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The installation of the fourth phase of CCTV surveillance cameras is expected to conclude in 2020

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DEVELOPER PAYS SOME P. HORIZON MORTGAGES

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MSARG Dengue Fever Prevention Working Group

GUIA CIRCUIT

'Fun run' to be held prior to Grand Prix

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Boys' team solidarity, meditation may ease stress in Thai cave

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WORLD BRIEFS

VIETNAM Police have arrested seven people suspected of involvement in the bombing last month of a police station in the Southeast Asian country's largest city.



THAILAND Two boats carrying more than 130 tourists overturned in rough seas yesterday evening off southern Thailand, and at least seven people are missing.

PHILIPPINES The government will demand that peace talks with communist rebels shift from Europe to the Philippines and the insurgents are encamped in designated areas during the negotiations — conditions the guerrillas waging one of Asia's longest-raging insurgencies quickly rejected.

More on backpage

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weekend Guide

INSIDE

Gongbei detains man carrying RMB1.2 million in cash

The Gongbei customs detained a male mainland resident in possession of RMB1.2 million in cash at Zhuhai immigration checkpoint this week. The man, surnamed Guo, had separated all his money (RMB100 bills) in his backpack and luggage. In total, the money weighed 14 kg. According to mainland Chinese regulations, each person can carry a maximum of RMB20,000 in cash while crossing the borders. The Gongbei customs reminded passengers to declare restricted items in accordance with the Chinese law in order to avoid punishment.

Gov't urged to regulate columbarium industry

Macau People Power's Si Tou Fai has urged the government to regulate the private columbarium market, according to a report by Jornal Va Kio. Si noted that a certain columbarium company is advertising in Hong Kong in order to attract Hong Kong residents to invest in columbaria in Macau. Si proposed for the government to establish laws to manage the matter. On Si's suggestion, the law should regulate a prohibited period of columbaria sales, charge heavy taxes to non-local columbaria buyers and issue purchase restrictions to curb speculation on columbaria sales.

Lam questions greyhounds' temporary home

Lawmaker Agnes Lam has questioned how the government will find temporary homes for Macau Canidrome greyhounds. In a recent written inquiry to the government, Lam asked, "How will the government coordinate with the Canidrome concerning the greyhounds' adoption and how will the government ensure that the greyhounds find good adopters? Because some regions currently don't have animal protection law[s], the greyhounds may be slaughtered [...]. How can the authorities prevent such situations from happening? Will the government consider sterilization first [before the dogs' adoption]?"

CRIME

Teaching assistant arrested for printing counterfeit notes

A teaching assistant at a local public school has been arrested for allegedly using school facilities to print counterfeit notes, the Judiciary Police (PJ) reported yesterday.

The 28-year-old suspect has been working for approximately two years in a school located in the Hac Sa Wan (Areia Preta) district, where he teaches computer courses.

The PJ seized counterfeit notes with a total value of at least MOP300,000 (each note being MOP500) from the suspect's possessions.

The suspect is also believed to be related to four coun-



terfeit note cases recorded in September and October 2017.

The PJ believes that the suspect has no affiliate and used a school facility to print the

notes.

Yesterday, the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) reported that the arrested suspect is also respon-

sible for facility maintenance at Escola Luso-Chinesa Técnico-Profissional.

The DSEJ was notified by the PJ regarding the case on Tuesday, when the DSEJ assisted the police in searching for evidence at the suspect's office.

The education authority has also initiated disciplinary procedures in regard to the suspect's malpractice.

The Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, commented that civil servants found guilty of malpractice will be punished according to the law.

Consumer satisfaction declines in 2018

THE Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD) from the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) published the Macau Consumer Satisfaction Index 2018 earlier this week. Local residents' satisfaction with shopping and dining in Macau has declined.

Between May 7 and 20, 815 (810 in 2017) local residents aged over 16 were interviewed over the phone for the annual report. The survey consisted of four sections regarding customer satisfaction: Macau shopping (particularly clothing) and restaurants, and Zhuhai shopping and restaurants.

Within each category, the results were indexed according to product and service quality, as well as comparisons shown between prices and goods.

Shopping satisfaction in Macau recor-

ded 72.9 points (74.3 in 2018), representing a 1.8 percent decrease year-on-year.

The three factors that affected the satisfaction are product quality, service quality and cost performance, and they all recorded a decrease of 2.1 percent, 0.5 percent and 3 percent respectively.

In turn, the levels of residents' satisfaction with local restaurants also decreased by 0.3 percent, recording 70.7 points.

The three factors used to determine satisfaction with local restaurants are food quality (up by 1.4 percent), service quality (down by 0.1 percent), and cost performance (down by 2.2 percent).

Macau residents' satisfaction with shopping in Zhuhai has grown in comparison to last year's results, while their satisfaction with restaurants in Zhuhai has worsened.

Regarding the former, a 2.4 percent growth was recorded (65.5 last year, 67.1 this year), while restaurant satisfaction decreased by 1 percent, now standing at 68.8.

This is the 12th year the index has been published and the 11th consecutive year that Macau has beaten Zhuhai in terms of satisfaction figures.

The consumer satisfaction degree of the Macau Consumer Satisfaction Index consists of five factors: product quality, service quality, cost and performance, customer complaints and customer loyalty. Each category is rated on a scale of 0 to 100; the higher the marks, the greater the satisfaction.

ISD suggested that Macau's retailers pay close attention to trends and changes in consumer demands, and to continue bringing in high-quality brands and products at reasonable prices. **JZ**

Well Link Bank opens NAPE branch



THE Well Link Bank NAPE branch opened this week at Alameda Dr. Carlos d'Assumpção.

Branded a "smart branch", the new NAPE store features several new services, such as "smart counters" and "smart coffee tables" designed to provide Macau residents with a wholesome banking experience.

Among the services included are online banking, mobile banking, WeChat banking and "remote queuing with WeChat official account." Furthermore, the branch is equipped with "smart counters", offering various non-cash services more quickly.

At the lobby of the smart branch, the customer manager will carry a tablet to interact with clients and provide them with higher-quality smart services.

The firm says that the smart branch was established in response to the call of the Macau government, whereby innovative financial technology is intended to create more convenient services for local clients.

A local bank in Macau, the Well Link Bank claims to serve as a bridge for exchanges between Chinese and Western businesses. Furthermore, the institution "endeavors to develop itself into a bank with its own characteristics in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area."

Betting on the financial sector becoming another major driver of Macau's economy after the gaming industry, Well Link Bank says that it believes China's increasing influence in international politics will be a boon for Macau's economic development.

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Malaysia confirms: Jho Low hiding in Macau

MALAYSIAN police have confirmed that wanted businessman Jho Low, also known as Low Taek Jhow, has fled the country and is now residing in Macau.

The Penang-born businessman is allegedly connected to the controversial 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) scandal that saw billions of US dollars disappear from the sovereign wealth fund.

Police chief Mohamad Fuzi Harun said the suspicion was confirmed after investigators obtained crucial information while tracking Low in Hong Kong.

"This latest information was obtained after a team from Bukit Aman [federal police] was deployed to Hong Kong to track down the fugitive," he said, as cited by Channel NewsAsia. "We were informed that Jho Low had fled to Macau when the team arrived there [Hong Kong]."

Last month, Low's passport was canceled on the request of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission.



Macau does not currently have an extradition treaty with Malaysia.

The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission believes Low played a central role in the laundering of public money from the sovereign wealth fund. They say that they have sufficient evidence to

prove Low's involvement in the scandal.

Low has previously described his role with 1MDB as informal consulting that did not break any law. According to Bloomberg, he said he would cooperate with the anti-graft watchdog through his lawyers.

Police arrived on site immediately after restaurant blast

THE acting commander of the Public Security Police (PSP), Wong Chi said that the police arrived on site immediately after the blast on Tuesday night at the Pak Lei Building in the Area Preta district. The explosion is thought to have been caused by a cylinder of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).

The police ensured that affected buildings and streets were cleared of debris by 7.30 a.m. on Wednesday morning, so that people in the neighborhood could resume their daily routine.

A total of three people remain hospitalized. One of the victims is being treated for burns in the intensive care unit. To avoid infecting the individual, Chief Executive (CE) Chui Sai On did not have direct contact with the victim when he visited the hospital on Wednesday.

The CE also wrote a letter to the loved ones of a woman who died in the incident to express his condolences.

Immediately after the vi-

sit, the CE convened an interdepartmental meeting at government headquarters to receive detailed reports on the incident from the Secretaries and departments.

Aside from determining the cause of the incident, the meeting focused on steps to take in the aftermath of the incident, as well as preventive measures to be put in place.

Chui said that the government and the public were deeply concerned about the incident as well as the resulting fatalities and injuries.

The Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau is restoring some of the affected parts of the building. However, owners and tenants remain concerned over who is going to pay for the remaining works. Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak said yesterday that witnesses are still being heard and their testimony will be useful to assess if negligent behavior led to the blast.

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Wong Sio Chak (center)

Fourth phase of CCTV cameras to be ready in 2020

Julie Zhu

THE installation of the fourth phase of CCTV surveillance cameras is expected to be complete by 2020, Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak announced yesterday on the sidelines of the launching ceremony of the Inmates and Juvenile Delinquents' Handicraft Exhibition.

"The installation of the first phase, which involved 219 cameras, was done in 2016, [...] the cameras of the second and third phases entered operation on June 30," informed Wong. The Secretary added that "the fourth phase's installation started in February, and is estimated to be completed in the first quarter of 2020."

"I hope that [the government] can push forward the related construction as soon as possible. Besides these four phases, it [the government] has already started a study on the fifth and sixth phases of the installation of CCTV surveillance cameras," said Wong, explaining that the

city's new urban zones, which will be available in the near future, require advanced studies with respect to surveillance cameras.

"Currently, the new urban zone has not been included," revealed Wong, adding that "the 820 cameras are distribu-

ted across all areas in Macau, with most of them being located in the Macau peninsula. The remaining cameras will be located at safety black spots. Between the first and third phases, a few safety black spots have already been equipped [with cameras]. In the future,

the [cameras'] effect will be evaluated," said Wong, who also claimed that the cameras have a "very high overall crime detection rate."

The Secretary demonstrated this "very high" crime detection rate by giving an example of a robbery case involving a jewelry

shop that took place at the beginning of this year.

"It [solving the case] depended on the CCTV surveillance camera which [allowed the police force] to quickly identify the criminals. [...] This case is a very typical case showing the effect of modern technology," declared Wong, who also said "I believe that, in the future, as CCTV surveillance cameras improve gradually, recognition outcomes will be even better."

In addition, the Secretary noted that all data collected from the CCTV surveillance cameras have been used according to the law.

Wong claimed that the cameras have a 'very high overall crime detection rate'

Only authorized police officers or technicians can access the CCTV surveillance system. "All is done according to the law," Wong pledged.

Regarding security arrangements on the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, Wong said that "both manpower and resources are ready."

No date set for new prison's completion

CHENG Fong Meng, director of the Correctional Services Bureau, revealed that there is not yet a definite date scheduled for the new prison's completion.

Cheng disclosed this information on the sidelines of yesterday's launching ceremony of the Inmates and Juvenile Delinquents' Handicraft Exhibition.

The project's second phase of construction is expected to complete by the end of this year. However, the project has once again been delayed. According to Cheng, last year's Typhoon Hato hindered the construction.

