



GLOBAL ENGLISH DEBATING COMPETITION

The three-day event was an opportunity for debaters to participate in English debates and make friends at the same time

P2



200 YEARS AFTER COLONEL MESQUITA'S BIRTH

P4 MDT REPORT



THAI CAVE RESCUE OPERATION ONGOING

Rescuers extracted four members of a group that has been trapped for more than two weeks in a cave

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Health Bureau Announcement
Health Bureau patients affected by the problematic anti-hypertensive drugs may receive replacement drugs from Wednesday to Friday.
For queries, please contact the Pharmacy Division of CHCSJ between 09:00 and 18:00 at 83908588 / 83908582.

MASTERMIND OF 1MDB SCANDAL

Details of Low's escape to Macau surface

P3

WORLD BRIEFS

PHILIPPINES Van-riding assailants gunned down the vice mayor of a small Philippine city south of Manila on the weekend, police said, the third such brazen killing of a local official in the past week.



THAILAND's government pledged yesterday to ensure justice for Chinese victims of a tour boat that sank in a storm off the southern resort island of Phuket, killing 42 people and leaving another 14 missing. More on p13

CAMBODIA Thirty-three pregnant Cambodian women hired to act as surrogate mothers were formally charged with surrogacy and human trafficking offenses.

ETHIOPIA-ERITREA The leaders of longtime adversaries Ethiopia and Eritrea met for the first time in nearly two decades yesterday amid a rapid and dramatic diplomatic thaw.

More on backpage



Death toll climbs to 76 as heavy rains hammer southern Japan

P13

EDUCATION

'First global English debating competition' held in Macau

Julie Zhu

THE opening ceremony for the first Macau Tournament of Champions BP Invitational 2018 was held on Friday at the University of Macau (UM) Student Activity Centre Theatre.

Co-organized by UM and the Macau English Debating Association, the three-day event was an opportunity for debaters to participate in English debates and make friends at the same time.

The Macau Tournament of Champions BP Invitational 2018 is the first global English debating competition held in Macau.

The event aims to promote cultural exchange and debate in the English language within the local community.

This invitational tournament attracted a total of 44 top debating teams from North America, Europe, Asia, Australia and New Zealand.

The participants are champions of international debating competitions and come from various universities, including Peking University, Harvard University, Yale University, Stanford University, the University of Cambridge, the University



of Oxford, the National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University, the University of Tokyo, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, UM, the University of Sydney and the University of Auckland.

According to Paul Pang, Dean of Students of UM, this tournament is the product of combined efforts from UM and the Macau English Debate Association, and

is supported by many sponsors.

"We are a gathering of great and good people. It is indeed a rare occasion for us, and perhaps the world of debating is like the World Cup of Debating for the young and vibrant and not-so-young and not-so-vibrant," said Pang.

"The debating event is not just fun and a meeting of old and new friends for the debate com-

batants and their referees. It will be a tremendous educational opportunity for the secondary and university students in Macau as they hear, watch and take note[s] at each debate where every round is a final," Pang said.

When talking about UM's debate team, Pang noted that the English Debate Team of UM is one of the best debate teams.

"The English Debate Team of UM is among the top, if not the best in China, and we have been consistently organizing domestic and international debate events over the past decade to pay forward the incalculable personal developmental benefits debating has given to our students," said Pang. "We wish that more Macau students will step up their debate game as we plan more of these opportunities for them to exercise their right to be heard and to challenge each other in democratic discussions. [...] For it is only in the clash of minds that we give rise to new dreams and aspirations of an ideal world."

SUMMER CAMP BOOSTS MIDDLE SCHOOLERS' CONFIDENCE

THE UM Faculty of Arts and Humanities recently organized a six-day English summer camp for secondary school students in Macau. The event attracted many local students, as well as teachers and students from other coun-

tries. There were many interactive activities designed to boost participants' confidence in speaking English. Participating students were encouraged to use everyday English phrases and expressions to communicate with each other.

ASK THE VET

by Dr Ruan Du Toit Bester

CAT ANATOMY FUNDAMENTALS

SOME knowledge of cat anatomy can help you better care for your cat. Once you have an understanding of basic cat anatomy, you can be better prepared to spot any health problems your cat might display. Here's some more information about basic cat anatomy.

THE FELINE SKELETAL AND MUSCULAR STRUCTURE

Your cat's skeleton and muscles form the basis of feline anatomy. The bones of your cat's skull, pelvis, spine and limbs provide the basic support and structure of his body. Important muscular structure includes such muscles as the masseter muscle, biceps femoris, triceps, hyoides, supraspinatus, and infraspinatus muscles.

THE ROLE OF YOUR CAT'S COAT

Your cat's coat plays an important role in feline anatomy. Features such as color and pattern are genetic. However, the appearance of your cat's coat depends on nutrition. Your cat's coat should be sleek, shiny and soft; changes in the appearance of your cat's coat are one of the first indicators of health problems.

Your cat's coat is made up of two layers of fur, a primary and a secondary layer. The secondary, or under, layer is usually thicker than the pri-

mary or upper layer.

CLAWS, EYES, MOUTH AND TEETH

Your cat's claws are retractile in nature. They are the most specialized structures in cat anatomy. The soles of your cat's feet have thick-skinned pads that protect him from injury.

Your cat's eyes have evolved to help him detect the movement of prey, so his vision isn't as good as you might expect. It's a myth that cats can see in the dark; their iridescent eyes might reflect small amounts of light, but this doesn't mean especially good night vision. In addition, you may have noticed that your cat can't see things that move fast; instead, his eyes can only detect slow movements.

Your cat's mouth is the beginning of his digestive system. He has sharp teeth to allow him to cut and tear the flesh of his prey. Your cat's jaw is incredibly strong; cats kill by crushing their prey's windpipe in the vise-like grip of their jaws. When your cat reaches his later years, he may need teeth extracted. This doesn't present a problem because your cat's jaws are strong enough to allow him to chew kibble without the help of teeth.

YOUR CAT'S DIGESTIVE TRACT

Food from your cat's mouth passes down



the esophagus into his stomach. Your cat's stomach is attached to his small intestine, which serves an important physiological function in your cat's digestive tract. Here, your cat's body absorbs the nutrients in his food. Waste material passes from the small intestine into the large intestine, and then down the colon to the rectum where they are eliminated.

YOUR CAT'S NERVOUS SYSTEM

Your cat's nervous system is divided into two parts, the central and the peripheral nervous system. The central nervous system includes the feline brain, brain stem and spinal cord.

The peripheral nervous system includes the nerves that carry messages from your cat's brain to various parts of his body.

Hope this info helps
Till next week
Dr Ruan

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Jho Low able to enter Macau despite Interpol notice

WANTED businessman Low Taek Jhow, also known as Jho Low, was reportedly able to enter Macau despite an Interpol notice, because neither Malaysia nor Singapore requested his arrest from the two SARs.

Citing several unnamed sources, the South China Morning Post says that Low, who is seen as the mastermind of the 1MDB financial scandal which led to the arrest of former Malaysian prime minister Najib Razak, was able to enter the MSAR because an Interpol notice alone is not enough to obligate local authorities to intervene.

"Jho was in Hong Kong for a couple months," the source told the SCMP. "He was staying at an apartment in Pacific Place with his family and his entourage. They moved out of Pacific Place and travelled to Macau a few days ago, despite Low being



the subject of an Interpol red notice."

"Hong Kong police have no obligation to arrest, even if he is on an Interpol red notice," the source added. "The only obligation is if there is an accompanying formal request from the originating country, which there wasn't."

The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission believe

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.

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

Low, who is widely thought to be hiding out in Macau

along with his family, might now be in the process of applying for asylum. Macau does not currently have an extradition treaty with Malaysia.

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.

HEALTH

Plan to replace antihypertensive drugs activated

THE Health Bureau (SSM) activated a contingency plan to replace four antihypertensive medicines which were found to contain impurities of N-Nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA) in the drug valsartan.

According to a statement, the SSM was informed of the problem in the medicines "Valsartan Tablet" 80 mg and 160 mg, and "Valsartan + Hydrochlorothiazide Generic" 80 mg and 160 mg. This has affected 1,238 patients who were prescribed these four medicines by the SSM, according to existing data.

The Bureau's statement, which has reached about 80 percent of the patients (968 users) so far, also advises them to replace their medications this week (July 11 to July 13) from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., or at the 24-Hour External Consultation Service (Conde de Sao Januario Hospital Center Emergency Service Building) and health care centers.

Although there is a need to replace the medicines, the SSM warns users not to suspend administration of the current medicines at their own discretion, and they should continue to take the medicines in their possession until these are exchanged. The affected patients or their representatives must provide the patient's ID card, patient card, medical care card and medical prescriptions proving that the prescriptions are from the Health Bureau in order to replace the medicines. **RM**

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Police completes investigation into officers' gambling

The Public Security Police Force (PSP) has completed an internal discipline investigation of police officers reportedly gambling while on duty. Last year in June, the PSP received a picture (sent by the local press) showing several police officers who were playing poker in uniform. In the picture, money could be seen on the table. The PSP suspects, based on the picture, that the police officers involved were participating in gambling activities. As soon as the PSP received the picture, it initiated discipline investigation procedures. In May this year, the government issued an announcement regarding the punishment of the police officers involved.

China Telecom Macau extends maternity leave

China Telecom Macau announced it has extended paid maternity leave to 70 days starting from July 5. Previously, the company granted its employees paid maternity leave for 56 days and paid paternity leave for five days. Earlier in May, four of the city's gaming operators announced they would also extend their paid maternity leave to 70 days and paid paternity leave to five days. Sands China officially implemented the extension of maternity leave on May 18. In turn, SJM, Melco Crown and MGM extended paid maternity and paternity leave on June 1.

Guangdong establishes office for cooperation

The Guangdong Provincial Public Security Department recently established a specific office named "the Office for Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau Tripartite Joint Operation Against Triads and Organized Crime." The office is said to enhance information exchange among the three departments and to enhance joint operations, cross-board pursuits and joint crime combat conducted by parties inside and outside mainland China. According to the Guangdong department, triads from Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan have been carrying out crimes disguised as normal businesses in Guangdong. The Guangdong police department said that triads from these places frequently attract mainland businessmen who gamble outside of mainland China, and then chase the debts of these same businessmen after they return.

200TH ANNIVERSARY

Colonel whose name is everywhere is recalled by few

Daniel Beittler

OVER the course of three days in the summer of 1849, Vicente Nicolau de Mesquita (1818-1880), who was born exactly 200 years ago today, earned a place for himself among the most controversial figures in Macau's history.

Today Mesquita's name can be found across the Macau Peninsula on street signs and monuments, but he is far from a household name and many local residents cannot say who he was or what he did.

The story begins with the appointment of the widely unpopular Governor João Maria Ferreira do Amaral, who was deployed to the Portuguese enclave in 1846 with a directive to overturn de jure Chinese sovereignty in Macau.

Amaral angered the Chinese inhabitants of the city when he ordered them to pay taxes to the Portuguese administration (instead of imperial mandarins as had been the case for hundreds of years) and the proposal that some of the city's Chinese graves be relocated to make way for a road extension. By some historical accounts, it was during Amaral's tenure that the Portuguese unlawfully occupied the then-islands of Taipa and Coloane.

His actions, poorly received in nearby Guangzhou, eventually culminated in his assassination on August 22, 1849, just a few hundred meters from the Chinese border. Some 2,000 incensed Chinese soldiers seized the opportunity and amassed along the border of Macau and the nearby Chinese fort at Baishaling and began firing on the walls of Macau.

