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WORLD BRIEFS



MYANMAR Myanmar's leader Aung San Suu Kyi and the country's military commander yesterday opened a major conference with representatives of ethnic minority groups to try to move toward a lasting peace after seven decades of strained relations and armed conflict.

VIETNAM A former chairman of one of Vietnam's largest mobile phone operators and a senior Communications Ministry official have been arrested for alleged economic mismanagement, the latest to fall in a widening crackdown on corruption by communist authorities.



THAILAND The 12 boys rescued from deep within a flooded cave in northern Thailand made two-finger victory signs from their hospital beds yesterday in a moving video from the isolation ward where they're recuperating from their 18-day ordeal. More on p12

INDIA India's top court yesterday slammed the federal government for a second time within weeks for being slow in taking steps to protect the Taj Mahal, the shining white monument to love. More on p13

EGYPT Egypt's official news agency says security forces killed at least 11 suspected militants in a shootout in the northern Sinai Peninsula.

More on backpage

AL PLENARY

Investment residency scheme slammed . P7



Typhoon Maria barrels into mainland China after pounding Taiwan . P10

AL prefers taxi recordings to be kept by owners

The government is preliminarily inclined to let taxi license owners keep taxi recordings, the Third Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL) reported yesterday. Some of the committee's members expressed their opposition to the requirement for taxi recordings to be uploaded to the responsible government department. Lawmakers considered whether recordings should be kept inside the taxis. Chairman of the AL Third Standing Committee, Wong Hin Fai, said that the committee members have made suggestions to ensure the recordings' confidentiality and proposed standards for the opening, deleting and destruction of these recordings.

Claims civil protection law hurts ordinary people

One listener of yesterday's TDM radio talk show, which addressed the new civil protection bill currently under public consultation, claimed it only punishes ordinary residents and does not include action by governmental authorities. Representatives of both the Unitary Police and of the Office of the Secretary for Security did not directly answer the listener's concerns. Instead, they explained the purpose behind the bill, which proposes the establishment of a crime of social alarm against those creating or disseminating false rumors. The representative of the former claimed that the new law focuses on the effective spread of information, while the latter representative said that civil servants will also shoulder additional special obligations under the new law.

Director of Liaison Office visits IPM

Zheng Xiaosong, director of the Liaison Office in the MSAR, visited Macau Polytechnic Institute (IPM) on Friday. Zheng visited the teaching and research facilities of the institute. In the meeting, IPM president Lei Heong Iok said that the institute will provide assistance in the construction of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area "in language teaching and Chinese-Portuguese machine translation and other fields." The Liaison Office director "encouraged IPM to embody President Xi Jinping's spirit towards Macau tertiary education, continue adhering to the correct direction for running the institute, strengthen the patriotic education of young students, and cultivate more students with ability and political integrity as well as patriotism and love for Macau."

SPORTS

Wushu Masters Challenge to be held next month

Julie Zhu

THE 2018 Wushu Masters Challenge will be held between August 2 and 5 this year. This event gathers the world's Wushu masters to challenge one another to promote both friendship and the long history of the traditional martial arts, the Sports Bureau (ID) announced yesterday.

Activities will be held in various locations across Macau, including Tap Seac Multi-sports Pavilion, the Olympic Sports Centre Indoor Pavilion, Tap Seac Square and Park of Iao Hon Market.

Activities include the 2018 International Boxing Federation (IBF) Silk Road Champions Tournament, and the first World University Wushu Championship (authorized by International University Sports Federation).

Approximately 180 martial art athletes from 26 countries will participate in the World University Wushu Championship.

ID President Pun Weng Kun revealed that the budget for



this year's Wushu Masters Challenge is MOP18 million, which is the same as the previous year.

A series of events will be held, combining sports, tourism and culture as "one of the largest events of the year," according to ID.

There will be a four-day themed event that highlights the three main Wushu categories of Lion Dance, Taolu and Sanda. These categories combine the elements of sports, tourism and culture, to create a brand-new sports and tourism event.

Regarding the Lion Dance, teams from mainland China, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Vietnam, Myanmar, Hong Kong and Macau will compete in the Belt and Road Lion Dance Races to complement the Belt and Road Initiative.

"I hope that, through this event, [Macau] can promote traditional martial arts. I hope that the event can lead to more foreigners learning about Macau," said Pun, adding "I hope that this event can promote Macau's cultural and creative products and artists, hotels

and tourism."

The ID president believes that after the previous two editions of Wushu Masters Challenge, the event has already accumulated adequate experience and built a good reputation in the world.

The participation of residents and tourists will be encouraged through the different forms of Wushu, enhancing their insights and knowledge of the traditional sport. The event also aims to provide a diverse communication platform for Wushu enthusiasts to learn and train, as well as to exchange and share among one another their experiences in practicing Wushu.

The 2018 Wushu Masters Challenge is jointly organized by the ID and the Wushu General Association of Macau. The event is also co-organized by the Macau Government Tourism Office, the Cultural Affairs Bureau and the Cultural Industries Fund, and supported by the International Wushu Federation, the Wushu Federation of Asia and the Chinese Wushu Association.

HEALTH

Central hospital denies delaying tumor treatment

THE Conde de Sao Januario Hospital Center (CHCSJ) has issued a statement in reply to information circulating on social networks claiming that the public hospital had delayed treatment for a patient with a malignant tumor, without authorizing the patient to seek treatment outside the region. In the statement, the CHCSJ said, "Following the information disclosed on social networks regarding a patient named Chao, who suffers from a malignant tumor in the lower jaw... [the



patient] requested support from the Board for Overseas Medical Services [and] immunotherapy treatments." The public hospital refutes the criticisms, saying, "On October 26, the CHCSJ performed a cell biopsy and

on November 4 the report revealed recurrence of the tumor." They further noted that four days later, on November 24 the patient requested a more accurate CT scan, whereupon "she received a report that clearly clarified

the area of the tumor." The hospital was said to have organized surgery in the following four weeks, a procedure that the hospital states is in accordance with their rules, as "preparation for the surgery can take up to four weeks and is mandatory. This includes preoperative assessment, preparation of materials for jaw reconstruction, as well as evaluation prior to anesthesia," among other procedures.

The hospital also acknowledges that they were aware "she underwent surgery at the

Kiang Wu Hospital, but even after that surgery the swelling [of her jaw] was not controlled" during the period when the patient was waiting for surgery at CHCSJ.

The public hospital further noted that the regime for sending patients abroad for treatment "is a complementary mechanism." The scheme is "intended for patients whose conditions correspond with the standards of medical treatment abroad and who are authorized by the Board for Medical Services Abroad, in cases where there is a shortage of medical specialists and human resources, as well as the provision of necessary medical services not available in Macau," which they claim was not the case here.

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A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

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1MDB FINANCIAL SCANDAL

PJ says Low may have left Macau to an unknown location

BUSINESSMAN Low Taek Jhow, also known as Jho Low, may have left Macau. Earlier this week the Royal Malaysia Police sent a formal request to Macau authorities for the arrest of Low. Low, is believed to be the mastermind behind the 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) financial scandal, which led to the arrest of former Malaysian prime minister Najib Razak. Low entered Macau from Hong Kong, where he stayed two months in an apartment in Pacific Place with his family and entourage, according to the South China Morning Post.

Malaysian Inspector-General of Police, Mohamad Fuzi Harun, said yesterday that Low is believed to have left Macau, citing an email from Macau authorities.

"According to the e-mail, Jho Low is believed to have left Macau for an unknown destination," Mohamad Fuzi told Malaysia's state news agency Bernama.

The local Judiciary Police (PJ) confirmed that it sent a response



Former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak waves to the media as he walks into the High Court of Malaysia

to Malaysia but would "not disclose personal entry and exit information." In a statement sent to Reuters News Agency, the PJ criticized Mohamad Fuzi for information he released earlier.

"The national police chief recently provided the media information about Macau which is not in line with the facts...This office finds it extremely regrettable," it

said. Malaysia's immigration department canceled Low's passport in June. Low is believed to be using a passport issued by another country in order to travel.

U.S. prosecutors allege that Low was a central figure in looting and laundering at least USD4.5 billion from the 1MDB fund. A friend of Najib's stepson, Riza Aziz, Low

had no official role at 1MDB, yet had considerable influence over its dealings and was often in contact with Najib, according to the Justice Department.

Switzerland Attorney-General Michael Lauber said Tuesday that the scandal could involve an estimated \$7 billion in fraud, far above the U.S. figure.

After meeting in Kuala Lumpur with his Malaysian counterpart, Tommy Thomas, Lauber's office

issued a statement that Switzerland has initiated proceedings against six people, not including Najib, as well as two private banks.

Najib was charged last week with criminal breach of trust and abuse of power, making him one of the few Southeast Asian leaders to be prosecuted after losing office. Anger over the 1MDB saga contributed to the surprise defeat of Najib's long-ruling coalition in May 9 elections, ushering in Malaysia's first change of power since its independence from Britain in 1957.

Najib denies any wrongdoing and has accused the new government of pursuing a vendetta against him. Police have also seized jewelry and valuables valued at more than 1.1 billion ringgit (\$273 million) from properties linked to Najib.

SINGAPORE SAYS HONG KONG DECLINED REQUEST TO ARREST LOW

SINGAPORE SAID its request to Hong Kong authorities in 2016 to arrest Jho Low for alleged money laundering and dealing with stolen property wasn't acted on, refuting media reports that said it didn't ask for the Malaysian financier to be apprehended. The request for assistance to provisionally arrest Low was sent to the Hong Kong Department of Justice

in April 2016, a representative for Singapore's police said yesterday in response to Bloomberg. "Singapore's request was declined by the Hong Kong authorities," the Singapore police said, without elaborating on why it was denied. The request was made under an agreement for the surrender of fugitive offenders between both territories, it said.

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ARTS

Hansel and Gretel adaptation brings new twist to classic tale

A ballet adaptation of the Hansel and Gretel fairytale is set to show this weekend at the Macau Cultural Center, presenting the classic tale with a new twist. The production will be staged to the sound of the Macao Orchestra, who will complement the choreography.

Brothers Grimm's well-known tale is reimagined by the award-winning Scottish Ballet and set in a mid-20th century town, where children are mysteriously disappearing since the arrival of a new teacher.

"The story of Hansel and Gretel has served countless generations over the years," said choreographer and artistic director Christopher Hampson in a media interview yesterday. "In the original fairytale, it starts in a very dark place with the mother and father abandoning their children because they have not got enough to eat. That's a rather cruel beginning."

"In this version, the children in this town are disappearing and Hansel and Gretel are locked in their house and not allowed to go out, as their parents don't want them to disappear. Instead they decide to go and find their school friends [who disappeared]."

"I really wanted the witch to be someone that the children could trust. And so even though they [the children] might be frightened of her, they would trust that they're safe with their teacher," explained Hampson. "And then every time we see [the witch] after that, she



Choreographer and artistic director Christopher Hampson (left) and performers Andrew Peasgood (right) and Bethany Kingsley-Garner, who play Hansel and Gretel

becomes less and less trustworthy."

For Hampson, setting the piece in the mid-20th century adds a layer of simplicity and frugality to the tale, and avoids unnecessary complications concerning modern technology.

"I certainly didn't want to tell a story that was just stuck two or three hundreds years ago, but also there is a simplicity to that era – between the 1940s and the late-1960s – in that the house that Hansel and Gretel live in, there is one fridge and one television... and that's it," he said yesterday. "There are no mobile phones and no internet [...] and I like the simplicity of those times because it helps to tell the story."

