



CURBING MEASURES WORKING

Real estate agencies say that the implementation of regulatory measures for the residential market is working

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CANIDROME MUST LEAVE THIS WEEK

DICJ director Paulo Martins Chan recalled that this Friday will be the final day of the greyhound racing concession

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LAST MILESTONE ON ROAD TO LEGALIZATION

Japanese lawmakers are expected to pass a casino bill that is the final hurdle for the legalization of gaming resorts

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WORLD BRIEFS

VIETNAM With China and the U.S. as its largest export destinations, Vietnam is seeking ways to insulate itself from an escalating trade war between the world's two biggest economies.



JAPAN yesterday approved its first national legislation banning smoking inside of public facilities, but the watered-down measure excludes many restaurants and bars and is seen as toothless.

AFGHANISTAN Officials say gunmen have abducted a team of 12 mine-clearing workers in eastern Kunar province.



INDIA A six-story building under construction collapsed onto an adjacent building east of the Indian capital, killing at least three people and trapping several others under the debris, police said yesterday. More on p13



TURKEY's state-run news agency says President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has filed complaints against the main opposition party leader and 72 legislators accusing them of insults for posting and sharing a cartoon on social media that depicts him as a variety of different animals.

More on backpage

Kindergarden fined for handling of abuse case

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Out of hospital, Thai boys recount moment they were found

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Firemen busier during first half of 2018



Data from the Fire Services Bureau (CB) for the first half of 2018 shows that the number of incidents reported has increased 3.6 percent from the same period last year, with 23,161 incidents reported compared to 22,339 incidents in the first six months of 2017. A total of 464 fires occurred, up 1 percent year-on-year. The CB dispatched ambulances 2,064 times, an increase from 2,037 times last year. The CB revealed that the main causes of fire were forgetting to turn off the stove before leaving the house, and leaving burning votive papers unattended, which resulted in 221 incidents. In a statement issued yesterday, the CB noted that "citizens should avoid calling ambulances except as a last resort."

Man arrested after pouring acid on wife

A man accused of pouring boiling oil and acid on his wife has been arrested while he awaits trial. The judge accepted the proposal of the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), given "the seriousness" of the case, according to a statement issued by the MP. The incident, previously reported by the Times, occurred on July 12 and was allegedly triggered by a disagreement between the couple.

Music Festival kicks off with opera 'L'Elisir d'Amore'



To commemorate the 170th anniversary of the death of composer Gaetano Donizetti, the 32nd Macau International Music Festival (MIMF) will kick off with the opera 'L'Elisir d'Amore'. This week, the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) released part of the program for the event to be held from September to October. The musicians and groups announced by the IC include the Hagen Quartet, jazz pianist Monty Alexander and Austria's Camerata Salzburg, together with French violinist Renaud Capuçon. The Macao Orchestra and the Shanghai Philharmonic Orchestra will jointly present the long-buried original version of Anton Bruckner's magnum opus, Symphony No. 8 in C Minor, composed in 1887. Tickets for this year's festival performances will be available for sale in August.

First-time homebuyers dominate property market



Jeff Wong (left), Gregory Ku (second from right) and other JLL executives



Roy Ho

Lynzy Valles

REAL estate agencies said that the implementation of regulatory measures for the residential market in February significantly curbed property speculation and first-time homebuyers dominated the market.

The total residential sales transaction volume in the SAR continued to grow in the first half of the year, as potential buyers sought to enter the market before the regulatory measures took place.

According to JLL Macau, the number of transactions in January reached 1,986, a surge of 207.9 percent year-on-year.

During the first half of the year, a total of 6,790 residential sales transactions were registered, up 16 percent year-on-year.

In its mid-year property review yesterday, JLL Macau noted that many developers launched their projects for sale before the new regulatory measures came into effect.

A total of 2,513 pre-sale transactions were recorded, accounting for more than 37 percent of the total residential transaction volume, higher than the yearly average of about 20 percent in the past few years.

Also, more than eight pre-sale projects and new completions were launched in the first two quarters.

The high-end residential rental index recorded a 15.6 percent year-on-year increase in the first half of 2018, while the rental index for mass-to-medium residential surged 17.5 percent

compared to last year.

Meanwhile, in the rental market, the rental values for high-end and mass-to-medium residential properties grew by 9.9 percent and 8.6 percent respectively compared with the end of 2017. This growth was supported by the increase in imported labor numbers in the first half of 2018 and the improved performance of the gaming sector's VIP market, as well as the rising rental numbers in the NAPE and Taipa areas.

"We all know that locals have their own leased properties already. The rental market is more or less focused on expatriates or those imported laborers," said Jeff Wong, head of residential properties.

"Those expatriates are working in the gaming sector and in VIP-related business, so the recovery of the VIP gaming sector definitely will generate more demand for labor or imported labor or for expats. There will be wide demand for rented residential housing," Wong explained.

In the first half of 2018, the government implemented a series of real estate regulatory measures, including the introduction of a new stamp duty rule on the acquisition of second properties and above.

These measures included the relaxation of the mortgage lending ratio for young Macau residents who are first-time buyers, and the removal of leased housing as an exemption to the vacant residential property tax, along with the implementation of the ordinance on real

estate leasing.

"The government is now actively working on its urban planning process, and the tender for the urban renewal research consultancy project is also in progress. All of these measures will help promote the healthy long-term development of the real estate market in Macau," said Gregory Ku, managing director at JLL Macau.

"We look forward to increased availability of real estate information to the public in the future," Ku added.

Meanwhile, Centaline Property predicts that two-bedroom and three-bedroom units will be concentrated in the third quarter.

In a media briefing yesterday, the real estate agency said that the quarterly property market will show a steady decline in price, and total amount of transactions will increase. It forecasts that there will be a 15 percent increase in property prices this year.

Commenting on whether a vacancy tax could be imposed in Macau, similar to what Hong Kong is working on, Roy Ho, director of Centaline Property, implied that this could lead to a property price increase.

"I suggest that we evaluate this issue differently. This is because in Macau's real estate market, the demand for housing is currently higher than the supply," Ho told the press.

"I suggest more regulations on housing issues, such as the regulation that came out earlier this year which successfully reduced the investment demand. [I also suggest] tackling several problems with one regulation in order to favor the development of the real estate market in Macau further," the director added.

Ho noted that the Hong Kong government is trying to increase land supply in order to solve the problem of housing shortage, adding that they are trying to withdraw housing ownership from second-hand ownership.

The neighboring region is also considering converting industry buildings into temporary housing to solve the issue of sub-divided flats.

"The real estate problem in Macau is definitely not as difficult as in Hong Kong. In terms of land supply and regulations, we definitely have the conditions to do more things to solve the problems in the housing market," he said.

WONG CALLS FOR OLDER RESIDENTS TO SELL VACANT HOMES

JEFF WONG, JLL Macau head of residential properties, said that many locals invest in real estate as there is no stock market in Macau. He also noted that there is a lack of housing availability that is difficult to solve. Conse-

quently, many smaller houses belong to older people and "can be made accessible to younger people." The JLL executive said that the government should explore "a next stage to convince owners to sell these houses."

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DSEJ fines kindergarten after sexual abuse reports

THE Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) concluded the investigation of the D. José da Costa Nunes kindergarten case of alleged pedophilia, in which seven complaints were made by parents to the police. The school has been fined and asked to submit a plan to prevent sexual abuse from reoccurring.

During the probe, DSEJ interviewed 18 persons, including the kindergarten's management and teachers. The handling of the case by the school director and other staff has been criticized for reportedly breaching the regulations for private schools and the Education System Basic Law. However, a statement issued by DSEJ does not specify which regulations were breached. The statement does not mention the value of the fine, but DSEJ told TDM that the fine amounts to MOP12,000.

Yesterday's statement indicates that the school must propose an execution plan before the beginning of the next school year to "make sure that the school

PAULO BARBOSA



works effectively and provides students with safe learning conditions."

The statement also reveals that D. José da Costa Nunes management has pledged to improve communication with parents

and guardians. The kindergarten, owned by the Association for Macanese Education (APIM), also said that crisis management training sessions will be held and the surveillance system has been improved. **PB**

Departments reiterate Canidrome must leave this week

SEVERAL government departments, including the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ), the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM), the Sports Bureau, and the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) held a joint press conference yesterday to respond to the latest request from the Macau Canidrome company for an extension to their use of the land plot. DICJ director Paulo Martins Chan recalled that this Friday, July 20, will be the final day of the greyhound racing concession. The company was advised to vacate the premises and either close down or acquire a new site.

The company has requested more time in order for it to facilitate the adoption of some hundreds of greyhounds still housed there.

The agencies present at the press conference announced that the government has rejected the request for an extension, reiterating that the company will have

to leave its current site by Friday.

Concerning the proposal of the company to temporarily shelter the dogs in the empty stables of the Macau Jockey Club, the DICJ director stressed that the Jockey Club must be the entity to present the request, however, no order has yet been received.

Chan added that, after the Canidrome company vacates the site, the DICJ will carry out follow-up work to confirm the termination of the concession has been adhered to.

Meanwhile, the IACM said it has provided quarantine services and issued greyhound export declarations to support the adoption activities of the company.

The DSSOPT said that, once the concession expires, the site will return to government ownership and will be reserved for future development that may include public infrastructure for education, sports or administrative facilities.

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LRT budget rises to MOP16.4 billion

THE budget for the Light Rapid Transit (LRT) project has been raised again, this time to a total of MOP16.4 billion, according to the Transportation Infrastructure Office (GIT).

Though this figure does not include the Macau line, which is yet to begin construction, it does include the Seac Pai Van extension and the Barra link.

The latest figure marks a 28 percent increase over the previous estimate of MOP12.8 billion. Moreover, public broadcaster TDM reported that GIT said it expects further budget hikes in future due to "inevitable" expenditure increases.

"It's inevitable to encounter expenditure increases when launching or confirming the implementation of certain routes because our latest budget mainly focuses on the Taipa route," the GIT coordinator, Ho Cheong Kei, told TDM.

According to TDM, the MOP16.4 billion is earmarked for eight major projects, including preparation studies, supervision, verification and train operating materials.



PHOTO ARCHIVE

In a statement from the government, the GIT wrote that it aimed to limit the cost of the Taipa segment at MOP11 billion (excluding the Seac Pai Van extension and the Barra link), of which MOP9.8 billion has already been awarded to date.

It said that the Taipa Line will begin operating in 2019, while construction on the Barra link between Taipa and Macau will begin in the fourth quarter of this year.

Meanwhile, the government has still not decided on ticket fares, saying only that it is

considering the introduction of a subsidy plan to keep fares low. It is already committed to paying Hong Kong train operator MTR Corporation MOP900 million per year under a five-year contract to help run the project.

MTR Corporation won a contract earlier this year worth around MOP6 billion to operate the Taipa Line. The company will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of train services within the first five years, and the repair and maintenance of trains, signaling systems and infrastructures.

CISAC visits Macau to discuss music copyright development

REPRESENTATIVES of the International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers (CISAC) visited Macau yesterday to learn about music copyright development in the region. Satoshi Watanabe, CISAC chairman for the Asia-Pacific, and Benjamin Ng, CISAC regional director for the Asia-Pacific, also visited the Office of the Secretary for Economy and Finance with Ung Kuoc Iang, the CEO of the Macau Association of Composers, Authors and Publishers (MACA), to have a meeting with Gonçalo Cabral, the legal counsel of GSEF.