On August 25, a junior artillery officer by the name of Mesquita volunteered to lead an assault on the fort against all odds, accompanied by just 36 soldiers and a small artillery piece. Preceded by a single artillery shell which was fortunate enough to find its target, Mesquita led a charge against the enemy position causing the garrisoned Chinese soldiers to panic and retreat.

The discord across the border simmered thereafter and the young artillery officer returned to Macau as a national hero.

"In this way, Mesquita became a hero. Accidentally, perhaps, but one of the so-called romantic heroes [nonetheless]," writes João Botas, a Portuguese journalist and the blogger behind Macau Antigo, a rich archive of the city's history. "And people sometimes need heroes. But it is not unreasonable to say that without his action[s], the story would most probably have been different."

But this story has a tragic end.

DANIEL BEITTLER



DANIEL BEITTLER



Avenida do Coronel Mesquita named after Mesquita in Areia Preta



Portas do Cerco

Years of discrimination against his Macanese ethnicity are what modern historians say drove Mesquita to insanity, culminating in the murder of his family and his suicide. As a consequence, Mesquita was denied both a military funeral and a Christian burial during the 19th century.

"Like other prominent figures in the history of Macau, the life of Colonel Mesquita is little recognized in Macau, the land where he was born," Botas told the Times in an interview.

"He was considered a hero during the 19th century and today that is something to remember. But most people [in Macau] don't know the story - except for the Macanese community," agreed Jorge Morbey, a historian and president of the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) between 1985 and 1990.

Mesquita might be glorified as a hero in the Portuguese and Macanese communities, but having assaulted a Chinese fort during the early years of the "Century of Humiliation," he qualifies as a villain in the story of modern China.

A bronze statue of the soldier was toppled by dissidents during the 1-2-3 Incident of 1966, when months of tensions in Macau ignited riots and subsequent police

repression, all with an undertone of resistance to foreign occupation.

This villainous view is unlikely to change in the near future, especially with the adoption of a standardized history textbook in Macau. Prepared in part by entities under the supervision of the mainland's Ministry of Education, the textbook is unlikely to recount the story of Amaral and Mesquita in a balanced manner, if at all.

For Botas, that would be unacceptable. "It's one of the most important aspects of Macau's history," he remarked to the Times, adding, "Of course his story should be taught in schools."

Former IC President Morbey was behind the establishment of a committee of Portuguese and Chinese historians tasked with bridging gaps between the various accounts of the Amaral-Mesquita story in the late 1980s. The committee was later disbanded. Today Morbey shares a skeptical view of how the subject matter is likely to be covered in Macau's schools.

"If they cover the events in schools it will be in a bad light, because the events were bad from the point of view of the Chinese," he said.

In future, Macau students might have to look elsewhere for alternative historical narratives of the Amaral-Mesquita story. Fortunately, there are plenty of clues dotted around the city.

Two hundred years on several roads on the Peninsula still bear his name, while today the colonel's gravestone can be found beside the entrance of San Miguel Cemetery, decorated with the title "Heroic defender of Macau."

Yet the most well-known Mesquita tribute is the Portas do Cerco, or Border Gate monument, built by the Portuguese administration in 1849 to honor both Mesquita and the deceased Governor Amaral. The dates August 22 and August 25 are inscribed on either side of pastel yellow monument, while the somewhat ironic message, "A pátria honrai, que a pátria vos contempla" (Honor your motherland, for your motherland looks over you), is plastered across its top.

"A pátria honrai, que a pátria vos contempla" is motto used by the Portuguese Navy and inscribed on all ships of its armada. It is used on the Border Gate monument to refer to the distinguished career of Amaral who served in the Portuguese Royal Fleet.

Rob Golum, Scott Moritz

GAMING

Wynn Resorts' lawyer exits, adding turmoil in founder's wake

WYNN Resorts Ltd., whose founder stepped down earlier this year over allegations of sexual harassment, said General Counsel Kim Sinatra left her position, marking another high-profile change at the casino company.

Wynn Resorts hasn't completed the terms of her transition, according to a filing last week. Sinatra held the post since 2004.

Her departure follows other top-level moves at the Las Vegas-based company since the resignation of Chief Executive Officer Steve Wynn in February. Six board members announced they were leaving; three new ones were added, all of them women. Meanwhile, the new CEO, Matt Maddox, has been trying to distance the company from the regime of his predecessor, even going so far as to drop the Wynn name from the new casino the company is building near Boston.

Sinatra's exit is "reflective of the pressure the company's management team is facing in the near term from regulators and shareholders," David Katz, a Jefferies LLC analyst, wrote in a note Friday.

Former board member Elai-

ne Wynn said in legal filings that she told Sinatra about an alleged 2005 incident between Steve Wynn and a manicurist at the resort, which the departing general counsel has disputed. Regulators in Massachusetts, Nevada and Macau have been investigating claims of harassment at the company, probes that could result in Wynn Resorts losing its license to operate in those jurisdictions.

"We expect that pressure continues from both regulators in Nevada and Massachusetts and from shareholders regarding matters of governance and company performance," Katz wrote.

The shares were little changed at USD154.98 at 10:05 a.m. in New York. They have fallen about 8 percent this year, partly on concern of a stalling recovery in Macau. **Bloomberg**



PAULO BARBOSA

Twelve suicides recorded in Q1

Macau has recorded 12 suicide cases in the first quarter of 2018, according to statistics provided by the Health Bureau (SSM). Ten suicides were committed by Macau residents, while the other two were non-residents. The number represents a 20 percent decrease compared to the same period in 2017. The SSM calls on citizens to care more for the people around them and to encourage those who are emotionally disturbed to actively seek professional help. In a statement, the bureau said it grants subsidies and technological support to local non-profit organizations in order to provide free psychological counseling services to residents in need.

No requests for assistance from Macau residents

The Tourism Crisis Management Office (GGCT) is paying close attention to the tourist boats' capsizing incident that occurred in July 5. From the information gathered through the Macau travel industry, no requests for assistance have currently been received from local residents. Likewise, GGCT has not yet received any request for information or assistance until now.

AD



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BBAM @ St. Regis Breakfast

Thursday, 12th July 2018

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

FROM TRUMP TO BITCOIN
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- 7.45 am: Registration
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- 8.15 am: Presentation and Q&A session
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The Buckingham

(Ref: 18060681)
700 sq.ft. HKD 18,000

Two double bedroom fully furnished apartment in luxury complex of The Buckingham, Central Taipa. The apartment has been fitted out to Marriott Hotel standard. Well fitted galley style kitchen equipped with kitchen essentials. Close to banks, supermarkets and public transportation this property is in the perfect location for convenience.



Manhattan D unit, High Floor

(Ref: 18070684)
2305 sq.ft. HKD 29,800

Fabulous family apartment on a high floor in the Manhattan, located in central Taipa. Four bedrooms: three doubles & one single, separate shower room and en-suite bathroom off the master room. The Manhattan has a super outdoor lap pool and kids outdoor climbing frame, indoor private dining room for twenty, and a state of the art gym (better than many local hotels).

FOR SALE



Jubilee Court, Macau

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

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



Old Macau, Unique Walk Up

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

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



Jou Fai Kuok, St Pauls Ruin's Macau

(Ref: 18055556)
627 sq.ft. HKD 3.9M
Rate: HKD 6,347

One bedroom apartment in Heritage Area of Macau. A five minute from the Ruins of St Pauls. Renovated 3 years ago. Good size master bedroom with built in wardrobes. Modern shower room with built in under counter cabinet. Well equipped kitchen. S shaped living / dining area with small nook for desk.



Va Nam Top Floor

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

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



Calçada da Surpresa, 12, Ching Fai Court, Macau

(Ref: 18035547)
2,000 sq.ft. HKD 11.5M
Rate: HKD 5,750

LOFT in the centre of Macau. A unique opportunity to live in this sleek, modern property. The large open space area on the ground floor houses the open plan living and dining areas with fabulous designer kitchen located at back of the property. Viewing can be arranged by appointment.



The Buckingham, Unit C, Taipa

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

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



Violet Court, Hellene Gardens, Coloane

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

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



Choi Long Meng Chui, Taipa

(Ref: 18045555)
3,398 sq.ft. HKD 21M
Rate: HKD 6,180

Fabulous apartment with stunning open views across to Macau. Originally four bedrooms converted to three bedrooms with three bathrooms, two en suite. The open plan dining area at the back of the property has another balcony with a view of the original University of Macau. Two parking spaces (one covered and the other open).

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Contact Property Consultants Today.

Juliet Risdon (English Speaker)

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Almost 180,000 smoke control inspections in six months

THE Health Bureau (SSM) inspectors have performed a total of 179,711 inspections during the first six months of this year following the enforcement of the Smoking Prevention and Control law.

According to an SSM statement, the figure represents a 5.5 percent (+9,439) growth in the number of inspections, which in turn represents a daily average of 993 inspections.

The bureau said that the registered growth is related to the inspectors' implementation of new situational strategies.

During the period between January 1 and June 30, the inspections resulted in a total



of 2,678 accusations, including 2,668 cases of illegal smoking, six cases of illegal labeling of tobacco products and four cases of illegal sales of tobacco products.

Despite the increase in inspections, the number of accusations has been reduced to 1,262 cases, with men continuing to

be responsible for the majority of cases (93 percent).

Most of the fines are still applied to tourists (62.1 percent), while locals are also responsible for a significant share (34.8 percent).

In 77 cases, the SSM noted that police had been called in to deal

with the offenders that refused to accept the charges. The fines for 81.8 percent of the cases have been settled.

Regarding the cases by type of establishment, the areas recording the highest number of incidents were the casinos (29.2 percent), followed by parks, gardens and recreation areas (12.4 percent). The bus and taxi stands came in third (10 percent).

The SSM noted that until June 30, it had received a total of 68 requests from 11 casinos in the territory requesting the installation of smoking rooms. Only one of these has been approved, following a joint inspection with the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau. **RM**

Stable money supply in May

THE broad money supply held steady in May with a stable share denominated in patacas, according to a statement released yesterday by the Monetary Authority of Macao. At the same time, resident deposits remained virtually unchanged from a month earlier while loans to residents increased.

The currency in circulation dropped 1 percent month-to-month whereas demand deposits rose 6.1 percent in May. The shares denominated in MOP, HKD, RMB and USD were 31.2 percent, 53.8 percent, 4.4 percent and 8.5 percent respectively.

Resident deposits remained virtually unchanged from the preceding month at MOP594.7 billion, whereas non-resident deposits grew 2.4 percent to MOP240.6 billion.

Meanwhile, total deposits in the banking sector grew by 0.8 percent from a month earlier to MOP1.035 billion. The shares of MOP,

HKD, RMB and USD were 20.3, 51.4, 4.2 and 20.8 percent, respectively.

Domestic loans to the private sector grew by 0.6 percent from a month ago to MOP474.3 billion. Among which, MOP142.3 billion was MOP-denominated, MOP309.5 billion was denominated in HKD, MOP0.4 billion was denominated in RMB and MOP19.3 billion was denominated in USD, representing 30, 65.2, 0.1 and 4.1 percent of the total, respectively.

In the meantime, external loans grew 2.7 percent to MOP480 billion, of which loans denominated in MOP, HKD, RMB and USD accounted for 1.9, 33.7, 7.1 and 51 percent, respectively.

