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STEVE VICKERS REPORT

# Macau risks being dragged into trade war

P5 MDT REPORT

## WORLD BRIEFS

**CHINA-THAILAND** The Chinese foreign ministry has urged Thailand's government to step up its efforts to rescue any survivors from the sinking of a tour boat off a southern island in the Southeast Asian nation.



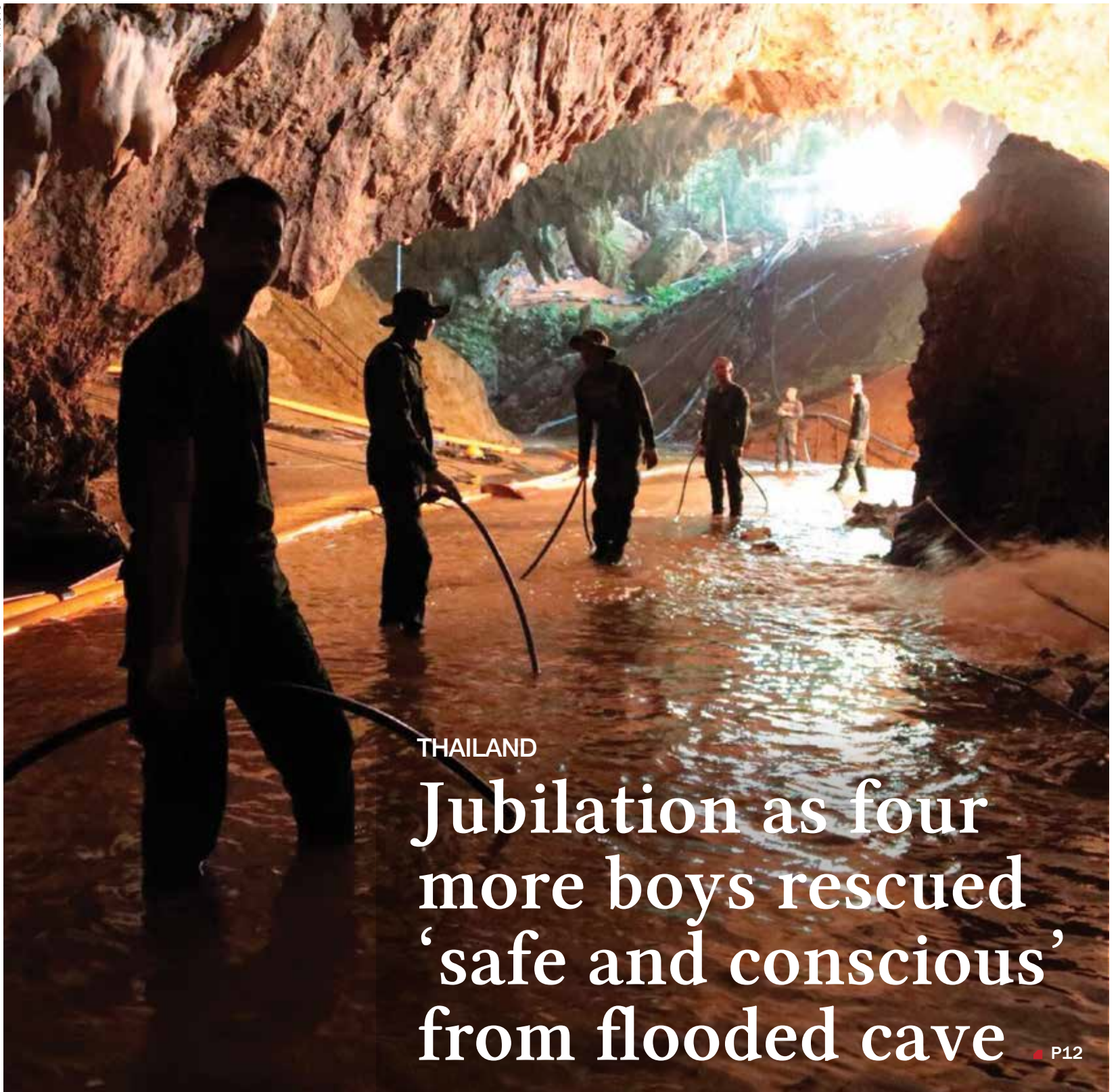
**PHILIPPINES** Catholic bishops yesterday called for fasting and prayers after President Rodrigo Duterte called God "stupid" and questioned God's existence in profane remarks that set the foul-mouthed leader on a collision course with Asia's largest Catholic church.

**MYANMAR** A court yesterday formally charged two Reuters journalists accused of illegally possessing official information, allowing their case to go to a full trial.  
More on p13

**INDIA**'s highest court yesterday rejected the requests of three men to change their death sentences to imprisonment in the 2012 fatal gang rape of a 23-year-old medical student in New Delhi.

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AP PHOTO



THAILAND

## Jubilation as four more boys rescued 'safe and conscious' from flooded cave

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## Nine proposals to develop central library

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) received nine proposals to develop the city's new central library yesterday, just as the deadline for their submission expired, reported public broadcaster TDM. The IC plans to reveal the details of the proposals later today. The project is to be developed on the site of the Old Court Building and former Judiciary Police headquarters. It has come under fire several times in recent years from lawmakers and political commentators who disagree with its proposed location and budget.

## Property price index up 5.4 percent

The overall residential property price index increased by 5.4 percent to 265.0 between March and May this year, compared with the previous period (February to April 2018), according to the Statistics and Census Service. The indexes for the Macau Peninsula (266.7) and Taipa and Coloane (257.0) rose by 6 percent and 2.3 percent respectively. The index for existing residential units (285.2) went up by 3.4 percent, while the index for pre-sale residential units (274.3) increased by 9.2 percent. Analyzed by year of building completion, the indexes for residential units built more than 20 years ago and those built in 5 years or less rose by 3.7 percent and 1.5 percent respectively. In comparison with the period between March to May 2017, the overall residential property price index increased by 8.7 percent.

## Nine-year-old told to smuggle smartphones

A 9-year-old boy from Hong Kong was told by his mother to smuggle 40 smartphones to Zhuhai from Macau via the Gongbei border checkpoint last week but was stopped by mainland customs officers, public broadcaster TDM has reported. According to the report, the boy was walking alone through the "nothing to declare" channel in Zhuhai, where he drew customs officers' attention. After the customs officers checked the boy, they found the 40 smartphones hidden around his waist and in his backpack. The boy admitted that he had been instructed by his mother to carry the mobile phones through the checkpoint. The boy informed the officers of his mother's mobile phone number, and she agreed to meet them and her son. The report did not say whether she was arrested.

# Local resident claims loss of HKD3.6m over phone scam

Renato Marques

A resident aged over 40 years old and working as croupier in a local casino has filed a complaint with the Judiciary Police (PJ), claiming to have lost HKD3.63 million in a phone scam, the PJ spokesperson said yesterday during a press conference.

According to the report, the woman received a call claiming that a package addressed in her name was confiscated by customs for containing "illegal products". Although she had not ordered any products, she nonetheless paid the required amount to release the package.

The woman paid over HKD3.6m through eight transfers between mid-May and the end of June this year. The highest amount paid in one transaction was over HKD1m, and the lowest was HKD26,000.

The woman filed her complaint with the PJ on July 8, in which she claimed that she used three mobile phone shops



in Macau to transfer the money to mainland China. She claims she later made deposits directly in the mainland.

The victim also said that the money lost in the scam belonged partly to her savings, with another portion resulting from loans from friends. The police are still investigating the case.

In an unrelated case, a mainland woman in her thirties also claimed that she was scammed by a Hong Kong man (aged 56) over a marriage advertisement she had placed in Hong Kong newspapers.

The woman told the PJ that she had placed the advertisement in several newspapers in the neighboring region with the purpose of finding a husband, as her sister had done previously.

A man named Green replied to the advertisement, and presented himself as a Hong Kong resident currently living and working in the USA, where he had a restaurant.

Under the pretext of arranging a visa for the mainland woman to travel with him to the USA, the man convinced the woman

to go to Macau, where he asked her for HKD240,000 to obtain the visa.

Although there is no American consulate in Macau, the woman believed him and handed over the cash. After that, the man disappeared, completely cutting off contact with the woman, who then realized she'd been scammed and filed a complaint.

On July 5, the Immigration Officers caught the man trying to exit Macau in transit to Hong Kong via the Outer Harbor Ferry Terminal.

He confessed to the crime, admitting that his motive was to obtain money to gamble in local casinos.

Further investigations also uncovered that the man, working as a cook in Hong Kong, had an extensive criminal record in the neighboring region between 1982 and 2004, and has been convicted of several crimes including fraud and homicide.

He was transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office to be charged.

# Xiaomi agent works with schools to promote smart campus

THE Hou Kong Middle School signed a cooperation agreement yesterday with the Xin Dong Li Source Technological Company (Xin Dong Li) regarding technological cooperation between the school and the company, which is a local agent of Chinese phone maker Xiaomi.

The agreement states that Xin Dong Li will educate students about technology to promote the concept and establishment of a 'smart campus'.

The company will also educate teachers about the theory and practical applications of technology.

Furthermore, the company will equip the school with new hardware facilities.

Hou Kong Middle School believes that the cooperation will play a key role in the school's teaching and promotion of a smart campus.

The school also plans to hire artificial intelligence exper-



ts from mainland China to come to Macau to broaden the knowledge of both students and teachers about big data and artificial intelligence.

"Artificial intelligence can have a big impact [on] the school's teaching and education," declared Iao Tun Ieong, Director of Hou Kong Middle School.

Xin Dong Li Source Technological Company is an agent of Xiaomi Corp in Macau.

Fu Jin, Chairman of the Board of Xin Dong Li, claimed that the company is ne-

gotiating with five other local schools aiming to bring technological training closer to

students and teachers.

Fu thinks that Macau's schools display a rather passionate stance towards smart campus concepts and practices.

Xiaomi, which helped to pioneer the trend for ultra-low-priced smartphones, says it plans to become an equipment-and-hardware brand alongside Apple. The 8-year-old company has yet to give details of how that business model will work outside China. **JZ**

## PHONE MAKER SHARES FALL THEN RISE IN HK DEBUT

**XIAOMI CORP.** shares slipped and then rebounded yesterday in the Chinese smartphone maker's first trading day in Hong Kong, following a multibillion-dollar initial public offering. Trading opened at 16.60 Hong Kong dollars

(USD2.11) per share, below Xiaomi's offering price of 17 Hong Kong dollars (\$2.17). Shares dropped about 4 percent in early trading but had rebounded to 16.80 Hong Kong dollars (\$1.98) by the end of the day.

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# News At Hand



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## Plans to provide drinking fountains in gardens

The Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) is considering installing drinking fountains in public gardens. In a response to lawmaker Lei Cheng I's written inquiry, the IACM noted that installing room temperature drinking fountains in gardens and recreational areas has been considered for a trial period. In the future, the range of such installations might be expanded on the basis of the trial period's results. The Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA) also reported that the SAR government is researching how to reduce the use of plastic bottles in public activities.

## Requests for problem gambling assistance expected to rise

The Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) expects the number of requests for assistance with gambling problems to increase after the World Cup ends in Russia. Head of Problem Gambling Prevention and Treatment Division of IAS, Wu I Mui, said that some people would realize they have a gambling addiction after gambling during the tournament. Past experiences also show an increase in the number of requests for help after each game. The IAS has already launched a pre-education campaign to inform residents about gambling addictions during the World Cup. Recently, the IAS also organized an event attended by 80,000 people, hoping to instill good values in young people regarding sports activities.

# Caritas Macau Charity Run to be held on October 7

Julie Zhu

**T**HE Caritas Macau Charity Run of will be held on October 7, with hopes of attracting 3,000 participants to this year's event, organizers announced yesterday at a press conference.

The event is jointly organized by Caritas Macau and the University of Macau (UM). Caritas Macau Secretary General Paul Pun noted that this is the first time the association has worked with UM to organize the event, with the event in its third year.