During the meeting, Cabral shared the legal developments regarding the protection of intellectual property rights with the visitors. Ung introduced the past and current events of MACA on the promotion and education of Macau citizens about the protection of intellectual property and copyright in music, and the development of music licensing over the past 10 years.

According to a press release issued yesterday by MACA, "CISAC and national associations have always been concerned about the development of copyright in Macau, especially on broadcast media, cinemas, karaoke and the use



Gonçalo Cabral (center) with representatives of CISAC and MACA

of its members' music works by digital transmission."

CISAC is a non-profit and non-government organization which works closely with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The members include more than 230 collective management organizations around the world, 30 of which are from the Asia Pacific region. Through CISAC, MACA has signed reciprocal agreements with 49 overseas collective management organizations, managing the musical works of more than 2 million music creators in 110 countries and regions.

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Proposal to build hazardous materials storage raises questions

Renato Marques

THE proposal from the government to build a new hazardous materials storage in the Concordia Industrial Park area in Coloane raised several questions from the Urban Planning Committee (CPU), in a meeting held yesterday afternoon at the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT).

Presented by the Fire Services Bureau (CB) Commissioner, Leong Iok Sam, at the CPU's fifth meeting this year, the proposal nominates two land plots at the Industrial Park as suitable for storing hazardous materials. As Leong mentioned, the land plots will serve only as temporary locations for storage "until we can find a more suitable and definitive land plot, that should possibly be in a landfill." This final solution might take a few years to be achieved, according to Leong, who noted, "For now we need to solve this problem temporarily."

Despite achieving a consensus from the committee, the solution also raised several questions, with members wanting to know more about the project, especially regarding safety concerns and the kinds of products that would be stored in the facility.

In response, Leong replied that most of the substances to be stored in this new facility are not "very dangerous per se, but are considered hazardous in terms of storage and handling." He gave the example of "oxygen and other substances," which are currently being stored in several locations across the region in order to avoid "concentration" of such substances in one place.

However, as previously mentioned, the purpose of the new



facility is precisely to "centralize" those materials in order to "avoid problems," Leong said. This apparent contradiction is resolved by the fact that the hazardous materials will be stored "far from the residential areas."

Leong also noted that the project is being assessed and will include all safety measures, especially for fire risk. The project will be managed by a professional team in loco, which will manage both the storage of the different materials as well as their transportation.

Committee member Chan Tak Seng, director of the Macau Institution of People's Alliance and one of the most active members of the CPU, questioned the need to include such a plan on the Urban Master Plan. He asked, "For now there are no houses in that area, but in five or 10 years who can tell?" The same member also inquired whether, with the construction of this new facility in Coloane, the go-

vernment would eliminate the current storage locations for these kinds of materials. Leong replied saying, "Currently we have one storage site [for hazardous materials] located at Ilha Verde district and another one at Ka Ho, at the deep-water maritime port. Ideally, we want to add this new facility to the existing ones, but if needed, maybe we can think about relocating the materials at Ilha Verde to this new one [and dismantle the old facility]."

There is not yet a defined date for the start of the construction of the facility, but the CB Commissioner said that he hopes that this can happen as soon as possible.

With the green light given by the committee for the Urban Condition Plan (PCU), the process should now move forward. The new storage facilities should be located in two land plots at the Concordia Industrial Park, next to Colo-

As in previous CPU meetings, Leong was critical, saying, "We are always discussing things in isolation. It would be good for the next meeting if we could have a general blueprint about all the facilities and ideas from the government, so we can have a concrete idea of all the necessary planning."

This request was approved by the temporary meeting chairperson, Leong Keng Seng, in the absence of the president of the committee, Li Canfeng, who said that he would invite the SSM to present the project in detail.

■ The new storage facilities should be located in two land plots at the Concordia Industrial Park, next to Coloane's Water Treatment Plant

ne's Water Treatment Plant. Another topic that raised concerns from the committee members was plans for the location of the new Health Care Centers in Zone A of the new landfills. The projects are to occupy the plots A9 and C8 of that new area, but some members expressed concerns that the government was not disclosing enough information on the projects.

The first to raise this was member Manuel Iok Pui Ferreira. "There is very little information; there are no prospective figures on the number of users and others. We know that Zone A will have a lot of people," he said, giving the example of the Ocean Gardens Health Care Center which is now saturated, due to being "undersized."

In Ferreira's opinion, backed by members Chan Tak Seng and architect Ben Leong, it is imperative that the Health Bureau (SSM) explain exactly what the project entails.

DSSOPT staff added that, according to legal standards, there should be one Health Care Center per 50,000 people, noting that since it is expected that the area will have 96,000 residents, the government is planning to build two units.

As for Chan, he noted mistakes made in the planning of Seac Pai Van, recalling that the government said Zone A would primarily have public housing, a type of housing in which priority is given to the elderly, people with disabilities and those who are in need of health services most.

FOOD & BEVERAGE

Shake Shack plans to open 14 stores in HK, Macau

SHAKE Shack Inc. is stirring up shares of SSI Group Inc. after the burger chain founded in New York selected the upscale Philippine retailer as its local partner.

News that the world famous ShackBurger will be served in Manila beginning in the spring of 2019 sent shares of licensee SSI rising as much as 18 percent, the

most in more than two years. Volume surged more than 3,500 percent above the stock's three-month daily average.

Shake Shack, in a statement, said it selected SSI Group as its Philippine partner because of its retail expertise and culture of hospitality. SSI is the largest retailer of luxury brands like Hermes, Prada and Gucci in the

Southeast Asian nation and has also expanded into dining through TWG Tea and Salad Stop!.

The New York burger chain is expanding in Asia as the U.S. market becomes saturated. Shake Shack last year said it plans to open 14 stores in Hong Kong and Macau through 2027. Singapore is also getting its first Shake

Shack at Changi Airport's newest terminal, The Straits Times reported.

"Manila is an incredible city; its heart beats with a distinct warmth and hospitality," said Michael Kark, vice president of global licensing at Shake Shack, in a statement. "We are excited to begin the search for our first site in Metro Manila." **Bloomberg**



Football betting surges thanks to major tournaments

BETTING in Macau for football matches has registered an exponential hike by 93.7 percent in the second quarter (Q2) of this year, when compared with the first quarter (Q1), according to data published by the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ).

The gross revenue from football betting in Q2 reached MOP244 million, that is, 93.7 percent more than Q1, when betting activity revenue amounted to MOP126 million.

Contributing to the results was not only the FIFA World Cup 2018, which started on June 14, but also the final stages of the most important European competitions (UEFA Europa League and Champions League), where the final matches were played in May.

Additionally, due to the FIFA World Cup, the betting results are likely to score well in the Q3 of this year, as the July results will be included.

In 2014 (when the previous World Cup was held), the betting results surged in comparison with the previous year by 42.7 percent



to a total of MOP598 million in 2014. The same occurred in 2016 when the UEFA European Championship took place, leading to the results growing by 7.6 percent to MOP541 million.

Gambling in the casinos recorded a total of MOP73.7 billion in Q2 and closed the first half of the year with a total of MOP150.2 billion.

As it has become customary, a high proportion of revenue comes

from baccarat (88.6 percent) or MOP133.1 billion with the highlight for VIP baccarat accountable for almost MOP84 billion. Both baccarat games registered similar drops over Q2 with a small VIP baccarat incident.

Greyhound racing also contributed to the growth, with a total of MOP12 million of revenue in Q2, almost 10 percent more than in Q1, ahead of its closure this week.

41pct of restaurants reported revenue growth in May

FORTY-ONE percent of interviewed restaurants and similar establishments reported year-on-year revenue growth in May, down by 6 percentage points from April, according to the latest data from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC).

On the other hand, the share of interviewed establishments recording a year-on-year decline in revenue over April increased by 7 percentage points to 29 percent.

The interviewed restaurants expected their business to remain stable in June, with 82 percent anticipating a year-on-year rise in revenue or a steady performance, up by 2 percentage points from May. Meanwhile, 18 percent of the interviewed establishments anticipated a year-on-year decline in revenue.

With regards to the retail trade, 69 percent of interviewed retailers reported a year-on-year sales increase

in May, up by 2 percentage points from April. All interviewed leather goods retailers, 89 percent of supermarkets and 83 percent of watch, clock and jewelry retailers showed a year-on-year rise in sales in May.

Meanwhile, 14 percent of the interviewed retailers registered a year-on-year sales decline, down by 3 percentage points from April.

Retailers were more optimistic about their business prospects in June, with 83 percent predicting a year-on-year sales increase or a steady performance, up by 4 percentage points from May. On the other hand, 17 percent of the interviewed retailers expected a year-on-year decline in sales.

The sample of the Business Climate Survey on Restaurants & Similar Establishments and Retail Trade was selected based on the value of revenue of the establishments, comprising 167 restaurants and 135 retailers.

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Swatch CEO boosts hiring, inventory to keep up with watch demand

Corinne Gretler

SWATCH Group AG, the largest Swiss watchmaker, is boosting headcount and inventory to record levels to keep up with accelerating demand across its portfolio of 18 brands.

Swatch hired more than 800 employees in the six months through June and has been stocking up on gold and diamonds, lifting inventory to a record 6.7 billion francs (USD6.7 billion), the Biel, Switzerland-based owner of Harry Winston and Tissot said as it reported first-half profit that beat estimates.

Double-digit sales growth is possible this year, according to Chief Executive Officer Nick Hayek, who has been aiming for a high-single digit percentage increase. Swatch is benefiting from renewed appetite for luxury timepieces in China and Hong Kong after the industry cut thousands of jobs in past years due to a downturn. Of late, even the low-end segment, which had been suffering due to competition from the Apple

Watch, has been showing signs of a rebound.

Swatch had 36,200 employees at the end of June, near the record level set in 2015. The stock fell 0.7 percent to 470.40 francs as of 11:40 a.m. in Zurich, having gained 18 percent this year.

"Demand is so high," Hayek said. "We have bottlenecks in many areas," he added, pointing to dials, extra-precise Longines quartz timepieces and Swatch Skin Irony watches, a thin steel version of its namesake brand.

The company said the 6 percent increase in inventory was fueled by purchases of gold and diamonds, and is justified in the event a trade war would disrupt key supplies.

"A rich inventory level is a prerequisite for healthy growth," Swatch said. "In view of the turbulence in global trade with the introduction of punitive tariffs, it is strategically even more important to increase stocks of essential raw materials."

Wholesalers have also spurred demand by ordering again since the end of last year after a period of being too reluctant to



Swatch CEO Nick Hayek

buy stock, Hayek said, adding that sales of Harry Winston keep growing at a double-digit pace.

"The increase in gold and diamonds makes sense as jewelry, at Harry Winston, but also high-end watches, like Breguet, Blancpain and Omega, have high growth," said Rene Weber,

an analyst at Bank Vontobel AG.

Swatch said all its brands, including middle- and lower-end watches, showed an acceleration in sales, and that the positive trend continued in July. The company forecast strong growth and further market-share gains in the second half.