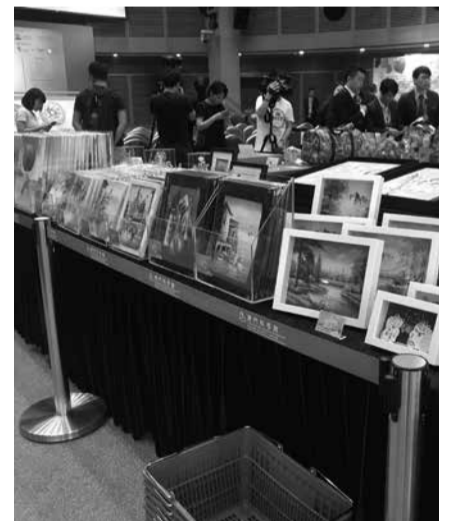
The construction of the new prison includes four phases. The third one concerns the administration building, restrooms, and employees' training facilities; the fourth

phase will consist of the installation of internet and telecommunication systems.

Regarding this year's four-day exhibition, 4,800 handicrafts made by inmates and juveniles are available for purchase at the Macao Science Center.

Currently, there are a total of 1,371 prisoners in Coloane prison, including 1,180 men and 191 women.

Some 635 prisoners (562 men, 73 women) are mainland residents, representing 46.32 percent of the total number of prisoners. Twenty-nine percent (402) are local residents, including 347 male residents and 55 female residents. Ten percent (146 including 137 men and nine women) are Hong Kong residents, while 13.5 percent (185) are from other countries.



Exhibition of handicrafts made by inmates

Polytec pledges to bear mortgages for some buyers

YESTERDAY, the Polytec Assets Holdings Limited (Polytec Group), placed an advertisement in Macao Daily explaining that the company will bear the mortgage debts of Pearl Horizon buyers who purchased the project under cash payment plans.

In the advertisement, the Polytec Group noted that the majority of buyers

purchased a house through mortgage loans of Bank of China, Macau Branch (BOC Macau).

The company said that it had discussed the buyers' loans with BOC Macau more than a month ago.

The bank and the Polytec Group have agreed that Polytec will bear any mortgage indebtedness still owed to BOC by buyers who ordered a Pearl Ho-

rizon house unit under a cash payment plan.

This proposal from Polytec is said to alleviate the pressure of buyers' loan contributions, and to avoid situations where buyers need to bear legal responsibilities because they stopped paying loans for their house.

Concurrently, the Pearl Horizon Concern Group – which consists

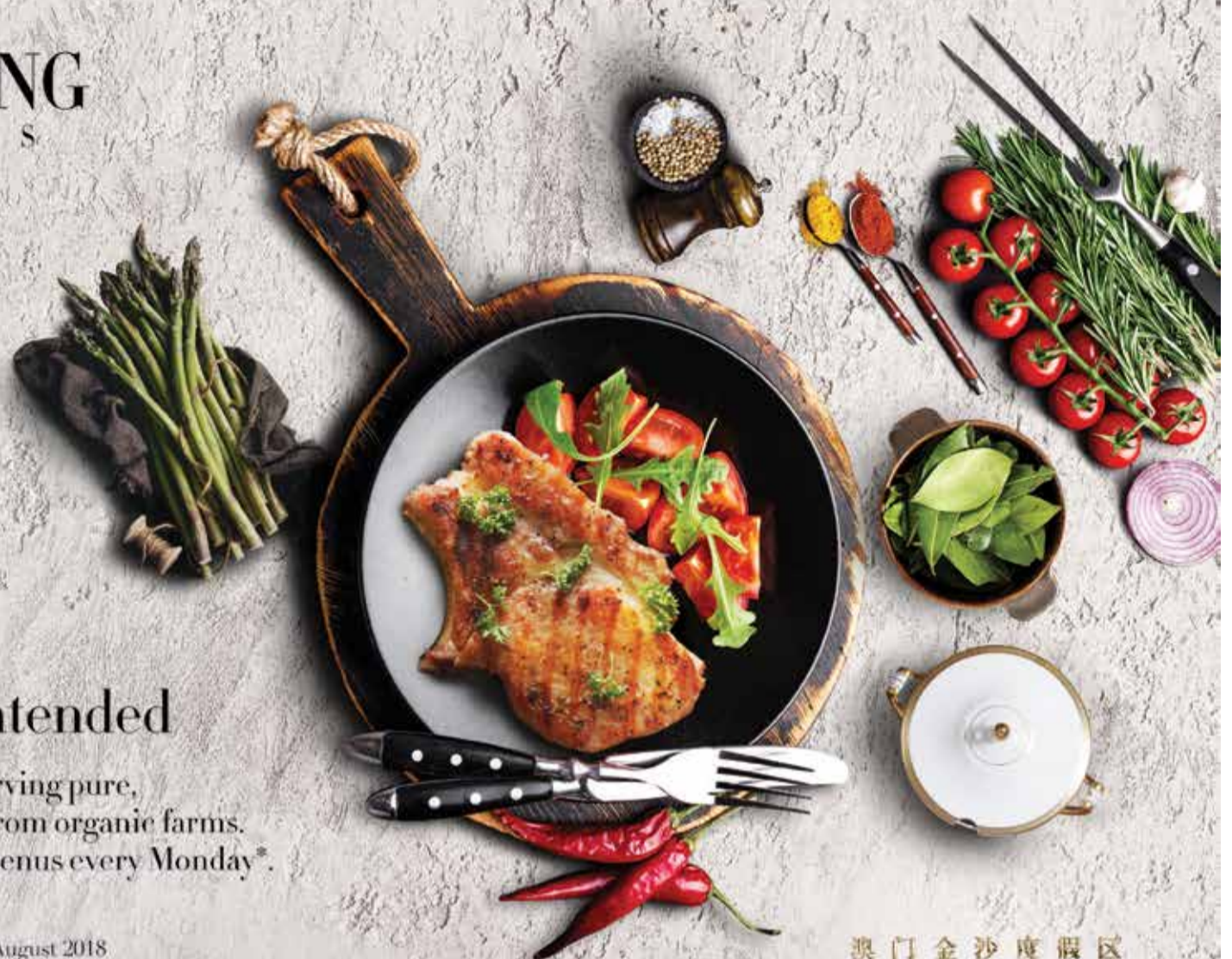
of lawmakers Si Ka Lon, Wong Kit Cheng, Song Pek Kei and Ho Ion Sang – met with BOC Macau yesterday morning. After the meeting, the lawmakers expressed their faith in Polytec's promise.

BOC Macau has been contacting buyers since yesterday to explain the relevant arrangements for individual cases regarding each mortgage.



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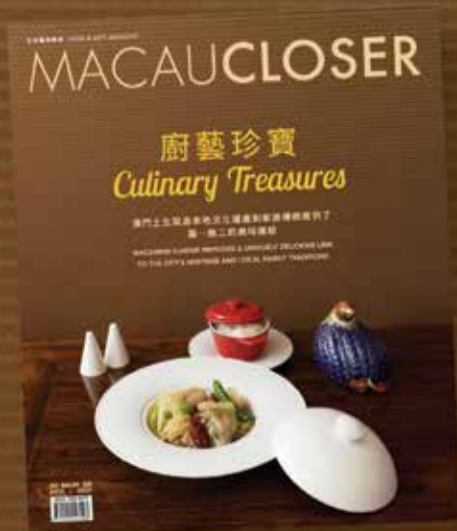
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Renato Marques

GUIA CIRCUIT WITH NEW USAGE

Organizers propose 'fun run' prior to GP

THE 65th Macau Grand Prix will be adding a new race to the program for the first time. Unlike other events held at the Guia circuit, this new event will be held on foot, the Macau Grand Prix Organizing Committee (MGPOC) announced yesterday at a press conference at the Macau Tower.

Titled "Guia Circuit Fun Run", the new event promises to attract many people to the 6.2-kilometer Guia Circuit.

"We are expecting a large number of participants, I'm sure that will attract a large number of residents, which are our main target," MGPOC president Pun Weng Kun, said on the sidelines of the event. "We are expecting 2,000 people [participants]."

Pun added that the purpose of the run was to celebrate the circuit's 65th anniversary and to allow residents to "experience and feel the circuit closely."

The "Fun Run" will be held on Sunday, November 11, as a side activity of



RENATO MARQUES

this year's program.

At the press conference, Pun also announced

this year's title sponsors for the racing events, the Macau GT Cup and Ma-

cau Touring Car Cup. The Sociedade de Jogos de Macau, S.A. (SJM) remains title sponsor for the GT Cup. After signing the agreement, SJM handed the MGPOC a cheque for the amount of MOP4.06 million.

In terms of sponsorship matters, the bigger novelty was the replacement of Companhia de Telecomunicações de Macau S.A.R.L (CTM) as Grand Prix sponsor, ending its 15-year relationship with the event. The new title sponsor will be FOOD4U, a local food delivery app that will sponsor MOP1.9 million as part of the annual MOP220 million budget.

The Guia Circuit races will be held from November 15 to 18.



Luís Filipe Castro Mendes

Portuguese Minister of Culture tours Macau

Luís Filipe Castro Mendes, the Portuguese Minister of Culture, is visiting the region where he will participate in the first edition of the "Encounter in Macau – Arts and Cultural Festival between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries," as well as meeting with several top officials.

According to Radio Macau, Mendes will be present today at an event at the Macau Portuguese School, before traveling to have lunch with Chief Executive Chui Sai On. The agenda of the Portuguese official continues in the afternoon and includes a visit to the Consulate General of Portugal in Macau where he will consult with Consul-General Vitor Sereno.

In the evening the Minister will attend to the main reason behind his visit; the inauguration ceremony of the exhibition "Chapas Sínicas – Stories of Macau in Torre do Tombo," at the Handover Gifts Museum of Macau.

Tomorrow, Mendes will be part of an event included in the Arts and Cultural Festival and will also meet with the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam.

Pun not concerned with Glenn Irwin's refusal

GLENN Irwin, last year's winner of the Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix, has told the BBC that he does not wish to return to the Guia Circuit any time soon after an incident claimed the life of Daniel Hegarty last year.

Questioned over Irwin's absence, organizing committee president Pun Weng Kun said, "Many racers that are interested in participating [in the event], some of them are participating for many years [...] We admit that there are people [who], due to several issues, might be not interested [in participating]."

Pun said that organizers are always trying to "improve on certain parts of the circuit in order to perfect the circuit in and out of the track."

"Last year, after the event, we had done this analysis and we had contacts with the president of the FIM [Fédération Internationale de Motocyclisme] who said that the circuit is good to hold this kind of event," he added.



Glenn Irwin

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REAL ESTATE MATTERS

Buying investment property without seeing it; the nuts and bolts of investment property

Sam Lee is a marketing manager and property consultant at JML Property. JML was established in 1994 and offers Investment Property & Homes. It specializes in managing properties for owners and investors, and providing attractive and comfortable homes for tenants.