The running will begin on the UM campus at 7:30 a.m., on Sunday. In total, four running categories will be available – Open Group, Family Group, Inclusive Group, Walking Group, with another category for people to finish their run at other places.

The entry fee for each individual is MOP160. Caritas Macau also encourages participants to invite their friends



Paul Pun (center)

and family to donate to Caritas Macau.

"Caritas Macau has plans to build one residential elderly care home. When the new facility is open, we will put the names [of donors] on the wall of the care home," said Pun.

According to Pun, it is uncertain when the facility will open.

"We are not sure about the new center's opening, but we are confident that we can open a new and small care

home. It will not be like those big ones which can host up to 200 or 300 people," said Pun.

According to Pun, the home will be located in the Macau Peninsula, with an area of 7,000 square feet.

"We cannot reveal [more details] about the place [at the current stage.] The fundraising should start now, [because] if it starts later, the construction of the care home will be delayed," said Pun.

As Pun explained, currently, there is only one draft plan re-

garding the care home's site.

Other details, such as the senior citizens' arrangements, are still under discussion, as many of the senior citizens have different demands regarding their private spaces.

"When we designed it about six or seven years ago, we [planned] to host 100 people. Now, we probably don't want to make it that big. We hope that senior citizens can have a peaceful space, therefore the care home will be smaller," said Pun, who hopes that the charity run will raise around MOP500,000.

Pun remarked that an elderly care home cannot be constructed with a budget of MOP100 million.

"Caritas Macau has been operating for so many years in Macau, but it does not have its own facilities. I believe that the government is willing to give money [to Caritas Macau], but it's better if we can raise the funds by ourselves," asserted Pun.

AD

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# Steve Vickers: Macau at risk of trade war entanglement

Daniel Beitler

**M**ACAUI is at risk of being dragged into the U.S.-China trade war because of the closeness of several American casino operators to U.S. President Donald Trump, according to a new report by specialist political and corporate risk consultancy, Steve Vickers and Associates.

The report, which comes just days after the latest batch of reciprocal tariffs were introduced Friday, warns that Las Vegas Sands, MGM Resorts International and Wynn Resorts now sit on a "geopolitical fault line" with even the possibility of a new concession at stake.

"The gaming sector in Macau is highly exposed," notes the report. "Three of Macau's six gaming concessionaires are US companies, Las Vegas Sands ('LVS'), MGM, and Wynn Resorts; and LVS founder Sheldon Adelson boasts close ties to US President Trump. These companies now sit on a geopolitical fault line. Their Macau concessions can therefore be on the line."

Speaking to the Times yesterday,



company CEO Steve Vickers said that Macau was a "key fault line" in U.S.-China relations and "a political fault line more than an economic one."

"[In Macau] we have huge [gaming] concessions to people close to the U.S. President," he said. "Let's look at the economic reality; LVS [Las Vegas Sands] was one of the biggest contributors to the Trump campaign."

Vickers suggested that if China wanted to punish Trump, the U.S. gaming concessions in Macau could make attractive targets.

China implemented protectionist policies against strategic U.S.

goods in the previous round of tariffs in April, with a view to weakening political support for Trump at home. These included measures against U.S.-produced cars, soybeans and tobacco - sectors heavily concentrated in marginal states that flipped from supporting the democrats in 2012 to Trump in 2016.

"I'm not saying that it's going to happen, just that it's a possibility," said Vickers.

The report also noted that the current weakness of the yuan - and the possibility of it falling further - could be cause for Beijing to introduce more restrictions to capital

outflows. Such restrictions might have a "dampening" effect on casino revenues in Macau.

Last week the yuan reached its lowest point against the U.S. dollar since November 2017. The Chinese currency has fallen more than 7 percent against the greenback since early April.

A weaker yuan is somewhat beneficial to the mainland as it makes the country's exports more competitive and will help to mitigate the impact of Trump's tariffs. However, the Chinese central bank is likely to intervene if it feels that the price of the yuan will encourage unwanted capital outflows.

Such a scenario might play into the hands of Macau's recovering junket business, which specializes in financing high stakes gamblers from the mainland without the ability to bring large sums of money into the SAR.

"To a certain extent [it could help the junkets]," said Vickers, before adding that the impact will be limited given that there are "fewer junket operators in Macau today and they are more closely monitored by the authorities."



## 5th 'Summer in Portuguese' begins tomorrow

The 5th "Summer in Portuguese" course will begin tomorrow at the Macau Polytechnic Institute (IPM). The teacher-training course for those teaching Portuguese in mainland China has been organized by the Portuguese Language Teaching and Research Centre at IPM since 2014.

This year, 24 teachers from 17 different universities in mainland China, almost all of whom are Chinese, will attend the course. The course will run until July 20 and has a total duration of 75 hours (45 hours of training in class and 30 hours of participants' individual work). The novelty of this year's course is that it is certified by Camões - Instituto da Cooperação e da Língua, following a recently signed protocol with IPM.

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HEALTH

# Kiang Wu's initial assisted reproductive service fee to be low

**T**HE Kiang Wu hospital expects that it will provide assisted reproductive services at below cost price, according to a report by Macao Daily News.

Earlier, the Kiang Wu Hospital applied to the city's Health Bureau (SSM), looking to establish a medical assisted reproductive center.

The vice superintendent of Kiang Wu, Chan Tai Ip, said that the center's equipment may be ready by the middle of this month, with tests such as environmental monitoring and the determination of toxic substances able to be completed by the end of July.

To obtain approval, the center will be inspected by a team of license experts from SSM in August.

Chan emphasized that Kiang Wu strives to meet the highest requirements of the aSSM in terms of facilities,

environment, and other factors, in order to improve the success rate of assisted reproduction.

Regarding the service fee, Chan claimed that the hospital will fix the price in accordance with the actual needs of people in Macau.

However, Chan expressed his concern that due to Macau's imperfect supply chain, and the fact that the hospital is using the most advanced equipment, the initial price might end up being lower than the cost of the service itself.

The price is said to be between MOP30,000 and MOP50,000.

Chan also remarked that related services will be carried out in accordance with the law and will not be provided for profit.

The exact fees are difficult to estimate at the current stage. **JZ**



RENATO MARQUES

## Taiwan flights canceled ahead of typhoon

Commercial airline Air Macau has announced that several Taiwan flights have been cancelled today and tomorrow due to the approach of Typhoon Maria. The canceled flights tomorrow are NX618 and NX620 from Macau and bound for Taipei, as well as the Taipei-Macau flight NX615. The Taipei-Macau flight NX619 scheduled for tomorrow has also been canceled. The company says that passengers booked on the above flights may re-book or refund the tickets. Air Macau will waive re-booking and refund fees for the tickets of the affected flights.

## Taxi complaints hotline recorded 114 cases in a week

The dedicated hotline for taxi infraction-related complaints launched on June 29, recorded a total of 114 complaints between July 1 and July 8, the Public Security Police Force revealed yesterday. The 114 calls received were mostly related to cases where drivers overcharged or denied transport to passengers. The police also noted that the line should only be used to report taxi infractions, and that in cases where drivers' behavior is criminal, such as threats and locking passengers inside the vehicle, passengers can and should use any of the emergency lines including 999, 110 and 112 to connect directly to the authorities.

HERITAGE

# 'Chapas Sínicas' exhibition kicks off

**T**HE exhibition "Chapas Sínicas - Stories of Macau in Torre do Tombo," kicked off last Friday at the Handover Gifts Museum.

The opening ceremony was officiated, among others, by the Minister of Culture and Tourism of the People's Republic of China, Luo Shugang and the Minister of Culture of Portugal, Luís Filipe de Castro Mendes.

The event is part of the first "Encounter in Macau - Arts and Cultural Festival between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries," organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau.

The collection of "Chapas Sínicas," which was known as "Official Records of Macau During the Qing Dynasty (1693-1886)," is composed of official correspondence between the Chinese and Portuguese authorities mainly from the early reign of Emperor Qianlong to the late reign of Emperor Daoguang in the Qing dynasty.



The collection is comprised of a total of 3,600 documents, including over 1,500 official letters written in Chinese and five books of Portuguese-translated copies of the letters kept by the Leal Senado of Macau, among other relevant documents that are part of the early history of Macau and were inscribed on the Memory of the World Register in October 2017.

The exhibition will be held in two phases: the first will be held until August 7 at the Handover Gifts Museum of Macao, and the second from August 21 until December 7

at the Archives of Macau.

Additionally, there will be a series of lectures focusing on the documentary significance of "Chapas Sínicas" as well as on the preservation and digitization of records delivered by Zhang Wenqin, professor of History of Sino-Foreign Relations at Sun Yat-sen University; Professor Jin Guoping, researcher at the Macau Research Institute of Jinan University; and Silvestre de Almeida Lacerda, General Director of the General Directorate for Book, Archives and Libraries of Portugal.

## Public sessions on civil protection law ongoing

**T**HE government has established a series of four public sessions aimed at groups connected to the civil protection structure, in order to collect opinions about the civil protection law proposal under public consultation.

A statement by the Unitary Police Services (SPU) mentions that the four sessions were held earlier this month. A total of 380 people representing several organizations attended. Participants expressed "very valuable opinions" on the public consultation document.

The SPU also said that in the meetings participants agreed on the importance of creating a civil protection system through the drafting of a basic law and stated, "this reform will make it possible for the authorities to advance in response to incidents."

At the same time, participants also raised questions regarding duties and responsibilities in cases of non-compliance with the law, the introduction of insurance for volunteer staff and the criteria for the implementation of exceptional measures, such as the introduction of the crime of false social alarm.

Other topics of discussion included the criteria for the definitions of the several levels of incidents and the civic responsibility of the media in the dissemination of civil protection information.

The SPU stated that the "government representatives listened carefully and gave detailed explanations to those present."

According to the agenda established for the consultations, there will be three more public consultation sessions for the public to be held July 17, 19 and 21, and they will be held in the Auditorium of the Public Administration Building on Rua do Campo. **RM**

## UM professor's joint paper receives award

Shu Lianjie, a professor of decision science from the University of Macau's (UM) Faculty of Business and Administration, has received the Best Application Paper Award in the IISE Transactions Focus Issue on Quality and Reliability Engineering for 2018. His paper, titled 'A False Discovery Approach for Scanning Spatial Disease Clusters with Arbitrary Shapes', is co-authored by Professor Li Yanting from Shanghai Jiao Tong University and Professor Tsung Fugee from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. Identifying unusual events that are spatially scattered is a challenging problem commonly seen in a large variety of applications. Aimed at automatically and simultaneously detecting multiple clusters of any shapes, this paper explores the false discovery approach that originated from multiple hypothesis tests.



# Sa Sa records profit surge on tourism rebound

**COSMETICS** firm Sa Sa Holdings International has reported a profit growth of 34.7 percent for the year ending on March 31, driven by local consumption and more mainland tourists coming to Hong Kong and Macau.

Profit reached HKD440.1 million for the 12-month period, while the group's turnover increased by 6.2 percent to HKD8 billion. Wholesale and retail sales in Hong Kong and Macau increased by 7.9 percent to HKD6.76 billion, with same store growth of 3.9 percent.

"The Hong Kong and Macau markets are showing clear signs of recovery," the firm wrote in a statement. "The satisfactory economic environment, high employment rate, stable property and stock market, and bullish local consumer sentiment are all driving robust growth."

A weak US dollar and stronger Renminbi earlier this year encouraged outbound travel and greater consumption by mainland tourists, the firm additionally noted.

"The buoyant local and regional economy together with a satisfactory employment situation benefited property and investment markets, as well as supporting the



retail industry overall and boosting the Group's sales growth," the firm added.

Though mostly driven by a rise in local consumption and an increase in tourist arrivals to the two SAR cities, Sa Sa also introduced cost control measures such as the consolidation of logistics and warehouse operations. The consequence was a year-on-year decrease of 35 percent in terms of logistics costs, as well as an al-

most 50 percent cut in the lead time for importation from Hong Kong to mainland China.