Based in Glasgow since 1969, Scottish Ballet per-

forms across the United Kingdom and broad, making use of the strong classical techniques that form the roots of its work. Its ballet version of Hansel and Gretel marks a departure from the usual art form used to tell the story.

"There is a real freshness in coming to a story that's never been told as a ballet before," said Hampson. "That's very liberating."

But it also comes with many challenges, he said.

"One of the challenges with any ballet is to get the story across purely with movement. But what's great with movement is that you can get the subtleties across [better]," said Hampson. "In terms of the movement, choreographing for all the different characters is probably what kept me energized. Beyond the witch, there

are some quite magical characters, like the dew fairy, the sandman, and cakes and sweets that come to life."

The company performed in Hong Kong on Sunday evening at the city's International Arts Carnival.

Bethany Kingsley-Garner, who plays Gretel in the show, said that it had gone down very well with Hong Kong audiences.

"In Hong Kong, they were really laughing," she said. "There are always points in the ballet where we know that there will be reaction – and there is every time."

Hansel and Gretel is showing three times over the weekend at the Macau Cultural Center, with performances at 7.30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and a matinee performance at 3 p.m. on Sunday. **DB**



Four locals certified as Intangible Cultural Heritage promoters

THE Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the People's Republic of China has presented certificates to four local citizens, acknowledging them as disseminators of national intangible cultural heritage, the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) informed in a statement.

The certificates were awarded to Au Kuan Cheung for Cantonese Naamyam, Chan Kin Chun for A-Ma belief and customs, and Chiang Kun Kuong and Ip Tat for Na Tcha belief and customs in a ceremony presented by the Chinese Minister of Culture, Luo Shugang, and the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, among other figures and high-ranking officials.

The certification acknowledges that disseminators of the representative items of national intangible cultural heritage possess important knowledge of their fields, making them important figures in terms of the dynamic legacy associated with intangible cultural heritage.

In May, these four citizens were registered as the representative transmitters associated with 5th Batch of the Representative Items of National Intangible Cultural Heritage list, in recognition of their work and contributions in preserving and transmitting national intangible heritage in Macau.

So far, only seven people from Macau have been selected as representative transmitters of the representative items of national intangible cultural heritage, which include Ng Wing Mui (deceased) for Cantonese Naamyam, Tsang Tak Hang for Woodwork - Religious Figure Carving and Ng Peng Chi for Taoist ritual music, which is a new nomination.

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Challenges to establishment of LRT management company

AFTER attending a meeting with lawmakers, Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo do Rosário admitted that the establishment of a Light Rapid Transit (LRT) managing company will be challenging.

It was previously planned to establish the company in the second quarter of this year.

When questioned on whether the LRT will successfully start its operation in 2019, Raimundo claimed "I did not say that."

According to Raimundo, the delay is simply due to his department not having enough time to establish the company before the second quarter.

The Secretary stated that, regarding the delay, he will answer lawmakers' ques-



tions in the near future in the Legislative Assembly (AL).

Earlier, in January, during an AL plenary meeting, Rosário said that the company would open for business this year.

"The schedule is slightly tight. [...] We had originally planned to open

this company last year. It must happen this year," Raimundo do Rosário declared in the January AL meeting.

The company will also oversee all aspects concerning employees, including recruitment and training.

An unnamed source cited in a All About Macau re-

port, said that the opening is expected to be delayed to the fourth quarter. The source further said there are no special obstacles in its establishment, and the delay is simply due to slow progress.

The LRT company will be wholly-owned by the government.

GAMING

Revenue to fall in Q2, Morgan Stanley predicts



MACAU casinos' earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) will report a fall by as much as 6 percent for the second quarter of the year (Q2), Morgan Stanley analysts forecast.

The causes of the fall reflect the decline in both the VIP and mass market segments, according to the firm.

Factors such as rising labor costs, lower win rates and softer gross gaming revenue in May and June were said to decisively lower EBITDA, helped by a "significant drop in VIP players."

Morgan Stanley expects local casinos' gross gaming revenue (GGR) to slow down by 4 percent in the same period to MOP74.4 billion (USD9.2 billion). Despite the revenue fall, Morgan Stanley analysts still note that the general results for the second quarter are still up 17 percent when compared year-on-year with the same period last year.

The analysts are also concerned by troubling signs that some high rollers have steered away from local casinos amid trade tensions between the USA and China, as well as volatility in the Chinese currency.

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AL PLENARY

Gov't says that unlawful residency permits will be canceled

Renato Marques

A debate over the criteria for the assessment and authorization of residency by investment was the main topic of yesterday's plenary session at the Legislative Assembly (AL).

During the debate, lawmaker Ella Lei proposed the introduction of a scoring system and mechanisms for monitoring the process. In reply, the Secretary of Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, pledged to improve the legal credentials that rule the process. The president of the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM), Jackson Chang, said that the government is reviewing and reevaluating the processes of attribution for residence permits. Chang noted that in cases in which it is proven that such a permit was obtained by illegal means (such as fraud) authorization will be revoked and canceled.

"If the [residency authorization was obtained by] illegal [means], the law of the Macau SAR already contains provisions to handle such cases. We are already reviewing these processes and if we find any illegality, we will proceed with the cancellation [of the residence permit]," Chang said in reply to Lei's questions.

The reply was reaffirmed by Secretary Leong who noted, "All the processes [of residency attribution] are being reviewed," adding, "If we find out that anyone presented false documents or provided false declarations, these will be forwarded to the judiciary authorities," replying immediately to one of the most sought questions: "Should the government review the processes and suspend IDs in cases when applicants did not meet the necessary circumstances to establish residence [in Macau]?"

The debate at the AL follows a recent report of the Commission



Lionel Leong (left) and Jackson Chang

Against Corruption (CCAC) that slammed the IPIM procedures on the evaluation of the applications as well as the lack of criteria to address the requests.

Another of the topics raised by the report was the lack of background checks to ensure the validity and authenticity of applicants and the documents provided by them.

Jackson Chang noted also that IPIM is paying close attention to CCAC's report and has already established goals for improvement, which include, "the review of the processes [of residence attribution] and also the review of our own internal procedures and [reinforcement] of the capabilities of inspection."

The reply by Chang did not cool off the debate, with many lawmakers wanting to know more about the working procedures of IPIM and what the government can, in fact, do regarding the current situation.

Further questioned by lawmakers Ng Kuok Cheong and Ma Chi Seng, the IPIM leader advanced that the priority in the

analysis of the processes will be given to those applicants about to complete their seventh year of residence. That is, the residence authorizations that are soon to pass from temporary to permanent, according to the general rules into force for this kind of process.

We are already reviewing these processes and if we find any illegality, we will proceed with the cancellation.

JACKSON CHANG

"We are going to give priority to the applications that will soon complete seven years [of approval] and we are going to review all of them," said the president

of IPIM. He noted that, as part of the change of procedures regarding these applications, IPIM will "increase the level of transparency in the process by disclosing the criteria," as well as by "establishing a mechanism of revision and inspection and constant communication with the Talent Development Committee."

As for other changes in the procedures, Chang also advised that IPIM will require from the applicants proof of "the results of their activity."

The president of IPIM also suggested a revision in the law with concerns to the "specialized technical personnel."

Ng and Ma had previously criticized IPIM for the lack of strictness and discipline on the approval of the applications. Ng previously called on the government to explain why the sectors of Conventions and Exhibitions and Chinese Medicine were considered relevant for the applications.

On his side, Ma noted that ultimately what is wrong, and what the society is complaining about, is not the policy for attribution of residence according the criteria established but instead the way IPIM handled the approvals.

Leong refuted the criticism that the only criteria taken into account by IPIM was the size of the investments and the salary of specialized technical personnel. "There are other factors," said Leong. "Everyone thinks we should lift the ceiling for investment, but we are following all the main principles to classify the applications."

Further considerations include the possibility of creating new jobs and vertical and horizontal mobility of local staff, as well as the development of "Macau's brand."

Marriage seeking woman lost MOP240,000 to fraud

A mainland woman lost MOP240,000 after falling victim to fraud. The suspect, a Hong Kong resident (56), has been arrested in relation to the case. The suspect had been previously imprisoned in Hong Kong for murder and fraud. The victim placed an advertisement in a newspaper seeking a husband in Hong Kong. The suspect contacted the woman, pretending to be a cook born in the US. The victim, trusting the suspect, came to Macau to meet him. The woman gave the suspect MOP240,000 in cash, believing that he could process her a visa to go to the US.

Zhuhai police reports false bomb threat

A mainland woman surnamed Le, aged 34, made a fake bomb threat to the Zhuhai police authority after suspecting her husband to be cheating on her. On the night of July 5, the woman's husband, Hu, intended to take a flight alone to Beijing. Having suspected that Hu was going to meet his lover in Beijing, Le faked the bomb threat by claiming that her husband had carried a bomb onto the aircraft and would make it explode. The flight was delayed three hours due to the false report.

Sanya-Macau flight to operate twice a week

A direct flight from Macau to Sanya was officially launched on Tuesday. The Sanya-Macau route, which is operated by Hainan Airline, will be operated twice per week, every Monday and Friday. The flight from Sanya to Macau will take off at 4:20 p.m. from Sanya airport, and will land in Macau at 5:50 p.m. The flight from Macau to Sanya will leave Macau at 6:55 p.m. and will arrive Sanya at 8:30 p.m. The flying time is one hour and 30 minutes.

ID confiscation might be a complex issue

FOLLOWING claims made by the IPIM president to cancel the residence authorizations in all the cases where it becomes proven that such permit was granted by fraudulent means, lawmakers such as Sulu Sou questioned the government on how this policy might be implemented.

In his first intervention at the plenary session since returning as a lawmaker, Sou reminded that the granting of residence is an essential right enshrined in the Basic Law and that the "loss of such a right might create a conflict between the Basic Law and the fundamental rights and the special right of the Chief Executive to cancel

the residence by illegal attribution."

"We must also grant to such people the right of defense," he said, while suggesting that after the debate of yesterday, the topic should continue to be monitored by the AL follow-up committee.

Several lawmakers including Sou and Leong Sun Iok also questioned on the capacity of IPIM to effectively inspect the companies. Sou criticized the law "loopholes" that IPIM was well aware of but "did nothing about" until people started to complain. He called for government officials that handled the processes to assume greater responsibility.

GAMING

Hard Rock, Bet365 plan sports betting in New Jersey

HARD Rock has signed a deal with a British online gambling company to offer sports betting as soon as the arrangement is approved by New Jersey gambling regulators.

The global hospitality and gambling company owned by Florida's Seminole Indian tribe has signed a deal with Bet365 to offer sports betting at its new casino on the Atlantic City Boardwalk.

Neither company has announced the deal, but its existence was revealed in correspondence from the state Division of Gaming Enforcement.

According to a June 25 letter from division Director David Rebeck, made public on Monday, Hard Rock and Bet365 signed a deal on June 19 to offer sports betting. Rebeck approved only part of the agreement — a section called Article 3 — and has yet to act on the full request.

The division has not yet responded to a request made Monday by The Associated Press to make the document public; it typically gives companies 24 hours to ask that portions of their filings be blacked out before being released. The agency then assesses those requests and releases what it determines can be made public under state law.

Hard Rock and Bet365 did not immediately respond to messages seeking comment Tuesday.

Currently, only three New Jersey entities offer sports betting: The Borgata and Ocean Resort casinos in



Atlantic City, and Monmouth Park racetrack in Oceanport, near the Jersey shore.

But that club is about to expand. On Saturday, the Meadowlands Racetrack in East Rutherford will bring sports betting practically to the doorstep of New York City; the track is about 6 miles from Manhattan. And Hard Rock would be the fifth to offer it, if its request is approved soon.

