successful apparel-selling platform based on body measurements data, it can be huge," said Akira Iwasaki, an analyst at Iwai Cosmo Securi-

ties Co. in Tokyo who has a buy rating on Start Today.

The growth plan is a big bet for a company that gets about 90 percent of its sales by providing a marketplace for clothing by other brands. Maezawa said Start Today is looking at potential acquisitions that could improve its measuring technology and production capabilities. While Rakuten Inc. is often seen as Japan's home-grown e-commerce pioneer, Start Today is

bigger, with a market capitalization that's 25 percent higher at 1.3 trillion yen.

The company created a unit Start Today Research this year to acquire ideas and technologies related to fashion and clothing fit. It also made headlines in Japan in April when it offered annual salaries of as much as 100 million yen to find employees specializing in fields such as artificial intelligence, robotics and cryptography. **Bloomberg**

## Huawei pushes back as pressure on Chinese companies grows

Todd Shields

**HUAWEI** Technologies Co. said a proposed ban on selling its gear to some U.S. mobile providers isn't lawful, pushing back against assertions it poses a risk as the Trump administration increases pressure on China over trade and national security.

The Shenzhen-based networking giant's presence in the U.S. "has been artificially restricted by unfounded allegations and suspicions based solely on misperceptions" about its relationship with China's government, Huawei said in a filing with the Federal Communications Commission that was made public on Tuesday.

The agency under Chairman Ajit Pai, an appointee of President Donald Trump, has proposed barring telecommunications companies from using a federal subsidy to buy

gear from companies such as Huawei and ZTE Corp. that are judged to be a national security risk.

Huawei, China's top telecommunications equipment vendor and the world's No. 3 smartphone maker, was founded in 1988 by former Chinese army engineer Ren Zhengfei.

The company took the unusual step yesterday of publicizing the minutes of a recent high-level meeting during which the ex-military officer emphasized the symbiotic relationship between the two world powers, and China's dependence on cutting-edge American technology. Huawei will buy some 50 million chips from Qualcomm Inc. alone this year, he was cited as saying.

"The U.S.-China trade dependency is mutual and extensive, I don't foresee strong conflicts," Ren was quoted as saying in a transcript posted on social

media platform WeChat. "American communications technology crested in the 1960s, when we were mere college students."

The rapid ascendancy however of Huawei and other Chinese companies in just the past decade has raised red flags. On Monday, another federal agency asked the FCC to block China Mobile Ltd. from entering the U.S. market, citing national security grounds. A spokesman for China's foreign ministry said the U.S. "should stop groundless speculation and intentional suppression against Chinese companies."

The U.S. is set to impose tariffs on USD34 billion of Chinese goods on Friday, with China vowing to retaliate. Trump has also threatened additional tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese imports that could be implemented if China imposes counter-measures.

Talks between the U.S. and China have stalled in part over American demands that Beijing reduce government support for high-tech industries.

Huawei, in its comments to the FCC that became available Tuesday, said it's an independent, privately-owned business. Letting Huawei compete freely could yield savings, while restrictions "will result in excessive profits for a handful of other equipment suppliers in this highly concentrated market."

The result would leave the U.S. falling behind other countries, with harm concentrated in remote and poor areas, according to the filing said. "The U.S. cannot afford to become the only country in the world that lacks access to the best communication technologies," Huawei said in the filing.

The FCC's authority over the subsidy, the Universal Service Fund, doesn't en-



Richard Yu, chief executive officer of Huawei Technologies

compass national security concerns, Huawei said.

CTIA, a Washington-based trade group with members including U.S. mobile providers AT&T Inc. and Verizon Communications Inc., didn't express outright support or opposition to the measure. It said in a filing that the FCC should proceed cautiously and consult with the Department of Homeland Security and other agencies before acting.

FCC action could have the "inadvertent effect" of inhibiting investment in secure equipment by creating uncertainty over which suppliers can be used, the CTIA said.

The Competitive Car-

riers Association, with members including regional and rural mobile providers, opposes the FCC's rule which will "devastate impacted rural carriers," according to an emailed statement from the Washington-based trade group.

The Telecommunications Industry Association, a trade group for gear makers, said it supports the FCC's proposal.

The FCC in April cast a 5-0 vote to advance the restriction, which won't be final until a second vote that hasn't been scheduled. The agency in its draft order said Congress scrutinized Huawei and ZTE as possible security threats. **Bloomberg**



# University of Coimbra launches Sino-Lusophone course

**C**HINA and the Portuguese-speaking Countries in the World Economy: Trade, Tourism, Cooperation and Development is the official name of an advanced training course coordinated by Carmen Amado Mendes to be taught over two semesters at the University of Coimbra, Portugal, according to official information.

The purpose of this course is to explain the functioning of the political, legal and corporate culture of these two worlds and the way they relate to each other, providing the necessary tools to take action in this context.

The topics covered include inter-cultural management, trade relations, investment and tourism, with particular focus on the Chinese initiative of the "New Silk Road."

The seminars are organized into modules taught by the best national and international experts in the field, ensuring a diversity of views.



University of Coimbra

The advanced training course is aimed at current and future diplomats, politicians, journalists, lawyers, managers, entrepreneurs and investors, or intermediaries, who work on China's relations with Portuguese-speaking and European countries.

"Entrepreneurs from Por-

tuguese-speaking countries who compete or work with Chinese companies globally will feel better prepared to understand the political, economic and cultural forces of contemporary China and Chinese entrepreneurs working in Portugal will better understand the new trends of the Portuguese-speaking and

European world," said the announcement of the launch of the course.

Amado Mendes is an academic coordinator of the Office of International Relations, a professor at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Coimbra and author of the book "The Negotiations of Macau (CCCM)."

## PORTUGAL

### Public debt reaches a record high

Portugal's public debt reached a record high rising to 250.3 billion euros, according to information released by the Bank of Portugal. The figure for May represents an increase of €0.3 billion compared to April, with net government debt net of deposits increasing by € 1.4 billion compared to the previous month, totaling €226.3 billion, with assets in general government deposits falling by €1.1 billion. The Portuguese government expects public debt at the end of the year to stand at €246.1 billion, which, although lower than the current value, represents a deterioration compared to €242.6 billion at the end of 2017. Portuguese weekly newspaper Expresso recently reported that Portugal's public debt is the 11th highest in the world as a percentage of GDP.

## EAST TIMOR

### Companies instructed to reform by September

Collective companies and limited partnerships will cease to exist in East Timor as of September 14, 2018 and will be required to decide whether to be transformed into a limited liability company or a joint stock company. The legal obligation will not entail any cost to the companies, as registration for this transformation will be free of charge. The alternative for the companies that do not meet this obligation will be their dissolution, according to the new Law. All registered collective companies and registered partnerships that have not met the processing obligation shall be officially declared dissolved by the registrar as of December 14, 2018.

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 (Saturday)

Time  
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Language  
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 (Supplemented by English)

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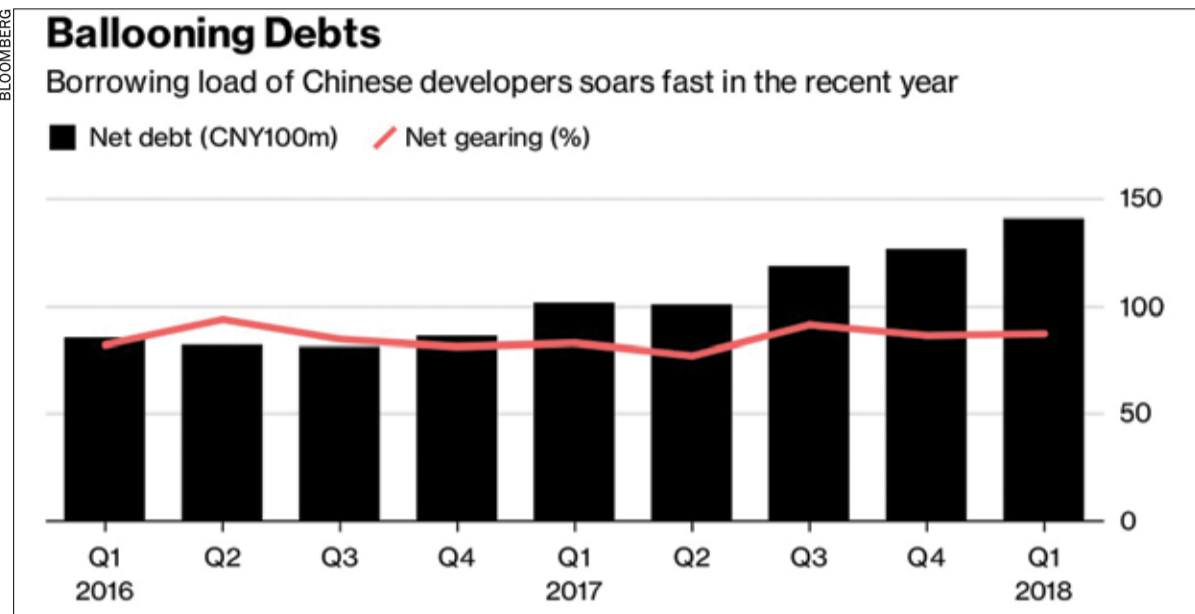


# Property flashes fresh warning with bad-loan jump forecast

**SIGNS** of pressure on China's property market are deepening, with a report saying that soured loans from the industry could put "significant stress" on banks and a state researcher warning of accumulating risks in a sector that underpins the economy.