At the end of May, the loan-to-deposit ratio for the resident sector edged up from 59.6 percent at end-April to 59.7 percent. Meanwhile, the ratio for both the resident and non-resident sectors also grew from 91.5 percent to 92.2 percent.

AD

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Maestros with Charisma

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28.07.2018
20:00
Saturday
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Mezzo Soprano Niu Shasha	Bass Guan Zhijing

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HNA Chairman to step up role after death of top executive

Prudence Ho

HNA Group Co. Chairman Chen Feng will step up his role in managing the liquidity challenges at one of China's most indebted companies after the sudden death of his No. 2 executive this week.

Chen will assume the duties of Wang Jian, the late 57-year-old co-chairman who died while sightseeing in a French village last week, the company said in a statement Friday. Adam Tan will continue to serve as chief executive officer, and the group is committed to the "orderly continuity of the company's strategy and operations," it said in the statement.

The chairman will face the challenge of normalizing a group that's trembling under more than USD90 billion in debt. HNA has sold more than \$16 billion in assets this year in the face of soaring borrowing costs after spending tens of billions of dollars snapping up trophy properties and stakes worldwide.

In regards to the disposal of Wang's 15 percent stake in the group, HNA said the matter will be addressed in a manner that's consistent with his pledge to donate them to charity in due course. HNA said last year its top executives pledged that in the event they resign or die, that they would donate all their shares to the Cihang



Chen Feng

charities that HNA set up. The two Cihang charities, one in China and another in New York, owned 52 percent of HNA as of July last year.

The statement didn't specify which charity the shares would go to. Wang was also vice president of the China Foundation for Justice and Courage, which is managed by the country's Ministry of Public Security.

There is no shortage of challenges Chen, 65, and Tan, 51, face. After spending more than \$40 billion since the beginning of 2016 on an acquisition spree - including the purchase of large stakes in Deutsche Bank AG and Hilton Worldwide Holdings - HNA is now in downsizing mode.

Despite its success in selling out of Hilton and disposing of various real estate properties globally, the job isn't done, accord-

ing to Warut Promboon, managing partner at Bondcritic Ltd.

"HNA should come out to affirm to investors that the restructuring and asset sale efforts are on course," said Promboon. HNA needs to reduce its debt further by billions of dollars, Promboon said.

Still, concerns over HNA have been easing in recent weeks after the asset sales and as the Chinese government is said to have agreed to help the company, which couldn't generate enough profit in 2017 to pay interest expenses.

But asset sales only address part of its funding needs. HNA last month sold its first bond in China after a rare five-month drought, signaling a crucial source of funding for the debt-laden conglomerate may be opening up. Still, the issuing company, Bohai Capital Holding

Co., paid a record coupon of 7 percent, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. Borrowing costs for HNA have been high - they surged to a record 32.1 billion yuan in 2017, exceeding its earnings and topping all non-financial companies in Asia.

"HNA's got to put up with higher financing costs just to get funding access, up until they reach a stage where they have sufficiently de-levered," said Jin Rui Oh, a senior analyst at United First Partners. "Just do what the government wants - De-leverage and divest."

Yet there are signs that HNA is turning a corner. In June, China's top leaders agreed to help HNA raise funds, people familiar with the matter have said. A senior official at the People's Bank of China even held a meeting that included the Hainan provincial government, HNA's Chen and the group's biggest creditor, to instruct attendees to support HNA's bond issues, according to the people. Soon after, HNA's Bohai Capital sold its bond.

HNA's top creditors are also state-held.

"The message from the government is very clear: HNA is to reduce debt and to concentrate on its core business of running an airline," said Victor Shih, professor of political economy at the University of California at San Diego. "I expect Chen Feng to focus on that." **Bloomberg**



US web giants criticized for not playing fair

WHAT was meant to be an opportunity to mingle in the sun in a southern French city turned partly into a public denunciation of tax practices of U.S. web giants.

Aix-en-Provence is host to an annual weekend gathering of politicians and chief executives that is sometimes described as a more relaxed (and warmer) version of Davos. Decision-makers can network between talks at a local university and cocktail receptions at a private mansion-turned art museum before heading to a night at the opera.

This year, the U.S. internet giants didn't have an easy ride. In public sessions over the weekend, companies such as Alphabet Inc.'s Google, Amazon.com Inc. and Netflix Inc. have borne the brunt of discontent by politicians, companies and the public alike. There has been public outrage in France in recent years for what many consider to be low levels of taxes paid by businesses that generate hundreds of millions in revenues.

"France took the leadership on taxing Google, Apple, Facebook, Amazon, and believe me, we will manage to tax the Internet giants by the end of 2018 or at the latest early 2019 because it's not only a question of justice but also of sovereignty," Economy Minister Bruno Le Maire said in a panel yesterday, in comments welcomed

by the audience.

Earlier Alain Weill, chief executive officer at Altice Europe NV - owner of French telecoms company SFR - said though Google and Netflix benefit from the domestic network infrastructure and urge local operators like SFR to improve it, they aren't required to contribute by making investments themselves.

Part of the problem rests with the legal framework, Weill said, urging lawmakers and regulators to level the playing field.

"Rules for pure players like Netflix should be the same as the rules for more traditional companies," he said. He gave the example of Google being allowed to do targeted ads while TV networks in France cannot.

"That's what lawmakers should be working on," he said. "Otherwise we are victims of discrimination."

His view was echoed by Xavier Bertrand, leader of a province in northern France, who described the current state of play as unfair competition.

Sebastien Missoffe, the managing director of Google France, said that the search giant had paid an average corporate tax rate of 26 percent annually in the past decade. "We cannot suggest that Google doesn't pay taxes," in France, he said. The audience's reaction: boos. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

THIRTEEN SANDS CHINA RESTAURANTS AWARDED FOR WINE LISTS



Thirteen Sands Resorts Macao and Sands Macao restaurants have been honored for their exceptional selection of quality wine lists at the 2018

China's Wine List of the Year, announced recently in Shanghai.

China's Wine List of the Year Awards is an annual event

that evaluates winners in three award categories.

"We are delighted that our wine lists have been honored by 2018 China's Wine List of the Year," said Tom Connolly, senior vice president of food and beverage at Sands China Ltd. "With a wide range of international restaurants, we have always aspired to providing equally diverse and extensive wine lists. Receiving these awards is recognition of our continuing efforts."

The Wine List of the Year Awards was established in 1994 to recognize and reward the best quality wine lists. In 2011, its Australian founder was asked by representatives from China's hospitality and tourism industry to bring the Wine List of the Year Awards to China.

WYNN MAKES DONATION TO HOLY HOUSE OF MERCY FOR 6TH YEAR



Wynn is making a donation of MOP300,000 to this year's Welfare Shop Project of Macau Holy House of Mercy (SCMM), financing the dis-

tribution of food hampers to 362 underprivileged families. Wynn is supporting the SCMM Welfare Shop Project for the sixth conse-

cutive year.

This year, Wynn has brought together 45 enthusiastic participants from the Wynn Employees (WE) Volunteer Team to help prepare food hampers containing basic food and daily necessities and distribute them to the beneficiary families, helping ease their day-to-day cost of living. Furthermore, Wynn also gave out MOP100 supermarket vouchers to each household.

The SCMM Welfare Shop project was launched in 2013 with the aim of assisting underprivileged families by providing them with short-term food support to alleviate the financial burdens caused by inflation and increased cost of living.



Paul Wiseman, Josh Boak

THE trade war that erupted Friday between the U.S. and China carries a major risk of escalation that could weaken investment, depress spending, unsettle financial markets and slow the global economy.

The opening shots were fired just after midnight, when the Trump administration imposed a 25 percent tariff on USD34 billion of imports from China, and Beijing promptly retaliated with duties on an equal amount of American products. It accused the U.S. of igniting “the biggest trade war in economic history.”

Because of this first round of hostilities, American businesses and, ultimately, consumers could end up paying more for such Chinese-made products as construction equipment and other machinery. And American suppliers of soybeans, pork and whiskey could lose their competitive edge in China.

These initial tariffs are unlikely to inflict serious harm to the world's two biggest economies. Gregory Daco, head of U.S. economics at Oxford Economics, has calculated that they would pare growth in both countries by no more than 0.2 percent through 2020.

But the conflict could soon escalate. President Donald Trump, who has boasted that winning a trade war is easy, has said he is prepared to impose tariffs on up to \$550 billion in Chinese imports — a figure that exceeds the \$506 billion in goods that China shipped to the U.S. last year.

Escalating tariffs are likely to slow business investment as companies wait to see whether the administration can reach a truce with Beijing. Some employers will probably put hiring on hold

US-China trade war elevates the risks to the global economy

until the picture becomes clearer. The damage could risk undoing some of the economic benefits of last year's tax cuts.

“Trade disruption is the greatest threat to global growth,” said Dec Mullarkey, managing director of investment strategies at Sun Life Investment Management. “The direct effects will be amplified as business confidence drops and investment decisions are delayed. Markets are still hoping that the key players return to the negotiation table.”

The root of the conflict is the Trump administration's assertion that China has long used predatory tactics in a drive to supplant America's technological supremacy. Those tactics include cyber-theft as well as forcing companies to hand over technology in exchange for access to China's market. Trump's tariffs are meant to press Beijing to change its ways.

The rift with China is the most consequential trade conflict the administration has provoked. But it's hardly the only one.

Trump is also sparring with the European Union over his threat to tax auto imports and with Canada and Mexico over his push to rewrite the North American trade pact. And he has subjected most of America's trading partners to tariffs on steel and aluminum.

Many caught in the initial line of fire — U.S. farmers absorbing tariffs on their exports to China, for instance — are fearful. The price of soybeans has plunged 13 percent over the past month on

fears that Chinese tariffs will cut off American farmers from China, which buys about 60 percent of their soybean exports.

“For soybean producers like me, this is a direct financial hit,” said Brent Bible, a soy and corn producer in Romney, Indiana. “These tariffs could mean the difference between a profit and a loss for an entire year's worth of work out in the field, and that's only in the near term.”

The direct effects will be amplified as business confidence drops and investment decisions are delayed.

DEC MULLARKEY
SUN LIFE INVESTMENT
MANAGEMENT

Christine LoCascio, an executive at the Distilled Spirits Council, said she fears China's tariffs on U.S. whiskey will “put the brakes on an American success story” of rising exports of U.S. spirits.

Even before the first shots, the prospect of a trade war was worrying investors. The Dow Jones

industrial average has shed hundreds of points since June 11. But the risks are now priced into the market, and the Dow actually rose nearly 100 points Friday to 24,456.48.

China's currency, the yuan, has dropped 3.5 percent against the dollar over the past month, giving Chinese companies a price edge over their U.S. competition. The drop might reflect a deliberate devaluation by Beijing to signal its “displeasure over the state of trade negotiations,” according to a report from the Institute of International Finance, a banking trade group.

The Trump administration sought to limit the impact of the tariffs on U.S. households by targeting Chinese industrial goods, not consumer products, for the first round of tariffs.

But that step raises costs for U.S. companies that rely on Chinese-made machinery or components. And it could force them to pass those higher costs on to their business customers and, eventually, to consumers.

If you like Chick-fil-A sandwiches, for instance, you may feel the effects. Charlie Souhrada of the North American Food Equipment Manufacturers said the tariffs could raise the cost of a kind of pressure cooker Chick-fil-A uses.

The administration has placed “these import taxes squarely on the shoulders of manufacturers and, by extension, consumers,” Souhrada said.

