



PASSENGER VOLUME REACHES 4 MILLION

The Macau Int'l Airport's passenger volume in the first half-year has reached 4 million, up 20 percent year-on-year

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CLUB BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT STARTS

Eight teams from China, Japan, the Philippines, South Korea, and Taiwan are competing at the East Asian Games Dome

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JAPAN-EU TRADE DEAL SCRAPS TARIFFS

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WORLD BRIEFS

MYANMAR's government should expedite restitution for past illegal confiscations of land, an international human rights group said yesterday, detailing how previous land seizures there are still causing farmers harm even under the civilian-led government of Aung San Suu Kyi. [More on p12](#)

INDONESIA Police have killed 11 suspected petty criminals and shot dozens more in a heavy-handed campaign to free the capital, Jakarta, of street crime before next month's Asian Games.



INDIA's government has ordered inspections of all centers run by Mother Teresa's charity following the arrest of a nun and a worker at one of its shelters for unwed mothers for allegedly selling a baby.

AFGHANISTAN An Islamic State suicide bomber killed 20 people in northern Afghanistan yesterday, including a Taliban commander.



ISRAEL-PALESTINE Israel placed new restrictions on its only cargo crossing with the Gaza Strip yesterday in response to continued Hamas hostilities, even after it agreed to a cease-fire ending 24 hours of intense fighting.

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HONG KONG

Pro-independence party may face ban

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DANIEL BETTLER



KAZUO HARA

Documentary filmmaker continues to defy Japanese social norms

P7 MDT INTERVIEW

THE number of casino exclusion applications has surged in the first half of 2018, registering a total of 233 applications. This is an increase of about 30.2 percent compared to the same period in 2017, according to data published by the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ).

An overwhelming majority – 85.8 percent – of the applications were done by the people themselves with the intention of self-exclusion from the casinos (200 applications), while the other 14.2 percent were related to applications submitted by third-parties, usually, direct family members with a strong reason to submit applications due to “physical or mental incapacity” of the person to do so.

A total of 376 applications were made last year, with the second half of the year seeing a slight increase in the number of applications. If this pattern is maintained 2018, it is expected that this year will close with a significant hike in the number of applications submitted to DICJ, due to problematic gambling behavior.

DICJ's figures also show that for this year, there is a possibility of inversion of a tendency between the first and second quarters (Q1 and Q2). In Q1, there was a larger number of self-exclusion applications when compared to third-party applications, amounting to 103 and 11, respectively. In Q2, the number of applications by family members doubled to 22, while the self-exclusion applications dropped to 97.

Casino exclusion applications surge during first semester

Since Law no. 10/2012, which took effect on November 1 2012 and makes provision for exclusions applications, the figures have been registering constant growth, with 2016 being the exception when the number of yearly cases registered dropped slightly from 355 in 2015 to 351.

The law prescribes the exclusion from the gaming rooms for a period of two years, and has also established fines between MOP1,000 and MOP10,000 for violations.

Most importantly, the regulation established a regime that imposes on gaming concessionaires the duty to conduct inspections and enforce the law, with fines ranging between MOP10,000 and MOP500,000 for noncompliance.

Last week, the Legislative Assembly (AL) passed a law banning gaming sector employees from entering casinos during non-working hours. The ban is to be enforced against all the employees who work at gaming tables, gaming machines and cashiers, as well as those who work in public relations, cleaning and security. The law also extends to those in charge of casino supervision with exemptions only permitted during the first three days of the Chinese New Year, or when people can provide a justification, such as the purpose of participating in training or in association activities.



A responsible gambling kiosk

vide a justification, such as the purpose of participating in training or in association activities.

As the government has previously acknowledged, gaming employees represent the highest percentage of pathological gamblers.

According to the latest figures cited at the AL by the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, there are currently a total of 56,634 employees in the Macau gaming sector. **RM**

AFTER WORLD CUP, ANALYSTS BET ON GGR GROWTH

ANALYSTS ARE suggesting that, following the conclusion of the football World Cup, gross gaming revenue is likely to record growth this month. Citigroup suggested that the year-on-year growth for July 2018 could reach 9 percent, taking revenue up to approximately MOP25 billion. That prediction was based on last week's daily run rate of MOP886 million, ahead of MOP825 million for the first eight

days of July. The growth was propelled by the VIP sector, Citigroup said. Meanwhile, Deutsche Bank holds high expectations for this summer, the traditional peak season for Cotai casinos. It said that the number of visitors reserving hotel rooms on the strip suggests that the city is withstanding the effects of a weak yuan. The firm expects Galaxy Entertainment to benefit the most in the coming summer months.

EDUCATION

Portuguese language course attracts record number of students



THE 32nd Portuguese Language Summer Course, organized by the University of Macau (UM) Department of Portuguese, opened this week. According to the UM, this year's course attracted a record number of 461 students from around the world, six of whom are Macanese residing in the United States and keen to return to their ancestral home to learn one of their heritage languages.

During the opening cere-

mony on Monday, Hong Gang Jin, dean of UM's Faculty of Arts and Humanities, and course organizers Ana Nunes and Mário Pinharanda Nunes, welcomed participants from different parts of the world. Dean Jin said in her speech that UM has “Asia's largest Portuguese department, and over the years the department has produced many Portuguese language professionals.” She also relayed the message she received this

morning from UM Rector Yonghua Song and Vice Rector Rui Martins, who are now in Angola to attend the annual conference of Portuguese-speaking universities, that the two Angola-based Chinese officials who hosted Song and Martins had in fact participated in UM's summer program and training program in 1985 and 1998, respectively.

The three-week summer course, which will last until August 3, aims to enhance participants' Portuguese language skills and increase their understanding of the Portuguese culture. Students will be able to learn more about the linguistic, historical, social, economic, political,

and cultural aspects of Macau. The 460 students attending this year's course come from Australia, the United Kingdom, France, India, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, the United States, mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan.

The course has six levels: beginner, basic, intermediate, advanced, superior, and translation in Chinese/Portuguese. It seeks to provide participants with an in-depth knowledge of the language and its cultural variety and complexity. There will also be extra-curricular activities, such as folk dances, Portuguese films, sports, choral singing, and creative writing, to make learning an enjoyable experience.

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Airport passenger volume reaches 4m in first half-year

THE Macau International Airport (MIA)'s passenger volume in the first half-year of 2018 reached 4 million, an increase of 20 percent compared with that of the same period last year, the MIA said in a press release yesterday.

Flight movements increased by 12 percent to over 31,000 landings and takeoffs, compared with that of the same period last year, it added. Meanwhile, the cargo volume has exceeded 18,900 tones, up 9.32 percent year-on-year, and the number of flight movements of business jet is 1,522, an increase of 5.87 percent over the same period in 2017.

There were four new routes launched in the first half of 2018, Moscow, Tuguegarao, Kota Kinabalu



and Phuket, and three new airline companies joined MIA. A total of 49 routes were operated by 29 airlines at MIA, according to the press release.

According to statistics, passenger feedbacks showed a 40.5 percent increase in compliments while a 4.5 percent decrease in complaints.

The Airport is hailing the expansion as a success especially given the "complex current economic situation" and the occurrence

of increasingly frequent "extreme weather [events] and disasters."

The Macau International Airport Company described the performance of the first half of 2018 as "remarkable" and said that the market development of 2018 is now estimated to accommodate over 8 million passengers by the year-end, 39,000 tons of cargo, over 60,000 flight movements and 3,100 general aviation aircraft movements.

Sixth Ministerial Forum meeting postponed to 2020

THE sixth ministerial meeting of the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Forum Macao), which had been scheduled for 2019, will be delayed until 2020, according to diplomatic sources linked to the institution.

Forum Macao, which has been active for 15 years, meets every three years in Macau to set out action plans.

The source mentioned that the main reason for postponing the meeting is due to Chui Sai On's end of office term in 2019, which is close to when the Forum Macao's meeting was due to be held.

The possibility of postponing the sixth ministerial meeting of the Forum had been raised by the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, during a meeting with local journalists.

The Chinese authorities are also planning for the ministerial meeting to be held at the new Trade Cooperation Services Complex between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries, which is currently under construction in the Lake Nam Van area and is expected to conclude at the end of 2019.

The future complex will cost about 693 million patacas (USD87 million). Besides being the institution's headquarters, it will also house the Portuguese-speaking Countries' Food Products Exhibition Centre, the Business Service Centre between China and the Portuguese-speaking Countries, as well as various training and information centers,



and a Pavilion on Economic, Commercial and Cultural Relations between China and Portuguese-Speaking Countries.

The China-Portuguese Speaking Countries Cooperation and Development Fund, which is currently installed in the Business Support Centre and attached to the Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM), will also be located in the same complex.

With an area of 14,200 square meters, the complex was designed by architect Carlos Marreiros, with the engineering project drawn up by José Silveirinha and Jorge Lipari Pinto.

Forum Macao, created by China with the support of the Portuguese-speaking countries, includes representatives from Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, Sao Tome and Principe and East Timor. Its Secretary-General Xu Yingzhen, was appointed by China's Ministry of Commerce. **MDT/Macauhub**

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SPORTS

Asian club basketball tournament starts



A press conference was held yesterday to announce the beginning of Summer Super 8, Asia's first club to club basketball tournament recognized by the International Basketball Federation (FIBA). The event started yesterday and will last until July 22 at the Macao East Asian Games Dome, with eight teams from China, Japan, the Philippines, South Korea, and Taiwan vying for the title of champion.

During the press conference, the president of the Macau Sports Bureau, Pun Weng Kun, said that "Summer Super 8 and The Terrific 12 in September will bring high-level basketball and the passion of international sports to Macau."

Matt Beyer, CEO of event promoter Asia League Limited, expressed his enthusiasm

about the event: "Summer Super 8 aims to be the leading platform for off-season basketball development in Asia for top Asian club teams; to give Asian coaches an opportunity improve their craft; and to aide FIBA in giving top referees a platform to hone their skills. We hope all the fans and basketball professionals from Macau and afar enjoy the games and our coaching clinic over the coming days."

The press conference was attended by numerous athletes, along with 80 journalists representing China, Japan, the Philippines, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Macau.

Xinjiang Flying Tigers head coach Brian Warwick Goorjian commented on the tournament: "I've been involved with this region for ten years.

Over that time, there has been a lot of work put in by players and coaches for development of players, but they have lacked the competitions necessary for developing players' skills and evaluating teams' talent for the upcoming season. Summer Super 8 and The Terrific 12 are providing international competition for these teams."

To make the event available to fans across Asia, Asia League Limited has formed a strategic partnership with Tencent Video. The collaboration will allow Tencent users from across China to access both of these regional club to club tournaments. This partnership will be supplemented by a series of partnerships on the local level with broadcast and streaming providers in various Asian markets.