In mainland China, total turnover for the Group in local currency increased by 5 percent to HKD298.7 million. In overseas markets, the Group's turnover for the Singapore and Malaysia operations was HKD211.5 million and HKD362.5 million, up by 1.9 percent and 6.1 percent in local currency terms respectively.



## Packer quits board of own company to recover from illness

**BILLIONAIRE** James Packer stepped down as a director of his private investment company, three months after quitting the board of his casino operator Crown Resorts Ltd. because of mental health issues.

The 50-year-old resigned from closely held Consolidated Press Holdings Pty on June 27, according to a notice lodged with the Australian Securities & Investments Commission. Consolidated Press owns about 46 percent of Crown Resorts, according to Bloomberg data.

"Mr Packer has stepped

off the CPH Board as he continues his recovery from illness," a Consolidated Press spokesman said in an email.

At the time of Packer's resignation from Crown's board in March, Consolidated Press said he would stand back from all commitments. Twice-divorced Packer has endured a tumultuous few years, from the public breakup of his engagement with pop diva Mariah Carey to the conviction of Crown employees in China in 2017 for illegally promoting gambling. **Bloomberg**

AD

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# China stocks rebound with biggest gain since 2016, yuan climbs

**C**HINESE large cap stocks climbed the most in two years, bouncing back from a bruising run of losses in the lead up to the imposition of U.S. tariffs last Friday. The yuan also rose after retreating for four weeks straight.

The Shanghai Composite Index jumped 2.5 percent, the most since May 2016, following seven weekly declines in a row. The SSE 50 Index of the largest mainland-listed stocks climbed 2.9 percent, its biggest gain since August 2016; the CSI 300 gauge added 2.8 percent, also the most since August 2016. The Hang Seng Index advanced 1.3 percent in Hong Kong to the highest close this month. The yuan, one of the weakest currencies against the dollar over the past month, rose 0.5 percent, in line for its biggest increase against the greenback since April 10.

"Market sentiment improved on a temporary relief of concerns on the China-U.S. trade spat," said Tommy Xie, economist at Oversea-Chinese Banking Corp. "The trade war didn't worsen over the weekend and investors are expecting a relatively quiet week ahead on the trade front as Trump will be tied up with his Europe visit."

China's Finance Ministry on

Friday responded to Washington's imposition of tariffs, saying the U.S. had ignited the largest trade war in history and accusing the Trump administration of bullying. It also said China would continue to deepen reform, open up its markets and create a "favorable business environment for companies from all over the world operating in China."

Deutsche Bank said that China's "rational and refrained" remarks were a positive gesture. "The trade war is far from over but a major downside risk - China punishing U.S. firms doing business in China - has become less likely," economists led by Zhiwei Zhang wrote in a note.

Chinese stocks are still among the world's worst performers this year. In addition to the trade war threat, investors have been troubled by a domestic deleveraging campaign weighing on liquidity, signs of an economic slowdown, and a weaker currency. The Shanghai index is in



a bear market after dropping more than 20 percent from its January high.

"There's room for a technical rebound after the selloff in past few weeks, while regulators' positive comments on A shares showing value also helped," said Shen Zhengyang, Shanghai-based strategist with Northeast Securities Co.

The Shanghai Stock Exchange said in a statement Sunday that valuations of companies listed on the exchange and big-cap blue chips are at reasonable or even relatively low

levels when compared with peers in major economies. Value is emerging after recent declines, it said.

China International Capital Corp. said there's medium-to-long term opportunities in A shares as valuations and sentiment have hit the bottom, while brokerages including Citic Securities Co. and Essence Securities Co. now expect the market to rebound. Credit Suisse Group AG remains cautious, forecasting further losses over the coming weeks. It added that the downside

would be limited by solid fundamentals.

Data yesterday showed China's foreign-exchange reserves last month rose for the first time since March, reaching USD3.112 trillion as the yuan slid 3.3 percent. The yuan strengthened to 6.6170 versus the dollar Monday, while the Bloomberg dollar index fell 0.3 percent following a 0.4 percent loss Friday.

Ken Cheung, senior Asian currency strategist at Mizuho Bank Ltd., said trade tension and softer Chinese economic growth momentum should cap the yuan's strength, though the central bank's pledge to maintain stability is likely to keep it supported at the key 6.7 level, a line in the sand differentiating between bullish and bearish expectations.

Smartphone maker Xiaomi Corp. tumbled as much as 5.9 percent on its debut in Hong Kong, hitting as low as HKD16 versus its HKD17 initial public offering price. The shares pared losses to 1.2 percent at the close. **Bloomberg**

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# Five Chinese tourists reported missing from sunken boat are alive

Eileen Ng, Phuket

**FIVE** people reported to have been missing from a tour boat that sank in a storm off the southern resort island of Phuket are alive, Thai authorities said yesterday, though it's unclear if the five survived the sinking or never got on the boat.

Phuket Gov. Norrapat Plodthong said authorities are trying to verify their details and some of them may have left Thailand. Norrapat said the development came after new information emerged from Thai immigration and the Chinese Embassy.

The new information also showed there were 89 tourists, 87 of them Chinese, on the boat, instead of the previous figure of 93, he said.

The number of people who are missing has been lowered from 14 to 10, including the five who are alive but whose whereabouts are unclear, he said. The death toll remains at 42, including a body still trapped under the wreckage.

The double-decker Phoenix capsized and sank late Thursday afternoon after it was hit by 5-meter waves in one of Thailand's worst tourism-related disasters since the 2004 Indian



A Chinese relative of a victim in the recent boat sinking is consoled at the Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket

Ocean tsunami that killed thousands.

Officials said all of the dead were Chinese comprising 13 children, 18 women and 10 men. The age and sex of the body still under the wreckage wasn't known.

Navy officials yesterday were attempting to flip the boat to retrieve the body and check for other possible victims. Special equipment has been brought in to lift up the boat, which is sitting some 45 meters beneath the surface, officials said.

Tourism is a vital part of the Thai economy, with the World

Bank estimating the Southeast Asian nation generates about 12 percent of its gross domestic product from tourism receipts. Chinese tourists are a key driver of the industry, accounting for 9.8 million of the record 35.38 million tourists to visit the country last year.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, the country's military ruler, expressed his "profound sadness" in a letter to Chinese President Xi Jinping. In the letter released by the foreign ministry Monday, Prayuth said a full investigation is underway to find the cause of the tragedy

and assured Xi his government is determined to ensure such incidents would not recur.

Prayuth arrived in Phuket yesterday to observe the operations and will visit Chinese relatives and survivors at a hospital.

China's tourism ministry warned people to be careful during water-based activities abroad. The notice carried in Chinese media yesterday said travelers should closely monitor weather and sea conditions and obey all warnings. Without mentioning Thailand, the notice said some cruise companies exercised lax management and maintained

inadequate safety measures.

Police said the captain of the Phoenix has been charged with "careless conduct leading to death" and could face more than three years in jail.

The captain of another boat that capsized on the same day and the manager of a travel agency that chartered the boat have also been charged for being careless leading to injuries. All the passengers from the second ship were rescued.

**The new information also showed there were 89 tourists, 87 of them Chinese, on the boat**

Tourism Minister Weerasak Kowsurat, who is in Phuket, has said the government will "spare no one" and will bring all those responsible to justice. Families of each victim could receive up to 1.4 million Thai baht (USD42,000) in compensation, officials said. **AP**

# Merkel lauds China's market opening in rebuff to Trump trade war

Patrick Donahue

**GERMAN** Chancellor Angela Merkel praised China for opening up to foreign investment, drawing a contrast with trade conflicts burdening both countries' relations with the U.S.

Merkel's positive take followed a meeting yesterday in Berlin with Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang, who presented himself as an ally in her defense of rules-based global trade. They also agreed that they want to preserve a nuclear accord with Iran that President Donald Trump has ditched.

At an event hosted by Merkel and Li, BASF SE signed a preliminary accord to spend as much as USD10 billion on a second chemical complex in China, its largest expansion project yet. The German company will own 100 percent of the site in Guangdong, the first foreign chemical maker to go it alone in China.



Angela Merkel (right) Li Keqiang attend a contracts' signing ceremony during a meeting in the chancellery in Berlin

"This shows that China's market opening in these areas isn't just talk, but action," Merkel said at a joint news conference. Combined with Chinese steps to open up to foreign financial companies, it's a signal that multilateralism plays "a strengthening, bolstering role" for the world economy, Li said.

Two days before meeting Trump at a NATO summit in Brussels, Merkel expressed concern about trade conflict with the U.S. and

said the European Union will retaliate if the administration expands tariffs on European exports.

"We should try to reach a deal, otherwise we will be forced to take action" as it did in retaliating against U.S. tariffs on steel and aluminum, the German leader said.

Merkel said Germany's goal remains a level playing field in economic ties with China. At the same time, she said Germany reserves the right to block Chinese

investments under existing laws that allow such restrictions for sensitive technology or on national security grounds. That doesn't mean China is being singled out, she said. "There's no trade policy that's specifically directed against China," Merkel said.

Alongside the government talks, Contemporary Amperex Technology Co. said it's choosing Germany's eastern state of Thuringia as the site of a battery factory. That means China's biggest maker of battery cells for electric vehicles is planting its flag in the land of Volkswagen, Daimler and BMW.

"I have to accept that there's no industry-driven investment in battery cells in Europe at this time," Merkel said. "That doesn't rule out that we'll see competitors to the Chinese providers crop up. For now, it's something that shows our market is open on this front." **Bloomberg**



HONG KONG

## Democrat takes case of prison mistreatment to court

**PRO**-democracy activist Joshua Wong has taken his case of alleged mistreatment by prison staff to the smalls claims tribunal, reports Hong Kong public broadcaster RTHK.

Wong is seeking HKD16,000 in compensation after he claims he was stripped naked and asked to squat while answering questions from prison guards.

Hong Kong's Correctional Services Department previously rejected his com-

plaint about the treatment, but Wong says he has now filed an appeal against the decision and demanded a new investigation.

RTHK reported that Wong said he wants to interrogate the responsible prison official in a courtroom. Having criticized a lack of transparency in Correctional Services Department's judgment.

Wong is also urging the government to establish an independent body to monitor whether inmates are being treated reasonably.



# Exporters scramble to cope with US tariffs

Joe McDonald

**C**HINESE exporters were scrambling yesterday to cope with a plunge in U.S. sales while China's state press shrugged off the impact of Washington's tariff hikes in a spiraling technology dispute.

The overall blow from Friday's tariff hikes to the world's second-largest economy should be limited, according to private sector analysts. But President Donald Trump's measures targeting Chinese medical, construction and factory equipment hit exporters that say price-conscious American customers have stopped buying.

The general manager of medical device exporter that depends on the United States for 15 to 20 percent of sales said he plans to fly there this week to negotiate with customers who stopped ordering its syringes and other equipment.

Wuxi Yushou Medical Devices Co., Ltd., with a workforce of 500, stands to lose 30-40 million yuan (\$4.5 to \$6 million) in annual revenue, according to the manager, Miao Liping.



A decoration baring the words "Business Prospers and Booming" is seen outside a mall in Beijing

Without new orders, "I will suspend making the products," said Miao. "It is not easy for us to compete with low-end products in other countries."

Other exporters of goods from kitchen appliances and lighting to toys and tools have reported similar drops in U.S. orders.

The state press tried to downplay the impact on China, emphasizing what Beijing says will be the bigger blow to American consumers who will pay

more for Chinese goods.

China can find other suppliers for soybeans and other American goods hit by its own retaliatory tariffs, state media said.

"Added tariffs basically have no effect on companies," the chairman of one of China's biggest chemical companies, state-owned Sinochem Group, Ning Gaoning, told the website aweb.com.

Despite official bravado, the conflict adds to mounting eco-

nomical challenges for Beijing.