The company didn't increase its store count in the first half, instead closing some to reopen them in better locations. Wholesale is benefiting as retailers restock, Hayek said.

Operating profit rose 70 percent to 629 million francs, beating analysts' expectations for 612 million francs. **Bloomberg**

Bitcoin tests USD7,500 as crypto tokens rally back to June levels

CRYPTOCURRENCIES extended their rally yesterday, with Bitcoin breaking above USD7,500 for the first time since June as the market seeks to shrug off some of the security and regulatory concerns that have plagued it for much of the year.

Yesterday's rebound was broad. The MVIS CryptoCompare Digital Assets 10 Index, comprising the 10 biggest, most liquid coins, rose as much as 11 percent, before paring its gain to 8.2 percent as of 7:55 a.m. in New York.

Bitcoin, the largest digital asset, was 1.4 percent higher, according to Bloomberg composite pricing. Rival tokens including Ripple, Ether and Litecoin were mixed but held most of their gains from Tuesday. Despite the advance, Bitcoin remains more than 60 percent below the all-time high posted in December.

Recent gains will be a welcome relief for crypto



bulls. Prices have repeatedly come under pressure this year as regulators around the world heightened scrutiny or even outlawed dealings with the nascent industry, which at the same time grappled with a series of hackings at exchanges, including a \$500 million heist in Japan earlier this year.

"Markets have been reacting to a number of positive pieces of news, mostly circling around big names such as BlackRock," Ryan Rabaglia, head trader with cryptocurrency dealing firm

Octagon Strategy Ltd. in Hong Kong, said in an email. "With any indication of institutional interest in this space comes positive price action, even if it's unclear in nature. The market just eats it up."

A report Sunday said that a BlackRock Inc. team was examining whether the manager of \$6.3 trillion of assets should invest in Bitcoin futures. While a BlackRock spokeswoman declined to comment on its current thinking, CEO Larry Fink later downplayed speculation in an inter-

view with Bloomberg Television.

In the latest suspicion of fraud, white-collar prosecutors in Austria started probing a local operator of crypto ATMs, daily newspaper Der Standard reported yesterday. Emails to the company, Coined Ltd., seeking comment went unanswered.

Rabaglia also highlighted a Financial Stability Board report to the Group-of-20 countries Monday on global regulators' work on crypto-assets. The FSB and other regulators may force banks to meet new capital requirements for their holdings of Bitcoin and other crypto-assets. The FSB also said crypto-assets don't currently threaten the financial system.

"Government agencies reporting in any way that is not deemed negative is another feather in the cap," Rabaglia said. "Once again, crypto markets are here to stay." **Bloomberg**

JAPAN

Casinos face last milestone on road to legalization

JAPANESE lawmakers are expected to pass a casino bill that is the final hurdle for the legalization of gaming resorts, bringing international operators a step closer to a market that could be worth as much as USD25 billion.

The Upper House of the Japanese parliament is set to vote on the casino implementation bill before the current session ends July 22. The legislation would establish important parameters for the industry that have been the subject of heated debate in Japan, including limitations to curb problem gambling and the number of locations that will receive initial licenses.

Western operators like MGM Resorts International and Las Vegas Sands Corp.

have pledged to spend as much as \$10 billion to tap into the island nation's potential for mass gaming. Yet legalization won't send the companies racing to make formal proposals for resorts. Operators must still await steps such as the creation of a national regulatory body and decisions relating to possible destinations for integrated resorts.

"There are many, many steps that need to be taken before construction takes place, and one of the first ones would be for the casino control commission to be established, funded and have a public comment process on it," said Jay Defibaugh, an analyst at CLSA. "Adding the legal meat around the bones of the implementation law, that takes years." **Bloomberg**

ANALYSIS

Textile industry shattered by China trade embraces Trump crusade

Matt Townsend

WHILE there's no shortage of doom and gloom coming from corporate America about President Donald Trump's trade war with China, there is at least one U.S. industry cheering him on: textiles.

After decades of shedding thousands of jobs and closing factories as the U.S. opened up trade with China and other countries, textiles stabilized in recent years. And just as the sector was trying to invigorate growth, along came a presidential candidate pledging to revive American manufacturing.

The industry immediately saw Trump's election as the best chance in a generation to reorient U.S. trade policy. And so far he hasn't disappointed. The president withdrew America from negotiations on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade deal in his first week on the job. Now he's enacted tariffs on USD36 billion of Chinese-made goods, including some textiles, and wants to push that to \$250 billion.

But the industry wants more. Textiles - like fabrics and yarns - are the materials used to make everything from clothing to seat belts. And duties on end, or finished, apparel and other goods from China would help domestic manufacturers compete better on price with Chinese companies and generate more orders for U.S.-made textiles, industry leaders say. Trump, however, largely avoided targeting consumer products for fear of upsetting voters who could face higher prices at the mall.

CREDITING TRUMP

"We've got to do something to level the playing field with China," said Michael Woody, chief executive officer of Trans-Tex LLC, a Cranston, Rhode Island-based maker of lanyards and shoelaces. "I give the president credit for trying to make something happen. For a U.S. manufacturer like my company, we want to see tariffs on end products."

Placing duties on finished items is anathema to U.S. retailers and consumer brands that rely on Chinese goods, including \$28 billion worth of apparel last year, to keep prices low for shoppers. They say levies will only increase price tags, and ultimately



cost jobs.

The Trump administration largely avoided hitting consumers in the first round with 25 percent duties - mostly on machinery - that went into effect July 6. China matched those with retaliatory levies on goods from soybeans to electric cars, like Teslas.

Just four days later, the president responded with a proposal to put 10 percent levies on \$200 billion of imports that included end products like handbags, baseball gloves and air conditioners. Also on the list were dog leashes, a smaller part of Trans-Tex's business that Woody called "good news."

And while apparel was spared, Trump has threatened putting tariffs on all Chinese imports, which last year totaled half a trillion dollars. That's raised alarm bells around corporate America. Rick Helfenbein, president of the American Apparel & Footwear Association with members like Gap Inc. and Macy's Inc., has started calling the proposed duties a "Trump tax."

CONSUMERS TO PAY

"This will not do anything to help American workers,

American consumers, or American businesses," Helfenbein said in a statement after the \$200 billion list was announced. "This will result in inflationary costs throughout the supply chain, ultimately paid for by American consumers."

The textile and apparel manufacturing industries have little sympathy for companies railing against starting a trade war with China. It points to the U.S. opening up trade with China beginning in 2000 and China's entrance a year later into the World Trade Organization - thanks to the backing of then-president Bill Clinton - as ushering in an era of domestic decline that has cost their sectors almost 800,000 jobs.

"To the retailing and importing community, guess what - this is what President Trump campaigned on," said Lloyd Wood, director of public affairs for the National Council of Textile Organizations. "They knew this was coming. If you chose to keep all your eggs in the China basket, that's a risk you are knowingly taking."

'QUITE POSITIVE'

Since Trump was a candi-

date, he's criticized America's trade deficit with China, which reached a record \$375 billion last year. If he's serious about reducing it, obvious targets would be textiles and the products made from them. In 1999, the U.S. imported \$8.5 billion worth of textiles and apparel from China, and only exported about \$176 million there. Shoot forward to last year, when the U.S. imported \$45 billion of those products from China, and exported less than \$1 billion. That's a trade gap of about \$44 billion just for textiles and apparel.

That's why Trump's election generated so much optimism in the industry. In January 2017, shortly after Trump was sworn in, Chief Operating Officer Thomas Caudle of Unifi Inc. - one of the largest U.S. yarn and fabric producers with about \$670 million in annual sales - said it has the "potential to be quite positive for us." The president's decision to pull out of the TPP would also save money for the company, located in the heart of what's left of the U.S. textile industry in Greensboro, North Carolina. Unifi declined to comment for this story.

SHIFT WEST?

Since then, Trump's saber-rattling has turned into a very public dispute with America's largest trading partner.

It's one that could shift production to North America and Central America, where free-trade agreements have boosted the prospects of companies like Unifi, according to Christopher McGinnis, an analyst for Sidoti & Co. U.S. textile-makers sell yarns and fabrics to companies like Nike Inc. and Abercrombie & Fitch Co., who then finish making the items in those regions and export them to the U.S. duty free. More protections against Chinese imports could also boost production in America, McGinnis said.

"If you are looking for a green shoot, this could be an industry that could benefit," McGinnis said. "They've been beat up so much by China."

Woody, the Trans-Tex CEO, has been on the front lines of competing against China for more than three decades, and in 2016 published "American Dragon," a book based on those experiences. In the 1980s and 1990s, he was a sales executive at a pen maker, Quill Co., which was undercut by cheaper Chinese imports and later acquired by Newell Rubbermaid.

In 2008, Woody joined Trans-Tex, an 85-person company that goes head-to-head with China. It buys polyester material from a plant in North Carolina and uses it to make items such as branded lanyards for trade shows. It's survived by turning around small orders fast - about a third of its orders are shipped in 24 hours - and pitching better quality and fewer hassles because U.S. customers don't have to deal with overseas shipments.

But on big orders for 100,000 units, or more, that aren't needed so quickly, Trans-Tex faces Chinese competitors who often quote prices at a third of what it can, Woody says. Even a 10 percent tariff - like the one the Trump administration proposed last week - would help the company consider matching the Chinese more, he said.

"It would make a big difference," Woody said. "China is the issue." **Bloomberg**

AP PHOTO



Following the Helsinki summit, China's foreign ministry welcomed improved U.S.-Russian relations. A spokeswoman said Beijing was "full of confidence" about its own ties with Moscow.

■ In this love triangle, Putin and Xi are linked by strategic necessity, plus genuine personal affection

LOVE TRIANGLE

Cupid favors Xi over Trump in battle for Putin's affections

IN the race to woo Vladimir Putin, China's Xi Jinping is beating Donald Trump. Trump's quest to kindle a bromance with the Russian president has made some Americans squirm. His gushy performance in Helsinki, expressing confidence in Putin instead of U.S. intelligence agencies, ignited outrage across the political spectrum back home. Should Beijing worry that Trump could succeed in pulling Putin away from China? Probably not, political analysts say. Trump's charm offensive might cause Beijing a twinge of unease, given its tumultuous history with Moscow. But in this love triangle, Putin and Xi

are linked by strategic necessity, plus genuine personal affection. "Trump has made clear that he is a big fan of Putin," said Li Xin, director of the Russia center at the Shanghai Institute of Foreign Studies. "But everyone knows that Trump frequently changes his mind," said Li. "His attempts to be friendly cannot compete with the history and the intimacy of Xi and Putin's relationship." Moscow and Beijing are linked by practical and political needs. China wants Russian oil and gas to power the world's second-largest economy. Moscow needs Chinese trade and investment more than ever following its estrangement from the West over its 2014 annexation of Crimea.

They share a loathing of Islamic radicalism in Central Asia and resent U.S. global dominance. "Both leaders seek to curtail American influence, weaken U.S. alliances and modify the international system so it is more favorable to them," Bonnie Glaser of the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington said in an email. Trump raves about Putin's political skills, but the Chinese and Russian leaders have long enthused publicly about their unique rapport. Ahead of a visit to Beijing in June, Putin reminisced about celebrating his birthday with Xi over vodka and sausages five years ago.