CRIME

Reports of scams related to gambling

THE Public Security Police Force (PSP) reported several cases of scams this week related to gambling. In one such case, a man from the mainland, aged around 20 years old, went to the police to report his own scam. The suspect said that he came to Macau at the end of June and gambled all his money away in a casino. He then decided to pawn a necklace that he had bought on the internet for RMB1,000, which

he said he knew was made of a fake platinum alloy.

At a pawn shop he was given a total of HKD10,000 for the necklace, money he then used to gamble again, which he also lost.

On July 13 the same man, re-entered Macau to gamble and, after having lost all his money, he then felt remorse for the fraudulent pawning of the necklace and reported his crime to the police.

Once the pawnshop was contacted, the pawnbroker inspected the product and realized that it was a fake. He noted that, at the time he had received the product to pawn, he was very busy and had no time to perform a proper check.

The suspect is being accused of scamming the pawnshop for HKD10,000.

In a separate case, the Judiciary Police also reported a swindle performed by a

26-year-old male from the mainland.

The case occurred while exchanging currency from RMB to HKD when a 42-year-old male, also from mainland, met the suspect at the lavatory of a casino in Cotai. Using his phone, the man transferred RMB205,000 to the suspect's account, after the suspect handed him a bag that was meant to contain the amount agreed in HKD. However, after opening the bag, the victim realized that the bag had no money inside and he had been scammed. He then filed a complaint with the PJ. **RM**



Wynn Macau wins court case over damage claims

THE First Instance Court (TJB) has ruled in favor of gaming concessionaire Wynn Macau in a case between the company and a former official of the Philippines Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), a state-owned gaming company and casino regulator.

Rogelio Yusi Bangsil Jr, a former executive at PAGCOR, was claiming damages from the company after the official and his wife's names were cited in a report in 2011 which, according to the executive, constituted an unlawful and "wrongful" disclosure of his personal information to an authority outside of Macau, which subsequently tarnished his professional integrity and damaged his career.

Bangsil was named in a report commissioned by a U.S. law firm in 2011, regarding an improper relationship between Japanese billionaire Kazuo Okada and Philippine gaming officials.

The report, drawn up under former FBI director Louis Freeh, alleged that Okada had made unlawful payments and provided gifts to some 17 people, including Bangsil and his wife,

Suzanne, in order to earn favor with gaming regulators. A total of MOP880,000 in gifts and payments was alleged to have been provided to the 17 individuals, including hotel stays in Macau and Las Vegas.

Bangsil was claiming compensation equivalent to MOP10 million from Wynn Macau.

Wynn Macau argued that Bangsil could not prove that the report had any financial impact, claiming that he had provided the personal data willingly.

According to the Macau News Agency, after the court's decision, the former PAGCOR employee is preparing to file an appeal against the decision, as the prosecution claims that the former executive's family suffered irreparable damage to their personal lives in both reputational damage and financial loss.

In the case of the data disclosure, the Macau Office for Personal Data Protection fined Wynn Macau MOP20,000 for two violations of the Personal Data Protection Act regarding the leaking of personal data to former FBI Director Louis Freeh.

Franchise Expo to feature 'smart retail' solutions

THE Macao Franchise Expo 2018 (MFE), which will be held at the Venetian Macao from July 27 to 29, will be gathering internationally-renowned franchise brands and trade visitors for the aim of building a platform for exchange and cooperation.

One of the highlights of this year's MFE is that the event will focus on "smart retail," with chain-business innovative factors such as unmanned stores, and unmanned coffee and juice huts. Meanwhile, a supporting zone with new franchise elements will be set up to provide IT support, e-commerce, business consultation, e-wallet and mobile payments.

As a platform dedicated to fostering entrepreneurship and youth entrepreneurship, MFE has designated its final day as the "Start-up Launchpad" Day. Successful businesspeople will be invited to share their startup experience with the audience and those who are interested in

entrepreneurship or business expansion.

There will also be the opportunity for individuals to go on business trips to the retail markets in Macau and Zhuhai, allowing them to obtain important market information and explore business opportunities.

This year witnesses MFE's 10th edition since its debut in 2009. The MFE's venue has been expanded from 1,900 square meters at its inception to 6,000 square meters in recent years. The number of exhibitors has increased from 77 at the first edition to more than 150 last year, with many globally renowned franchise brands participating.

In addition, the number of visitors has grown from 4,800 in the first year to over 24,000 last year, among whom at least 5,600 were trade visitors. Over the past nine years, more than 150 contracts have been signed at the MFE, over 80 percent of which have been implemented, according to event organizers.



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News At Hand



“THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’”

FILM

Kazuo Hara predicts coming of maverick Chinese director

Daniel Beittler

LEGENDARY Japanese filmmaker Kazuo Hara, known for bringing objectionable topics to the silver screen, says that the time is coming when a maverick Chinese director will speak out against the controversial issues in the history of the People's Republic of China.

"There will always be directors to speak out against authority," said the controversial filmmaker in an interview with the Times this week.

"I think that one day there will be a director who shoots a documentary about these controversial times [in China]," he added, offering the Tiananmen Square Incident as an example. "For sure, there will be a similar documentary-maker in China, but I can't say who that will be or when."

Hara, who has provoked the ire of authorities in his home country on countless occasions during his 40 years as a filmmaker, said that challenging authority and the status quo is the duty of a filmmaker.

"Though every person will have his or her own desires, the one desire we must all share in common is [a need for] freedom. This is the strongest desire," said Hara. "In our society, the authority controls our freedom. And it is the director's job to reflect the peoples' desire for freedom. That's why [filmmakers] often stand opposed to those in power."

The renowned documentary filmmaker was in Macau this week as the "director in focus" at this year's International Documentary Film Festival being held at Cinematheque Passion. The Festival will show four of Hara's productions, including his most famous work, *The Emperor's Naked Army Marches On* (1987), a highly controversial film, for which Hara was awarded the New Director Prize

DANIEL BEITTLER

In our society, the authority controls our freedom. And it is the director's job to reflect the peoples' desire for freedom.

KAZUO HARA



from the Directors Guild of Japan.

Born June 8, 1945, just a few months before the end of the War in the Pacific, Hara has been witness to the entirety of the post-war restoration of Japan. He observed its rise from the austerity of the 1950s to the world's number two economic power by the 1970s, and the various social changes in the country in the decades that followed.

The pioneering filmmaker is not known for shying away from sensitive issues. He has a particular affinity with social outcasts and finds the conformist mainstream culture of his homeland oppressive.

Throughout his career, Hara has broken through the boundaries of many social norms - in

some cases capturing little-discussed and never-before-seen moments on screen - such as the reality of family life in Japan often obscured behind closed doors, or the sensitive issue of mixed-race children.

"I make bitter films. I hate mainstream society," he is perhaps most famously attributed with having said.

There is a quiet bravery to Hara's work, which seems authentic and lacking in judgment, even if the filmmaker is the impulse behind some of his scenes.

Such is his treatment of the controversial Kenzo Okuzaki, a retired soldier and dissident, who challenges the greatest of taboos in 20th century Japan in *The Emperor's Naked Army Marches On*.

In the 1980s, criticizing the

Emperor in public was one of the strongest and deeply-rooted taboos in Japan, and yet Okuzaki implicates Emperor Hirohito whenever possible, denouncing him as "the most cowardly man in Japan" and holding him personally responsible for the horrific acts committed during World War II.

The documentary follows the 62-year-old veteran as he tries to find those responsible for the mysterious deaths of two soldiers from his former unit. Much of the film features the unusual and violent Okuzaki confronting other veterans of the war.

"In the film, I wanted to explore the relationship between the character and his [fellow] soldiers, who committed the crimes together in the war and kept in touch after the war, but don't

really talk about what they did," said Hara. "It's more an insight into their relationships, rather than the history of World War II."

"At the time, I thought Okuzaki is full of energy - in a bad way. He is full of energy and prone to taking action," explained the director.

Okuzaki's role on the screen is shocking. He resorts to violence and the threat of violence, and employs underhanded tactics to extract confessions from his interviewees, such as enlisting his friends to pretend to be the relatives of deceased soldiers.

His ultimate act of defiance culminates in an attempted assassination, for which he was sentenced to 12 years in prison.

The threat of assassination was raised during the making of the documentary and Okuzaki even goes as far as to request that Hara film the homicide. Hara declines and tries to persuade Okuzaki against the idea.

"In order to get the public to watch the movie and pay attention, [Okuzaki] committed a crime and took the media spotlight. [...] I asked Okuzaki not to commit the crime, just to find the truth," explained Hara.

"A lot of people liked *The Emperor's Naked Army Marches On*, but they are not sure if they can agree with what Okuzaki did. When the film was first screening, a lot of young people went to watch it and really liked it. However, I wondered if the young people really understood the main character."

"Okuzaki is not doing this for himself, but for the Japanese public who hold the same opinion as him. For his crime, Okuzaki knows he will be sent to prison in a single-person room, without [other inmates]. He doesn't mind this because, for him, it represents a kind of freedom."

Such an act so nearly caught on camera raises the question of what constitutes going too far. Asked during his interview this week, Hara said, "I like to be a little bit different from society. I don't think that I ever go too far or get too extreme."

The Emperor's Naked Army Marches On was screened at Cinematheque Passion last Saturday. A second showing will be held on Thursday, July 26 at 9:30 p.m.

Macau takes centerstage in film now shooting

A movie production team from the mainland is in Macau to film a new movie that features vintage Macau as the centerpiece. The production team has been seen filming in several locations of the peninsula and surrounding islands for the past

few days.

Although not many details are known about the movie, a crew member told the Times that the production team is entirely from the mainland, supported by a few elements from Hong Kong and Macau that help in spe-

cific tasks.

So far, the production team has been seen filming in locations that include what remains of colonial Macau, such as the Houses Museum of Taipa, the A-Ma Temple and the Calçada do Tronco Velho in the surroundings of D.

Pedro V Theatre and Saint Augustine's Church, where the crew was shooting yesterday afternoon.

The Times tried to reach the production team for details but the request was declined based on the limited filming time. **RM**



Japan, EU sign trade deal eliminating nearly all tariffs

THE European Union and Japan signed a widespread trade deal that will eliminate nearly all tariffs, seemingly defying the worries about trade tensions set off by President Donald Trump's policies.

The signing in Tokyo for the deal, largely reached late last year, is ceremonial. It was delayed from earlier this month because Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe canceled going to Brussels over a disaster in southwestern Japan, caused by extremely heavy rainfall. More than 200 people died from flooding and landslides.

European Council President Donald Tusk and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, who arrived Monday, also attended a gala dinner at the prime minister's official residence.

Both sides are heralding the deal, which covers a third of the global economy and more than 600 million people.

Prices of European wine and pork will fall for Japanese consumers. Japanese machinery parts, tea and fish will get cheaper for Europe.

The deal eliminates about 99 percent of the tariffs on Japanese goods to the EU, but remaining at around 94 percent for European imports into Japan for now and rising to 99 percent over the years. The difference is due to exceptions such as rice, a product that's culturally and politically sensitive and has been protected for decades in Japan.

