



### ALL LOOKING TO THE BOOK

Lawmaker Sulu Sou made such an unusual proposal that it forced the president of the legislature to refer to the rulebook

P2 AL PLENARY



### 78 EMPLOYERS JOIN NEW PENSION SCHEME

A total of 78 employers have joined the non-mandatory central provident fund system which came into effect on January

P4



### FOREIGN MINISTER PRAISES HK SEMI-AUTONOMY

P10 CHINA

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## EXCLUSIVE

# Scholar accuses IPM of serious negligence

P3

## WORLD BRIEFS

### SOUTH CHINA SEA

The Philippines has expressed concern to China over an increasing number of Chinese radio messages warning Philippine aircraft and ships to stay away from newly fortified islands and other territories in the South China Sea claimed by both countries.



**CAMBODIA** The ruling party of Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen congratulated itself yesterday on its election victory, while the opposition party unable to contest the polls said they marked the death of democracy in the Southeast Asian country. More on p13

**INDONESIA** Hundreds of tourists stranded on Mount Rinjani on the Indonesian island of Lombok by an earthquake that killed 16 people and triggered landslides are making their way off the mountain, shaken by their experience but mostly unharmed, an official said yesterday. More on p13



# Canidrome closure prompts plea for adoptions

P6

More on backpage



## AL PLENARY

# Sulu Sou gets Legislative Assembly looking to the book

Renato Marques

IN yesterday's session at the Legislative Assembly (AL), lawmaker Sulu Sou made such an unusual proposal that it forced the president of the legislature to refer to the rulebook.

Yesterday's session came with a busy agenda of discussing and approving three bills regarding the establishment of the tax benefit for those who registered losses of their motorized vehicles during last year's Typhoon Hato; the changes to the law regarding the Rights of Assembly and Demonstration; and the creation of the new Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM), which will replace the current Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM).

After the proposal had faced considerable criticism from lawmakers Ng Kuok Cheong and José Pereira Coutinho, Sulu Sou proposed that instead of transferring the prior warning and definition of times, spaces and routes of demonstrations from the IACM to the Public Security Police Force (PSP), it should be transferred directly to the Chief Executive.

"I believe that we should attribute such powers to our Chief Executive," he said. "In fact, we know that any appeal of these decisions need to be addressed by the TUI [Court of Final Appeal]. That already gives an idea of the high importance that this matter has. In that sense, I think it should be the CE deciding on this matter."

Sou said that he had already made such a request to the AL earlier on in the day.

The response from the lawmakers was divided, with notable members both in favor and against. The situation eventually created an imbroglio for the president of the AL, Ho Iat Seng, who admitted not knowing exactly how to proceed with such a request. However, the president noted that since the request of Sou had not been submitted at least five days before, it could not be addressed by the plenary. Ho further noted that, as far as he understood, what could be done at this stage was a vote on whether the proposal ought to be returned to the 1st Standing Commit-

RENATO MARQUES



tee for a detailed scrutiny.

Pereira Coutinho and Au Kam San came to the defense of Sou with the latter reaffirming the democrat position. "This is not a simple transfer of powers," said Au. "Although at the first look it might appear to be, it is not that simple," he continued, agreeing with Sou that the authority over such a power is not the same thing regardless of whether it is

in the hands of the IACM or the PSP.

As Sou had said earlier in the session, "I cannot accept that the power to refuse a demonstration is in the hands of the police. I agree with [their involvement in terms of] time and place - that is not a problem - but we have reasons to be suspicious of the attitude of the police."

"We have monitored how they

behave; the way they put dozens of camera filming the demonstrations, the number of 'undercover' officers merged among the demonstrators and all the rest..." he noted without explicitly referring to the case that led to his temporary suspension as lawmaker.

Holding the contrary view were lawmakers Song Pek Kei, Chan Wa Keong and others, who ex-

pressed their firm disagreement with Sou and his proposal.

Visibly upset, Song recalled that "the proposal has already passed through all the members [of the Committee] and through the AL services. The discussion [over it] was serious and the analysis was both technical and juridical," she noted adding that Sou did not specify which parts violate the law.

Regarding the idea of Sou to attribute such power in the hands of the CE, Song said, "We have discussed this already - it's on the report [from the committee]," adding that the positions of the president of IACM and of CE and not comparable.