At the June 28 opening of

its Atlantic City casino, Hard Rock CEO Jim Allen said the company is pursuing sports betting, but had no announcement to make at the time. The deal with Bet365 had already been signed nine days earlier, although it had yet to be approved by state regulators.

New Jersey won a U.S. Supreme Court case on May 14 clearing the way for all 50 states to offer legal sports betting if they choose. **AP**



MEDIA

Murdoch's 21st Century Fox ups Sky bid to beat rival Comcast

MEDIA mogul Rupert Murdoch's 21st Century Fox increased yesterday its bid to take full control of lucrative European pay TV service Sky in a prolonged battle with U.S. rival Comcast.

Fox raised its bid to 14 pounds (USD18.58) a share as it seeks the 61 percent of Sky not already under its control.

The company says this is 12 percent higher than the last bid from Comcast and values Sky at 24.5 billion pounds (\$32.5 billion). Fox has increased its bid by just over 30 percent since its first offer in December 2016.

Sky operates in Austria, Germany, Ireland and Italy as well as the U.K. It has 22.5 million customers, attracted by offerings such as English Premier League soccer and "Game of Thrones."

Murdoch's company still faces significant regulatory battles in Britain, including the culture secretary's statement that Fox would have to sell Sky News to

win government approval because of concerns about media plurality.

Fox's bid for Sky is the most recent episode in Murdoch's long-running effort to take full control of the company.

His last bid foundered amid a 2011 phone-hacking scandal, in which journalists working for Murdoch newspapers were accused of gaining illegal access to the voicemail messages of crime victims, celebrities and members of the royal family. News Corp., which is controlled by the Murdochs, withdrew its bid for Sky soon after.

The effort to buy Sky comes as Fox itself is the object of a takeover battle by Comcast and Disney. Disney said in June it is offering more than \$71 billion for Fox's entertainment businesses in a counterbid to Comcast's nearly \$66 billion offer.

The companies want Sky in order to amass programming and better compete with technology companies like Amazon and Netflix for viewers. **AP**

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News at hand



"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"



Inequality helps explain why young billionaires are so boring

Anne Vandermeij

EARLY in Warren Buffett's life, his father failed to get hired at the family grocery store during the Great Depression. Without a job, and without any money after a run on the banks, the family of four ran up a tab of grocery bills at the store to put food on the table, and even then, his mother sometimes skipped meals. Leila Buffett, beset by stress and with a mind likely impacted by linotype fumes she inhaled as a child, would often berate her two small children.

From this nadir, the family gradually achieved more secure financial footing. His father started a stock brokerage and eventually went on to become a four-term congressman. Young Warren started showing an aptitude for numbers. He became obsessed with timing everything, calculating odds, even tallying the frequency of the letters that appeared in the bible most frequently, according to *The Snowball: Warren Buffett and the Business of Life*. By age 15 he managed to earn thousands working his local paper route. The rest, as they say, is history.

On Friday, the legendary investor, 87, was surpassed in wealth by 34-year-old Mark Zuckerberg. The gap was closed in part by Facebook's surging stock—up 15 percent this year so far—and in part by Buffett's large charitable cash outflows. Today, the three richest people in the world, Jeff Bezos, Bill Gates and Zuckerberg, have all made their fortunes in tech.

Compared to Buffett and many of his contemporaries, Zuckerberg's childhood was more banal. He grew up in Dobbs Ferry, a small middle-class suburb of New York, the son of a dentist and a psychiatrist. He started using his father's computer at a young age, and showed an early facility for programming, before graduating from an elite prep school.

Zuckerberg's story is typical of the slate of newly minted technology billionaires in the ranks of the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. And there are a lot of them. With 64 technology businessmen and women on Bloomberg's list, which tracks the world's 500 richest people, the industry has produced more billionaires than any other (unless you count inheritances—there's a lot of inherited wealth on the list, too). This year alone, tech has created 11 new billionaires.

But there's something missing from the foundational stories of this new group of self-made men (yes, they're mostly men). Where earlier generations' formative experiences revolved around paper routes and pathos, today's pro-



Jack Dorsey, Twitter co-founder and CEO

typical founding story involves an upper-middle-class childhood, early access to a computer, and an elite education—even if that education was abandoned. Before he famously walked out of Harvard University, Zuckerberg created an instant messaging system for his dad's dental practice at age 12. At 15, Twitter's Jack Dorsey was dazzling his bosses during a programming internship. And Uber's Travis Kalanick was writing code by middle school.

The self-made man has always played a profound role in the American imagination. Horatio Alger wrote stories of plucky, lower-class strivers who made their way in the world by dint of honesty and hard work. Hollywood has fetishized the underdog since movies were invented. And for years, the business world offered real stories too.

But the modern rise of the Harvard dropout (or New York University in Dorsey's case, or UCLA in Kalanick's case), complicates that story. Today's founders are long on brilliance, but short on hardship. It's difficult, after all, to become a computer prodigy without a computer. That dollop of privilege speaks to a larger trend in the American economy: For millions of low-income people, it's getting harder to build something from nothing. In order to drop out of Harvard, first you have to get in.

Buffett, with a father who was a politician and investor, often jokes that despite the family's temporary bout with poverty, he won the "ovarian lottery." He would eventually attend Columbia Business School and study with renowned investor Benjamin Graham. But for many leaders of Buffett's generation, dorm rooms weren't a part of the origin story. Consider Bruton Smith, who until he stepped down as CEO of Speedway Motorsports Inc. in 2015 at age 88, was one of the oldest serving public company leaders. Smith grew up on a

farm, never went to college, and once took a shotgun to a construction site to settle a labor dispute. Oil baron Harold Hamm, born in 1945 as the youngest of 13 children of Oklahoma sharecroppers, drilled his first oil well at age 25 (it eventually paid for college). And then there's recently deceased casino and movie magnate Kirk Kerkorian, born in 1917, who faked documentation of a high school graduation in order to join the military as a pilot.

In some ways, it's great to live in the age of the nerd. And it's tough to mourn the decline of Wall Street-style corporate machismo. But a poor kid growing up today may find it much harder to emulate the life path of someone like Zuckerberg, who coded an instant messaging system before hitting puberty, than that of even Goldman Sachs CEO Lloyd Blankfein, who grew up in Brooklyn housing projects and at one point served concessions at Yankee Stadium to earn extra money.

Statistically as well as anecdotally, true American rags-to-riches stories are getting rarer. Class mobility, as defined by the percentage of children who earn more than their parents, has been in a state of mostly uninterrupted decline since the 1940s. Economist Raj Chetty found that only about half of the children born in 1980 have surpassed their parents' income. In 1940, that number exceeded 90 percent.

Of course, most successful entrepreneurs have earnings that vastly outstrip their parents'. In fact, they outstrip the earnings of nearly every human in history. In by-now-familiar statistics, the rate of income growth at the top levels of earning in the U.S. have far outpaced growth at the bottom segments (in the 1980s, it was the other way around, according to research by Thomas Piketty, Emmanuel Saez and Gabriel Zucman). Last year Oxfam International found that more than 80 percent of earnings went

to the top 1 percent of the world population.

That so many of today's new billionaires mostly come comfortable backgrounds is emblematic of a broader concentrating of wealth in the U.S. According to recent Federal Reserve data, the median family's net worth had not recovered its pre-recession value by 2016, while the top 10 percent gained double digits since 2007.

Of course, you can still find evidence of rough patches and plenty of hard work in the early childhoods of today's wealthiest tech luminaries. Elon Musk, 47, an immigrant from South Africa, came from wealth, but was bullied as a kid before moving to Canada alone at just 17, where he enrolled in Queens University and transferred to the University of Pennsylvania, before eventually dropping out of a Stanford University PhD program. Jeff Bezos, 54, was born when his mother was 16 years old, and was adopted by her second husband, a Cuban immigrant and an engineer. And Sergey Brin, 44, came to the U.S. as a six-year-old, when his parents traded the anti-Semitic backdrop of Moscow academia for a new life in the U.S.

But even these founders, who all had at least one parent with a science background, stand in contrast to an earlier era. According to the Bloomberg Billionaire Index, the second-oldest self-made American billionaire is Amway's Richard DeVos, born in 1926. DeVos was a boy when his father lost his job as an electrician during the Great Depression, and the family moved in with his grandparents. He remembered stuffing a baseball with fabric and tying it together because he and his friends couldn't afford a new one. As a sophomore, he was labeled "not college material," sent to trade school, and had to work to pay his way back into the local Christian high school.

Ted Lerner, who at 92 is the oldest self-made man on the Bloomberg index, is the son of a clothing salesman from Palestine. He grew up in an immigrant community in Washington, and recalled to a local paper, "I remember chickens being plucked and koshered on Georgia Avenue." Casino mogul Sheldon Adelson, 84, now a controversial figure in U.S. politics, grew up in a working-class Boston neighborhood as the son of a taxi driver. Eli Broad, born in 1933, is the son of a Lithuanian house painter, went on to become the only man to found two Fortune 500 companies in two different industries: housing and financial services.

It is, of course, not the fault of tech's young luminaries that the economy has shifted toward tech-

nological skills. Even as it's boosted Americans' standard of living, the rapid pace of innovation has made education an increasingly important factor in determining income, a trend that in turn has exacerbated rising inequality. Overall educational attainment in the U.S. is rising, but nearly 70 percent of the adult population has still never graduated from college. That's even though higher education has increasingly become a prerequisite for white-collar work. The college wage premium, or what bachelor's degree holders make compared to high school graduates, has skyrocketed since the 1970s and now hovers at about 50 percent, near-record levels.

The so-called "digital divide" between rich and poor households, has reinforced the gap between haves and have-nots. Despite the pervasiveness of personal computing, poor kids today are less likely to have access to the programs that could help them develop early coding genius. According to Pew Research Center data, 87 percent of households with an income of \$75,000 or higher use broadband at home. But for households making less than \$30,000, it's only 45 percent.

That inequality of opportunity is rising is hardly a matter of debate. What's still unclear, though, is the eventual result. Besides barring the path for talented people of limited means, a widening chasm between the rich and everyone else also presents political problems. Witness mounting anger at tech companies in cities like San Francisco and Seattle. The Seattle city council voted to levy a punitive per-worker tax on Amazon and other large employers in response to the area's growing homelessness problem. Seattle officials relented, but tensions still simmer beneath the surface nationwide, threatening to boil over in unpredictable ways.

And unlike yesterday's titans, the newest of generation billionaires don't have histories likely to assuage popular resentment. The three youngest self-made billionaires on Bloomberg's index are all Facebook cofounders. Their story is legend: After Zuckerberg's auspicious beginnings in Dobbs Ferry, he created a hotness-ranking tool called Facemash before he and his friends dropped out to found Thefacebook.com. Just above them on the list in age is Sean Parker, now 38, who took up programming early and interned for future Zynga CEO Mark Pincus while he was still in high school.

This is not a lamentation of the comfortable childhoods of corporate leaders. In some ways, the American myth of the up-from-nothing elite was always mostly imagined. The likelihood that a child today will rise from the lowest to the highest quintile of earnings, is less than 10 percent. That's low compared to other rich countries, according to Chetty's data, but it's not much changed since the 1970s. **Bloomberg**

Typhoon Maria barrels into China after pounding Taiwan



Large waves crash against the shoreline as Typhoon Maria approaches in Wenling city in Zhejiang Province

Ralph Jennings, Taipei

TYPHOON Maria injured two people in Taiwan and prompted more than 3,000 to be moved to shelters before making landfall in China, authorities said yesterday.