The major step toward libe-



ralizing trade was discussed in talks since 2013 but is striking in the timing of the signing, as China and the U.S. are embroiled in trade conflicts.

The U.S. is proposing 10 percent tariffs on a USD200 billion list of Chinese goods. That follows an earlier move by Washington to impose 25 percent tariffs on \$34 billion of Chinese goods. Beijing has responded by imposing identical penalties on a similar amount of American imports.

Besides the latest deal with the EU, Japan is working on other trade agreements, including a far-reaching trans-Pacific deal. The partnership includes Australia, Mexico, Vietnam and other nations, although the U.S. has withdrawn.

Japan praised the deal with the EU as coming from Abe's "Abenomics" policies, designed to wrest the economy

out of stagnation despite a shrinking population and cautious spending. Japan's growth continues to be heavily dependent on exports.

By strengthening ties with the EU, Japan hopes to vitalize mutual direct investment, fight other global trends toward protectionism and enhance the stature of Japanese brands, the foreign ministry said in a statement.

The EU said the trade liberalization will lead to the region's export growth in chemicals, clothing, cosmetics and beer to Japan, leading to job security for Europe. Japanese will get cheaper cheese, such as Parmesan, gouda and cheddar, as well as chocolate and biscuits.

Japanese consumers have historically coveted European products, and a drop in prices is likely to boost spending. **MDT/AP**

Angola annuls USD1.5b port deal with Dos Santos linked firm

Henrique Almeida

A company with ties to Africa's richest woman, Isabel dos Santos, is threatening to seek compensation from the Angolan government after losing concession rights to build a USD1.5 billion port near the capital, Luanda.

The decision to withdraw the contract to build and operate the Barra do Dande port appears to be yet another step by President Joao Lourenco to ease the grip of his predecessor's family on the nation's economy. Lourenco dismissed 45-year-old Isabel dos Santos as chairwoman of state oil producer Sonangol last year before firing her brother, Jose Filomeno, as head of Angola's \$5 billion sovereign wealth fund.

Atlantic Ventures SA obtained the contract a week before Isabel's father, Jose Eduardo dos Santos, stepped down as president in September after ruling for 38 years. The company said the project was to be funded entirely through private investors and would take 24 months to complete.

"The revocation of the concession has the characteristics of an expropriation under Angolan and international law," Atlantic Ventures said in an emailed statement sent Monday by Isabel dos Santos's spokesman in Lisbon. "With this unfounded decision, the Angolan state is exposed to the payment of compensations as per Angolan and foreign law."

Isabel dos Santos owns a direct stake in Atlantic Ventures, Job Constantino, a Port of Luanda official, said in comments broadcast on Luanda-based MFM Radio yesterday. Her spokesman declined to comment on the size of her stake.

Lourenco is one of several African leaders who have pledged to fight



Isabel dos Santos

graft and dismantle corrupt business networks that have undermined state revenue. He said earlier this year that his government would review the deal. "A project this big, that involves billions, with sovereign guarantees, can't be handed on a platter," he told reporters in January.

Atlantic Ventures said it hadn't been notified of the decision to revoke the contract and had already held meetings with private investors and government officials, and organized a road show with international banks to promote the project.

"Atlantic Ventures now awaits the necessary information from the Angolan executive regarding the consequences of its decisions, after which it will make the necessary decisions to protect its interests," it said in the statement.

Last week, Angola published a presidential decree awarding Wuhan-based Ghezouba Group Company Ltd. the sole rights to build a hydroelectric power plant estimated at \$4.5 billion, a project backed by the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China. The decree means that two other companies believed to have links to Isabel dos Santos, CGGC & Niara Holding Limitada and Boreal Investment Ltd., have been removed from the project. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

BCM OPENS IAO HON BRANCH



BCM Bank hosted a Grand Opening Ceremony on Monday for its new Iao Hon Branch located at Rua Um Bairro Iao Hon.

Harold Wong, managing director and chief

executive officer of Dah Sing Bank and director of BCM, said that the establishment of the new Iao Hon Branch is in line with the bank's strategic business expansion,

and aims to provide comprehensive and high-quality banking services for both residential and SME customers in the district with a more spacious and comfortable environment, whilst also serving high net worth customers with a dedicated VIP Banking and Wealth Management Centre, Securities Trading Center and Insurance Services Section.

According to a press release issued by the bank, "the continuous investment in the retail branch network also marks the confidence of BCM bank towards the future economic development of the territory, as well as its commitment of best quality service to its customers."

JOHNSON & JOHNSON BEATS REVENUE AND PROFIT PROJECTIONS



Fueled by a 20 percent sales jump in its prescription drugs business, Johnson & Johnson posted a 3 percent increase in second-quarter profit.

Still, the world's biggest maker of health care products trimmed its forecast for 2018.

J&J's prescription medicine business, which had lagged its

medical device business until a couple years ago, accounted for half its USD20.83 billion in total revenue.

That business has prospered from wider use of its cancer and immune disorder medicines and its \$30 billion acquisition of Swiss drugmaker Actelion last year. That deal brought J&J Opsumit

and other drugs for high blood pressure in the lungs, a business that could hit \$2.5 billion in sales this year.

The New Brunswick, New Jersey, company yesterday reported net income of \$3.95 billion, or \$1.45 per share, up from \$3.83 billion, or \$1.40 per share, a year ago. The \$20.83 billion in revenue, up from \$18.84 billion in the year-ago quarter, also topped analyst expectations for \$20.21 billion.

Prescription drug revenue totaled \$10.35 billion, while medical devices and diagnostics products brought in \$6.97 billion, up 3.7 percent. That segment is now entering the third year of a restructuring program that's included several divestitures. Consumer health products such as Tylenol and Johnson's baby shampoo saw sales edge up nearly 1 percent, to \$3.5 billion.



Cabo Verde Airlines announces return to normality next week

CABO Verde Airlines expects to resume normal business as of next week after receiving a Boeing 757 on Saturday on

a long-term operating lease, the airline said in a statement quoted by the Cape Verdean press.

The company also said that the aircraft will be put

into service immediately after the checks required for commercial operation and added that it will take on another aircraft, under a wet lease, a system that

includes both the airplane and crew.

Cabo Verde Airlines announced last week that it had cancelled 52 flights since 2 July, due to a lack of airplanes, "with the attention of the board focused on the passenger protection plan until the restart of normal activity."

For the last 12 months the Cape Verdean has been managed by Icelandair, under a contract signed with the government to prepare the company, which has a liability of more than 100 million euros, for privatization.

The management contract is over and the Cape Verdean government estimates that it will soon be able to move forward with the privatization of the company by directly selling 51 percent to a strategic partner, and it is not yet known if the Icelandic airline is interested in the business.

A decree-law published in the Official Bulletin in September 2017 covers the total sale of Cabo Verde Airlines (formerly Transportes Aéreos de Cabo Verde), a 51 percent share reserved for a strategic partner, another 39 percent for investors and a third of 10 percent for emigrants and workers. **MDT/Macauhub**

Guinea-Bissau requests help from Vietnam to sell cashews

THE government of Guinea-Bissau plans to send a delegation to Vietnam to discuss with the country's central bank ways to make funds available to fund Vietnamese companies to buy part of Guinea-Bissau's unsold cashew production, the Guinean Minister of Commerce and Handicrafts said last week in Bissau.

Minister Vicente Fernandes said he had secured the agreement of the Vietnamese authorities to help Guinea-Bissau companies to buy cashew nuts in order to save the marketing campaign of the product and added he was in touch with Hanoi to make the operation feasible as soon as possible.

It is estimated that more than 100,000 tons of cashew nuts are still in the hands of Guinean farmers, given the "turbulence" seen this year in the sale of cashew nuts, due to the lack of coordination of the national authorities in fixing the base price for the product.

In addition, unlike in previous years, Indian companies did not buy cashew nuts this year from the Guinea-Bissau producers, as the Indian government cancelled the subsidy it granted on the product.

Two months after the end of the marketing year, Guinea-Bissau has only exported about 50,000 tons of cashew nuts, with the authorities previously projecting that 150,000 tons would be exported. **MDT/Macauhub**

AD

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FAQ

World Trade Organization's role in Washington-Beijing dispute

CHINA is turning to the World Trade Organization as a way to fight back against the latest tariffs proposed by U.S. President Donald Trump.

Its complaint to the organization, which oversees global trade rules, comes less than one week after the U.S. government proposed 10 percent tariffs on a USD200 billion list of Chinese goods, to take effect in September at the earliest.

The Trump administration yesterday also said it's filing a challenge at the WTO against China, the European Union, Canada, Mexico and Turkey for tariffs they imposed against the U.S. in retaliation to earlier U.S. tariffs on steel and aluminum.

The moves put a spotlight on the WTO, a multinational forum that is based on rules, in contrast with Trump's nationalistic approach that emphasizes country-to-country relationships.

Here's a look at the WTO and what its role will be in the trade tussle.

WHAT IS IT?

Launched Jan. 1, 1995, as the successor to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the WTO's mission is to facilitate free and fair trade. It does that by establishing rules, settling disputes and getting countries to talk to work out their differences. It is run by the governments of the 164 members through ministerial meetings at least once every two years, and by ambassadors and delegates at the organization's headquarters in Geneva. Countries that join commit in principle to apply their lowest tariff rate on goods from other member countries, called most-favored nation treatment.

Countries that think other members are acting unfairly can use WTO councils, committees and its dispute settlement system — which essentially rules on trade squabbles — to seek and obtain redress.

WHY IS CHINA GOING TO THE WTO?

Membership in the WTO has been part of China's rise to glo-

bal economic influence since it joined in 2001. Members are barred from discriminating against each other in their trade practices, meaning China's exports were shielded from protectionist moves by other countries. That was been a key factor in China's export boom. China has previously prevailed in WTO dispute settlement against the United States in a successful challenge to restrictions on steel imports imposed under President George W. Bush in 2003.

While China takes advantage of WTO protections for its goods exports, it has been criticized for not upholding WTO rules requiring enforcement of trademarks and patents and for subsidizing selected domestic sectors.

WHY IS THE US GOING TO THE WTO?

The U.S. is filing a challenge to the tariffs that China, the EU and several other countries imposed on the U.S. in retaliation to U.S. tariffs on their steel and aluminum.

The U.S. says its tariffs on steel and aluminum are fair but that the other countries' were not. The U.S. has said its tariffs were imposed on grounds of national security, saying it needs to strengthen its own steel and aluminum industry to ensure supplies to its military and infrastructure.

But China, the EU and the others argue that's just an excuse. The EU and Canada in particular note that they are longtime allies and that their exports to the U.S. cannot be considered a national security threat.

COULD THE WTO BE USED TO MAKE THE U.S. BACK OFF TARIFFS?

Yes, although it could take a while.

If a U.S. trading partner wants to go through the WTO's dispute settlement process, it can make a "request for consultations" that would start a 60-day period to talk about the issue. If there's no deal, it could ask

a dispute panel to rule on the tariffs — which generally takes about 18 months. An Airbus-Boeing dispute, for example, took more than a decade to produce a final ruling.