Chan went even further saying, "to return [the bill] to the committee is a lack of respect." The opinion was complemented by the president of the committee Ho Ion Sang, who recalled that Sou "never presented such a proposal to the committee [while it was in discussion]."

After a discussion that lasted about two hours, the lawmakers finally accepted a decision from Ho Iat Seng to put the proposal to the vote as a "provisional proposal", which gathered only the votes in favor of Sou, Ng, Au and Coutinho, while 27 other lawmakers voted against.

In the end, the proposal from the government passed by majority, moving the duties over all demonstrations to the hands of the PSP commander.

In his vote declaration, Pereira Coutinho left a final call for the government "to have the courage to raise the problems over the excessive discretion exercised by the police," adding, "I suggest an inspection to the decision by the police in order to avoid abuse of power."

## Tax benefit for flooded vehicles approved

THE Tax Benefit law, proposed as a special bill to address the problem of the citizens whose cars and motorcycles were severely damaged during the passage of Typhoon Hato last year, has finally been discussed and approved at the Legislative Assembly (AL).

After almost one year has passed from the events that led to its creation, the law was finally approved with 29 votes in favor and only two against, by José Pereira Coutinho and Sulu Sou, who opposed all of the articles of the bill.

Ng Kuok Cheong and Au Kam San expressly voted against just one article in the bill - one that specifies that only residents who canceled the registration for their flooded vehicles by September 15 last year - but approved the rest of the bill.

Eventually the proposal passed but not without severe criticism from the pro-de-

mocracy wing that had once more Sou the center forward of the team.

In Sou's opinion, the bill should not be a "tax benefit" but, instead a "compensation or reimbursement."

"People believed in the government and cancelled their vehicles licenses in order to be able to benefit from this program but most of them will not," said Sou, noting that the benefit is more like a marketing strategy from the government that would not cost "one single pataca from the public coffers."

Besides, Sou said, "people parked, legally, in public parking lots and now they will come out with damaged vehicles without any responsibility for that," adding, "many of them don't want to buy new vehicles. Why can't they collect the refund from the tax paid on the damaged vehicle as compensation?"

On the government side, Secretary for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong replied that the proposal "is not a compensation or reimbursement," and although acknowledging that the government is not going to spend any money from the public coffers he noted, "the measure is going to help some vehicle owners with damaged vehicles through a tax relief."

As for the date of September 15, the deputy director of the Transport Bureau, Luis Correia Gageiro said that it was settled in order to "collect all data in a short period of time to ease on processes and to avoid cases of irregularities."

Pereira Coutinho took the opportunity to once more call on the accountability from the government naming this solution as "unfair and inadequate," showing his disappointment with the solution finally found by the government.

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EXCLUSIVE

# Former IPM head criticizes institute for failing to assess teachers, students

Lynzy Valles

**A** former employee at the Macao Polytechnic Institute (IPM) has criticized the Institute's alleged malpractice and negligence of operations, specifying issues such as the absence of performance reviews for professors, poor student assessment (including cases of cheating) and even sexual harassment.

David Quartermain, former deputy director of the Institute's Bell Centre of English, detailed to the Times how the Institute allegedly "misused public funds, covered up immoral and incompetent behavior" and "misled those involved in the accreditation program."

The professor has worked for IPM since 2003, first as a trainer (2003-2005) and then as a manager (2005-2016), before moving to the Gaming, Teaching and Research Centre (GTRC) in December 2016.

Amongst the issues raised, Quartermain criticized the public institution of higher education for failing to supervise documents submitted by teachers at the end of each semester.

These documents are submitted by professors and detail what they have taught during the semester. Quartermain noted that IPM has never checked these files.

"There are no performance targets, no indication of what improvements are required and no penalties for teachers who receive critical feedback from students," the former deputy director said. "At IPM, performance simply doesn't matter."

Quartermain said numerous teaching staff at IPM are employed on full-time contracts but have very little work to do, recalling that his contract required him to complete 20 hours of teaching per week, when he was only assigned to an average of 3.4 hours per week.

"Many members of staff spend most of their days watching movies, chatting with friends or simply being absent from their desks. I was certainly not the only teacher to do no work, despite receiving full pay," he told the Times.