The value of bad loans from the real estate industry will increase by at least 20 percent this year, China Orient Asset Management Co. said in its latest annual survey. The property market will see an "increasing correction" under heavier restrictions, leading to a rise in the non-performing loan ratio for the sector to about 1.5 percent, according to the survey.

The report added to a chorus of warnings on the dangers mounting in the property market, which could ripple through the banking system and drag down economic growth. Authorities have renewed their drive to cool speculation and have tightened access to credit, increasing "market distortions" and exposing debt risks, Wang Yiming, deputy director of State Council Development Research



Center, said at a forum yesterday. Negative news has sent Chinese developer shares to an 11-month low, with an index of 22 property companies falling 2.8 percent yesterday, bringing the decline this week to 5.7 percent. Bonds of developers such as Country Garden Holdings Co. and China Evergrande Group are trading near record lows.

About half of the respondents in China Orient's annual survey, which interviewed 391 people from commercial banks and asset management firms, said a property price decline of 20 percent or more will put banks under significant pressure. Under one-third thought stress will come with a 30 percent value correction or more. The amount of bad loans has

been growing "relatively quickly" since 2013, the report said. While the bad loan ratio in the property industry is still low, the level is edging towards the economy's average of 1.75 percent, according to the report. Real estate-related borrowings may represent more than 56 percent of all outstanding loans this year, despite fewer new loans

flowing into the sector, according to the survey. That's about the same level seen in the first three quarters last year.

"If home prices fall 20 percent to 30 percent, reacting excessively to the relentless policies," or if the market reacts poorly to a property tax, "industry risks will burst out one by one," according to the survey report. "That would break the risk cushion of banks."

Highlighting the vulnerabilities of the nation's smaller lenders, a local ratings firm downgraded Guiyang Rural Commercial Bank Co., citing a surge in bad loans that has nearly wiped out the capital of the rural bank. China Chengxin International Credit Rating Co. said the lender's capital adequacy ratio fell below 1 percent after non-performing loans rose, according to a June 29 statement.

While Chinese policy makers are trying to introduce some much-needed financial discipline into the highly indebted property industry, the worry is that defaults will jump and economic growth will take a hit. Real estate accounts for about 20 percent of China's gross domestic product, when both direct and indirect contributions are considered, according to Bloomberg Economics.

For the most leveraged listed developers, net debt-to-equity ratios are as high as 477 percent, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

AD

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David Tweed

HONG KONG

**H**ONG Kong's top court handed down a landmark ruling that will pave the way for visas to be granted to same-sex spouses of LGBT expatriate workers in Asia's biggest financial hub.

The city's Court of Final Appeal ruled in favor of a British lesbian, known as QT, who applied for a visa to reside in the city with her same-sex spouse. The court argued that the Immigration Department's policy of encouraging workers to come to the city ran counter to its refusal to grant dependent visas for employees with same-sex spouses.

The decision puts Hong Kong at the forefront of a movement for gay rights in Asia, where only Taiwan is in the process of recognizing same-sex marriage. Banks including Goldman Sachs Group Inc., Credit Suisse Group AG and Nomura Holdings Inc. have long argued that discriminating against gay workers hurts their efforts to attract the best talent. Neither Singapore nor Japan grants gay spousal visas.

"This is a positive outcome not only for QT but also for the people and business community of Hong Kong," according to a joint statement by 32 banks and law firms that supported the case. "This ruling strengthens Hong Kong's ability to attract global talent and its competitiveness as Asia's preeminent global center for commerce."

The ruling means that the marriage status and civil union part-



nership of same-sex couples will be recognized in Hong Kong for the specific purpose of a dependent visa. Still, the city's definition of marriage, between a man and a woman, remains unchanged.

Financial institutions and foreign chambers of commerce for years have lobbied Hong Kong's government to grant visas for spouses of expatriate gay employees so that they could attract talent to live and work in the financial hub. Hong Kong, which doesn't recognize same-sex mar-

riage, in 2016 began allowing same-sex spouses or civil partners of consular officials.

The plaintiff, QT, entered a civil partnership in the U.K. with her spouse - known as SS - months before the latter secured a job and they moved to the city in 2011. After being denied a dependent visa, QT turned to the court to file a judicial review against the director of immigration.

"The Hong Kong government respects the decision of the court," Secretary for Security John Lee said at a briefing.

"Colleagues from the Immigration Department and the Department of Justice will be studying the judgment in detail. We will follow up the issues involved."

The case and a separate one involving a Hong Kong civil servant have thrown the focus recently on rights for same-sex spouses in the city.

## ■ The decision puts Hong Kong at the forefront of a movement for gay rights in Asia

In June the Court of Appeal overturned a decision in favor of granting the same-sex spouse of a Hong Kong civil servant the same benefits as those given to heterosexuals. The court found that the government had the right to protect the "status of marriage" through its policy of spousal benefits for civil servants.

Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam has avoided showing support for LGBT rights in the city. At an event at the Foreign

Correspondents' Club in Hong Kong last year she said she "noted" that an independent organization had won a bid for the city to host the 2022 Gay Games and the views of Hong Kong's community needed to be taken into account on the subject of gay marriage, according to The Standard.

Support for gay marriage is increasing in Hong Kong, according to a survey released yesterday by Hong Kong University's Centre for Comparative and Public Law on Wednesday. It found that 50.4 percent of Hong Kong people agreed with same-sex marriage in 2017, up from 38 percent in 2013, when the last survey was conducted. The study was the first to track changes in Hong Kong public opinion on legal protections for homosexual people, the surveyors said.

"It's not just about expats' rights, this has implications for the local community as well," said Fern Ngai, chief executive of Community Business, a Hong Kong-based non-profit organization that works with companies to advance inclusive business practices. "It's another step to advance LGBT rights in Hong Kong." **Bloomberg**

## HNA says Co-Chairman Wang Jian died after accident in France

Prudence Ho, Geraldine Amiel

**H**NA Group Co., the on-ice-acquisitive Chinese conglomerate that's been selling billions of dollars in assets this year amid soaring borrowing costs, said that Co-Chairman Wang Jian died after an accident in Provence, France. He was 57.

Wang, who was on a business trip, had a fall from which he couldn't recover, HNA said in a statement on its website. Wang died yesterday after falling from a 15-meter high cliff while having his photograph taken in Bonnieux, according to a police officer reached by phone from Avignon. The death isn't being viewed as suspicious, the officer said.

Wang's sudden death comes at a time when the group, one of China's most indebted companies, was showing signs of putting its

biggest problems behind it. China's top leaders agreed to help HNA, people familiar with the matter said last month, providing much-needed relief for a company that couldn't generate enough profits last year to pay interest expenses.

After years of empire-building, the company that once symbolized China's insatiable appetite for global assets has reversed course, selling more than USD14 billion of buildings and shares, including its multibillion-dollar stake in Hilton Worldwide Holdings Inc.

"Wang's passing will mark the end of an era of aggressive expansion by HNA," said Corrine Png, chief executive officer at Crucial Perspective Pte., a Singapore-based research firm focused on transportation. "It will also put HNA Group and related companies' restructuring

plans back on the drawing board, in our view."

One of HNA's dollar bonds due in 2018 fell 1.5 cents on the dollar, the biggest drop since Dec. 12, as of 4:59 p.m. in Hong Kong, according to Bloomberg prices. A bond due in 2019 also fell.

"Wang Jian's death will definitely bring short-term shocks to HNA's business development," said Liu Feng, director of the Hainan Normal University Free Trade Port Research Center. "But the long-term impact on the group will be limited."