Ultimately, the judges in the WTO's dispute settlement process could rule that the United States should end the tariffs. Washington could refuse to implement such a ruling but would then face the possibility of sanctions.

At the very least, Trump is buying time: it can take months or even years before disputes get resolved through WTO bodies or are settled outside between the sides. At times, the disputes simply fizzle as participants lose the ambition to resolve them.

Trump's administration has already caused headaches for the WTO's dispute settlement process: It has balked at appointing new members to the seven-member appellate body, which now has only four members. In practice, that slows the body's ability to rule on disputes.

DOES CHINA HAVE OTHER OPTIONS?

The WTO is only one way of responding.

China may run out of U.S. imports to hit with tariffs but can retaliate with other measures. It could deploy measures against U.S. multinational companies operating in China such as consumer boycotts. That tactic was used in disputes with other Asian countries. But China might be reluctant to do that because many products sold by multinational companies, such as General Motors or Apple, are made in China by local workers.

China could also seek to lower the exchange rate of its currency against the dollar. That could also backfire by causing an outflow of funds from the country, and because China is no longer merely seeking to profit from cheap exports but wants to move to an economy driven by domestic demand and production of more advanced goods. **MDT/AP**

BLOOMBERG



US challenges China, EU and others at WTO over steel tariffs

Paul Wiseman, Washington

The Trump administration brought cases against China, the European Union, Canada, Mexico and Turkey at the World Trade Organization for retaliating against American tariffs on imported steel and aluminum.

The United States has imposed tariffs of 25 percent on steel and 10 percent on aluminum on the grounds that the imported metals pose a threat to U.S. national security. China, the EU, Canada, Mexico and Turkey have counterpunched with taxes on more than USD24 billion worth of U.S. exports.

U.S. Trade Rep. Robert Lighthizer said their retaliation violates the rules of the Geneva-based WTO, which mediates trade disputes.

"Instead of working with us to address a common problem, some of our trading partners have elected to respond with retaliatory tariffs designed to punish American workers, farmers and companies," Lighthizer said.

If the WTO agrees that the retaliatory duties violate its rules, it would assess the damage and calculate the tariffs that the United States would be entitled to impose in response — retaliation for the retaliation. But WTO proceedings can drag on for years.

In taxing imported steel and aluminum from some countries in March and others in

June, President Donald Trump deployed a little-used weapon in American trade policy: Under the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, presidents are empowered to impose unlimited tariffs on imports that the Commerce Department asserts are threats to America's national security.

The WTO gives countries broad leeway to determine national security interests. But there was long an unwritten agreement that WTO member countries would use the national-security justification only very sparingly to avoid abuses.

Trump's steel and aluminum tariffs broke that taboo. Now the Commerce Department is pursuing another, bigger national-security case against auto imports. Hearings on the proposed auto tariffs are set for Thursday and Friday in Washington.

Separately, Trump is engaged in a trade war with China over the aggressive tactics Beijing has used to challenge U.S. technological dominance. According to the Trump administration, these include outright cybertheft and forcing U.S. companies to hand over trade secrets in exchange for access to the Chinese market.

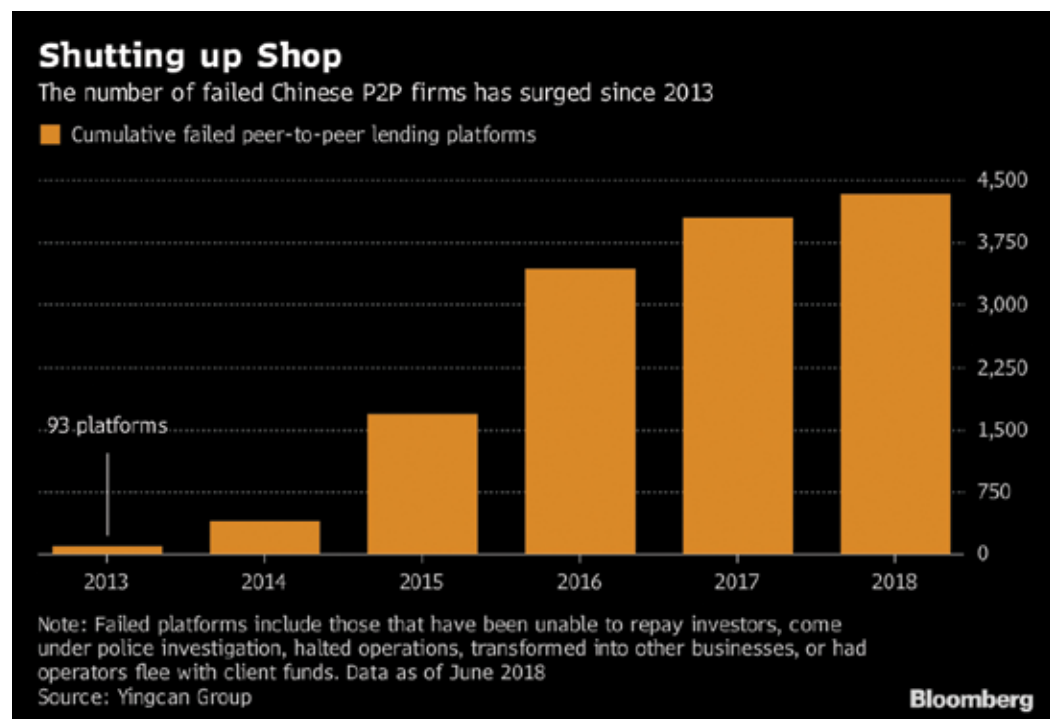
Last week, the administration announced 10 percent tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods, which won't take effect until at least September. On Monday, China said that it filed a WTO challenge against those proposed U.S. tariffs. **AP**



AP PHOTO

BANKING

Panic roils peer-to-peer lenders



CHINA'S savers are crushing to pull money from peer-to-peer lending platforms, accelerating a contraction of the USD195 billion industry and testing the government's ability to maintain calm as it cracks down on risky shadow-banking activities.

In some cases, savers are turning up at the offices of P2P operators to demand repayment, spooked by reports of defaults, sudden closures and frozen funds. At least 57 platforms have failed in the past two weeks, adding to 80 cases in June, the biggest monthly tally in two years, according to Shanghai-based Yingcan Group. The researcher defines failed platforms as those that have halted operations, come under police investigation, missed investor payments, moved into other businesses, or had operators flee with client money.

"Investors have lost confidence in the smaller platforms, because they have no idea if those companies will survive," said Dexter Hsu, a Taipei-based analyst at Macquarie Capital. Only a handful of the 2,000 or so remaining firms are likely to endure, he said.

China's P2P industry, the world's largest, is one of the riskiest and least-regulated slices of the nation's sprawling shadow-banking system. A government clampdown has weighed on P2P platforms for two years, but the pressure intensified in recent months after China's credit markets tightened and the banking regulator issued an unusual warning to savers that they should be prepared to lose all

their money in high-yield products.

The shakeout has cast doubt on the listing plans of several P2P lenders and underscores the delicate balancing act faced by China's government as it tries to reduce moral hazard in the financial system without triggering a crisis. While there's little sign that the P2P turmoil has spread to systemically important wealth-management products issued by banks, much of China's \$10 trillion shadow-lending system faces the same headwinds of rising defaults, slowing economic growth and official calls to end to implicit guarantees on risky investments.

The China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission didn't respond to a faxed request for comment.

China's P2P platforms have about 50 million registered users and 1.3 trillion yuan (\$195 billion) of outstanding loans, most of which have short maturities. Normally, savers have to wait for loans facilitated by the platforms to mature before getting their money back. But some are now trying to exit early by selling their rights to others at a discount, or by going to the platform's offices to demand repayment.

When P2Plender Qian88.com shut last week, it cited "spreading panic among investors" as one of the reasons. Local police were called in to ensure order as customers rushed to the company's Shenzhen office to demand their money. Another platform, Lqgapp.com, suspended operations last week after some investors talked about di-

fficulties securing repayment in online chatrooms, triggering a flood of withdrawal requests. The platform said it will "attempt" to repay its users over the coming three years. About 220,000 investors are owed about 5 billion yuan.

David Gao, 30, who works in the financial industry in Beijing, invested 1 million yuan of his savings in P2P loans facilitated by a Hangzhou-based platform in November and has been unable to retrieve his principal and interest. After traveling 700 miles to the company's office with other investors last week, he found it deserted.

"I won't invest in P2P platforms any more, I no longer trust them," said Gao, who had been putting money into online loans for about four years. "I have to move on no matter how upset I am, but a lot of the other investors are old and are suffering more."

The turmoil is also hurting companies and individuals who have relied on P2P platforms for financing. They include cash-strapped small businesses seeking working capital, individuals without a credit history, and, more recently, leveraged stock market investors and home buyers in need of down-payments.

Some P2P platforms were also raising funds illegally for their own use, while others were running Ponzi schemes that collapsed when the flow of new money halted, regulators have said. That helps explain why authorities have so far been steadfast in cracking down. **Bloomberg**

AP PHOTO

HONG KONG

Pro-independence party faces possible ban

Leader of the Hong Kong National Party Andy Chan speaking to journalists yesterday

Chandra Wong, Hong Kong

AUTHORITIES yesterday told a political party that advocates independence for Hong Kong the group might be banned on national security grounds, in one of the most severe steps against separatist voices since the territory returned to Chinese rule in 1997.

In a letter to the leader of the Hong Kong National Party, 27-year-old Andy Chan, the territory's security bureau said the group has three weeks to make a case for why it should be allowed to operate.

An official believes the party should be dissolved "in the interests of national security or public safety, public order or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others," the letter said.

It cited a national security law that has not been invoked since 1997.

The party was founded in 2016 in response to frustration about Beijing's treatment of Hong Kong. Despite a promise of a "high degree of autonomy," activists complain mainland influence over its democratic elections is increasing.

The territory's security secretary, John Lee, said police recommended banning the group.

"Hong Kong has freedom of association, but that right is not without restriction," Lee said at a news conference. He said national security "means safeguarding the territorial integrity and independence of the People's Repu-

blic of China."

Chan and other pro-independence candidates were disqualified from 2016 elections to the Hong Kong legislature after they refused to sign a pledge saying Hong Kong is an inalienable part of China. The Hong Kong National Party has never held any seats on the council.

The authorities must stop using vague laws to intimidate people who hold different political views.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

A statement on the party's Facebook page called yesterday's letter an effort to "pelt pebbles at the Hong Kong people and independence movement."

"For what is their 'national security,' their 'laws,' and their banning of operations but a purely political decision to silence those who dare to represent the true interests of the Hong Kong people and nation?" the party wrote.

Amnesty International condemned the proposed ban.