Growth already was cooling after regulators tightened controls last year on bank lending to cool surging debt. That spooked investors, who have driven the main stock market index down 21 percent from its Jan. 24 peak.

Trump raised tariffs on \$34 billion of Chinese goods in response to complaints Beijing steals or pressures foreign companies to hand over technology.

More broadly, American officials worry Chinese government plans such as "Made in China 2025," which calls for creating competitors in robots, biotech, artificial intelligence and other fields, might erode U.S. technology leadership and prosperity.

Beijing retaliated to the U.S. move by hiking tariffs on American goods including soybeans, whiskey and electric cars. Regulators appeared to be trying to minimize the cost to China by picking goods available from Brazil, Russia, Southeast Asia or other suppliers.

"It won't be difficult for Chinese companies to find replacements for U.S. goods," said Bai Ming, a researcher at the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation, quoted by the newspaper Global Times.

Alternative suppliers such as Europe, Australia and Brazil "will be likely winners," Rajiv Biswas of IHS Markit said in a report.

The United States buys about 20 percent of China's exports, but trade has shrunk as a share of the Chinese economy.

Still, the impact could spread as Chinese factory demand for components from Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Southeast Asia slumps.

That could cut next year's Asia-Pacific economic growth by up to 1 percentage point, according to Biswas.

Meanwhile, China's entirely state-controlled media have been ordered to avoid "aggressive language" in describing Trump, the South China Morning Post newspaper in Hong Kong reported, citing unidentified sources.

It said that might be intended to avoid antagonizing the American leader and hindering negotiations.

Other exporters including makers of solar panels already were stepping up marketing in Asian and other markets. They are trying to make up for the loss of U.S. and European sales following higher tariffs imposed over complaints they sell at improperly low prices.

Solar exporter Jiangsu Akcome Science & Technology Co. makes about 15 percent of its sales to the United States, while Japan and South Korea are 25 to 30 percent, its general manager, Hu Jingnang, told the newspaper Wuxi Daily.

"The ability to increase global resource allocation can effectively offset foreign trade risks," Hu was quoted as saying. **AP**

## Paper denounces US Navy ships' Taiwan Strait passage

**A**ruling Chinese Communist Party newspaper yesterday denounced the passage of a pair of U.S. Navy ships through the Taiwan Strait as a "psychological game," as the two sides square off over trade and relations with self-governing Taiwan.

The Global Times said in an editorial that the U.S. was adding to tensions by sailing the Japan-based guided missile destroyers USS Mustin and USS Benfold through the 160-kilometer-wide (100-mile-wide) strait that divides Taiwan from mainland China.

Though such missions are not uncommon, both Taiwan and the U.S. made unusual public confirmations of the ships' passage over the weekend.

Washington is "sending political signals by sending warships through the Taiwan Strait," said the Global Times editorial, headline "U.S. psychological game in Taiwan Strait."

At a daily briefing yesterday, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said China had "played close attention to" the passage of the ships, but declined to connect the incident to other issues affecting relations between Beijing and Washington.

China, which claims Taiwan as its own territory to be conquered by force if necessary, has criticized recent U.S. moves to strengthen relations with the administration of Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen. Those include the opening of a new office complex for the American Institute in Taiwan, which operates as Washington's de facto embassy on the island in the absence of formal diplomatic ties that were cut when the U.S. switched recognition to China in 1949.

The U.S. Congress recently passed a law encouraging higher-level government contacts between the sides and closer cooperation between their

militaries is also being emphasized.

Such developments come amid rising frictions over what the U.S. considers unfair trading practices by China, the world's second-largest economy.

The administration of President Donald Trump imposed a 25 percent tax on USD34 billion worth of Chinese imports on Friday. China is retaliating with taxes on an equal amount of U.S. products, including soybeans, electric cars and pork.

A former Japanese colony, Taiwan split from China amid civil war in 1949 and China cut off relations with Tsai's government after her 2016 inauguration because she refuses to recognize the island as a part of China.

Despite the lack of diplomatic relations, the U.S. remains Taiwan's chief international ally and American law requires the government to respond to threats to the island. **AP**

## Property buys in Australia plummet on capital controls



**C**HINESE investment in Australia's commercial property has plummeted to the lowest level in six years as mainland capital controls bite.

Direct investment fell 81 percent to AUD250 million (USD187 million) in the first half from a year earlier, property brokerage CBRE Group Inc. said in a report yesterday.

"If these restrictions continue, we expect Chinese investment into Australia to record its lowest year since 2012," said Ben Martin-Henry, associate director of capital markets

and forecasting. The capital controls are having a "meaningful impact" globally, he said.

A crackdown by China's government has reined in deal makers such as Dalian Wanda Group Co., Anbang Insurance Group Co., Fosun International Ltd. and HNA Group Co. that once had an insatiable appetite for global assets. The unwinding of their spending spree included HNA selling a Sydney office tower in January. Chinese spending on commercial property in Australia is down from

a AUD2 billion high in 2015, when capital from Asia's biggest economy accounted for 43 percent of all foreign investments, according to CBRE.

The biggest foreign buyers of Australian commercial property in the first half were the U.S. (AUD994 million), Singapore (AUD626 million) and Hong Kong (AUD560 million), according to CBRE, which said the report was based on its own and external data. Development sites weren't included in the numbers, only finished buildings. **Bloomberg**



## THAILAND

# Four more boys brought out of flooded cave

Kaweewit Kaewjinda, Mae Sai

**F**OUR more of the youth football players trapped for over two weeks in a flooded cave in northern Thailand were brought out yesterday, an official said, bringing to eight the number extracted in the ongoing high-stakes rescue operation.

"The eighth person is out and the operation is done for today," Sitthichai Klangpattana, flag officer to Thailand's navy SEAL commander, told The Associated Press. "Four boys were brought out today."

He didn't comment on the health of the boys or how well the operation had gone. After yesterday's rescue effort, four boys and their coach were still inside the labyrinth cave.

On Sunday, when the high-risk rescue operation to rescue the 12 boys and their coach began, teams of divers brought out four of the boys but waited several hours before confirming their safe rescue.

The Facebook page of the Thai Navy SEALs, who have been central to the rescue operation, was updated yesterday night to say "two days, eight boys" — a reference to the Wild Boars, the name of the boys' soccer team. The message, like most posted by the SEALs, ended with the fighting cheer adopted from the U.S. Navy: Hooyah.

Chiang Rai acting Gov. Narongsak Osatanakorn said earlier yesterday that the second phase began at 11 a.m. and authorities "hope to hear good news in the next few hours."

"All conditions are still as good



An ambulance with flashing lights leaves the cave rescue area in Mae Sai

as they were yesterday," Narongsak told a news conference. "The boys' strength, the plan — today we are ready like before. And we will do it faster because we are afraid of the rain."

Authorities have been rushing to extract the boys, ages 11-16, and their coach from the cave as the annual monsoon bears down on the mountainous region in far northern Chiang Rai province. Workers have been laboring around the clock to pump water out of the cave, and authorities said yesterday that heavy downpours overnight did not raise water levels inside.

The four boys guided from the cave Sunday in an urgent and dangerous operation that involved them diving through the cave's dark, tight and twisting passages were happy and in good health, authorities said.

"This morning they said they were hungry and wanted to eat khao pad grapao," Narongsak said, referring to a Thai dish of meat fried with chili and basil and served over rice.

Still, the four were undergoing medical checks in a hospital in the provincial capital and were not yet allowed close contact with relatives due to fear of infections. Relatives were able to see them through a glass partition, the governor said.

The boys and their coach went exploring in the massive Tham Luang Nang Non cave on June 23 after a soccer practice, and were cut off when a rainstorm flooded the cave. A massive international search operation was launched and it took 10 days to locate the boys, who had taken shelter on a dry slope deep in the complex.

The search and rescue operation has riveted people both in Thailand and internationally, with journalists from across the globe traveling to this town along the border with Myanmar to report on the ordeal.

## The eighth person is out and the operation is done for today.

SITTHICHAI KLANGPATTANA  
THAILAND'S NAVY

Interior Minister Anupong Paojinda had said early yesterday that the same group of

expert divers who took part in Sunday's rescue would return to extricate the others because they know the cave conditions and what to do. He had said fresh air tanks needed to be laid along the underwater route.

Authorities have said extracting the entire team from the cave could take up to four days, but Sunday's success raised hopes that it could be done faster.

Sunday's mission involved 13 foreign divers and five Thai navy SEALs. Two divers accompanied each of the boys, all of whom have been learning to dive only since July 2, when searchers found them.

Cave rescue experts have said they consider an underwater escape to be a last resort, especially with people untrained in diving.

The death Friday of a former Thai navy SEAL underscored the risks. The diver, the first fatality of the rescue effort, was working in a volunteer capacity and died on a mission to place air canisters along the passage to where the boys are, necessary for divers to safely travel the five- to six-hour route.

There were several concerns that prompted authorities to move forward with the plan to dive the boys out. One was that it was unknown how safe and dry the area where they had taken shelter would stay as Thailand's rainy season, which lasts until at least late October, picks up pace.

The other, and perhaps more worrying, was that oxygen levels in the complex were falling close to dangerous levels. **AP**

# Singapore will seek compensation if Malaysia cancels rail plan

Jason Koutsoukis

**S**INGAPORE will seek compensation for all costs incurred if Malaysia cancels a planned multi-billion-dollar high-speed railway link between the two countries. Transport Minister Khaw Boon Wan told parliament yesterday that compensation would be sought under the terms of the 2016 high-speed rail bilateral agreement between Singapore and Malaysia.

"We will deal with the question of compensation from Malaysia for costs incurred by Singapore in accordance with the bilateral agreement and international law," Khaw said, adding that Singapore

expected to incur costs of around SGD300 million (USD221.5 million) by the end of the year.

Soon after achieving a stunning upset in Malaysia's May general election, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said he would cancel the rail link to Singapore, a signature project of his predecessor Najib Razak, in what he called a move to cut costs.

The decision is a setback to construction and rail companies in Asia, including those from China and Japan that are keen to gain a slice of the orders. The 350-kilometer line, with trains moving at a top speed of more than 300 kilometers an hour, was targeted to begin ope-

rating in 2026. It would've trimmed the land journey between Kuala Lumpur and Singapore to 90 minutes, from about five hours now.

Mahathir has also suspended works on the East Coast Rail Link and energy pipeline projects backed by Chinese state companies, saying they were too costly.

Representatives from Mahathir's office and transport minister Anthony Loke Siew Fook did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The move signals a return to rockier ties between Malaysia and Singapore that characterized Mahathir's first stint in power from 1981 to 2003.

Relations had improved under Najib, who in 2013 had agreed with his Singaporean counterpart Lee Hsien Loong to build the rail link.

Singapore had already acquired land for the project, passed legislation, and set up an infrastructure company with a team of more than 100 specialists to build, own, fund and maintain the high-speed-rail civil infrastructure in Singapore, Khaw said.

"All these works cost money," Khaw said. "Including costs for consultancies to design the civil infrastructure, costs for dedicating manpower to oversee and deliver the project, and costs for land acquisition," he said.



A visitor looks at a model of the proposed Bandar Malaysia development

Based on preliminary estimates, the total cost incurred by the Singapore Government had already exceeded SGD250 million by the end of May 2018, with further costs of around SGD52 million to be incurred by the end of December.

"This is actual money that has already been spent, our taxpayers money," Khaw said, adding

that a significant amount of the money spent "will be completely wasted expenditure, if the project does not proceed."

Khaw said that besides costs incurred by Singapore, rail consortia from China, Japan, Europe and other interested parties such as international financial institutions, have also been incurring costs preparing their bids. **Bloomberg**



Haruka Nuga, Mari Yamaguchi

**R**ESCUERS were searching for dozens still missing in southwestern Japan yesterday after heavy rains that left shocked residents returning to muddy homes unsure where to start the recovery and cleanup due to the extent of damage from flooding and mudslides.

More than 100 people died or are presumed dead, with at least 80 still unaccounted for, many of them in the hardest-hit Hiroshima area.