"In fact, since December 2016, I have only been assigned an average of 3.4 hours [of] work per week, or 17% of what I should have actually been doing. Between the final examination on 10th May 2017 and the start of the next term on 25th August (a period of 15 weeks), I was required to do no work whatsoever, despite receiving my full salary



David Quartermain

of MOP69,720 per month. Similarly, between the final exam on 11th May 2018 and my departure on 10th July 2018, no work was requested or done," Quartermain said.

The scholar slammed the Institute for renewing contracts without any kind of review, claiming that IPM uses highly paid positions, such as directorships and sub-directorships of research and training centers, to bypass the usually strict criteria by which professors are appointed and promoted.

**Members of staff spend most of their days watching movies, chatting with friends or simply being absent from their desks.**

DAVID QUARTERMAIN

He also expressed that the appointments of center heads, such as IPM-Bell Centre of English, are made on the basis of personal friendships and political connections rather than suitability for the post, or competence when performing the job.

"There is no vetting process for such positions at all, they are made entirely at the whim of the president and rubber-stamped

by the Board of Management with no formal application process or opportunity for alternative candidates to apply."

The professor stressed that the promotion of staff was purely based on "party connections and personal recommendations," implying that those from the mainland with political connections have a higher chance of being promoted.

"You would consistently see that the mainland connection kind of dominates everything; the politics of it and not about performance," he told the Times.

Quartermain also recalled that there were professors who were moved to the institute's GTRC despite having little or no knowledge in gaming.

According to him, the move was a means of transferring professors who were having internal issues with their seniors, and IPM often used GTRC as a "dumping ground" for staff. "Trainers who consistently rank at the bottom in student feedback

surveys are still automatically rewarded with new contracts," he said. "School directors who oversee a large decline in their department's work are similarly renewed without any kind of review."

Quartermain also mentioned the issue of cheating and the lack of preparation by foreign students in understanding English classes. He described teaching students from Cape Verde on a four-year scholarship, paid for by the MSAR government, studying gaming management. "Despite the fact that the entire four-year degree programme is taught in English, the students were not given any kind of English test before being enrolled. On 21st May 2018, accreditors visiting GTRC were falsely informed that there had been only one case of cheating during that semester's final examinations. In fact, there had been three," Quartermain said. "The teacher of that course (who was invigilating the exam) was later asked to

tone down her report, so that it didn't reflect badly on IPM and the organization could avoid taking any kind of action. For the same reason, invigilators were not informed of the other instances of cheating," he continued.

The Times also had access to a complaint Quartermain sent to the institute's board members in 2016, which includes many e-mails detailing complaints about a professor at the center made by students in 2014 and 2015.

However, Quartermain said that no action was taken, despite the scholar receiving low marks in student feedback surveys.

Quartermain slammed the institute for allegedly failing to take proper action against the sexually inappropriate behavior of a professor at the center, despite receiving complaints from visiting female professors from Xinjiang and a female Fulbright English Teaching Assistant. "Despite all of the above, IPM have promised to renew [the professor's] contract in August 2018," said Quartermain, concerned.

"It's worrying. We had several allegations of aggressive and sexually inappropriate behavior [and] nothing is [being] done. The only criteria it's all about not upsetting the management," said Quartermain.

According to the scholar, IPM ignores the correct disciplinary procedures when attempting to remove staff, and employees would receive an email less than 24 hours before a meeting.

According to him, IPM failed to provide students with fair and reliable examinations, and he recalled that the institute does not check whether or not the exams are "logical."

The Times contacted IPM yesterday for a comment on the accusations, however, no answer was received by press time.

## End of contract, reason unknown

**D**AVID Quartermain also details the process that led to the termination of his contract as deputy director of the IPM-Bell Centre of English in November 2016. Following a meeting where the decision was announced, the scholar claims he was denied access to complaints made against him, and has been given no written information as to the reason behind the decision to terminate his contract prematurely.

"In my own case, I was given the ultimatum of receiving 3 month's notice or moving to GTRC. [...] My contract stated that I was an ESP Trainer at IPM-Bell, but my payroll statement listed my department as GTRC, and I taught at GTRC," he said. At the center, he was officially listed as a member

of "administrative staff," despite the fact he taught alongside other members of academic staff. According to him, he had no other option but to accept the proposed transfer to GTRC.

Quartermain further said that he was forced to leave his post at the GTRC department recently, despite having worked for the institute for 13 years.

"I was told I had to leave [or] move department [and] was given no opportunity to ask why, call witnesses, mount a defense," he explained.