"The authorities must stop using vague laws to intimidate people who hold different political views," the human rights group said. **AP**

BANGLADESH

Nowhere to run: Rohingya hunker down as monsoon arrives

Kristen Gelineau, Ukhiya

THE hill on which the young woman's shelter is being built is so unstable that the earth crumbles under your feet. The threat of landslides is so dire that her neighbors have evacuated. Though living here could spell doom as the monsoon rains fall, she will live here anyway.

For Mustawkima, a Rohingya woman who fled Myanmar for the refugee camps of neighboring Bangladesh, there is no other option.

Hers is a dilemma repeated over and over for many of the 900,000 Rohingya refugees living in ramshackle huts across this unsteady landscape: With the long-dreaded monsoon season now upon them, they have run out of places to run.

For months, officials raced to relocate the most at-risk families to safer areas that had been bulldozed flat, but there simply isn't enough available land. Most refugees believe it is too dangerous to return to Myanmar, where the military launched a brutal campaign of violence against the minority Rohingya Muslims last year. And so, as the rains begin to flood parts of the camps, many Rohingya find themselves trapped — by geography, by poverty and by fear.

The bamboo shelter on the crumbling hillside will be Mustawkima's third attempt at finding a home in the camps. She has had to do everything on her own; Her husband was killed when the military stormed their village in August 2017.

Mustawkima, who like some Rohingya uses only one name, abandoned her first shelter when the soil washed away. With five children under the age of 8, she wanted her new home to be close to relatives living at the base of the hill, so



Rohingya refugees carry construction material to an extended area of Kutupalong refugee camp in Bangladesh

she erected a flimsy tarp halfway up. But when the rains began in June, the water quickly poured in, transforming her dirt floor into a muddy mess.

Frightened, she sold off some of her donated rations of rice, lentils and oil so she could hire men to build her a sturdier shelter in the same spot. The bamboo and sandbags were donated by aid agencies. She fears there isn't enough material, but she has no money to buy extra bamboo.

Families living in five shelters on the hill recently evacuated, she says. She can only hope that her relatives will protect her and her children when the worst of the rains arrive.

The most intense rains are expected over the next few months, though heavy downpours began pummeling the camps in June. There have already been more than 160 landslides, 30 people injured and one toddler killed, according to the Inter Sector Coordination Group, or

ISCG, which oversees the aid agencies in the camps.

"Within 24 hours of the first rains falling, we were seeing small landslides and we were seeing flooding everywhere," says Daphnee Cook, a spokeswoman for Save the Children. "I've been here for seven months and I was appalled at how quickly things started to fall apart."

The ferocity of the rains and the swiftness with which they can wreak havoc is stunning. On a recent day, it took just minutes for a downpour to transform the face of another hill into a waterfall, with torrents of muddy water cascading down dirt steps.

Beyond the landslides and flooding, there are worries about waterborne diseases like cholera. Some of the latrines are piled high with fly-riddled excrement, which seeps out the sides during downpours. Water pumps are generally just a few meters away — worse, some are

located downhill.

Aid workers have cleaned out thousands of latrines. Children are receiving identity bracelets in case they are separated from parents in the flooding. Families have received extra materials to fortify their shelters. Trenches have been dug to try and redirect floodwaters.

Ultimately, though, the topography of the camps is the biggest problem. The trees that once covered the hills have been cut down to make room for shelters, and the roots dug up for firewood. That process has dramatically loosened the soil, which the rains turn into heavy mud that slips down the hillsides, burying anything in its path.

The jagged scar on Mohamed Alom's head is a grim reminder of the dangers of those landslides. The 27-year-old was asleep in his shelter last month when a torrent of mud crashed through the plastic wall next to him. A tree root slammed into

his head, slicing open his skin. His agonized screams awakened his wife and two young children, who rushed him to a doctor.

Now, he and his family are among 13 people living in a one-room schoolhouse. Alom is hoping officials will help him build a new shelter, but he has no idea how long that will take.

More than 200,000 people are living in areas considered at risk of landslides and flooding, according to the ISCG. Around 34,000 refugees have been relocated to other areas, with some moving into sturdier shelters further away from the hills.

Hotiza Begum, 25, recently moved into one of the new shelters with her husband and five children after mud crashed through the roof of her old one. She likes her relatively spacious new home. But it is hard to find firewood, she says, because they now live far from the mountains. And the markets can only be reached by tuk tuk, which costs about USD1 — more than they can afford.

Yet at least her family is safe, for now. Abu Bakker's family lives at the base of a hill where a landslide destroyed eight shelters. A few weeks ago, Bakker's 60-year-old mother was trying to scoop a bit of soil out of their shelter when a deluge of mud crashed through their tarp wall, knocking her to the ground and burying her up to her thighs.

Bakker dug his terrified mother out and knew he had to get his family away. An aid group promised him supplies to rebuild, but they still haven't arrived. And even if they do, he asks, where will he rebuild?

He is scared whenever it rains, which is often. He prays every day for Allah to protect them.

Still, for many Rohingya refugees who have made it through mass killings, rapes and other abuse in a military crackdown, the fear of the monsoon is relative.

"In Myanmar, it's scary because there's no guarantee for our lives," says Alom, as the rain begins to fall on the roof. "Here, even if there's a landslide, at least we don't have to worry about the military." **AP**

MYANMAR

Rights groups urges gov't to make amends for seized land

MYANMAR'S government should expedite restitution for past illegal confiscations of land, an international human rights group said yesterday, detailing how previous land seizures there are still causing farmers harm even under the civilian-led government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

A 33-page report released by New York-based Human Rights Watch says the negative impact on farmers includes the loss of income, which makes it a struggle to pay for basic needs, such as food, health care and education for children.

Land confiscation in

Myanmar became a major issue under the previous military government, with estimates of as many 800,000 hectares or more of land seized from farmers and other civilians without compensation. Farmers who protested the lack of compensation or refused to leave confiscated land

often faced criminal prosecution.

"This is a crisis of accountability, which is a problem with a government which has a culture of doing whatever it wants," Richard Weir, the Myanmar researcher in the Asia Division of Human Rights Watch and author of the report, said

at a news conference in Yangon. "This is something that is ongoing and it's a matter of a culture change and the way the government addresses these issues and addresses the people it is responsible to."

The previous military-backed government in 2012 established its own

commission to investigate the problem, but it was seen as primarily window-dressing ahead of the 2015 general election.

Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy "made land issues a central plank in its 2015 election manifesto," said the report. **AP**

Audrey McAvoy & Caleb Jones,
Honolulu

HAWAII

Volcano boat tours
continue after lava injuries

HAWAII tour boat operators plan to continue taking visitors to see lava, but will follow the Coast Guard's revised policy and stay farther away after an explosion caused molten rock to barrel through the roof of a vessel, injuring 23 people.

The Coast Guard prohibits vessels from getting closer than 300 meters from where Kilauea volcano's lava oozes into the sea. The agency had been allowing experienced boat operators to apply for a special license to get closer up to 50 meters, but it stopped allowing those exceptions Monday morning.

A woman in her 20s was transported to Honolulu in serious condition with a broken thigh bone. The other 22 people injured were treated for minor burns and scrapes, including 12 who were treated at a hospital in Hilo.

Moku Nui Lava Tours Captain Kanoa Jones, whose boat was not involved in yesterday's incident [Macau time] at Kilauea volcano, said not running the tours would only withhold income from local restaurants and other businesses dependent on tourism, he said.

"If we stop operating, it not only hurts us, it hurts the community," Jones said.

The Coast Guard, state and local

AP PHOTO



officials were investigating what happened.

Coast Guard spokesman Petty Officer 3rd Class Matthew West said the agency can't say whether it will change its safety zone rules until it finishes its investigation.

The county strictly limits access to the lava on land for safety reasons, making boat and helicop-

ter tours the only options people have to witness volcanic spectacle in person. The ocean and aerial tours each cost about USD250.

The restrictions have deterred many travelers from visiting the Big Island in general, and Puna near the volcano in particular.

Shane Turpin, the owner and captain of the vessel that was hit,

said he never saw the explosion.

He and his tour group had been in the area for about 20 minutes making passes of the ocean entry about 500 yards — which is the length of five football fields — offshore, Turpin said.

He didn't observe "any major explosions," so he navigated his vessel closer, to about 250 yards

(228 meters) away from the lava.

"As we were exiting the zone, all of a sudden everything around us exploded," he said. "It was everywhere."

The U.S. Geological Survey says explosions of varying sizes occur whenever 2,000-degree (1,093-degree Celsius) lava enters much colder seawater.

Monday's large blast may have been amplified by the relatively shallow water at the point where the lava entered the sea. That's because explosions occur much closer to the surface in such spots.

In contrast, lava that entered the ocean in 2016 hit a steep slope and quickly fell to deeper parts of the sea, said Janet Babb, a geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey.

The volcano has also been pumping more lava into the water now compared to past years, Babb said. Kilauea is sending to the sea as much as 26 times the amount of lava per second than it did during the 2016-17 eruption. **AP**

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US-RUSSIA

Trump returns from Helsinki summit with Putin to forceful criticism



Trump, Putin at the joint press conference in Helsinki

Jonathan Lemire, Jill Colvin & Vladimir Isachenkov, Helsinki

IN an extraordinary embrace of a longtime U.S. enemy, President Donald Trump openly questioned his own intelligence agencies' firm finding that Russia meddled in the 2016 U.S. election to his benefit, seeming to accept Russian President Vladimir Putin's insistence that Moscow's hands were clean.

The reaction back home was immediate and visceral, among fellow Republicans as well as usual Trump critics. "Shameful," "disgraceful," "weak," were a few of the comments. Makes the U.S. "look like a pushover," said GOP Sen. Bob Corker of Tennessee.

Trump's meeting with Putin in Helsinki was his first time sharing the international stage with a man he has described as an important U.S. competitor — but whom he has also praised as a strong, effective leader.

His remarks, siding with a foe on foreign soil over his own government, was a stark illustration of Trump's willingness to upend decades of U.S. foreign policy and rattle Western allies in service of his political concerns. A wary and robust stance toward Russia has been a bedrock of his party's world view. But Trump made clear he feels that any firm acknowledgement of Russia's involvement would undermine the legitimacy of his election.

Standing alongside Putin, Trump steered clear of any confrontation with the Russian, going so far as to question American intelligence and last week's federal indictments that accused 12 Russians of hacking into Democratic email accounts to hurt

Hillary Clinton in 2016.

"I have great confidence in my intelligence people, but I will tell you that President Putin was extremely strong and powerful in his denial today.

"He just said it's not Russia. I will say this: I don't see any reason why it would be," Trump said.

His skepticism drew a quick formal statement — almost a rebuttal — from Trump's director of national intelligence, Dan Coats.

"We have been clear in our assessments of Russian meddling in the 2016 election and their ongoing, pervasive efforts to undermine our democracy, and we will continue to provide unvarnished and objective intelligence in support of our national security," Coats said.

Fellow GOP politicians have generally stuck with Trump during a year and a half of turmoil, but he was assailed as seldom before as he returned home yesterday [Macau time] from what he had hoped would be a proud summit with Putin.

