



ON THE RIGHTS OF MOVEMENT WITHIN CASINOS
Lawyer Sérgio de Almeida Correia analyzes the legislation regulating access to casinos

P2 OPINION



SOCIAL SECURITY FUND REPORTS 'IDEAL' YEAR
At the end of 2017, the net asset value of the Social Security Fund stood at MOP77.4 billion, an increase of MOP6.7 billion

P3



IMRAN KHAN'S PARTY CLAIMS ELECTORAL VICTORY

P11 PAKISTAN

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P10

RENATO MARQUES



CIVIL PROTECTION

Authorities unveil new rescue equipment

P6

WORLD BRIEFS

LAOS Authorities in Laos ordered closer monitoring of hydroelectric facilities as they investigate why a dam in the country's southeast collapsed earlier this week, killing at least 27 people and leaving 131 missing.



CHINA-PHILIPPINES Almost two years after China pledged USD24 billion in investment to the Philippines, barely any projects have materialized, prompting deepening concerns that President Rodrigo Duterte has undermined the country's sovereignty with little to show in return. *More on p9*

SAUDI ARABIA Oil prices rose to a 10-day high yesterday after Saudi Arabia's state-owned oil company announced it was temporarily halting crude shipments through a strategic Red Sea shipping lane after Yemen's Shiite rebels attacked two tankers in the strait the previous day.

More on backpage



Extra
times
Weekend Guide
INSIDE

OPINION

On the rights of movement within casinos

Sérgio de Almeida Correia
Lawyer and Notary

NOW that the Secretary for Economic Affairs, Mr Lionel Leong, has stated that future concessions will be subject to a public tender in due time and that the casino gaming law is to be revised, the time has come to correct what practice has proven to be incorrect, unclear and/or lacking in improvement.

A few months ago, having arranged a dinner in a restaurant located inside an "Integrated Hotel-Casino-Resort" and thus part of a gambling concession, an individual with status similar to a civil servant told me that he could not participate in the gathering because the restaurant could only be accessed from inside the casino.

The situation made me think about the meaning and scope of the provisions laid out in article 2 of Law 10/2012, of August 27, published in the Macau SAR Official Gazette 35, which is fundamental for any analysis of such circumstances. This article states that "entry into casinos is prohibited" to a specific group of persons, including public servants, but also to those under 21 years of age, to persons forbidden and subject to judicial disqualification, those who suffer from psychological disability, employees of public institutes, and agents of the Security Forces and Services, except when authorized by the Chief Executive.

At a first glance this rule offers no difficulty in interpretation. However, paragraph 2 of that article states that such a prohibition entails not only the prohibition of gambling, directly or through an intermediary, but also that the entry ban "covers all areas that are accessible via the casino entrance points". This last point is the one that presents the greatest difficulty in interpretation, since, strictly speaking, if we take a literal interpretation this norm has already been violated, unceasingly, in recent years, since there are situations in which a person is so much as "forced" to access the casinos.

Just consider, as has happened to me, being in a restaurant located outside the casino, but inside the hotel's premises, and finding it necessary to obtain money to pay the bill at the bar or restaurant or there being an urgent need to go to the bathroom (WC),



and in either of these cases the only ATM machine with available funds or the nearest bathroom is situated inside the casino. And it can also happen that a person is invited to a birthday dinner at an unfamiliar restaurant, to find access is to be made through the casino and only upon arrival finds himself put in the position of needing to break the rule.

And there is also a third situation, related to commercial establishments that have two entrances, one inside the casino and another through a pedestrian corridor of the adjacent shopping mall. As has been the case, due to renovations and/or maintenance work, access to the commercial establishment, as in the case of a certain watchmaker, during a particular period could only be done from inside the casino, and by having to pass through the metal detector. A customer of the store, being someone included in one of the categories targeted by the statutory prohibition on entry, intending to collect a watch left there weeks earlier to have a battery changed is left in a quandary.

None would consider an ATM machine, a restaurant or a bathroom, even those situated inside a casino, to be for the exclusive use of the gamblers.

A relatively short time ago, upon the inauguration of a new

Hotel-Resort, a concessionaire conducted a charm campaign exclusively for Macau residents. It was a lucky-draw for promotional gifts with the campaign offering discount cards which could be used in the new shops, but the submission of application forms and the raffle draw was performed inside the casino.

“**There is a need for improved casino regulation [...] to accommodate the legal imperfections of the current regime.**”

These are situations in which a simple entry ban was not even considered by the legislator, which makes no sense and even disturbs or causes inconvenience to non-players who should not be overlooked.

In addition, although some casinos have clear signage for civil servants and children, thus pre-

venting them from entering casinos, this does not often appear to be practical, given the distances that may be involved, especially for the elderly or for those with reduced mobility.

It would therefore make perfect sense - as seen in one of the Cotai casinos where glass dividers have been erected - to find a way to clearly allow movement between two points when it is necessary to cross the casino. Besides, there are CCTV cameras everywhere that monitor peoples' movements to see if people stop along the way to watch what is going on at the gaming tables or even if they attempt to wager a few coins.

In this way, it is not possible to confuse the act of progress along a proper corridor with the act of gambling: the former covers the interior of the casino that allows access to areas of shops, restaurants, bathrooms or ATM machines, which by nature must be accessible to all citizens regardless of their category or professional status. The latter should be subject to prohibition for categories of persons currently listed in paragraph 1 of article 2 of Law n. 10/2012.

The current aberrant system becomes even more problematic, while being contradictory, as the law permits a private notary to be a shareholder and director (administrador-delegado) of a

gambling concessionaire. If the private notary is subject to the obligations contained in articles 7 (incompatibilities equal to those of lawyers) and 12 (subject to the duties of other civil servants) it would not make sense that he would be prevented from entering, read 'move within', a casino to be able to go to the toilet or to a restaurant, but that he could be administrador-delegado and shareholder of the concessionaire. I know there's an exception but it is still unacceptable.

In the light of the foregoing, and in the absence of any further development, I believe that there is an indisputable need for improved casino regulation, namely in relation to Law 16/2001 on concessions to accommodate the legal imperfections of the current regime within a comprehensive and transparent legal framework. In what it intends to send to the Legislative Assembly, it would be good if the Government of Macao does not leave out the possibility of correcting and putting into order that which is less clear, likely to create difficulty of interpretation and implementation... so that culpability does not fall upon the first Mr Fong to appear.

Author's Note: For the purposes of this article I will not technically separate concessions and sub-concessions

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF (DIRECTOR) Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
MANAGING EDITOR Paulo Barbosa paulo.barbosa@macaudailytimes.com
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Eric Sautedé, Leanda Lee, Severo Portela

NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Daniel Beittler, Emilie Tran, Grace Yu, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Joseph Cheung, Julie Zhu, Juliet Risdon, Lynzy Valles, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Viviana Segui
DESIGNERS Eva Bucho, Miguel Bandeira | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES Associated Press, Bloomberg, Financial Times, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua | SECRETARY Yang Dongxiao arry@macaudailytimes.com

SEND NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION AND PRESS RELEASES TO: NEWSROOM@MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM WEBSITE: WWW.MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM.MO

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

SECRETARY Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

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REPORT

2017 'breakthrough year' for Social Security Fund



FSS president long Kong lo

At the end of 2017, the net asset value of the Social Security Fund (FSS) stood at MOP77.4 billion, an increase of MOP6.7 billion when compared with that of 2016. According to the Social Security Fund's Annual Report published yesterday, the total income of the FSS in 2017 was MOP10.763 billion and "the return on investment in 2017 was ideal."

The FSS funding mainly came from the SAR government's taxation on gaming revenue, followed by investment-related income, which together accounted for 90 percent of its revenue.

According to the report, 2017 was "a breakthrough year for the FSS." The con-

tribution amount for the first tier, the Social Security System, was increased to MOP90 and the law for the second tier, the Non-Mandatory Central Provident Fund System, was passed by the Legislative Assembly.

In terms of the payment of benefits and other allowances, old-age pension and disability pension are still the main factors. The total amount of benefit payments was about MOP3.7 billion, and the total number of recipients was 125,150, an increase of 5.5 percent when compared with that of 2016. Eighty percent of the recipients received the old-age pension, representing 102,012 people.

Franchise expo to focus on youth entrepreneurs, Greater Bay Area

THE Macao Franchise Expo 2018 (MFE) will be held at the Venetian Macao from today until Sunday, with more than 150 brand enterprises from home and abroad participating.

Themed "Brand Expansion Continues, Business Opportunities to be Seized," the "Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Bay Area Business Zone" and "Youth Entrepreneurship Exhibition Area" will be introduced to the expo this year.

To celebrate its 10th anniversary, this year's expo will feature over 180 booths, covering sectors such as dining, retail, brand agency services, consultancy and more, the Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute said in a statement. One of the highlights of this year's MFE is the "Smart Retail Zone," which will enable participants to learn about the latest technologies and services that the retail industry has to offer. The zone will showcase unmanned convenience store facilities, unmanned

juice huts and other new franchise elements.

A supporting zone of new franchise elements will be set up to provide IT support for e-commerce, business consultation, e-wallet and mobile payment. Regarding the "Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Bay Area Business Zone," the economic and trade institutions in the Greater Bay Area has been invited to set up counters to provide business consultation to participants.

At the "Youth Entrepreneurship Exhibition Area," enterprises established by young entrepreneurs will be invited to showcase innovative products and services and look for co-operation and investment opportunities. On the first day of the MFE, the "2018 Macau Excellent Franchise & Chain Business Award Ceremony" and the "2018 Outbound Excellent Chinese Franchise Brands (Macau) Awards Ceremony cum Forum" will be held.

During the exhibition, a "Branding Zone" will



also be set up to provide consultancy services for those seeking brand upgrades.

Meanwhile, the third day of the expo is designated as the "Start-up Launchpad" Day, where successful entrepreneurs will be invited to share their entrepreneurship experiences. Also, to celebrate the SAR's "Year of Gastronomy", the MFE will bring back the "Gourmet Avenue" with more than 20 booths featuring culinary specialties from Macau and Shunde. The MFE continues to be held concurrently with the "2018 Guangdong & Macau Branded Products Fair."

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Hong Kong book fair records 1.04m visits

This year's Hong Kong book fair, which concluded on Tuesday, recorded a record 1.04 million visits, according to the city's public broadcaster RTHK. The visitation figure represents a five percent increase over last year, mainly attributed to the fact that the 2017 edition was disrupted by a typhoon. At the same time, average spending during the fair was slightly down this year, from HKD812 to HKD810 per person. The book fair sells all genres of books, from romance novels to comics, as well as educational textbooks and politically controversial material bought by visiting mainlanders.

Myanmar relaxes entry requirements for Chinese visitors

The government of Myanmar is relaxing its entry requirements for citizens of China, who will now be able to apply for visas-on-arrival. Starting from October 1, eligible passengers from China, Hong Kong and Macau will be able to apply for visas-on-arrival at Yangon International Airport, Mandalay International Airport and Nay Pyi Taw International Airport. Costing USD50, these visas will allow tourists to stay within the country for up to 30 days. Chinese tourists will be required to present a return or onward travel ticket and USD1,000 to demonstrate that they are able to cover their own expenses. The new policy comes as the government looks for ways to boost tourism after Western visitor arrivals were negatively impacted by the controversial Rakhine crisis, reported the Myanmar Times.

Sports committees visit Summer Activities

A delegation composed of members of the Youth Affairs Committee and Sports Committee has visited several Summer Activities classes to assess an annual program run jointly by the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) and the Sports Bureau (ID). The initiative was set up to provide Macau youngsters with a number of activities during school summer holidays in July and August. Members of the two committees visited several classes from both sports, and cultural and creative activities in Vitoria Sports Centre (Martial Arts) and at Colégio D Bosco Yuet Wah (Painting, Color Transfer, Inscription Rubbing and Stamping).

During a lunch organized prior to Wednesday's visits, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, highlighted the nature and importance of such activities which have been generating increased demand



from the Macau population. This year the Summer Activities program had a total of 1,962 classes, which opened up 57,234 vacancies in 484 different activities.