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SAM LEE

Why would you buy investment property without seeing it? The answer is simple. It's a numbers game. Whether or not you see the property before you make an offer isn't nearly as important as making sure the numbers make sense. Some investors constantly make offers on multiple properties at the same time, usually offering 15% less than the asking price on each one. Occasionally a motivated seller will accept the offer. The investor never had to look at the homes beforehand. Including an "inspection and approval" clause in the offer means he could always back out of the deal later when viewing the property. Meanwhile, he efficiently identifies the truly motivated sellers. This demonstrates that with a good clause or two in the contract, you don't have to worry about making an offer before you see a property. It's true when you buy investment property or your next home. When it isn't everything the seller says it is, you can re-

ject the deal with little or no loss. So why wouldn't you want to look at the property? Buy investment property by numbers The main reason you might skip looking at a property before making an offer is time. This is certainly true if the property market is hot. If you don't get a price that makes sense, why spend your time to look at property investments? A good price and terms that make sense - this is what is important. Of course, you'll probably want to look at the actual property eventually, but looking at the numbers is how you invest. Investors value income property according to current cash flow (or should if they want safe and viable investments), so start by verifying income. Get the actual income figures for the past 12 months. Always consider the potential income if rents are raised etc., but base your offer on the current income. If you can't find cash flow positive properties in Macau in the

current market due to high capital values, you can also consider investing overseas markets such as the UK or Portugal. Verify all expenses with investment properties. If any expenses listed by the seller seem unusually low, they most likely are. Just substitute your own best guess in place of any suspicious numbers. After you determine the net income, calculate loan payments (talk to your banker), and see how much cash flow you'll have. Then you can figure your cash-on-cash return based on how much of your own money you put into the deal. Just divide the cash flow by your investment. When the numbers work, you can safely make an offer. Inspections will tell you if there are problems that will affect the cash flow. You can always renegotiate if there are such problems (assuming you made your approval of all inspections a contingency of the offer). Of course, you can even go take a look now that you are truly ready to buy that investment property.

Chinese stocks slide to more than two-year low

CHINA'S bear market slump deepened, with the Shanghai gauge closing at its lowest since March 2016, and the yuan resumed its decline as traders braced for U.S. tariffs. The Shanghai Composite Index dropped 0.9 percent, extending its loss in the past four weeks to 12 percent. Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index closed down 0.2 percent, paring a 1.5 percent retreat, while the offshore yuan fell 0.1 percent after a two-day advance.



Stock indexes in Shanghai and Hong Kong have fallen further than any other tracked by Bloomberg worldwide in the past month as investors fear China's slowing economy will struggle to cope with the cost of a protracted trade war. A slumping yuan has damped the attraction of Chinese assets even as policy makers vowed not to use the currency as a weapon against the U.S. "The trade war is a constant overhang and I don't see it being removed any time soon," said Zhang

Gang, Central China Securities strategist in Shanghai. "The yuan is under pressure again today, which is bad for sentiment." The first wave of U.S. tariffs on USD34 billion of Chinese exports will take effect on July 6, according to a statement from the U.S. Trade Representative, which didn't specify a time. China's response of additional tariffs on U.S. goods will become effective "immediately" thereafter. If the U.S. tariffs come in at midnight Friday U.S. time, that's midday Friday in Beijing.

PetroChina Co. was the biggest drag on the Shanghai Composite Index, falling 0.8 percent. Bank of Beijing Co. led declines by smaller banks. Industrial & Commercial Bank of China Ltd. and Bank of China Ltd. weighed on the Hang Seng Index after going ex-dividend, while Macau casino stocks including Sands China Ltd. and Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd. extended declines from earlier in the week when data showed June revenue missed expectations. Bloomberg



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Thai billionaire's retail unit eyes China, India expansion

Anuchit Nguyen

THAI billionaire Dhanin Chearavanont's retail subsidiary CP All Pcl is considering an expansion of wholesale operations in China and India to tap the might of consumers in the world's most-populous nations.

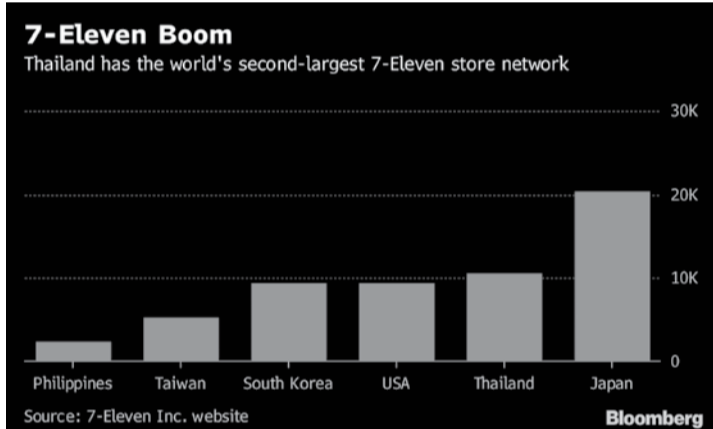
CP All's Chief Financial Officer Kriengchai Boonpoapichart said the firm's cash-and-carry unit Siam Makro Pcl is studying opportunities in the two countries, as well as the possibility of setting up a store in Myanmar, having already opened an outlet in Cambodia.

"Siam Makro is on a new journey of expanding in overseas markets," Kriengchai said in an interview at his Bangkok office on Wednesday. "It will be a tough and challenging road, but it's a good opportunity with large populations to tap, compared with Thailand's mature market."

Thailand's billionaire business tycoons have stepped up acquisitions and investments abroad as an aging population and increased competition dim the long-term domestic growth outlook. Earlier this year, Siam Makro said it had set up LOTS Wholesale Solutions in India and planned to invest more than 10 billion rupees (USD145 million) over five years.

Siam Makro intends to open its first store in India soon and a second outlet in Cambodia, according to Kriengchai. CP All acquired Siam Makro for about \$6.1 billion in the country's biggest ever takeover.

"It's a risky and large investment for Siam Makro to expand into new foreign territory," said Sasikorn Charoensuwan, the



head of research at Phillip Securities (Thailand) Pcl. "It will take some time to break even as economies of scale come when many more stores are opened."

Shares of CP All and Siam Makro have dropped less than 2 percent so far this year, while the benchmark SET Index has slid about 9 percent.

Dhanin, whose investments include telecommunication, agriculture and insurance businesses in Thailand, China and other countries, has net worth of \$4.2 billion, according to Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

CP All operates more than 10,000 7-Eleven stores in Thailand, the most outlets after Japan, according to 7-Eleven Inc.'s website.

The company plans to spend about 9 billion baht (\$271

million) a year to open at least 700 new 7-Eleven stores, said Kriengchai. It will stock shelves with more health and beauty items as income growth is leading to greater demand for such products, he said.

Most of the new 7-Eleven stores will be standalone outlets offering more space for products such as medicines and food items including coffee, part of a strategy to encourage more spending, said Kriengchai.

The company is also promoting digital platforms, such as mobile phone applications, to satisfy changing consumer behavior, he said.

CP All is dominant in its retail sector and there remains room for the company to add more outlets, Sasikorn from Phillip Securities said. **Bloomberg**



Singapore says Grab-Uber hurt consumers

SINGAPORE threatened to force Grab to lower prices and re-vamp parts of its business, accusing the ride-hailing company of abusing its dominance after acquiring Uber Technologies Inc.'s Southeast Asian business.

Grab will have to abolish some driver restrictions, restore pre-merger pricing formulas and pay unspecified financial penalties, the Competition and Consumer Commission of Singapore said in a statement yesterday, citing complaints from riders and drivers. Uber will have to sell Lion City Rentals to any potential competitor with a reasonable offer, and not be allowed to sell the car-rental service for drivers to Grab without the agency's approval, the agency said.

The move comes as Indonesia's Go-Jek, a challenger in the ride-hailing and food delivery business in Southeast Asia, prepares to enter Singapore and three other markets in Southeast Asia, escalating competition with arch-rival Grab. Uber agreed to sell its Southeast Asian operations to Grab in March, getting a 27.5 percent stake in Grab as part of the deal. While the agreement was part of a broader push by Uber to get out of money-losing operations ahead of a planned initial public offering in 2019, any changes to it could potentially impact Uber's plans.

"The current situation is classic results of a monopoly," said Zafar Momin, associate professor at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. "The regulator is concerned about Lion City Rentals because it's quite big and this will really fortify Grab's monopolistic situation and give few choices to drivers. This bodes well for Go-Jek."

Grab responded by saying it disagreed with the watchdog's assessment of the market, arguing that it isn't the only player in ride-hailing and that regulators hadn't taken into account the influx of new players. "This provisional decision and proposed remedies are overreaching and go against Singapore's pro-innovation and pro-business regulations," the company said in an emailed statement. "We will take all appropriate steps to appeal against this decision."

The Grab-Uber deal was aided by the deep pockets of SoftBank Group Corp. In January, SoftBank Vision Fund, with almost USD100 billion to spend, closed a deal to take a 15 percent stake in Uber. Prior to the Grab-Uber merger, Uber sold its business in China to Didi Chuxing and negotiated a similar move in Russia.

"CCCS has provisionally found that the Transaction has removed competition between Grab and Uber, which were each other's closest competitor," the agency said in the statement.

Other proposed remedies include removal of exclusivity agreements with drivers and taxi fleets. The agency said it's seeking public feedback on remedies, and may even require Uber and Grab to unwind the transaction unless "public feedback confirms remedies are sufficient." The two ride-hailing companies have 15 working days to respond, CCCS said.

Uber's Lion City Rentals has a fleet of about 14,000 vehicles in the city-state. ComfortDelGro Corp., Singapore's largest taxi company, in December 2017 struck a deal to buy 51 percent of Lion City Rentals. But the transaction collapsed following Grab's merger with Uber three months later. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

MGM CHINA AWARDED AS 'MOST HONORED COMPANY'



MGM China has been recognized as "Most Honored Company" by financial publication Institutional Investor for the fourth consecutive year in the 2018 All-Asia Executive Team survey.

The Macau-based team was awarded a total of 15 awards in all-pooled categories under the Gaming & Lodging sector, the gaming operator noted in a statement. The awards include the Most

Honored Company; Best Investor Relations Program – First Place Nominated by the Sell Side; Best Corporate Governance – Third Place; Best ESG SRI Metrics – Third Place; and Best Analyst Day – Second Place.

Grant Bowie was awarded the Best CEO – First Place Nominated by the Sell Side, while Hubert Wang was second place as Best CFO and Sidney Luk won first place as Best IR Professional.

Bowie, the CEO and executive director of MGM China said, "The opening of MGM Cotai represents a milestone and a real game changer for us as well as the market and we will continue to serve the investor community with our remarkable IR practice."

NOVOTEL OPENS 500TH HOTEL IN SEOUL



Featuring 523 rooms with digital equipment and design, the Novotel Hotel is located within close proximity to historical sites including Heunginjimun, one of the "Eight Gates of Seoul" dating back to the 14th century. "The opening of Novotel Ambassador Seoul Dongdaemun Hotels & Residences heralds an era of new beginnings for the Novotel brand with the property's first mixed-use flagship development that com-

bines a hotel and residences," said Patrick Basset, chief operating officer of AccorHotels, Upper Southeast and Northeast Asia.

Designed with "space within a space" concept, natural Korean flamed-finish granite stone is featured throughout its floorings and walls, which combine the use of natural timber, AccorHotels said in a statement.

A motif of iconic Heunginjimun leaves is found throughout the hotel, guest rooms and bathroom doors.

ADVERTORIAL

SANDS EXPANDS

Hot new brands make their Macao debut alongside much-loved labels and fresh restaurant concepts with the launch of Sands Cotai Central's Phase 4. Head down to the enhanced Shoppes at Cotai Central to enjoy all it now has to offer.