"I've never established such relations or made such arrangements with any foreign colleague, but I did it with President Xi," Putin told Chinese state TV. Xi presented Putin with China's first "friendship medal" — an ornate gold necklace — and called him "my best, most intimate friend." The Russian and Chinese presidents have spent more time with one another than either has with any other foreign leader. As far as it is possible for global leaders to become real friends, they are "setting a pretty high bar," said Alexander Gabuev, a Sino-Russian relations expert at the Carnegie Moscow Center. "China has nothing to worry about," said Gabuev.

"China-Russia relations will not be affected by any external factors," said Hua Chunying. Yet there is the remote possibility Washington and Moscow might one day feel the need to unite against China if its rising influence tramples their interests, suggested commentator Harry Kazianis. "While we might rightly see Moscow as a rogue nation today, tomorrow it could be a partner in containing a common foe," Kazianis wrote this month in *The American Conservative*. That is unlikely any time soon, experts say. Trump backtracked on one of his comments after the outcry back home over his apparent dismissal of U.S. intelligence reports that Moscow meddled in the 2016 election. Rather than view Trump as a rival for Russia's friendship, China is more likely to be pleased by the growing split between Trump and American allies in Europe. "Beijing has better ties with both Washington and Moscow than they have with each other," Glaser said. "China likely expects that Trump's visit will not change this reality." **AP**

Air China fired pilots over e-cigarette emergency

CHINA has revoked the licenses of two Air China pilots after a vaping incident in the cockpit forced an emergency descent last week, Chinese media has reported. A passenger flight from Hong Kong to Dalian had to drop more than 6,500 meters due to a sudden loss of cabin pressure. Investigators said it was caused by one of the pilots smoking an e-cigarette. The civil aviation body fined the airline and cut the carrier's flights with Boeing 737 models by 10 percent.



People posted images online of the dropped oxygen masks on the flight

It also ordered Air China to undertake a three-month safety review.

The mid-air drama unfolded when one of the pilots, who was vaping,

tried to turn off a fan to stop his smoke reaching the passenger ca-

bin. Instead, he turned off the air-conditioning unit, causing a drop in the cabin's oxygen levels. Emergency measures were triggered, and oxygen masks dropped. The plane was forced to descend rapidly. If a plane loses cabin pressure, the pilot has to bring the aircraft to a lower altitude to keep crew and passengers safe. Once the crew saw that the air conditioning had been turned off, they reactivated it and brought the flight back to its

normal altitude. The plane went on to complete its flight as scheduled, and none of the 153 passengers or crew were injured. A third pilot on board, who was not involved in the incident, had his license revoked for six months and was banned by Air China for two years, the South China Morning post reports. Chinese flight regulations prohibit all flight crew from smoking, and banned passengers from using e-cigarettes on board in 2006. **MDT/BBC News**

Rod McGuirk, Canberra

REFUGEES

Australia succeeds in stopping migrants but many in limbo

WHEN Abdul Aziz reached Australia's Christmas Island aboard a smuggler's boat in 2013, he had no idea that weeks earlier his fate as a refugee from Sudan seeking a new life in a new world had been sealed.

Australia drew a line in the sand on July 19 of that year to stem a rising tide of asylum seekers brought by people smugglers on long and treacherous ocean voyages. No refugees who attempted to reach its shores by boat from that date forward would be allowed to make Australia their home.

Five years later, the polarizing policy — lauded as a template for other countries and condemned as a cruel abrogation of Australia's international obligations — appears to have succeeded as a deterrent. Near-daily arrivals from Indonesian ports of rickety fishing boats have virtually stopped.

But what to do with the hundreds of asylum seekers banished by Australia to sweltering immigration camps in the poor Pacific island nations of Papua New Guinea and Nauru is gaining urgency.

"The simplest way for me to describe it is it's just like hell," Aziz, 25, told The Associated Press by phone from an immigration hostel in a Papua New Guinea village. He hopes to be among the 1,250 refugees barred by Australia that President Donald Trump has reluctantly agreed to accept as part of a deal struck between Australia and former President Barack Obama's administration.

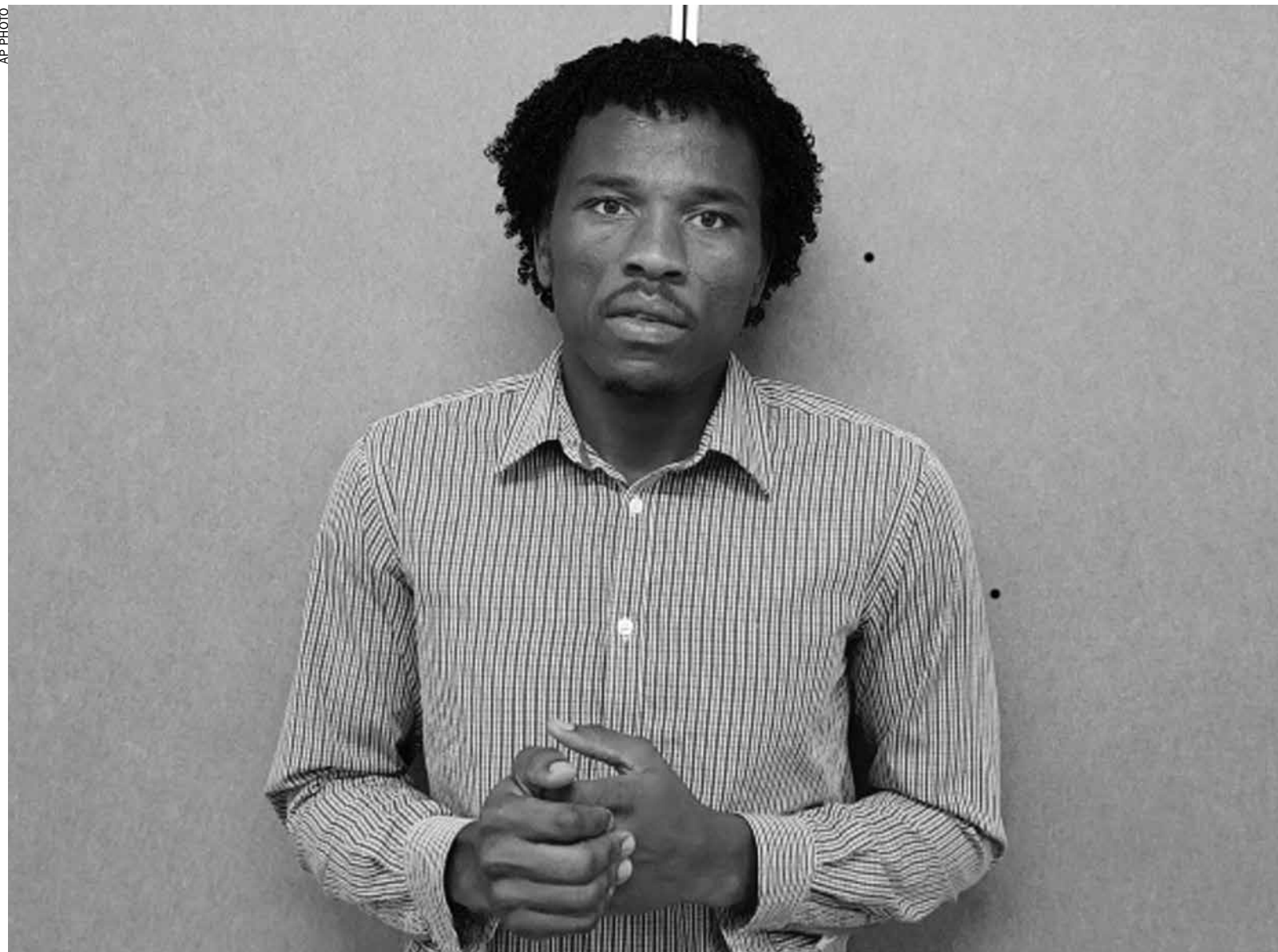
"You send people to a place and you want those people to either die or go back to where they came from even if that place is very, very dangerous," Aziz said. He described a growing sense of hopeless and fear of hostile villagers among the asylum seekers, some of whom are mute with despair.

Daniel Webb, director of Australia's Human Rights Law Center, told the U.N. Human Rights Council last month that Nauru's refugee population included 134 children, 40 who were born there. The number dropped to 124 by this week after some children were sent to Australia for medical treatment and others to the United States for resettlement.

"With every anniversary, with every birthday and with every death, the sense of hopelessness and sheer exhaustion in these island prisons rises," Webb said on Wednesday. "Our government can't just imprison them forever."

Australia offers to pay thousands of dollars to asylum seekers who agree to go home, and many have taken up the offer rather than languish in limbo. Australia also has a multi-million dollar deal with Cambodia to accept refugees who agree voluntarily to leave Nauru and Papua New Guinea. Few have

AP PHOTO



Abdul Aziz

accepted that offer.

New Zealand offered to resettle 150, but successive Australian governments have declined, fearing it might become a back door for the exiled refugees to enter Australia.

You [Australia] send people to a place and you want those people to either die or go back to where they came from even if that place is dangerous.

ABDUL AZIZ

The tense island camps have seen riots, murders, suicides and escalating mental illness.

The Australian government reached a settlement of 90 million Australian dollars (\$68

million) with 1,905 asylum seekers last year who sought compensation for alleged physical and psychological suffering while they were confined in Papua New Guinea.

Australia blames the asylum seekers for their plight. The government believes they stay in the islands mistakenly thinking Australia will eventually relent and let them in.

It happened before.

When Norwegian freighter MV Tampa rescued 433 Afghan asylum seekers in 2001 from a sinking Indonesian fishing boat and attempted to deliver them to the nearest port, Christmas Island, Australia sent special forces troops to stop the ship. The Tampa with its human cargo was sent to Nauru under a newly imposed Australian policy of keeping asylum seekers from its coast that became known as the Pacific Solution.

Conservative Prime Minister John Howard was re-elected weeks later in a campaign that focused on his tough stance on asylum seekers.

Boat arrivals slowed for a few years as Australian-funded detention camps grew on Nauru and Papua New Guinea. A few countries took some refugees

off Australia's hands. In the end, Australia quietly accepted the last several hundred refugees.

A new center-left Labor Party government closed the Nauru camp in February 2008, when the final 21 Sri Lankan refugees were flown to Australia. Papua New Guinea's camps had closed years earlier.

When the boats started coming back in 2012, it was a Labor government that reopened the camps on Nauru and Papua New Guinea. Weeks before a 2013 election, Labor Prime Minister Kevin Rudd declared that "asylum seekers who come here by boat without a visa will never be settled in Australia."

Andrew Markus, a Monash University expert on immigration, says studies show a majority of Australians support the government's tough refugee policy.

He believes it's politically impossible for a government to resettle the island refugees in Australia now.

"They've really painted themselves into a corner," Markus said of the promise that boat arrivals would never be accepted.

Some are still trying. The

government disclosed this week that it turned 33 asylum seekers boats back to Indonesia over the past five years.