According to figures from the organizers, the registration rate for such activities was over 92 percent.

Tam highlighted that the activities also included a program aimed at provi-

ding local youngsters with an opportunity to visit the mainland "to [get to] know more of the national developments," Tam said, noting that of the almost 9,000 vacancies available for the programs, "around 7,000 students from Macau are currently participating [in such activities]."

The Secretary also commented on the addition of

specific classes dedicated to students with special needs in a concurrent program.

In his speech, Tam said he hoped "that the youngsters can use these activities to learn more and develop more of their skills through meaningful activities during the school summer break...to come back to their studies with added strength." RM

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Wynn 'Career Advancement Program' Lifts Spirits

To capitalize on the growing momentum of Macao's rapidly diversifying economy, Wynn recently drew on its considerable talent pool for its first Career Advancement Program, an initiative which proved so successful that the company has decided to expand and enrich the opportunities the Program offers in 2018.

Open to front line team members from the gaming departments of Wynn Macau and Wynn Palace, the second edition of this Program provides exciting opportunities for even more local gaming employees. Participants must first be ready to tap into their true potential. The next step is to successfully complete the tailor-made training course leading to promotion to a management position in a non-gaming department. In essence, this Program nurtures talented local staff who are ambitious and focused enough to change their career path and are willing, dedicated and confident enough to fast-track their upward mobility, where the sky's the limit.



EXPANDED PROGRAM, MULTIPLE OPPORTUNITIES

It bears repeating. Wynn's Career Advancement Program challenges ambitious team members to develop their full potential. This is achieved by them acquiring the necessary knowledge, skills and confidence to fill a management position and embark upon a whole new career path via participation in a one-year training course. The first edition of the Program - acclaimed by both company staff and the community at large - has set the benchmark at a high level for the second edition being rolled out in 2018.

More than 4,000 eligible team members from the gaming departments of Wynn Macau and Wynn Palace were eligible to apply. Following a preliminary phase of questionnaires, letters of intent and interviews, 20 outstanding individuals were chosen to participate in a series of intensive training courses, thereby undertaking an unprecedented step towards achieving their career advancement goals.

MANAGEMENT POSITIONS AWAIT OUTSTANDING CANDIDATES

To participate in Wynn's one-year Career Advancement Program, applicants had first to undergo a preliminary Selection

phase lasting more than a month, during which time they were assessed on service orientation and English language proficiency before undergoing three progressively challenging rounds of interviews. At the end of this phase, designed to identify only the most suitable candidates with the greatest potential, 20 team members were finally chosen to undertake a series of advanced training sessions throughout the year.



From September to December during the previous year, participants underwent a preliminary Induction phase, exploring different departments and gaining an in-depth insight into how each department operates.

In the 6-month Immersion phase, participants learned how to work in a variety of different roles by rotating through 10 key departments, learning the essential skills of the Food & Beverage and Hotel Operations (i.e.) the major non-gaming services offered by Wynn, and which have consistently topped industry polls.

After nine months of rigorous training, participants gained various insights into

their potential and personal interests and were ready to choose to further their career in either the Hotel or F&B streams. Entering a 3-month Specialization phase in the department of their choice, each participant was assigned a Manager as their personal mentor and coached in the required skills of an Assistant Manager.

Following a full year of career development, each of the 20 graduating team members were appointed Assistant Manager and now officially occupy a management position in a non-gaming department of the company.

ROUNDED EXPERT IFT INSTRUCTION

As well as its proactive in-house training, Wynn's Career Advancement Program continues to receive strong support from the Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT) whose professionally qualified and experienced instructors give practical advice to each participant based upon their individual learning paths. In addition, they regularly assess their learning progress via practical examination, thus melding theory with practice.

Guest IFT instructors Edwyn Tam and Kurma Mac express their full confidence in the Wynn Program, with the former stating: "The success of the last edition of the Program has certainly given a boost to this year's trainees. Their proactive attitude will help to further enhance the overall learning outcome."

Mak added: "All trainees have clear goals in mind and the willingness to make more efforts in advancing their future careers, to strive for continuous self-improvement, as well as to grasp opportunities to move upward."

Both instructors effectively share their knowledge and skills in the field of hotel

services with the trainees throughout the training program so that participants can master the art of communicating with guests, while helping elevate the overall level of tourism services in Macao. Critically, the Program helps nurture new management personnel for the city's hotel sector and further promotes the city's march towards becoming a World Centre of Tourism and Leisure.



BUSINESS EXPERIENCE KEY

Wynn prides itself on making the best use of its human resources. The company has therefore invested heavily in developing its Career Advancement Program with the singular objective of enhancing the local talent pool with particular regard to the non-gaming service sector. The company will continue to provide its team members with ongoing classroom training and professional coaching to further enhance their management skills and competitiveness. In this way, both Wynn Macau and Wynn Palace can guarantee more opportunities and upward mobility for those in its local workforce who have the drive and determination to be all that they can be.

CIVIL PROTECTION

Authorities show new equipment in response to 'previous shortcomings'

Renato Marques

THE operational team of the local civil protection yesterday showcased the new equipment acquired by the various government services to "increase the capacity of response to catastrophes and other emergencies," said Ma Io Kun, Commissioner-General of the Unitary Police Service (SPU) during a summary of the event, which was held at the Customs Service (SA) Marine Enforcement Department at Ilha Verde.

According to Ma, the acquisition of the new equipment comes as a consequence of the sequence of analysis made about the shortcomings and flaws detected in the response of the teams during and after the passage of Typhoon Hato and it has the purpose to not only respond to typhoons and other catastrophes but also to situations "of rescue and reestablishment in a way to elevate our capacity of disaster prevention and reduction."

"After Typhoon Hato occurred last year, the security authorities defined short, medium and long-term response plans to typhoons and security situations," Ma said, adding, "after studies and analysis and taking into account the optimization of the attribution of services, specific equipment was acquired with which we intend to raise our capacity to respond to disasters."

As the Commissioner-General highlighted, a large number of the 70 kinds of equipment and tools acquired has the specific purpose of addressing situations such



Specific equipment was acquired with which we intend to rise our capacity to respond to disasters.

MA IO KUN
SPU COMMISSIONER

as rescue within underground parking lots and flooded areas.

In that sense, the SA acquired equipment such as maritime drones, a submarine robot controlled

by cable and several pieces of special diving equipment including underwater masks with communicator devices that will allow the divers to be in contact with the commanding team as well as each other, "as we realized during last year's operations that the waters were too cloudy for the divers to be able to communicate by gestures [which is the usual method]."

Questioned as to the increase of the number of specialized staff, namely divers, Ma said, "Last year we counted a total of 16 divers... [Since then] we were able to train another five, so we have now a total of 21 divers available," he said, while reiterating that the training of divers from rescue operations is a time-consuming task due the specificity of the tasks and the high skills needed, "which cannot be done in an accelerated mode."



To the question of how much the equipment cost, the Commissioner-General of the SPU said he did not have the figures at the moment but remarked that "the equipment has been acquired

according to the budget of each service and counted with the full support [of] the government," and noted, "at this stage the cost of the equipment is not that important as we are talking about equipment that intends to save human lives [which are much more valuable]," he concluded.

To the question regarding whether, if a similar event to Hato struck Macau again, the authorities would still need to call for the help of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), Ma replied, "we have an agreement established with the garrison [of the PLA] that, in case of need, the Chief Executive can request the support of the garrison through the Central government," adding, "this is not exclusive to typhoon situations but also to other emergency situations, but what we should do now is [...] improve our Civil Protection regime and the rescue [operations]."

CIVIL PROTECTION STILL OPERATING UNDER 'OLD RULES'

THE UNITARY Police Service's (SPU) Commissioner-General, Ma Io Kun, has reiterated that, currently, the civil protection services "are still operating under the previous system, that is, its functionalities are only activated when a level 8 Typhoon signal is hoisted by the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau and is called off when that signal lowers." Lei also stated that the measures announced by the government to change such system and put into

force other classifications and warning levels are currently at the public consultation stage, adding that any typhoon or other calamity that happens within this period will have to be treated according to the "old rules" and not the new ones, that have not yet been put into force. Despite the equipment acquired, Ma noted that people cannot expect that the security authorities will have a much different operational capacity than in the previous years.

GAMING

NagaCorp revenues soar on back of rising Chinese tourism, investment

REVENUES at Cambodia-based gaming operator NagaCorp soared 82.5 percent year-on-year during the first half of 2018, on the back of rising Chinese tourism and investment.

With a restricted customer base among the domestic market, the gaming operator was previously dependent on visitors primarily from across the border, in Vietnam.

Last year that showed signs of changing as Chinese visitation increased by a whopping 45.9 percent to 1.21 million, elevating China to number one among Cambodia's source of tou-

rists. According to Nikkei, Chinese investment into the country is growing at a similar pace.

Naga2 is driving much of this investment, partly because the second phase of the resort has a greater appeal among Chinese tourists. It's also the place that Macau-based junkets want to be.

Naga2's opening has enabled the company to convince junket operators Suncity Group and Venus Group to open VIP rooms this year. This is bringing a tide of high-roller gamblers to the city, adding significantly to the company's

bottom line.

VIP gaming revenue at the resort was up more than 160 percent year-on-year in the first half of this year, bringing the company's total revenue to USD732.96 million. Meanwhile, its net profit rose nearly 20 percent to \$180.13 million.

Accordingly, its Hong Kong-listed shares rose 8.9 percent on Wednesday to HKD8.35.

The company, which controls a 40-year monopoly on casino gambling in the Cambodian capital, last year doubled its hotel and gaming capacity with the opening of the USD369

Naga2 extension.

Moreover, the success of Naga2 has pulled forward plans for the third phase of the gaming resort.

"At Naga2, we are already running at capacity," NagaCorp Deputy Chairman Philip Lee said, according to a report by Nikkei. "So we are already planning for Naga3."

The company is also eyeing other projects overseas. Among them is a casino hotel just outside Vladivostok in Russia, and adjacent to another property that Macau gaming tycoon Lawrence Ho pulled out from last year.



Construction on NagaCorp's \$350-million Vladivostok project is expected to complete by the end of the next year.

Additionally, the company is considering whether to bid for gaming rights in Japan, following the recent government green light for casino development.

Ho reportedly exited Vladivostok in order to improve his chances of obtaining a Japan license. In an interview with Nikkei earlier this year, Ho said that he wanted to avoid the complications of having a presence in both Japan and Russia, in case the issue of contested territory reared its head.

Pollyanna Chu has lost 74 percent of her fortune

THE “queen of shell companies” had already been dethroned as Hong Kong’s richest woman. Now Pollyanna Chu Yuet Wah, whose Kingston Financial Group Ltd. operates Macau casinos and margin-lending businesses, has lost 74 percent of her fortune, the biggest destruction of individual wealth this year in Asia, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, a ranking of the world’s 500 richest people. After starting the year at No. 183 with USD8.4 billion, she’s currently worth \$2.2 billion and has dropped off the list.

The decline of her fortune deepened after Kingston reported fiscal 2018 profit of HKD1.4 billion (\$178.4 million), a 9 percent drop from a year earlier, as soured margin loans increased. The firm gets most of its financing from unsecured loans provided cheaply by Chu and her family, according to an analysis by activist investor David Webb.



Pollyanna Chu

Kingston plunged 17 percent on Jan. 30 after the Securities and Futures Commission said that 20 shareholders controlled more than 91 percent of the stock. It slid further in March after FTSE Russell purged Kingston from its benchmarks.

Kingston is Chu’s main holding, but her active role in Hong Kong’s market for

small-cap stocks earned her the moniker “queen of shell companies” in the Hong Kong press. Part of Chu’s wealth stems from her father’s background managing VIP rooms in Macau. Gaming in the former Portuguese colony, which accounts for about 15 percent of Kingston’s revenue, generated HKD473.5 million last

year, down 3.8 percent from fiscal 2017.