FRESH FASHION AND FABULOUS FOOD

Sands Cotai Central Phase 4 has just launched, bringing an additional 100,000 square feet of retail space to Macao, including new-to-market brands and an Apple store. Fashionistas will love Levi's, Timberland, Boy London, Zaxy and Bauhaus, while sporty souls should head on down to Calvin Klein Performance, MLB and The North Face. Sands Cotai Central also welcomes Esprit, Guess, Florsheim and Bauhaus, among others. As well as adding more than 25 stores, new restaurants including Portuguese eatery Chiado and the acclaimed Crystal Jade La Mian Xiao Long Bao are now open and guaranteed to delight food lovers.



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Mobike to refund user deposits in effort to win market share

MOBIKE, one of the pioneers of China's bicycle-sharing craze, is scrapping a key part of its business by dropping the need for deposits amid fierce competition to win users.

Existing customers will get their deposits back as the company adds electric-bikes to its fleet in China and overseas, the Beijing-based company said in a statement Thursday. Mobike is making the moves as it fends off rivals backed by Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. and Ant Financial.

The changes come as Mobike is integrated into the platform of online services giant Meituan Dianping platform, which bought the startup for USD3.4 billion in April. With more than 200 million registered users and a request that each pay a 299 yuan (\$45) deposit, there has been speculation the company was sitting on billions of dollars worth of customer cash. Given promotions and waivers, the actual total that has been collected and will be returned is about 1 billion yuan, according to a person familiar with the matter who asked not to be identified.

Mobike decided to drop deposits across its business after tests in about 100 markets led to a significant boost in users. The refunds will be given back within two to



seven days of being requested, it said. The electric-bikes have a top speed of 20 kilometers per hour and can travel about 70 kilometers after each charge.

China's bike wars kicked off about three years ago when Ofo, which is now backed by Alibaba, and Mobike began putting two-wheelers on streets across China. The dockless system, that lets them be dropped almost anywhere, proved popular and led to the emergence of rivals including HelloBike.

Mobike yesterday also unveiled a recycling program to offset the enormous growth of its fleet. It said it'd ensure that all parts of its bikes are re-used as either components of new vehicles or raw materials. **Bloomberg**

Executive's death risks more turbulence at HNA

THE turmoil deepened at HNA Group Co., the Chinese conglomerate that's been selling billions of dollars in assets to stay afloat, after its No. 2 executive died while touring southeastern France.

Co-Chairman Wang Jian, who helped found the group more than two decades ago, fell from a height of about 15 meters on Tuesday while having his photograph taken in the village of Bonnieux, a police officer said, adding that the death wasn't viewed as suspicious. HNA declined to comment beyond saying the 57-year-old, in France on business, died after an accidental fall in Provence.

Wang's sudden death comes as HNA, one of China's most indebted companies, is undertaking an urgent restructuring. It was showing signs of putting its biggest problems behind it. People familiar with the matter said last month that China's top leaders had agreed to help the company, which couldn't generate enough profit in 2017 to pay interest expenses.

Wang was second only to Co-Chairman Chen Feng within HNA's hierarchy, and owned about 15 percent of the conglom-

erate, making him one of the group's biggest shareholders, according to HNA's last update of its ownership structure. Chen also holds a 15 percent stake. HNA said last year that its executives plan to donate all their shares to the Cihang charities that own a majority of HNA should they resign or die. Eventually, HNA expects the foundations to own 100 percent of the group, the company said at the time.

Wang was instrumental during HNA's era of empire-building and its subsequent dismantlement. The company, which once symbolized China's insatiable appetite for global assets, has since reversed course by selling more than USD14 billion of buildings and shares this year, including its multibillion-dollar stake in Hilton Worldwide Holdings Inc.

Wang lost his balance as he attempted to climb onto a retaining wall next to a rock at the highest point in Bonnieux, a scenic village, said Lieutenant-Colonel Hubert Meriaux, a police officer in nearby Avignon. An autopsy conducted Wednesday morning didn't reveal anything suspicious in his death, he said. **Bloomberg**

Beijing's bravado belies worries over trade clashes with US

Christopher Bodeen, Joe McDonald

CHINA says it's girded for a trade war with the U.S. and can give as good as it gets, but behind the official bravado lies a deep unease over trade friction with Washington.

"There are those who believe the U.S. must lose and China must win," Li Xiao, a leading economics professor, said in a commencement speech last weekend at northern China's Jilin University.

"I think this is wishful thinking that defies common sense," Li said in remarks that circulated widely online this week, praised as a reality check as the world's two largest economies stood ready to exchange tit-for-tat tariffs on tens of billions of dollars of each other's goods starting Friday.

China has said it will fire back with corresponding tariffs if the U.S. follows through on its threat to impose 25 percent duties on USD34 billion in Chinese products. All told, U.S. President Donald Trump has said he is prepared to levy higher taxes on up to \$450 billion in Chinese imports, or nearly 90 percent of the goods China shipped to the United States last year.

Taking a defiant stance, the Chinese Commerce Ministry on yesterday rejected "threats and blackmail."

"China will not bow in the face of threats and blackmail, nor will it be shaken in its resolve to defend global free trade," said ministry spokesman Gao Feng at a news conference.

"China will never fire the first shot," Gao said. "However, if the United States adopts taxation measures, China will be forced to fight back to defend the core interests of the nation and the interests of the people."

The trade dispute has roiled the stock market, where the benchmark Shanghai Composite



A man sits on a promotional gimmick in the form of a bomb and the U.S. flag outside a U.S. apparel shop in Beijing

index has tumbled 12 percent in the past two weeks. Longer-term trends are a factor, but uncertainty over trade is taking a toll, analysts say.

Some prominent Chinese experts say Beijing may have miscalculated the pain the U.S. tariffs could inflict on export manufacturers' already razor-thin margins, and overplayed its hand.

"I strongly urge the Chinese government to fully estimate the negative impact of the trade war on the Chinese economy and adopt practical and pragmatic measures to avoid or mitigate a trade war," Yu Zhi, a professor at Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, said in an interview.

The first stage of tariffs that target mostly Chinese technology exports may be manageable, Yu said, but if Trump imposes the full scope of tariffs he has threatened to use exporters will see their profits dwindle. That could lead to politically unpalatable job losses.

Chinese exporters of tools, lighting and appliances say U.S. orders have shrunk as customers wait to see what will happen to prices.

Ningbo Top East Technology Co., which makes soldering irons in Ningbo, south of Shanghai,

used to export 30 percent of its output to the United States, according to its general manager, Tong Feibing. He said American orders have fallen 30 to 50 percent compared with a year ago.

The company wants customers to split the cost of the tariff hike, but few are willing, said Tong.

"There is a chance the company will lose money and might go bankrupt," said Tong. "I will do whatever I can, including layoffs."

The size of the Chinese trade surplus with the U.S. limits Beijing's ability to inflict damage on American exports by a factor of almost three to one. China's imports from the United States last year totaled \$153.9 billion, well short of Trump's \$450 billion target.

But officials in Beijing say China is prepared to do what's needed to safeguard its national interests. Editorials in the state-controlled media speak of the folly of the Trump administration's attempt to extract concessions via higher tariffs, warning that will hurt U.S. economic interests while strengthening China's domestic industries.

"Washington cannot contain China's growth through a trade war," read the headline of an editorial yesterday in the Global Times, a party newspaper.

"If the US is determined to escalate conflicts with China, then so be it. Perhaps the Trump administration can only clear its mind after a fight."

In fighting back, China could impose onerous regulatory and bureaucratic hurdles on U.S. companies' Chinese operations. Beijing has used such tactics in dustups with various countries, including South Korea, Australia and Norway.

The tariffs come at a time, however, of slowing growth and rising debt in China after more than three decades of nearly uninterrupted expansion.

"A hit to China's exports would act as an additional drag on an economy that already shows signs of losing some growth momentum," said Eswar Prasad, a professor of trade policy at Cornell University.

The economy held steady, expanding at a 6.8 percent annual pace during the first quarter of this year, but manufacturing activity shows signs of slowing. Even though exports contribute less than 1 percent of annual growth, they still support millions of manufacturing jobs.

Any dramatic decline in exports would pose a challenge for President Xi Jinping given that the ruling Communist Party's claim to power is largely based

on its ability to deliver improved living standards and uphold national prestige.

Chinese consumers and businesses will bear the brunt as prices rise thanks to higher tariffs.

For medical student Yang Di, higher tariffs could mean much higher costs for biomedical supplies from the U.S.

That would slow his research. "So, in general, it would have a great impact on China," said Yang, a student at Shanghai's Jiaotong University. "Even if you force domestic technology companies [to improve], it may take a while for them to adapt."

Xi has vowed to guide China's rise as a modern superpower in what he calls the "great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation" based on the state-led industrial policy that is at the heart of the trade and technology disputes with Washington.

He's sure to steer clear of any obvious backtracking that might make him look weak.

I strongly urge the Chinese government to fully estimate the negative impact of the trade war on the Chinese economy.

YU ZHI
SHANGHAI UNIVERSITY

Still, a trade war would likely distract from China's efforts to expand its diplomatic, economic and military footprints abroad, notably through Xi's signature "Belt and Road" involving \$1 trillion in investments in infrastructure projects across Asia and beyond.

"An open trade war with the U.S., which now seems imminent, would put a damper on China's push to straighten up its economy and to increase its global economic and geopolitical influence," Prasad said. **AP**

INNOVATION

Top EV maker starts battery-swap service to lure users

BEIJING Electric Vehicle Co., the Chinese electric-car maker preparing for a stock-market listing, is starting a battery-swap service to reduce customers' range anxiety and keep up with similar offerings from rivals.

The company will sell a version of its EV300 compact car for 79,800 yuan (USD12,000) that allows

users to change battery as often as they want for a monthly fee of 432 yuan, Zheng Gang, general manager of BJEV, as the unit of BAIC Group is known, said on the outskirts of Beijing on Thursday.

BJEV, China's biggest maker of pure electric cars, and rivals such as BYD Co. and NIO are bringing out new models and services

at an accelerating pace to lure buyers in the world's biggest and most competitive market for alternative-energy vehicles. The country is set to maintain its position as the largest producer of electric vehicles, accounting for 59 percent of global sales by 2020 and 55 percent by 2025, JPMorgan Chase & Co. projects.

BJEV plans to set up 100 battery-swap stations in Beijing this year, and one change operation lasts 2 minutes and 46 seconds, according to the company. As part of the new program, BJEV gives users an option to sell their car back at half of the original price within three years.

Companies including NIO offer similar services.

Owners of the NIO ES8 can change batteries at special service stations in three minutes or use the services of "Power Mobile" vehicles that travel to motorists to recharge their cars.

NIO plans to build more than 1,100 power-swap stations in China by 2020 and have more than 1,200 "Power Mobile" service

vehicles. A battery-swap station can be assembled within a day. The carmaker will also offer other free services including road rescue.

BAIC Group is in the process of listing BJEV on the stock exchange, and the shares are set to start trading in about two months, BAIC Chairman Xu Heyi said in June. **Bloomberg**

10 months on, the babies of Rohingya rape survivors arrive

Kristen Gelineau, Ukhiya

TUCKED away in the shadows of her family's bamboo shelter, the girl hid from the world. She was 13, and she was petrified. Two months earlier, soldiers had broken into her home back in Myanmar and raped her, an attack that drove her and her terrified family over the border to Bangladesh. Ever since, she had waited for her period to arrive. Gradually, she came to realize that it would not.