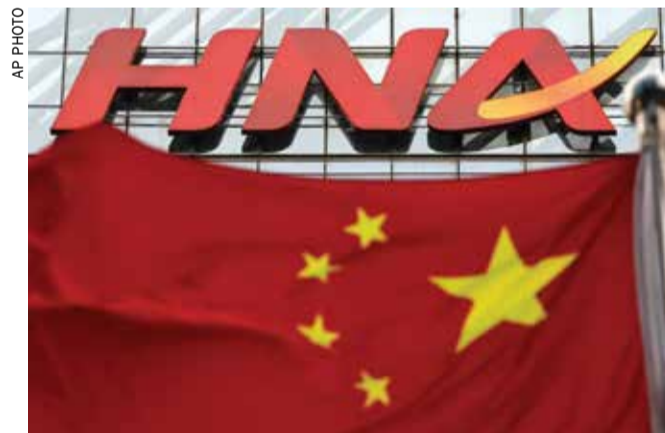
Wang, the second-highest ranking executive at the group, owned about 15 percent of the Chinese conglomerate, making him one of the group's biggest shareholders, according to HNA's last update of its ownership structure. HNA's other co-chairman, Chen Feng, and the group's

top-ranking official, also holds a 15 percent stake.

Wang obtained an undergraduate degree in Aviation Management from Civil Aviation University of China in 1983, and a master's degree in business administration from Holland Maastricht School of Management in 1995, according to HNA. In 1990, he helped establish Hainan Provincial Airlines Co. and was one of the founders of the group.

"We mourn the loss of an exceptionally gifted leader and role model, whose vision and values will continue to be a beacon for all who had the good fortune to know him, as well as for the many others whose lives he touched through his work and philanthropy," HNA said in a statement on Business Wire.

After spending more than \$40 billion on a buying spree, it become the largest



shareholder in companies such as Deutsche Bank AG and Hilton. HNA's financial struggles began to emerge in the middle of last year, when its interim report showed the conglomerate paid the highest interest expense among non-financial companies in Asia. HNA's latest annual report showed the group had more than \$90 billion in debt.

Concerns about HNA's financial situation mounted in the ensuing months amid government scrutiny over the country's most high-profile acquirers of foreign assets. In November, HNA sold China's most expensive short-term dollar bond, and a month later

China Citic Bank Corp. said a unit of the group had repayment difficulties. In January, as the volume of news about HNA's liquidity issues were peaking, it suspended six of its listed stocks from trading.

However, the financial concerns have been easing in the last few months after a flurry of asset sales, including its \$6 billion sale of Hilton Worldwide shares, helping many of HNA's bonds rebound from record lows. In June, HNA sold a bond in China after a rare five-month drought, signaling a crucial source of funding for the conglomerate may be opening up. **Bloomberg**



# India asks WhatsApp to prevent misuse after mob killings

Aijaz Hussain, New Delhi

INDIA'S government says it has asked WhatsApp to take "immediate action" to prevent the social media platform from being misused to spread rumors and irresponsible statements like those blamed for recent deadly mob attacks in the country.

At least 20 people have been killed in mostly rural villages in several Indian states in attacks by mobs that had been inflamed by social media. Victims were accused in the viral messages of belonging to gangs trying to abduct children. The brutal attacks, which began in early May, have also left dozens of people injured.

Although Indian authorities have clarified that there was no truth to the rumors and that the targeted people were innocent, the deadly and brutal attacks, often captured on cellphones and shared on social media, have spread across the country.

India's ministry of electronics and information technology said in a statement late Tuesday that the lynchings were tied to "irresponsible and explosive messages" circulated on WhatsApp. It wasn't specific on the preventative measures it expected to be taken by WhatsApp, which is owned by



Family members grieve by a portrait of Bala Krishna, a 33-year-old motorized rickshaw driver who was killed by a mob inflamed by social media in Jiyapalli village

Facebook.

"While the law and order machinery is taking steps to apprehend the culprits, the abuse of platforms like WhatsApp for repeated circulation of such provocative content are equally a matter of deep concern," the ministry said. It said WhatsApp "cannot evade accountability and responsibility."

"The government has also conveyed in no uncertain terms that WhatsApp must take immediate action to end this menace and ensure that their platform is not used for such malafide activities," the statement said. "Deep disapproval of such developments has been conveyed to the senior management of the WhatsApp and they have been advised

that necessary remedial measures should be taken to prevent proliferation of these fake and at times motivated/sensational messages."

WhatsApp said in a blog post that it would institute awards for research on "spread of misinformation" on its platform.

"We will seriously consider proposals from any so-

cial science and technological perspective that propose projects that enrich our understanding of the problem of misinformation on WhatsApp," the post said.

The Indian Express, an English-language daily newspaper, quoted a WhatsApp official as saying, "The situation is a public health problem which will require solutions from outside the company as well, including the government."

The official said that the "responsibility is beyond any one technology company" and "requires partners," according to the paper.

"I think it's up to the Indian government to decide what is the right mechanism to address the spate of killing that is occurring. It is going to have to be a collaboration," the official said.

Internet policy experts say WhatsApp doesn't have legal accountability and cannot be held liable for the way people use it. "But the platform is responsible for enabling anonymous sending forwards," said Nikhil Pahwa, a digital rights activist and founder of a portal that covers technology and social media policy in India.

Pahwa said it's impossible for WhatsApp to track and assess billions of messages being sent each day using its platform.

Pavan Duggal, a cyber expert and an attorney, said WhatsApp needs to comply with Indian laws and also adopt a "more sensitive and customized approach" for the country to reap the benefits of the vast Indian market. AP

# Longley blames PH coach for World Cup violence

AUSTRALIA assistant coach and former NBA star Luc Longley has accused Philippines coach Chot Reyes of inciting the violence that marred a World Cup qualifying match between the teams on Monday.

The former Chicago Bulls player described the bench-clearing brawl which saw 13 players, including four Australians, ejected from the match as the worst thing he had seen on a basketball court.

Longley, who has been praised for his efforts to protect Australian player Chris Goulding from a large group of Philippines players, said Reyes had called on his players during a time out to "hit somebody, put somebody on their ..."

Reyes has defended the comments, which were picked up by television microphones, as a routine instruction to his players

to foul on fast breaks.

Speaking to media yesterday, Longley rejected Reyes' comments and criticized the Philippines players for posing for a group selfie after the brawl had abated. Basketball Australia has sought to limit further comment on the brawl which is being investigated by world governing body FIBA.

But Longley was eager to speak, condemning what he called the "gangster" behavior of some Philippines players. "I do believe their coach Chot Reyes incited them to come out and thug us," Longley said. "There's video evidence of that."

"Then he substituted a thug out there who took three or four cheap swings at [Goulding]. This is out of the party line but I'm most disturbed with their head coach. I think he was embarrassed by the way

his team was playing. I think he was embarrassed by the shape they were in. I think he was embarrassed by how they fought.

"He wouldn't look me in the eye at the end of the game when I shook his hand. I think he was embarrassed and that's where a lot of it came from. I'm upset with him more than anybody. To let his team take gangster selfies on the baseline after something like that, that shows a total lack of control and respect."

Longley said he felt he had no choice but to come off the bench to defend Goulding when he saw the Australian pinned under a pile of Philippines players.

"Those are the sorts of images you hope you never see, one guy lying on the ground covering up his head and being kicked and beaten by the other team, players and officials and

guys from the crowd," he said. "It was horrifying. I wasn't supposed to come off the bench. It was really disturbing."

"I went onto the court to protect our guys, with the idea of not hurting anyone, just putting my big body in the way."

Basketball Australia was expected to make Goulding available to speak to reporters yesterday but withdrew him, saying he would speak "at a better time."

Australian veteran Daniel Kickert who was seen to elbow a Philippines player in response to a foul on Goulding before the brawl erupted, described the violence as "regrettable."



"I'm going to let FIBA do everything they need to do and come to the answers they see fit."

Australia coach Andrej Lemanis said he feared the brawl would make it more difficult to call on Australian NBA players for international duty.

NBA teams are often reluctant to release players as it is for the two FIBA windows, in June-July and September, that fall in the league's off-season.

Two current NBA players, Milwaukee Bucks pair Thon Maker and Mat-

thew Dellavadova, were on Australia's roster for the match. Maker is facing a possible FIBA suspension after he attempted numerous fly-kicks on Filipino opponents.

"Obviously that's one of the concerns [...] what it means generally in terms of players willingness to participate and put their hand up," Lemanis said.