One way the tariffs will squeeze farmers, landscapers and cons-

truction firms is by raising the price of excavators and loaders made by Bobcat, which uses attachments imported from China. U.S. suppliers rarely make these attachments, so the company must import them.

Jason Mayberry, Bobcat's assistant general counsel, said in a filing submitted to the U.S. Trade Representative's office that the company would have to raise prices to offset the tariff. Bobcat's raw material costs have also risen because of the administration's steel and aluminum tariffs.

The Federal Reserve is picking up signs that the trade war is causing businesses to rethink investment plans. In the minutes from its June meeting, the Fed noted that some companies have delayed or reduced plans to buy or upgrade equipment.

And if Trump extends the tariffs to up to \$550 billion in Chinese imports, consumers won't be able to avoid getting caught in the crossfire: The taxes would hit products like televisions and cell-phones.

That's what happened to imported washing machines, which were hit by separate Trump tariffs in January. Over the past year, their price has surged more than 8 percent.

American trade groups are urging the two countries to resume talks.

“Tariffs will bring retaliation and possibly more tariffs,” said Jay Timmons, president of the National Association of Manufacturers. “No one wins in a trade war.” **AP**

Further cuts in electric-car subsidies weighed

CHINA is considering a further reduction in electric-vehicle subsidies next year as the government pushes automakers to innovate rather than rely on fiscal policy to spur demand for alternative-energy cars, people familiar with the plan said.

The average purchase incentive per electric vehicle may be lowered by more than a third from the 2018 levels, said the people, who asked not to be identified disclosing information that isn't public. Vehicles may be required to be able to go at least 200 kilometers on a single charge, up from 150 kilometers currently, said the people. The plan is still under discussion and subject to changes, they said.

Subsidies have been key to making plug-in hybrids and EVs of companies such as BYD Co., backed by Warren Buffett, more affordable to Chinese consumers and helping the country surpass the U.S. as the world's biggest in 2015. The central government spent 6.64 billion yuan (USD1 billion) last year funding consumers' purchases of such autos. On top of what the federal government spends, Chinese cities and provinces separately offer incen-



tives to make electric cars more appealing in a country where automakers from Volkswagen AG to Ford Motor Co. are planning to increase EV offerings.

"China is switching away from carrots," said Ali Izadi-Najafabadi, an analyst at Bloomberg NEF. "The government wants to ensure automakers will launch models that would be appealing to consumers hence setting subsidies contingent on minimum driving range requirements."

The National Development and Reform Commission, an auto industry policy maker, didn't

immediately respond to a fax seeking comment.

The government is scaling back subsidies to place more emphasis on the need for technological improvements to ensure the industry's long-term success. As part of new rules that went into effect on Feb. 12, China lowered subsidies by varying degrees for EVs with a driving range of less than 300 kilometers. At the same time, the incentive for those that have a range of 400 kilometers and beyond was raised to 50,000 yuan.

"Government policy has a huge

impact over the new-energy vehicle sector and every adjustment made on the policy front over the next two years will result in tremendous changes in the industry," Li Yixiu, sales chief for Beijing Electric Vehicle Co., China's biggest maker of pure electric cars, told reporters on July 5.

"We believe there isn't a chance for carmakers to raise prices to make up for the reduction of government fundings," Li said. "Instead, we have to come up with competitive new products and services to respond."

BJEV, as the company is known, started offering battery-swap and rental services to consumers this week to help lower purchase costs and ease range anxiety. The company sells a version of its EV300 compact car for 79,800 yuan that allows users to change batteries as often as they want for a monthly fee of 432 yuan.

The century-long dominance of gasoline-engine cars will sputter in coming decades as incentivized Chinese buyers and more-efficient manufacturers combine to put EVs atop the sales leader board.

By 2040, more than half of all new car sales and a third of the planet's automobile fleet - equal to 559 million vehicles - will be electric, according to a global outlook published by BNEF in May. EVs will achieve upfront cost parity with internal-combustion engines beginning in the mid-2020s, helping trigger a tectonic shift in car sales, it said.

"There has been a spurt of innovation in the industry," said Steve Man, a senior autos analyst for Bloomberg Intelligence in Hong Kong. "This is a much needed transformation for the Chinese EV market." **Bloomberg**

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Mahathir to visit Beijing for talks on projects

Eileen Ng, Putrajaya

PRIME Minister Mahathir Mohamad said Friday he will visit Beijing next month to renegotiate terms for China-backed rail and gas pipeline projects in Malaysia worth more than USD22 billion.

The government has ordered Chinese state-owned companies to suspend work on the \$20 billion East Coast Rail Link, a key venture under China's Belt and Road initiative, and two gas pipeline projects pending negotiations.

Contracts for the projects were approved in 2016 by former Prime Minister Najib Razak's government. It was replaced by Mahathir's government following a May 9 election upset.

Mahathir said he will visit China in August since China's president, Xi Jinping, was unavailable this month.

"There are several issues to be brought up, among which is the unfairness of the terms of the contract and also of the loans. The interest is also of concern to us because the interest is much higher than when government borrows. Nor-



Mahathir Mohamad (center) arrives for a press conference in

mally government borrows at 3 percent and below but this one is very high," he told a news conference.

Finance Minister Lim Guan Eng earlier this week said there must be a "drastic" cut in costs for the 688-kilometer (430-mile) East Coast Rail Link, whose cost at 81 billion ringgit (\$20 billion) is nearly 50 percent higher than earlier estimated.

The rail link connects Malaysia's west coast to rural eastern states and is largely financed by China.

Lim said the two gas pipeline projects were worth 11.1 billion ringgit (\$2.7 billion), nearly 20 percent more than an earlier estimate. He said the government has paid 8.3 billion ringgit (\$2.1 billion) to the China Petroleum Pipeline Bureau but it has completed only 13 per-

cent of the work.

China Communication has said it regrets the suspension. It has urged Mahathir's government to "honor and respect" the contract signed by Najib's administration. The indefinite suspension could cause additional costs, losses and damages, the company said.

Mahathir's government has also axed a high-speed rail line to Singapore, deeming it too costly. It is reviewing other large infrastructure projects after finding the national debt has surged sharply, partly due to corruption under Najib's rule.

Najib was charged last week for criminal breach of trust and corruption arising from investigations into alleged graft at the 1MDB state investment fund. **AP**

4 rescued from Thai cave in risky operation; 9 left to go

Tassanee Vejpongsa,
Kaweewit Kaewjinda

RESCUERS in northern Thailand yesterday extracted four members of a youth soccer team from the cave where they had been trapped for more than two weeks, part of an ongoing operation to rescue the 12 boys and their coach. The head of the operation said it was going "better than expected."

The operation to rescue the boys, ages 11-16, and their 25-year-old coach by having them dive out of the flooded cave began Sunday morning, with expert divers entering the sprawling complex for the complicated and dangerous mission.

Shortly before 8 p.m., Thai navy SEALs, who are taking part in the rescue operation, reported on their official Facebook page that four had been rescued. Chiang Rai acting Gov. Narongsak Osatanakorn, who is heading the operation, said the four boys had been taken to a hospital. "The operation went much better than expected," Narongsak said at a news conference, adding that the healthiest were taken out first. He said the next phase of the operation would start in 10-20 hours.

The entire operation to rescue all 13 could last two to four days, depending on weather and water conditions, said army Maj. Gen. Chalongchai Chaiyakam.



AP PHOTO
Thai rescue team members walk inside the cave

Just after 9 p.m., Thai navy SEALs posted on their Facebook page again, saying: "Have sweet dreams everyone. Good night. Hooyah."

Narongsak said earlier in the day that 13 foreign and five Thai divers were taking part in the rescue and that two divers would accompany each boy as they're gradually extracted.

The only way to bring the boys and their coach out of the cave is by navigating dark and tight passageways filled with muddy

water and strong currents, as well as oxygen-depleted air. A former Thai navy SEAL passed out and died making the dive Friday.

Experienced cave rescue experts consider an underwater escape a last resort, especially with people untrained in diving, as the boys are. The path out is considered especially complicated because of twists and turns in narrow flooded passages.

But Narongsak said earlier that mild weather and falling water levels over the last few days had

created optimal conditions for an underwater evacuation that won't last if it rains again.

Before announcing that the rescue was underway, authorities ordered the throngs of media that have gathered at the cave from around the world to leave.

The boys and their coach became stranded when they went exploring in the cave after a practice game June 23. Monsoon flooding cut off their escape and prevented rescuers from finding them for almost 10 days.

The ordeal has riveted Thailand and made global headlines, and the search and rescue operation has involved international experts and rescuers.

President Donald Trump said in a tweet on Sunday: "The U.S. is working very closely with the Government of Thailand to help get all of the children out of the cave and to safety. Very brave and talented people!"

Authorities had said that incoming monsoon rains that could send water levels in the cave rising, coupled with falling oxygen levels in the enclosed space, added to the urgency of getting those trapped out. Earlier efforts to pump out water from the cave have been set back every time there has been a heavy downpour.

Narongsak said Saturday that experts told him water from new rain could shrink the unflooded space where the boys are sheltering to just 10 square meters. "I confirm that we are at war with

water and time from the first day up to today," he said Saturday. "Finding the boys doesn't mean we've finished our mission. It is only a small battle we've won, but the war has not ended. The war ends when we win all three battles — the battles to search, rescue and send them home."

The boys sounded calm and reassuring in handwritten notes to their families that were made public Saturday. The notes were sent out with divers who made an 11-hour, back-and-forth journey to act as postmen.

One of the boys, identified as Tun, wrote: "Mom and Dad, please don't worry, I am fine. I've told Yod to get ready to take me out for fried chicken. With love."

"Don't be worried, I miss everyone. Grandpa, Uncle, Mom, Dad and siblings, I love you all. I'm happy being here inside, the navy SEALs have taken good care. Love you all," wrote Mick.

"Night loves Dad and Mom and brother, don't worry about me. Night loves you all," wrote Night, in the Thai manner of referring to one's self in the third person.

The most touching note came from one whose name was not clear: "I'm doing fine, but the air is a little cold, but don't worry. Although, don't forget to set up my birthday party."

Another, of indistinct origin, asked their teacher not to give them a lot of homework.

In a letter of his own, the coach, Ekapol Chanthawong, apologized to the boys' parents for the ordeal.

"To the parents of all the kids, right now the kids are all fine, the crew are taking good care. I promise I will care for the kids as best as possible. I want to say thanks for all the support and I want to apologize to the parents," he wrote. **AP**

Singapore announces surprise property curbs to cool market

SINGAPORE'S renewed clampdown on speculative property demand sent real estate stocks reeling yesterday, as analysts predicted the end of a nascent home price rebound and the deflation of a buoyant market for collective sales.

The tightened rules, rolled out a day after the central

bank noted "euphoria" in the property market, sharply increase buyers' stamp duties for entities such as developers. Singapore's benchmark Straits Times Index dropped 2 percent Friday as property developers and banks led declines, with City Developments Ltd. and UOL Group Ltd.

sliding more than 13 percent each.

As major property markets from New York to Sydney show signs of cooling, Singapore and Hong Kong prices are on a tear, causing unease among local policy makers. In Singapore, a sudden rebound in speculative demand, stoked by record land bids and redevelopment deals, threatened to undo years of carefully implemented curbs that had given the city-state an edge over Hong Kong in quality of living.

"This is a preemptive move by the government to cool down the market before it gets too hot," Irvin Seah, an economist at DBS Group Holdings Ltd., said in an interview.