The government's disaster response center said the two were hit by falling tree limbs in the capital Taipei on Tuesday, as the medium-strength storm passed

north of the mountainous island of 23 million people.

The center said a total of 3,430 people had evacuated their homes in nine cities and counties by yesterday morning to avoid landslides triggered by heavy rainfall.

In 2009, Typhoon Morakot killed almost 700 people in Taiwan, including about 400 when their village was wiped out by flooding and landslides.

The central government issued red alerts for landslides in two mountain villages of northwestern Taiwan's Hsinchu county, effective Wednesday. Seven cities and counties ordered work and school closures for the day.

The typhoon also caused the cancellation of 138 international flights and 170 domestic flights. Its wind speeds reached 191 kilometers per hour.

Across the Taiwan Strait, schools and factories in coastal areas of the Chinese province of Fujian are closed. Tens of thousands of people were evacuated to shelters and thousands of fishing boats returned to port.

Typhoons normally hit Taiwan, China, Japan, the Philippines and Vietnam from June through November each year. They form as tropical depressions gather strength from the warm waters

of the Pacific Ocean or the South China Sea, before weakening over the hills of southeastern China and Southeast Asia.

Meanwhile in western China's in Sichuan province, heavy rains and landslides prompted the closures of the popular Mount Emei and Jiuzhaigou tourist destinations. Roads were blocked by landslides, but there was no word on major damage or injuries. **AP**

QIN YONGMIN

Veteran rights activist sentenced to 13 years' prison

CHINA sentenced a veteran pro-democracy campaigner to 13 years in prison on vaguely defined subversion charges, one day after releasing the widow of a Nobel Peace Prize laureate after eight years of house arrest.

The People's Intermediate Court in the central city of Wuhan announced the sentencing of Qin Yongmin, whose activism dates back four decades, on its official website yesterday. No further details were given and it was not immediately clear who was representing Qin in court.

On Tuesday, authorities allowed Liu Xia, wife of the late Nobel Prize winner Liu Xiaobo, to depart for Germany in response to what the Chinese Foreign Ministry called her own request to receive medical treatment. Liu had been held under house arrest since late 2010.

Coming during a visit by China's Premier Li Keqiang to Germany, Liu's release heartened foreign governments and human rights campaigners who point out that she had never been charged with or convicted of any crime.

Qin's sentencing, however, underscores China's hard line against anyone challenging the ruling Communist Party, which under leader Xi Jinping has launched the most sweeping crackdown on civil rights in years.

Having already spent more than two decades in detention, Qin was arrested most recently in 2015 but not tried until May this year. The 64-year-old became active in the pro-democracy movement in the late 1970s during a time of political opening, and was arrested for the first time in 1981 in the ensuing Communist Party crack-



Hong Kong pro-democracy activists hold pictures of Chinese activists Qin Yongmin (left) and Wu Gan in a protest last year

down on dissent, according to the group Chinese Human Rights Defenders.

Reached by phone, Qin's former lawyer, Ma Lianshun, called the ruling "completely illegal" and a violation of the constitution's guarantee of the right to free speech. He said the charges appeared to relate to writings Qin had posted online and published outside China.

"It is not a criminal activity. He was discussing the road that China can take and the corresponding me-

thodology, which is within the boundary of his right to speech," Ma said.

Ma said his firm ceased representing Qin on July 10, 2017, due to the sensitivity of his case. A 3-year-long campaign against legal activists that landed scores in detention has frightened many lawyers from taking on such causes.

His sentence is "a reminder that Xi Jinping's brutal crackdown on human rights continues," said Frances Eve, a researcher with

Chinese Human Rights Defenders. Authorities denied Qin a fair trial, Eve said, proceeding with a hearing in May despite the man's poor health.

"The litany of abuses in his case, ranging from enforced disappearance, prolonged pre-trial detention, collective punishment of his wife, ill-treatment, and denied due process rights reinforces that there is still no rule of law in China," Eve said.

Qin's sentence also comes just a day after the EU and China concluded a human rights dialogue. In a statement sent yesterday, the EU said that during the two-day talks, it emphasized the "deteriorating situation of civil and political rights in China, which has been accompanied by the detention and conviction of a significant number of Chinese human rights defenders."

Also yesterday, the independent Unirule Institute of Economics said on Twitter that it was being evicted from its offices in Beijing despite holding a lease on the location until 2020.

People associated with the think tank declined to comment or could not be reached, but last month it issued a report saying that state-run enterprises in China were unprofitable despite massive government support.

Unirule has also championed freedom of expression and due process and conducted symposiums on sensitive subjects such as the Chinese civil war that brought the communists to power in 1949.

"Never before has Unirule been so alone in its fight for liberty in China, and the rule of law so jeopardized by the authorities that ordered such heinous act," the tweet said. **AP**

Joe McDonald, Beijing

CHINA slammed the U.S. threat to expand tariff hikes to imports including apples, fish sticks and French doors as a “totally unacceptable” escalation of their trade battle and vowed yesterday to protect its “core interests.”

The government gave no details but the Commerce Ministry earlier threatened “comprehensive measures.” That prompted fears Beijing might go beyond matching U.S. import tax increases by harassing American companies in China.

The spiraling conflict over Chinese technology policy threatens to chill global economic growth. It stems from Washington’s belief that Beijing steals or pressures companies to hand over technology and worries that plans for state-led development of Chinese champions in robots and other fields might erode American industrial leadership.

The U.S. Trade Representative announced earlier a possible second round of tariff hikes targeting a USD200 billion list of Chinese goods ranging from burglar alarms to mackerel. That came four days after Washington added 25 percent duties on \$34 billion of Chinese goods and Beijing responded by increasing its own taxes on the same amount of American imports.

“It is totally unacceptable for American side to publish a tariff list in a way that is accelerating and escalating,” said a Commerce Ministry statement. “To protect the core interests of the nation and its people, the Chinese government will be forced to impose necessary countermeasures.”



Beijing vows retaliation for latest US tariff threat

The USTR said the latest action was in response to Beijing’s failure to change its policies and its retaliatory duties. President Donald Trump has threatened higher tariffs on more than \$500 billion of goods, or nearly all of China’s annual exports to the United States.

The USTR will accept public comments and hold hearings Aug. 20-23 before reaching a decision after Aug. 31, according to a senior U.S. official who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity.

The first U.S. tariff list focused on Chinese industrial products to help cushion the impact on American consumers. The latest list hits items that U.S. households buy, including electric lamps, apple juice and fish sticks.

Beijing’s lopsided trade balance with the United States means it will quickly run out of imports for retaliation. China imported U.S. goods worth \$130 billion last year and Friday’s tariff hike hit \$34 billion of that, with another \$16 billion cited for a possible increase.

China “cannot match fresh U.S. tariffs,” Vishnu Varathan of Mizuho Bank said in a report.

Instead, its heavily regulated economy gives Beijing tools to disrupt operations for American automakers, restaurant chains and other companies that are looking to China to drive revenue growth. Regulators can deny or cancel licenses or tie up companies by launching tax, environmental or anti-monopoly investigations.

Companies are watching U.S. chipmaker Qualcomm Inc., which has waited for months for Chinese regulators to decide whether to allow its proposed \$44 billion acquisition of NXP Semiconductors. All other major governments have approved the deal.

The economic impact of the conflict already is spreading. The European Union Chamber of Commerce in China said this week its member companies are rearranging their trade shipments to ensure any bound for the United States don’t pass through China.

Members of Congress are increasingly questioning Trump’s aggressive trade policies, warning that tariffs on imports raise prices for consumers and expose U.S. farmers and manufacturers to retaliation abroad.

“Tonight’s announcement appears reckless and is not a targeted approach,” said Senate Finance Chairman Orrin Hatch in a statement.

Investors had been taking the trade war in stride but Tuesday’s announcement appeared to dent that optimism.

Yesterday, Japan’s stock market benchmark fell 1.2 percent while Hong Kong’s main index lost 1.7 percent and the Shanghai Composite index dropped 2.1 percent.

The conflict is “far from over,” Hannah Anderson of JP Morgan Asset Management warned in a report, “and the impact will be global.” AP

China joins 20 most innovative economies, US falls to No. 6

CHINA joined the world’s top 20 most innovative economies for the first time while the United States fell out of the five top-ranked countries, according to a report released yesterday [Macau time] by one of its co-sponsors, the U.N. intellectual property agency.

The Global Innovation Index 2018 keeps Switzerland in the No. 1 spot, followed by the Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdom and Singapore. The United States fell from fourth place in 2017 to sixth this year, while China jumped from 22nd to 17th in the rankings.

Francis Gurry, director general of the U.N. World Intellectual Property Organization, said China’s ranking represents a breakthrough for its economy, which is rapidly transforming and prioritizing research and ingenuity.

“China’s rapid rise reflects a strategic direction set from the top leadership to developing world-class capacity in innovation and to moving the structural basis of the economy to more knowledge-intensive industries that rely on innovation to maintain competitive advantage,” Gurry said. “It heralds the arrival of multipolar innovation.”

Now in its 11th edition, the index ranks 126 economies based on 80 indicators ranging from the creation of mobile applications to education spending, scientific and technical publications, and intellectual property filing rates.

The index is sponsored by the WIPO, Cornell University’s SC Johnson College of Business and INSEAD, the graduate school of business with campuses in France, Singapore and Abu Dhabi. They say it gives global decision makers a better understanding of how to stimulate innovation, which “drives economic and

human development.”

The report said “China’s innovation prowess becomes evident in various areas,” with some of its greatest improvements in global research and development companies, high technology imports, the quality of its publications, and enrollment in graduate education.

“In absolute values, and in areas such as R&D expenditures and the number of researchers, patents and publications, China is now first or second in the world, with volumes that overshadow most high income economies,” it said.

The report said that

China’s rapid rise in the rankings over the last few years has been spectacular and that it shows the way for other middle-income economies, though only Malaysia, currently 35th in the rankings, continues to edge closer to the top 25.

According to the index, 20 middle and lower-income economies that perform “significantly better” than their level of development would predict made this year’s list of “innovation achievers,” including three for the first time — South Africa, Tunisia and Colombia.

Six of the achievers come from sub-Saharan Africa, the most for any region. In addition to South Africa, they are Kenya, Rwanda, Mozambique, Malawi and Madagascar.

There were five achievers from eastern Euro-

pe — Moldova, Armenia, Ukraine, Montenegro and Serbia.

The report singles out three countries that made a comeback to the achievers list this year — Mongolia, Thailand and Montenegro. In addition to Kenya, three other countries have been on the achievers list for eight years — Moldova, Vietnam and India.

At the bottom of the innovation rankings are Bolivia, Nigeria, Guinea, Zambia, Benin, Niger, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Togo and Yemen.

The list of 126 nations includes three countries that climbed 10 places in the rankings: Iran from 75th to 65th, Albania from 93rd to 83rd, and Egypt from 105th to 95th. Macedonia, meanwhile, fell more than 10 spots, from 61st to 84th. AP

THAILAND

Rescued boys make victory signs from hospital beds

THE 12 boys rescued from deep within a flooded cave in northern Thailand made two-finger victory signs from their hospital beds yesterday in a moving video from the isolation ward where they're recuperating from their 18-day ordeal.

The youngest, 11, appeared asleep under a crisp white sheet. Others, including their 25-year-old soccer coach, who had been trapped in the cave along with the boys, sat in bed, their faces obscured by green surgical masks.

Nurses chatted with them and the boys responded with the customary Thai sign of respect — hands pressed together while bowing the head.

Parents watched and waved from behind a glass barrier, their faces vivid with emotion.