"We'll see. Hopefully there's good learnings out of this for everybody in terms of the safety and security required around the game." AP



Tassanee Vejpongsa, Mae Sai

## THAILAND

**T**HEIR skinny faces illuminated by a flashlight, the Thai soccer teammates stranded more than a week in a partly flooded cave said they were healthy on a video released yesterday, as heavy rains forecast for later this week could complicate plans to safely extract them.

The 12 boys and their coach are seen sitting with Thai navy SEALs in the dark cave. The boys, many wrapped in foil warming blankets, take turns introducing themselves, folding their hands together in a traditional greeting and saying their names and that they are healthy.

The video lasting about a minute was recorded sometime Tuesday and was posted on the navy SEAL Facebook page yesterday morning. The navy later released two more videos of the boys.

The boys, aged 11-16, and their 25-year-old coach disappeared after they went exploring in the Tham Luang Nang Non cave in northern Chiang Rai province after a soccer game June 23. The teammates, who were trapped inside when heavy rains flooded the cave, were found by rescue divers late Monday night during a desperate search that drew assistance from experts around the globe.

Authorities said the boys, who had also been shown Tuesday in a video shot by the British diver who discovered them, were being looked after by seven members of the Thai navy SEALs, including medics, who were staying with them inside the cave. They were mostly in stable condition and have received high-protein drinks.

In all of the videos the boys have

AP PHOTO



appeared in good spirits. In the most recent videos a navy SEAL is shown treating minor cuts on the feet and legs of the boys with antibiotic ointment. Several of the boys are seen smiling as they interact with the navy SEAL, who cracks jokes.

Seeing the boys has boosted the mood of relatives, and officials are working to install an internet cable to the cave so that parents can talk to their children.

Kian Kamluang, whose 16-year-old son Pornchai is inside, said she had thought it was a 50 percent chance that her son would

be found.

"It's like he has been given a new life," she said, adding that she'll never let her son go into a cave or near water again.

SEAL commander Rear Adm. Arpakorn Yookongkaew said Tuesday that there was no rush to bring the group out of the cave, since they're safe where they are. The current flooding situation means the boys would have to dive, which rescue experts have said could be extremely dangerous.

While efforts to pump out floodwaters are continuing, some

Thai officials have indicated that heavy rains forecast for this weekend could force them to decide the boys should swim and dive out using the same complicated route of narrow passageways through which their rescuers entered.

Chiang Rai provincial Gov. Narongsak Osatanakorn said that the boys have been practicing wearing diving masks and breathing, but he doesn't believe they have attempted any practice dives.

He said it is unknown when an extraction could be attempted. "If

it's risky or not safe, we will not proceed yet," Narongsak said. "It has to be 100 percent safe."

Authorities said they were still exploring other options, such as scouring the mountainside for other ways into the cave and finding faster ways to pump water from the cave.

Cave rescue experts have said it could be safest to simply supply the boys where they are for now, and wait for the water to go down. That could take months, however, given that Thailand's rainy season typically lasts through October.

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."

Gary Mitchell, the group's assistant vice chairman, said getting out of the cave requires about a kilometer of diving total, though not all in one stretch, and takes about three hours.

"There's air pockets along the way," he said. "It's confined spaces. It's almost zero visibility. There's currents to battle against in places as well. So it's a really quite a strenuous environment to be in," he said. **AP**

## MALAYSIA

## Ex-PM Najib charged with breach of trust, graft

Eileen Ng, Kuala Lumpur

**F**ORMER Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak was charged yesterday with criminal breach of trust and corruption, two months after a multi-billion-dollar graft scandal at a state investment fund led to his shock election defeat.

He pleaded not guilty to all charges. "I claim trial," he said in a barely audible voice as he stood in the dock at the High Court in Kuala Lumpur. A judge set bail at 1 million ringgit in cash (USD250,000) and ordered Najib to surrender his two diplomatic passports.

The patrician and luxury-loving Najib, wearing a suit and a red tie, appeared calm and smiled as he was escorted into the court complex. He was arrested

Tuesday by anti-graft officials over a suspicious transfer of 42 million ringgit (\$10.4 million) into his bank accounts from SRC International, a former unit of the 1MDB state investment fund that U.S. investigators say was looted of billions by associates of Najib.

Najib was charged with abuse of power leading to gratification under Malaysia's anti-corruption law and three counts of criminal breach of trust. Each charge has a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison. Whipping is also a penalty but Najib would be exempt because of his age.

Malaysia's new attorney general, Tommy Thomas, who is heading the prosecution, said the 1MDB case has attracted global attention and "brought shame to the country." Najib's

AP PHOTO



lawyer Muhammad Shafee Abdullah protested the comment calling it "nonsense" and "coffee shop talk."

Najib, 64, has accused Malaysia's new government of seeking "political vengeance."

At a news conference after the hearing, Najib said a trial was "the best chance for me to clear my name after all the slander

and accusations." It is set to start Feb. 8, subject to confirmation at a preliminary hearing next month.

New Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad reopened investigations into 1MDB that were stifled under Najib's rule.

Najib set up 1MDB when he took power in 2009 but the fund amassed billions in debts and is being investigated in the U.S. and

several other countries.

He and his wife were questioned last month over the SRC case by the anti-graft agency and were barred from leaving the country.

The attorney-general's case says the \$10 million that Najib allegedly received via SRC was a bribe for approving government guarantees of loans totaling 4 billion ringgit (nearly \$1 billion) in 2011 and 2012 that were apparently became part of the ransacking underway at 1MDB.

Police have also seized jewelry and valuables valued at more than 1.1 billion ringgit (\$272 million) from properties linked to Najib.

U.S. investigators say \$4.5 billion was stolen and laundered from 1MDB by Najib's associates, including some \$700 million

that landed in Najib's bank account. While in power, Najib said the \$700 million was a donation from the Saudi royal family.

Najib's lawyer Muhammad asked for the case to be expedited.

Najib "is anxious to clear his name," he told the High Court. "We are pretty confident about this case."

Bridget Welsh, a Southeast Asia expert at John Cabot University in Rome, said Najib's arrest was the "inevitable outcome" after he lost power.

"It shows the resolve of the new government to address previous abuses of power. It has been done judiciously so far and speaks to a needed reckoning for Malaysia and a key step toward a cleaner governance," she said in an email. **AP**



## BRITAIN

# Anti-terror police join 'unknown substance' probe

**BRITISH** counterterrorism police were investigating yesterday after two people were left in critical condition, exposed to an unknown substance a few miles from where a former Russian spy and his daughter were poisoned with a nerve agent.

The Wiltshire Police force declared a "major incident" after a man and a woman in their 40s were hospitalized after being found unconscious Saturday at a residential building in Amesbury, eight miles (13 kilometers) from Salisbury, where Sergei and Yulia Skripal were poisoned on March 4.

London's Metropolitan Police force said "given the recent events in Salisbury," counterterrorism officers were working with local police on the investigation. British media reported that samples of the mystery substance had been sent to the Porton Down defense research laboratory for testing.

Police cordoned off a home and other places the two people visited before falling ill, including a nearby church and a pharmacy, but health officials said there was not believed to be a wider risk to the public.

A major incident is a designation allowing British authorities to mobilize more than one emergency agency.



The emergency services' response echoes that in the case of the Skripals, whose illness initially baffled doctors after they were found unconscious on a park bench in Salisbury. Scientists at Porton Down concluded they had been poisoned with Novichok, a type of nerve agent developed by the Soviet Union during the Cold War.

Britain accuses Russia of poisoning the Skripals, a claim Moscow strongly denies. The poisoning sparked a Cold War-style

diplomatic crisis between Russia and the West, including the expulsion of hundreds of diplomats from both sides.

The two Amesbury victims were being treated at Salisbury District Hospital, where the Skripals spent weeks in critical condition.

Police said authorities initially believed the latest victims might have taken a contaminated batch of heroin or crack cocaine.

"However, further testing is now ongoing to establish the substance which led to these pa-

tients becoming ill and we are keeping an open mind as to the circumstances surrounding this incident," police said in a statement. "At this stage, it is not yet clear if a crime has been committed."

Sergei Skripal, 67, is a former Russian intelligence officer who was convicted of spying for Britain before coming to the U.K. as part of a 2010 prisoner swap. He had been living quietly in Salisbury, a cathedral city 90 miles (145 kilometers) southwest of

London, when he was struck down along with his 33-year-old daughter Yulia, who was visiting him.

Residents of the street at the center of the Amesbury investigation — in a quiet neighborhood of newly built houses and apartments — said they had received little information about the unknown substance from authorities.