Chu, 59, joined a record \$5.2 billion deal to buy most of a Hong Kong skyscraper from Li Ka-Shing’s CK Asset Holdings Ltd., in the most expensive real estate transaction ever. CK Asset confirmed in May that the deal was completed. **Bloomberg**

Teachers from HK, Macau attend Mandarin training in Shaanxi

Over 100 teachers from the special administrative regions of Hong Kong and Macau are participating in a Mandarin training course in China’s northwest Shaanxi Province. The 10-day training course, beginning on Tuesday, included Mandarin learning and tests, and academic lectures. Besides language study, the teachers will visit several historic places of interests in Xi’an, capital of Shaanxi, such as the famous Terracotta Warriors. “The course gave us an opportunity to improve our Mandarin and deepen understanding of our culture,” said Tse Lai-Wah, a primary school teacher from Hong Kong. The first course was held in 2016 and more than 300 teachers have been trained since then.

Authorities deny design flaw on new bridge

Hong Kong authorities have denied that there is a design flaw in the passenger clearance building of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, despite the flooding of a power supply room in April. According to RTHK, critics had alluded that it was a design flaw to locate power supply facilities in low-lying areas prone to flooding. But a government representative from the city’s Highways Department refuted that there was any problem, explaining that it is a common design to locate such facilities below ground level. The HKSAR government says that the equipment affected during the April flood has been replaced.

AD

Job Title: Resident Engineer (E&M), Macau (28-month contract)

Responsibilities:

Participate in large-scale infrastructure and environmental projects, and conduct electrical and mechanical engineering related designs. Detailed work scope includes:

- Monitor project cost and construction programme, and carry out overall construction management.
- Review contractor’s design and material submissions;
- Observe, inspect and check the execution and testing of the Works in accordance with the Contract Specification drawings and approved method statements;
- Conduct regular site audit and supervision including quality assurance, quality control and site safety supervision;
- Instruct contractor to rectify unsatisfactory works and monitor remedial works as required;
- Coordinate with other site supervision staff to facilitate smooth works implementation; and,
- Coordinate with client and contractor for the completion of the Works.

Requirements:

- Macau Resident
- Bachelor Degree or above in Electrical/Mechanical engineering is a must.
- Minimum 10 years of relevant E&M working experience in wastewater treatment industry.
- Minimum 2 years of experience in electrical and mechanical site installation and commissioning works.
- Holding Certificate of Registration of Electrical Worker
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in Chinese and English.
- Demonstrated time management and organizational skills.
- Strong sense of commitment, willingness to learn, and desire to work in a dynamic deadline driven environment.
- Ability to work on site.

Job Title: Inspector of Works (E&M), Macau (28-month contract)

Responsibilities:

Participate in large-scale infrastructure and environmental projects, and conduct electrical and mechanical engineering related designs. Detailed work scope includes:

- Observe, inspect and check the execution and testing of the Works in accordance with the Contract Specification drawings and approved method statements;
- Conduct regular site audit and supervision including quality assurance, quality control and site safety supervision;
- Prepare and keep records of daily site documents, labour and equipment records, inspection reports, etc.;
- Coordinate with client and contractor for the completion of the Works;
- Instruct contractor to rectify unsatisfactory works and monitor remedial works as required;
- Maintain relevant photographic works records, covering the construction and commissioning of the Project; and,
- Assist resident engineer in cost and construction programme management.

Requirements:

- Macau Resident
- Bachelor Degree or above in Electrical/Mechanical engineering is a must.
- Minimum 5 years of relevant E&M working experience in wastewater treatment industry.
- Minimum 2 years of experience in electrical and mechanical site installation and commissioning works.
- Holding Certificate of Registration of Electrical Worker.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in Chinese and English.
- Demonstrated time management and organizational skills.
- Strong sense of commitment, willingness to learn, and desire to work in a dynamic deadline driven environment.
- Ability to work on site.

Job Title: Assistant Engineer (E&M), Macau (28-month contract)

Responsibilities:

Participate in large-scale infrastructure and environmental projects, and conduct electrical and mechanical engineering related designs. Detailed work scope includes:

- Review contractor’s design and material submissions;
- Observe, inspect and check the execution and testing of the Works in accordance with the Contract Specification drawings and approved method statements;
- Conduct regular site audit and supervision including quality assurance, quality control and site safety supervision;
- Prepare and organize site documents, such as daily site records, meeting minutes and inspection reports; and,
- Assist inspectors and resident engineers in cost and construction programme management.

Requirements:

- Macau Resident
- Bachelor Degree or above in Electrical/Mechanical engineering is a must.
- Minimum 3 years of relevant E&M working experience in wastewater treatment industry.
- Experiences in electrical and mechanical site installation and commissioning works will be an added advantage.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in Chinese and English.
- Demonstrated time management and organizational skills.
- Strong sense of commitment, willingness to learn, and desire to work in a dynamic deadline driven environment.
- Ability to work on site.

Job Title: Resident Engineer (Civil), Macau (28-month contract)

Responsibilities:

Participate in large-scale infrastructure and environmental projects, and conduct civil engineering related designs. Detailed work scope includes:

- Monitor project cost and construction programme, and carry out overall construction management.
- Review contractor’s design and material submissions;
- Observe, inspect and check the execution and testing of the Works in accordance with the Contract Specification drawings and approved method statements;
- Conduct regular site audit and supervision including quality assurance, quality control and site safety supervision;
- Instruct contractor to rectify unsatisfactory works and monitor remedial works as required;
- Coordinate with other site supervision staff to facilitate smooth works implementation; and,
- Coordinate with client and contractor for the completion of the Works.

Requirements:

- Macau Resident
- Bachelor Degree or above in Civil engineering is a must.
- Minimum 7 years of relevant civil works experience.
- Experiences in civil construction supervision and commissioning works.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in Chinese and English.
- Demonstrated time management and organizational skills.
- Strong sense of commitment, willingness to learn, and desire to work in a dynamic deadline driven environment.
- Ability to work on site.

Job Title: Inspector of Works (Civil), Macau (28-month contract)

Responsibilities:

Participate in large-scale infrastructure and environmental projects, and conduct civil engineering related designs. Detailed work scope includes:

- Observe, inspect and check the execution and testing of the Works in accordance with the Contract Specification drawings and approved method statements;
- Conduct regular site audit and supervision including quality assurance, quality control and site safety supervision;
- Prepare and keep records of daily site documents, labour and equipment records, inspection reports, etc.;
- Instruct contractor to rectify unsatisfactory works and monitor remedial works as required;
- Assist and keep relevant photographic works records, covering the construction and commissioning of the Project; and,
- Assist resident engineer in cost and construction programme management;

Requirements:

- Macau Resident
- Bachelor Degree or above in Civil engineering is a must.
- Minimum 5 years of relevant civil works experience.
- Experiences in civil construction inspection and commissioning works will be an added advantage.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in Chinese and English.
- Demonstrated time management and organizational skills.
- Strong sense of commitment, willingness to learn, and desire to work in a dynamic deadline driven environment.
- Ability to work on site.

Job Title: Resident Building Services Engineer, Macau (12-month contract)

Responsibilities:

Participate in large-scale infrastructure and environmental projects, and conduct civil engineering related designs. Detailed work scope includes:

- Review contractor’s design and material submissions;
- Observe, inspect and check the execution and testing of the Works in accordance with the Contract Specification drawings and approved method statements;
- Coordinate with consultants and building services contractors, check workmanship, concealed work inspection and verify related materials, T&C, etc.;
- Maintain relevant photographic works records, covering the construction and commissioning of the Project;
- Instruct contractor to rectify unsatisfactory works and monitor remedial works as required;
- Coordinate with other site supervision staff to facilitate smooth works implementation; and,
- Coordinate with client and contractor for the completion of the Works.

Requirements:

- Macau Resident
- Bachelor Degree or above in Building Services, Electrical or Mechanical engineering, or equivalent is a must.
- Minimum 5 years of relevant building services working experience.
- Experiences in site installation experience and commissioning works will be an added advantage.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in Chinese and English.
- Demonstrated time management and organizational skills.
- Strong sense of commitment, willingness to learn, and desire to work in a dynamic deadline driven environment.
- Ability to work on site.

REAL ESTATE MATTERS Home Staging

Juliet Risdon is a Macau based property investor, renovator and real estate broker. Having established Juliet Macau Limited in 1994, and now offering "turn key" services for Macau property investors, the company has grown to accommodate investors from all over the world.



JULIET RISDON

www.JMLProperty.com
info@JMLProperty.com

Despite what some people might think, properties, even great ones, don't sell themselves. There are a whole myriad of tasks that need to be completed before your property is ready to be presented to the market. Granted, many of the tasks are serious ones requiring repairs and overdue maintenance, but none are more fun than the final task of staging your property for sale. Think of staging as dressing your property.

It's what you do after you've seriously decluttered, painted, repaired and cleaned. Creating a little bit of magic in the property will make your home look cleaner, brighter, more welcoming and ultimately more desirable than others - making other home buyers want to buy it.

Staging is quite different to redecorating. Staging is all about the buyer, whereas redecorating a home focuses on the occupant and their taste and personality. Understanding this difference is one thing, but thinking like a professional home stager and then applying a different set of practices is quite another and requires great diligence. This is just one reason why hiring a home staging professional to walk through your home and direct you to make the changes

is a popular and cost effective concept.

So how does a Professional Home Stager do it? They look at the property from an unbiased and unattached point of view i.e. the buyer's perspective. The buyer will be viewing your property with them in mind and will mentally be trying to assess whether their belongings will fit into the home they are viewing. Therefore the professional home stager will re-arrange your furnishings to appeal to the broad-based of purchasers.

Home Stagers do not tolerate clutter and the first thing you must do is uncluttered your house. After you've had a go yourself, enlist the help of a friend to helping you. Take a deep breath and ask them to point out everything that appears cluttered to them, do this room by room. This includes furniture; you should be able to walk around a room unhindered. All clutter should be moved to storage. Remaining decorative items should be displayed in odd numbers i.e. 1, 3 or 5.

In my opinion, a fresh coat of paint should be mandatory when selling. Remembering that you are looking at your property from the buyers perspective, so you should select from a neutral palette of paint colours. Let cushions,

rugs, candles and quirky pieces pick up colour.

Lighting is important too, even if the viewings are conducted in daylight hours, always turn the overhead lights on. If any of the rooms are dull, brighten them up with higher wattage bulbs.

Kitchens are a key selling point in a home and it must be presented in spotless condition. Remember the clutter rule and remove all fridge magnets, school notices and other paraphernalia from the door of the fridge. Put out large bowls of fruit such as polished apples or bright oranges. Keep the look simple and don't mix your fruits, just one variety will do. If you have a great cookbook, leave it on the counter.

Bathrooms must be spotless. Think open, airy and sparkling clean. Buy new fluffy towels for the rack or if bench space allows, roll them and secure with a ribbon, display a simple but inviting looking tray of spa type treatments.

Above all, try and enjoy the staging process, if you approach it with a sense of fun, this will be reflected in the overall result. Remember that the purpose of staging is not to provide good pickings for nosy tyre kickers but to make buyers want to buy your property.

Barbie maker Mattel to cut more than 2,200 jobs

MATTEL, hurt by the closing of Toys R Us stores, said Wednesday that it will cut more than 2,200 jobs as the maker of Barbie dolls and Hot Wheels cars seeks to save money.

Like other toy companies, Mattel has lost sales as Toys R Us faltered. The toy retailer filed for bankruptcy protection last year, announced it was liquidating its business in March and then closed all its stores last month.

Mattel rival Hasbro, however, reported better-than-expected second-quarter financial results earlier this week, a sign that the maker of Monopoly and Play-Doh is rebounding from the demise of Toys R Us.

A Mattel spokesman said the job cuts will affect mainly its office workers worldwide and are part of the company's efforts to slash at least USD650 million in costs. Mattel, which is based in El Segundo, California, has about 28,000 employees.

Mattel Inc.'s stock fell nearly 9 percent to \$14.85 in after-hours trading Wednesday, after dropping 1 percent during the regular



trading day.