For the girl, a Rohingya Muslim who agreed to be identified by her first initial, A, the pregnancy was a prison she was desperate to escape. The rape itself had destroyed her innocence. But carrying the baby of a Buddhist soldier could destroy her life.

More than 10 months have passed since Myanmar's security forces launched a sweeping campaign of rape and other brutalities against the Rohingya, and the babies conceived during those assaults have been born. For many of their mothers, the births have been tinged with fear — not only because the infants are reminders of the horrors they survived, but because their community often views rape as shameful, and bearing a baby conceived by Buddhists as sacrilege.

Theirs is a misery spoken of only in murmurs. Some ended their pregnancies early by taking cheap abortion pills available throughout the camps. Others agonized over whether to give their unloved babies away. One woman was so worried about her neighbors discovering her pregnancy that she suffered silently through labor in her shelter, stuffing a scarf in her mouth to swallow her screams.

In Bangladesh's overcrowded



"S" holds her baby boy as she sits in her shelter in Balukhali refugee camp in Bangladesh

refugee camps, A knew that hiding her pregnancy would be difficult and hiding a wailing newborn impossible.

She worried that giving birth to this child would leave her so tainted that no man would ever want her as his wife. Her mother took her to a clinic for an abortion. But A was so frightened by the doctor's description of possible side effects that she thought she would die.

And so she retreated to her shelter, where she tried to flatten her growing belly by wrapping it in tight layers of scarves. She hid there for months, emerging only to use the latrine a few meters away.

There was nothing to do but wait with dread for the baby who symbolized the pain of an entire people to arrive.

For the women who became pregnant during last year's wave of attacks in Myanmar, to speak the truth is to risk losing everything. Because of that, no one knows how many rape survivors have given birth. But given the vastness of the sexual violence

— as documented in an investigation by The Associated Press — relief groups had braced for a spike in deliveries and scores of abandoned babies.

By June, though, the birth rate in medical clinics had remained relatively steady, and only a handful of babies have been found left behind. Aid workers suspected that many women had tried to hide their pregnancies, avoiding doctors

"I'm sure many have also died during the pregnancy or during the delivery," says Medecins Sans Frontieres midwife Daniela Cassio, a sexual violence specialist.

Yet sprinkled throughout the camps, you will find women who have grown weary of the silence. Ten such women and girls agreed to interviews with the AP. They consented to be identified in this story by their first initials only, citing fear of retaliation from Myanmar's military.

H, who had an abortion, was once so ashamed of her pregnancy that she told no one. In

Myanmar, where the Rohingya people have few rights and Rohingya women even less, she had no voice. But here, she says, she feels she can finally speak. "I don't want to hide anymore," she says.

The monsoon rains thundering down on the roof of A's shelter threaten to drown out her words. Her voice still has a childlike softness, and when she speaks of the soldiers who raped her, it fades to a whisper.

Already, several men once interested in marrying her have walked away when they've learned about the attack. And yet, with her parents' blessing, she leans in close to share her story. "I want justice," she says. "That's why I'm talking to you."

One day in May, after months of isolation, her contractions began. She was still a child herself, overwhelmed with uncertainty over what to expect. And she cringed at the thought of what others would say.

For hours, she labored on the dirt floor of her shelter, until at last, she pushed out a baby girl.

She looked down at the infant and began to shake. Gazing at her child, she saw beauty. But she also saw pain. She knew she could not keep the girl.

Her father hurried to a clinic run by a relief group and asked them to take the baby away. An aid worker soon arrived to retrieve the infant.

Even though I got this baby from the Buddhists, I love her. Because I carried her for nine months.

VICTIM

She kissed her daughter's head and tiny hands. And then she tearfully handed the baby over.

She doesn't know who is caring for her baby now, but groups like Save the Children and UNICEF have found Rohingya families willing to take in such children. The organizations have placed around ten babies with new families, says Krissie Hayes, a child protection in emergencies specialist with UNICEF.

Sometimes, she says, an aid worker stops by the shelter to show her photos of her daughter.

"Even though I got this baby from the Buddhists, I love her," she says. "Because I carried her for nine months." For her, giving the baby away was the right decision. It was the only decision.

But she aches for her still. AP

JAPAN

Nuclear agency urges measures to cut plutonium stocks

JAPAN'S nuclear policy-setting body yesterday endorsed a call for stricter management of its fuel recycling program to reduce its plutonium stockpile.

The annual "nuclear white paper" approved by the Atomic Energy Commission is a response to intensifying pressure from Washington as it pursues denuclearization in North Korea. It says Japan's fuel recycling program should minimize the amount

of plutonium extracted from spent fuel for reuse in power generation to eventually reduce the stockpile.

Japan has pledged transparency and pledged not to possess plutonium that does not have a planned use, but the promise increasingly sounds empty because of the slow restarts of Japanese reactors that burn plutonium amid setbacks from the 2011 Fukushima disaster.

Though Japanese offi-

cialists deny any possible misuse of the material and reprocessing technology, the large stockpile of plutonium that can make atomic bombs also raises security concerns as the U.S. wants North Korea to get rid of its nuclear weapons.

Commission chairman Yoshiaki Oka said Japan's effort to tackle its plutonium stockpile underscores its commitment to a peaceful nuclear program and takes into consideration the importance of

maintaining "relationship of trust with the U.S."

The commission is compiling guidelines to better manage and reduce the plutonium stockpile. Measures would include some government oversight in setting a cap on plutonium reprocessing and a study into how to steadily reduce the plutonium processed abroad.

Japan has nearly 47 tons of plutonium — 10 tons at home and the rest in France and Britain, where

spent fuel from Japanese nuclear plants has been reprocessed because Japan is not able to reprocess it into plutonium-based MOX fuel at home.

The total amount is enough to make 6,000 atomic bombs, though officials at Japan's Rokkasho reprocessing plant denies any risk of proliferation, saying all plutonium is stored safely and closely monitored by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

After years of delay due to technical issues, the Rokkasho plant is in the final stages of safety approvals by the regulators ahead of its planned launch in 2021, but critics say that starting up the plant only adds to the problem.

The report says burning plutonium in 16-18 conventional reactors is "the only realistic method" in Japan to effectively consume plutonium. Only about 1 ton of plutonium was burned last year. AP



Rescuers lay telephone cable from the cave where the group is trapped



An international rescue team prepares to enter the cave

Tassanee Vejpongsa, Grant Peck

Trapped in Thai cave, youngsters must grapple with stress

AT a gilded temple in Thailand's mountainous north, Ekapol Chanthawong honed a skill that will serve him well as he sits trapped underground in a dark cave: meditation.

Before the 25-year-old was a coach to the young boys on the Wild Boars soccer team — 12 of whom are trapped alongside him — he spent a decade as a saffron-robed Buddhist monk. He still stays at the temple from time to time and will meditate with the monks there each day.

“He could meditate up to an hour,” said his aunt, Tham Chanthawong. “It has definitely helped him and probably helps the boys to stay calm.”

More than 288 hours have passed since Ekapol and the boys got trapped in Tham Luang Nang Non cave by monsoon floodwaters on June 23 after they went exploring. The group was discovered July 2 after 10 days totally cut off from the outside world, and while they are for the most physically healthy, experts say the ordeal has likely taken a mental toll that could worsen the longer the situation lasts.

“It's very likely that while the boys were in the cave but not yet discovered by rescuers that they experienced various degrees of anxiety, fear, confusion, vulnerability and dependency, and perhaps hopelessness,” said Paul Auerbach, of the Department of Emergency Medicine at Stanford University's medical school.

Videos taken inside the cave show the boys, aged 11-16, and their coach interacting with Thai navy SEAL divers, who have been sent in to supply them, provide medical care and to keep them company. Though they are visibly skinny

and weak, the boys and their coach appear to be in good spirits, smiling for the camera as the SEALs crack jokes.

Still the group is unable to leave and there is no timeline for their extraction. The only way out of the cave at this time would be for the boys to dive through the same complicated route of narrow passageways that their rescuers entered, something that is extremely dangerous even for expert divers let alone children with no such experience. Yet it is something being considered with storms on the way that could worsen the floods.

Adolescents are especially social creatures, and having friends with them as well as their coach would be a tremendous help.

DAVID SPIEGEL
PROFESSOR OF PSYCHIATRY

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 either naturally or by pumping. That could take months, however, given that

Thailand's rainy season typically lasts through October.

“Being discovered was a moment of elation,” Auerbach said, “but that is now followed by the reality that a difficult technical rescue might be necessary, which carries with it disappointment for the boys and a new set of fears.”

Experts say the Wild Boars come into their situation with some advantages, including their youth, their group identity and, yes, their coach's experience with mediation.

“Adolescents are especially social creatures, and having friends with them as well as their coach would be a tremendous help,” said David Spiegel, a professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Stanford University's medical school.

The boys and their coach are known to be a tight-knit group who go on adventures, including swimming in waterfalls, cycling trips through the mountains, river rafting and cave exploring.

Experts say Ekapol's meditation — a mainstay of the Buddhist faith — likely served the group well.

“I'd speculate it could be helpful — even if it functioned solely as a way for the children to feel like their coach was doing something to help them,” said Michael Poulin, a professor of psychology at the State University of New York at Buffalo. “Feeling loved and cared for is paramount.”

Spiegel agreed that meditation could help those trapped manage their mental state,

“allowing their fearful and negative thoughts to flow through them like a storm passing, rather than fighting their fear.”

Aisha Wiboonrungrueng, whose 11-year-old son Chanin is trapped in the cave, has no doubt that Ekapol's calm personality has influenced the boys' state of mind.

All the experts agreed that the group will continue to face challenges even after they make it out of the cave

“Look at how calm they were sitting there waiting. No one was crying or anything. It was astonishing,” she said, referring a video that captured the moment the boys were found.

Omar Reygadas, who spent 69 days trapped underground in Chile in 2010 with 32 other miners, said faith and prayer, as well as humor were very important to the miners at times when they doubted they would get out.

“They shouldn't be ashamed to be scared,” he said of the boys. “Because we were scared, too. Our tears also ran. Even as adult men, we cried.”

If safety concerns force the boys to stay in the cave for an extended period, it will be im-

portant to their mental health for there to be organization and daily routines, said John Fairbank, a psychiatry professor and co-director of the UCLA-Duke University National Center for Child Traumatic Stress.

He said that could include “daily hygiene routines, regular meal times, age-appropriate cognitive activities, regular physical exercise to the extent feasible in limited space, religious/spiritual practices, and specific times for daily briefings on their situation and for communicating with their families.”

All the experts agreed that the group will continue to face challenges even after they make it out of the cave.

Thailand's Department of Mental Health said hospitals are making preparations to care for the boys' and will monitor them until their mental health is fully regained. They are also working with the families to prepare for how to interact with the boys once they get out, such as not digging for details about what they endured.

“Their re-entry into the world outside the cave will predictably be one of massive attention from family, friends and the media,” Auerbach said, noting it could be overwhelming. “The world soon loses interest and moves on to the next story, so it is extremely important that these survivors not be forgotten and be closely monitored so that they can receive the best possible support.” AP

POLAND

Top court judges criticize pro-gov't principal

Judges in Poland's top court have written to their pro-government principal complaining that she kept some of them from handling cases.