"Amesbury's a lovely place — it's very quiet, uneventful," said Rosemary Northing, who lives a couple of hundred yards away from the cordoned-off building. "So for this to happen, and the media response and the uncertainty, it's unsettling."

Neighbors said police cars and fire engines descended on the home late Saturday. Student Chloe Edwards said she saw people in "green suits" — like those worn by forensics officers — and her family was told to stay inside their home for several hours.

"We wanted to know what happened. And with the Russian attack happening not long ago, we just assumed the worst," said Edwards.

Among the sites cordoned off was a Baptist church where the victims attended a community event on Saturday. Church secretary Roy Collins said about 200 people were at the neighborhood event, but "nobody else has suffered any ill-effects."

Doctors who treated the Skripals say they have made a remarkable recovery but they still don't know what the long-term prognosis is. The Skripals have been taken to an undisclosed location for their protection. **MDT/AP**

## SYRIA

# Government calls on refugees to return home

**THE** Syrian government has called on refugees to return, saying it has successfully cleared large areas of "terrorists."

The rare appeal reflects the government's growing confidence after more than seven years of war. While officials usually appeal to Syrians abroad to return during television appearances and interviews, this is the first formal appeal broadcast on official media.

Syrian government forces, with crucial support from Russia and Iran, recently retook large areas near the capital, Damascus, and are waging a new offensive in the south that U.N. officials say has displaced more than 270,000 people.

The U.N. Security Council scheduled closed consultations for Thursday on the offensive and rapidly deteriorating humanita-



Jordanian residents of Jabir village watch aid deliveries to Syrians fleeing a government offensive

rian situation in the southwest at the request of Sweden and Kuwait.

The government currently controls over 61 percent of Syria, compared to early 2017, when it held just 17 percent, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which closely monitors the conflict.

The government refers to all rebels as "terrorists."

Over 5.6 million Syrians have fled the country. The Foreign Ministry says many internally displaced have already returned home, urging refugees to do same.

Many Syrians are unable to return because their homes were destroyed in the fighting, or because they

fear military conscription or retribution from government forces.

Also this week, a senior U.N. official visited a Palestinian refugee camp in Damascus that government forces recaptured in May. The Yarmouk camp, a built-up residential area once home to tens of thousands of Palestinians and Syrians, was held by Islamic State group and other insurgents for years, and saw heavy fighting.

"The scale of the destruction in Yarmouk compares to very little else that I have seen in many years of humanitarian work in conflict zones," said Pierre Krahenbuhl, the commissioner-general of the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees.

The camp, once home to 160,000 Palestinian refugees, now lies in ruins. Krahenbuhl, on a three-day visit, also met with

displaced Palestinian refugees in areas around Damascus. They expressed "anxieties" about the prospects of their return and reconstruction, he said.

Krahenbuhl said U.S. funding cuts had created "the largest ever funding shortfall in UNRWA's history." The agency has a deficit of \$446 million, he said, and has since mobili-

zed to raise \$200 million through other donors. He said the priority is to keep schools around Syria open for Palestinian refugees.

UNRWA provides basic services to Palestinian refugees from what is now Israel and their descendants, who now number around 5 million and are scattered across the Palestinian territories, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan. **AP**

## IRAN'S ROUHANI PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR SYRIA'S ASSAD

**IRANIAN PRESIDENT** Hassan Rouhani has reaffirmed his government's determination to stand by Syrian President Bashar Assad in the Arab nation's yearslong civil war. Rouhani said the people of Iran "will continue our path alongside the nation and government of Syria, until all terrorists

are annihilated." Shiite Iran — along with Russia and the Lebanese Shiite militant Hezbollah group — has been a staunch ally of Assad's government and advisers from Iran's elite Revolutionary Guard, as well as trainers, commanders and experts are stationed in military bases across Syria.



# 60 migrants refused by Italy and Malta arrive in Barcelona

Renata Brito, Aritz Parra

A rescue ship carrying 60 migrants arrived yesterday in a Spanish port after being refused entry by Italy and Malta, the second time in a month that a humanitarian group has been forced to travel for days to unload people rescued in the central Mediterranean.

The Italian government is blocking private rescue boats that it blames for encouraging human traffickers to launch unseaworthy boats loaded with migrants toward Europe.

But the aid groups deny having any link to smugglers in Libya or elsewhere, and say they are being forced to leave unattended the busy migrant sea transit route where deaths are mounting.

The Open Arms rescue ship completed a four-day journey to Barcelona, in northeastern Spain, after it saved 60 people Saturday from a rubber boat floating in waters north



of Libya.

The migrants come from 14 different countries and include five women, a 9-year-old boy and four older teenagers, some of them unaccompanied. The Spanish aid group Proactiva Open Arms said they were generally in good health but some may have fuel burns.

The migrants were going through health checks and identification procedures. Authorities granted them a 30-day permit to apply for residence or asylum in the European Union. Many have relatives in

Germany, Belgium and France.

According to the International Organization for Migration, more than 500 people have died trying to cross from Libya since the Aquarius, another charity rescue ship, was blocked from ports in Italy and Malta in early June. The 630 migrants were finally taken in by Spain and France.

Doctors Without Borders blamed the deaths on the European Union's inaction. "The EU is abdicating their responsibilities to save lives, blocking search and rescue and con-

demning people to be trapped in Libya," the group said in a tweet yesterday. "Any deaths caused by this are now at their hands."

In all, IOM says 1,405 people have died in the dangerous Mediterranean Sea crossing this year.

The Open Arms docking in Barcelona was followed closely by the Astral, a sister boat run by the same organization where four European Parliament lawmakers witnessed the rescue operation.

Lawmaker Javier Lopez of Spain said the rescue boat's arrival was a reason "to celebrate life" but deplored the mounting death toll in the Mediterranean.

Lopez said Europe should be able to manage the number of migrants arriving by sea this year—around 50,000 so far into Spain, Italy and Greece.

"Aren't we, 500 million Europeans, able to manage the arrival of 50,000 people?" he said. AP



FRANCE

## Victims aim to find out who held back soldiers

**SURVIVORS** and families of victims of the deadly 2015 attack on Paris' Bataclan concert hall have brought a case before France's administrative court to find out why French soldiers stationed nearby were ordered not to intervene when Islamic State gunmen stormed the venue.

The new procedure yesterday seeks to expose who was responsible in the French government for the soldiers' actions. It comes one month after victims filed a legal complaint with the same goal.

During the attacks, eight soldiers standing near the Bataclan as part of an internal security operation were ordered not to use their weapons. The government later clarified the rules of engagement for its military in similar situations.

The attack on the Bataclan and other Paris venues on Nov. 13, 2015, killed 130 people and wounded hundreds. AP

AD



### BBAM @ St. Regis Breakfast

Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

Guest Speaker: **Eric Wishart**  
AFP news management/special projects

**FROM TRUMP TO BITCOIN**  
meeting the challenges of fake news



Venue: Jade, Level 5, The St. Regis Macao, Cotai

- 7.45 am: Registration
- 8.00 am: Sit-down for breakfast
- 8.15 am: Presentation and Q&A session
- 9.00 am: Close

Strict No-Show/Late Cancellation policy applies for this event  
Vegetarian option to be requested before Monday July 9

BBAM Members: Complimentary  
Non-Members - MOP/HKD 180.00  
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## what's ON



MARC CHAGALL, LIGHT AND COLOUR IN SOUTHERN FRANCE  
 TIME: 10am-7pm (last admission 6:30pm; closed on Mondays)  
 UNTIL: August 26, 2018  
 VENUE: Macau Museum of Art  
 ADMISSION: Free  
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

SCULPTURE – A JOURNEY, EXHIBITION BY ANTÓNIO 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

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.macauphoto.com)  
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2855 5555

DISCOVER MACAU: MUSEUM OF TAIPA AND COLOANE HISTORY  
 TIME: 10am-6pm daily (last admission at 5:30pm; closed on Mondays)  
 ADDRESS: Rua Correia da Silva, Taipa  
 ADMISSION: Free  
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

CATALOGUE EXHIBITION IN CELEBRATION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF MACAO MUSEUM  
 TIME: 10am-6pm (closed on Fridays)  
 UNTIL: August 30, 2018  
 VENUE: Kun lam Ecumenical Centre  
 ADMISSION: Free  
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 1516

## Offbeat

## ETHIOPIA'S NEW PRIME MINISTER MEETS WITH HUMANOID ROBOT



In one of the world's more unusual diplomatic encounters, Ethiopia's new prime minister has met with a humanoid robot.