The company had other bad news: Its financial results between April and June were worse than what Wall Street analysts had expected.

It posted a loss of \$240.9 million, or 70 cents per share, in the second quarter. Losses, adjusted for one-time gains and costs, were 56 cents per share, far larger than the loss of 32 cents per share analysts expected, according to Zacks Investment Research.

Revenue fell 14 percent to \$840.7 million, below the \$863.1 million analysts expected.

There were some bright spots: Barbie and Hot Wheels sales rose, even as Toys R Us shuttered its doors. Other brands didn't fare as well. Sales of its American Girl dolls fell, as did sales in its Fisher-Price brand.

Ynon Kreiz, who was named CEO in April, said Wednesday that he expects the negative impact of Toys R Us to subside by next year. Mattel, he said, is working closely with other retailers and looking for more ways to sell its toys online.

"Mattel is a company with great potential," Kreiz said in a conference call. AP



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China hasn't delivered on its USD24b Philippines promise

Jason Koutsoukis, Cecilia Yap

ALMOST two years after China pledged USD24 billion in investment to the Philippines, barely any projects have materialized, prompting deepening concerns that President Rodrigo Duterte has undermined the country's sovereignty with little to show in return.

Of the 27 deals signed between China and the Philippines during Duterte's visit to Beijing in October 2016, China originally agreed to provide \$9 billion in soft loans, including a \$3 billion credit line with the Bank of China, with a further \$15 billion worth of direct investments from Chinese firms in railway, port, energy and mining projects. It didn't specify a timeline.

Since then, the Philippines has completed only one loan agreement with China worth \$73 million to fund an irrigation project north of the capital, Manila, according to Economic Planning Secretary Ernesto Pernia. Two bridges in Manila to be funded with Chinese grants worth up to \$75 million were inaugurated last week.

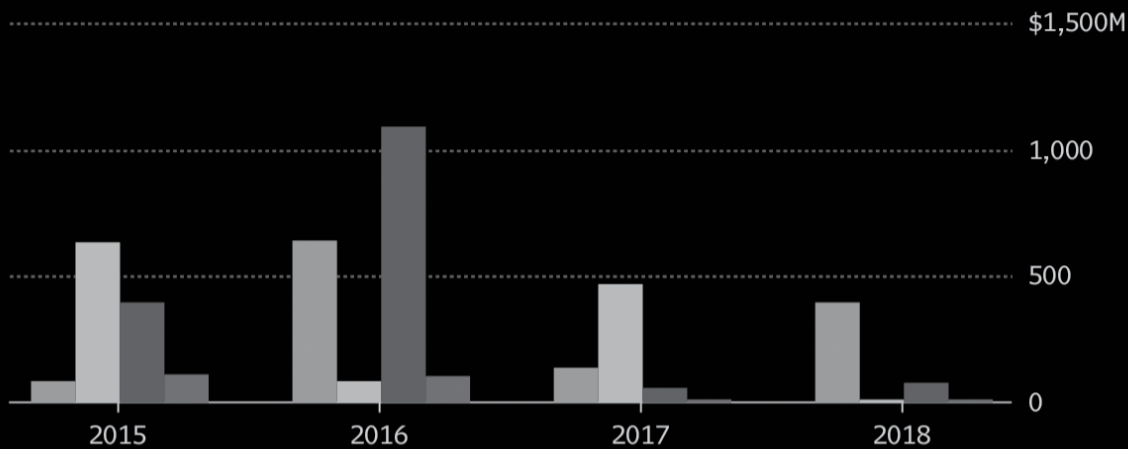
The process of securing loans from China "seems to be moving slower" compared to getting assistance from other countries such as Japan, Pernia said at a briefing earlier this month.

Duterte has repeatedly touted China's financial help as a key reason for pivoting away from the U.S. and Europe, which he says haven't produced material gains for the Philippines. Yet while Beijing remains the Philippines largest trading partner, when it comes to foreign direct investment, China is outranked by Japan, the U.S., the Netherlands, South Korea and Singapore.

Shared Interests

Net foreign direct investment flows to the Philippines

■ China & Hong Kong ■ U.S. ■ Japan ■ South Korea



Source: Central Bank of the Philippines

Bloomberg

As the Philippines' only treaty ally, the U.S. also remains a key security partner, providing crucial assistance to the country's armed forces last year as they struggled to defeat hundreds of Muslim militants who had laid siege to the city of Marawi.

China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs disputed the assertion that it had not followed through on its investment commitments in the Philippines, pointing to the bridge and irrigation projects. "China-Philippines relations are continuously strengthening and deepening," it said in an emailed statement. "China attaches great importance to friendly cooperation with the Philippines and enthusiastically supports President Duterte's 'Major Construction, Strong Construction' plan."

Duterte's visit to Beijing in 2016 served as a turning point for his administration, reinforcing his "separation" from the U.S. and cementing his shift toward China. His critics have accused him of failing to res-

pond forcefully after Beijing landed bomber aircraft on territory claimed by the Philippines and asserted its presence at Sandy Cay in the Spratly Island chain.

"Under Duterte, the Philippines has forward deployed its geopolitical concessions," Richard Heydarian, non-resident fellow at ADR-Stratbase Institute, a think-tank, said in an interview. "We have been used by China."

China's popularity has suffered in the Philippines, with net trust in the country plummeting to its lowest since April 2016, the month before Duterte was elected president, according to a Social Weather Stations survey of 1,200 voters conducted over the last weekend in June. Almost nine in 10 said they wanted the Philippines to assert its claims against China in the South China Sea.

For Alvin A. Camba, a doctoral candidate at Johns Hopkins University, timing isn't the issue. The real measure is the an-

nual foreign direct investment from China and Hong Kong, which has already reached \$800 million, nearly two-thirds of what it was during the previous administration, Camba said.

"There shouldn't be any expectations for these deal to be completed, or to be close to completion," Camba, who has written extensively on Chinese investment in the Philippines, said in an email. "Opening the economy to Chinese FDI was the correct move." Still, many of the biggest deals don't seem to be happening at all.

Greenergy Development Corp., which is based in Mindanao, signed an agreement to develop a \$1 billion, 300-megawatt hydropower plant with Power China in October 2016. When China Power asked for the initial project deadline to be extended several times through January last year, Cerael Donggay, chief executive of Greenergy, agreed.

"The last extension was in February 2017 and still nothing

happened, so we terminated the agreement," Donggay said in a phone interview, adding that his company was now in talks with a Hong Kong-based company to try to complete the project.

One of the Philippines largest nickel miners, Global Ferronickel, signed an agreement with Baiyin Nonferrous Group in October 2016 to explore the construction of a stainless steel plant in the Philippines for up to \$700 million.

Duterte has repeatedly touted Beijing's financial help as a key reason for pivoting away from the U.S. and Europe

"It was put on hold," Global Ferronickel president Dante Bravo said in an interview, because the government was yet to lift an executive order banning new mining projects. "It was exploratory. We have to convince them that it's really viable," Bravo said.

Another agreement signed in October 2016 was a \$780 million proposal to raise three islands from a waterlogged area of Davao, Duterte's hometown. That was canceled in July last year after the city's mayor and presidential daughter, Sara Duterte-Carpio, said a review of the project found that it was not commercially viable.

"After the wave of euphoria which greeted those announcements in 2016, we realize now that those Chinese investment claims were hugely inflated," said the ADR-Stratbase Institute's Heydarian. "Looking forward, I expect Japan, the U.S. and other partners in Europe to remain the main suppliers of foreign investment to the Philippines." **Bloomberg**

GAMING

Sands earnings miss estimates as Singapore comes up short

LAS Vegas Sands Corp. posted second-quarter earnings that missed analysts' estimates as gains in Macau failed to overcome lower house winnings in Singapore.

The company, founded by billionaire Sheldon Adelson, reported second-quarter profit edged up to 74 cents a share, excluding some items, trailing expect-

tations of 78 cents.

Fewer bets and a lower win percentage trimmed results at the Marina Bay Sands in Singapore, the company said. Industrywide revenue in Macau stayed strong despite fears that the World Cup or a brewing trade war with the U.S. would keep visitors away. Betting in Macau rose 17 percent to

MOP73.7 billion (USD9.12 billion) in the quarter.

Shares of Las Vegas Sands fell as much as 5.4 percent to \$71.10 in extended trading. The stock is up 8.1 percent this year.

Revenue at Las Vegas-based Sands rose 6.2 percent to \$3.3 billion, exceeding the \$3.28 billion projected by Wall Street.

In Macau, Sands' earnings

totalled \$750 million, compared with the \$751 million average of estimates compiled by Bloomberg. The enclave is the company's biggest market, at 59 percent of revenue.

Profit in Singapore, where Sands does about a fourth of its business, slumped 25 percent, while earnings in Las Vegas fell 2.5 percent. **Bloomberg**





Chinese security personnel stand outside the U.S. Embassy and (above right) prevent media from filming after the two incidents took place yesterday

Suspect arrested after small explosion outside US Embassy in Beijing

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

A man exploded a small homemade bomb outside the U.S. Embassy in Beijing yesterday, injuring only himself, according to police and an embassy spokesperson.

Photos on social media showed a large amount of smoke and police vehicles surrounding the embassy shortly after the inci-

dent. Apart from a heightened security presence, the scene outside appeared to be normal by early afternoon.

The Beijing Police Department posted a statement on its website identifying the suspect only by his surname, Jiang, and said he was 26 years old and a native of Tongliao city in the Chinese region of Inner Mongolia. He was injured on the hand by the ex-

plosive device, which was made from fireworks and was detonated at about 1 p.m., police said.

There was no word on a motive and the statement said the investigation was continuing.

No damage was done to embassy property and no other injuries were recorded, a U.S. embassy spokesperson said, speaking on routine condition of anonymity.

Only one person was involved

and police responded to the situation, the spokesperson said.

Neither the police nor the embassy had any comment on a report by the ruling Communist Party newspaper Global Times that said officers had earlier removed a woman from outside the embassy who had sprayed gasoline on herself in a "suspected attempt at self-immolation" at around 11 a.m.

China and the U.S. are in the middle of a trade dispute, but America remains a hugely popular destination for travel, education and immigration for Chinese citizens.

On weekdays, large lines of visa applicants form outside the embassy, which sits in a busy corner of the city hosting numerous diplomatic installations as well as hotels and stores. **AP**

AIRLINES

Taiwan denounces China moves to limit its global profile

TAIWAN yesterday denounced China's latest moves to increase its global isolation, saying residents of the self-governing island would reject attempts to deny its existence.

China in recent days has forced international airlines to stop referring to Taiwan as a separate country on their websites. It also allegedly prompted the Asian Olympic Committee to withdraw the island's right to host a youth competition scheduled for next year in the central city of Taichung.

"These are attempts to destroy Taiwan's sovereignty, and erase it from the world map," Foreign Ministry spokesman Andrew Lee told reporters at a news conference.

"I believe that no Taiwanese people would accept such a thing," Lee said.

Beijing's action is aimed at increasing Taiwan's isolation and prodding it toward a political union



with China. Taiwan is already excluded from the United Nations and other major international organizations, and China has been steadily poaching away the self-governing island's dwindling number of diplomatic partners.

Beijing has also stepped up its military threats by

sending warplanes on patrols around the island and staging war games on its side of the Taiwan Strait.

It has also offered preferential terms for talented young people from the high-tech island to work in cities such as Shanghai and Beijing that offer much larger potential

markets than those available in Taiwan.

China has taken an increasingly hard line since the election of Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen, who has refused to endorse Beijing's insistence that Taiwan is a part of China to be brought under its control eventually.

Tsai's office issued a

statement criticizing the move to cancel the 2019 East Asian Youth Games in Taichung as "brazen and crude political meddling in sports."

"Taiwan condemns China's behavior in the strongest possible terms," the statement said.

These are attempts to destroy Taiwan's sovereignty, and erase it from the world map.

TAIPEI FOREIGN MINISTRY

BEIJING UNSATISFIED

China said the changes U.S. airlines have agreed to make on how they refer to Taiwan is incomplete with the carriers seeking two more weeks to fully implement the requirement.