"Don't need to worry about their physical health and even more so for their mental health," said Chaiwetch Thanapaisal, director of Chiang Rai Prachanukroh Hospital.

"Everyone is strong in mind and heart," he said at a news conference of officials involved in the high-risk rescue effort.

The four boys and football coach brought out Tuesday on the final day of an all-out three-day push to save all of them had recovered more quickly than the boys rescued on Sunday and Monday, Chaiwetch said.

Even so, all need to be monitored in the hospital for seven days and then rest at home for



another 30 days, he said. Three have slight lung infections.

Another video released on Facebook by the Thai Navy SEALs, who were central to the rescue, apparently shows one of the boys being carried through part of the muddy cave on a stretcher covered by an emergency thermal blanket.

The SEALs commander, Rear Adm. Apakorn Youkongkae, said the boys' coach, Ekkapol Chantawong, told SEALs the order the boys should be rescued in. "I haven't asked the coach yet why he chose that order," he said. "The coach was the one to choose."

The group had entered the

sprawling Tham Luang cave to go exploring after soccer practice on June 23, but monsoon rains soon filled the tight passageways, blocking their escape. They were found by a pair of British divers nearly 10 days later, huddled on a small, dry shelf just above the water, smiling with relief but visibly skinny.

The complex mission for international and Thai divers to guide the boys and coach through the cave's flooded passageways riveted people worldwide. Highlighting the dangers, a former Thai navy SEAL volunteering to work on the rescue effort died Friday while replenishing oxygen canisters that were placed

along the escape route.

Narongsak Osatanakorn, the official overseeing the rescue operation, said the boys should not be blamed for their near tragedy. He lauded the cooperation between Thai and international rescuers.

"The situation went beyond just being a rescue mission and became a symbol of unity among mankind," he said. "Everyone worked together without discrimination of race or religion as the ultimate goal was to save the youth football team."

Officials plan an interactive museum at Tham Luang based on the historic rescue mission that will feature items such as

clothing that key rescuers wore during the operation, Narongsak said.

Each of the boys, ages 11-16 and with no diving experience, was guided out by divers through rocky, muddy and water-filled passages that in places were just a crawl space.

The method was extremely risky, but dwindling oxygen levels in the cave and fears of more monsoon rains to come made a decision urgent. Relatively mild weather and a massive effort to pump out water created a window of opportunity. And the confidence of the diving team, and expertise specific to the cave, grew after its first successful mission Sunday.

“Don't need to worry about their physical health and even more so for their mental health.”

CHAIWETCH THANAPAISAL
DIRECTOR OF CHIANG RAI HOSPITAL

Thongchai Lertwilairatana-pong, a public health inspector, said the boys lost an average of 2 kilograms while they were trapped. Before their discovery, they survived by drinking water dripping into their cramped refuge.

"To not receive food, we can still survive for many months, but what's necessary is water, which the cave has, and around this time there's a lot in the cave, and they chose clean water to drink," he said. **AP**

INTERVIEW

US rescuer details high-risk mission

THE Thai boys saved from a flooded cave endured dives in zero visibility lasting up to half an hour. In places, they were put into harnesses and high-lined across rocky caverns, said a leader of the U.S. contingent involved in the operation, calling it a "once in a lifetime rescue."

Derek Anderson, a 32-year-old rescue specialist with the U.S. Air Force based in Okinawa, Japan, said the dozen boys, ranging in age from 11 to 16, and their coach, who were trapped for more than two weeks before being rescued this week, were "incredibly resilient."

"What was really impor-



US Air Force Master Sergeant Derek Anderson

tant was the coach and the boys all came together and discussed staying strong, having the will to live, having the will to survive,"

Anderson told The Associated Press in an interview yesterday.

The scale of the challenge confronting rescuers

from Thailand, Britain, Australia and other countries only truly dawned on the U.S. team after it arrived at the cave in the early hours of June 28 as rain poured down on the region in northern Thailand. The Thai government had requested U.S. assistance.

"The cave was dry when we arrived, and within an hour and half it had already filled up by 2 to 3 feet and we were being pushed out," said Anderson, the son of missionaries, who was born in Syracuse, New York, and grew up in Ecuador.

"That was just in the very beginning of the cave and at that point we realized this problem is going to be

much more complex than we thought," he said.

Thailand's decision to dive the boys out despite their weak condition and lack of diving experience was made when a window of opportunity was provided by relatively mild weather. A massive operation to pump water out also meant air pockets were created at crucial points of the cave, making a rescue possible.

Falling oxygen levels, risk of sickness and the imminent prospect of more rain flooding the cave complex for months meant "the long-term survivability of the boys in the cave was becoming a less and less feasible op-

tion," Anderson said.

Divers practiced their rescue techniques in a swimming pool with local children about the same height and weight as the members of the Wild Boars soccer team trapped in the cave.

The aim, Anderson said, was to make each of the boys "tightly packaged" so divers could keep control of them and adjust their air supply as needed. The process lasted hours for each boy, and involved them getting through long passageways barely bigger than an adult body.

The positive pressure masks were "really crucial," Anderson said. Their use meant that even if a boy panicked — perhaps because of getting snagged in a narrow passage — and got water inside his mask, the pressure would expel it. **AP**

CAMBODIA

US firm says Chinese hackers infiltrated election commission network

Gerry Shih, Beijing

LAST month, the daughter of a jailed Cambodian opposition party leader received an email from a well-seeming activist at a reputed Cambodian non-profit. For weeks, the sender nudged Monivithya Kem to open an attachment described as containing interview questions.

Kem suspected a trap set by Cambodian hackers seeking access to her computer. But a months-long investigation by California security-research firm FireEye revealed that Kem was among several Cambodians likely targeted by a far more formidable actor: China.

FireEye said yesterday it found evidence that a Chinese hacking team it believes is linked to Beijing has penetrated computer systems belonging to Cambodia's election commission, opposition leaders and media in the months leading up to Cambodia's July 29 election. Investigators could not immediately tell what, if any, data had been stolen or altered.

The Foreign Ministry in China has rejected these allegations.

Although FireEye did not find evidence that the Chinese hackers are working to sway the Cambodian elections in the ruling party's favor, the revelations may cast a murky geopolitical shadow over the elections critics already say will be neither free nor fair.

Prime Minister Hun Sen, one of the world's longest-serving rulers and a staunch ally of Beijing, faced what analysts predicted would have been a tight race before he jailed opposition leader Kem Sokha last year, accusing him of treason.

After the European Union and



the United States withdrew their support for the election, China stepped in to donate \$20 million to Cambodia's National Election Committee, said Hang Puthea, a spokesman for the body. China also last year pledged \$100 million in military aid.

Monivithya Kem, the daughter of Kem Sokha and an official in his now-disbanded Cambodia National Rescue Party, said she has frequently been targeted by Cambodian hackers in the past, but the revelation of potential Chinese involvement shocked her.

"To know that a foreign group is specifically trying to get information from me — now that's scary," Kem said by phone from Washington, where she is based. "What you're dealing with is suddenly bigger."

FireEye's head of cyberspying analysis Benjamin Read said malware-ridden files sent to

Cambodian targets were traced by his team to an unsecured server operated by the Chinese hacking group TEAM.Periscope.

On the hackers' server, FireEye researchers found records showing that the group had compromised Cambodia's election commission and several Cambodian ministries. The servers' access logs in one instance traced to an IP address in China's southern Hainan island, said Read, who described TEAM.Periscope as the second most active Chinese hacking group FireEye has traced.

FireEye says the group appears state-linked because it seems to be seeking information that would benefit the Chinese government.

"They don't go for credit card numbers of bank account numbers, they go for information that's of use to a government," Read said. "We saw them use

the same infrastructure to target the Cambodia government and private companies. It suggests the Chinese government doesn't draw a line between political espionage versus commercial espionage."

FireEye has previously found that TEAM.Periscope sought maritime technology from U.S. and European defense firms and other institutions with projects in the contested South China Sea.

China's Foreign Ministry said in a statement that it is not aware of TEAM.Periscope and resolutely opposes cyberattacks as a general principle. "China calls on the international community to combat cybersecurity threats on a respectful, equal and mutually beneficial basis," it said.

The Cambodian election commission was aware of yesterday's reports about the hacking, Hang, the commission's spokes-

man said, and has filed a legal complaint to the Cambodian government.

Government spokesman Phay Sophana said he was not aware of any specific cases of hacking attacks on state agencies. Cambodia would protect its online data, especially relating to national security, the election and financial matters, he added.

The scope of FireEye's findings did not include Taiwan. But Danielle Cave, a cyber policy analyst at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute who is not affiliated to FireEye, said China appears to be testing its cyber and covert influence capabilities on the self-ruled island Beijing claims as its territory.

Cave said Taiwan has long been a target of campaigns by China that combine spreading propaganda favoring China with outright hacking to deface websites or pilfer data.

In January, Taiwan prosecutors said they found evidence that China's Taiwan Affairs Office promised to pay a Taiwanese politician \$500,000 to run a website publishing articles promoting unification. China dismissed the allegations as "pure nonsense."

The website of Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen's independence-leaning Democratic Progressive Party was defaced by hackers believed to be from China earlier this month. Kolas Yokata, a DPP legislator, told The Associated Press the party was investing in cybersecurity upgrades ahead of November, when Taiwan is expected to hold local elections that will serve as a referendum on the party's grip on power.

"We especially cannot accept that our elections could be manipulated," Yokata said. **AP**

INDIA

Top court slams government for ignoring upkeep of Taj Mahal

INDIA'S top court yesterday slammed the federal government for a second time within weeks for being slow in taking steps to protect the Taj Mahal, the shining white monument to love.

The Supreme Court ordered the government to furnish full details of the steps being taken and action required for protec-

ting the monument.

Last month, a judge told government officials they appeared to be helpless after an environmental lawyer argued that pollution and insect dung were discoloring the 17th-century building.

Yesterday, the court expressed anguish over the Uttar Pradesh state

government's failure to come out with a vision document to preserve and protect the Taj Mahal, which is located in Agra city in the state.

Justices M.B. Lokur and Deepak Gupta said no concrete steps had been taken by the government despite a parliamentary committee recommending steps on the monu-

ment's protection, the Press Trust of India news agency said.

The government attorney told the court that experts were assessing air pollution levels in and around the mausoleum and will give their report within four months.

The court set a July 31 date for the next hearing in the case. **AP**



US

Government falls short of deadline to reunite kids, parents

Elliot Spagat
& Mike Householder, San Diego

SOME immigrant toddlers are back in the arms of their parents, but others remained in holding facilities away from relatives as federal officials fell short of meeting a court-ordered deadline to reunite dozens of youngsters forcibly separated from their families at the border.

In Grand Rapids, Michigan, Ever Reyes Mejia walked out of an Immigration and Customs Enforcement center, carrying his beaming son and the boy's Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles backpack. The boy was secured in a booster seat, and father and son were driven away.

Another boy and a girl who had been in temporary foster care were reunited with their Honduran fathers at the center about three months after they were split up.

The three fathers were "just holding them and hugging them and telling them that everything was fine and that they were never going to be separated again," said immigration lawyer Abril Valdes. The children were "absolutely thrilled to be with their parents again."

Late last month, U.S. District Judge Dana Sabraw in San Diego set a 14-day deadline to reunite children under 5 with their parents and a 30-day deadline for older children.

It wasn't immediately clear how many children left detention facilities or how many remain.

In trying to meet the first deadline, the government began with a list of 102 children potentially eligible to be reunited and whittled that to 75 through screening that included DNA testing done by swabbing the inside of the cheek.