The chief of staff for Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has shared online a photo of Monday's meeting with Sophia, who has gained global attention for using facial and speech recognition to help engage in conversation.

The robot, made in Hong Kong by Hanson Robotics, is fitted with software in part developed by Ethiopians and has been programmed to speak the country's official language, Amharic, as well as English.

"We need to maximize the benefit of this technology and also prepare to deal with its downsides," the prime minister said.

The robot came to the East African country for an information technology expo.

## TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:50	Miscellaneous
17:55	Maternity
18:45	What's Up Sr.2
19:10	FIFA World Cup Diary
19:35	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	Non-daily Portuguese News
21:20	Tech Tree
21:30	You, Me and the Apocalypse
22:20	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Macau Documentary
00:25	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:05	RTPi Live

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

05 - 11 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



## SHOPLIFTERS

ROOM 2

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

Director: Kore-eda Hirokazu

Starring: Lily Franky, Ando Sakura, Matsuoka Mayo

Language: Japanese (Chinese &amp; English)

Duration: 121min

## OCEAN'S EIGHT

ROOM 2

7:30pm

Director: Gary Ross

Starring: Sandra Bullock, Cate Blanchett, Anne Hathway

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 110min



## ESCAPE PLAN 2: HADES

ROOM 3

2:30, 9:30pm

Director: Steven C. Miller

Starring: Sylvester Stallone, Dave Bautista, Huang XiaoMing

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 96min

## JURASSIC WORLD: FALLEN KINGDOM

ROOM 3

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



## 1991 INTERNATIONAL BANK CLOSED IN FRAUD SCANDAL

The Bank of England has closed down UK branches of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) over allegations of fraud.

The bank's 120,000 UK customers were stunned by the speed of the closure.

Even BCCI staff were not prepared for the largest ever intervention of this kind by the Bank of England, as deposits worth £250m were frozen.

Over the weekend liquidators from accountants Touche Ross will be entering all 25 branches to carry out detailed examinations of their finances.

The Bank of England also intends to stay open and set up a telephone hotline to help worried investors.

They are advising that the UK Deposit Protection Fund will guarantee investments up to £15,000 but investigators need to find out exactly how much is left in BCCI coffers.

London is at the centre of a global operation to investigate the activities of Luxembourg based BCCI, which is one of the biggest privately owned financial companies in the world.

Last year they were fined \$15m for laundering drug money for former President of Panama General Noriega. At the time there were calls to shut down the bank, as six of its former executives were also jailed.

Speaking today, the Governor of the Bank of England Robin Leigh-Pemberton explained: "We had no clear evidence under which we could act, under the Banking Act, until earlier this year."

There are already rumours that the bank made a huge operating loss last year and probably would have collapsed within weeks anyway.

Opposition MPs are demanding to know why action was not taken sooner but BCCI's controlling shareholder - the Abu Dhabi government - has accused the British Government of acting too quickly.

Today's closure comes in the wake of a report commissioned by the Bank of England and published by BCCI's auditors, Price Waterhouse, in June.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Touche Ross reported that BCCI had a £5.6bn deficit at the time of closure. It was the largest financial fraud in the world to that date.

The Abu Dhabi government tried to rescue the bank with a £1.8bn cash injection proposal.

It later emerged that BCCI had stolen £1bn from the personal account of Sheikh Zayed of Abu Dhabi.

Up to 30 local authorities in the UK lost around £82m after investing in BCCI on the basis of approval by the Bank of England.

In 2001 the liquidators, Deloitte & Touche, were given unprecedented permission to sue the Bank of England for almost £1bn on behalf of 6,500 UK depositors who lost savings when BCCI collapsed. The lawsuit began in January 2004 and was the first the Bank had faced in its 300-year history. Deloitte dropped the case in November 2005 after a reserve judgement from the High Court said the case was no longer in the best interest of creditors.

In March 2004 the Bank of India was ordered to pay \$82m (£45m) in compensation by a British High Court judge after investigations revealed insider knowledge of deposits were used to defraud BCCI creditors.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Remember that you have one of the best guts around (in terms of instinct, that is!). So this recent bout of self-doubt is completely unwarranted and unnecessary. Today you need to trust yourself!

Taurus April 20-May 20 Today it's your heart that should motivate your choices and actions, not your wallet. Whether you add an extra dollar to your waitress's tip or write a big check for your favorite charity.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 If you extend yourself too much, you may encounter some endurance problems. Your energy isn't as endless as you think - and if you run out of steam, you're no good to anyone.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 There's a strong sense of pride coming through in your life today - and this is not a temporary phase. It's a sign that you're gaining more self-assurance and shaping yourself into a capable.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Despite several warnings not to overextend yourself, it seems like you still have a few too many things on your plate right now. You're to be congratulated for your ambition.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Nobody is an island - it's an obvious statement to say that you need relationships to get you through life. Other people provide the acid to your base, and can often be a perfect sounding board for your ideas.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You have an unpredictable amount of energy right now, but you can build on your accomplishments and keep things going at a good pace. Little by little, you'll come to recognize a sense of momentum growing.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You may get a sense that someone has eyes for something you have today. This is more than just a 'grass is greener' phenomenon. Guard your possessions closely, and guard your ideas even more.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Today you start to sense that a healthy feeling of fulfillment has been missing from your life. You've been admirably shifting your energies around to many different people.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 It's the perfect time to tackle any trouble spots you may have, so the time for procrastination is over. Better health, a bigger bank account, a more active social life... these are all possible with a few nips and tucks in your life.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Confusion will shake loose old ideas in your mind and get you thinking in a new, inspiring way, so seek things that don't quite make sense to you. This includes the people in your life whose motivations are mysteries to you.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You're continuing down a path of self-discovery. The trouble is that what you're searching for is still a bit unclear to you. It may seem like everyone but you has a passion in life, or a direction to follow.

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 world cities like Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Deer sir; 5- Unit of energy; 10- Dull pain, often in the head or back; 14- Mandlikova of tennis; 15- Confess; 16- Linguist Chomsky; 17- Pianist Gilels; 18- Gives up; 19- Semester; 20- Comment; 22- Narcissism amok; 24- Japanese beer brand; 25- Sardonic; 26- Topnotch; 28- Some designer dresses; 32- "Metamorphoses" poet; 35- Upper limb; 37- Abduct; 38- Newsmen Donaldson; 39- Paris "thanks"; 41- Man-mouse connector; 42- Have high hopes; 45- Connections; 46- Raw materials; 47- Type of question; 48- Bingo call; 50- Momentarily; 54- Big; 58- Space between two objects; 61- King of pop; 62- Dedicated to the \_\_\_ Love; 63- Actress Shire; 65- Baltic feeder; 66- Home of the Bruins; 67- Edit; 68- Director Riefenstahl; 69- Audacity; 70- Bingo; 71- Fail to win;

DOWN: 1- He-Man's twin sister; 2- Domesticates; 3- Inner self, to Jung; 4- Noblest knight of the Round Table; 5- An enthusiast; 6- Be in debt; 7- Below; 8- Hasta \_\_\_; 9- Big name in printers; 10- Turns, e.g.; 11- "Barton Fink" director; 12- Mata \_\_\_; 13- Austen novel; 21- \_\_\_ de Janeiro; 23- Calf-length skirt; 25- Able was \_\_\_; 27- Title; 29- \_\_\_ about; 30- Uncommon; 31- Health resorts; 32- Anthem starter; 33- Flower holder; 34- Little rascals; 36- Hosp. procedure; 37- Star-\_\_\_ tuna; 40- "Power Lunch" network; 43- First; 44- Barrett of gossip; 46- Hot; 49- Guido's high note; 51- Pays to play; 52- Rascal; 53- Conger catcher; 55- Cowboy display; 56- Secluded valleys; 57- Strange and mysterious; 58- Magician Henning; 59- South American Indian; 60- Auction off; 61- Mediterranean juniper; 64- Serpent's tail?;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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Old Macau, Unique Walk Up Macau 950 sq ft / HKD4.48M HKD 4,715sq ft Three Bedroom Apartment Ref: 18065557
The Buckingham Taipa Two double bedroom Fully Furnished HKD 18,000 / 700 sq ft Ref: 18060681

The Buckingham, Unit C Taipa 1,186 sq ft / HKD 9.48M HKD 7,993sq ft Two Double Bedrooms Ref: 18025544
Warehouse, Keck Seng Macau Third Floor Warehouse Outdoor Garden HKD 40,000 / 3,755 sq ft Ref: 18050678

Violet Court, Hellene Gardens Coloane 2,530sq ft / HKD 20M HKD 7,905sq ft Beautifully Designed Apartment Ref: 18035546
Fountainside Macau 3 Bedrooms Apartment Furnished HKD 25,000 / 1712 sq ft Ref: 18040677

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# Koreas begin basketball friendlies in latest peace gesture

Kim Tong-Hyung, Seoul

**T**HE rival Koreas yesterday began two days of friendly basketball games in Pyongyang in their latest goodwill gesture amid a diplomatic push to resolve the nuclear standoff with North Korea.