American Airlines Group Inc., Delta Air Lines Inc., United Continental Hol-

dings Inc. and Hawaiian Holdings Inc. are the last four foreign airlines out of 44 that didn't fully comply with an order to reflect the island as part of China, the Civil Aviation Administration of China said in a statement. The deadline was yesterday. The regulator didn't say what changes the airlines promised were incomplete.

U.S. airlines were altering their website displays for Taiwan, and refer to the island only by the city names of Taipei and Kaohsiung, or by airport codes. Route maps may no longer display a country label for Taiwan. The White House in May dismissed China's directive as "Orwellian nonsense," saying it was part of a trend by the Communist Party to impose its political views on U.S. citizens and private companies.

CAAC sent a letter in April to more than 40 foreign airlines telling them that they shouldn't place China, Hong Kong and Taiwan on an equal footing, and must refer to "China Taiwan" or the "China Taiwan region." Maps must display the territories in the same color as mainland China, the order said. **MDT/Agencies**

PAKISTAN

Imran Khan's party claims victory in disputed election



Imran Khan, ex-cricket star

FORMER cricket star Imran Khan's party claimed victory in Pakistan's election, boosting stocks as investors bet he'd be able to form a stable government that could address the nation's financial woes after a vote tarred by rigging allegations.

Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, or Movement for Justice, said it has emerged as the single largest party and can form the federal government, Naeem ul Haq, a PTI leader told reporters yesterday in Islamabad as long-delayed counting continued. "Imran Khan will speak soon and give an outline of his strategy," he said. An unofficial tally from Dawn newspaper showed the PTI leading in 119 seats, shy of the 137 needed to clinch a majority, though only 49 percent of the vote has been counted. Jailed former premier Nawaz Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz trailed with 61 seats and the Pakistan Peoples Party led in 40, with the other rest split among smaller parties.

While Sharif's party and the PPP denounced irregularities in the election, if needed 65-year-old Khan could strike deals with independent lawmakers to form a coalition.

"The overwhelming sentiment in favor of PTI all over the country proves that the people of Pakistan now want IK as their leader and PTI as the party in power to bring about the much needed change this country has been waiting for," Haque said in an earlier statement.

Pakistan's next leader will urgently need to deal with a mounting economic crisis: four currency devaluations since December have made it likely the next government will seek another International Monetary Fund bailout. Pakistan's benchmark stock index rose as

much as 1.9 percent, poised for the highest since June 21.

"The completion of the election clears the path for the IMF negotiation, which is what, in the short-term, investors care most about," said Hasnain Malik, the Dubai-based head of equity research at Exotix Capital. "A PTI victory that comes very close to an absolute majority is, at this stage, the most positive outcome for long-term investors interested in seeing better economic governance in Pakistan."

Any government will also compete for influence over foreign policy with Pakistan's powerful military, which has ruled for much of the nation's history and faced accusations of meddling in the campaign - allegations it denied. Khan has long criticized the U.S. for drone strikes in Pakistan, taken a hard line against India and expressed support for China's USD60 billion infrastructure program.

"Khan as prime minister is unlikely to challenge the army's authority on policies including national security, defense, and relations with India, Afghanistan, and the U.S.," Shailesh Kumar, Asia director at Eurasia Group in New York, said in a report.

Shehbaz Sharif, the younger brother of Nawaz, told reporters in Lahore that the PML-N rejected the election results after its officials were kicked out of polling stations.

"This is the most dirty election in Pakistan's history," Mushahid Hussain, a PML-N leader, said at a press conference in Lahore. "This is not an election, but a selection. Someone is being installed, someone is being removed."

Pakistan Peoples Party co-chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, 29, expressed similar concerns. **Bloomberg**

ADVERTORIAL

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CAMBODIA

Exiles seek global scrutiny of political crackdown

Bopha Phorn, Washington

KEM Monovithya, a Cambodian political activist, was visiting Switzerland in September when she got a phone call from her father. Kem Sokha, the leader of Cambodia's main opposition party, told his daughter that government agents were raiding their family's home in Phnom Penh.

"He told me: 'They're handcuffing me now,'" Kem Monovithya, 36, recalled in an interview with The Associated Press.

Months later, her father remains in prison, facing charges of treason, and she is in the United States.

She said she can't go home because she fears she, too, will be arrested as part of a government crackdown that has banned the political party her father led, shut down news outlets and scattered hundreds of Cambodian politicians, human rights activists and journalists into exile in the U.S., Australia, Thailand and other countries.

Prime Minister Hun Sen's ruling party, the Cambodian People's Party, has stepped up actions against media organizations and opposition politicians over the past two years as national elections — which are set for Sunday — have drawn closer.

Hun Sen, who had held power for three decades, vowed last year that he'd be willing to "eliminate 100 to 200 people" to protect the nation's security, suggesting his opponents "prepare coffins."

Spokespeople for the ruling party and the government did not answer questions from the AP for this story.

In February, the government issued a 132-page book that asserted that "real democracy is not being reversed [...] On the contrary, only fake democracy is being uprooted."

The international watchdog group Human Rights Watch says the "civil and political rights environment in Cambodia" has "markedly deteriorated" since the start of 2017. The group says the regime has engaged in "arbitrary arrests and other abuses" and worked to portray peaceful dissent over corruption, land rights and other issues as attempts to overthrow the government.

Kem Monovithya and other exiled members of the banned Cambodia National Rescue Party are keeping the party alive from abroad. They are trying to convince the U.S., the European Union and others to place an embargo on international travel by top Cambodian officials, but avoid a general economic em-

AP PHOTO



Kem Monovithya, a Cambodian political activist and daughter of Kem Sokha, the jailed leader of Cambodia's main opposition party

bargo that would hurt average Cambodians.

They are also asking voters boycott this month's elections, using social media to urge Cambodians to embrace a "clean finger campaign." In Cambodia, voters must dip their fingers in ink after casting their ballots.

The National Election Committee warned that anyone urging a boycott or otherwise interfering in the polls could face criminal charges.

'BEYOND WORDS'

Kem Monovithya and other exiles have traveled around the U.S. and to Europe, Australia, New Zealand and elsewhere to spread their message, talking with diplomats, lawmakers, media and Cambodians living abroad.

As they advocate for change from afar, Cambodia's political exiles are also struggling with a sense of loss and dislocation.

"I miss my family, my kids," said Sia Phearum, a Cambodian land rights activist who fled the country for the U.S. in late 2017, leaving behind his wife and three children, ages 5 to 11. "The pain is beyond words."

Kem Monovithya told the AP that her exile is "a test of my strength and endurance. I am almost homeless." She stays with friends and she isn't sure where she'll be from week to week. "I go where my advocacy takes me," she said.

A month after her father's arrest, one of his deputy party leaders, Mu Sochua, was tipped off by two government officials that she was also going to be arrested. Mu Sochua, 64, said she wanted to stay, but her children convinced her that she should

she leave the country and work from abroad for democracy in Cambodia.

In late May, Mu Sochua and Kem Monovithya traveled to Norway to attend the Oslo Freedom Forum, a gathering of human rights and democracy advocates.

In a speech at the forum, Mu Sochua urged the international community to impose sanctions "on those who are engaging in the oppression" in Cambodia.

"The democracies of the world should not recognize a government from an illegitimate election," she said.

The U.S. has expressed "grave concern" about the Cambodian government's actions and questioned whether this month's elections will be free and fair. In March, the Trump White House said it was withholding USD8.3 million in funding for Cambodia's government as part of an effort "to ensure that American taxpayer funds are not being used to support anti-democratic behavior." The EU has threatened a trade embargo and Germany has restricted travel visas for Cambodian government officials.

Japan has continued to provide funding to help underwrite the general election. Exiled Cambodian opposition leaders have appealed to the Japanese government to withdraw the funding.

Cambodian authorities claim that opposition leaders, community activists and journalists are working with the U.S. and other "superpowers" to bring down the government. Hun Sen and other government officials use the term "color revolution" to describe these efforts.

"All armed forces are obliged to absolutely ensure that Cambodia is free from any color revolutions," Hun Sen wrote in a Facebook post in 2016. "Such a revolution will harm people's happiness and peace in Cambodia. Armed forces shall protect the legitimate government."

'AUTHORITY OF THE STATE'

Despite the cooling of its relations with the U.S., the Cambodian government has cited Donald Trump's attacks on what he calls "the fake news media" as justification for tighter controls on journalism in Cambodia.

"President Donald Trump thinks that the news reported by these organizations did not reflect the truth, which is the responsibility of the professional reporters," a Cambodian government spokesman said in a statement weeks after Trump's inauguration. "This means that freedom of expression must respect the law and the authority of the state."

In September, the Cambodian Daily, an English language newspaper known for its aggressive reporting on corruption and abuses of power, announced it had been forced to close as the result of what it said were "extra-legal threats" and a sham tax bill from the government.

The paper's final front page included the headline "Descent Into Outright Dictatorship" — and the news that Kem Monovithya's father, Kem Sokha, had been arrested and charged with conspiring with the U.S. to overthrow Hun Sen's government. Hun Sen publicly called Kem Sokha a "foreign puppet."

In May, the Phnom Penh Post, which was considered the last

independent daily in Cambodia, was purchased by a businessman who is chief executive of a public relations firm that has worked for Hun Sen's government. After the sale, several top journalists at the paper were fired or resigned.

The government has also closed about 20 radio channels and arrested two former reporters with U.S.-backed Radio Free Asia. The journalists, Uon Chhin and Yeang Southarin, were initially accused of running an "unlicensed karaoke studio" but were later charged with providing a "foreign state with information which undermines national defense."

These troubles are the latest in a country that has endured genocide, civil war and oppression over the past half century. Nearly 2 million Cambodians died in the "killing fields" operated by the Khmer Rouge, the communist regime that controlled the country from 1975 to 1979. Hun Sen took power as Cambodia's prime minister in 1985, but violence between competing factions continued until a peace accord was signed in Paris in 1991.

Over the past decade or more, citizen protests have proliferated over land rights, widespread logging in Cambodia's forests and working conditions in the country's garment factories. In response, the government has arrested dozens of protest leaders, convicting some in court proceedings that Human Rights Watch said "failed to meet even the most rudimentary fair trial standards."

Sia Phearum, the land rights activist, said "the powerful and the rich" profit from development and land grabs while poor people get little compensation for their losses.

"The government and the companies are doing business together," he said. "When you hear of a place being developed, there will be tears and suffering."

'TIGERS AND SNAKES'

Some observers trace the regime's increased efforts to curb dissent to the killing of Kem Ley, a political commentator and critic of the regime. He was gunned down in Phnom Penh in 2016 — two days after he spoke on radio about a report by the watchdog group Global Witness examining the wealth that Hun Sen's family has accumulated.


His death was widely seen as a politically motivated murder. Throngs of people took to the streets to join his funeral procession. Opposition politicians believe the turnout surprised the government.

Kem Ley's widow, Bou Rachana, had never been involved in politics, but since her husband's murder, she has begun speaking out about her country's political and social ills. She left Cambodia and was granted asylum in Australia earlier this year.

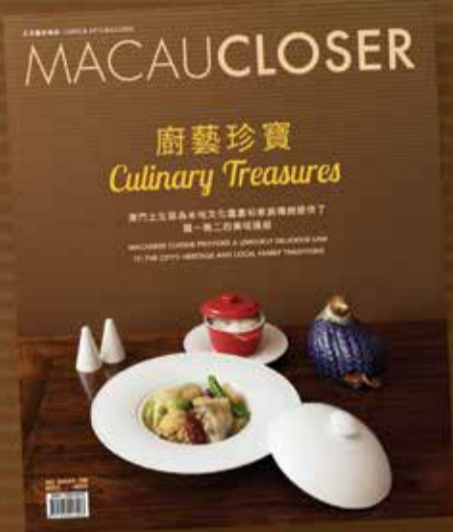
"I could not live in a country full of tigers and snakes," she told AP. **AP**

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US

Arson wildfire forces entire California town to evacuate

A fast-moving wildfire — believed to have been sparked by arson — tore through trees, burned five homes and forced evacuation orders for an entire forest town as California sweltered under a heat wave and battled ferocious fires at both ends of the state.