The U.S. promise to accept up to 1,250 refugees will not settle the futures of all. According to the Human Rights Watch Law Center there are almost 800 asylum seekers in the male-only facilities in Papua New Guinea and almost 900 men, women and child asylum seekers in Nauru.

More than 400 have gone to Australia for medical attention or to support sick relatives and have appealed to the courts to prevent being forced to return to the islands, the human rights group said.

Aziz, the refugee on Papua New Guinea, believes the asylum seekers are victims of Australian politics.

"I believe no matter how long we spend on this island, we are not going to go to Australia," Aziz said.

"What do you expect from this government? Do you expect that this government at the end of the day will say: 'Ok, we surrender. OK, we give up and these people, they won' — that's not going to happen," he said. **AP**

Chiang Rai, Thailand

THAILAND

Youth football players rescued from cave meet the media

THE 12 boys and their football coach rescued from a cave in northern Thailand left the hospital where they had been recuperating and appeared at a news conference yesterday, looking healthy as they answered questions from journalists from around the world.

The group entered the news conference to applause from reporters and classmates and put on a quick demonstration of their ball-handling skills on a miniature soccer field set up in the hall where they met the media.

They then hugged their friends before taking seats up front with doctors and members of the Thai navy SEAL unit who dived to help bring them out, along with others who helped them during their ordeal.

Doctors said the 13 were healthy in body and mind. They said the boys gained around 3 kilograms on average since they were rescued from the cave. They were said to have lost an average of 4 kilograms during the more than two weeks they were trapped in the cave.

The news conference was the first opportunity the members of the team had to speak directly to the media, though video of them was released previously. Officials reviewed questions in advance to make certain none might cause damaging psychological effects.

They were asked about the



moment when two British cave divers first found them and also the circumstances of how they entered the cave and got trapped there.

The Wild Boars teammates had entered the Tham Luang cave on June 23 for what was to be a quick, relaxing excursion after soccer practice. But rain began falling while they were underground, and water filled the caverns, cutting off their escape.

The British divers found the group huddling on a spot of dry ground deep inside the cave nearly 10 days later, hungry but generally healthy. An interna-

tional team of rescuers using diving equipment and pulleys extracted the 12 boys, who ran-

ge in age from 11 to 16, and their 25-year-old coach through the tight, flooded passageways over

three days, concluding July 10.

Some of the boys were treated for minor infections during their hospital stay, but all 13 have been described as recovering well.

The family of one of the boys was preparing their home for his return yesterday night.

Banphot Konkum, an uncle who has raised 13-year-old Duangpetch Promthep, said he'll have a renovated bedroom and gifts awaiting him.

"We'll do whatever he wants. If he wants anything we'll buy it for him as a present as we promised that when he gets out, whatever he wants we'll do it for him," Banphot said. **AP**

ELON MUSK APOLOGIZES FOR CALLING CAVE RESCUE DIVER A 'PEDO'

TESLA AND SpaceX CEO Elon Musk has apologized for calling a British diver involved in the Thailand cave rescue a pedophile, saying he spoke in anger but was wrong to do so. There was no immediate public reaction from diver Vern Unsworth to Musk's latest tweets. Musk's initial tweet calling Unsworth a "pedo" was a response to a TV interview Unsworth gave.

In it, he said Musk and SpaceX engineers orchestrated a "PR stunt" by sending a small submarine to help divers rescue the 12 Thai soccer players and their coach from a flooded cave. Unsworth said the submarine, which wasn't used, wouldn't have worked anyway. "My words were spoken in anger after Mr. Unsworth said several untruths..." Musk tweeted. "None-

theless, his actions against me do not justify my actions against him, and for that I apologize to Mr. Unsworth and to the companies I represent as leader. The fault is mine and mine alone." Musk's Sunday tweet, later deleted, had sent investors away from Tesla stock, which fell nearly 3 percent Monday but recovered 4.1 percent on Tuesday.

INDIA

Building collapses into another near Delhi, three die

Asix-story building under construction collapsed onto an adjacent building east of the Indian capital, killing at least three people and trapping several others under the debris, police said yesterday.

Chief Fire Officer Arun Kumar Singh said at least 12 workers were in the building at the time and are feared trapped under rubble, the Press Trust of India news agency reported.

The rescuers have so far found three bodies from the debris, police officer Ajay Pal Sharma said.

The second building also collapsed under the impact of the first building that fell on Tuesday night, he said.

The four-story building was 2 years old and only one family lived there, district magistrate B.N. Singh said. One security guard and some workers on the ground floor may have



Rescue workers carry the body of a victim from the site of a collapsed building in Shahberi village, east of New Delhi, yesterday

been inside at the time as well.

More than 100 rescuers with cranes, sledgehammers and chain saws worked through the night

to remove the debris in Shahberi village, nearly 40 kilometers east of New Delhi, said Krishan Kumar, a rescue agency official.

Drills were being used to remove metal rods to reach those trapped. A dog squad was at the site smelling for signs of life.

The owner of the build-

ding under construction and his two associates have been detained for questioning, Sharma said. The cause of the building collapse was not immediately known.

The National Disaster Response Force, a federal rescue agency, was helping police in the search and rescue operations, Ravinder Singh, a NDRF official, said it would take several hours to clear the debris.

Angry residents complained that the two buildings collapsed around 8:30 p.m. Tuesday but the police and fire services reached the site an hour and a half later. The rescue effort was slow to begin with, resident Praveen Srivastava told the New Delhi Television news channel.

Another eyewitness said she felt the earth shaking as the buildings came crashing down. "The impact was such that I

wondered whether the buildings have been dynamited," she told the Times Now television news channel. She didn't give her name.

Rescuers found it difficult to take cranes and drilling machines to the site, where the ground was dug up in places during the construction work and had filled with water from monsoon rains.

Television images showed a police officer dangling from a crane, trying to locate those trapped through the windows of the collapsed building.

Building collapses are common in India during June-September monsoon season, when heavy rains weaken the foundations of structures that are poorly constructed. The worst collapse in recent decades killed at least 72 people in Mumbai in 2013. **AP**

US Army reverses course on discharging one immigrant recruit

Garance Burke

THE U.S. Army has reversed its decision to discharge an immigrant reservist who sued when he was booted from the military last month after enlisting with a promised path to citizenship, according to court filings and his attorney.

Brazilian immigrant Lucas Calixto filed a lawsuit against the Army in late June, saying the Defense Department hadn't given him a chance to defend himself or appeal when he was discharged.

Calixto, who lives outside Boston and recently had been promoted to private second class, is one of dozens of immigrant recruits and reservists who immigration attorneys say have faced often unexplained military discharges and canceled contracts.

In a court filing Monday, Justice Department attorneys said the Army decided to revoke Calixto's discharge and expected to finalize the process by today [Macau time].

"This is an important first step in returning Mr. Calixto to his Army unit, where he has been serving honorably for two years, and allowing him to complete his eight-year service commitment," an attorney for Calixto, Douglas Baruch, said in a statement Tuesday.

The Pentagon and Justice Department declined to comment on the specific decision, citing ongoing litigation concerning the immigrant recruitment program and the need to protect national security interests.



Undated file photo of Lucas Calixto

The reversal comes as the Defense Department has attempted to strengthen security requirements for the program, through which historically immigrants vowed to risk their lives for the prospect of U.S. citizenship. The Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest program, known as MAVNI, ultimately was suspended.

"There are no individuals being either released from their contracts or separated from the military due to their immigration status," said Pentagon spokeswoman Air Force Maj. Carla Gleason. "There are significant risks from insider threats such as espionage, terrorism, and other criminal activity across the program."

Government attorneys called the recruitment program an "elevated security risk" in another case involving 17 foreign-born military recruits who enlisted through the program but have not been able to clear additional security requirements. Some recruits had falsified their background records and were connected to state-sponsored intelligence agencies, the court filing said.

Eligible recruits are required to have legal status in the U.S., such as a student visa, before enlisting. More than 5,000 immigrants were recruited into the program in 2016, and an estimated 10,000 are currently serving. Nearly 110,000 members of the Armed Forces have gained citizenship by serving in the U.S. military since Sept. 11, 2001, according to the Defense Department.

Since 2013, however, more than 20 recruits to the MAVNI program had become the subjects of counterintelligence or criminal investigations by the Defense Department or FBI, according to the court filing.

There are no individuals being either released from their contracts or separated from the military due to their immigration status.

THE PENTAGON

Gleason could not say how many of those recruits had been charged with or convicted of crimes, nor did she provide details as to how such figures compared to those for U.S.-citizen service members.

As of April, 1,100 MAVNI recruits were awaiting basic training while undergoing security reviews, and Gleason said that based on historical estimates, about one-third of the group would not pass and likely would be discharged or have their contracts cancelled.

Some recruits say they were gi-

ven no reason for their recent discharges. Others said the Army informed them they'd been labeled as security risks because they have relatives abroad or because the Defense Department had not completed background checks on them. Many were reservists who had been attending unit drills, receiving pay and undergoing training, immigration attorneys said.

The Pentagon has said there has been no policy change since last year, when Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said no one could ship out to basic training without completion of a background investigation.

This week, a Chinese recruit who said he was told his contract was being cancelled in March said U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials came to his home in Rochester, New York, and told him for the first time that his legal status in the United States had ended in June and that he was being placed into deportation proceedings.

Recruit Zhang, who gave only his last name for fear that his family could face reprisals in China if he was known as a former U.S. Army enlistee, said he and his wife were issued ankle monitoring bracelets and ordered to appear in immigration court at the end of August. ICE officials said in a statement that Zhang had been charged with immigration violations and ICE enrolled him in the agency's Alternatives for Detention program "in an exercise of discretion."

Gleason and an Army spokeswoman declined to comment on the Zhang case.

"Me and my wife came to the U.S. because we wanted to be good immigrants, and we thought the program was a great fit," said Zhang, who has a business management degree and had been pursuing a masters. "I am very depressed right now, and it is hard to make a good plan for the future." AP

Lawmakers warn Trump tariffs threaten local newspapers

MEMBERS of Congress warned that newspapers in their home states are in danger of reducing news coverage, laying off workers or going out of business if the United States maintains recently imposed tariffs on Canadian newsprint.

The Trump administration ordered the tariffs in response to a complaint from a paper producer in Washington state. It argues that Canadian competitors take advantage of government subsidies to sell their product at unfairly low prices.

About a dozen lawmakers testified yesterday [Macau time] against making the

tariffs permanent during a United States International Trade Commission hearing. The commission is reviewing whether U.S. producers of certain groundwood paper products, including newsprint, have been materially injured because of the imports from Canada. The commission's findings help determine whether the Department of Commerce makes the tariffs permanent.

Newsprint is generally the second-largest expense for local papers. The tariffs have increased newsprint prices by 25 to 30 percent.

Sens. Susan Collins and

Angus King of Maine both argued that the tariffs will hurt the industry they're designed to help because it will diminish the market for newsprint in America as newspapers shrink or close.

"If you end up with a smaller market, you haven't helped anybody, let alone the plant in Washington that is petitioning for this help," King said.

The newsprint tariffs reflect President Donald Trump's tough new approach to U.S. trade relations, but they are separate from other high-profile trade actions taken in recent weeks. The administration has also

sought to curb imports from China and steel and aluminum imports from a range of countries.