Players from North and South Korea were mixed into two teams that competed against each other at the North Korean capital's Ryugyong Jong Ju Yong Gymnasium.

A capacity crowd of 12,000 at the arena applauded as the two women's teams — dressed in white jerseys that read "Peace" and green jerseys that read "Prosperity" — marched onto the court holding hands. Team Prosperity defeated Team Peace 103-102, with North Korea's Ro Suk Yong scoring 18 points, according to pool reports. The game between the men's mixed teams that followed ended in a 102-102 tie.

The South Koreans will play against the North Korean men's



South and North Korean players of Team Peace, in white, and Team Prosperity play during a friendly basketball game

and women's teams today before returning home tomorrow.

The games precede a visit to North Korea by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo for meetings over the future of the North's nuclear program.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, a noted basketball fan, didn't appear at the gymnasium yesterday. It wasn't clear whether he

would attend today.

"Once they started playing, the players showed quick chemistry and I was proud of them," said Lee Moon-kyu, the head coach of South Korea's women's team, who will also lead a combined Korean team at the Asian Games next month in Indonesia. Lee, who plans to bring two or three North Korean players to

the Asian Games, said he was impressed with "No. 9 and No. 7 on Team Peace," referring to North Korea's Ri Jong Ok and Jang Mi Kyong.

North Korea's sports minister, Kim Il Guk, said in a speech that the games reflect the "renewed determination of the leaders of the North and South to bring forward the future of a self-reliant unification."

The South Korean delegation, including 50 players and government officials, arrived in Pyongyang on Tuesday on two military aircraft.

"It feels like the first time I came here all over again," said Hur Jae, head coach of South Korea's men's national team, who previously visited Pyongyang for a joint game in 2003. Hur, a former guard whose two sons are among the players who traveled to the North, talked about his friendship with retired North Korean player Ri Myong Hun, a 7-foot-9 (2.35-meter) center who anchored the country's national team during the 1990s and early 2000s.

"There was a buzz when I shared a glass of soju and talked with Ri Myong Hun in 2003," Hur said. Ri did not attend a dinner reception for South Korean players on Tuesday.

The exchanges are the latest result of a diplomatic outreach to the South that Kim announced during his annual New Year's speech. That led to the North's participation in the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics in February and two summits between Kim and South Korean President Moon Jae-in. Kim has also met with China's President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Donald Trump.

The inter-Korean summits have facilitated a slew of goodwill gestures between the Koreas, which have also agreed to field combined teams at the Asian Games.

Basketball diplomacy has something of a history in North Korea. Former NBA player Dennis Rodman arranged a game in Pyongyang in 2014 for Kim's birthday.

South Korea's Hyundai business group built a basketball stadium in Pyongyang during a previous era of rapprochement between North and South Korea, and a joint game was played there in 2003. Two rounds of inter-Korean basketball games were also played in 1999. AP

AD

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## WORLD CUP 2018

# Pickford the hero as England's penalty curse ends

**T**HE research paid off for Jordan Pickford. When Carlos Bacca stepped up to take Colombia's fifth and final penalty, Pickford knew he was likely to shoot to the left.

The 24-year-old goalkeeper, in just his seventh England appearance, trusted his research and leaped. Research wasn't enough on its own — he also needed lightning reactions to shoot his left arm up to paw away Bacca's high shot.

The save gave England's Eric Dier a chance to win the shootout, and he converted. England moved on 4-3 on penalties after a 1-1 draw.

"I did a whole bunch of research," Pickford said, his confidence sky-high. "Falcao is the only one who didn't go his way. I don't care if I'm not the biggest keeper in the world. I have the power and agility."

Pickford was just two years old when England last won a penalty shootout, a few days older when the now-England coach Gareth Southgate missed the deciding penalty in a European Championship semifinal loss to Germany. That defeat at home was treated almost as a national



trauma, as was the penalty loss to Argentina two years later.

Pickford only emerged as a leading Premier League keeper last year and made his debut for England in November. But he has rapidly become part of Gareth Southgate's new generation of English talent.

At 1.85 meters, Pickford is small for a World Cup goalkee-

per. "A top-class save. I'm surprised he could reach it, given his height," Southgate said of the save from Bacca's penalty.

"His athleticism around goal is excellent and again he executed the planning in the penalty shootout. We'd studied all their penalty takers. Great credit to a collective of staff and him for taking on that information and

preparing in the right way. You don't always get what you deserve in life, but I think tonight we did."

On an evening that ended with such frenetic energy, Pickford had little to do earlier.

Colombia was on the defensive for most of the first half and lacked bite in attack. England took the lead on a Harry Kane penalty in the 57th and Colombia came charging back. In stoppage time Mateus Uribe fired a stinging shot from long range and Pickford leaped to keep it out with one outstretched hand, sending it wide of the goal and cannoning into the advertising boards. Pickford could do nothing about the subsequent corner. Colombia defender Yerry Mina rose above Harry Maguire and headed the ball off the turf and in despite Kieran Trippier's headed clearance attempt. Extra time and penalties loomed, and fans felt the weight of those 22 years without a shootout win.

After the 90 minutes were up, "we just reset. And just go 'Bang, we're going again and however long it takes.' Like the gaffer said, 'If it takes extra time, if it takes penalties, we are going to win this game,'" Pickford said.

"It's a bit of a lottery, but you can do your research."

It wasn't just England's miserable record which seemed to stack the odds against the team. Its penalty takers lacked experience of major tournaments — though none of the penalty takers had been involved in any of those shootout losses — and had to stare down a stand packed with raucous Colombian fans.

While Colombia's David Ospina stood taciturn, Pickford was a ball of energy. He jumped and jiggled on the line.

Falcao sent Pickford diving headlong before placing the ball through the unguarded center. Juan Cuadrado put the ball high and left, far beyond Pickford's reach. Luis Muriel sent him diving the wrong way.

With England 3-2 down and facing elimination, Pickford leaped to touch the crossbar as Mateus Uribe stepped up, and the Colombian blasted the ball into the bar.

Trippier made it 3-3, and Pickford was up again to face Bacca. After saving from the AC Milan forward, he squatted to the side of the penalty area, frog-like in his green uniform. Dier hit the winning penalty low and left for England and Pickford's teammates charged toward him to celebrate in a group hug.

The joy of victory was built on self-belief, Pickford said. "Our mindset and mentality, we never stopped," he said. "We knew we had this game even if it went to penalties." **AP**

## PREVIEW

## Belgium's high scorers take on Brazil's miserly defense

Pan Pylas, Kazan

**T**O get past Belgium Saturday [2 a.m., Macau time] in the quarterfinals at the World Cup, Brazil has to do something it has not been able to do since it last won the tournament in 2002: overcome European opposition in the knockout stages.

Since beating Germany 2-0 in the 2002 World Cup final, the five-time winner has been eliminated by European sides

in the three subsequent competitions. Brazil lost to France and the Netherlands in the quarterfinals of the 2006 and 2010 World Cups and was humiliated 7-1 by Germany in the semifinals four years ago at home.

Fortunately for the Selecao, Belgium has a poor record against South American sides at the World Cup. Not only has Belgium not won any of its games against South American teams in the

knockout stages, it hasn't even managed to score a goal. Most recently, Belgium lost 1-0 to Argentina in the 2014 quarterfinals.

The core of that side remains in place in Russia, where Belgium has won all four of its matches, including coming back from 2-0 down to beat Japan in the round of 16 with a thrilling counterattack in the final seconds of injury time.

Everyone knew about the array of talent running through the Belgium side, from Thibaut Courtois in goal to Kevin De Bruyne in midfield and Eden Hazard and Romelu Lukaku up front. The main questions following disappointing defeats in the 2014 World Cup and the 2016 European Championship centered on the team's character.

That 3-2 victory over Ja-

pan was the first time a team has overcome a two-goal deficit to win outright since West Germany beat England in 1970, and the first to do it in regulation since Portugal came from three down to beat North Korea in 1966. It has fueled confidence inside the Belgium camp that it can deal with adversity and make the World Cup semifinals for the first time since 1986.