The so-called Cranston Fire, which erupted yesterday [Macau time] in the San Jacinto Mountains east of Los Angeles, turned into a wall of flame that torched timber and tinder-dry brush. In a matter of hours it grew to 19 square kilometers.

It was threatening an estimated 600 homes, authorities said.

The fire was the largest of at least five that police believe were purposely set by a man whose car was reportedly spotted at the starting point of the blaze in Riverside County, officials said.

Brandon N. McGlover, 32, of Temecula was booked on suspicion of five counts of arson, state fire officials said. It wasn't clear whether he had an attorney.

Authorities ordered residents to leave Idyllwild and several neighboring communities,



home to about 12,000 people.

William Blodgett of Idyllwild said he couldn't get home because of the fire and had to wait along with others at a gas station in nearby Mountain Center — until the fire hopped a highway and began to move in his direction.

"We were all peeling out of the-

re as fast as we could," he told KNBC-TV. "It was apocalyptic."

Horses and other animals were taken to shelters as were several hundred children who were evacuated from summer camps. About 200 were at a local high school serving as a shelter, KCAL-TV reported.

The fire in the San Bernardino National Forest sent up a

cloud 50,000 feet high that was so enormous it created its own weather in the form of lightning, the National Weather Service reported.

Throughout the day, helicopters and planes dumped water and fire retardant that turned swathes of land and homes pink. Fire engines also were stationed to protect homes.

The fire is one of several across California amid a heat wave that has seen days of triple-digit temperatures.

To the north, in the San Francisco Bay Area, at least one home burned in a fast-moving blaze in Clayton, where houses are spread out around windy roads.

Yosemite Valley, the scenic heart of the national park, was closed at noon Wednesday during the height of tourist season as smoke cast a pall on the region from a fire in the Sierra Nevada. The closure was heartbreaking for travelers, many of whom mapped out their trips months in advance to hike and climb amid the spectacular views of cascading waterfalls and sheer rock faces.

"We had one guest who planned a weeklong trip," said Tom Lambert, who owns a vacation rental property near Yosemite Valley. "It was a father-daughter trip, for her high school graduation [...] Now it's done. It's sad." Another guest had to delay plans to climb Half Dome.

Officials emphasized that Yosemite wasn't in imminent danger from the fire. Authorities decided on the shutdown to allow crews to perform protective measures such as burning away brush along roadways without having to deal with traffic in the park that welcomes 4 million visitors annually. AP

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TRADE WAR

Backing off auto tariffs, US and EU agree to more talks

Ken Thomas
& Paul Wiseman, Washington

PRESIDENT Donald Trump and European leaders pulled back from the brink of a trade war over autos yesterday [Macau time] and agreed to open talks to tear down trade barriers between the United States and the European Union.

But while politicians and businesses welcomed the deal Thursday, the agreement was vague, the negotiations are sure to be contentious and the United States remains embroiled in major trade disputes with China and other countries.

In a hastily called Rose Garden appearance with Trump, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said the U.S. and the EU had agreed to hold off on new tariffs, suggesting that the United States will suspend plans to start taxing European auto imports — a move that would have marked a major escalation in trade tensions between the allies.

Trump also said the EU had agreed to buy “a lot of soybeans” and increase its imports of liquefied natural gas from the U.S. And the two agreed to resolve a dispute over U.S. tariffs on steel and aluminum.

“It’s encouraging that they’re talking about freer trade rather than trade barriers and an escalating tariff war,” said Rufus Yerxa, president of the National Foreign Trade Council and a former U.S. trade official. But he said reaching a detailed trade agreement with the EU would likely prove difficult.

The tone was friendlier than it has been. During a recent European trip, Trump referred to the EU as a “foe, what they do to us in trade.” Juncker, after Trump imposed tariffs on steel and aluminum imports, said in March that “this is basically a stupid process, the fact that we have to do this. But we have to do it. We can also do stupid.”

Yesterday, Trump and Juncker said they have agreed to work toward “zero tariffs” and “zero subsidies” on non-automotive goods.

Trump told reporters it was a “very big day for free and fair trade” and later tweeted a photo of himself and Juncker in an embrace, with Juncker kissing his cheek.

“Obviously the European Union, as represented by @JunckerEU and the United States, as represented by yours truly, love each other!” he wrote.

The agreement was welcomed by political and business leaders



President Donald Trump and European Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker speak in the Rose Garden of the White House

in Germany, the EU’s biggest economy, though their relief was tempered with caution that details have to be firmed up.

“Very demanding and intensive negotiations lie ahead of us,” German Economy Minister Peter Altmaier said, vowing that “we will represent and defend our European interests just as emphatically as the U.S. does with its interests.” He said the Trump-Juncker accord was “a good start — it takes away many people’s worries that the global economy could suffer serious damage in the coming months from a trade war.”

Trump campaigned on a vow to get tough on trading partners he accuses of taking advantage of bad trade deals to run up huge trade surpluses with the U.S.

He has slapped taxes on imported steel and aluminum, saying they pose a threat to U.S. national security.

The U.S. and EU are now working to resolve their differences over steel and aluminum — but the tariffs are still in place. And they would continue to hit U.S. trading partners like Canada, Mexico and Japan even if the U.S. and the EU cut a deal.

Whatever progress was achieved could provide some relief for U.S. automakers. The escalating trade war and tariffs on steel and aluminum had put pressure on auto companies’ earnings. General Motors slashed its outlook, and shares of Ford Motor Co. and auto parts companies have fallen.

“Our biggest exposure, our biggest unmitigated exposure, is really steel and aluminum when you look at all of the commodities,” GM CEO Mary Barra said.

Trump has also imposed tariffs on USD34 billion of Chinese imports — a figure he has threaten-

ed to raise to \$500 billion — in a dispute over Beijing’s aggressive drive to supplant U.S. technological dominance.

China has counterpunched with tariffs on American products, including soybeans and pork — a shot at Trump supporters in the U.S. heartland.

The EU is stepping in to ease some of U.S. farmers’ pain. Juncker said the EU “can import more soybeans from the U.S., and it will be done.”

Mary Lovely, a Syracuse University economist who studies trade, said, “The Chinese are not going to be buying our soybeans, so almost by musical chairs our soybeans are going to Europe.” The trouble is, China last year imported \$12.3 billion in U.S. soybeans, the EU just \$1.6 billion.

Trump’s announcement stunned lawmakers who arrived at

the White House ready to unload concerns over the administration’s trade policies only to be quickly ushered into Rose Garden for what the chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee called “quite a startling” development.

“I think everybody sort of changed what they were going to say,” said Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan.

Lawmakers said they still needed to see details of the agreement with the EU as well as progress on the other deals. But they said the breakthrough announcement was a step in the right direction.

“We have more confidence in him now than we did before,” said Rep. Mike Conaway, R-Texas, the chairman of the House Agriculture Committee.

The White House announcement came as the Trump administration announced a final rule aimed at speeding up approval of applications for small-scale exports of liquefied natural gas. The Trump administration has made LNG exports a priority, arguing that they help the economy and enhance geopolitical stability in countries that purchase U.S. gas.

Juncker said the two sides also agreed to work together to reform the World Trade Organization, which Trump has vehemently criticized as being unfair to the U.S.

The auto tariffs would have significantly raised the stakes in the dispute. Taxes on EU cars, trucks and auto parts could have hit goods that were worth \$335 billion last year. The European Union had warned it would retaliate with tariffs on products worth \$20 billion.

Daniel Ikenson, director of trade studies at the libertarian Cato Institute, warned that the fight could flare up again if Trump grows impatient with Europe.

“Auto tariffs are looming unless the EU buys more U.S. stuff and does other things Trump demands,” he said. **AP**

Xi Jinping warns of no winner in trade dispute

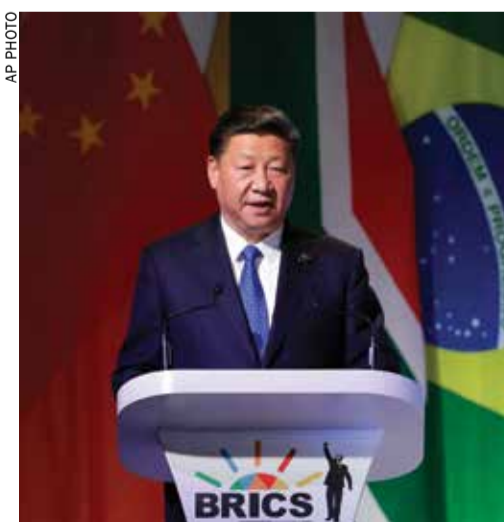
CHINESE President Xi Jinping said the world faces “a choice between cooperation and confrontation” amid a trade war with the United States that he warned would have no winner.

Those who pursue “economic hegemony” will “only end up hurting themselves,” Xi said at the annual summit of the BRICS emerging economies, held this year in Johannesburg.

“Unilateralism and protectionism are mounting, dealing a severe blow to multilateralism and the multilateral trading regime,” he added in remarks critical of escalating U.S. tariffs on goods from China, the world’s second-largest economy, and other major trading partners.

Just hours earlier, U.S. President Donald Trump accused China of “vicious” tactics on trade, tweeting that China was specifically targeting U.S. farmers with retaliatory tariffs because “they know I love & respect” them.

The other leaders of BRICS countries —



Chinese President Xi Jinping delivers his speech at the opening of the BRICS Summit in Johannesburg

Russian President Vladimir Putin, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and Brazilian President Michel Temer — are expected to join the three-day summit.

Turkey’s president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, has also been invited.

Ramaphosa also expressed concern about “the rise in unilateral measures that are incompatible with World Trade Organization rules” and are especially damaging to developing countries.

Trump’s comments on China came after his administration announced a plan to provide USD12 billion in emergency relief for farmers who have been slammed by the president’s trade disputes. China has retaliated to American tariffs with duties on some U.S. products.

The Chinese leader told the summit that “we are facing a choice between cooperation and confrontation, between opening up and a closed-door policy.”

“The current international order is not perfect,” Xi said, but it should not be discarded “as long as it is rule-based, aims to be equitable and pursues win-win outcomes as its goals.” **AP**

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FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
18:25	Destinies
19:10	World Cup Diary
19:35	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	Portuguese Mini Serie (100% Portuguese)
22:10	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:50	Movie: Fast & Furious 7
01:20	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
02:05	RTPi Live

SATURDAY

10:30	Comedy
11:35	Miscellaneous
12:30	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast (PT)
15:00	Miscellaneous
18:35	Miscellaneous
19:10	World Cup Diary
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (PT)
21:15	Grimm Sr. 4
22:45	Miscellaneous
23:15	TDM News
23:50	1 FIMM - Bach "Ich Habe Genug" Cantata BWV 82
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:05	RTPi Live

SUNDAY

10:25	Kids Serie
11:00	Sunday Mass (Live)
12:00	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
17:40	Got Talent Portugal
19:20	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-daily Portuguese News
22:00	Documentary
23:00	TDM News
23:55	Miscellaneous
00:25	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:05	RTPi Live

Offbeat

GIRL CATCHES PIRANHA RELATIVE IN OKLAHOMA LAKE

An 11-year-old girl has quite the fish tale: A rare pacu with human-like teeth chomped down on the worm at the end of her line while she was fishing with her grandparents and brother in an Oklahoma lake.

But Kennedy Smith isn't exaggerating when she describes her catch. Caddo County Game Warden Tyler Howser confirms that the fish was a pacu, a relative of the piranha that is native to South America and can grow up to 22 kilograms.

Kennedy's fish weighed about half a kilogram, according to Howser and Kennedy's grandmother Sandra Whaley.

Kennedy says she initially was "really excited" to have caught a fish Sunday in Fort Cobb Lake, about 89 kilometers southwest of Oklahoma City. She was shocked when the fish bit her grandmother, as Whaley removed the hook from its mouth.