Seiji Toda was shocked and helpless when he saw his restaurant, which he opened nearly 40 years ago, filled with mud heaped about 1 meter from the floor and windows smashed. Tables, covered with clean white tablecloths before he left, were all mud-covered, chairs thrown to the floor.

"I had never seen anything like this," he said on TBS television, standing outside his restaurant in Hiroshima city while wearing a helmet. He says it would be impossible to clean up the mess by hand.

Right next to his restaurant were heaps of broken trees and other debris. Several cars were still half buried in the mud.

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

Some homes were smashed.



Rescuers conduct a search operation for missing persons in Kumano town, Hiroshima



A helicopter flies over a flooded housing area in Okayama prefecture

JAPAN

# Rescuers search for dozens still missing after floods

Others were tilting precariously. Rivers overflowed, turning towns into lakes, leaving dozens of people stranded on rooftops. Military paddle boats and helicopters have brought people to the ground. Thousands of homes were without clean water and electricity in Hiroshima and other hard-hit areas, where many people lined up for water tanks under the scorching sun, with temperature rising as high as 34 Celsius (93 Fahrenheit).

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said yesterday that 90 people were confirmed dead.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe canceled his planned July 11-18 trip to Europe and the Middle East to oversee the emergency response to deadly heavy rains. Abe earlier yesterday said the government has expended the search and rescue effort, dispatching 73,000 troops and emergency workers. "The rescue teams are doing their utmost."

In large parts of Hiroshima, water streamed through a residential area, strewn with fallen telephone poles, uprooted trees and mud over the weekend.

Toda, the restaurant owner, said he took precautions because

of his fresh memory of flooding four years ago that killed more than 70 in Hiroshima. Others were caught off guard.

"It gives me a chill thinking what could have happened," said Eiko Yamane on Sunday as she recalled realizing how suddenly water was seeping the tires of the car she was driving. She was able to escape.

In another hard-hit city, Kurashiki, in neighboring Okayama prefecture, a man lost his mother in a flooded house the day after speaking on the phone. "My mother lived alone in that house over there and we

spoke on the phone the night before," he told TBS television, refusing to show his face. "I was hoping she managed to have escaped."

Parts of southwestern Japan had as much as 10 centimeters per hour of rain, the highest in decades, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. By yesterday, rain warnings have been lifted.

In the Uwajima town in Ehime prefecture, an overflowing river washed debris down to the coast, turning seawater partially muddy. A 64-year-old man and a 9-year-old boy were found dead underneath a mudslide. **AP**

MYANMAR

# Court rules Reuters reporters can face full trial

Min Kyi Thein, Yangon

**A** court in Myanmar yesterday formally charged two Reuters journalists accused of illegally possessing official information, allowing their case to go to a full trial.

The case of Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo went through several months of hearings to determine if there was enough evidence to support the charge, which the reporters denied.

The two reporters were charged with violating the Official Secrets Act, a law dating from British colonial times, and if convicted, could get up to 14 years in prison. They were arrested in December and have been detained since then because the court denied their request to be released on bail.

They apparently were targeted by the authorities because their work concerned the brutal

crackdown by security forces against minority Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar's Rakhine state. About 700,000 Rohingya have fled to neighboring Bangladesh since the crackdown began last August.

**Today's decision casts serious doubt on Myanmar's commitment to press freedom and the rule of law.**

STEPHEN J. ADLER  
REUTERS' PRESIDENT

The two journalists had worked on an investigation of the killing of 10 Rohingya villagers in Inn Din village, for which the government said seven soldiers were sentenced to up to 10 years in prison with hard labor.

The reporters contended they were framed by police, a claim that was supported by testimony from a whistleblower in the police department, Moe Yan Naing. After giving his surprise testimony, he was jailed for violating the Police Disciplinary Act and his family was forced to vacate their police housing unit.

"We did not commit any crimes," Wa Lone said to journalists outside the courtroom. He said his response to the judge's decision was: "We won't ever give up. Today's court decision does not mean that we are guilty. We still have the right to a defense."



Reuters journalist Wa Lone (center) is escorted by police as he leaves the court

Reuters urged the authorities to release the two. "We are deeply disappointed that the court declined to end this protracted and baseless proceeding against Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo. These Reuters journalists were doing their jobs in an independent and impartial way, and there are no facts or evidence to suggest that they've done anything wrong or broken any law," Stephen

J. Adler, Reuters' president and editor-in-chief, said in a statement. "Today's decision casts serious doubt on Myanmar's commitment to press freedom and the rule of law," it said.

The Myanmar military's actions against the Rohingya have come under harsh criticism internationally, including charges that it was carrying out ethnic cleansing.

Human rights groups and freedom of expression organizations also decried yesterday's court decision.

"This is a black day for press freedom in Myanmar," said Tirana Hassan, Amnesty International's director of crisis response. "The court's decision to proceed with this farcical, politically motivated case has deeply troubling and far-reaching implications for independent journalism in the country."

The free expression group ARTICLE 19 said that the court's decision "perpetuates a grave injustice and casts doubt on the independence of Myanmar's judiciary."

"The government must act decisively to protect journalists, promote accountability for human rights violations, and end the politicization of Myanmar's criminal justice system," the group said in a statement. **AP**



## SPAIN

## Catalan leaders meet central authorities

The new heads of Spain's central and Catalonia's regional governments are holding talks for the first time since yearnings for independence in the northeastern region led to an unprecedented political crisis last year. Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez welcomed Catalan President Quim Torra yesterday in the Moncloa Palace, the seat of the national government in Madrid. Torra says a legal referendum on Catalonia's independence as the only way out of the deadlock, and he seeks authorization to hold it. But Sanchez's government has said self-determination is not allowed under Spain's 1978 constitution. Sanchez is expected to offer to unblock regional legislation on social issues and to promise infrastructure and other investments.

## TURKEY

## 24 killed in train derailment

A passenger train derailed in northwestern Turkey, killing two dozen people and injuring more than 300 others, officials said yesterday. Investigators believe that heavy rains caused the ground under the rails to collapse, causing Sunday's crash, Deputy Prime Minister Recep Akdag said. The train was heading to Istanbul from Edirne, on the border with Greece, with 362 passengers and six crew members on board. Five of its six cars derailed. Health Minister Ahmet Demircan said 318 were injured, with 124 of them still hospitalized. A media ban issued Sunday by the government, citing national security and public order, was lifted yesterday.

## SOUTH AFRICA

## Son of ex-president faces corruption case

A son of former South African president Jacob Zuma has appeared in court to face allegations of high-level corruption during his father's scandal-tainted tenure. Duduzane Zuma, who returned to South Africa last week after months abroad, was granted bail of USD7,500 yesterday. His case was postponed to Jan. 24, 2019. The former president's son is a business associate of the Gupta business family, which has been accused of using connections to the Zumas to plunder state coffers. He and the Guptas deny wrongdoing. Jacob Zuma resigned in February on the orders of South Africa's ruling party amid a growing public outcry over corruption concerns.

## Boris Johnson quits UK gov't in mounting Brexit crisis

**BRITISH** Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson resigned yesterday, adding to divisions over Brexit that threaten to tear apart Prime Minister Theresa May's government.

May's office said in a terse statement that the prime minister had accepted Johnson's resignation and would name a replacement soon.

Johnson, one of the best-known and most flamboyant members of the government, quit just hours after the resignation late Sunday of Brexit Secretary David Davis, the government's top Brexit official.

Davis said he could not support May's plan to maintain close trade and regulatory ties with the EU, which he said gave "too much away, too easily."

There was no immediate statement from Johnson, another loud pro-Brexit voice within May's divided government.

If Davis's resignation rattled May, Johnson's shook the foundations of her government.

The resignations came just days after May announced she had finally united her quarrelsome government behind her plan for a divorce deal with the EU.

Less than nine months remain until Britain leaves the bloc on March 29, 2019, and the EU has warned Britain repeatedly that time is running out to seal a divorce deal.

Britain and the EU hope to reach broad agreement by Oc-



tober so that EU national parliaments can ratify a deal before Britain leaves. That timetable looks increasingly optimistic, but European Commission spokesman Margaritis Schinas said the EU was available "available 24/7."

Schinas said the bloc "will continue to negotiate in good will, bona fide, with Prime Minister Theresa May and the U.K. government negotiators in order to reach a deal."

Steve Baker, a junior Brexit minister also resigned. May appointed staunchly pro-Brexit lawmaker Dominic Raab as the country's new Brexit secretary.

Before Johnson quit, May's official spokesman, James Slack, said Britain wanted to "move forward at pace" in the negotiations.

During a 12-hour meeting on Friday, May's fractious Cabinet — including Davis — finally agreed on a plan for future trade ties with the EU.

The plan seeks to keep the U.K. and the EU in a free-trade zone for goods, and commits Britain to maintaining the same rules as the bloc for goods and agricultural products.

Some Brexit-supporting lawmakers are angry at the proposals, saying they will keep

Britain tethered to the bloc and unable to change its rules to strike new trade deals around the world.

In a resignation letter, Davis said the "common rule book" policy hands control of large swathes of our economy to the EU and is certainly not returning control of our laws in any real sense."

His departure was hailed by pro-Brexit Conservative lawmakers, who have long considered May too prone to compromise with the EU. They believe the proposals breach several of the "red lines" the government has set out, including a commitment to leave the bloc's tariff-free customs union.

Some euroskeptic lawmakers dream of replacing May with a staunch Brexiteer, such as Johnson, who in the past has disagreed publicly with his boss.

Davis said he did not want his resignation to become a rallying cry for May's ouster.

"I like Theresa May, I think she's a good prime minister," Davis said.

Davis did not urge other ministers to resign, saying he was in a unique position because the Brexit secretary's job is to sell the government's policy.

"I'd have to deliver this. I'd have to do something I didn't believe in," he told the BBC. "That's not a tenable position. [...] Others don't have that same responsibility."

## ROMANIA

## Chief anti-graft prosecutor fired

**ROMANIA'S** chief anti-corruption prosecutor was fired yesterday over misconduct and incompetence accusations by her own government ministry.

Laura Codruta Kovesi was dismissed to implement a ruling by Romania's top court, which had ordered it over the accusations of incompetence, President Klaus Iohannis's office said.

In a February report, Justice Minister Tudorel Toader had accused Kovesi of being authoritarian, and claimed

that prosecutors under her command had falsified evidence and acquitted an inordinate number of defendants. He also accused Kovesi of harming Romania's image in interviews with foreign journalists.

Kovesi, who has been widely praised for prosecuting senior officials, refuted his accusations.

Flanked by prosecutors, a visibly emotional Kovesi later hit out at politicians who are currently passing laws that critics say will make it harder to punish graft. She

said lawmakers were seeking "protection for the past, the present and the future."

She said she would remain a prosecutor but not at the anti-corruption agency, and ended her statement with an appeal to ordinary Romanians: "Corruption can be beaten, don't give up!" Prosecutors applauded her.

Under her leadership, the agency has successfully prosecuted lawmakers, ministers and other top officials for bribery, fraud, abuse of power and other corruption-related offenses. **MDT/AP**

## FRANCE

## Far-right leader to appeal withholding of party funds

**FRENCH** far-right leader Marine le Pen said yesterday she was appealing a decision by two judges to withhold the payment of a public subsidy which she says will kill her party, adding that it amounts to a "coup."

Le Pen announced Sunday that 2 million euros (USD2.35 million), nearly half of a 4.5 million euro subsidy the party was allocated for 2018, was being withheld. The funds had been due to be disbursed Monday, she said.

"The judges' decision is a real coup d'etat," le Pen said, and accused them of acting through political motivations. On Sunday, she said in a statement

that the subsidy was essential for the party to meet its running costs such as salaries and rent, and that without it the National Rally had only enough money to last until the end of August. The party set up a website to gather donations from the public.

The judicial move came amid an investigation into whether funds for European Parliament assistants were misused, going instead to people working for the party domestically. Politicians from other French parties have also been accused of misusing such funds.