Seven out of the Constitutional Tribunal's 15 judges wrote to their head, Julia Przyłębska, to complain, Thursday. It comes on the heels of mass protests against new legislation that has forced the retirement of some of Poland's Supreme Court judges. The judicial overhaul pushed by the right-wing ruling party, which has already affected the composition of the Constitutional Tribunal, has been widely criticized. The European Union, of which Poland is a member, has open unprecedented procedures against a perceived erosion of democracy in Poland. Przyłębska insisted she was following regulations.

KENYA

Owners of dam charged for deaths of 47

Kenyan police are charging with manslaughter two managers of a private farm where a dam burst due to seasonal rains, flooding a village and killing at least 47 people. The two officials of the Patel Coffee Estates, the managing director and the general manager, appeared before a court in the town of Naivasha. The farm is in Nakuru County in Kenya's Rift Valley. Police say the dam was substandard. The dam's wall collapsed in May after heavy rains. Across Kenya, the rains are blamed for the deaths of 172 people through drowning.

CHILE

Ex-soldiers convicted of killing singer Victor Jara

Eva Vergara, Santiago

EIGHT retired soldiers have been sentenced to 18 years in prison for one of the most emblematic murders of Chile's military dictatorship: the murder of folk singer Victor Jara and a government official.

The office of the court system announced the ruling on Tuesday, and it said a ninth veteran was sentenced to five years for cover-up.

Jara, a popular singer and university professor, was a fervent supporter of Marxist President Salvador Allende and he was seized only hours after Gen. Augusto Pinochet assaulted the presidential palace and overthrew Allende on Sept. 11, 1973.

Jara was taken to a stadium, where thousands of prisoners were being held. His hands and head were beaten and he was shot with at least 44 bullets as a warning to those who challenged Pinochet's authority.



Allende's prisons chief Litre Quiroga also was tortured and killed at the stadium, apparently because of alleged mistreatment of an officer who had earlier attempted a coup.

Jara and Quiroga were among the earliest of more than 3,000 suspected leftis-

ts slain during the 1973-90 dictatorship of Gen. Augusto Pinochet.

The bodies of the two men were dumped on a dusty street near the Metropolitan Cemetery and taken to the morgue, where someone recognized Jara and secretly informed his wife, the

British dancer Joan Turner Jara.

The family managed to have his body exhumed for an autopsy in 2009.

Judge Miguel Vasquez imposed the sentences on Hugo Sanchez Marmoniti, Raul Jofre Gonzalez, Edwin Dimter Bianchi, Nelson Haase Mazzei, Ernesto Bethke Wulf, Juan Jara Quintana, Hernan Chacon Soto and Patricio Vásquez Donoso to 15 years for the killings and three more for kidnapping them.

Rolando Melo Silva was sentenced to five years. The sentences can be appealed.

Chilean officials are seeking the extradition of a tenth former soldier, retired Lt. Pedro Barrientos, who emigrated to Florida and in 2016 lost a civil damages suit filed on behalf of Jara's family. He has denied any role in the deaths.

The stadium where Jara was killed has since been renamed in his honor. **AP**

AD



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Migrant workers the key to Russia's smooth-running World Cup

Angela Charlton, James Ellingworth

BEHIND the veneer of Russia's smooth-running World Cup are legions of migrant workers from Central Asia, who built the stadiums and keep them running, staff concession stands, and clean up after fans who revel through city streets.

They are among millions of migrants who perform menial jobs across Russia, and face routine police harassment and ethnic profiling. They are accused of depressing wages and plotting terrorism, yet unlike in Europe or the U.S., no one talks of building a border wall to keep them out. That's because they form a pillar of the economy and aid Vladimir Putin's geopolitical strategy — and without them, Russia might not have managed to host a World Cup at all.

As world-class soccer unfolds in their midst, orange-vested migrant workers take selfies with fans and steal glimpses of a match on a co-worker's cell phone, or watch replays on a dormitory TV after a 12-hour shift. You won't hear them complain.

"This country took us in, and gives us work," said Bobur Ulashov, who left his village in southern Uzbekistan five years ago in search of a job. Today, the 37-year-old sweeps rubbish into his dented mental dustpan and plucks beer cups out of bushes at Moscow's official World Cup fan zone.

He has little interaction with the visiting crowds — "they see the orange vest and keep walking," he shrugs. He doesn't hesitate when asked who he's rooting for. "Russia. Who else?"

Russia provides work to people

like Ulashov, who sends \$100-200 home every month to his 6-year-old son, wife, parents and siblings. And people like Ulashov provided Russia cheap labor to prepare for the World Cup.

"Migrants made up the main workforce" in the construction of stadiums and transport infrastructure for the tournament, said Valery Solovei, a professor at Moscow's MGIMO foreign policy institute and an expert on immigration and nationalism. "Without migrant workers, Russia couldn't have built all these things so quickly."

Millions of migrants who perform menial jobs across Russia face routine police harassment and ethnic profiling

Despite promises by soccer's governing body FIFA, the work wasn't always safe, or humane.

Building Workers International says 21 people died on World Cup construction sites. Human Rights Watch documented hundreds of complaints from World Cup workers, finding that many had no written contract of any kind, and some were working in temperatures of minus 25 degrees Celsius with one indoor break in a nine-hour shift.

"Abuses included non-pay-

ment of wages, significant delays in paying wages, very unsafe working conditions in some sites, and also retaliation against workers who complained," said Yulia Gorbunova of the group's Moscow office.

Russia's World Cup organizing committee says it worked with FIFA on an inspection system to root out alleged labor violations, and FIFA said last year that it had seen a sharp fall in the "number of issues" at Russian construction sites after its inspections. Neither the Russian organizers nor FIFA provided figures or details on what they found, or said whether anyone was prosecuted.

That's a concern for Russia's workers and for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, where migrant workers perform nearly all menial labor and have few legal rights.

Migrants staffing Luzhniki Stadium, Moscow's 81,000-seat primary venue, insist their conditions are good — 30,000 rubles (USD470) a month during the tournament, with one or two days off per week. But most didn't want their full names published for fear their employers would punish them.

Gafirjon Kurbonov isn't afraid to talk. He helped lay asphalt in St. Petersburg as Russian cities cleaned up ahead of the World Cup, and now works as a registered taxi driver in Moscow. His wife and two small children have joined him, and he wants to settle here.

"Business is good. There are so many foreign [fans]," he said in rapid-fire, Tajik-accented Russian. And after the World Cup is over? "There will always be work."

Even harder than obtaining working papers and a fair salary is battling discrimination. Security officers guarding the metro system systematically single out Central Asians to check their bags and documents, ignoring those with more Slavic features.

Russian authorities have said identity and bag checks are part of overall security necessary to protect the country.

Without migrant workers, Russia couldn't have built all these things so quickly.

VALERY SOLOVEI
MOSCOW-BASED SCHOLAR

When Russia sank into recession because of Western sanctions over the annexation of Crimea, Central Asians took blame for pushing down wages, inciting terrorism and petty crime.

After a Kyrgyz taxi driver plowed into pedestrians near Red Square early in the World Cup, social networks buzzed with abusive comments about "guest workers" who turn to terrorism — even though Russian authorities insisted it was just an accident by a sleep-deprived driver.

Central Asian migrant workers have been linked in the past to Islamic extremism, however. "Since they are feeling social pressure, they radicalize," Solovei said. Discrimination "spawns a feeling of protest."

Yet when nationalist politicians campaign to impose visas on Central Asians, government officials balk, fearing that would cost Russia its influence in the strategic region. And the debate quickly dies down.

Russia has proportionately more migrant workers than any country in Europe, Solovei said — some 6 million according to official statistics, 10 or 11 million according to unofficial estimates. Most come from the former Soviet republics of Central Asia — ancient Silk Road towns of Uzbekistan, impoverished valleys of Tajikistan on the Afghan border.

Some settle in Russia and become a part of the fabric of multi-ethnic cities like Moscow. Others remain guest workers for the long term, returning home every year for weeks or months at a time — and supplying remittances that make up a substantial chunk of Central Asia's national budgets.

A Kyrgyz street sweeper named Gulnara showed off cell phone pictures of her young adult children back home, whom she hopes to see this summer. That helps her face the challenge of cleaning the mess left by soccer fans on historical streets near Red Square.

At the St. Petersburg stadium, a maintenance worker waited shyly in a corridor as fans poured out of the first-round match between Russia and Egypt. Seeing the jubilant Russian faces, he guessed that the home team had won, but had to ask a passerby the score.

Fixing tiles just about 10 meters from the stands, he had no idea what had transpired inside. **AP**

TV canal macau



FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:10	Miscellaneous
18:30	Destiny
19:00	Non-daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:10	World Cup Diary
19:35	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	Portuguese Mini Serie (100% Portuguese)
22:10	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Movie
01:25	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
02:10	RTPi Live

SATURDAY

10:30	Comedy
11:35	Miscellaneous
12:30	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast (PT)
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:55	Miscellaneous
17:50	Miscellaneous
18:35	Miscellaneous
19:10	World Cup Diary
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (PT)
21:00	Grimm Sr. 3
22:30	Miscellaneous
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Portuguese Talk Show
23:55	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:10	RTPi Live

SUNDAY

10:25	Kids Serie
11:00	Sunday Mass (Live)
12:00	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:55	Brainstorm
17:40	Got Talent Portugal
19:20	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-daily Portuguese News
22:00	Documentary
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Mysteries of Lisbon
23:55	Miscellaneous
00:25	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:05	RTPi Live

Offbeat

MUNICH OFFICIALS WANT TRAIN STATION TO HAVE AIR TAXI PARKING

A group of city counselors in Munich say they want the southern German city's main train station to have a landing pad for flying taxis.

Five city council members from the Christian Social Union party submitted a motion Wednesday calling on rail company Deutsche Bahn to consider the space needed for the small, drone-like passenger aircraft in its plans for a future redesign of the station.

In their motion, they write that "it is to be expected that within a few years technology will have advanced so far that flying taxis can be used to transport people."

The party, which has a majority across Bavaria but is in opposition in the state capital's assembly, has recently been championing the idea of flying taxis as a future means of travel.

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 & 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

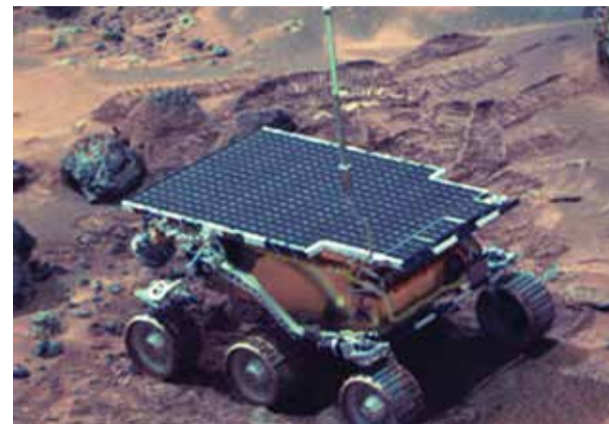
Director: J.A. Bayona

Starring: Chris Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard, BD Wong

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 135min

this day in history



1997 MARS BUGGY STARTS EXPLORING RED PLANET

Nasa scientists have freed a robot from the space probe Mars Pathfinder, allowing it to begin its exploration of the Red Planet at last.

The rover, known as Sojourner, has been stuck on Pathfinder since its successful landing on Mars two days ago.

It is the first time a man-made craft has travelled over the surface of another planet.

Pathfinder quickly sent back the evidence: an image of the Martian surface showing the tracks made by Sojourner's six studded titanium wheels.