"I was confused because I knew that fish with teeth are not normal. It was weird. They were human-like and that made it even weirder," Kennedy told The Associated Press Thursday.

Whaley said she suffered no ill-effects from the bite.

Howser said the fish was likely purchased as a pet and was released into the lake when it grew too large for the aquarium of the family that owned it.

Pacu are considered an invasive species that can destroy the native Oklahoma fish ecosystem and habitat.



cinema



CINETEATRO

26 Jul - 01 Aug



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



MISSION IMPOSSIBLE - FALLOUT

ROOM 2

2:30, 6:00, 9:00pm

ROOM 3

4:30pm

Director: Christopher McQuarrie

Starring: Paul Rudd, Evangeline Lilly, Michael Douglas

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 118min



SKYSCRAPER

ROOM 3

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

Director: Rawson Marshall Thurbe

Starring: Tom Cruise, Henry Cavill, Simon Pegg

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 147min

this day in history



2003 COMIC LEGEND BOB HOPE DIES

American icon and legendary comedian Bob Hope has died, just two months after celebrating his 100th birthday.

He had been ill with pneumonia, and died in his sleep at home in Toluca Lake, California, with his family at his bedside.

US President George Bush led the tributes which poured in from around the world.

"Today America lost a great citizen," he said.

"Bob Hope made us laugh. He lifted our spirits. Bob Hope served our nation. We will mourn the loss of a good man."

A spokeswoman for Buckingham Palace said the Queen, who met British-born Hope many times, was "very sad" to hear the news and would be sending a private message to his widow, Dolores, who was married to Hope for 69 years. The couple had four children.

Film-maker Woody Allen also joined the tributes, saying, "It's hard for me to imagine a world without Bob Hope in it."

Film critic Derek Malcolm said he was a talented comic actor.

"Many comics are depressed in real life, but he wasn't - unless he'd had a bad round of golf," he said.

Birthday celebrations were held in May to mark Bob Hope's centenary, but with failing eyesight and hearing, the comedian was not well enough to attend.

He was born Leslie Townes Hope in south-east London in 1903, the son of a stonemason and a Welsh concert singer.

He lived in Britain until he was four, when his family emigrated to Ohio, in the United States.

He trained in vaudeville, the American form of music hall entertainment, and became increasingly well-known through his film, television and radio work.

With Bing Crosby, he created one of the big screen's most memorable partnerships, with such classic comedies as "Road to Singapore".

He was a close friend of many US presidents, including Kennedy, Nixon, Ford and Reagan, and was especially known for his tireless work entertaining American troops wherever they were stationed around the world.

He was awarded a Congressional Medal of Honour in 1962 and received an honorary knighthood from the Queen in 1998.

But he never won the prize he most wanted - the Oscar.

Introducing the Oscars ceremony in 1968, he joked: "Welcome to the Academy Awards. Or as it's known in my house - Passover."

He was, however, given four honorary Oscars for his contribution to showbusiness.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Bob Hope was buried on 31 July in a private ceremony in suburban Los Angeles. His coffin was draped with the United States flag for the 30-minute service.

Mourners gave a spontaneous standing ovation at the conclusion of the ceremony.

President Bush ordered flags to be flown at half-mast on the White House, all US government and military buildings, naval vessels and US posts around the world for the day of the funeral.

A larger memorial service took place on 27 August, attended by Hollywood stars and prominent political figures including former US President Gerald Ford.

A Los Angeles airport has since been renamed Bob Hope Airport in his memory.

YOUR STARS

Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

A recent social outing didn't turn out to be as much fun as you were hoping. Was it just a case of having unrealistic expectations, or are you guys drifting apart? Readjust your expectations...

Taurus

April 20-May 20

If your pace is feeling out of whack with the rest of the world's today, it is probably because you are going way too fast - the people who are in your life right now just cannot keep up!

Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

The complete cast of characters in your life story hasn't been established yet, so don't start making any assumptions about who will or won't be sticking around. Explore new relationships.

Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

They say that a good leader doesn't ask for control - they take it. Does that apply to you? Are you someone who goes out and grabs the power they want? Give it a try today.

Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

The lesson you need to learn today is that perseverance can really pay off! So when you get up today, make yourself a nutritious breakfast and wear some clothes you can move around in.

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Your heart is driving you through your life's journey right now, and you should follow it without question - it knows exactly where you need to go, while your brain is likely to get you lost.

Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

Get creative on the tools you use today - there are resources right at your fingertips that you aren't taking advantage of (and you should be). You might not recognize them for what they are.

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

The same old processes or attitudes about life just aren't cutting it anymore. You need to be challenged in why you do the things you do. The more new information you take in, the more clearly you will see your future.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Present your ideas to others and do not be afraid to be challenged - in fact, you should encourage it. You may be focusing too much on the skeptical side of things right now.

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

You'll be able to spot them a mile away and adjust your trajectory accordingly. As the day continues, you'll be back in your element again - feeling comfortable in your own skin and eager to make real connections with people.

Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

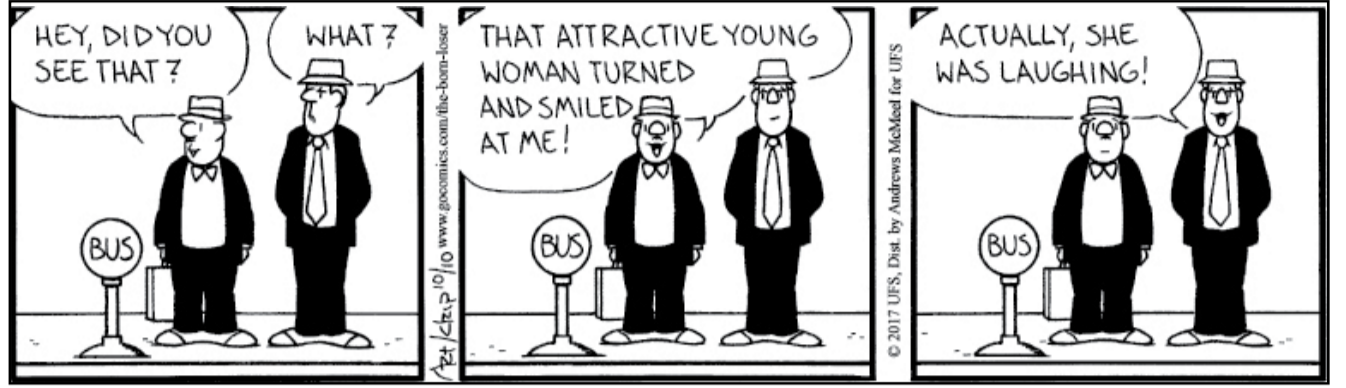
Today a potentially embarrassing situation might create some unexpected hilarity - but try not to laugh too much at someone else's expense. You're not one to poke fun at someone else...

Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

Maintain your more introspective mood however you feel like it today - make any excuses you need to make in order to get out of a potentially sticky situation. It's okay to play it safe...

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

2	6	4						
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			7	9		2		
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7			2					3
	4	1						6
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Medium

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Hard

			3		5			
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2						4		
5	1							6
			2		8	7		

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
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CHINA

Beijing	25	32	drizzle/cloudy
Harbin	19	29	cloudy
Tianjin	27	34	cloudy
Urumqi	16	25	cloudy
Xi'an	25	37	cloudy/shower
Lhasa	13	24	thundershower/cloudy
Chengdu	23	30	heavy rain/shower
Chongqing	28	38	cloudy
Kunming	18	25	shower
Nanjing	27	36	cloudy
Shanghai	28	35	cloudy/thundershower
Wuhan	28	37	cloudy
Hangzhou	27	37	thundershower/cloudy
Taipei	27	34	cloudy/clear
Guangzhou	26	33	thundershower
Hong Kong	28	32	shower

WORLD

Moscow	20	29	cloudy/drizzle
Frankfurt	20	31	clear
Paris	21	31	cloudy/clear
London	16	28	drizzle
New York	24	29	moderate rain/clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Snakes; 5- Basilica area; 9- Spitting sound; 13- Overfill; 14- Muse of love poetry; 16- Univ. recruiting group; 17- Shoo!; 18- Geeky guys; 19- Fish-eating eagle; 20- Cornered; 22- Owner of a slave; 24- Some sausage; 27- Prepare to be shot; 28- Assaults; 29- Temerity; 33- ___ nous; 34- Himalayan legend; 35- Hardware fastener; 36- Rock's ___ Speedwagon; 37- For ___ sake!; 38- Leaves in a bag; 39- Like ___ not; 41- Strong ___ ox; 42- Like untended yards; 44- Intending; 46- Frightens; 47- Pro ___ (free); 48- Cong. meeting; 49- Three lines of verse; 52- King Kong, e.g.; 53- Brouhaha; 57- Converse competitor; 58- Bar, legally; 60- ___ uproar; 61- Diana of "The Avengers"; 62- Knot again; 63- Title; 64- Caesar's wings; 65- ___ Lang Syne; 66- Growl;

DOWN: 1- Biblical beast; 2- Anatomical pouch; 3- School org.; 4- Pioneer; 5- Trojan War hero; 6- Primp; 7- Reddish-brown gem; 8- Airport abbr.; 9- Gift; 10- Legal wrong; 11- Magazine founder Eric; 12- Champagne bucket; 15- Subtle absorption; 21- Ceremonial act; 23- Volcanic output; 24- Spain and Portugal; 25- Beliefs; 26- Bent over; 27- Communion plate; 29- Put a new price on; 30- Go into; 31- Kid leather; 32- Remains; 34- Type of question; 37- Artist; 40- Enclosure formed by the ribs; 42- Loos; 43- Shifting eastward; 45- Wade opponent; 46- Oozed; 48- Ruin; 49- Skater Lipinski; 50- Devil's doing; 51- Capital of Latvia; 52- Westernmost of the Aleutians; 54- ___ even keel; 55- Lady of Spain; 56- Lulu; 59- Poseidon's domain;



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	<p>The Buckingham Taipa Two double bedroom Fully Furnished HKD 18,000 / 700 sq ft Ref: 18060681</p>	<p>Office - Dynasty Plaza Macau Park-Side Work Space Spacious Commercial Space HKD 72,000 / 3,500 sq ft Ref: 18070685</p>	<p>Lakeview, Macau Macau 3 Bedrooms Apartment Front Balcony HKD 30,000 / 3,430 sq ft Ref: 18060680</p>	<p>Venus Court NAPA Macau Macau 3 Bedrooms Apartment Fully Furnished HKD 16,200 / 1,230 sq ft Ref: 18070686</p>

Organisers: Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute Department of Commerce of Guangdong Province

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Time	Event	Venue
10:00 - 20:00	Exhibition of GMBPF 2018	Expo Hall B
10:00 - 11:00	Opening Ceremony of GMBPF 2018	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B
10:00 - 11:00	Gangdong - Hong Kong - Macao Bay Area Roundtable Meeting	Naples Room 2606
13:00 - 14:00	Business Luncheon (By Invitation Only)	Bicycle Room 2506
14:30 - 15:00	Musical Performance by Local Singers Bubo Chan	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B
16:00 - 16:30	Product Promotion (Fifteensoe Footstuffs Co., Ltd.)	The Floor of Full-Fung Empressan Area, Expo Hall B
16:00 - 16:28	Product Promotion (THE MOSS)	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B
16:20 - 16:40	Product Promotion (Yikui (L) (Kwatoia chianama in shanghain)) Tangmei Real Co., Ltd.)	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B
16:25 - 16:50	Product Promotion (Dongguan Na Ya New Material Technology Co., Ltd.)	The Floor of Full-Fung Empressan Area, Expo Hall B
16:40 - 16:50	Circus Performance	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B
16:50 - 16:55	Product Promotion (W.S. Education)	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B
16:00 - 16:15	Dancing Performance	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B
16:00 - 16:00	Gangdong County of Guizhou Province Business Seminar	Naples Room 2705
16:15 - 16:30	Circus Performance	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B
16:15 - 16:40	Product Promotion (Guangdong Yiyang Industry Co., Ltd.)	The Floor of Full-Fung Empressan Area, Expo Hall B
16:40 - 17:00	Product Promotion (Guangdong Yiyang Industry Co., Ltd.)	The Floor of Full-Fung Empressan Area, Expo Hall B
17:30 - 17:45	Opening Ceremony of Celebrity Cooking Live Show	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B
17:45 - 18:30	Celebrity Cooking Live Show - Battle between the World Cities of Gastronomy (Round 1)	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B
18:00 - 20:00	Celebrity Cooking Live Show - Battle between the World Cities of Gastronomy (Round 2)	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B

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Ferrari driver Sebastian Vettel of Germany

F1 Vettel needs to rebound in Hungary to keep heat on Hamilton

Jerome Pugmire, Budapest

UNLESS Sebastian Vettel bounces back with a strong performance at the Hungarian Grand Prix this week, he risks heading into Formula One's summer break lagging behind Lewis Hamilton.