"There is no due process whatsoever. Macau Labor Law and the IPM Personnel Charter are ignored. They make you sign a letter, then turn round to say 'ah, you agree, so no compensation [or] explanation needed,' the professor added.



# Macau Pavilion held at HK Book Fair

**T**HE Macao Foundation and the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) co-operated to organize the Macau Pavilion at the 2018 Hong Kong Book Fair for the eighth consecutive year, and host a joint exhibition with the Macao Polytechnic Institute and the Plaza Cultural Macau bookshop.

This year, the pavilion showcased over 800 local publications which aimed to promote Macau culture to Hong Kong and foreign readers via the Book Fair, according to a statement from the IC.

On July 19, the IC launched the book "Macau and the British, 1637-1842: Prelude to Hong Kong" in conjunction with a lecture given by Professor Ye Nong of Jinan University's Research Institute of Chinese Culture and History.

The lecture explored the development of Sino-British relations during a period in which the Portuguese administration of Macau secretly interacted with both the Chinese Qing government and the British.



The Macao Foundation also launched the book "Macau Cantonese" as part of the "Macau Wisdom Collection" series, in conjunction with a lecture.

While Cantonese is widely spoken in Macau, Hong Kong and Guangdong province, the accent and diction of Macau Cantonese differs slightly from that of other regions. Accord-

ing to the IC, the variation of accents throughout the ages also reflects the social development of Macau.

The Hong Kong Book Fair is one of the largest book fairs in Asia. Held from July 18 to 24, the fair is now in its 29th year, building on the success of last year, when it attracted almost 1 million visitors.

# 78 employers join non-mandatory pension scheme

**S**o far, a total of 78 employers have joined the non-mandatory central provident fund system which was implemented on January 1. Yesterday, the Social Security Fund (FSS) held a ceremony to commend employers participating in the scheme. At the ceremony, 31 representatives from six gambling enterprises, public utility companies, social services and other large enterprises publicly expressed their support and intention to participate in the non-mandatory central provident fund system.

During the event, the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, said that the non-mandatory central provident fund system had been in effect for about half a year and that the participation situation was "encouraging." Among the employers joining the scheme, about 90 percent already have a private pension plan and about 10 percent are setting up a central provident fund system for the first time. A number of gambling enterprises and public utility companies with a large number of employees are also actively promoting and preparing to join the

system, Tam revealed.

According to a statement issued by the FSS, "since the non-mandatory central provident fund is a cumulative retirement protection system, the sooner an employer joins the system, the more favorable it is to accumulate retirement protection for their employees." Tam called on employers who have not yet joined the non-mandatory central provident fund system to join the system as soon as possible.

In the sharing session, representatives of organizations that have already joined the system said that employees are important assets of a business, and that it is the employer's responsibility to provide them with solid retirement protection.

As for the individual provident fund scheme, the FSS has so far received more than 23,800 applications. According to the FSS, this reflects "the concern and emphasis of residents on strengthening their own old-age security."

In order to strengthen society's understanding of the system, the FSS has held more than 100 explanatory sessions so far.

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# Sands China helps raise profile of local SME

**A** Made-in-Macao printing company has expanded its business following on from the growth and development with Sands China Limited (SCL) as one of its major clients.

Unique Network Printing was established in 2007, providing professional printing services with advanced printing facilities enabled by efficient management.

The local firm provides fast service and a diversified range of products to meet clients' needs.

Currently providing a vast number of items to Sands China, the company's scope of services includes the production of general hotel printing and marketing collateral.

These items include packaging boxes, business cards, menus, posters, leaflets, paper bags and calendars.

Owner Michael Fong noticed that there was a trend in the development of integrated resorts a decade ago, and courageously entered the business despite the possibility of experiencing a shortage of manpower.

Due to the continued support from both the government and integrated resorts, the company now operates a factory.

According to Michael, its business with Sands China kicked off nine years ago, and continued to expand in 2012 during the opening of Sands Cotai Central.

"I see a double-digit growth every year and the number of items we provide to SCL is over 1,000. This is mainly because of the new hotels' establishment and the high demand in retail, food and beverage and hotel sectors," Michael explained.

With the upcoming rebranding of Sands Cotai Central (SCC) into The Londoner, the



local entrepreneur said that local SMEs, including his own, would benefit significantly, acknowledging the continuous support of SCL to local entrepreneurs.