The en-bloc market, where a group of owners band

together to sell a collection of apartments, surged in recent months thanks to demand from developers. Officials had repeatedly warned that such exuberance was unsustainable, and Ravi Menon, managing director of the Monetary Authority of Singapore, sounded a cautious note on en-bloc developments on Wednesday.

With the latest curbs, the en-bloc market is "potentially grinding to a halt," DBS analysts led by Derek Tan wrote in a report.

Individuals taking up their first housing loan will face tighter borrowing limits under the new rules, meaning they have to put up more cash to buy property. For foreign purchases of residential property, the additional buyer's stamp duty increases to 20 percent from 15



percent, while for Singapore citizens the extra charges apply only from their second home purchase, the MAS, Ministry of National Development, and Ministry of Finance said in a joint statement Thursday.

For entities buying any residential properties for development, the additional buyer's stamp duty rises by 10 percentage points to 25 percent, with a further five percentage points imposed for developers.

"Given the extent of the new cooling measures, we expect the home loans de-

mand to be subdued," said Koh Ching Ching, head of group corporate communications for Oversea-Chinese Banking Corp.

"The policy measures are far-reaching rather than surgical in nature," Citigroup Inc. analyst Si Xian Goh wrote in a note. "That first-time home buyers were included in the policy dragnet, however, does suggest that the regulators are concerned that some first-time buyers are buying out of a fear of missing out and contributing to the overall spate of exuberance." **Bloomberg**

DEVELOPERS ATTACK COOLING MEASURES

A LEADING developers' group in Singapore has challenged the government's latest round of property-cooling measures, saying that there's no rationale for the steps as the market is only in the early stages of a recovery, the Straits Times reported, citing a statement from the group. The market started

to pick up only last year, and the volume of transactions is within expectations, the Real Estate Developers' Association of Singapore said in the statement, according to the report. The group described the measures as tough, and said the market should be allowed time to find its own course.

Pompeo shrugs off N. Korea's 'gangster' rebuke, cites progress

Matthew Lee, Tokyo

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo yesterday brushed aside North Korea's accusation of "gangster-like" demands, maintaining that his third visit to the country was producing results but vowing that sanctions would remain until Pyongyang follows through on leader Kim Jong Un's pledge to get rid of his nuclear weapons.

Pompeo downplayed North Korea's statement after the talks in which the country's foreign ministry bashed hopes for a quick deal and accused the U.S. of making "gangster-like" demands aimed at forcing it to abandon nuclear weapons.

The North's statement, coming so soon after Pompeo's trip, was sure to fuel growing skepticism in the U.S. over how serious Kim is about giving up his nuclear arsenal.

"If those requests were gangster-like, the world is a gangster," Pompeo said, noting that numerous U.N. Security Council resolutions have demanded that the North rid itself of nuclear weapons and end its ballistic missile program.

"People are going to make stray comments after meetings," Pompeo said. "If I paid attention to the press, I'd go nuts."

Speaking after meeting with his Japanese and South Korean counterparts in Tokyo, Pompeo said his two days of talks in Pyongyang had been productive and conducted in good faith. But following the stinging commentary from the North, he allowed that the goal of denuclearization would be difficult and that much work remains.

"The road ahead will be difficult



Members of the North Korean military salute the motorcade carrying Pompeo as it makes its way to the Park Hwa Guest House

and challenging and we know critics will try to minimize what we have achieved," he said. Two days of talks with senior North Korean officials had "made progress," he said, and included a "detailed and substantive discussion about the next steps."

Those include the formation of working group to determine exactly how North Korea's denuclearization will be verified and a Thursday meeting with Pentagon officials to discuss the return of remains of American soldiers killed during the Korean War.

Pompeo sought to dispel suggestions that the Trump administration has backed down from demanding the complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement of the North's nuclear weapons. He said North Korea understood that denuclearization must be "complete" and "verified."

However, Pompeo said the

progress achieved thus far did not warrant any concessions. "While we are encouraged by the progress of these talks, progress alone does not justify the easing of the sanctions regime," he said.

"Sanctions will remain in place until final fully verified denuclearization as agreed to by Chairman Kim Jong Un has occurred," he said.

After the historic U.S.-North Korea summit in Singapore, President Donald Trump declared the North was no longer a threat and would hand over the remains of American soldiers. Yet three weeks later, the two sides were still divided on all the issues, including exactly what denuclearization means and how it might be verified. And, the promised remains have yet to be delivered.

Just hours after Pompeo arrived in Tokyo, the North blasted the discussions, saying the visit

had been "regrettable."

In a statement carried by the North's official Korean Central News Agency, the foreign ministry said the outcome of Pompeo's talks with senior official Kim Yong Chol was "very concerning" because it has led to a "dangerous phase that might rattle our willingness for denuclearization that had been firm."

Our expectations and hopes were so naive it could be called foolish.

N. KOREAN OFFICIAL STATEMENT

"We had expected that the U.S. side would offer constructive measures that would help build trust based on the spirit of the leaders' summit [...] we were also thinking about providing reciprocal measures," it said. "However, the attitude and stance the United States showed in the first high-level meeting [between the countries] was no doubt regrettable. Our expectations and hopes were so naive it could be called foolish."

It said the North had raised the issue of formally ending the Korean War, which concluded with an armistice and not a peace treaty, but the U.S. came up with a variety of "conditions and excuses" to delay a declaration. It downplayed the significance of the United States suspending its military exercises with South Korea, something trumpeted

by Trump after the summit as a success, by saying it made a larger concession by blowing up the tunnels at a nuclear test site.

In criticizing the talks with Pompeo, however, it carefully avoided attacking Trump personally, saying "we wholly maintain our trust toward President Trump," but stressed that Washington must not allow "headwinds" against the "wills of the leaders." That appeared to be a reference to Trump's national security adviser John Bolton, a prominent North Korea hawk who has been vilified by Pyongyang in the past. Pompeo spoke with Trump, Bolton and White House chief of staff John Kelly on Saturday before his second round of meetings with Kim Yong Chol.

A former top U.S. diplomat for Asia, Daniel Russel, said the setback was to be expected and warned Trump he is engaged in a long negotiation that would not produce easy quick, made for television results that the president likely wants.

"Dealing with North Korea is hard because Kim Jong Un wants it to be hard," said Russel, who was assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific Affairs in the Obama administration. "If you make the Americans fight for every inch, the Americans will start measuring progress in inches — and will wind up paying by the inch. At this point, even to get the North Koreans to follow through with the return of Korean War-era MIA remains, would feel like a big win for Pompeo, even though it wouldn't affect the nuclear threat."

"Kim can afford to play hardball because it's clear to him that Trump, who has already told Americans they can sleep soundly because the threat is now over, badly wants a deal," Russel said. "And when you want it bad, you get it bad. Why should the North Koreans make concessions to one of Trump's aides given the president's record of undercutting them?" AP

Mourners honor 3 killed in anti-India protest in Kashmir

THOUSANDS participated in the funeral of two young men and a teenage girl in disputed Kashmir on Saturday, hours after police say they were killed when government forces fired at anti-India protesters.

Police said in a statement that some residents threw stones at an Indian army patrol as it passed through southern Redwani area. The statement said the "army tried to disperse the miscreants and in the process five individuals sustained injuries."

Residents said soldiers fired live ammunition,

shotgun pellets and tear gas to quell the protests, wounding several people. Medics said three injured died at a hospital.

Locals said the government forces came to a cluster of villages in the area and accused the soldiers of vandalizing and harassing villagers, which led to anti-India protests and clashes.

The news of the deaths brought more residents to the streets seeking the end of Indian rule over Kashmir and the clashes intensified as residents from neighboring villages joined the protesters, police said.

Thousands of people offered funeral prayers for the slain civilians amid anti-India slogans. Prayers were held several times to accommodate the large number of people arriving from different places in the area. At the funeral of the three, some rebels fighting against Indian rule also showed up and fired to honor them.

In recent years, Kashmiris, mainly youths, have displayed open solidarity with anti-India rebels and sought to protect them by engaging troops in street clashes during India's counterinsurgency opera-

tions in the region.

Anti-India sentiment runs deep in Kashmir, a Himalayan territory divided between India and Pakistan but claimed by both in its entirety. In recent years, the Indian-controlled portion has seen renewed rebel attacks and repeated public protests against Indian rule.

Rebels have been fighting Indian control since 1989, demanding that the territory be united either under Pakistani rule or as an independent country.

India has accused Pakistan of arming and training the rebels, a charge Pakis-



Relatives grieve near the bodies of Kashmiri civilians during a joint funeral procession in Hawoorah village

tan denies.

Most Kashmiris support the rebels' cause while also participating in civilian street protests against

Indian control. Nearly 70,000 people have been killed in the uprising and the ensuing Indian military crackdown. AP



A rescue helicopter hovers over damaged buildings after a landslide caused by heavy rains in Yamaguchi prefecture



Buildings are almost submerged in floodwaters caused by heavy rains in Okayama prefecture

Yuri Kageyama, Tokyo

Death toll climbs to 76 as heavy rains hammer southern Japan

HEAVY rainfall hammered southern Japan for the third day, prompting new disaster warnings on Kyushu and Shikoku islands yesterday, as the government put the death toll at 48 with 28 others presumed dead.

Japanese government spokesman Yoshihide Suga said the whereabouts of 92 people are unknown, mostly in the southern area of Hiroshima prefecture. More than 100 reports of casualties had been received, such as cars being swept away, he said. Some 40 helicopters were out on rescue missions.

"Rescue efforts are a battle with time," Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told reporters. "The rescue teams are doing their utmost."

The Japan Meteorological Agency said three hours of rainfall in one area in Kochi prefecture reached an accumulated 26.3 centimeters, the highest

since such records started in 1976.

The assessment of casualties has been difficult because of the widespread area affected by the rainfall, flooding and landslides. Authorities warned landslides could strike even after rain subsides as the calamity shaped up to be potentially the worst in decades.

Kochi prefecture, on Shikoku, issued landslide warnings almost over the entire island. Public broadcaster NHK TV showed overturned cars on roads covered with mud. A convenience store worker, who had fled to a nearby rooftop, said water had reached as high as his head. The Japanese government

set up an emergency office, designed for crises such as major earthquakes.

A residential area in Okayama prefecture, on the main island of Honshu, was seeped in brown water spreading like a huge lake. Some people fled to rooftops and balconies and waved furiously at hovering rescue helicopters. Military paddle boats were also being used to take people to dry land.

Okayama prefecture said three people had died, six others were missing and seven were injured, one of them seriously. Six homes were destroyed, while nearly 500 were flooded. Evacuation orders or advisories were issued to more than 910,000 people, the prefecture said in a statement.

Kyodo news service reported several deaths in a landslide in Hiroshima and more bodies

were retrieved from collapsed housing in the ancient capital of Kyoto, both areas where the rainfall was heavy in the past few days.

Throughout the hard hit areas, rivers swelled and parked cars sat in pools of water. Japan has sent troops, firefighters, police and other disaster relief. People have also taken to social media to plead for help.

In Ehime prefecture, a woman was found dead on the second floor of a home buried by a landslide, Kyodo said. Also in Ehime, two elementary schoolgirls and their mother who got sucked into a mudslide were pulled out but could not be revived, it said. **AP**

■ The assessment of casualties has been difficult because of the widespread area affected by the rainfall, flooding and landslides

THAILAND

Family in China say relatives sent boat's last moments

Eileen Ng, Phuket

THE boat lists hard to the right, sending a man tumbling across an aisle toward windows that look almost straight down on fast-moving white-capped waves. Another man catches him and appears to laugh nervously. A woman cries out. Someone else adjusts the child they are holding tightly in their lap.