Vettel should have been the one in the ascendancy, but his clumsy crash while leading the

rain-soaked German GP last Sunday cost him the race and gifted victory to Hamilton. Rather than stretching his lead, the German driver now trails Hamilton by 17 points after 11 of 21 races.

Vettel also gave away points with mistakes last year and must avoid doing that again as he and Hamilton duel for a fifth F1 title to move level with Argentine great Juan Manuel Fangio.

Despite his basic error at Ho-

ckenheim, where he led by nearly 10 seconds before sliding off into the barriers late into the race, Vettel has been striking a defiant tone.

His confidence is down to the fact Ferrari has often been the quickest car this season, even more so than the usually dominant Mercedes of Hamilton's team.

"Everyone knows what we can do, so I'm confident looking

forward to Hungary," Vettel said. "We have showed it enough times. We have a strong car so we can be as confident as [...] more [confident] than anybody else."

Getting pole position at the tight Hungaroring circuit — known in F1 as Monaco without the walls — is crucial given it is among the hardest tracks in F1 for overtaking.

Vettel won from pole last year. He held off veteran Finnish dri-

ver Kimi Raikkonen on the long straight into Turn 1, and held on to win despite driving more than half the race hampered by a steering problem.

It is the sort of grit and tenacity he needs to show against a resilient Hamilton, who has often proved the better driver under pressure.

Although Mercedes reclaimed the leads in the drivers' and constructors' championships after victory in Germany — with Valtteri Bottas ensuring an unexpected 1-2 — this does not disguise the fact Mercedes still has shortcomings. Before last weekend's race, the talk was of car reliability and team strategy issues.

"In the cold light of day, we also know and recognize that we did not bring the quickest car to Hockenheim," Mercedes head of motorsport Toto Wolff said. "Hungary will see another tough fight with both Ferrari and Red Bull. It's a high downforce track and on paper they should both be very fast in Budapest. However, if there's one thing the German Grand Prix taught us, it's the fact that predictions don't determine race results."

Following the midseason break, the F1 championship resumes at the Spa track in Belgium on Aug. 26.

Usually, the last race before the summer break is a mixture of excitement and relief. But there will be more of a somber mood hanging over the Budapest paddock after the death of former Ferrari president Sergio Marchionne.

Marchionne, who was 66, died on Wednesday after complications from surgery in Zurich.

Upon replacing Luca di Montezemolo at the head of Ferrari in 2014 — with the famous Italian scuderia a fading force in the series — the industrious and hugely determined Marchionne returned Ferrari to title-contending form this season and last.

Governing body FIA said, "Due to the exceptional circumstances" regarding the team's need for grief and privacy, Raikkonen and team principal Maurizio Arrivabene were excused from attending scheduled pre-race news conferences yesterday and today. **AP**

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opinion

World Views

Enda Curran, Bloomberg

WHAT DOES THE APPARENT TRUMP-EU TRADE TRUCE MEAN FOR CHINA?

Donald Trump's surprise trade truce with the European Union has analysts asking, "What does this mean for the trade war with China?"

So far there are two very different answers.

One camp sees the deal between Trump and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker to suspend new tariffs while negotiating over trade as a deliberate attempt to mend fences with allies as the U.S. gears for a protracted dispute with China.

"De-escalating the U.S.-EU trade track, and possibly the NAFTA trade track in the period ahead, does not mean the U.S.-China trade track is also ripe for an off-ramp," Krishna Guha, vice chairman at Evercore ISI, wrote in a note. "This is possible, but it is at least as likely that the U.S. is reducing trade tension with its allies in order to improve its leverage and staying power in what we continue to fear will be a prolonged trial of strength with Beijing."

Guha says Evercore ISI's base case is there'll be no U.S.-China deal before 2019.

The U.S. truce with Europe is likely to embolden Trump to increase his pressure on China, said Chua Hak Bin, a senior economist at Maybank Kim Eng Research Pte in Singapore.

"Trump will likely blow his trumpet and argue that his trade war threats are working," Chua said. "The probability of a full-blown U.S.-China trade war has ironically increased with the U.S.-EU trade deal."

The other view: Trump's apparent deal with Europe shows how bargains can be struck.

"The willingness of Trump to agree to a trade truce with the EU is a positive sign that a similar arrangement could be reached during a discussion with Xi Jinping," said Andy Rothman, a former U.S. diplomat in Beijing who's now an investment strategist at Matthews Asia, a money manager. "I also think that Xi is better placed to make more concessions than Juncker was able to offer, and thus obtain more concrete results from Trump."

That's because of Xi's position as the sole leader of his country and his pledge to make China's economy increasingly market-oriented, said Rothman.

One thing all analysts can probably agree on — don't count your trade truce chickens just yet.

"We should be cautious," said Deborah Elms, executive director of the Asian Trade Centre, a consulting firm in Singapore. "The EU got promises to start talking. China also received similar treatment. After two dialogue sessions, China ended up facing USD50 billion in tariffs with potentially more on the way."

While there appears to be little sign of negotiation between the U.S. and China, the situation remains fluid. Trump has surprised before by pushing ahead with tariffs even after Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin in May declared the trade war was "on hold." Trump also lifted a ban on American firms selling products to Chinese telecommunications equipment maker ZTE Corp. and opted for a softer tack on new rules scrutinizing Chinese investment.

While Chinese officials remain open to a deal, they are unsure about trusting their American counterparts, Bloomberg News has reported.

For now, the mood among analysts suggests that optimism for a breakthrough in the U.S. and China tensions is low.

The effect of that trade war on China's growth may also be limited so far, according to a separate Goldman Sachs report. The yuan's recent tumble on a trade-weighted basis will offset the drag on Chinese growth from the first two rounds of U.S. tariffs, according to the report.

THE BUZZ EINSTEIN'S THEORY OF RELATIVITY PASSES YET ANOTHER TEST

More than a century after Albert Einstein proposed it, his theory of general relativity has passed another test. With giant telescopes pointed at the center of our galaxy, a team of European researchers observed a fast-moving star that got close to a monstrous black hole. They saw that the black hole distorted the light waves from the star in a way that agrees with Einstein's theory. The result was reported yesterday in the journal *Astronomy & Astrophysics*.

Einstein's theory says the fabric of the universe is not simply space, but a more complex entity called space-time, which is warped by the presence of heavy objects. Black holes offer a good opportunity to test that idea. The one that lies at the heart of the Milky Way is 4 million times as massive as our sun. "I, just like every physicist in the world, would have loved to finally see a crack in Einstein's relativity," said Ohio State University astrophysicist Paul Suter. "But he's outsmarted us."

Trump's Scottish resort to expand, raising ethics concerns

Bernard Condon, New York

PRESIDENT Donald Trump's company is planning a major expansion of one of its golf resorts in Britain that would include the construction and sale of 500 homes fetching as much as several million dollars each, raising possible conflict-of-interest issues as his administration faces tricky trade negotiations with the country.

The Trump Organization says it submitted plans to local Scottish officials on Tuesday for permission to spend nearly USD200 million (150 million pounds) building The Trump Estate, a residential community of 500 luxury cottages and mansions. Ethics lawyers have said that any expansion there requiring government approval raises the possibility Trump's business could get special favors.

Matthew Sanderson, a former legal adviser to several Republican presidential campaigns, said the move shows the "flimsiness" of Trump's pledge to take steps to avoid profiting from the presidency.

"Whenever a property is expanded or changed or upgraded, it raises questions of financing partners and approvals by local government," said Sanderson, a lawyer at Caplin & Drysdale. "It's not just a real estate deal when it's the president of the United States."

The Trump Organization said in a news release that it has already received "outline" approval from the local Aberdeen government for the expansion, but still needs the final go-ahead. Asked about the potential conflicts with Trump's role as president, it said in a statement that the expansion is of an existing property and was planned years ago and so does not violate Trump's pledge to shun any new foreign deals while in office.

"This is not a 'new deal' but is simply the next phase of development of a long-term mixed-use project that was originally contemplated more than 12 years ago," said George A. Sorial, the company's chief compliance counsel.



A view of MacLeod House, a sixteen room boutique hotel at the Trump International Golf course in Balmedie

Government ethics experts from both parties have said Trump should have sold off his business before his inauguration. They argue that the "no new deal" pledge was inadequate from the start because there is ample opportunity for business interests and foreign governments to use his resorts and hotels to influence U.S. policy by patronizing the properties or facilitating expansions — regardless of whether new deals are involved.

The Trump golf resort near Aberdeen overlooking the N. Sea, along with its Turnberry resort on the Irish Sea, has lost money for years

The submission of expansion plans to officials in Scotland comes shortly after Trump's visit to Britain where he raised the prospect of hammering out a "great bilateral trade agreement" with the country.

The expansion at the Trump International Golf Links would add to its hotel there and would include plans for

construction of retail space, equestrian and sports centers and 50 "hotel" cottages. The company expects to break ground early next year. The Trump golf resort near Aberdeen overlooking the North Sea, along with its Turnberry resort on the Irish Sea, has lost money for years. Environmental groups and local homeowners have lashed out at Trump for what they say were bullying tactics in pushing through prior work there and for threatening historic sand dunes in the area.

The "no new foreign deals" has been a lightning rod for government ethics experts. Critics note that Trump had already struck deals for planned resorts in Dubai and Indonesia when he took office, and that the pending construction allowed for plenty of opportunity for influence peddling. The pledge also did nothing to stop lobbying groups and foreign officials from throwing parties and patronizing Trump's golf clubs and resorts in the U.S., especially his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida and his Washington hotel down the street from the White House.

Trump gave mixed signals about its willingness to hammer out a free trade deal with Britain on his visit there earlier this month. He told a tabloid newspaper that a British decision to remain partially integrated in the European Union after its Brexit vote would probably "kill" a trade deal with the U.S., but then backtracked in a news conference suggesting "whatever you do is OK with me." AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	80-100 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	50-70 Moderate
Ambient	80-100 Moderate

WORLD BRIEFS



SYRIA The death toll from coordinated attacks by Islamic State fighters on a usually peaceful southern Syrian city and surrounding countryside has climbed to 216, a local health official said yesterday, in the worst violence to hit the area since the country's conflict began.

BRITAIN-RUSSIA Typhoons from Britain's Royal Air Force based in Romania have been scrambled in response to a Russian warplane flying near NATO airspace over the Black Sea.

GERMANY A Berlin court has convicted a Vietnamese man of involvement in a kidnapping case that has strained relations between Germany and Vietnam.



ITALY Police have begun clearing a shanty camp inhabited by members of the minority Roma community, despite a European Union court ruling halting demolition.

FRANCE The former security aide to President Emmanuel Macron who triggered an uproar after a video showed him beating a protester acknowledged a "huge mistake" in attending the demonstration equipped as a police officer.



US A fast-moving wildfire — believed to have been sparked by arson — tore through trees, burned five homes and forced evacuation orders for an entire mountain town as California sweltered under a heat wave and battled ferocious fires at both ends of the state. More on p14

COLOMBIA Secretary-General Antonio Guterres says Colombia's new government must consolidate peace and urgently address major challenges, from an upsurge in violence to the need to restore confidence in the future among leftist rebels who laid down their arms.