The local firm distributes its products and services mainly to four categories of enterprises: government, gaming operators, schools and local SMEs.

Michael said that there is currently very steady growth in all these categories, adding that the market is also stable.

"Thanks goes to SCL for working with us, as it helped raise our company profile and made it easier for us to reach out to more clients," the local entrepreneur added.

"It has helped us build more

confidence," he added.

Back six years ago, SCL's sales contribution soared to 40 percent, a percentage that continues to mature despite having a bigger client base and a higher turnover.

SCL views local SMEs as strategic partners thus encouraging their success in the market.

At the Sands Supplier Excellence Award in 2013, the company was recognized with the Cost Management Award due to their high rating among SCL's internal user departments.

Besides business growth, Michael assures that working with SCL has greatly supported the company in terms of increasing their management

and people skills.

"We have a regular monthly meeting to catch up with them and have a frank discussion about the business. We learn a lot from that and apply it to the business," Michael revealed.

**Thanks goes to SCL for working with us, as it helped raise our company profile and made it easier for us to reach out to more clients.**

MICHAEL FONG  
LOCAL ENTREPRENEUR

In a bid to improve business knowledge and skills, Michael enrolled his employee in the first batch of attendees to the Sands Procurement Academy, which aims to further drive procurement by SCL from local SME suppliers.

The program is the first of its kind in the industry, and is focused on practical knowledge.

Targeting both existing and new local SCL suppliers, the academy is part of Sands China's F.I.T. programme for local SME suppliers that is comprised of three pillars – Financial Support, Invitational Matching, and Training and Development – and is part of Sands China's

Local Small, Medium and Micro Suppliers Support Programme.

Michael echoed that the academy has helped his team gain experience and capacity to work with large-scale international customers like Sands China.

As it provides tailor-made practical training modules to local SMEs. It is a program that benefits both sides as it also helps the gaming operator connect with local suppliers who are ready to do business with them.

"I want to stress that I have learned a lot from working with [SCL]. I have upgraded my system within the company and have also improved both the hardware and software to keep the company competitive," Michael expressed.

Although the company still faces difficulties, particularly with the issue of imported labor, the entrepreneur is certain that local enterprises will succeed as the SAR government and gaming operators continue to support local products and companies.

Although competition is significantly higher today compared to few years ago, Michael believes that one of the factors that could help the growth of businesses in the city is the government's scheme to "buy local."

Thus, SCL strives to support this call, clearly demonstrating its commitment to supporting local enterprises as part of the company's corporate social responsibility efforts.

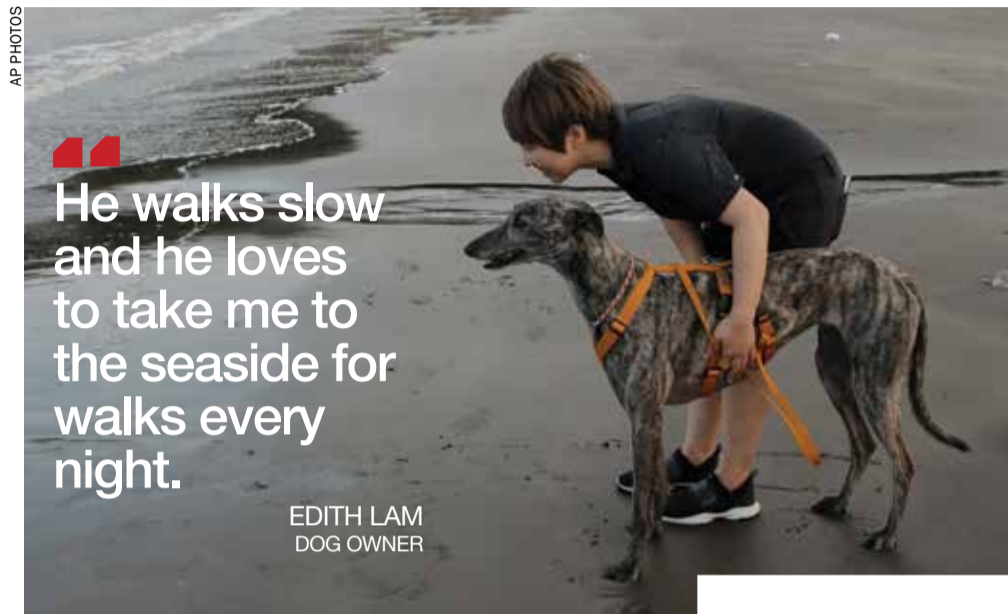
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# Dog track closure prompts plea for adoptions



AP PHOTOS

“He walks slow and he loves to take me to the seaside for walks every night.”