Of those 75, Justice Department attorneys told the court the government would guarantee 38 would be back with their parents by the end of Tuesday [Wednesday, Macau time]. They said an additional 17 could also join their parents if DNA results arrived and a criminal background check on a parent was completed by day's end.

Government attorneys, meanwhile, told a federal judge that the Trump administration would not meet the deadline for 20 other children under 5 because it needed more time to track down parents who have already been deported or released into the U.S.

Sabraw showed little appetite for giving more time to the government unless it could show good reasons in specific cases.



A child from Honduras is brought to the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement office in Grand Rapids

"These are firm deadlines. They're not aspirational goals," the judge said.

Asked about the missed deadline, the president said: "Well, I have a solution. Tell people not to come to our country illegally. That's the solution."

The government defended its screening, saying it discovered parents with serious criminal histories, five adults whose DNA tests showed they were not parents of the children they claimed to have, and one case of credible child abuse.

"Our process may not be as quick as some would like, but there is no question it is protecting children," said Chris Meekins, a Health and Human Services Department official helping to direct the process.

American Civil Liberties Union attorney Lee Gelernt, whose organization filed the lawsuit that forced the administration's hand, said he was "both thrilled and disappointed" with the government's work on the deadline.

"Things have taken a real step forward," Gelernt said.

At a bus station in Phoenix yesterday, a 22-year-old woman who only gave her first name, Gisela, for safety concerns, said she had been apart from her 4-year-old son for over a month after presenting herself at a port of entry in Texas to seek asylum.

Gisela, a Mexican citizen, said she only spoke to her son once while she was detained in Texas and he was at a shelter for children in Phoenix.

Immigration authorities brought Gisela to Arizona about three days ago and the two were reunited yesterday.

"He was happy. I was happy," she said.

In El Paso, Texas, three fathers

from Central America were reunited with children under 5 and released to an independent shelter for immigrants and asylum

seekers.

The administration faces a second, bigger deadline — July 26 — to reunite perhaps 2,000 or so

Border Protection says NYC mayor crossed border illegally

NEW York Mayor Bill de Blasio City and his security detail violated both Mexican and U.S. immigration laws by crossing the border on foot during a visit near El Paso, Texas, U.S. Customs and Border Protection alleges in a letter obtained by The Associated Press.

The mayor's office flatly denied the allegation.

De Blasio, a fierce critic of the Trump administration's immigration policies, went to the Texas border with about 20 other mayors from around the country on June 21, the day after President Donald Trump signed an order stopping family separations at the border.

More than 2,300 families were separated as a result of the administration's zero-tolerance policy, which criminally prosecutes anyone caught crossing illegally. The mayors said Trump had failed to address a humanitarian crisis of his own making.

De Blasio went to a holding facility for immigrant children but was denied entry. He then went to Mexico and crossed into the U.S. to get a view of the facility. The New York Police Department runs de Blasio's security detail.

According to the letter, a uniformed Border Patrol agent noticed a group on the Rio Grande River flood plain south of the



New York Mayor Bill de Blasio (left)

Tornillo, Texas, Port of Entry, taking photos of the holding facility. The agent asked if anyone from Border Patrol or public affairs was there to authorize their presence. A New York Police Department inspector said no, according to the letter, and when the agent asked the group how they arrived, they pointed to Mexico.

The agent told them they'd crossed the border illegally and asked them to remain there while he got a supervisor and took them to an official crossing for an inspection per federal law, according to the letter. But the group disregarded the order and drove back to Mexico, according to the letter.

De Blasio spokesman Eric Phillips said the group did no-

older children with their families. Many are being held in facilities thousands of miles apart.

A Guatemalan man said his 6-year-old son feared he was dead after U.S. authorities separated the pair in May in El Paso, Texas. Hermelindo Che Coc, 31, said the boy cried on the phone with him from the shelter and asked whether he still loved him.

"I'm asking God for him to be in my arms as soon as possible," Che Coc, told reporters through tears before attending a required check-in with immigration authorities in Los Angeles, where he was told to get a passport and return in October. "Without him, I can't be happy."

In ordering an end to the separation of families, the president said they should instead be detained together. But the government does not have the room: ICE has three family detention centers with space for 3,000 people, and they are already at or near capacity, though the Trump administration is trying to line up space at military bases.

On Monday, a federal judge in Los Angeles emphatically rejected the Trump administration's efforts to detain immigrant families for an extended period. A longtime court settlement says children who cross the border illegally cannot be detained for more than 20 days. **AP**

thing illegal and had approval to be there.

"The mayor crossed the border with the direct approval and under the supervision of the border patrol supervisor at this port of entry," Phillips said in an email yesterday to the AP. "Any suggestion otherwise is a flat-out lie and an obvious attempt by someone to attack the Mayor because of his advocacy for families being ripped apart at the border by the Trump Administration."

A spokesman for the Border Protection had no comment.

The letter was sent June 25 by Aaron Hull, the chief patrol agent for the Border Patrol's El Paso Sector to New York Police Department Commissioner James O'Neill. **AP**

Jonathan Lemire & Jill Colvin, Brussels

PRESIDENT Donald Trump claimed a pipeline project has made Germany "totally controlled" by and "captive to Russia" during a combative breakfast yesterday that kicked off what was already expected to be a fraught NATO summit.

Trump, in a testy exchange with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, took issue with the U.S. protecting Germany when the European nation is making deals with Russia.

The president appeared to be referring to the Nord Stream 2 pipeline that would bring gas from Russia to Germany's northeastern Baltic coast, bypassing Eastern European nations like Poland and Ukraine and doubling the amount of gas Russia can send directly to Germany. The vast undersea pipeline is opposed by the U.S. and some other EU members, who warn it could give Moscow greater leverage over Western Europe.

Trump, in a message to Germany, asked why the U.S. should "protect you against Russia" when the two countries are making deals.

"You tell me, is that appropriate?" he asked, adding that: "Germany is totally controlled



Breakfast in Brussels: Trump and Stoltenberg (left)

EUROPE-US

Trump claims Germany 'controlled' by Russia

by Russia."

He later said that, "Germany as far, as I'm concerned, is captive to Russia" and urged NATO to look into the issue. Trump was expected to see German Chancellor Angela Merkel later in the day.

Stoltenberg pushed back, stressing that NATO members have been able to work together despite their differences.

The dramatic exchange set the tone for what was already expected to be a tense day of meetings with leaders of the military alliance. Trump is expected to continue hammering jittery NATO allies about their military spending during the summit meeting, which comes amid increasingly frayed relations between the "America first" president and the

United States' closest traditional allies.

Trump said as he arrived at the breakfast that the situation is "not fair to the taxpayers of the United States but we will make it fair."

"They will spend more," he later predicted. "I have great confidence they'll be spending more."

Trump has been pushing NATO members to reach their agreed-to

target of spending 2 percent of their gross domestic products on national defense by 2024 and has accused those who don't of free-loading off the U.S.

"Many countries in NATO, which we are expected to defend, are not only short of their current commitment of 2% (which is low), but are also delinquent for many years in payments that have not been made," he tweeted while en route to Europe, asking: "Will they reimburse the U.S.?"

That's not how the spending works. The 2 percent represents the amount each country aims to spend on its own defense, not some kind of direct payment to NATO or the U.S.

NATO estimates that 15 members, or just over half, will meet the benchmark by 2024 based on current trends.

Brussels is the first stop of a week-long European tour that will include stops in London and Scotland, as well as a highly anticipated meet with Russia's Vladimir Putin.

Trump predicted as he departed Washington that the "easiest" leg of his journey would be his scheduled sit-down Putin — a comment that did little to reassure allies fretting over his potential embrace of a Russian leader. U.S. intelligence officials accuse of meddling in the 2016 elections to help Trump win. **AP**

AD

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what's ON



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

SCULPTURE – A JOURNEY, EXHIBITION BY ANTÓNIO LEÇA
 TIME: 3pm-8pm (Mondays)
 12pm-8pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)
 UNTIL: October 21, 2018
 VENUE: A2 Gallery, Albergue SCM
 ADMISSION: Free
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550

KAMEN RIDER EXHIBITION (MACAU)
 TIME: 1pm-8pm daily (last entrance 7:30pm)
 UNTIL: August 26, 2018
 VENUE: 2/F Exhibition Hall, Broadway Macau
 ADMISSION: MOP128, MOP180 (Tickets are available at Kong Seng Ticketing Service www.macauticket.com)
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2855 5555

Offbeat

VIDEO SHOWS MOMENT OF CLOONEY CRASH, ACTOR THROWN IN AIR



Actor George Clooney slammed his motorbike into an oncoming car that turned suddenly into his lane Tuesday and was thrown several meters in the air on the Italian island of Sardinia, according to video of the crash.

"He is recovering at his home and will be fine," Clooney spokesman Stan Rosenfield told The Associated Press in an email.

Surveillance video of the crash, apparently taken by a fixed security video, was obtained yesterday by the newspaper Corriere della Sera. It shows a blue Mercedes veering into oncoming traffic apparently to turn into a residential compound near Olbia. The video shows what is reported as Clooney's scooter crashing into the car while another scooter alongside him manages to veer around it.

Clooney is thrown over the front of his bike and up in the air before landing on the asphalt, where the car driver and other witnesses come to help.

The John Paul II hospital in Olbia confirmed Clooney was treated there and released after a few hours.

Local media representatives who gathered at the hospital said the Oscar-winning actor-director left in a van through a side exit.

The newspaper La Nuova Sardegna said the 57-year-old Clooney was heading to a film set when the accident happened at a curve in the road near the entrance to the Costa Corallina residential compound in the province of Olbia.

An oil stain and police paint remained on the road. Photographs taken by someone passing the scene showed the car's front right bumper damaged and Clooney's bike on its side.

Clooney reportedly was in Sardinia filming a television mini-series adapted from Joseph Heller's World War II novel "Catch-22."

He has been staying at a lush, gated rental villa in the high-end Puntaldia neighborhood on Sardinia's northeastern coast, which overlooks the Tyrrhenian Sea. Staff at the home declined to comment.

Clooney is a frequent visitor to Italy. He has a home on Lake Como and was married in Venice in 2014 to the British human rights attorney Amal Clooney.

TV canal macau



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

cinema



CINETEATRO

12 - 18 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



SKYSCRAPER

ROOM 2

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

Director: Rawson Marshall Thurbe

Starring: Dwayne Johnson, Neve Campbell, Chin Han

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 102min



BEIRUT

ROOM 3

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

Director: Brad Anderson

Starring: Jon Hamm, Rosamund Pike

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 109min

CODE GLASS LELOUCH OF REBELLION III - GLORIFICATION

ROOM 3

9:15pm

Director: Goro Taniguchi

Starring: Jun Fukuyama, Takahiro Skurai, Yukana

Language: Japanese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 140min

this day in history



1990 YELTSIN RESIGNATION SPLITS SOVIET COMMUNISTS

The populist politician and president of the Russian parliament, Boris Yeltsin, has resigned from the Soviet Communist Party.

The resignation has also led to a declaration from the small but influential radical reform group Democratic Platform that they would also break away.

The split leaves Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev with a party in tatters.

It was thought that Mr Gorbachev had appeased the reformers by ensuring the defeat of hardline conservative Yegor Ligachev in the race for the deputy leadership yesterday.

His favoured candidate, the pro-reform Vladimir Lvashko, was elected instead.

But it was not enough. Within hours of another vote to approve new party rules which still restrict factions operating within it, Mr Yeltsin stood up to address a hushed auditorium.

"In view of my great responsibility towards the people of Russia and in connection with the move towards a multi-party system I cannot fulfil only the instructions of the party," he said.