No lawmaker testified in favor of the tariffs. The lawmakers who testified included Republicans and Democrats from a broad cross-section of the country.

Joining their ranks in the afternoon, Sen. Doug Jones, D-Ala., said that while some media outlets have found their footing in the digital age, there are still many places where Americans struggle to get access to broadband. Many consumers in small towns across the country, he said, "like to read a pa-



per front to back, hold it in hand."

"These folks don't have the option to go online to get their news," Jones testified.

Sen. Roger Wicker, R-Miss., said the tariffs have led to surprise newsprint shortages and price hikes across the Southeast. He said papers in Vicksburg

and Natchez have cited rapid increases in newsprint costs for cutting their print paper to five days per week, instead of seven.

"It defies logic that NORPAC, just one mill located in the opposition end of the United States, can create this type of disruption and uncertainty," Wicker said. AP



Donald Trump tosses a soccer ball to his wife after Vladimir Putin presented it to him at a press conference in Helsinki

US-EUROPE

Tumult of Trump's trip smashes presidential precedent

Jill Colvin, Helsinki

PLENTY of U.S. presidents have created commotion in their travels abroad, but none as much as President Donald Trump.

The president's tumultuous trip across Europe, historians say, smashed the conventions of American leaders on the world stage.

Trump's "America first" approach to foreign policy had him seeming to accept the word of a hostile power over his own intelligence agencies, insulting allies and sowing doubts about his commitment to the NATO alliance.

"We've never had a president go abroad and not only lecture to our NATO allies, but also to embarrass them," said Russia expert William Pomeranz, deputy director of the Kennan Institute at the Wilson Center. "We've never had our president go on a foreign tour and categorize our allies as foes. And we've never had our president hold a joint news conference with a Russian leader where he assigned blame, from his perspective, to both parties, but in fact dedicated most of his time to blaming the U.S. Justice Department and intelligence services."

While past presidents have had

difficult foreign trips and been criticized for their summits with Soviet leaders, Trump's behavior has few parallels, in the view of presidential historians and longtime Russia watchers.

■ ■
We've never had our president go on a foreign tour and categorize our allies as foes.

WILLIAM POMERANZ
HISTORIAN

Franklin Roosevelt was accused of "selling out" to Joseph Stalin at the Yalta Conference in 1945; John F. Kennedy and his aides admitted that he'd been unprepared for his 1961 Vienna summit with Nikita Khrushchev; the Reykjavik summit between Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev in 1986 was seen at the time to have ended in failure; and George W. Bush was mocked for telling reporters in 2001 after meeting with Putin that he had "looked the man in the eye" and "found him to be

very straightforward and trustworthy."

Trump's trip was different. "Frankly, I don't think those U.S. presidents at any point came off as not pursuing U.S. security interests, as being taken in by the Soviet leader they were meeting with," said Alina Polyakova, a foreign policy fellow at the Brookings Institution. "I think even President George W. Bush's meeting, where he had that famous quote about looking into Putin's eyes and seeing into his soul — this summit dwarfs that by a factor of a thousand."

Indeed, even before he departed Washington, Trump had made clear that he was itching for a fight. He criticized members of NATO, the decades-old military alliance, for failing to spend enough on defense and suggested he might not be interested in "paying for Europe's protection" any longer.

In his first appearance at a pre-summit breakfast in Brussels, he went after German Chancellor Angela Merkel, claiming Germany was "totally controlled" by Russia and later asked on Twitter, "What good is NATO." The summit ended in a whiplash-inducing proclamation from the president that NATO was stronger than ever as he claimed he'd secured new commitments to

defense spending, which those present later disputed.

The drama continued as Trump headed to his next stop, the U.K. His first official visit was overshadowed by fallout from the rhetorical grenade he'd lobbed at British Prime Minister Theresa May before arriving. In a tabloid interview, he criticized May's Brexit plans, said he might no longer be open to a trade deal with the U.K., and said one of May's political rival would be an excellent prime minister, undermining her at a time when her government is in turmoil.

Then came yet another interview, this one from one of his golf courses in Scotland, in which Trump categorized the European Union as a top geopolitical "foe."

Nothing, however, had quite prepared the world for Trump's comments in Helsinki after hours of meetings with Russian President Vladimir Putin, whose government, U.S. intelligence officials have concluded, meddled in the 2016 election, hacked Democratic Party emails and disseminated them in an effort to help Trump win.

Standing side-by-side on stage with the man accused of complicity in an attack on the very bedrock of American democracy, Trump said his intelligence people "think it's Russia. I have

President Putin. He just said it's not Russia. I will say this I don't see any reason why it would be." He also went after his Justice Department, calling its investigation into Russia's efforts and potential collusion with Trump's campaign a "disaster for our country."

It was a stunning comment from an American president — one that he partially tried to walk back 24 hours later by blaming a grammatical glitch. But he did not retreat from a number of his other comments giving credence to Putin's denials of election interference.

"Trump 0 - Putin 1," blared the front page of Finland's Kauppalehti newspaper.

Douglas Brinkley, a presidential historian and professor at Rice University, compared Trump to "a bull carrying his own china shop around with him."

"Just standing and selling your country downriver on foreign soil in front of your adversary — there's no precedent for such disgraceful and irrational behavior," Brinkley said.

Pomeranz said Trump had done himself political damage by suggesting both sides were to blame for the Russia probe that has hurt U.S. relations with Moscow — just as Trump did when he blamed both sides when responding to violent white supremacist protests in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Pomeranz said the damage Trump did by describing the E.U. as a foe and lecturing his NATO allies was significant.

"I think that is what's going to be remembered from this week," he said. **AP**

what's ON



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

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

KAMEN RIDER EXHIBITION (MACAU)
 TIME: 1pm-8pm daily (last entrance 7:30pm)
 Until: AUGUST 26, 2018
 Venue: 2/F EXHIBITION HALL, BROADWAY MACAU
 ADMISSION: MOP128, MOP180 (Tickets are available at Kong Seng Ticketing Service www.macauticket.com)
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2855 5555

Offbeat

AMAZON POKES FUN AT GLITCHES, SAYS TECH GADGETS POPULAR



Amazon poked fun at the early glitches it saw with Prime Day, though it said shoppers still found plenty to buy. Analysts, meanwhile, saw other things Amazon could have done better, like discounting more fashion brands and taking more advantage of its acquisition of Whole Foods.

Early problems this week sent shoppers to social media to complain after their attempts to click on Prime Day deals returned only images of dogs with an apologetic message. The snags were an embarrassment for the tech company on the much-hyped shopping holiday it created.

"It wasn't all a walk in the (dog) park, we had a ruff start — we know some customers were temporarily unable to make purchases," Amazon said in a statement.

But Amazon touted Prime Day growth and said shoppers still found lots to buy, with tech gadgets in particular among the most popular. It said top sellers included some of its own devices — the Fire TV stick with Alexa Voice Remote, Echo Dot and Fire 7 tablet with Alexa. Others included a water filter for hiking and the multi-use Instant Pot.

The hiccups, though, could have sent shoppers elsewhere during a key period for Amazon to sign up new Prime members. It recently announced that the cost of Prime membership would go up, and the shopping day is a way to prove the value. Many other chains offered sales and promotions to try to capitalize on the day. And industry observers said Amazon could have done a better job in several areas, such as offering personalized recommendations.

"For all the hype about Whole Foods, the grocery stuff on sale was less appetizing," said Sucharita Mulpuru-Kodali, an analyst at Forrester Research. "No Prime Day specials at the store."

Amazon created Prime Day in 2015 to mark its 20th anniversary, and its success has inspired other e-commerce companies to invent shopping holidays. Amazon disclosed for the first time this year that it had more than 100 million paid Prime members worldwide.

It's hoping to keep Prime attractive for current and would-be subscribers after raising the U.S. annual membership fee by 20 percent to USD119 and to \$12.99 for the month-to-month option.

TV canal macau



- 13:00 TDM News (Repeated)
- 13:30 News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
- 15:00 Miscellaneous
- 16:20 Miscellaneous
- 17:45 Miscellaneous
- 18:25 Maternity
- 19:10 Portugal Fashion
- 19:40 Portuguese Serie
- 20:30 Main News, Financial & Weather Report
- 21:15 Non-daily Portuguese News
- 21:20 Tech Tree
- 21:30 You, Me & the Apocalypse
- 22:20 Brazilian Soap Opera
- 23:15 TDM News
- 23:50 Macau Documentary
- 00:25 Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
- 01:10 RTPi Live

Cinema



CINETEATRO

19 - 25 JUL



INCREDIBLES 2

ROOM 1
 2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30pm
 Director: Brad Bird
 Starring: Craig T. Nelson, Holly Hunter, Sarah Vowell
 Language: Cantonese (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



ANT-MAN AND THE WASP

ROOM 3
 2:15, 7:00pm
 Director: Peyton Reed
 Starring: Paul Rudd, Evangeline Lilly, Michael Douglas
 Language: English (Chinese)
 Duration: 118min

CODE GLASS LELOUCH OF REBELLION III - GLORIFICATION

ROOM 3
 4:30, 9:15pm
 Director: Goro Taniguchi
 Starring: Jun Fukuyama, Takahiro Skurai, Yukana
 Language: Japanese (Chinese & English)
 Duration: 140min

this day in history



1997 IRA DECLARES CEASEFIRE

The IRA has announced its second ceasefire in three years starting at noon tomorrow.

It follows a statement by republican political party Sinn Fein last night urging the IRA to call a truce, but the speed of response has surprised politicians.

Northern Ireland Secretary Mo Mowlam MP will monitor IRA activity over the next six weeks to decide whether Sinn Fein will be admitted to the all-party peace talks scheduled for 15 September.

Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams said he supported a ceasefire because of a "commitment by the two governments (UK and Republic of Ireland) to inclusive peace talks".

British Prime Minister Tony Blair had underlined this resolve by making his first big speech as head of the new government from Belfast on 16 May.

In June he set out the conditions for Sinn Fein's inclusion in the all-party talks in a speech to the Commons.

He offered a clear timetable for talks - to be completed by May 1998 - within six weeks of a ceasefire. Mr Blair also suggested weapons' decommissioning was not a pre-condition for negotiation.

Many unionists in Northern Ireland believe IRA disarmament is essential to any peace process and are angered by British concessions on the issue.

Security spokesman for the Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) Ken Maginnis said: "I don't expect anyone to take a ceasefire declaration at face value."

"There will have to be a definite commitment to a permanent, complete and universal ceasefire with an indication that disarmament and the disbandment of the terrorist organisation can take place," he added.

The Irish peace process reached a stalemate under the last British Government which made concessions to unionists over decommissioning, in return for their support in Parliament.

Mr Blair is to meet UUP leader David Trimble in the next couple of days to ensure unionists' participation in September's multi-party talks.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The ceasefire came into force on 20 July in an atmosphere of muted determination rather than celebration.

A new round of peace talks, including Sinn Fein, resumed on 15 September at Stormont, near Belfast.

None of the five unionist or loyalist parties attended and attempted to get Sinn Fein excluded.

Talks continued at Stormont as David Trimble and the UUP began to participate.

In October 1997 Tony Blair shook Gerry Adams' hand and became the first British PM for 70 years to meet a Sinn Fein delegation.