Sen. John McCain of Arizona was most outspoken, declaring that Trump made a "conscious choice to defend a tyrant" and achieved "one of the most disgraceful performances by an American president in memory." House Speaker Paul Ryan, who rarely criticizes Trump, stressed there was "no question" that Russia had interfered.

Even staunch Trump backer Newt Gingrich, the former House speaker, called Trump's comments "the most serious mistake of his presidency" and said they "must be corrected — immediately."

Former CIA Director John Brennan, who served under Pre-

sident Barack Obama, called Trump's words "nothing short of treasonous." Brennan tweeted: "Not only were Trump's comments imbecilic, he is wholly in the pocket of Putin. Republican Patriots: Where are you???"

In a Fox News Channel interview after the summit, Putin pronounced the meetings "the beginning of the path" back from the West's past efforts to isolate Russia. "I think you see for yourself that these efforts failed, and they were never bound to succeed," he said.

■ Standing alongside Putin, Trump steered clear of any confrontation with the Russian, going so far as to question American intelligence

As he flew home to Washington aboard Air Force One, Trump tried to clarify his position via tweet, saying: "As I said today and many times before, 'I have GREAT confidence in MY intelligence people.' However, I also recognize that in order to build a brighter future, we cannot exclusively focus on the past - as the world's two largest nuclear powers, we must get along!"

In an interview with Fox News' Sean Hannity that aired later

yesterday, Trump said "it's a shame" that he and Putin were being asked questions about the Russia probe while they were trying to discuss issues like Syria and nuclear proliferation. "We've had a phony witch hunt deal drive us apart," he said.

In their totality, Trump's remarks amounted to an unprecedented embrace of a man who for years has been isolated by the U.S. and Western allies for actions in Ukraine, Syria and beyond. And it came at the end of an extraordinary trip to Europe in which Trump had already berated allies, questioned the value of the NATO alliance and demeaned leaders including Germany's Angela Merkel and Britain's Theresa May.

The two leaders' long-awaited summit began with a private face-to-face sitdown — just the leaders and their interpreters — that lasted more than two hours, before additional meetings joined by senior aides.

The pair had held lengthy talks before — on the sidelines of world leader meetings in Germany and Vietnam last year — but this was their first official summit and was being watched closely, especially following the announcement Friday of new indictments against 12 Russian intelligence officers accused of hacking Democratic emails to help Trump's campaign.

Asked about the indictments, Putin suggested that Moscow and Washington could jointly conduct the investigation, inviting special counsel Robert Mueller's investigators to come to Russia to interview the 12 people — an idea Trump hailed as an "incredible offer."

Putin said he'd expect the U.S. to return the favor and cooperate in the Russian probe against William Browder, a British investor charged with financial crimes in Russia. Browder, an outspoken Putin critic, was a driving force behind a U.S. law targeting Russian officials over human rights abuses.

The summit began just hours after Trump blamed the United States — and not Russian election meddling or its annexation of Crimea — for a low-point in U.S.-Russia relations.

"Our relationship with Russia has NEVER been worse," Trump tweeted earlier, blaming "many years of U.S. foolishness and stupidity and now, the Rigged Witch Hunt!"

The Russian foreign ministry responded by liking Trump's tweet and then replying, "We agree."

Asked whether Russia was responsible at all, Trump said "we're all to blame" for the soured relations.

However, "that changed," he said, "as of about four hours ago."

Putin ridiculed as "sheer nonsense" allegations that Russian intelligence agencies had collected compromising information on Trump during his visit to Moscow years before the election, saying that he had no idea Trump was even visiting.

Trump also dismissed the idea in his interview with Hannity, adding, "If they had it, it would have been out."

Still, Putin said he had indeed wanted Trump to win the election — a revelation that might have made more headlines if not for Trump's performance — but had taken no action to make it happen.

"Yes, I wanted him to win because he spoke of normalization of Russian-U.S. ties," Putin said. "Isn't it natural to feel sympathy to a person who wanted to develop relations with our country? It's normal."

At the closing press conference, Putin, riding high after hosting a successful World Cup, unveiled a gift he'd brought for Trump: a red and white soccer ball, which he tossed to Trump at the neighboring lectern. Trump passed it over to his wife, and said they'd give it to their soccer-loving 12-year-old son, Barron.

Out on the streets, the summit attracted a grab-bag of protesters, with abortion-rights activists wearing artificially bulging bellies and Trump masks, anti-fascist protesters bearing signs with expletive-laden insults, and free traders, anti-war Ukrainians and gay rights supporters making their voices heard. **AP**

Stephan Kahl

BREXIT

FRANKFURT'S efforts to attract bankers escaping Brexit are in danger of losing momentum.

While Paris appears to be catching up in the race for jobs, several companies have chosen to move staff to a number of locations within the European Union rather than building a single hub. That could end in disappointment for Frankfurt, according to a lobby group for the city.

"A clear warning signal is that most banks are spreading jobs widely across Europe to keep all relocation options open," said Hubertus Vaeth, managing director of Frankfurt Main Finance. "From a German point of view, there is a risk of losing gains that have been considered as certain."

JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Goldman Sachs Group Inc. are among companies that plan to relocate staff to several EU locations as part of their Brexit contingency plans. For its part, Bank of America Corp. will initially move about 200 sales and trading staff to Paris and Frankfurt, it said late last year.

In November, Paris was chosen as the new home for the European Banking Authority, beating out the likes of Frankfurt and Dublin. The decision, following lobbying by the French government, will "undoubtedly" cost the German city jobs, Vaeth said. Even so, he still expects

as many as 10,000 positions to be created over five years in Frankfurt as a result of Brexit.

Oliver Wagner, managing director of the Association of Foreign Banks in Germany, predicts that 20 financial-services companies will move some operations to Frankfurt. Together, they will probably add between 3,000 and 5,000 jobs within two years, or as

A clear warning signal is that most banks are spreading jobs widely across Europe to keep all relocation options open.

HUBERTUS VAETH
ANALYST

BLOOMBERG



Frankfurt's financial district

many as 200 per company on average, he said. Landesbank Hessen-Thüringen Girozentrale still anticipates at least 8,000 additional employees over "several" years.

The German city is also likely to create jobs in tandem with Brexit, rather than simply accommodat-

ing new arrivals from the U.K., Wagner said. "As back-and-middle-office are being build up first, companies will certainly hire locally," he said.

Paris also has high hopes for Brexit. About 10,000 jobs may move to the city as a direct result of

the U.K. leaving the EU, according to Paris Europlace, a lobby group for the French capital. Another up to 30,000 indirect positions may also be created, Gerard Mestrallet, chairman of the group, said in a Bloomberg Television interview last week. **Bloomberg**

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what's ON



SCULPTURE — A JOURNEY, EXHIBITION BY ANTONIO LEÇA

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

UNTIL: October 21, 2018

VENUE: A2 Gallery, Albergue SCM

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550

ANNUAL ARTS EXHIBITION BETWEEN CHINA AND PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COUNTRIES—THE UNIVERSE

TIME: 10am-7pm (closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: September 9, 2018

VENUE: Ox Warehouse

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

ANNUAL ARTS EXHIBITION BETWEEN CHINA AND PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COUNTRIES - ALTER EGO

TIME: 10am-7pm (closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: September 9, 2018

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Old Court Building, Tap Seac Gallery, Taipa Houses Museum

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE

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

VENUE: Macau Science Center

ADMISSION: MOP25 (Exhibition Centre)

MOP60 (Planetarium 2D dome or 2D sky shows)

MOP80 (Planetarium 3D dome or 3D sky shows)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

EXHIBITION OF NEW WORKS IN MAM COLLECTION

TIME: 10am-7pm (last admission 6:30pm; closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: October 26, 2018

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

Offbeat

HUNGRY HEADACHE: GERMAN CITY SEEKS TO EVICT BIG CATFISH



A German city is looking for a way to get rid of a giant catfish that is believed to have developed a taste for ducklings after eating all of its fellow fish in the municipal pond.

The roughly 1.5-meter fish has been making waves in Offenbach, near Frankfurt. News agency dpa reported that the city government said earlier this week that it has found a professional angler to catch the fish, first seen about a year ago, but a formal contract has yet to be signed.

The city plans to have its unwelcome guest caught alive and taken to a private pond somewhere, but officials will first have to be satisfied that it can't escape into flowing water and that its new home is suitable for a catfish.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
15:50	Miscellaneous
17:15	Miscellaneous
18:00	Maternity
18:50	Miscellaneous
19:35	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	Non-daily Portuguese News
22:10	Around the World
22:25	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Miscellaneous
00:35	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:20	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



Patricia Cahill



Karen Smith

Two teenage girls from the Midlands have been arrested for drug smuggling in Thailand.

Patricia Cahill, 17, and Karen Smith, 18, were stopped by customs officials at Bangkok airport trying to board a flight to Amsterdam.

They found nearly 70lb (32kg) of powdered heroin with a street value of about £4m hidden in shampoo bottles and coffee and biscuit tins.

The girls claim they did not know what was in the containers, given to them by a third person.

They are denying the allegations being made against them.

The British consulate in Bangkok has appointed a solicitor to represent Ms Cahill and Ms Smith in the Thai courts.

Drug trafficking is punishable by death in Thailand but foreigners usually have this sentence commuted.

Under Thai law Ms Cahill is too young to be executed.

Speaking from his home in Birmingham Ms Cahill's father did not even know his daughter had left the country. Patrick Cahill thought she was holidaying in Scotland.

He said that Patricia was "dead against drugs, she was dead against abortions and things like that."

The poppy fields of the so-called 'Golden Triangle' - between Thailand, Laos and Burma - have attracted drug smugglers since the 1960s.

Thailand has responded to international pressure to control the illicit trade by enforcing harsh sentences and searching all baggage leaving the country.

Ten years ago British nurse Ruth Nightengale served 18 months of a 20 year sentence for heroin smuggling in Thailand before her release after receiving a royal pardon.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Ms Cahill and Ms Smith had met a man in a Birmingham nightclub who paid for their flights to Thailand.

Once there, they were given packages to take to Gambia, a well-known drugs transit point. Amsterdam was a stopover on the way.

They claimed they thought the packages contained sweets and toiletries.

British customs officers said that they had first noticed the girls as possible drugs couriers at Heathrow on 6 July.

British and Thai authorities then tracked them through Thailand.

Both girls were found guilty and served three years in prison before being given a royal pardon after pressure from the British Government.

They were released in 1993.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
An authority figure who's been on your case pretty hard lately has really done you a favor. You've been toeing the line, doing everything just right and even forcing yourself to work a bit of overtime.

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
A loved one has recently shared a very special, very cherished and very secret dream with you - and you're beginning to think that you can actually help make it happen for them.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
You promised yourself - and a certain person - that you'd never, ever say a word to anyone about a certain subject. Now, though, you're tempted - extremely tempted.