"As the highest elected figure in the republic, I have to bow to the will of all the people."

He then turned and left the chamber without another word.

Some delegates shouted "Shame", while a few clapped.

Mr Gorbachev, clearly expecting the move, was heard to say, "That ends the process logically," before instructing delegates to withdraw Mr Yeltsin's congress mandate.

The departure of a group of Democratic Platform delegates less than an hour later confirmed the split - the first since the Bolshevik-Menshevik divide which put Lenin in power in 1903.

Among those leaving are the popular new mayor of Leningrad, Anatoly Sobchak, and the mayor of Moscow, Gavriil Popov.

Mr Yeltsin has been a figurehead for radical reform of the party system for the last 18 months, and has been a trenchant critic of President Gorbachev for not going far enough with party reforms.

Despite that, he has remained at the centre of the Communist Party structure. His name was put forward for inclusion in the new Central Committee to be chosen this evening.

His real strength lies in his popular support among ordinary Russian people.

In an opinion poll carried out by the Moscow News newspaper earlier this month he scored an 84% popularity rating, making him by far the most trusted figure on the Soviet political scene.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Days later, tens of thousands of demonstrators gathered beside the walls of the Kremlin to voice their opposition to the Soviet Communist Party.

In August 1991, the rivalry between reformist and conservative elements of the congress erupted in an attempted coup against Mikhail Gorbachev. Boris Yeltsin became a national hero after he mounted a tank to rally the people against the coup.

After the formal collapse of the Soviet Union later in 1991, Boris Yeltsin, who was already president of Russia, found himself at the head of a world superpower.

His presidency was marked by rapid economic and political reform.

He took on the remnants of Soviet conservatism again in 1993, in an armed clash in which the Parliament building was shelled and 100 people died.

He went on to win the first post-Soviet presidential election in 1996, despite plummeting popularity ratings.

In the same year, he underwent major heart surgery, and there were serious concerns about the state of his health.

Amid growing criticism of his erratic behaviour, including several embarrassing gaffes on the international stage, Yeltsin stood down from the presidency on 1 January 2000.

His chosen successor, Vladimir Putin, won the next election a few months later.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Not all people fulfill their promises, and today you get a fresh perspective on someone who is veering close to being a hypocrite.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Looking to magazines, television shows or even radio programs for the guidance you want right now is a waste of time.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Move into your current outing with an open mind and a generous heart - no one's perfect, including you.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 If you want something (or someone), go out and get it. Avoid playing hard to get or pretending you're not that interested.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Your money worries have always come and gone, but right now you're entering a stage of life in which your fiscal behavior will come under scrutiny by someone who has influence over you.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Your real-life and fantasy life are at odds right now. It seems like your head might be too high in the clouds - you need to focus more on keeping your feet firmly planted on the ground.

Libra Sep. 23-Oct. 22 You've been doing a wonderful job of making it clear that you're there for them and ready to listen to whatever they have to say.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 While your brain is clear and sharp, you can make good progress and then rest on your laurels the rest of the day.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 At the end of the day, as long as you've done all you can do to move forward in a situation, it's been a good day.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You're dealing with people who are willing to work with you, so you should work with them.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 In a quick about-face from yesterday, your energy today should be less self-obsessed.

Pisces Feb. 19-Mar. 20 Poke around some potential new hobbies or diversions today - you're in need of a distraction to take your mind off negative influences that may be popping up in your life.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

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

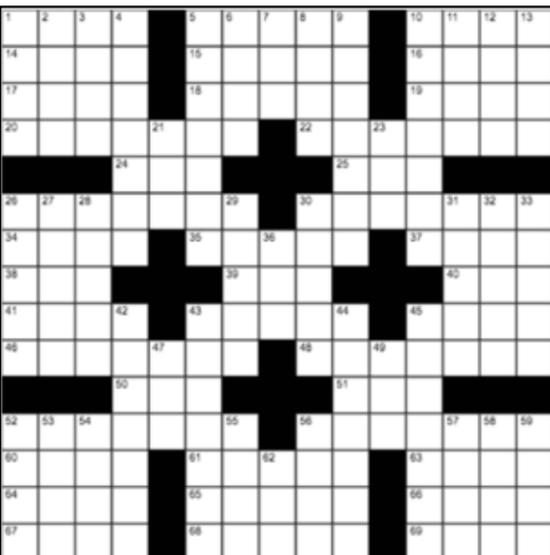
WORLD

Table listing weather conditions for world cities like Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Capital of Yemen; 5- Abyss; 10- Dudley Do-Right's org.; 14- St. crosses; 15- Keep an ___ the ground; 16- 'The Time Machine' people; 17- Hair goops; 18- Pianist Claudio; 19- Witticism; 20- Obscuration of light; 22- Distress; 24- ___-disant (self-styled); 25- U-turn from SSW; 26- Tidies up; 30- Small animal; 34- Picnic pests; 35- Private Pyle; 37- When said three times, a 1970 war movie; 38- Sun Devils' sch.; 39- Like Abner; 40- Your, to Yves; 41- Remedy; 43- Like Shirley Temple's hair; 45- Unit of loudness; 46- Writing implements; 48- Lounges; 50- Boo follower; 51- China's Chou En-___; 52- Takes into custody; 56- Voted into a seat; 60- Get-out-of-jail money; 61- Port-au-Prince is its capital; 63- Cabbagelike plant; 64- Osso ___; 65- Rocker John; 66- Fashion magazine; 67- Greenspan of the Fed; 68- Undercover operation; 69- Civil disturbance;

DOWN: 1- Wise; 2- Opposite of sans; 3- 1994 Jodie Foster film; 4- Aids; 5- Stopping; 6- Tortoise's rival; 7- Part of ETA; 8- Sports figure?; 9- One in black dress, once; 10- Petition; 11- Heavy stick; 12- Drudge; 13- Hollow cylinder; 21- 'The Bells' poet; 23- ___ roll; 26- Civil rights org.; 27- Follow; 28- Take ___ for the worse; 29- Alone, on stage; 30- Ringing instruments; 31- From head ___; 32- Cara or Castle; 33- Moves with care; 36- Russian space station; 42- Level of command; 43- Apparel; 44- Shouting; 45- Adhesive label; 47- Colorful moths; 49- ___ kwon do; 52- 'Dancing Queen' quartet; 53- Actor Julia; 54- Costa ___; 55- Preservative; 56- 007's alma mater; 57- Anklebones; 58- London greeting; 59- Insect-repelling chemical; 62- 'Lord, is ___?': Matthew;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



AD

Real estate advertisement for JML Property, featuring 'FOR SALE' and 'FOR RENT' sections with property details and contact information.



Kylian Mbappe, 19: the youngest and brightest of France's team which has an age average of under 26

ANALYSIS

With World Cup title, France could launch a dynasty

John Leicester, St. Petersburg

IT'S good the French make lots of Champagne, because with the trophy-winning potential of its team that will play in the World Cup final on Sunday, they could be bathing in the stuff for years to come.

Like Spain's team that won everything — two European Championships and one World Cup — in an awesome spell of dominance from 2008 to 2012, the youthful, skillful Bleus could have the makings of a dynasty.

Why?

Let's count the ways.

Heaps of talent, not just on the pitch but on the bench and back in France, too.

A defense that defanged the World Cup's most prolific scoring team, Belgium, in a semifinal so engrossing that 90 minutes seemed to zip past in half that time.

Youth, so much youth, running through key positions in the team like an electric current. The average age of France's starting line-up in the 1-0 victory over Belgium was a shade under 26. Good for many years to come.

And — really he should go

at the top of this list — Kylian Mbappe, a.k.a football dynamite and surely the strongest candidate for the World Cup's best player award.

Imagine how much better, how much more polished France's young diamond will be at age 21, at the 2020 European Championship, or at age 23, at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, and on and on. The mind boggles at the potential of the 19-year-old who may be the best deal Paris Saint-Germain ever make, bought one year ago for 180 million euros (USD210 million) and perhaps worth now double that after four fantastic weeks in Russia.

France's timing is good, too. Coach Didier Deschamps is getting his pieces to fit just as other football powers in Europe are unraveling.

Portugal, the reigning European champion, will soon have to find a way to win without Cristiano Ronaldo, who although still remarkably potent at age 33, can't carry his country forever.

Germany is in disarray, searching for scapegoats and answers, after the 2014 World Cup champion exited lamely

from the group stage this time.

And Spain has flogged its tiki-taka game of possession and passing to death and needs to find a new path to victory and without midfielder Andres Iniesta, who retired after Spain's loss to Russia in the first knockout round. Spain's new coach Luis Enrique has his work cut out.

In short, there's a vacuum to fill and France is poised to do it.

Unless the English get there first.

Like Deschamps, England coach Gareth Southgate has built his team around young players. If England beats Croatia in the second semifinal, then the final could see the two youngest teams in the knockout round fighting not just for this trophy but for the momentum that could then help them win more.

■ **Heaps of talent, not just on the pitch but on the bench and back in France, too**

For months, Deschamps has been downplaying expectations by making out that France's youth was a drawback, not its strength. True, the France team that won the World Cup in 1998 with Deschamps as its captain was considerably older. But the strength of this team is that its young players already have wise heads that belie their tender years.

Just 25, Raphael Varane is a rock in the French defense, with a young man's speed but the big-game maturity from having won multiple trophies with Real Madrid. With his partner at the back, Samuel Umtiti, still just 24, France has a central defensive pairing that should frustrate attackers long into the future.

Umtiti's winner against Belgium was only his third goal for France. But its quality — he out-jumped the taller Marouane Fellaini to head in a corner — suggested there could be more where that came from.

Paul Pogba, at 25, is curbing his natural exuberance, his play-ground-football instincts and putting in more sober, stable performance in the midfield.

On the flanks, left-back Lucas

Hernandez and right-back Benjamin Pavard, both aged 22, continue to impress. Pavard struggled at times against the speed of Belgium's Eden Hazard and played with more restraint than in previous games, missing several opportunities to get the ball to Mbappe when he was making runs.

But Pavard and Hernandez have shown they are very quick studies. The victory against Belgium was, for each of them, only the 11th time they have played for France. Remarkable that their 12th game will be a World Cup final. Digging up these two treasures was one of Deschamps' smartest moves.

The big questions for France ahead of Sunday revolve around its central strike partnership of Antoine Griezmann and Olivier Giroud. Both squandered chances against Belgium. Griezmann, at 27, still has a future with France. But Giroud, at 31, is increasingly looking like the odd man out, the ponderous weak link when France is surging forward at speed, unable to keep up with Mbappe's inventiveness and his Usain Bolt-like runs.

After Russia, one answer may be to move Mbappe to the center of the France attack and put Giroud out to pasture.

But how and where to best use Mbappe is a good problem to have.

First things first: Win Sunday, turn all this youthful promise into a trophy, so others can follow. **AP**

WORLD CUP 2018 | FRANCE 1, BELGIUM 0

Les Bleus advance to final against Croatia or England

AP PHOTO



Steve Douglas, St. Petersburg

THEY'RE young, they're brash and they're collectively worth a billion dollars. The one thing missing for this French squad is an international title.

Kylian Mbappe, Paul Pogba and France are about to get that chance.

Les Bleus are headed to the World Cup final.

Samuel Umtiti clinched a 1-0 win over Belgium — and earned the approval of watching French President Emmanuel Macron in the VIP seats at St. Petersburg Stadium — by scoring on a header off a corner kick in the 51st minute yesterday [Macau time].

“Vive la France! Vive la République!” France forward Antoine Griezmann shouted during postgame celebrations.