Negotiations and sporadic violence by loyalist and republican splinter groups continued until the Good Friday Agreement was signed in May 1998.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Okay, so that temper of yours may be a bit more obvious to others now. So what? If anyone is entitled to show their anger (in controlled fashion, of course - no physical stuff.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Uh oh. You've been trying and trying and trying some more to Just Say No to being mad - still - but you just can't seem to get rid of that urge to let go and let you-know-who have it.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 What could possibly be better than trying something new, to your mind? Nothing. Absolutely nothing. Even if it doesn't work out, it's still better than the same old same old.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 A certain person you've spent a whole lot of time with lately is making sounds like they're interested in being more than just friends, and you're not sure what to do.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You've been hiding out for days, and those who know and love you - okay, 'the fans,' truth be told - are having withdrawal symptoms. If they want to see you badly enough, they'll ask now.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You might be able to continue distracting yourself for a while, but until you can discover what it is you really need to make yourself happy, you'll keep on tapping.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You're after someone who'll allow you to express yourself - all your feelings, no matter how eccentric and unconventional they are. You'd better find them quickly, though.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 If you've been thinking about moving, remodeling or adding on a room or a deck lately - basically, doing something different to your home - it's going to be impossible to resist for much longer.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 As per usual, you've got something to say, and thanks to a bold pair of planets the universe has instructed to help you operate your mouth, you're ready, willing and able.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 The more unusual it is, the more you'll absolutely have to call it your own. That goes particularly for objects, but also for people who happen to be displaying qualities you're fond of.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You've never been good at taking orders. Not at all, and not from anyone. You've even been known to argue with the calendar: You often forget birthdays - sometimes even your own

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Unfortunately, you're attached at the moment, and they may be, too. Until that changes, hibernate and bide your time. You can do it - wait, that is - but you'll certainly have your work cut out for you.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle with numbers 1-9 in some cells.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle with numbers 1-9 in some cells.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle with numbers 1-9 in some cells.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle with numbers 1-9 in some cells.

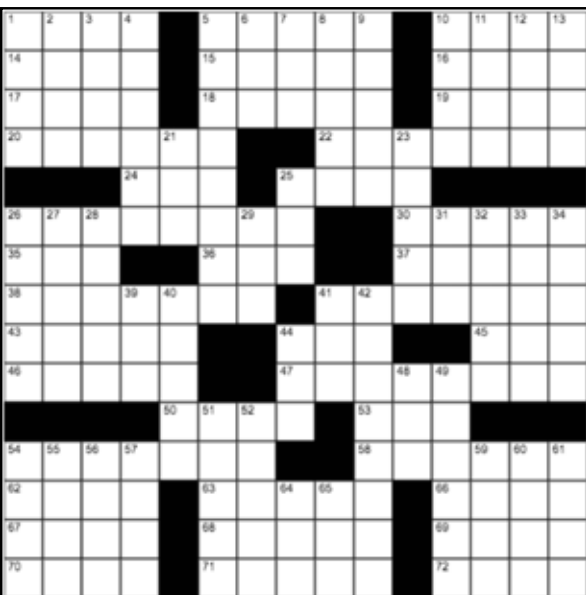
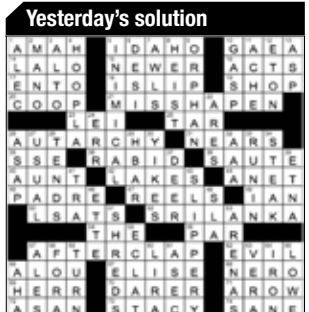
WEATHER

Table with columns: CHINA, WORLD, MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Lists weather for cities like Beijing, Harbin, Shanghai, etc.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- BMW rival; 5- Flaw; 10- Grounded fleet; 14- Russian pancake; 15- Bother; 16- Canyon comeback; 17- Bone to pick; 18- Unemotional; 19- Seniors' org.; 20- A place for vacationers; 22- Equilateral parallelogram; 24- Flee; 25- Spool; 26- Flaming torch; 30- Brainstorms; 35- China's Chou En-; 36- Canonized Mlle.; 37- Worth; 38- All together; 41- Act as chairperson; 43- Vinegary prefix; 44- Miss Piggy's query; 45- Russert of "Meet the Press"; 46- Take care of; 47- Mosque towers; 50- London art gallery; 53- College sr.'s test; 54- Fashionable; 58- Destroyer; 62- A Chaplin; 63- a customer; 66- Author Stanley Gardner; 67- Yuletide; 68- Conger catcher; 69- 16th letter of the Hebrew alphabet; 70- Ball (arcade game); 71- Tempest; 72- Use a surgical beam;

DOWN: 1- E.g., e.g.; 2- Peter Fonda title role; 3- Conks out; 4- Disclose; 5- Stronghold; 6- Hill insect; 7- Game with Skip cards; 8- River of Tours; 9- Greek goddess of fortune; 10- Tailor's line; 11- Strike breaker; 12- Drive- window; 13- Soaks (up); 21- Massage; 23- Green shade; 25- Feel sorry about; 26- Hopping bloodsuckers; 27- Knight's weapon; 28- Anouk of "La Dolce Vita"; 29- Wolfed down; 31- Kapital; 32- Select group; 33- Examine account books; 34- Appears; 39- ABA member; 40- Like a smokestack; 41- Luau chow; 42- Skin disease; 44- Tussaud's title: Abbr.; 48- Constellation near Scorpius; 49- Close up again; 51- Emollient-yielding plants; 52- Dogma; 54- Charged particles; 55- Breakfast area; 56- Dagger; 57- Story; 59- Little Tenderness; 60- New Haven students; 61- Actor Auberjonois; 64- "Xanadu" band; 65- Thrice, in prescriptions;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
IACM 28 387 333
Tourism 28 333 000
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Real estate advertisement for JML Property. Includes 'FOR SALE' and 'FOR RENT' sections with property details like 'Choi Long Meng Chui', 'The Buckingham', 'Old Macau', 'The Buckingham, Unit C', 'Violet Court', 'Large Dynasty Plaza', 'Lakeview', and 'Warehouse, Keck Seng'. Includes JML Property logo and contact info.

BASEBALL

Union hints at work stoppage as MLB mulls rule changes

Ronald Blum, Washington

MAJOR League Baseball wants a broad discussion with players about rule changes to combat decreased offense and longer games, an initiative likely to be met by a testy union stung by declining free-agent prices and already raising the possibility of a work stoppage after the 2021 season.

Commissioner Rob Manfred and players' association head Tony Clark outlined their differing agendas during separate sessions with the Baseball Writers' Association of America before yesterday's All-Star Game.

"There is a growing consensus or maybe even better an existing consensus among ownership that we need to have a really serious conversation about making some changes to the way the game is being played," Manfred said. "We are not at the point where I can articulate for you what particular rule changes might get serious consideration. I can tell you the



Major League Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred

issues that concern people: I think that the period of time between putting balls in play, the number of strikeouts, to a lesser extent the number of home runs, the significance of the shift and what it's done to the game,

the use of relief pitchers and the way starting pitchers are going to be used."

Clark repeatedly maintained players are reluctant to change as "stewards of the game."

"We may get to a point where

those coming to the ballpark or have an interest in coming to the ballpark for whatever reason aren't 100 percent certain that what they are seeing is the type of game that they want to see," he said.

More than 100 free agents remained unsigned when spring training began this year. Many agreed to deals at a fraction of the price they thought they were worth and for fewer years than they expected.

"What we experienced last of-season was a direct attack on free agency, which has been a bedrock of our economic system, and if that is going to be different, then we have some very difficult decisions to make moving forward," Clark said.

Baseball had eight work stoppages from 1972-95 but has had labor peace since. The current five-year contract runs through the 2021 season, and Clark left open a possible return to the era of strife.

"To the extent there are challenges to those rights, historically I would suggest those have manifested themselves in a particular way," he said.

The union filed a grievance in February against Miami, Oakland, Pittsburgh and Tampa Bay, accusing the teams of failing to appropriately spend revenue-sharing money in an effort to improve their on-field product. Manfred dismissed the allegations, saying the grievance was filed "really for publicity reasons."

Manfred said the lack of interest in free agents was due to the dearth of quality. **AP**

AD

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BOXING

Anthony Joshua can't escape talk of Deontay Wilder

Terrin Waack, New York

ANTHONY Joshua was welcomed by applause on the stage. He stood front and center, promoting his Sept. 22 bout against Alexander Povetkin.

Even there, he couldn't escape talk of the heavyweight he isn't fighting.

Someone in the crowd jumped at the opportunity and shouted, "AJ, we want Wilder!"

"Let them train to be a fighter and fight [Deontay] Wilder," Joshua told AP. "It's easy talking about it. It's another thing doing."

But with his hands on his hips, Joshua looked in the direction of the outburst and stoically mouthed, "Same."

Meanwhile, Povetkin was standing off to the side. Povetkin and Joshua were both in the West Village yesterday [Macau time] for the launch party of DAZN, a global sports streaming service. Its first event is their fight.

Povetkin is partially the reason why Joshua (21-0, 20 knockouts) isn't fighting Wilder (40-0, 39 KOs) this year.

In June, the World Boxing Association ordered Joshua to fight Povetkin (34-1, 24 KOs) or have his title stripped away.

He signed, ending his chances of a Wilder-Joshua fight in 2018. Wilder said if Joshua wanted the fight to happen, it would be happening.

"Most definitely he could have



Britain's Anthony Joshua (rear) tries to hit New Zealand's Joseph Parker during their heavyweight title bout in Cardiff in March

gotten an exemption for this fight," Wilder said. "That was the least of the worries right there because everyone wants it. When everyone wants it, then there's nothing that could stand in the way of a fight of this magnitude. No possible way.

"Even when he's announcing Povetkin, they're talking about me. Everywhere we go, they're talking about this fight."

But Joshua doesn't care what everyone wants. He said he's following protocol.

"This career isn't determined by what people want," Joshua said. "It's my career. I've always pulled for and done what was right for myself, which has ultimately led me to becoming a champion."

Right now, Joshua holds three of the four major belts: WBA, IBF and WBO. Wilder has the other: WBC. If the two were to fight, which they still both believe they will, the winner would be named the undisputed heavyweight boxing champion.

The most recent boxer to claim that honor was Lennox Lewis in 2000.

"It's not about the big light," Joshua said. "It's not about taking from the industry. I don't want to drive a Rolls-Royce tomorrow. I don't want a one-hit wonder, then I'm a champion one week and few months later I've lost it because I'm living the life. I want to add to the industry, give back. I do it because I'm passionate about it."

His passion is just different from Wilder, who said he tried everything possible to make this unification fight happen.

Wilder accepted a flat fee of USD15 million and offered Joshua a guaranteed \$50 million, plus 50 percent of the revenue if the fight took place in the U.S. Joshua wanted England. Wilder agreed.

"We've done everything," Wilder said. "I can't express how much I mean by that when I say we've done everything day and night, day and night, day and night. And the only thing they've done is try to come up with plans of distracting the fans and trying to come up with plans of lies."