The 10 second video captures the chaotic final moments of the Phoenix dive boat before it capsized and sank Thursday off the coast of the Thai resort of Phuket. The maritime disaster has claimed 41 lives, including the woman who sent the clip to her family in China and at least one of her two children.

"It's shaking violently, and I'm feeling very dizzy," Chen De Qiong, 47, wrote

to her family's WeChat group just before the accident. "I want to go ashore immediately," she said in another message, adding that her 12-year-old son was feeling ill.

Her family, who shared the video with The Associated Press, is now demanding "justice" from Thai authorities. Her sister, Chen Wei, a businesswoman from China's Chongqing province, said the disaster was caused by human error and could have been avoided, noting that passengers in the video were not wearing life vests.

The boat was carrying 105 people, including 93 tourists, most of them from China, when it capsized after it was hit by 5-meter waves. As of yesterday morning, 14 people were still missing.

Chen De Qiong, a doctor, arrived in Phuket on

July 1 for a long-planned vacation with her son and 21-year-old daughter. Her husband, Xing Yong, who is also a doctor, stayed

“I just want to seek justice for my family. This is not a natural disaster. This tragedy is man-made and could have been avoided.”

CHEN WEI
VICTIMS' RELATIVE

behind in China as he was busy with work.

"I can hear the voice of my daughter screaming," Xing Yong said Saturday while transiting at Kuala Lumpur airport on his way to Phuket, as he showed the video to an AP reporter. "You can see that nobody wore life jackets." The body of the daughter, Xing Yu Jie, was recovered Friday.

Once they arrived in Phuket on Saturday, Chen's sister and husband identified Chen's body at a hospital it had been taken to after being recovered earlier in the day. The son, Xing Hao Ran, was among the missing.

Chen Wei said the boat company ignored warnings of bad weather and failed to take adequate measures to ensure passenger safety. She said the video showed that glass windows in the



Thai rescue divers and a tourist police boat are seen during a search mission for missing passengers from a capsized tourist boat

boat cabin were sealed but they should have had latches so that they can be opened to allow passengers to swim out in an emergency.

Despite rough waves, the boat didn't stop and kept sailing, Chen Wei said. "Three out of a family with four members gone. How would you feel about it? Which family can bear such a blow?" she said.

"There are loopholes everywhere that caused this

tragedy," she said. "I just want to seek justice for my family. This is not a natural disaster. This tragedy is man-made and could have been avoided," she added.

She said the vacation was planned as a celebration for her niece, who had just graduated from university, and her nephew, who is about to enter high school.

"A beautiful family gone like that, just like in a dream," a distraught Chen said. **AP**



Abiy Ahmed (centre right) is welcomed by Eritrea's President Isaias Afwerki as he disembarks the plane

Ethiopia Premier in Eritrea as nations end decades of strife

Helen Nyambura

ETHIOPIAN Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed arrived in the Eritrean capital, Asmara, yesterday for talks with President Isaias Afwerki aimed at ending almost two decades of strife.

"This historic official visit and the summit that will take place between the two leaders of both countries, is the first of its kind for 20 years," Yemane Gebremeskel, Eritrea's information minister, said on his Twitter account. "It heralds a new era of peace and cooperation."

A meeting between Isaias and Abiy, whose nations have been at odds since a 1998-2000 border war, will cap landmark talks that began last month between officials from both countries. Eritrea seceded from Ethiopia in 1993 after decades of conflict. A rapprochement began after Abiy became premier in April and the ruling party's politburo pledged to implement a long-delayed peace deal.

Ethiopia announced on June 5 it would fully implement the so-called Algiers Agreement signed in 2000 to formally end a two-year war between the Horn of Africa neighbors that killed about 100,000 people. The deal was never enacted, with Ethiopia refusing to recognize a monitor's findings on ownership of the disputed border town of Badme.

Isaias sent a delegation, including Foreign Minister Osman Saleh, for talks in Ethiopia after Abiy said he was keen on normalizing relations.

Abiy arrived in Asmara on an Ethiopian Airlines Enterprise plane. The national carrier is resume flights to neighboring Eritrea by September after a two-decade absence.

"Our two nations share a history and bond like no other," the Ethiopian prime minister's chief of staff, Fitsum Arega, said on his Twitter account. "We can now overcome two decades of mistrust and move in a new direction." **Bloomberg**

TURKEY

Over 18,600 civil servants purged in 11th-hour decree

Tugce Ozsoy, Selcan Hacaoglu

TURKEY purged more than 18,500 people from government jobs for allegedly posing a security risk to the state, a day before Recep Tayyip Erdogan takes office as an executive president with vastly expanded powers.

About 9,000 police personnel and more than 6,000 officers from the country's armed services were among the 18,632 public sector workers dismissed yesterday, along with almost 200 academics and about 650 teachers, according to the latest decree the government published under its state of emergency. Three newspapers, one TV channel and 12 associations were also shut down.

The sweeping dismissals bring to about 130,000 the number of people purged from Turkey's civil service since a July 2016 coup attempt, and come just days before the state of emergency expires.



"The recent purge is a further consolidation of the grip on power that Erdogan has been working on particularly since the attempted coup," Ghanem Nuseibeh, founder of London based political risk consultants Cornerstone Global Associates, said by email. "The purge is surprising in its magnitude and many will accuse Erdogan of going after anyone who opposes him."

The government says it has purged followers of U.S.-based Turkish preacher

Fethullah Gulen, whom it accuses of masterminding the coup. He denies the charge.

Erdogan, who is to unveil his new cabinet after he's sworn in today, pledged to lift the state of emergency before winning June 24 elections, and last week, Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said it wouldn't be extended after July 18.

But that may be a technicality. The president will have the power to issue decrees with the force of law and can still declare a similar state of

The purge is surprising in its magnitude and many will accuse Erdogan of going after anyone who opposes him.

GHANEM NUSEIBEH
CORNERSTONE GLOBAL ASSOCIATES

emergency giving authorities powers to restrict basic rights and freedoms when deemed necessary. Erdogan will directly appoint members of his cabinet, which is expected to be reduced to about 16 from the current 27, and has the power to appoint other high-level officials including some top judges. **Bloomberg**

FRANCE

Macron's opponents say he acts monarch-like

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron heads to Versailles today to speak to a joint session of the two chambers of parliament as his popularity slides and opponents taunt him for acting like France is still a monarchy.

The 40-year-old has been



buffeted by criticism that his style is haughty and his policies favor the rich, impressions kindled by distractions like building a swimming pool at a presidential residence in Southern France, replacing the tableware of the presidential palace with an expensive new set and telling off a teenager who spoke to him in a casual tone.

"The denunciations of a style that is judged more and more monarchical isn't limited to the far left," said Celine Bracq, director general at pollster

Odoxa. "The barbs come even from his own camp, who let it be known they think Emmanuel Macron lives in an ivory tower where he doesn't listen to advisers, MPs, or political partners."

Politically, the French president is safe: his movement maintains a solid majority in parliament, and there are no national elections of any sort until European parliament elections in May 2019.

But an Odoxa poll published July 5 for Le Figaro said 71 percent of the Fren-

ch think Macron's policies are unfair, 65 percent think his policies are inefficient, and 55 percent think his speech scheduled for today is unnecessary. An Elabe poll for Les Echos also published July 5 said almost the same: 76 percent found his policies unjust, and 66 percent inefficient.

An Elabe poll published July 6 said Macron's approval rating fell six points in the month to 34 percent, just three points above predecessor Francois Hollande at the same point of his presidency. Harris said June 29 that his approval rating fell 7 points to 40 percent.

Soon after his election in May 2017, Macron's government relaxed labor laws, eliminated a wealth tax, and announced plans to cut some welfare programs. Yet government spokesman Benjamin Griveaux said Friday critics should look at other policies, such as doubling the number of teachers in some schools and increasing spending on job training.

"I'm tired of hearing that all we do is give gifts to the rich," Griveaux said. "We don't rule with our nose in opinion polls." **MDT/Bloomberg**

AD

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Zuckerberg tops Buffett to become 3rd richest person

FACEBOOK Inc. co-founder Mark Zuckerberg has overtaken Warren Buffett as the world's third-richest person, further solidifying technology as the most robust creator of wealth.



Zuckerberg, who trails only Amazon.com Inc. founder Jeff Bezos and Microsoft Corp. co-founder Bill Gates, eclipsed Buffett Friday as Facebook shares climbed 2.4 percent, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

It's the first time that the three wealthiest people on the ranking made their fortunes from technology. Zuckerberg, 34, is now worth USD81.6 billion, about \$373 million more than Buffett, the 87-year-old

chairman and chief executive officer of Berkshire Hathaway Inc.

Zuckerberg's ascent has been driven by investors' continued embrace of Facebook, the social-network giant that shook off the fallout

from a data-privacy crisis that hammered its shares, sending them to an eight-month low of \$152.22 on March 27. The stock closed Friday at a record \$203.23.

Technology fortunes make up about a fifth of

the more than \$5 trillion in wealth tracked by the Bloomberg index, more than any other sector. The ranking, which tracks the world's 500 richest people, is updated after the close of each trading day in New York.

Buffett, once the world's wealthiest person, is sliding in the ranking thanks to his charitable giving, which he kicked off in earnest in 2006. He's donated about 290 million Berkshire Hathaway Class B shares to charities, most of it to Gates's foundation. Those shares are now worth more than \$50 billion, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. Zuckerberg has pledged to give away 99 percent of his Facebook stock in his lifetime. **Bloomberg**

UK

Official reassures residents in poisoning case

Britain's home secretary visited Amesbury and Salisbury in southwestern England yesterday to reassure residents that the risk to the public remains very low despite the recent poisoning of two people exposed to a deadly nerve agent. Sajid Javid said both towns remain open for business and urged people



to visit what he called one of the most beautiful parts of the country. Javid was the first senior official to visit the area since 44-year-old Dawn Sturgess and her partner, 45-year-old Charley Rowley, were hospitalized in critical condition last week. Officials said they had come into contact with the deadly nerve agent Novichok, which was manufactured in the Soviet Union during the Cold War.

SYRIA

Thousands who fled recent fighting return home

A U.N. official and a group that closely monitors the Syrian war say most Syrians displaced by recent fighting in the country's south have returned to their homes. Anders Pedersen, the top U.N. humanitarian coordinator in Jordan, told reporters yesterday that just 150 to 200 Syrians remained stranded near a key crossing point into Jordan, adding that as "far as we understand they are almost exclusively men." Syrian government forces regained control of the Naseeb border crossing with Jordan on Friday, along with a long stretch of the border between the two countries. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said some 60,000 Syrians have returned to their homes, while thousands of others fled to another area, fearing detention by government forces.

AD



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what's ON



SCULPTURE – A JOURNEY, EXHIBITION BY ANTONIO LEÇA

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

UNTIL: October 21, 2018

VENUE: A2 Gallery, Albergue SCM

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550

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

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

UNTIL: August 30, 2018

VENUE: Kun Iam Ecumenical Centre

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 1516

TREASURE OF SACRED ART OF ST. JOSEPH'S SEMINARY

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

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

MANDARIN'S HOUSE

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

ADDRESS: No. 10, Travessa de António da Silva

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8820

MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE

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

VENUE: Macau Science Center

ADMISSION: MOP25 (Exhibition Centre)

MOP60 (Planetarium 2D dome or 2D

sky shows)

MOP80 (Planetarium 3D dome or 3D

sky shows)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

MONKEY KING

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

VENUE: Sands Cotai Theatre

ADMISSION: MOP380, MOP480, MOP680,

MOP980, MOP1280

COTAI TICKETING: (853) 2882 8818

KONG SENG TICKETING: (853) 2855 5555

Offbeat

BUDGET SURPLUS RESULTS IN USD68 CHECKS FOR THOUSANDS IN TOWN

A Pennsylvania township with more money than it anticipated from increased property tax collection has decided to give the dividends to residents.