"Maybe it's this sort of match that we needed for the future," said Hazard, the captain.

Coach Roberto Martinez won praise for his substitutions, with both Marouane Fellaini and Nacer Chadli scoring, the latter with practically the last kick of the match.

"You have to find solutions, you have to find reaction but what you have to find more than



Fellaini celebrates after scoring his side's second goal

anything is the desire and togetherness of a group of players, that they are desperate to perform," Martinez said.

Unlike the game against Japan, Martinez said, Belgium will be the underdog in the quarterfinal against Brazil and as such should play with a certain amount of freedom.

"I think it's a game that when you are a little boy, you dream of being involved in a World Cup, facing

Brazil in a quarterfinal," he said, "so from our point of view we can enjoy from the first second."

Brazil coach Tite dismissed talk that his team is the favorite to win the match against Belgium, let alone the World Cup. "Everything is open, up for grabs," he said.

The winner will play France or Uruguay in the semifinals in St. Petersburg on Wednesday [Macau time]. **AP**

## WALKING A TIGHTROPE

**AS HAS** been the case throughout this World Cup, Brazilian forward Neymar will likely garner much of the attention during the match, both for his skills and speed as well as his on-field theatrics. Neymar will have to be careful not to

pick up another booking as he would miss a semifinal should Brazil prevail. Others walking a tightrope are midfielder Philippe Coutinho and defender Filipe Luis. For Belgium, defender Jan Vertonghen and De Bruyne are carrying yellow cards as well.



opinion

**Girl About Globe**

Linda Kennedy



**POLITICAL FOOTBALL**

Why has the picture agency Getty been in trouble during the World Cup?

They created a gallery of photos of attractive female fans. Their post, 'The hottest fans at the #WorldCup', was later deleted, as was the gallery.

In my head, I heard a feminist football commentary: 'And here it comes, the Getty agency, a star performer. Oh no. It's just taken a tumble after some weak footwork. Can't see the name and number on the back of its shirt but I don't think it's Me2.'

The defence by Getty was a rendition of 'sorry, ref, didn't mean it'.

'Earlier, we published a piece, 'World Cup 2018: The Sexiest Fans', that did not meet our editorial standards. We regret the error and have removed the piece. There are many interesting stories to tell about the World Cup and we acknowledge this was not one of them.'

Is this enough? It makes me want to turn 'Kiss Cam' into 'Sis Cam'. Have it scan the crowd and stop on sisters – feminists not blood relatives - in thick cardigans, the opposite of skimpy attire. The women wearing them are certain to be the hottest.

I don't know much about football. I didn't realise there were whistleblowers outside the news pages, though sometimes I quite like the songs – it's rare to see so many men voluntarily forming a choir. (If local choirs feel they don't get enough deep voices, they might consider adding football lyrics to classical music to boost enrolment of men. Yes, Beethoven's Third really is a symphony on missing out on the top two in the Premier League. Sonata No 14 is a piece on the jersey of Johan Cruyff and Thierry Henry.)

But it seems as though football is getting more feminist. Or less un-feminist. The term WAGS, standing for wives and girlfriends, has been damned by Rebekah Vardy, who is married to England striker, Jamie Vardy. "WAG is a dated term because we're not defined by what our husbands do. We're individuals," said R Vardy.

I'm all for running with this enlightened mood in the game. Some say there should be more female commentators. Me, I think we need more female TV camera operators – on top of 'Sis Cam' - to show women seizing football traditions and owning them. Lots of shots, please, of women who haven't shaved their armpits together on the stand doing the Thunderclap.

Remaining - most unusually - with sport, Donald Trump is thought likely to head to Scotland to play golf after meeting British Prime Minister Theresa May next week, controversially costing Scottish police millions as protests are expected. He has two golf courses – one at Turnberry, Ayrshire, and another in the north of Scotland, in Aberdeenshire. His hopes of making the resorts more alluring to Americans are already apparent, with the naming of one course the King Robert the Bruce. Locals expect the ponds to be filled with whisky and sand to be replaced by shortbread crumbs in the bunkers.

I'm looking forward to new content in his tweets. Scotland has a debate over fox numbers, and controlling them. Surely there's a blog called Fox News, which comes down against the use of guns. That would bewilder him.

And what if the local paper in Aberdeen reports thunderstorms predicted for the UK?

@realDonaldTrump tweet:

Fake News Press and Journal says Stormy Here. UNTRUE!

Or what if Ayrshire's newspaper were to wonder if Trump's Scottish attackers might include midges, tiny biting insects:

@realDonaldTrump tweet:

The failing Ayr Advertiser suggests Trump has a problem with small flies. There is no problem. I assure you.

**THE BUZZ** NAURU CRITICIZED FOR BANNING AUSTRALIAN STATE BROADCASTER

Nauru has been accused of restricting press freedom by banning an Australian state-owned broadcaster from attending an international forum that the tiny Pacific atoll-nation will host in September. Australians have a particular interest in Nauru because their government pays the impoverished nation of fewer than 10,000 people to house asylum seekers who attempt to reach Australia by boat. The

United Nations and human rights groups have criticized the arrangement as well as the conditions that asylum seekers endure there.

Australia's Federal Parliamentary Press Gallery, Canberra's equivalent of the White House press corps, yesterday threatened to boycott the Pacific Islands Forum leaders' summit on Nauru unless Australian Broadcasting Corp. was allowed to attend.

RESEARCH

**Heroin is one of biggest Mozambique exports**

Matthew Hill

**M**ozambique boasts vast coal, ruby and gas deposits, but one of the southeast African nation's biggest exports may be something more sinister: heroin.

As much as USD800 million worth of the narcotic is shipped annually from its beaches to neighboring countries and to Europe. That's according to a research paper by Enact, a European Union-funded initiative to mitigate the impact of transnational organized crime, and a related working paper by Joseph Hanlon, visiting senior fellow at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

"Mozambique is a significant heroin transit center and the trade has increased to 40 tons or more per year, making it a major export which contributes up to \$100 million per year to the local economy," Hanlon said. "With an export value of \$20 million per ton, heroin is probably the country's largest or second-largest export after coal."

The value of Mozambique coal exports more than doubled to \$1.7 billion last year, as production and prices rose, according to data from the central bank.

Produced in Afghanistan and Pakistan, heroin is



shipped to Mozambique's coast with motorized wooden boats, which can carry up to a ton of the drug in hidden compartments, according to the Enact report. From there, it's transported by road to neighboring South Africa. Some is sold to local users, but most of the heroin is destined for Europe, said the researchers, who include Mark Shaw, Simone Haysom, and Peter Gastrow.

Traffickers appear to be increasingly using east and southern Africa as a land-based Balkan route has become more difficult to get the opioid into western Europe, the research shows. Heroin accounted for more

than a quarter of Europe's estimated 24 billion-euro (\$28 billion) drug market in 2013, according to the Lisbon-based European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction.

Mozambique's 2,470-kilometer coastline has been used by maritime traders for centuries.

A shadowy group that's been attacking villages in Cabo Delgado province, killing more than 50 people and burning dozens of houses this year, has been moving into the cannabis trade in the coastal territory key to heroin traffickers, according to the Enact paper, which didn't link them to opioids. **Bloomberg**

**THE DECISIVE MOMENT**

Xinhua/Li Ziheng



Heavy fog yesterday in Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	25-45 Good
High Density Residential Area	25-45 Good
Ambient	25-45 Good

SOURCE: DSMG

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**TURKEY** has issued a decree to adjust its current laws to a new presidential system that comes into effect with last month's presidential and parliamentary elections.

**ITALY** Police have dismantled an international ring trafficking in what prosecutors allege are thousands of ancient artifacts illegally excavated in Sicily.



**SPAIN** A rescue ship carrying 60 migrants arrived yesterday in a Spanish port after being refused entry by Italy and Malta, the second time in a month that a humanitarian group has been forced to travel for days to unload people rescued in the central Mediterranean.

More on p15

**BRITAIN** Counterterrorism police were investigating yesterday after two people were left in critical condition, exposed to an unknown substance a few miles from where a former Russian spy and his daughter were poisoned with a nerve agent.

More on p14



**ECUADOR** A judge ordered that former President Rafael Correa, who is out of the country, be jailed after failing to appear in court in connection with a probe into the kidnapping of an opposition lawmaker.

**BRAZIL** A measles outbreak is growing in Brazil after cases were imported from neighboring Venezuela where health services have collapsed.

AP PHOTO