Libra
Sep.23-Oct. 22
Finishing up that list won't be a challenge. You'll be on a roll, however, so convincing you to stop and take a break may be a problem, but getting you to quit and have some fun tonight won't be.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
The universe is perfectly primed to inspire everyone to be excessive, extravagant and out of control - to really go overboard, in any and all departments. Of course, since that's how you tend to be.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Once that's done, however, promise yourself you'll get back to having some serious fun. You've been working hard, and you deserve some downtime - stress-free downtime, that is. Why not take it tonight?

Taurus
April 20-May 20
Talk about stress. You've been worried about a dear one for what seems like forever. Finally, they asked for your advice, which you happily gave. Now they're refusing to take it.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Your mouth is running full-tilt, as are your emotions. This just isn't like you, they'll all say. But, you know what? It may be time that it was. You've been taking a lot of nonsense from a lot of people for far too long.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Keeping your opinions to yourself will absolutely not come easily now - in fact, it may actually be downright impossible. Fortunately, you're witty enough to cover up any 'innocent' faux pas you happen to make.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
That long distance matter is about to come to an end, in a pleasant fashion, believe it or not. Now, isn't there someone else you should be calling? Someone you haven't spoken with...

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Your focus is currently on one-to-one relationships, and it will stay there for the next few days - much to your lucky sweetheart's delight. You'll enjoy this time with them for obvious reasons.

Pisces
Feb.19-Mar. 20
How about planning some sort of lavish celebration? Say, dinner out, or a limo ride - or both? There's nothing like a touch of romance to make an evening memorable.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

8				1				
		5				1	6	9
			9		5			8
3	6	4			1			
		8	4		2	6		
			7			8	4	3
7			2		4			
1	5	6				2		
				7				5

Easy+

4				2			5	
	7				1			4
		8		7				2
9			3			7		
	5	7					6	3
		3			2			9
	2			1		8		
	8		4					6
		5		6				3

Medium

					4	3	1	
2		3						9
6	4							
5			2		6			3
	6		3	9	7			2
	3		4		1			6
							6	8
8						2		3
	1	9	8					

Hard

						6		1
8			2					
	3	6			8			
				7		5		
	1							
5			3				8	
4		7						2
				1				

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	23	33	thundershower/cloudy
Harbin	23	29	drizzle/moderate rain
Tianjin	27	34	thundershower/cloudy
Urumqi	20	26	cloudy/drizzle
Xi'an	25	38	cloudy
Lhasa	12	23	drizzle/shower
Chengdu	24	33	overcast/shower
Chongqing	28	39	clear
Kunming	18	26	cloudy
Nanjing	27	36	cloudy
Shanghai	26	34	cloudy
Wuhan	28	37	cloudy
Hangzhou	27	36	cloudy/clear
Taipei	24	34	drizzle/overcast
Guangzhou	26	33	thundershower
Hong Kong	27	31	shower
WORLD			
Moscow	20	26	drizzle
Frankfurt	15	26	drizzle
Paris	16	25	cloudy
London	12	22	cloudy/overcast
New York	24	28	moderate rain

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Eastern nanny; 5- Boise's state; 10- Greek goddess of the earth; 14- "Le Roi d'Ys" composer; 15- More recent; 16- Performs; 17- Within (prefix); 18- Long Island town; 19- Hit the mall; 20- Poultry enclosure; 21- Deformed; 23- Maui memento; 25- Paving material; 26- Absolute sovereignty; 31- Closes in on; 35- U-turn from NNW; 36- Fanatical; 38- Pan-fry; 40- Parent's sister; 42- HOMES, e.g.; 44- Work without ____; 45- Military chaplain; 47- Staggers; 49- 007 creator Fleming; 50- Atty.-to-be exams; 52- Ceylon, now; 54- Definite article; 56- Hole goal; 57- Unexpected repercussion; 62- Heinous; 66- Baseball family name; 67- Beethoven dedicatee; 68- Sleuth Wolfe; 69- German Mister; 70- Challenger; 71- Get one's ducks in ____; 72- Strong ____ ox; 73- Actor Keach; 74- Completely without madness;

DOWN: 1- One of the Baldwins; 2- Look ____ hands!; 3- Chorus member; 4- Hype; 5- Harmful; 6- Arnaz of "I Love Lucy"; 7- Hole-making tools; 8- Robbery; 9- Child who has lost both parents; 10- Struggle for air; 11- Dull pain; 12- Prince William's school; 13- Venomous snake; 22- Son of Zeus in Greek mythology; 24- Flub; 26- Quickly, briefly; 27- Run-of-the-mill; 28- Looks after; 29- Girder type; 30- Omigosh!; 32- Battery type; 33- Confrontation; 34- Meat; 37- Doe or fawn; 39- Sicilian sight; 41- Singing syllable; 43- Lubricous; 46- Novel ending; 48- Hearst kidnap grp.; 51- Destroys, as documents; 53- Places of contest; 55- Panache; 57- Pub orders; 58- ____ song (cheaply); 59- Rotate; 60- Currency of Turkey, and formerly of Italy; 61- Just ____!; 63- Aloe ____; 64- Wrinkle remover; 65- Actor Rob; 66- Gotchal;

Yesterday's solution

K	E	T	C	H	U	P		V	I	B	R	A	T	E
A	T	A	L	O	S	S		E	L	E	A	N	O	R
N	U	M	I	D	I	A		R	E	A	C	T	O	R
T	I	A		N	L	R	B		K	E	A	T	S	
M	A	G	M	A		B	E	R	G					
F	A	T	U	P		S	K	I	E	R		O	I	D
O	M	E	L	E	T		S	T	S		I	N	R	E
S	A	L	E	R	N	O		A	E	O	N	I	A	N
I	N	E	S		O	R	D		T	R	U	S	T	S
N	A	G		S	T	R	E	P		E	S	T	E	S
S	C	O	N	E		G	A	E						
W	A	S	T	R	E	L		L	I	N	E	A	T	E
A	L	I	E	N	E		L	A	O	T	I	A	N	
M	E	S	S	A	G	E		A	D	D	O	N	T	O

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Macau
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Front Balcony
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Ref: 18060680

Violet Court, Hellene Gardens
Coloane
2,530sq ft / HKD 20M
HKD 7,905sq ft
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Ref: 18035546

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HKD 40,000 / 3,755 sq ft
Ref: 18050678

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A NEW KING IN TURIN

At 33, Ronaldo says age isn't important

At the age of 33, many football players are past their peak. Cristiano Ronaldo vows to show he is not one of them.

Juventus signed Ronaldo from Real Madrid last week for 112 million euros (USD131.5 million) — an Italian league record sum — and the world player of the year penned a four-year contract.

Some see it as an extravagant sum for a player who, although a five-time Ballon d'Or winner, is entering the latter stages of a glittering career.

At his first news conference as a Juventus player yesterday [Macau time], Ronaldo insisted he was motivated by a new challenge and keen to step out of his comfort zone after nine years at Madrid.

"With all due respect, usually players of my age go to Qatar or China, so coming to such an outstanding club at this stage in my career makes me very happy," he said.

"I'm different from all the other players who think their career is over at my age. I want to show that I'm not like the others, I'm different. It's an emotional moment for me because I'm not 23, I'm 33.

AP PHOTO



The Portuguese ace salutes his fans as he arrives to undergo medical checks at the Juventus stadium in Turin

"I'm not here on holiday," he added. "I want to mark the history of Juventus. I hope I can surprise everyone one last time and I'm very, very confident."

Ronaldo has always been credited with a phenomenal workrate, and he has promised to continue that at Juventus in order to prolong his longevity.

The Portugal forward moved

from Manchester United to Real Madrid in 2009, and became the Spanish club's all-time leading scorer with 451 in 438 matches. He helped Madrid win four Champions Leagues — beating Juventus in the final in 2017 — and also won La Liga and the Copa del Rey twice each.

Ronaldo, who also led Portugal to the European Championship

in 2016, also won the Champions League at Manchester United as well as three Premier Leagues and the FA Cup.

He expects his winning ways to continue at the Serie A champion.

"It will be tough, I know that," Ronaldo said. "The league is very tough but Juve is ready and I will be ready. The age is not impor-

tant. I feel good, I feel motivated. I will try to do my best like always. I'm looking forward to starting the league well and to try to win every title."

On his arrival at Allianz Stadium for his medical on Monday, Ronaldo was greeted by hundreds of fans, who chanted his name and "Portaci la Champions" ("Bring us the Champions League trophy").

Juventus hasn't won the Champions League since 1996. It has been on the losing side in the final five times since then, including twice in the past four editions.

Juventus has won the Serie A for the last seven seasons — and done the league and Italian Cup double for the past four — but has struggled to transfer its domestic supremacy to the European stage.

Ronaldo has won the Champions League four times in the past five seasons. He has a record 120 Champions League goals, 105 of them at Madrid, 12 more than Juventus as a team managed in that same period.

"Juventus has been one step away from it and couldn't win," Ronaldo said. "I hope I can be the lucky charm." AP

AD

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AP PHOTO



FOOTBALL

The next senior World Cup is in France, not Qatar

Anne M. Peterson, Moscow

THE “next” World Cup got plenty of hype in Russia. A massive cube was alight with video images of “Qatar 2022” in Gorky Park, while the ground floor of the high-end shopping mall at Red Square was devoted to displays touting the event.

But apart from a social media campaign, there was little attention on the (actual) next senior World Cup: the women’s tournament next year in France.

That was surprising.

In the past several years since scandal enveloped soccer’s governing body, FIFA has made a point of proclaiming that it aims to raise both the role of women in the organization and the profile of the women’s game. President Gianni Infantino appointed Fatma Samoura as the first female secretary general of soccer’s international governing body in 2016, while also announcing the creation of a women’s soccer division.

The men’s World Cup in Russia could have provided an opportunity to address equity in the sport while also pointing to the women’s tournament next year. But France 2019 wasn’t promoted much at all: No signs,

events or displays in tourist areas.

Samoura made some appearances, but was not visible during the awards ceremony following France’s victory over Croatia on Sunday.

Venezuelan forward Deyna Castellanos was deemed the women’s soccer ambassador in Russia and she starred in a social media campaign anchored by the hashtag #DareToShine. But while the 19-year-old is considered a rising star in the women’s game, Venezuela failed to qualify for France so the selection seemed odd.

Infantino acknowledged more could be done for the women’s game at his wrap-up news conference in Moscow. There’s no doubt that the men’s World Cup every four years is FIFA’s financial juggernaut. But the women are the governing body’s second-biggest commercial asset.

“We have to invest in women’s football. We are thinking of a new women’s world league, because 50 percent of the world population, the ladies, need to be treated in the right way as well in a sport which is said to be macho like football,” Infantino said. “We have to invest in women’s football, we have programs

and we have ideas.”

The call for greater equity in soccer is not new.