Le Pen denies wrongdoing. **MDT/AP**



Sarah DiLorenzo, Sao Paulo

**T**HE president of a Brazilian appeals court whose judges issued contradictory rulings Sunday on whether former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva should be freed ordered late in the day that he remain jailed.

The duty judge on the Fourth Federal Regional Tribunal started off the day by ordering that da Silva be released Sunday morning. That set off a dramatic back-and-forth during the day as one judge refused to follow that order and another contradicted it.

The dispute underscored how contentious da Silva's jailing has become in Brazil, where some see it as proof that no one is above the law and others feel the charges against the former president were trumped up to prevent him from running for office again.

After the initial release order was issued, hundreds of da Silva's supporters gathered outside the federal police headquarters where he was being held in the southeastern city of Curitiba. The atmosphere was festive as they waved flags of da Silva's Workers' Party or a drawing of his face while shouting, "Free Lula!" Several hundred people also gathered earlier in Rio de Janeiro to call for da Silva's release.

Late Sunday, Judge Carlos Eduardo Thompson Flores Lenz intervened in an effort to resolve the dispute and ruled that da Silva should remain in jail. Two analysts said that should settle the matter — at least for the moment. The defense can always appeal to a higher court, and the chaos of Sunday showed that Brazilian law is open to interpretation and maneuvering.

Da Silva's lawyers said in a statement before the Thompson Flores' ruling that they would "use all legal means, in judicial proceedings and also in the proceedings before the



**BRAZIL**

# Judge rules to keep da Silva in jail after dispute

U.N. Human Rights Committee, to reinforce that the former president's fundamental right to a fair, impartial and independent judgment has been permanently violated and that his imprisonment is incompatible with the rule of law."

Maristela Basso, a professor of international and comparative law at the University of Sao Paulo, said the duty judge's initial decision appeared "more political than judicial," but could raise the pressure on the Supreme Court to eventually free da Silva. There is a petition asking for da Silva's release pending at the country's highest court, which is currently in recess.

Da Silva began serving a 12-year prison sentence in April on a corruption conviction in

a case linked to the country's massive corruption probe. He denies wrongdoing, and his lawyers have argued that he should not have been jailed until all his appeals were exhausted. They have filed several petitions for his release that have so far been rejected.

But early Sunday, Favreto ordered his release. He said incarceration had denied da Silva two fundamental rights: both his liberty as a private citizen while he awaits a final appeals court decision and his ability to effectively run in October's president election. Da Silva has repeatedly said he remains a candidate for re-election, and he is leading the polls.

But the judge who originally convicted da Silva, Judge Ser-

gio Moro, responded by ordering police to hold off on the release order. Favreto responded by ordering police to act on his order. Then Judge Joao Pedro Gebran Neto, who is the judge handling da Silva's case at the regional federal court, stepped in and ordered da Silva be kept in jail. Favreto responded with another release order.

The standoff continued for hours. The federal police, who are holding da Silva, remained silent while legal experts debated on TV which judge's decision should prevail.

Finally, Thompson Flores ruled against da Silva.

"The president of the court has power to decide this point," said Luis Claudio Martins de Araujo, a professor of constitutional law at IBMEC

university. "It won't go back to the duty judge."

Celso Vilardi, an expert in criminal law and a professor at the Fundacao Getulio Vargas university, agreed.

But de Araujo said the defense was likely to appeal the decision to a higher court. It was unclear when that might happen and how that would unfold.

**■ A law professor said the judge's decision appeared 'more political than judicial', but could put pressure on the Supreme Court to free da Silva**

"The question is very polarized," he said. "It's a judicial question but maybe also political."

Last year, da Silva was convicted of trading favors with a construction company in exchange for the promise of a beachfront apartment.

That conviction was part of the huge Car Wash corruption investigation in which prosecutors have alleged that Brazil's government was effectively co-opted for years, with politicians doling out favors and state contracts in exchange for bribes and campaign contributions. The investigation has shaken Brazil's political system and put dozens of powerful people in jail, including some of the country's richest men.

Da Silva's conviction was upheld by the regional court in January. The former president is also facing several other corruption charges. **AP**

**HAITI**

# Looting follows violent fuel protests in capital

**L**OOTERS pillaged burned and vandalized shops in Haiti's capital Sunday following two days of violent protests over the government's attempt to raise fuel prices.

Journalists saw young men stripping shelves bare in some supermarkets that were charred from the protests. Several bodies lay among debris scattered in the streets.

With the situation still chaotic, the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince on

Sunday warned U.S. citizens to shelter in place. It noted that many airline flights had been canceled and said, "The airport has limited food and water available."

"Telecommunications services, including Internet and phone lines, have been affected throughout Haiti," the embassy added. "It may be difficult to reach people through normal communication methods."

American Airlines, which

had canceled 10 flights since Saturday, said three of its planes had left Sunday from Port-au-Prince and the northern city of Cap-Haitien bound for Miami and New York. Dozens of people remained stranded at the airport in Port-au-Prince, unable to return to their hotels or other accommodations due to the blockage of streets and lack of transportation.

Police Director-General Michel-Ange Gedeon

ordered officers to crack down on what he called "bandits who disturb the peace and security of the country."

At least three people were killed in protests Friday, and police said the bodies of four people were found Sunday in the streets of the Delmas district, though they didn't say if that was related to the protests.

The government on Saturday scrapped plans to raise fuel prices to 38 percent to 51 percent. **MDT/AP**





## what's ON



**STILLNESS IN MOTION – PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION BY AGOSTINHO G. FERNANDES (NICO)**  
**TIME:** 2pm-7pm (Closed on Sundays)  
**UNTIL:** July 21, 2018  
**VENUE:** Creative Macau, G Floor, Macau Cultural Centre, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**ORGANIZER:** Center for Creative Industries  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 2875 3282

**TREASURE FROM THE DEEP SEA - EXHIBITION OF UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGICAL RELICS OF THE NANHAI NO. 1**  
**TIME:** 10am-6pm, last admission at 5:30pm (Closed on Mondays, open on public holidays, free admission on Tuesdays and the 15th of every month)  
**UNTIL:** July 31, 2018  
**VENUE:** 3/F, Macau Museum, No. 112, Praceta do Museu de Macau  
**ADMISSION:** MOP15 (free for Macau residents, children of 12 years old or below and seniors of 65 years old or over)  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 2835 7911 & 8394 1208

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

**IN LOVE WITH MACAU – CALLIGRAPHY AND PAINTINGS OF MACAU**  
**TIME:** 10am-7pm (last admission 6:30pm; closed on Mondays)  
**UNTIL:** August 21, 2018  
**VENUE:** Macau Museum of Art  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 8791 9814

**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

## GERMAN POLICE ASK FOR HELP IN SEARCH FOR KANGAROO MOM, JOEY

German police are appealing to the public for help in their search for a kangaroo and her baby that went missing from a zoo earlier this week. Police in the central German state of Thuringia said Friday that the mother and her joey disappeared after a fence at an animal enclosure in the village of Meuselwitz was cut. It was unclear whether thieves intended to steal the animals or just the contents of a nearby donation box, which was also discovered cut open Wednesday morning.

Police said a witness reported seeing a kangaroo hopping through a forest in the neighboring state of Saxony on Thursday night.

Authorities are warning the public not to try to capture the kangaroos on their own.

## TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
15:45	Miscellaneous
17:25	Maternity
18:10	Portuguese Documentary
19:10	FIFA World Cup Diary
19:35	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	Documentary
21:40	Chinese Documentary
22:20	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Miscellaneous
00:25	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:20	RTPi Live

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

05 - 11 JUL



## ANT-MAN AND THE WASP

ROOM 1

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

Director: Peyton Reed

Starring: Paul Rudd, Evangeline Lilly, Michael Douglas

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 118min



## SHOPLIFTERS

ROOM 2

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

Director: Kore-eda Hirokazu

Starring: Lily Franky, Ando Sakura, Matsuoka Mayo

Language: Japanese (Chinese &amp; English)

Duration: 121min

## OCEAN'S EIGHT

ROOM 2

7:30pm

Director: Gary Ross

Starring: Sandra Bullock, Cate Blanchett, Anne Hathway

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 110min



## ESCAPE PLAN 2: HADES

ROOM 3

2:30, 9:30pm

Director: Steven C. Miller

Starring: Sylvester Stallone, Dave Bautista, Huang XiaoMing

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 96min

## JURASSIC WORLD: FALLEN KINGDOM

ROOM 3

4:30, 7:00pm

Director: J.A. Bayona

Starring: Chris Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard, BD Wong

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 135min

## this day in history



## 1943 WESTERN ALLIES INVADE SICILY

The armed forces of Britain, the United States and Canada have landed on the Mediterranean island of Sicily.

It is the first major landing of British troops on European soil since the fall of Crete two years ago.

Initial resistance has been surprisingly weak against British forces with little anti-aircraft fire and no enemy naval intervention. However, the US forces faced a tougher fight on their beaches.

The Times reports Allied air forces acted in close co-operation with naval and ground forces.

Late last night airborne troops in parachutes and gliders - many of whom fought in North Africa - were dropped over the island.

American paratroops were the first to land at 2110 under the command of Colonel John Cerny, who said a whole battalion had been dropped in one area alone. They were followed by British airborne troops two hours later.

There is little news about them at the moment but all the aircraft carrying them returned to base in North Africa safely.

Meanwhile hundreds of ships of all sizes sailed across from North Africa carrying thousands of troops, weapons, armoured vehicles and heavy artillery.

The invasion fleet was described by one pilot as stretching across 40 miles of water consisting of huge barges and merchant ships escorted by destroyers.

At about 0300 local time today the British and Canadian troops were brought ashore at Pachino, near Cape Passero on the south-east coast of the south-eastern tip of Sicily.

Americans arrived three hours later near Gela to the west of the British beaches.

The Canadians had to cope with fairly choppy seas in the area of their operations but the British were protected by the bay at Passero and were able to land their equipment ashore fairly easily.

They did encounter some heavy sniping from coastal defences but have made swift progress inland.

A Times correspondent arrived with the invading force on a destroyer.

He said the ships "were as unmolested as if this were indeed a peacetime trip to Sicily. Raiders have not appeared in the air, and from the sea the scene might be along some pleasant stretch of coast where our task was protection rather than assault."

Major airfields in and around Catania on the east coast were bombed yesterday and today by Flying Fortresses.

But there was no major bombardment of the coast ahead of the invasion, for fear of alerting the enemy to a major assault - only a brief attack from the Navy and Air Force a few hours before the landings.

Over the past month Sicilian airfields have been attacked to weaken air power on the ground and prevent the arrival of reinforcements.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

In reality, the airborne drops faced huge problems including Allied ships shooting at Allied planes.

But once ashore the Allies advanced north and west and controlled a quarter of the island within three days.

The German General Hans Hube took charge of the Italian forces soon after the invasion, withdrew to a defensive line across the north-east of the island and organised an orderly withdrawal.

The American 7th Army under US General Patton made swift progress north-west as the Italians and Germans retreated arriving in the capital, Palermo, on 22 July.

Faced with tough German resistance in mountainous terrain, General Sir Bernard Montgomery's 8th Army - consisting of British and Canadian troops - made slow progress towards Catania midway up the east coast. They finally arrived on 5 August.

General Patton entered Messina on 17 August, a few hours ahead of Montgomery. By this stage 70,000 Italian and 39,000 German troops had been evacuated to the Italian mainland. The campaign was in effect a draw.

The liberation of Sicily marked the first time part of the home territories of the Axis powers had been captured and precipitated the fall of Fascist leader Benito Mussolini.