Middletown Township in Langhorne sent 14,361 checks for USD68 each to all owners of properties with structures on them.

Efforts to keep town expenses down while increasing delinquent-tax collection led to more money than anticipated in the general fund. The township board of supervisors decided to divide a \$1 million portion of the surplus evenly among property owners.

Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Amy Strouse tells the Bucks County Courier Times it's irresponsible for a township to hang on to that level of funding when it has "the opportunity to help people out a little bit."

Strouse says residents feel as though they pay too much in taxes.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:05	Miscellaneous
16:55	RTP Forever
17:10	Maternity
18:00	Non-daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:10	FIFA World Cup Diary
19:30	Portuguese Serie - Sr. 2
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	Miscellaneous
22:25	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Miscellaneous
00:45	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:30	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

05 - 11 JUL



ANT-MAN AND THE WASP

ROOM 1

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

Director: Peyton Reed

Starring: Paul Rudd, Evangeline Lilly, Michael Douglas

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 118min



SHOPLIFTERS

ROOM 2

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

Director: Kore-eda Hirokazu

Starring: Lily Franky, Ando Sakura, Matsuoka Mayo

Language: Japanese (Chinese & 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



Prime Minister Lynden Pindling



Prince Charles

1973 BAHAMAS' SUN SETS ON BRITISH EMPIRE

Prince Charles has enjoyed the Bahamas' last day as a British colony.

He hosted a formal reception at Government House, Nassau, last night for dignitaries from 52 countries overseeing the end of over 300 years of British sovereignty.

As the Queen's representative, Prince Charles arrived yesterday on the frigate Minerva, on which he is serving.

Just before midnight tonight (0400 GMT) he will witness the final lowering of the Union Jack on hills overlooking Nassau harbour in a ceremony to be replicated on all 22 of the inhabited Bahamian islands.

Before that, the Prince is completing a packed schedule of official engagements.

He has also found time to captain the Nassau polo team in a match against Freeport on Grand Bahama. His team lost 5-6 in spite of his polished performance.

Britain welcomed Bahamian independence when the Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) won the election on that platform in September 1972.

The final agreement for independence for the archipelago of 700 islands and about 175,000 people was made in London last December.

Prime Minister Lynden Pindling is confident that his government and the new Governor-General Milo Butler can effectively manage an economy that is heavily dependent on the traditionally colonialist financial services and tourism industries.

The greatest resistance will come from the island of Abaco, where a group of - mainly white - people have petitioned the British and Bahamian Governments to retain colonial rule.

But even they have rejected a violent challenge and will simply boycott the independence festivities.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

One minute after midnight on 10 July a crowd of 50,000 saw the black, turquoise and gold flag of the Bahamas being raised instead of the Union Jack.

The Prince of Wales left the island on 11 July, after narrowly escaping being hit by a canopy that collapsed at an outdoor ceremony.

The Progressive Liberal Party won six successive elections and remained in power for 25 years. In 1992 they were replaced by the Free National Movement.

The Progressive Liberal Party was returned to power in 2002.

The Bahamas remain a part of the British Commonwealth and celebrate Independence Day on 10 July every year.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Fresh ideas can be hard to recognize, especially today, when you might be distracted by someone's good news. But have no fear - with grace and happiness.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Any relationships that need your attention should get it as soon as possible, because you're going to need more flexibility to be able to retreat to your private world soon. Your energy is beginning to lag a bit.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Any transactions you're part of today could have a long-lasting effect on your financial health ... so take a very conservative approach with how you spend your hard-earned dollars.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 The less distracted you are, the more likely it is that you'll be able to recognize an unusual invitation or proposal. A door is opening, so get ready to stick your foot in to keep it from slamming shut again.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Observing the flaws of others enables you to understand how truly strong you are, and you should use this strength to find peace in a potentially explosive situation.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You're at the halfway point on a very special journey today, but you're in for a surprise. At a certain point, you may suddenly wonder whether or not you should turn around and head back the way you came.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Hoping and waiting for progress in the occupational realm - and getting upset when it doesn't come - is a dead-end street, particularly for you right now. Create your own opportunity.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You're the glue in your social circle, so for the good of the group, you may need to step up and get everyone together. Plan a dinner party, a casual night out or something totally off-the-wall for you.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 If you're ready to push things in a new direction in the romantic realm of your life, today is the perfect day. Share your thoughts with the person who intrigues you most and see how they react.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 For the sake of your self-esteem: When you see a chance to get ahead today, you have to take it. Save the conservative thinking and deep contemplation for another time.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Today there will be an opportunity for you to get something you've always wanted, but you'll have to give up something, too. This sacrifice could involve something as minor as some of your extra free time.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Whatever happens today, you can deal with it using your customary composure. While the people around you are certainly powerful, they don't hold a candle to you today.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Easy' level with some numbers pre-filled.

Easy+

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Easy+' level with some numbers pre-filled.

Medium

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Medium' level with some numbers pre-filled.

Hard

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Hard' level with some numbers pre-filled.

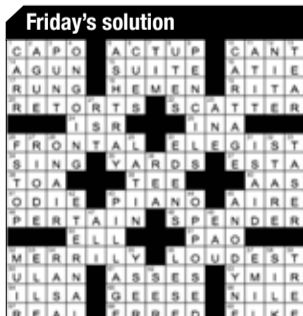
WEATHER

Weather forecast table for China and World cities, including min/max temperatures and conditions.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Squeezes (out); 5- Tortoise's rival; 9- Like ___ of bricks; 13- Satan; 15- Terminates; 16- Dorothy's dog; 17- ___ Kick Out of You; 18- Take five; 19- Against; 20- Road curve; 21- Pack away; 23- Breadwinner; 25- 1968 U.S. Open champ; 26- More strange; 27- Newspapers; 30- French friend; 31- Grammarian's concern; 32- Imaginative; 37- This, in Tijuana; 38- Noise; 40- Pianist Gilels; 41- Work boot feature; 43- Madame de ___; 44- 007 creator Fleming; 45- Church office; 47- Tropical fruit; 50- Enthusiasm; 51- Baseless derogatory story; 52- Travel on foot; 53- TV listings abbr.; 56- Piedmont wine center; 57- Old Testament book; 59- Miscalculation; 61- Actual; 62- Uncommon; 63- March man; 64- Citrus drinks; 65- Stains; 66- Red coin?;

DOWN: 1- "What I Am" singer Brickell; 2- Frat party purchases; 3- Holiday lead-ins; 4- Obedience school command; 5- People of courage; 6- Again; 7- Map lines; Abbr.; 8- Highly regarded; 9- Maker of Pong; 10- Heavy metric weight; 11- Sleek swimmer; 12- Film ___; 14- Timmy's dog; 22- Common article; 24- La Scala highlight; 25- Pond scum; 26- Acquire through merit; 27- Membership fees; 28- Type of D.A.; 29- Must've been something ___; 32- Theatrical hint; 33- Grand ___ National Park; 34- ___ old cowhand...; 35- Contender; 36- May Clampett of "The Beverly Hillbillies"; 38- Norm; 39- A Chaplin; 42- Person who is liable to tell untruths; 43- Slithery beasts; 45- Stops; 46- Competitor of Tide and Cheer; 47- Stationed; 48- Architectural piers; 49- Metal spikes; 51- Irene of "Fame"; 52- Had on; 53- Not false; 54- Cap'n's underling; 55- Smell ___; 58- Spring month; 60- Mythical bird;



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World Cup fairy tale ends for Russia, the sleeping giant

James Ellingworth, Sochi

RUSSIANS danced, drank and celebrated their national football team for three delirious, dreamlike weeks. Now it's time to get back to reality.

Russia entered the World Cup without having won a match at the tournament since 2002 and with the lowest ranking of the 32 teams, but suddenly the host nation couldn't stop winning.

Saudi Arabia and Egypt were swept aside in the group stage. Spain, the 2010 champion, was played to a standstill and beaten on penalties in the round of 16. Only Croatia, following another penalty shootout in the quarterfinals on Saturday, was able to knock the Russians out of their own tournament.

Since the opening match nearly a month ago, Moscow went almost without sleep as fans danced through the night on the streets near the Kremlin, locations where police would normally break up unauthorized gatherings by force. They drank while they partied, singing songs and taking pictures



Russian players react at the end of the quarterfinal match between Russia and Croatia

with visiting fans from other countries.

After being eliminated from the tournament, Russia coach Stanislav Cherchesov summed up his team's success with military metaphors. "We feel like soldiers conscripted into the army," he said. "Today we got demobilized but I'd have wanted to keep serving and fighting. It's the case when demobilization leaves you disappointed. We'd like to have served our motherland on July 15 [in the final] but we didn't manage to do it."

Russia forward Artyom Dzyuba

talked often of "the fairy tale," and the fans responded with a giant banner for the Spain game urging them to "make the fairy tale come true."

It ended yesterday [Macau time], barely, when Russia lost the shootout to Croatia 4-3.

Many on the team were impressive during the tournament, however, and could now demand vastly improved salaries, including Dzyuba, creative midfielder Alexander Golovin and fullback Mario Fernandes.

Russia is a country of vast poten-

tial in football, with a nationwide network of academies and big-spending clubs fueled by government money. But that's rarely translated into success on the field and opportunities have been missed.

The last time Russia did so well at a major tournament was when it reached the semifinals of the

Today we lost but it happened, nothing terrible. The team gave everything it had to the cause and we can sleep soundly tonight.

DENIS CHERYSHEV

2008 European Championship. But the team didn't get past the group stage of any tournament for the next decade.

Players like Andrei Arshavin and Roman Pavlyuchenko struggled to apply their obvious talent in Europe's biggest leagues.

Denis Cheryshev was Russia's biggest star at this year's World Cup with four goals in five games. The Villarreal winger warned against complacency.

"With what we've achieved now, we can't take a step back," Cheryshev said. "We need to move forward and I think we believed in our strength and in ourselves. The country believed in us and as a united whole we achieved good results, but we can't stop here and we need to keep striving for more."

Ultimately, Russia beat Spain by playing ultra-defensive football more suited to a smaller European country like Iceland. Against Croatia, a country of 144 million people was the underdog to a country of 4 million.

If that's going to change, Russian football may need reform — perhaps more players signed to foreign clubs like Cheryshev, sharing knowledge and experience from abroad.

"Today we lost but it happened, nothing terrible," Cheryshev said. "The team gave everything it had to the cause and we can sleep soundly tonight." AP

AD

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Speaker
Iion Ho
Independent Curator

Round Table
Architect **Carlos Marreiros**
Architect **Ben Leong**
Artist **James Chu**

Date
July 14th, 2018
(Saturday)

Time
3:00pm

Language
Cantonese
(Supplemented by English)

Venue
Albergue SCM – Hall D1

CPD
1.5 Hours
(Approval of 1.5 hours CPD shall be subject to further confirmed by the committee shortly)

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James Ellingworth, Sochi

WORLD CUP 2018

Playing Croatia in semifinal is a harsh reminder for England

CROATIA was there at England's lowest ebb this century in international football, and it'll be there as the English team tries to peak.