In the run-up to the last Women’s World Cup in 2015, a group of international players, led by U.S. star Abby Wambach, protested because the tournament would be played on artificial turf, which is considered by many to be inferior to real grass. The men’s tournament had always been played on grass.

Once the point was made about the turf, the tournament in Canada turned out to be a rousing success, attracting the biggest crowds of any FIFA tournament outside of a men’s World Cup. It also broke TV rating records in North America, with the final drawing more viewers than any other prior men’s or women’s match in the United States.

Following their victory over Japan for the trophy, the U.S. women went on to bargain for, and receive, a better contract with U.S. Soccer that brought them closer to the compensation level of their male counterparts. The Americans were not alone, national teams from other countries won more equitable contracts with their federations, including Australia and Ireland.

France could provide FIFA an opportunity to showcase concrete change at the highest level, and the possible messaging couldn’t get more perfect: France won a World Cup, and now will host it.

Two issues stand out. It remains to be seen how much prize money will be increased in 2019. The U.S. women took home USD2 million in 2015. In contrast, France’s men earned \$38 million for their victory on Sunday.

And there’s no word yet whether video replay will be used just as it was for the men for the first time in Russia.

U.S. women’s coach Jill Ellis was in Moscow the final week of the tournament for an appearance on FOX, which has the domestic TV rights for 2019 France. She’d like to see an increase in prize money and the use of replay.

“I don’t know what the ramifications were in other countries, but you look at our own team, in our own country and the viewership and the attendance — there’s no difference [with the men],” Ellis said. “So I think that FIFA 100 percent should look at our game as a game, not as a women’s game or a men’s game.” **AP**

AP PHOTO



BASEBALL

Harper wins Home Run Derby at Nationals Park

Bryce Harper (pictured) has won the Home Run Derby in his home ballpark, providing another memory to Nationals fans in what could be his final season in Washington. Harper gave an uppercut fist pump after matching Kyle Schwarber’s 18 homers in the championship round on the final swing of his allotted 4 minutes. Because he hit two homers over 440 feet, Harper got 30 seconds of extra time. He launched the winning blast on his second extra swing, holding his bat over his head and walking down the first-base line as it cleared the center-field fence. The 2015 NL MVP has had an uneven season and the Nationals are stuck at .500 after making four playoff appearances in the previous six years. The Chicago Cubs’ Schwarber hit the most home runs in the derby with 55 through three rounds. But Harper was the only player to get the crowd roaring.

RUGBY

Mafi and Timani fined by Melbourne Rebels for Dunedin fight

The Melbourne Rebels has fined Super Rugby players Amanaki Mafi and Lopeti Timani for a physical altercation between the pair after the Rebels’ loss to the Highlanders in Dunedin on Saturday. The Rebels said in a statement yesterday it had handed down the maximum financial sanction of USD15,000 it was able to under its disciplinary rules after Mafi and Timani’s conduct had ‘breached team protocols and team management instructions.’ Mafi has also been charged with a criminal offence and appeared in court on Monday. The Japan international’s case has been adjourned by the Dunedin District Court until Aug. 3. Melbourne Rebels Chief Executive Officer, Baden Stephenson said: “Notwithstanding that both Mafi and Timani were finishing at the Rebels this season [...] it is only appropriate, given the seriousness of the incident, to sanction both players with a significant fine.”

AP PHOTO



WRESTLING

Hulk Hogan reinstated into wrestling Hall of Fame

World Wrestling Entertainment Inc. has reinstated Hulk Hogan (pictured) to its Hall of Fame, three years after he was found to have used racial slurs in a conversation caught on a sex tape. “This second chance follows Hogan’s numerous public apologies and volunteering to work with young people, where he is helping them learn from his mistake,” the organization wrote. Hogan told his 2.2 million followers on Twitter: “I’ve been praying for this day and I finally feel like I made it back home. Only Love 4 the #WWEUNIVERSE brother,” he wrote. The 64-year-old Hogan, whose real name is Terry Bollea, apologized in 2015 for using “offensive language” in a conversation many years before that. On the recording, he was caught talking about his daughter sleeping with a black man and used the “N” word.

opinion

Macau Matters

Richard Whitfield



HOTELS OF THE FUTURE

Business and recreational travel have been strongly growing in South-East Asia for many years, and this trend is sure to continue for many years to come as the region continues to develop. For example, in other more scholarly analyses I have shown that the number of hotel rooms in China should grow from about 5 million now to about 9 million in 2050, which is the equivalent of 1-3 new 200-room hotels opening every day until then.

This is a huge construction opportunity but it is also a huge maintenance opportunity because hotel rooms, restaurants and other customer facilities normally need to be completely refurbished every 7 or so years, and the kitchens, plant rooms and other hotel infrastructure needs replacement every 15+ years. Moreover, as local markets grow and develop existing hotels also need to be expanded and upgraded. (In a growing hotel market you are smart to initially buy excess land and build a smaller hotel and then fully build out the property several years later.)

However, for this future to be realized the kinds of hotels that are built and the ways that they are built need to change – we will need a lot of innovation. For example, electricity, transport, sewerage and other infrastructure developments in the region cannot keep pace with rising demand so that hotels in the future will need to be much more energy efficient and incorporate on-site renewable energy production and waste processing. Also, it will be very difficult to expand hotel education to train enough staff for all these new hotels, so that they will need to include much more automation to minimize staffing needs. Consider the question “why do hotels need check-in desks? For air travel you can book and pay for everything online and get an electronic boarding pass downloaded to your smart phone so that you simply arrive at the airport and walk straight onto your flight. Why can’t this be done for hotels?” On my recent trip to the US I found that Holiday Inns are starting to offer such services there.

Macau could be in a strong position to capitalize on this opportunity because we have spent the last 10+ years building many large, sophisticated, world-class hotels. Unfortunately, however, we have done relatively little to develop local expertise in this area. Local universities offer few courses related to building design, construction and maintenance, for example. Some effort has been put into encouraging hotel operating efficiencies with “green hotel” awards but they are too low profile. In my experience the local hotel industry association seems to do relatively little and the MGTO (Macau Government Tourism Office) is not focused on developing the local hotel support industry. Moreover, little if any local government (or industry) funding has been earmarked for hotel research and development. On this last point, I often chastise my hotelier friends asking them “where is your R & D budget?” whereas most manufacturing companies devote significant funds to R & D.

If Macau wants to nurture exportable expertise in new hotel design, construction and maintenance it needs to expand and promote education in these fields, promote hotel excellence more widely and consistently and nurture local industry and academic hotel research and development. I believe that with some effort consulting and other services related to hotel development and operations could be a substantial export industry for Macau. It builds on our existing strengths and addresses a strongly growing regional market need. Surprisingly, the Macau government’s Five-Year Development Plan 2016-2020 makes little mention of hotels, one of Macau’s largest industries.

THE BUZZ 1.1 BILLION PEOPLE FACE RISKS FROM LACK OF COOLING

New data from 52 countries in hot climates reveals that over 1.1 billion people face “significant risks” from lack of access to cooling including death, a U.N. envoy said.

Rachel Kyte told a press conference that “millions of people die every year from lack of cooling access, whether from food losses, damaged vaccines, or severe heat impact.”

The U.N. envoy, who is promoting the UN goal of providing sustainable energy for all people by

2030, said nine countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America with the biggest populations that face major risks are Bangladesh, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Pakistan and Sudan.

Kyte stressed that “cooling for all” doesn’t mean “putting an air conditioner in every home.”

She said an urgent effort is needed to clarify cooling needs, engage governments and the private sector, and develop and test possible new solutions.

GAMING ALERT

New Jersey gets five more sports betting applications

Wayne Parry, Atlantic City

New Jersey regulators have received five additional applications from gambling companies seeking to start offering sports betting before football season starts in September.

David Rebeck, director of the state Division of Gaming Enforcement, told The Associated Press that his agency received two new applications from brick-and-mortar facilities, and three applications for mobile sports betting by a deadline he set of yesterday [Macau time].

He would not identify the applicants, saying it’s up to the companies to identify themselves.

“Everybody wants to be fully functional by the end of August,” he said. “We’ll see.”

Meeting the deadline means state regulators expect to be able to consider their applications in time for the outlets to begin sports betting by the start of football season at the beginning of September, should everything be in order.

Not meeting the deadline, however, does not mean an applicant will be frozen out of the entire NFL season; applications that arrive later will still be considered,



although they might not be acted upon before the start of the season, Rebeck said.

Caesars Entertainment applied for permission to offer sports betting in person at Harrah’s casino, as well as at Bally’s casino, which also would service the adjacent Caesars casino. The company also applied for permission to offer mobile sports betting affiliated with all three of its Atlantic City casinos, according to Kevin Ortzman, the company’s Atlantic City regional president.

The Golden Nugget applied for in-person and mobile sports betting, according to its executive vice president, Tom Pohlman. Other potential applicants did not immediately respond to a request for comment Monday.

So far, two casinos, the Borgata and Ocean Resort, and two horse tracks, Monmouth Park and the Meadowlands, offer sports betting in New Jersey.

Rebeck says the division has not heard from three po-

tential applicants.

There are 14 potential sports betting licensees: the nine Atlantic City casinos, the three functioning racetracks (Monmouth Park in Oceanport, the Meadowlands in East Rutherford, and Freehold Raceway in Freehold), and two former track sites (Atlantic City Race Course in Mays Landing and the former Garden State Park site in Cherry Hill.)

Rebeck said he expects the division will approve additional sports betting operations in the coming weeks.

“I fully expect that by Aug. 1 we will see additional properties up and running,” he said.

Sports betting took in USD16.4 million at Monmouth Park, the Borgata and Ocean Resort during the first two weeks it was offered in June.

New Jersey won a U.S. Supreme Court case in May that cleared the way for all 50 states to offer sports betting should they so choose. **AP**

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

MDT/Paulo Barbosa



Macau; the beauty and the beast.

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

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

POLAND Officials in central Poland have halted improvements at a city park after archeologists found possibly tens of thousands of remains at the site of an old Evangelical cemetery that were supposed to have been exhumed and moved in the 1950s.



ITALY’s populist government is hoping to convince the European Union to lift sanctions against Russia but won’t rule out using its veto if diplomacy fails.

SPAIN’s Maritime Rescue Service says at least 328 people have been rescued in the Mediterranean Sea despite strong currents in the Strait of Gibraltar area, the closest stretch of water separating Europe from North Africa.



BRAZIL Police in Rio de Janeiro say one officer was wounded in the leg after forces came under fire during a shift change in a slum neighborhood. In response, elite police units are patrolling the Alemao complex. The confrontation comes a day after five people died in a shootout with police in the neighborhood.

VENEZUELA A former official at a state-run electric company in Caracas, Venezuela, has pleaded guilty to money laundering conspiracy relating to an alleged multibillion-dollar graft scheme in the Venezuelan oil industry.



US Members of Congress are warning that newspapers in their home states are in danger of cutting coverage or going out of business if the U.S. maintains recently imposed tariffs on Canadian newsprint.