He was ousted on 25 July by Italian King Victor Emmanuel in favour of Marshal Pietro Badoglio who eventually signed an armistice with the Allies on 3 September.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 The encouragement you've been waiting for arrives - although you'll have to find it. Relax, though - if you can't quite connect with it today, you will get another chance when you are ready.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Despite the array of choices that will be placed before you early on, everything will move along smoothly in your day today - take advantage of these calmer waters by being more reflective than usual.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Are you feeling like a wild horse that's straining to break loose so it can run free? Ok, maybe that's a bit extreme. But the fact remains that today you are definitely feeling a bit restricted.

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 New folks on the scene want to show you what they're made of, so concentrate on listening and watching what they have to offer. They could inspire new exploration.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Every period of adjustment has some rocky moments - this temporary nuttiness might not be causing a carefree day, but it will be over soon! If you feel out of sync with friends, be up-front about it.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Honesty isn't easy for everyone (and it's not easy for you all the time), but you've shown yourself how valuable it is. Take the time to enjoy yourself with silly gifts or games.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 The day will fly by and good news is coming in from all angles - a friend has something particularly juicy to share about another mutual friend. This gossip will set you off on a fun gigglefest.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 The guilt you feel for taking the 'easy road' is minimal compared to the relief you'll feel at just doing what you want to do for a while. Don't skip out on big responsibilities, but say 'no' to little stuff.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Emotionally, you're on a high that will last a while, buoyed in part by all the positive attention you're getting. Enjoy all the rewards you've earned - no one knows the true lengths you went to...

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Embrace the art of planning - while it's not the most exciting activity for some, deep down inside, you have the capacity to enjoy and excel in it. Moving forward too quickly in one area today.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Seek out groups based around topics or issues you're interested in - or a pastime you enjoy. Dancing lessons might also be a fun way to learn and exercise while you discover a new passion.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

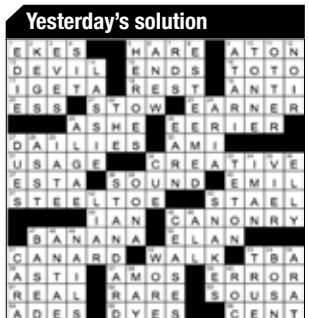
Sudoku puzzles categorized by difficulty: Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard. Each category contains a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled.

WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Later, dude!; 6- Good earth; 10- Cap'n's underling; 14- Holder; 15- Drug-yielding plant; 16- Juan's water; 17- Polynesian porch; 18- Dork; 19- Woody plant; 20- January, in Juarez; 21- Deteriorate; 23- To the \_\_\_ degree; 25- Pretend; 26- Fast fliers; 29- Edible roots; 32- Floating platforms; 37- Got fed up?; 38- Flower holder; 39- Evening affair; 40- In spite of; 43- Take into custody; 44- Album unit; 45- Conductor \_\_\_-Pekka Salonen; 46- Valuable violin; 47- Daly of "Judging Amy"; 48- Pulitzer-winning biographer Leon; 49- Nocturnal bird; 51- Hi-\_\_\_ monitor; 53- Inhabitant of Spain; 58- Church recesses; 62- Run smoothly; 63- 1963 role for Liz; 64- Lunar valley; 65- Camaro model; 66- Loop; 67- Seeps; 68- New Ager John; 69- Skin eruption; 70- First name in cosmetics; DOWN: 1- Boot bottom; 2- Actor McGregor; 3- Feminizing suffix; 4- Pines; 5- Running wild; 6- Singer k.d.; 7- Yellow spread; 8- Main arteries; 9- Red Bordeaux; 10- De-intensify; 11- Fiend; 12- Took to court; 13- Scot's refusal; 22- Powerful; 24- Big name in hotels; 26- Capital of Yemen; 27- Tempest; 28- Aquarium fish; 30- Blond shade; 31- Unordered; 33- Assist; 34- Cooked by frying; 35- Uptight; 36- George of "Just Shoot Me"; 38- Sight; 39- More reasonable; 41- Drenched; 42- Freight weight; 47- Aztec god of rain; 48- Catches sight of; 50- Good witchcraft; 52- Steve of country music; 53- Free from doubt; 54- Career golfers; 55- Flatfoot's lack; 56- Bit attachment; 57- Pineapple vendor; 59- Blind part; 60- Actress Sommer; 61- Zaire's Mobutu \_\_\_ Seko; 62- Casino area;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



Real estate advertisement for JML Property. It includes 'FOR SALE' and 'FOR RENT' sections with details for various properties like 'Choi Long Meng Chui', 'Old Macau, Unique Walk Up', 'The Buckingham, Unit C', 'Violet Court, Hellene Gardens', 'Lakeview, Macau', 'The Buckingham', 'Warehouse, Keck Seng', and 'Manhattan D unit, High Floor'. The JML Property logo is also present.



## Spain appoints Luis Enrique as coach



Spain's football federation says former Barcelona coach Luis Enrique has been appointed to take charge of the national team. He replaces Julen Lopetegui, who was sacked on the eve of the World Cup after accepting the job at Real Madrid, with Fernando Hierro taking temporary charge for the finals in Russia. Luis Enrique has signed a two-year contract. "The decision has been unanimous," federation president Luis Rubiales said. "I like his commitment. He has let better financial opportunities pass in order to be national team coach. This coach fulfills all the parameters to take charge of the team. Luis Enrique is bringing his backroom staff, but this is a matter he will speak about next week."

## Russia's Ignashevich retires after WCup exit



Defender Sergei Ignashevich has announced his retirement from football after Russia lost to Croatia in the World Cup quarterfinals. The 38-year-old holds the Russian record for most international appearances with 127 and his last act on a football field was to convert a penalty in Saturday's shootout loss to Croatia. "I feel pleasure and peace because I'm finishing on a high note by playing at the World Cup, in a quarterfinal with an excellent team and an excellent coach," he said in a video statement released by the Russian team. He added that he would have retired as professional footballer earlier if not for the World Cup and now plans to become a coach.

## Pope consoles Brazil after defeat



Pope Francis is trying to cheer up Brazilian football fans after the team's quarterfinal exit from the World Cup. The pope, an Argentine and an avid soccer fan, noted a preponderance of Brazilian flags on display in St. Peter's Square during his traditional Sunday blessing. He told the crowd: "I see a lot of Brazilian flags: Have courage! There'll be a next time." The five-time world champions left the World Cup empty handed after losing to Belgium in the quarterfinals, leaving only European teams contending for the title in Russia. Francis often meets with visiting national football teams, has a collection of gifted jerseys and frequently promotes the value of sports particularly for young people.

# FIFA fines in World Cup cases can leave priority questioned

Graham Dunbar, Moscow

THE World Cup rulings in FIFA's disciplinary court have not always been easy to comprehend. Sweden was slugged 70,000 Swiss francs (USD70,700) for players wearing non-approved socks, and Croatia was hit with the same monetary penalty when a player took a non-sponsor's drink onto the field.

Yet a Russia fan's neo-Nazi banner and a Serbian World War Two-era nationalist symbol waved inside venue drew only 10,000 Swiss francs (\$10,100) fines, paid by their national football bodies which are responsible for fan misconduct at games.

Commercial rules can seem to be enforced more strictly than bad behavior, and Argentine great Diego Maradona appears to enjoy a unique code of conduct of his own. Maradona, a paid FIFA ambassador, uses Facebook to explain away allegations of racism and offensive behavior from VIP seats, charges that have previously led soccer's world governing body to ban players.

At times, the priorities and consistency in FIFA decisions can look a curious form of World Cup justice. Even before the World Cup, FIFA was criticized by the anti-discrimination group Kick It Out for prioritizing commercial gain over eliminating racism from the sport.

But sports law expert James Kitching says FIFA's approach makes some sense, because the World Cup depends on sponsors and broadcasters paying for exclusive deals.

"A financial sanction is always heavy in a commercial case because exclusivity is something Coca-Cola or Adidas pays millions of dollars for," Kitching, the former head of sports legal affairs at the Asian Football Confederation, told The Associated Press.

The \$70,000 fines imposed on Sweden and Croatia followed repeated warnings from FIFA.

"It's a sensible solution," Kitching said of the heavy fines. "If they are not seen to protect it [sponsor exclusivity], they put everything at risk."

FIFA reacted strongest to ambush marketing at the 2010 World Cup against a European brewery challen-



Maradona cheers for Argentina

ging Budweiser's exclusive rights.

A group of women sat together in matching orange mini-dresses during a game at Johannesburg in the colors of the brewery. The case was dropped only with the brewery promising not to try a similar stunt at a future World Cup.

Still, such cases can make FIFA seem more anxious about commercial threats to its \$6 billion World Cup revenue than offensive fan behavior.

## Argentina is set to pay the highest World Cup fine for a second straight tournament, even though it exited in the round of 16

FIFA dismissed a suggestion that 70,000 Swiss francs (\$70,700) was a baseline figure for breaking commercial rules. It has so far added up to 482,000 Swiss francs (\$487,000) in fines imposed by FIFA's disciplinary committee in Russia.

A further six-figure sum must be paid by federations and players in mandatory fines for on-field conduct.

Teams due to pay 15,000 Swiss francs (\$15,150) for getting five yellow cards in a game, rising by 3,000 Swiss francs (\$3,300) for subsequent bookings, include Argentina, Colombia and Morocco.

Argentina is set to pay the highest World Cup fine for a second straight tournament, even though it exited in the round of 16.

A 105,000 Swiss francs (\$106,000) penalty was for a range of offenses by fans at a demoralizing 3-0 loss against Croatia, topped by several men being filmed punching and kicking a Croatia-shirted fan in a walkway from the grandstand.

Four years ago, Argentina officials were to blame for breaking media rules by not bringing a player to mandatory pre-match press conferences at the stadium. For defying warnings and repeating the offense at four straight games, FIFA fined Argentina 300,000 Swiss francs (\$303,000). "Media obligations are part of the game," Kitching said. "That is what broadcast rights holders are paying for — this access."

The money due to settle disciplinary cases is added to FIFA's development budget totaling hundreds of millions each year. Skeptics could point to the fines helping for the "relevant development projects" cited by FIFA last year to explain Maradona's new ambassador duty. It brought the of-

ten-volatile Argentine back into the fold after years of public spats with previous FIFA leaders and the consequences were easily seen in Russia.

Maradona's double middle-finger gesture celebrating a late winning goal for Argentina against Nigeria was seen globally in the official FIFA broadcast. A similar gesture by England's Dele Alli in a World Cup qualifying game last year led FIFA to ban him for the next qualifier.

At a short and intense World Cup finals tournament, banning players has more impact.

FIFA resisted calls to ban Switzerland players Granit Xhaka and Xherdan Shaqiri in Russia. Its rules suggested mandatory two-game bans were possible for celebrating goals with hand gestures of an Albania eagle likely to provoke rival Serbia fans. Both players were fined 10,000 Swiss francs (\$10,100).

Croatia defender Domagoj Vida was only warned Sunday for a social media post with comments celebrating Ukraine after helping his team eliminate Russia in the quarterfinals. Before the 2014 World Cup, FIFA banned Croatia's Josip Simunic for 10 games for leading fans in a nationalist chant after a qualification playoff.

Apparently there's no consistency, although Kitching suggests: "There has been a shift perhaps on how [FIFA] have treated such cases." AP



Steve Douglas, Samara

WORLD CUP 2018

# Pickford reshaping opinions of English goalies

IT was just about the only thing Jordan Pickford got wrong all game. "It was a daft injury by myself," the England goalkeeper recounted. "I went to punch the [ground] and ended up punching my knee and hurt my thumb. It was a bit of anger. But I'm a man, not a mouse. I'm fine and I'll live another day, won't I?"

Pickford left Samara Stadium on Saturday with a heavily bandaged left hand, a glass vase to commemorate a player-of-the-match performance in England's World Cup quarterfinal win over Sweden, and with his new-found status as the pride of a nation.

The global reputation of English goalkeepers has taken a battering in recent years but Pickford is reshaping opinions with his standout performances in England's surprising run to the World Cup semifinals in Russia.

Four days after being England's penalty-shootout star against Colombia in the round of 16, the 24-year-old Pickford produced three brilliant, one-handed saves in a 2-0 win over Sweden to ensure his team ultimately enjoyed smooth progress to a last-four match against Croatia.