For many England supporters, the 3-2 loss to Croatia in November 2007 was a national embarrassment. Coach Steve McClaren's tactics floundered as he clutched an umbrella in pouring rain on the sidelines at Wembley, and he was dubbed "the Wally with the broly" following the loss that meant England failed to qualify for Euro 2008.

A decade later a young, vibrant team has earned England a spot in the World Cup semifinals for the first time in 28 years and it will face Croatia again. The euphoria on the streets of London was matched in Zagreb, where Croats celebrated their country's best World Cup run since 1998.

"We respect them and I think they respect us," said Croatia defender Dejan Lovren, who has played in England since 2013. "We're two great teams and it will be a great challenge for us and for them, so let's see who will be better."

Lovren is the only player in Croatia's World Cup squad who is currently with an English club, although his teammates Luka Modric and Vedran Corluka both

previously played for Tottenham, and forward Andrej Kramaric was formerly at Leicester City.

England beat Croatia 4-1 and 5-1 in their last two meetings, World Cup qualifiers in 2008 and 2009, but the abiding memory for England fans remains that defeat in 2007.

■ Besides the semifinal on Thursday, England and Croatia will meet twice more this year

Davor Suker, a star of the Croatian team that reached the 1998 World Cup semifinals and president of the national football federation, tried to play down the grudge factor ahead of Thur-



Harry Maguire (center) celebrates with his teammates after scoring a goal

sdays [2 a.m. Macau Time] semifinal match in Moscow.

"Not revenge, it's football," he said, adding that he wished Croatia was facing a weaker England team. "What I would like, England from before, but now England is very strong. We will

respect this team."

England won the 1966 World Cup but hasn't returned to the final of the sport's marquee event. In the semifinals in 1990, West Germany advanced on penalties over England.

Suker said England coach Ga-

reth Southgate has built a team of "hungry" players motivated to win for their country and not distracted by the trappings of fame.

"You know, the coach, what he has, football comes home," Suker said, referencing England's "Three Lions" song.

"It's the hungry players, you see," Suker said, explaining that cash and fast cars can't compare for players with competing for the biggest title. "Just 11 against 11 warriors and that's playing in the World Cup."

Besides the semifinal on Thursday in Moscow, England and Croatia will meet twice more this year in the new UEFA Nations League.

England will play Croatia away on Oct. 12. The game will be played at an empty venue because Croatia is under a stadium ban from UEFA imposed back in 2015 when a swastika was painted on its field ahead of a game. England hosts Croatia on Nov. 18 in the return fixture. AP

AD

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opinion

Insight
Paulo Barbosa



'CRIME OF SOCIAL ALARM' IS IN FACT A GAG ORDER

The new bill on civil protection law, which proposes the establishment of a "crime of social alarm," represents a new attack on freedom of speech in Macau.

The proposal, which is under public consultation until August 11, notes that the current legislation regarding civil protection is more than 25 years old. According to the consultation paper, "nowadays the incidents involving large crowds and public health situations are getting more challenging." The document points out that it is "imperative to change the law" in order to improve disaster prevention and relief operations.

I have no major issues with these justifications, although we all know that the real reason for the bill is the evident unpreparedness to deal with a storm of the magnitude of Typhoon Hato, which occurred last August.

Several of the bill's provisions may be unconstitutional, such as forcing telecom operators to air free warnings and stipulating that all civil servants are liable to participate in civil protection operations (and may face criminal charges if they don't).

For me, however, the most controversial point is the creation of "a false social alarm crime" for those who "issue or divulge rumors or fake rumors [sic]" punishable with a maximum of three years in prison. This seems like a gag order. It may contradict Article 27 of the Basic Law, which entitles residents to enjoy freedom of speech and freedom of the press.

The essential role of the media when covering crisis situations is also placed at stake. The consultation paper states that "there is a civic responsibility of the media when divulging the civil protection information issued by the authorities."

Secretary for Security Wong Sio Ckak made several statements last week which added to the confusion over how these provisions will be interpreted. "I think the media outlets all have freedom of expression but in situations of public risk, I believe that the media also has its [share] or responsibility, that is, of disclosure information that is correct," Wong told journalists. "Excluding these risky situations, the way media comments on governance is not a problem and the media has freedom to do that, but in situations of risk or emergency, I think we need to unite efforts."

What is Wong trying to say? Read the underlined sentence again. Excluding situations when media should be more active in reporting the facts independently and offering the public accurate and useful information about "risky situations," media coverage is not a problem. Or, as Wong also said, the information issued by the government is "truthful." The public doesn't need anything else to understand what is happening. The rest is noise and rumors.

It is understandable that local authorities did not appreciate some of Hato's media coverage. The shortcomings were so evident that it became an embarrassment to them. Reporters from Hong Kong were barred at the border for "internal safety matters" when they were coming here to report on the deadly typhoon.

Should we not be concerned about this civil protection proposal, given the apparently arbitrary and paranoid way some rules are enforced in Macau?

So far, one of the lonely voices against the proposal came from the president of the Association of Lawyers, Neto Valente, who told Radio Macau that it was just "one more [measure] to make the lives of citizens hellish." Valente said that existing laws are sufficient. "Certainly if there are rumors favorable to government authorities, they will not be punished," he said.

Obviously, the creation of a "crime of social alarm" is redundant. There are libel laws to protect government representatives and citizens who feel defamed. That is what was unreasonably applied last year, when two elderly siblings were prosecuted for spreading messages via WeChat claiming that the government had covered up information relating to the five dead people found in a parking lot during Typhoon Hato.

The new proposal is the latest attempt to create a new modus operandi in Macau. Besides the aforementioned, one of the most shocking so far was the interpretation of the new electoral law by the Electoral Affairs Commission during last year's pre-campaign period, mixing up news coverage and electoral propaganda. Regrettably, a local newspaper was even notified to remove an interview.

THE BUZZ TAIWAN YOUTH TOUR HIGH-TECH BASE IN BEIJING

More than 100 young Taiwanese have toured high-tech base Zhongguancun in Beijing to learn about and exchange ideas on innovation, as part of their summer workshop scheduled in the mainland.

Cheng Po-yu, Shougang group VSTARTUP general manager in charge of Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan affairs, shared his experience with the youth, introduced the Chinese mainland's favorable policies on innovation and

starting businesses and encouraged them to seek opportunities on the mainland.

The workshop, organized by the Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits and hosted by the Academy of Chinese Culture, is a platform for Taiwanese students to learn about the mainland and Chinese culture. It has attracted over 10,000 Taiwanese students since 2003. This year's workshop runs from July 1 to 16.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	20-40 Good
High Density Residential Area	10-30 Good
Ambient	20-40 Good

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS



INDIA Thousands participated in the funeral of two young men and a teenage girl in disputed Kashmir on the weekend, hours after police say they were killed when government forces fired at anti-India protesters. [More on p12](#)

TURKEY's government yesterday issued an emergency decree dismissing thousands of public servants for alleged links to terror groups. [More on p14](#)



SPAIN A man who was gored and three others who were trampled in the first running of the bulls of this year's San Fermin festival were hospitalized on the weekend, officials in the Spanish city of Pamplona said.

BRITAIN Prime Minister Theresa May touted the benefits of her latest Brexit proposal to create a partial free trade zone between the U.K. and the European Union, saying Saturday it is possible EU citizens would receive preferential treatment for employment after Britain leaves the bloc.



SOUTH AMERICA An alliance whose backers once dreamed creating a sort of South American version of the European Union may lose its headquarters. Ecuador's President Lenin Moreno said he plans to ask the Union of South American Nations to give up its central office near Ecuador's capital.

BRAZIL Police in Rio de Janeiro have arrested a Brazilian man suspected of killing his ex-girlfriend in Sydney, Australia, in late April.

Elvis, Beatles memorabilia items on display at Hard Rock

Wayne Parry, Atlantic City

ELVIS Presley's Rolls Royce, the suits the Beatles wore on their first tour of America, Bruce Springsteen's sleeveless faded denim jacket and colorful headband, and Michael Jackson's famous glove are among the items of music memorabilia on display at Atlantic City's new Hard Rock casino.

There are outfits worn by Lady Gaga, Cher, Barbra Streisand, Whitney Houston and Mariah Carey, and shoes from Elton John, Buddy Holly and Gene Simmons of Kiss — if dragon-scale boots count as shoes.

Guitars in all shapes, sizes and colors, including ones played by Tom Petty, Bob Dylan and Slash, are there, too. Just about the only thing this casino doesn't have is the Rolling Stones' "Tumbling Dice."

When the Hard Rock opened June 28 in what used to be the Trump Taj Mahal, the casino opened in 1990 by Donald Trump, it brought with it a large display of items from what it calls the world's largest collection of music memorabilia.

"The memorabilia displayed at each Hard Rock International property holds a special connection to its specific destination and allows visitors a glimpse into the music and the pop culture surrounding it," said Matt Harkness, president of the Atlantic City casino. "The collection of rare memorabilia items that are displayed throughout Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City is tied to musicians from New Jersey, along with those who have a history of performing in our area."

At the front entrance is the cream-colored Rolls that Elvis used to pick up the Beatles from the airport in Los Angeles, surrounded by mannequins wearing the similarly hued collarless suits in which the Beatles used to perform in the early days.

Alongside is a vintage Springsteen stage outfit



Suits worn by the Beatles during an early tour of America in front of the Rolls Royce automobile owned by Elvis Presley

(headband included). A glass display case includes autographs from all four Beatles, from Jimi Hendrix and his bandmates, sunglasses and bowties worn by Roy Orbison, and a piece of junk mail delivered to Nirvana singer Kurt Cobain (with his last name spelled wrong) advising him he might already be a winner in a publishing sweepstakes.

Guitars in all shapes, sizes and colors, including ones played by Tom Petty, Bob Dylan and Slash, are there, too

There's a state of New Jersey accident report involving Springsteen, a purple guitar played by Prince, and John Lennon's handwritten lyrics to "Imagine" on a fading piece of white lined paper.

Then there's The Glove, the iconic sparkly hand covering Michael Jackson made famous in his videos and concerts. It was donated to Hard Rock in London by Jackson himself, said Giovanni Taliaferro, Hard Rock's director of memorabilia. The company obtains its music

memorabilia in a variety of ways, including direct donations by artists or purchases at auctions. Sometimes Hard Rock will make a donation to an artist's charity in return for a piece of memorabilia, he said.

New Jersey native Eddie Trunk, host of several rock shows on satellite radio and host of the TrunkFest show on AXS TV, said memorabilia helps connect fans to their favorite artists.

"Seeing a particular stage prop, article of clothing, instrument, poster or even ticket stub can transport us back to when we first saw that artist play, or one of their most celebrated eras," he said. "When I see things I've collected over the years, it often brings back the time and place I was in during my life, and creates a remembrance to that time. I can look at the memorabilia and it connects me to the point I was in my life and what I was doing."

An upstairs room is devoted to New Jersey artists including Springsteen, Bon Jovi, Debbie Harry of Blondie (it includes her handwritten lyrics to "Dreaming" scrawled around a poster of herself), as well as Frank Sinatra, Whitney Houston and the famous Stone Pony rock club.

Still to arrive at the Atlantic City Hard Rock are items including a Hendrix guitar, Frank Sinatra's piano, and the shoe-shine chair that James Brown used as a 12-year-old. **AP**