More negotiations took place. Each side says something dif-

ferent transpired—Wilder said Joshua sent blank contracts missing a date or place; Joshua said Wilder didn't meet the deadline. There was also a disputed rematch clause.

Regardless, months passed without any signed contract, leading the WBA to step in.

Wilder thinks Joshua would rather fight Povetkin anyway because he's not ready to compete against the best.

"Wilder has a big power punch, but he likes to fight. He likes to get into the brawl a little bit," Povetkin said through a translator. "Joshua is more technical, but he also has a lot of power. It would be a different approach, but they're both great fighters."

Povetkin would rather fight Joshua — probably because he's going to — but thoughts of fighting Wilder cross his mind often. He'd be glad to get in that ring, too. (They've tried, but two failed drugs tests by Povetkin prevented a fight from actually happening.)

If Povetkin defeats Joshua, the unification discussion might change. Only time will tell. Both parties say they want it to happen. It's just not happening this year.

Joshua has Povetkin at Wembley Stadium in London. Wilder says he will also have a fight and to be on the lookout for an announcement soon.

Life is moving on — for now.

"At the end of the day, me and Joshua don't need each other," Wilder said. "Not to survive and live. We've been doing that before we even met each other, and we're going to do that after we've met each other."

"But for this fight to happen — for fans to see one of the biggest fights in world history and to see one champion, one face, one name — we definitely need each other." AP

FOOTBALL

Australia cool on Usain Bolt's A-League bid

FOOTBALL Federation Australia has responded cautiously to reports Usain Bolt hopes to play for the Central Coast Mariners in the A-League.

Reports said the 31-year-old Bolt, an eight-time Olympic sprint gold medalist, has agreed to trial with the Mariners next month and may receive a one-season A-League contract if he impresses.

However, in order to make a deal possible the FFA would have to top up any salary offered to Bolt from its USD3 million fund to attract "marquee" players. The Mariners owner reportedly has offered to meet 70 percent of Bolt's salary but the FFA's contri-

but ion might still be around \$900,000.

In a statement late Tuesday, the FFA said, "While Usain Bolt is one of the most famous athletes on the planet, he's not a professional footballer."

"If the trial goes ahead and Central Coast Mariners decided it stacks up and they want to offer him a contract, then we will have a discussion with them around that and what might be possible."

Bolt, who quit the track last year, has already trialed unsuccessfully with Germany's Borussia Dortmund and South Africa's Mamelodi Sundowns.

Many regard reports he might trial with the Mari-

ners as a public relations stunt. His previous trials were with clubs which shared his major sponsor.

Mariners chief executive Shaun Mielekamp said he hoped to have details of any trial finalized by late August.

"It is crucial to note that all discussions between the Central Coast Mariners and Bolt require an initial six-week trial period and no contract is guaranteed," a club statement said.

Bolt's long-time agent, Ricky Sims, confirmed the Jamaican athlete is considering the Mariners' offer of a trial.

"Usain has made it quite clear that he's interested in playing professional foot-

ball," Sims told the Australian Associated Press. "We're looking at a number of options and this is one of them."

Australian player agent Tony Rallis, who first revealed Bolt's interest in playing in the A-League, said Bolt was genuine in his desire to play for the Mariners.

"If he meets the benchmarks set by the coaches, he'll be given a contract," Rallis said. "He'll be treated like another one of the players and he doesn't want to be treated like a different player."

"He's got a point to prove and he's determined to prove he's worth a contract." AP



Olympic and Jamaican sprinter-turned footballer Usain Bolt

opinion

Girl About Globe

Linda Kennedy



BLAST FROM THE PAST ON ITALY'S ROADS

Being hunted down by Italian police, across nations and borders, is not a thing that happens to me much. But I just had a Mafia moment and there's a warning in it for others. Here's what happened:

WhatsApp from father:
 There's a registered envelope in today's post. Are you expecting anything?
 WhatsApp from me:
 No. Can you open it?
 Father:
 It's from Pisa police. Shall I read it?
 Me:
 EH????!! I can't have got a speeding ticket.
 Father:
 That would be a surprise.
 I await his next text, giddy at the prospect of getting done for fast driving. The letter, I assume, is linked to a family holiday in Italy last year. We'd hired a car, and the rental company was given my Dad's address in Scotland.
 As chief driver, I'd driven under the speed limit. Hey, I was on the other side of the road, using unfamiliar routes. My speed was prudent - yet it was the target of much repartee and honking.
 Suddenly, I am on the cusp of a wild new reputation. I start scripting an email to my brother, the greatest lampooner of my vehicular velocity: 'Guess what, bruv, I SPED.'
 WhatsApp photo from father:
 Oh dear.
 It is not a speeding ticket. It's a 200 Euro fine prompted by my intrusion into something called a ZTL. Further reading reveals Pisa city centre has a restricted traffic zone, and the ZTL is its name.
 I think back. For the first night, I'd booked an atmospheric B&B in an old courtyard near Pisa centre. We'd arrived after dark. Even with GPS, it was hard to find.
 I assume I had blundered into the ZTL after taking a wrong turn. Boyfriend - a more analytical sort - starts piecing together the background to my crime. One Google map later, he cracks the case.
 The atmospheric B&B was INSIDE the ZTL!
 When did traffic get so dramatic? I didn't know one had to procure a ZTL pass, and the B&B owners hadn't emphasised this. You may say it was my responsibility to swot up on Pisa's perils, but I advise people visiting Hong Kong that a T8 means stay indoors or you will be hit by more than a fine. By which I mean, I know the local dangers and pass them on.
 The appeals process looks daunting. All pleas for clemency must be conducted in Italian. Boyfriend has an operative in Italy - ok, a helpful friend and colleague - to whom he talks. Helpful Italian operative pays percentage of fine, and is reimbursed.
 I now have an official record of committing a traffic offence in Italy. It's glamorous, but also quite expensive.
 Moving forward (still at 10km/hr). Pisa hoteliers, please tell guests if your establishment is inside the ZTL. I don't expect you to lean over backwards - you're not the Tower - but a warning would be good.
 And, Italy, maybe subvert some stereotypes to spread the word about ZTLs generally. They're not exactly off the mark, are they? Italians are always late, it's said. The intrusion into the ZTL happened last August. The fine arrived in Scotland at the end of June. If there had been a ZTL in medieval times, the fine might have arrived quicker by scroll delivered on horseback.
 Some suggestions, therefore:
 An Italian singing an aria about the ZTL. To the tune of 'Just One Cornetto':
 'Just one ZTL entry fee, give it to me,
 You will not be pursued after your stay in Italy.'
 And cherubs on street signs, pointing their wings at the entry points to the ZTL. 'Beware all who cometh here'.

THE BUZZ EU FINES GOOGLE A RECORD USD5 BILLION OVER MOBILE SYSTEM

The European Union's antitrust chief has fined Google a record USD5 billion for abusing the market dominance of its Android mobile phone operating system.

EU Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager said yesterday that Google went against EU rules when it required mobile phone producers to pre-install the Google Search and browser apps as a condition for licensing Google's app store. She said Google also paid big producers to exclusively pre-install the Google Search app.

Vestager said that "companies must compete on their merits," playing by antitrust rules that favor consumers and open markets, and not restrict competition.

Google said that instead of restricting competition, it did the opposite. "Android has created more choice for everyone, not less," said Google spokesman Al Verney.

"We will appeal the Commission's decision," he added.

The EU's fine is the biggest ever imposed on a company for anticompetitive behavior.

South Africa, Obama mark Mandela centennial with charity



Andrew Meldrum, Johannesburg

SOUTH Africans along with former U.S. President Barack Obama were marking the centennial of anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela's birth yesterday with acts of charity in a country still struggling with deep economic inequality 24 years after the end of white minority rule.

Obama met with young leaders from around Africa to mark the anniversary, a day after he delivered a spirited speech in Johannesburg about Mandela's legacy of tolerance and criticized President Donald Trump and his policies without mentioning him by name. An enthusiastic crowd of 14,000 gave Obama a standing ovation for his address, the highest-profile one since he left office.

"Most people think of Mandela as an older man with hair like mine," the 56-year-old, grey-haired Obama said to laughter from his audience. But he added that people forget that Mandela "started as a very young man, at your age, trying to liberate this country."

Speaking to participants in his Leaders Africa program, 200 young people from 44 African countries, he urged them to pursue change at home and emphasized the impact they can have as the continent's population is the fastest-growing in the world. "How

big are your ambitions?" he asked.

Obama also spoke out against the corruption and conflict that slow down change, mentioning as one example the current deadly tensions in Cameroon, which faces an Anglophone separatist movement and the threat from Boko Haram extremists based in neighboring Nigeria.

Events have been planned throughout the year for the 100th anniversary of his birth

"Find a way where you're not selling your soul," Obama said, encouraging them to engage in political work and community involvement, especially women.

South Africans and others around the world marked the July 18, 1918 birth of Mandela with clinic openings, blanket handouts and other charitable acts. In Cape Town, numbers were painted on homes in one of the sprawling slums to help health workers locate people living with HIV and tuberculosis.

But South Africans must do more to fight for Mandela's values daily instead of engaging in symbolic gestures on his birthday, main opposition leader Mmusi

Maimane with the Democratic Alliance said, adding that South Africa's "failed education is part of a system that locks black children out of opportunity."

After 27 years in prison in South Africa, Mandela was released in 1990 and became the country's first black president four years later. He died in 2013 at the age of 95.

Events have been planned throughout the year for the 100th anniversary of his birth, including a large concert in December in South Africa that will be headlined by Beyonce and Jay-Z and hosted by Oprah Winfrey and others.

In a video message, former South African archbishop Desmond Tutu said Mandela reflected the best of humanity.

"Good leaders make allowance for the fact that even they can be wrong, and they know when and how to say sorry. Madiba had this quality in abundance," said Tutu, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to end apartheid and reconcile South Africans.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in a separate statement called Mandela a towering advocate for equality and justice.

"Nelson Mandela was held captive for many years. But he never became a prisoner of his past," Guterres said. "Rarely has one person in history done so much to stir people's dreams and move them to action." AP

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

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

IRAN continues to acquire uranium and is close to finishing a factory where it can build more centrifuges to enrich it, the country's nuclear chief said yesterday, adding also that uranium stockpiles have nearly doubled in the last few years.



EGYPT's parliament has passed a bill targeting popular social media accounts that authorities accuse of publishing "fake news," the latest move in a five-year-old drive to suppress dissent and silence independent sources of news.

GERMANY Authorities plan to bring back to Germany an Afghan asylum-seeker who apparently was deported mistakenly while legal proceedings were still ongoing in his case.

ITALY-SPAIN An aid group says it won't dock its boat in an Italian port and that instead it's seeking a go-ahead to disembark in Spain with the woman who survived a migrant boat wreck and the dead bodies of another woman and a toddler.



NICARAGUA Police and armed pro-government civilians laid siege to and then retook a symbolically important neighborhood that had recently become a center of resistance to President Daniel Ortega's government.

BRAZIL Police in Brazil's southern state of Rio Grande do Sul said that the mother of a famous soccer star was rescued from kidnappers.

US-HONDURAS Federal authorities in New York filed charges against a Honduran congressman accused of being a member of a violent drug trafficking organization responsible for shipping loads of cocaine into the United States.