The only previous England goalkeepers to appear on such a stage were Gordon Banks — the World Cup winner from 1966 — and Peter Shilton, a veteran of 125 international caps who was 40 when he played in the 1990 World Cup semifinal loss to West Germany.

They are England's two greatest goalkeepers. The way Pickford's career is progressing, he could be joining that elite group.

Pickford is the most expensive British goalkeeper in history, after joining Premier League team Everton from Sunderland



last year for a fee that could rise to 30 million pounds (USD38.3 million), and the third costliest goalkeeper ever after Italy great Gianluigi Buffon and Brazil's Ederson Moraes of Manchester City.

He is breaking the mold. Away from his agility and shot-stopping, no previous English goalkeeper has showed such composure and technical ability with his feet, a trait that England manager Gareth Southgate sees as vital for his team's approach.

"Pickford, for me, is sort of the prototype of what a modern goalkeeper should be," Southgate said.

Against Sweden, some of the clipped passes Pickford made to his wingbacks, Kieran Trippier

and Ashley Young, were as good as any of England's ball-playing midfielders could produce.

"To be able to play the way that I think we want to play going forward," Southgate said, "we need goalkeepers of that ilk."

Whatever happens in the semifinals or potentially the final, Pickford will return to England as one of the team's star performers in Russia. The abiding memory will likely be an acrobatic save against Colombia that saw him tip Mateus Uribe's dipping long-range effort onto the crossbar at full stretch.

It might even rival Banks' storied save from Brazil great Pele in the 1970 World Cup.

Yet, more recently, English goalkeepers have been better

known for make high-profile mistakes, too. There was Robert Green allowing a seemingly harmless shot from U.S. forward Clint Dempsey through his grasp and into the net in a World Cup group-stage game in 2010.

Joe Hart was at fault for the winning goal when tiny Iceland beat England 2-1 in the round of 16 at Euro 2016. In 2007, Scott Carson's mistake, when he spilled a long-range effort into his own net in a decisive qualifying match, contributed to England failing to reach Euro 2008. England's goalkeeper at the start of the 21st century, David James, was sometimes cruelly labeled "Calamity James" because of his frequent mistakes.

The main criticism aimed at Pi-

ckford at this World Cup was his failure to stop Adnan Januzaj's curling shot that earned Belgium a 1-0 win over England in the group stage. The ball almost went over the head of Pickford, who dived to his right and attempted the save with his left hand.

**Whatever happens in the semifinals or potentially the final, Pickford will return to England as one of the team's star performers in Russia**

Pickford stands at 6-foot-1 (1.85 meters) tall, which is relatively short for an elite goalkeeper, and Belgium goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois said: "I would have caught it. He was too busy throwing his legs in the air."

Pickford has shown since then that he makes up for his lack of height with agility and speed across his line. Just ask Swedish players Marcus Berg and Viktor Claesson.

England is just hoping Pickford's thumb heals in time for Croatia. AP

PREVIEW

# In semifinals, Giroud aims to prove Henry wrong

John Leicester, Moscow

IF only France's young players had an outstanding ex-pro they could turn to for advice about how to beat Belgium in the World Cup semifinals [Wednesday 2 a.m. Macau time], someone who won the World Cup himself in 1998 and who scored more goals than anyone in his stellar career with Les Bleus.

Oh. Not only is Thierry Henry already taken but the team that hired France's record scorer as an assistant coach is, yes, you guessed it [...] Belgium. France striker Olivier Giroud is turning Henry's presence on the opposing side into an extra source of motivation for Tuesday's

semifinal, which is France's first since 2006 and only the second ever for Belgium.

"I would be proud to show Titi that he chose the wrong camp," Giroud said Sunday, referring to Henry by his nickname. "It is true that it is strange to have him against us for this match. I think it will be a peculiar match for him. As long as we win, that's fine with me."

Henry was part of the 1998 team that won the World Cup on home turf, scoring three goals in his first major tournament and converting a penalty in a nerve-rattling shootout against Italy in the quarterfinals. Henry did not play in the 3-0 final victory

for Les Bleus over Brazil.

Belgium coach Roberto Martinez brought Henry into the Belgium setup two years ago to impart not

**It is true that it is strange to have him against us for this match. I think it will be a peculiar match for him.**

OLIVIER GIROUD

just his knowledge of goal scoring — he is France's all-time top scorer with 51 goals in 123 appearances, and Arsenal's with 228 — but also his experience of winning with a team weighed down by great expectations.

Giroud said Henry could coach France in the future and that working with Belgium will help the 40-year-old gain experience in his new career as a coach.

"He is lucky to be with a team with a fine generation of players. He is there to learn," Giroud said. "I would have preferred that he was with us and that he was giving his advice to me or to the other attackers. But we mustn't be jealous or anything about that. It



Belgium first assistant coach Thierry Henry gives instructions during a training session

doesn't shock me at all."

Previously, as a TV pundit, Henry suggested Giroud wasn't good enough, saying in 2015 that Arsenal couldn't win the Premier League with him in attack and needed "a top, top-quality striker."

Giroud, now with Chelsea, says he bears no hard

feelings. For TV work, Henry "needed to be a bit incisive," he said. "I am not at all bitter about that."

"It's been a few years now that he said certain things in the media before going back on his words or at least changing them," Giroud said. "There is a lot of respect between us." AP



opinion

**Our Desk**  
Renato Marques



**WHY ICELAND PROVED YOU WRONG**

As we all know, Iceland and Macau have probably little or virtually nothing in common, so to compare the country with our region would be a meaningless comparison. Still, if we focus on just a few examples, there are some small analyses that can be performed.

One of the virtues of the FIFA 2018 World Cup was to let the world know more about this island located in the Norwegian Sea in between Norway and Greenland, with a population of only around 337,000 people.

The fact is, with a small population and with the higher number of these (about 40 percent) in the age range of 25-54 years (male 68,579/female 66,899), the probability of making this a nation of highly ranked athletes, especially in team sports, was small; at least according to the theories that say that you need to have a large number of people that you can choose from in order to develop such skills to a very high level.

Apparently, that is not exactly how it works and Iceland proved it quite well.

The fact is, things do not just happen in a flash, and although the rise of Iceland was surprising, it is an outcome of hard work, persistence and a good dose of intelligence. Six years ago, Iceland was lying in the 133rd place of FIFA rankings (in a position now occupied by Yemen) and in just six years rose exponentially to reach its current 22nd position. How could this happen? Well, first of all, it happened because of favorable government policies that included a push to encourage new talent by training more coaches and building indoor soccer fields across Iceland. Most of these coaches travelled to England to train and sharpen their skills, visited football academies, and saw how things worked in other places. Together with this measure, it was also decided that the country's national team should focus on the maturation of a core group of players who have played together since their school years to develop strong defensive strategies to be able to face stronger opponents.

At the same time, dentist and national team coach Heimir Hallgrímsson entered the team as assistant coach.

Asked to provide some insight into possible problems stopping the team from growing, Hallgrímsson nominated the "lack of fan support." At the time, Hallgrímsson noticed that people in Iceland liked the game, and there were even some supporters that would come to watch the games, but there was virtually "no fan culture," that is, "no emotional investment between spectators and players."

In an interview with the New York Times, he explained how he managed to pull a few "hard-core supporters" to build a strong core again. This was a privileged group to which Hallgrímsson was unveiling information ahead of media releases, making them feel part of the team, or as he mentioned, using the base of the coaching philosophy that emphasizes the collective "us" over the individual "I."

Ultimately, what Hallgrímsson created was what we can call the start of a football culture that can easily be expanded to other sports, games and activities. However, he could not have done that without the policies that opened the door for him to work and provided enough time to do so.

In this sense, the theory that Macau's own football team cannot do better than its current 185th position in the FIFA ranking falls short, as recent results from Benfica de Macau in the AFC Cup demonstrate. In the end, it's about creating a culture and providing real policies that allow that work to be done.

**THE BUZZ STARBUCKS, CITING OCEAN THREAT, IS DITCHING PLASTIC STRAWS**

Starbucks will eliminate plastic straws from all of its locations within two years, citing the environmental threat to oceans. The coffee chain becomes the largest food and beverage company to do so as calls to cut waste globally grow louder. While plastic straws account for a small percentage of the waste that ends up

in oceans, they've become a flashpoint.

A week after its hometown of Seattle banned plastic drinking straws and utensils, Starbucks said yesterday that by 2020, it will be using straws made from biodegradable materials like paper and specially designed lids.

**Weinstein pleads not guilty, released on bail**

Michael Sisak, New York

**HARVEY** Weinstein, who was previously indicted on charges involving two women, was released on bail yesterday while fighting sex crime accusations that now include a third woman.

"We fight these battles one day at a time, and today we won this round," defense attorney Ben Brafman said outside court. Brafman said during the arraignment that he expects more charges.

Weinstein pleaded not guilty after he was brought into the courtroom with his hands cuffed behind his back. He was then uncuffed for the proceeding.

An updated indictment unveiled last week alleges the movie mogul-turned-#MeToo villain performed a forcible sex act on a woman in 2006. The new charges include two counts of predatory sexual assault, which carries a maximum sentence of life in prison upon conviction.

Attorney Gloria Allred, who is representing the third woman, said outside court that her client will testify if the case goes to trial. She said she doubts Weinstein's lawyer would allow him to do the same because it would subject him to cross examination by prosecutors.

Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr. said the 66-year-old Weinstein is charged with "some of



Weinstein (left) with his attorney Benjamin Brafman (right) leaves a Manhattan courthouse

the most serious sexual offenses" that exist under state law.

"Mr. Weinstein maintains that all of these allegations are false and he expects to be fully vindicated," Brafman said.

More than 75 women have accused Weinstein, who was one of the most powerful men in Hollywood, of wrongdoing as allegations detailed in Pulitzer Prize-winning stories last October in The New York Times and The New Yorker magazine swelled into the #MeToo movement.

Several actresses and models accused Weinstein of criminal sexual assaults. They include: film actress Rose McGowan, who said

Weinstein raped her in 1997 in Utah; "Sopranos" actress Annabella Sciorra, who said he raped her in her New York apartment in 1992; and the Norwegian actress Natassia Malthe, who said he attacked her in a London hotel room in 2008.

Weinstein, who produced movies including "Pulp Fiction" and "Shakespeare in Love," has denied all allegations of nonconsensual sex, with his attorney challenging the credibility of his accusers.

The Associated Press generally does not identify people who say they are victims of sexual assault unless they come forward publicly. AP

**THE DECISIVE MOMENT**



Aspect of the third day of the running of the bulls at the San Fermin Festival in Pamplona, northern Spain. Revelers from around the world flock to Pamplona every year to take part in the eight days of the running of the bulls.

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

SOURCE: DSMG

**WORLD BRIEFS**



**JAPAN** Rescuers in southwestern Japan dug up more bodies yesterday as they searched for dozens still missing after heavy rains caused severe flooding and left residents to return to their homes unsure where to start the cleanup. More than 100 people were confirmed dead in the disaster. [More on p13](#)

**AFGHANISTAN** U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo used an unannounced trip to Afghanistan yesterday to step up the Trump administration's calls for peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban.



**IRAQ**'s election commission yesterday expanded its manual recount of ballots from May's parliamentary elections, which were marred by allegations of fraud and irregularities.

**ITALY** European Commission officials say Italy's request to modify the terms of a Mediterranean naval mission focused on disrupting human trafficking can be discussed during an ongoing strategic review.



**BRITAIN** Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, a charismatic and divisive cheerleader for Britain's exit from the European Union, resigned yesterday, adding to a crisis over Brexit that threatens to tear apart Prime Minister Theresa May's government. [More on p14](#)

**BRAZIL** The president of a Brazilian appeals court whose judges issued contradictory rulings Sunday on whether former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva should be freed ordered late in the day that he remain jailed. [More on p15](#)