Umtiti played his part in a strong defensive effort by the French, too, helping to shut out the highest-scoring team at the tournament and leaving Belgium's golden generation of Eden Hazard, Kevin De Bruyne and Romelu Lukaku to regret another missed opportunity at a major tournament.

“It's me that scored,” Umtiti said, “but we all delivered a big game.”

France's players danced on the field after the final whistle and their fans sang in the stands long past the end of the match, surrounded by yellow-clad security.

They certainly hope to keep the party going on Sunday in the final in Moscow. France — with an average age of 26 — will face either Croatia or England, who play today at the Luzhniki Stadium in the Russian capital, and has a shot at

redemption after losing its last two major finals — at the 2006 World Cup when Zinedine Zidane was sent off for a nasty head-butt and the 2016 European Championship on home soil.

“We're immensely privileged to be in the World Cup final,” France coach Didier Deschamps said. “It was so painful two years ago we have to savor it.”

Deschamps now has the chance to become the third person to win the World Cup as a player and a coach, after German great Franz Beckenbauer and Brazil's Mario Zagallo. As France captain, Deschamps raised soccer's most prized trophy in 1998.

Deschamps has faced some criticism for being too pragmatic and functional despite having a squad of superstars, but his team was set up superbly against an opponent that was largely restricted to only minor chances and denied on two occasions in particular by France goalkeeper Hugo Lloris.

He dived to his right midway through the first half to claw away Toby Alderweireld's shot, then got in front of Lukaku to punch away one of the many crosses sent in by Belgium in the final stages.

In a tournament dominated by goals from set pieces, France's goal came off a corner when Griezmann curled in the ball from the right and Umtiti got in front of tall Belgium midfielder Marouane Fellaini to knock in his header at the near post.

Up in the corporate seats, president Macron reacted to the goal by shaking the hand of King Philippe of Belgium as FIFA president Gianni Infantino watched on between them.

“Unfortunately for us, the difference is just a dead-ball situation, a set play,” Belgium coach Roberto Martinez said. “The game was, as you can imagine, very close, very tight, and it was going to be decided [on] maybe the one that could find that final touch in the box.”

After reaching the quarterfinals at both the 2014 World Cup and the European Championship in 2016, Belgium again missed the chance to get to an international final and has yet to fulfil its lofty expectations. Leading the scoring in this tournament with 14 goals, many thought this could be their year.

With Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo and Neymar no longer in Russia, Hazard and Mbappe have taken over as the stars of the World Cup and there was a buzz every time either got the ball.

Yet while Hazard — Belgium's captain — faded after a strong opening 30 minutes, Mbappe was a constant threat. His first touch was after 10 seconds and, after receiving the ball on the right wing, he sped past Jan Vertonghen and then Mousa Dembele on a thrilling run.

At 19, Mbappe wasn't even born when France won the World Cup for the first and only time with a squad that is just as diverse as the one Deschamps is leading 20 years later.

Umtiti was born in Cameroon. Mbappe has Algerian-Cameroonian roots.

“It's a pure pleasure to see these players grow,” Deschamps said, “and never give up.”

Instead of a trip to Moscow, Belgium will return to St. Petersburg on Saturday for the third-place match no team wants to play. **AP**

AP PHOTO



Julia Goerges and Angelique Kerber

TENNIS

Goerges, Kerber aim for all-German Wimbledon final

IT'S been 87 years since two German women played in a Wimbledon final. Julia Goerges likes the sound of a repeat, though. “It sounds crazy to maybe have the chance to share a German final in Wimbledon,” Goerges said after she and Angelique Kerber advanced to separate semifinals at the All England Club. “Well, it's still one more match to go for both of us. It will be both very tough matches. But it's great to see there is a chance.”

For Goerges, it couldn't get much tougher. She'll be facing Serena Williams, the seven-time champion who hasn't lost a match at the All England Club since 2014 — though she missed last year's tournament while pregnant. Kerber, a two-time Grand Slam champion who was runner-up at Wimbledon in 2016, will be playing former French Open winner Jelena Ostapenko today.

Goerges and Kerber have already accomplished something not seen at Wimbledon since 1931 by putting two Germans in the women's semifinals. That year, Cilly Aussem and Hilde Krahwinkel went on to set up the only all-German women's final in Grand Slam history. Just having two in the last four again is a boost to the country's tennis, Goerges said.

“To really share this feeling with her [Kerber], with a nation, I think that's something which is pretty special,” she said.

Of the last four women remaining, the 29-year-old Goerges is the only one who hasn't won a major yet. In fact, this is her first career Grand

Slam semifinal — even though many expected her to reach this stage much sooner. She won her first WTA title in 2010 and followed that up by winning the prestigious Stuttgart tournament the next year. But instead of establishing herself as a regular contender, her form and ranking plummeted over the next few years. That led to a radical overhaul of her coaching team and even a re-location from north to south Germany in an attempt to get back to her best.

It seems to have worked. “I took the risk of changing everything,” she said. “But, yeah, it's worth it. [...] I think now, the moment I'm living, it just shows me that I was right, I actually took a good decision.”

Goerges will be facing Williams in a Grand Slam for the second time in little over five weeks, having lost to the American in the third round of the French Open. Williams, though, insists that result isn't an indicator of what will happen on Thursday.

“That was four or five weeks ago. That doesn't matter,” Williams said. “This is a whole new match, it's a new surface, it's everything. We're starting from zero.”

Williams, for one, isn't surprised to see the German players doing well. And she wouldn't mind renewing her rivalry with Kerber, whom she faced in two Grand Slam finals in 2016 — losing at the Australian Open before avenging that result at Wimbledon.

“We've had a lot of tough matches together,” Williams said. “Yeah, I have missed [our rivalry].” **AP**

opinion

Made in Macao
 Jenny Lao-Phillips



THE SUPERSTITION OF SEVEN

The number seven has many representations in different cultures. From the biblical point of view, the creation of our world was done in seven days. The Book of Revelation makes reference to the Lord with seven stars in his hand, who walks amongst the seven-candle lamp stand. There is also reference to the seven-spirits of God. Then there are the beasts: a lamb with seven heads and seven horns, and a dragon and a leopard-like beast - both with seven heads. Further, even those who are not familiar with religion know of the seven deadly sins.

Religious representation aside, we are born into a world full of "sevens". We have seven days a week, a rainbow with seven colours, there are seven continents, and seven wonders of the ancient world. Everywhere we look, there is the number seven. Even in popular literature that we read from childhood, we always encounter the number seven. How many of us remember the first fairy tales most are told? There is "Snow White" who meets the seven dwarfs, and "The Little Mermaid", Ariel, who is youngest of seven sisters. Even as we grow up, popular reads are surrounded by seven: there are seven books in the Harry Potter series, and what is the code of the world's most famous fictional spy on Her Majesty's mission again?

Research has shown that when asked what one's favorite number is, most people automatically pick 7. In Western culture, the number 7 is considered lucky, perhaps because of its significance in the number of ancient wonders, and the many things in our lives that relate to the number 7. But mathematicians and scientists believe that there is something appealing about the number 7 that may be cognitively related. According to the mathematician Alex Bellos, our minds tend to split numbers in half whenever we see them, and odd numbers that cannot be divided in two seem more appealing to our minds. That said, 7 split in half is 3.5 so I don't see why odd numbers are more special. Anyway, Bellos also explained that our minds tend to round up numbers to 10, so the number 5, right in the middle does not appeal to our minds as much. Further, the number 3 seems mundane as we see things in groups of 3 all the time. So, 7 is the choice of most.

Whether the number 7 is really a lucky number or not is a matter of one's culture. It is considered one of the unlucky numbers in the Chinese culture. Firstly, the seventh month of the lunar year is the Month of the Hungry Ghosts, which we believe means that the door to hell is opened and ghosts roam around looking for food, or a replacement. A replacement is to get someone to die the same way they did, and that person takes their place in hell. So, the seventh month is not good for doing anything, not even going out at night.

The Chinese also believe that the mourning of the dead lasts seven times seven days, forty-nine days to be exact. On the seventh day after someone passes away, it is believed that the spirit of the dead would return to visit its family, or haunt its enemies. Then, every seventh day for seven weeks during the mourning period there is a memorial feast during which seven dishes will be served at the dinner.

Therefore, during meals, especially celebratory events, it is unlucky to order seven dishes. If it turns out that you have unknowingly ordered seven dishes at a meal, don't panic, simply order one more, a soup or whatever, you can then turn an unlucky meal into one of prosperity, the lucky eight.

THE COURTS FINDS SUSPECT IN NEO-NAZI TRIAL GUILTY OF 10 KILLINGS

A Munich court has found the main defendant in a high-profile neo-Nazi trial guilty of murder over the killing of 10 people — most of them migrants — gunned down between 2000 and 2007 in a case that shocked Germany.

Judges yesterday sentenced Beate Zschaepe to life in prison.

The 43-year-old was arrested in 2011, shortly after her two accomplices were found dead in an

apparent murder-suicide. Together with the men, Uwe Mundlos and Uwe Bohnhardt, she had formed the National Socialist Underground, which pursued an ideology of white racial supremacy by targeting migrants, mostly of Turkish origin.

Authorities for years failed to attribute the killings and two bomb attacks to a far-right group, instead investigating nonexistent gangland ties of the victims.

India asks top court to decide on law criminalizing gay sex



Participants dance as they hold a placard demanding the dropping of Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code that makes homosexuality illegal, during a gay parade in New Delhi

INDIA'S government asked the country's top court to rule on whether to repeal or keep a controversial law that criminalizes homosexual acts.

Government attorney Tushar Mehta said the court should rule on the issue of consensual sexual acts between two adults.

The Supreme Court is hearing petitions by activists challenging the law, Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, that makes gay sex punishable by up to 10

years in prison.

"We leave to the wisdom of the court to deal with the validity of Section 377 so far as it relates to consensual sexual acts between two adults," the Press Trust of India news agency quoted Mehta as telling the five justices hearing the issue.

Activists had cheered in 2009 when the New Delhi High Court declared the law unconstitutional. But the judgment was overturned in 2013 when the

top court decided that repealing the law should be left to Parliament, not the judiciary.

Over the past decade, homosexuals have gained a degree of acceptance in India, especially in big cities. Many bars have gay nights, and some high-profile Bollywood films have dealt with gay issues.

Still, being gay is largely seen as shameful in most of the country, and many homosexuals remain closeted. **AP**

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



First stop Ireland. Britain's Prince Harry meets members of the public at Trinity college, Dublin, yesterday. Harry and Meghan later met with the Irish president on their first official overseas trip as a married couple.

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

WORLD BRIEFS

UGANDA Police used tear gas and bullets to break up a street protest against a new tax targeting social media users.



CYPRUS Turkey's president says he thinks the mindset of Greek Cypriots remains unchanged from when the latest effort to reunify ethnically divided Cyprus collapsed a year ago.

GREECE-RUSSIA Relations between Greece and Russia came under strain yesterday after Greece's government spokesman suggested that Russian diplomats stationed in the country could be expelled for acting unlawfully and "disrespecting" the Greek state.

THE VATICAN is drafting guidelines to help Catholic dioceses find appropriate ways to decommission unneeded churches so they don't end up as discos, gymnasiums or gelato shops.

GERMANY An Iranian diplomat suspected of involvement in a bomb plot against an Iranian opposition rally in France was charged in Germany yesterday with activity as a foreign agent and conspiracy to commit murder.



BRAZIL A top court has received 146 habeas corpus petitions on behalf of former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva following a dramatic back-and-forth between lower court judges over whether he should be released from jail.

MEXICO Authorities in the northern state of Baja California say that a drone carrying two deactivated grenades landed on a property owned by the state's security chief.