The problem began when a partially-deflated airbag blocked Sojourner's way out of Pathfinder. Then the computers on board the probe and the rover failed to talk to each other.

Finally, at 0646 BST (0546 GMT) there was a breakthrough.

Flight director Chris Salvo announced to the waiting team at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California: "Six wheels on the ground."

There was an ecstatic cheer from the 70-strong team. But they will now have to wait another day for the first high-resolution pictures because an hour after the vehicle moved off the ramp, the sun went down and the rover was left parked until the next Martian morning.

The Sojourner is a tiny robot, about the size of a bread-bin and weighing just 22 lbs (10 kg). It travels on six wheels, each of which can move independently to cope with the uneven Martian terrain.

Most of the power is provided by solar cells on the roof, and there is also a battery power pack for backup.

It is controlled remotely from California, millions of miles away.

The Pathfinder probe had a near-perfect landing on 4 July - America's Independence Day - in the Ares Vallis, an ancient channel on Mars that may once have held water.

The first reading sent back was of the temperature - a freezing minus 93 degrees C.

The probe has also sent back some astounding pictures of the barren, rock-strewn surface.

It showed massive dust storms in the pink Martian sky, one raging just 600 miles (950 km) south of the landing site.

The mission is being followed avidly by millions on the internet through the official Mars Pathfinder website.

There is particular interest in what it may find following the controversial announcement by Nasa last August that it had found evidence of life in a Martian meteorite.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Although Sojourner was designed to operate for just one week, in fact it kept exploring Mars for nearly three months.

It covered more than 50,000 square yards (42,000 square metres) of territory around Pathfinder's landing site and sent back 550 images of the Martian surface. Pathfinder itself also took thousands of pictures.

They revealed new information about geological features on Mars and provided compelling evidence that the planet once contained liquid water and was warm and wet, like the Earth.

The Mars Global Surveyor, which arrived in September 1997, was also a success, providing tantalising hints of possible water beneath the surface.

However, the next missions, Mars Climate Orbiter and the Mars Polar Lander in 1999, were costly failures, putting the future of Mars exploration in doubt.

Then in 2001, the Mars Odyssey revived Nasa's fortunes with a remarkable geological map of the planet which transformed our knowledge of what Mars is made of.

The European Space Agency put the Mars Express into orbit around Mars in December 2003.

In 2004, Nasa's Mars rovers, Spirit and Opportunity, discovered compelling evidence for the prolonged presence of water on the planet's surface.

YOUR STARS

Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

After a lot of recent socializing, you are finally getting the chance to spend some quality time on your own. You may think you still want to be out and about enjoying the wild life today.

Taurus

April 20-May 20

Turning away from the rat race will also let you refocus on your personal goals; remembering special memories will buoy your confidence and spark some much-needed inspiration.

Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

It's time to do a little personal inventory on your life. Friends, family, romance, work goals ... it's important right now for you to take note of the objective facts about your personal reality.

Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

So today, climb up on a rooftop and shout out to the world about your latest accomplishment (or just send a tactfully worded email, whichever seems more practical). Start tooting your own horn!

Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Follow the recent advice a friend or family member gave you - and polish up your diplomacy skills. The spotlight will be shining brightly on you at some point during this day.

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

If you have any travel or complicated plans coming up soon, today would be a great time to complete the details. It is important for you to nail down your schedules, dates and reservation confirmations as soon as you can.

Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

There might be a bit of a playful power play going on early in the day - how you approach it will greatly influence the rest of your day, so give solid thought to whether or not you want to fight for what you believe in.

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Today will be a lesson in flexibility. Transformations can be amazing things, but they can also be frustrating things - after all, when everything around you changes, it can be difficult to adjust.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

The good news is, you can easily put yourself into a different frame of mind by putting yourself into a different situation. If long distance travel isn't possible, go for a walk alone in a different part of town.

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Planning is not always glamorous or exciting, but it's necessary for just about everything you want to do in life. There will be a bit of a schedule crunch, so putting some time into planning your day will pay off.

Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Today, after all the morning's activities wind down, you might get a strong sense that something new is beginning. There is real renewal in the air right now, and you can easily grab some of it to get your own thing going.

Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

Spending some time by yourself will help you focus on the things that really matter and that will last. So today finding the time to get away from the rest of the world will be in your best interest.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle

WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION for various cities in China and the World.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Mob boss; 5- Misbehave; 10- Pessimist's word; 14- Son of ...; 15- Connected series of rooms; 16- End in ... (draw); 17- Ladder step; 18- Macho types; 19- Hayworth or Moreno; 20- Snappy comebacks; 22- Disperse; 24- Neighbor of Syr.; 25- One ... million; 26- A lobe or full type of assault; 30- Sad poet; 34- Do a number; 35- Fenced areas; 37- It is in Spain; 38- Get thee ... nunnerly; 39- Golf gadget; 40- Small batteries; 41- Comics canine; 43- Device with 88 keys; 45- Suffix with concession; 46- Relate; 48- Big consumer; 50- Building annex; 51- Kung ... chicken; 52- Gaily; 56- Noisiest; 60- ... Bator, Mongolia; 61- Donkeys; 63- Primordial giant in Norse myth; 64- Role for Ingrid; 65- Farm birds; 66- Egypt's river; 67- Not imaginary; 68- Messed up; 69- Actress Sommer;

Down: 1- Singer Vikki; 2- Shivering fit; 3- Football kick; 4- Continuing; 5- Smokers receptacle; 6- Billiard implements; 7- Russert of "Meet the Press"; 8- Salt Lake City collegians; 9- Writing implements; 10- Transport cost; 11- Bickering; 12- TV's "Nick at ..."; 13- Shred; 21- Queue after Q; 23- "Wheel of Fortune" buy; 26- Camera setting; 27- ... Janeiro; 28- Studio sign; 29- Caesar's tongue; 30- Perfect places; 31- Let me repeat...; 32- Blank look; 33- Stun gun; 36- "Michael Collins" actor; 42- Endless; 43- Plunder; 44- Against; 45- Soothing to the mind; 47- Clay today; 49- ... de Cologne; 52- The Ghost and Mrs. ...; 53- Glamour rival; 54- Tabula ...; 55- River of Flanders; 56- ... majesty; 57- Pianist Gilels; 58- Worm fiber; 59- Hammock holder; 62- Sun. speech;

Yesterday's solution crossword grid with filled-in words.

Large crossword puzzle grid with some numbers and letters.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



AD

Real estate advertisement for JML Property with 'FOR SALE' and 'FOR RENT' sections listing various properties in Macau and Taipa.

CYCLING

Froome calls on skeptical fans to let him ride Tour in peace

Joseph Wilson, France

CHris Froome has asked Tour de France fans to let him race in peace, even if they doubt the recent ruling that cleared him of doping allegations.

The British cyclist has been targeted by spectators in the past. During the 2015 Tour, he said a man threw a cup of urine at him while yelling "doper".

With the latest edition beginning tomorrow, five days after the International Cycling Union finally ruled Froome had won last year's Spanish Vuelta cleanly, the four-time Tour winner offered an alternative way for skeptical fans to show their distrust.

"Support the race in a positive way, don't bring negativity," he said yesterday in western France. "In terms of safety I obviously would encourage fans of the sport to come watch the race, and if you are not necessarily a Chris Froome fan or a Sky fan, come to the race and put a jersey



French police keep watch as Chris Froome (center rear) answers questions during a TV interview

on of another team you do support. That would be my advice."

A cloud hung over Froome after a urine sample taken during the Vuelta in September showed a concentration of the asthma

drug salbutamol that was twice the permitted level.

After months of silence, the UCI said Froome's result did not represent an adverse finding, which could have led him to be

stripped of his Vuelta victory, and a suspension.

The UCI's ruling ensured he could compete at the Tour after race organizer ASO had informed Team Sky it would forbid Froome from entering until the doping case was decided.

His use of asthma medication has been well documented and he often uses inhalers during races. World Anti-Doping Agency rules state an athlete can be cleared for excessive salbutamol use if he proves it was due to an appropriate therapeutic dosage.

Froome said he understands it may take time for fans to believe he is not a cheat.

"But that data is available, and I would like to think that as people understand that more, they will understand my decision to keep on racing knowing I have certainly done nothing wrong," Froome said. "Of course it has been damaging. As it is right now I'm just happy to draw a line in the sand and move on and focus on bike racing."

UCI president David Lappartient has also issued a call for calm.

"[Froome] has the right to operate in a safe environment. I have heard calls, sometimes completely irrational, to violence on the Tour de France," Lappartient said. "I cannot accept that and I call on all spectators to protect all the athletes and to respect the judicial decision so that Chris Froome can compete in a safe and serene environment."

Teammate Geraint Thomas said Froome has shown poise even when fans are at their worst.

"I've always been impressed by the way he is off the bike," Thomas said. "But the last nine months have been the most impressive, really, how he was able to still perform and train and commit to all that while everything else was going on."

Thomas, however, said possible run-ins with the public are part of riding down roads lined by people, most of who are there to cheer on the athletes.

"It's not like football — it's not in just a closed stadium when you can check everyone," he said. "So there is that element of risk so to speak."

Froome is aiming to join Jacques Anquetil, Eddy Merckx, Bernard Hinault and Miguel Indurain as the only riders to win the Tour five times. AP

AD

World Cup
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June 14 - July 15

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WORLD CUP 2018 | PREVIEW

France-Uruguay pits speed vs. defense in quarters

Stephen Wade

FRANCE picked up two trophies in 1998: One, of course, was the country's only World Cup title, won on home soil. It was also the birth year of Kylian Mbappe, the 19-year-old who's emerging as one of the biggest stars of the World Cup.

"Well, that was a good year for him to be born, even if he didn't see much of the 1998 World Cup," joked French coach Didier Deschamps, who was the captain in '98. "I'm very happy that Mbappe is a French citizen."

It will be France's searing speed led by Mbappe and Antoine Griezmann against Uruguay's defense anchored by Diego Godin on Friday [10 p.m. Macau time] in Nizhny Novgorod in the World Cup quarterfinals. The winner will face Brazil or Belgium.

Uruguay has given up only one goal in four World Cup matches, and France has scored seven — most in the 4-3 victory over Argentina in the round of 16.

In scoring twice against Argentina, Mbappe became the first teenager with multiple



goals in a World Cup knockout game since a 17-year-old Pele did it twice (including a hat trick against France) in 1958.

It's a big stage with inevitable comparisons that Mbappe smiled about and then batted away.

"It's flattering to be the second one since Pele," said Mbappe, born in France to a father from Cameroon and a mother from Algeria. "But let's put things in perspective. Pele's another cate-

gory."

This is France's seventh quarterfinal and its fourth in the last six World Cups dating back to 1998 and the famous side led by Deschamps, Patrick Vieira, Zinedine Zidane and Thierry Henry — the so-called "Rainbow Team" from a multicultural France.

"In a World Cup you have the top-level players," said Mbappe, who plays for Paris Saint-Ger-

main. "So it's an opportunity to show what you can do and what your abilities are. There is no better place than a World Cup."

After three lackluster games in group play, France was electric in its most recent match, particularly in the second half when it cut up Argentina's plodding defense. Five of France's starters in the first group match had never played in the World Cup, including Mbappe.

"You need some patience," Deschamps said.

Deschamps has compared playing Uruguay to facing Peru, which narrowly lost to France 1-0 in group play on a goal by Mbappe.

He termed Uruguay "solid and aggressive" in a French television interview, adding: "These are not qualities displayed by Argentina."

The match will showcase several cross-border friendships.

Griezmann plays at Atletico Madrid where his teammates are Uruguayan defenders Godin and Jose Maria Gimenez. Godin is the godfather of Griezmann's daughter.

While Godin and Gimenez will try to stop Griezmann, Uruguay striker Luis Suarez will be opposing Barcelona teammate Samuel Umtiti.

"I've always joked [...] that I wanted to face Umtiti at a World Cup," Suarez said. "And it came true."

Suarez's running mate, Edinson Cavani, scored both goals in the knockout win over Cristiano Ronaldo and Portugal but is nursing a hamstring injury, and it's unclear if he will play.

His absence would be a blow to the South Americans, but defense is the real key with coach Oscar Tabarez expecting to see less of the ball.

"I think very often there's the mistaken belief that ball possession leads to scoring opportunities," said Tabarez, who took over in 2006. "If you don't have ball possession, you can still inflict pain." **AP**

JFA says Nishino will not return as Japan's coach

Jim Armstrong, Tokyo

DESPITE leading his team to a thrilling and unexpected ride at the World Cup, Akira Nishino will not be back as Japan's coach. The Japan Football Association confirmed yesterday that Nishino will not continue as coach of the national team when his term concludes at the end of July.

"We [the JFA] will not persuade Nishino to stay on the job as his term comes to an end." JFA president Kozo Teshima told a media conference yesterday.

Japan's squad returned home yesterday following its round-of-16 defeat to Belgium at the World Cup in Russia. The 63-year-old Nishino took over just two months before the World Cup following the surprise



dismissal of Vahid Halilhodzic. Exceeding expectations, Nishino led Japan to its first appearance in the knockout stage since the 2010 tournament in South Africa.

In April, the JFA said Nishino would manage the team until the end of the tournament.

"I coached the team

with the notion that I will only do this until the end of the World Cup. I feel like I've fulfilled my duties," said Nishino, who was the JFA's technical director before taking the job.

Four years after a hugely disappointing campaign in Brazil, Japan entered the World Cup as one of the lowest-ranked

sides. Few expected the Blue Samurai to get out of their group, not least because of the change at the top.

But following a 2-1 victory over Colombia and a 2-2 draw with Senegal, Japan advanced from its group despite a 1-0 defeat to Poland in its final group match. Admittedly, its progress was down to the fact that it received fewer yellow cards than Senegal after the teams could not be separated on points, goal difference or goals scored.

After a series of lackluster results in friendlies under Halilhodzic leading up to the World Cup, the JFA sacked the Bosnian saying there were communication problems between him and some of the players.

Nishino took over with little time to prepare and got Japan to play a more attacking style which was on display when they took a surprising 2-0 lead over Belgium before three late goals dashed hopes of an upset. **AP**



FIFA 'rebukes' Maradona criticism of referee

FIFA says it "strongly rebukes" comments made by its ambassador Diego Maradona criticizing American referee Mark Geiger's handling of England's win against Colombia in the World Cup round of 16 on Wednesday [Macau time].

It's the third controversy involving the Argentina great at the World Cup, which he has mostly attended as a VIP guest of FIFA.

FIFA responded to Maradona telling Venezuelan broadcaster Telesur the outcome of the game was a "monumental theft."

Maradona had been photographed before the game wearing a yellow Colombia

jersey. England advanced to the quarterfinals in a penalty shootout after a 1-1 draw in Moscow.

FIFA says Maradona's "insinuations" were "entirely inappropriate and completely unfounded."

"FIFA is extremely sorry to read such declarations from a player who has written the history of our game," the world soccer body says in a statement.

Maradona previously apologized for making an offensive gesture toward South Korean fans, and was filmed aggressively raising his middle fingers after Argentina scored a late winning goal against Nigeria. **AP**

opinion

Bizcuits

Leanda Lee



WASTE NOT, WANT NOT

Monday morning's video of the hygiene worker in Aberdeen, possibly in the employ of Hong Kong's Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, throwing a bag of rubbish into the sea has gone viral. The commentary has not been limited to the PRD with attacks on the man, but pseudo-Waste Warriors all over have raised this one incident as proof of the hopelessness of any one person in 'developed' countries trying to minimise their waste when the Chinese, African and Indian peoples are creating the mess! This false argument merely attempts to alleviate the burden of responsibility from those who find lifestyle change too troublesome.

Really, how different are we from this hapless chap who although apparently lazy and hugely negligent, is more likely just ignorant, ill-trained and mal-educated. Awareness does not just happen; the luxury to have curiosity about the world, opportunity to access information and training to critically understand it are not bountiful assets. Even if just looking for the easy way out, how different is he from the rest of us who place convenience as a high, if not the highest, priority in our daily lives. Our take-away mindset of the coffee pods/cups/plastic water bottles/Styrofoam lunch boxes and plastic utensils dumped into street-side and professional office rubbish bins without another thought is unsustainable, and the cause of this man's woes. This poor chap is ethically in a better position than most of us. He is just picking up from where we left off – and the destination is the same.

EVERY PIECE OF PLASTIC EVER MADE STILL EXISTS IN OUR WORLD

The world produced more plastic in the ten years to 2010 than in the whole of the century prior, and production is increasing. Only 9% of this stuff is being recycled. Would this chap understand the implications of this? Do we? Really?

8-million tonnes of this waste per year, goes into our oceans, and it's not our friend, the ill-fated cleaner in Aberdeen, who has done this. We, our lifestyles, our waste-management systems and business priorities and economics have brought us to the point where micro-plastics from broken down waste are starting to be found in our bottled water and food chain along with the toxins that bind to them.

It's #PlasticFreeJuly time and the timeliness of this careless rubbish dump could not have been more opportune. It reminds us of the ludicrous single strawberry imported by CitySuper. That precious little bundle was packed in a laminated cardboard box, tucked up in a foam sock on a bed of 'straw', and covered with clear wrap. And it was wonderful! Wonderful in its ability to raise awareness of how far our affluenza has brought us. News of this red mongrel hit the airwaves globally, and got people talking.

Exposure of single acts of idiocy like the Aberdeen boss and the ludicrous strawberry raise awareness far more than images of seas of plastic trash, starving sea-birds with intestines full of bottle tops, and statistics, because these vignettes reflect the madness in our own lives.

These precautionary tales exhort us to change. It is not so hard as it once was to minimise waste as advice and support are readily available: from carrying your own shopping bag to refusing straws, and eating in. An immediate shift to a zero-waste lifestyle is overwhelming, particularly for urbanites, but there are simple steps recommended by governments, environmental groups, bloggers and social networks that shift us from being waste-unaware towards benefits way beyond the environmental: eating better, saving money (processed foods are expensive), a deeper connection with the local community as we converse with local retailers rather than impersonal supermarkets, and moments to stop and pause instead of grab-and-go.

"Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself", or so said Tolstoy.

THE RUSSIANS ADVISED TO SHOWER IN PAIRS
BUZZ BECAUSE OF WORLD CUP

Residents of the World Cup host city of Samara are being urged to take showers in pairs because the influx of fans is putting strain on water supplies.

The Samara Communal Systems utility company says the combination of a heatwave and "thousands of guests" have meant its providing 10 percent more cold water than normal.

That's causing water pressure to drop in some neighborhoods, the company adds.

The company advises locals to "save water - take showers in pairs," adding a smiley face to the message.

Samara is due to host England's quarterfinal game against Sweden on Saturday.



Station	Air quality	
Roadside	25-45 Good	
High Density Residential Area	20-40 Good	
Ambient	25-45 Good	

SOURCE: DSI/MG

Beckham's latest Miami stadium plan targets golf course



Tim Reynolds, Miami

DAVID Beckham's latest soccer plan for Miami might be decided by the city's voters. His target: a golf course.

Beckham is scheduled to appear before the Miami city commission next week as he and his partners aim to move closer to picking a stadium location for their Major League Soccer franchise. The Beckham group's latest proposal calls for a 28,000-seat stadium on the site of what is now the Melreese Country Club, a public golf course owned by the city that sits near Miami International Airport.

If commissioners approve, voters would decide on Nov. 6 whether to change the city's charter and allow what would be a no-bid deal to lease 73 acres at the Melreese site to the group. The deal Beckham is proposing calls for the city to collect nearly USD140 million in rent payments over 39 years, a rate of roughly \$3.5 million annually.

Beckham's group would pay an additional \$20 million over 30 years to help fund a planned 58-acre park on the site.

The former Manchester United, Real Madrid and LA Galaxy star and business partner Jorge Mas are listed on the city's agenda for the July 12 meeting, described as scheduled to make a "personal appearance" and "special presentation." They will ask com-

missioners to put the measure before voters, though it's certain that not everyone at the meeting will be supporting the idea.

Petitions are circulating to save the course, where Tiger Woods has appeared for clinics in the past. Longtime LPGA star Cristie Kerr, a Miami native, has voiced opposition to the Melreese plan in recent months, as has fellow Miami native pro Erik Compton.

"Please help protect this beautiful green space, this public golf course and this home to amazing youth programs," Compton wrote on Twitter.

Beckham's group also wants to bring a massive technology park to the site, as well as an underground parking facility, public soccer fields, 500 new hotel rooms, a conference center, retail stores, restaurants and more. The Beckham franchise, when it gets going, will also bring a training center and an academy focused on developing local players to the Miami area.

The stadium-location quest is just the latest drawn-out chapter in Beckham's five-years-and-counting marathon to bring MLS back to Miami. The Miami Fusion played from 1998-2001, folding because of poor attendance.

Beckham and MLS announced in January that the franchise would be coming to Miami, but nearly

every detail about the club remains unclear. There's no definitive start date — 2020 has been mentioned repeatedly, even though no new stadium could possibly be ready by then — as well as no team name, no logo, no colors, no coaching staff and no front-office personnel.

Beckham group's proposal calls for a 28k seat stadium on the site of what is now the Melreese Country Club

More than a year ago, Miami-Dade County commissioners approved a deal to sell Beckham nearly three acres of county land for \$9 million with the belief that it would be the last parcel he needed for a stadium site in the city's Overtown neighborhood. But that site was never the preferred choice for Beckham and his group anyway, with the original hope being to build on the waterfront near the Port of Miami.

The Overtown site now seems all but doomed, though it's unclear what would happen if city commissioners or voters block the latest Beckham plan. AP

WORLD BRIEFS



SINGAPORE tightened property market curbs after home prices posted a second straight quarter of strong gains, with the government saying it wants to avoid the risk of a sharp correction which could be destabilizing.

JAPAN's nuclear policy-setting body yesterday endorsed a call for stricter management of its fuel recycling program to reduce its plutonium stockpile. More on p12



IRAQ has banned its farmers from planting summer crops this year as the country grapples with a crippling water shortage that shows few signs of abating.

GERMANY-HUNGARY Chancellor Angela Merkel and Prime Minister Viktor Orban exchanged barbs yesterday on the issue of migration, underlining the split within the entire European Union.



SPAIN Police said they captured seven key members of the Armenian faction of a Russian organized crime group described as Europe's most dangerous gang.

BRITAIN Church services, tea parties and even a medically themed symphony were on the agenda as Britain marked the 70th anniversary yesterday of the National Health Service.

CHILE Eight retired soldiers have been sentenced to 18 years in prison for one of the most emblematic murders of Chile's military dictatorship: the murder of folk singer Victor Jara and a government official. More on p14