EDITH LAM  
DOG OWNER

Edith Lam plays with her five-year-old adopted greyhound Garlic



Maria Joao walks with her adopted greyhound



A man walks past the entrance of the Macau (Yat Yuen) Canidrome



Dog handlers escort the greyhounds walking on the track



In this March 24 photo, greyhounds race at the Canidrome



Greyhounds swim for exercise at the Canidrome

**D**OG races were held in Macau for half a century, up to five nights a week — a constant in this former Portuguese colony even as high-stakes casinos and concert venues sprouted up to offer newer, glitzier entertainment options. Development and changing tastes have finally caught up with the Yat Yuen Canidrome Club, whose closure this month means the end of a controversial fixture in Macau — and

of legal, regulated dog racing in Asia. Local authorities, along with animal rights groups, are now in the process of finding homes for 533 greyhounds abandoned in kennels on the premises. For months, activists and local officials have been asking volunteers to take care of the remaining dogs or adopt them. One greyhound who has already found a home is retired racer Garlic, who loves

strolling down the territory’s Hac Sa, or “Black Sand,” beach. “He walks slow and he loves to take me to the seaside for walks every night,” owner Edith Lam says. “I suffered from depression before. I’m not sure whether he saved my life or I saved his.” Tucked next to an old Portuguese fort, the Canidrome was for years the only track on the continent to allow be-

ting on greyhound races. On Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, a total of 72 dogs raced in 12 heats, sprinting after a mechanical rabbit-shaped lure. To keep in racing form, the dogs received brief exercise with walks and swims and made visits to the in-house veterinarian. The company says many greyhounds retire in peace after their racing life ends after

three or four years of competition. But animal rights groups have long accused the club of mistreating dogs and euthanizing underperformers or older racers, and campaigned for the club’s closure. Angela Leong, the racing club’s billionaire owner and a local legislator, and the animal rights group Anima — two longtime foes — announced a joint plan last week to build a facility to house the dogs. **MDT/AP**



SPONSORED FEATURE



## IPIM makes positive review of Guangdong-Macau Fair

**T**HE Guangdong and Macau Branded Products Fair 2018 concluded on Sunday, with organizers hailing the event as a “resounding success.”

Jointly organized by IPIM and the Department of Commerce of Guangdong Province, the three-day event saw no increase in visitor numbers year-on-year, according to a statement released yesterday.

This year, the Guangdong and Macau Branded Products Fair occupied a total floor area of 9,000 square meters with over 380 booths.

According to IPIM, “the atmosphere at various exhibition areas was very vibrant, with residents able to have fun shopping while exhibitors reported pleasing sales volumes.”

This year, an exhibition area for Malaysian products was introduced, according to IPIM, proving very popular with visitors.

A number of complementary events were held concurrently. These included a roundtable on Greater Bay area commercial or-

ganizations and a sharing session for young entrepreneurs. Product promotion sessions were also held to help enterprises seize business opportunities and expand their markets.

Organizers also arranged guided tours for exhibitors to explore local neighborhoods and extend the reach of the event beyond the venue. This was intended to help promote links with local SMEs.

Although the event has now come to a close, an online platform for purchasers and exhibitors will be open all year round. Organizers have already uploaded the exhibitors’ information and product photos to the Guangdong and Macau Branded Products Fair website.

Once again, the Guangdong and Macau Branded Products Fair was held alongside the Macau Franchise Expo.

The next Guangdong and Macau Branded Products Fair and Macau Franchise Expo will be held across July 26 to 29, 2019, according to an IPIM statement.

## Residents report education course scams to DSEJ

**T**HE Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) has received more than 20 complaints about scams concerning alleged continuing education courses.

According to public broadcaster TDM, a number of local residents have complained about funds from their bank accounts being deducted without their permission, after they signed up to such courses via third-party association.

The courses are part of the Continuing Education Development Plan; a government initiative that subsidizes the cost of educational courses.

The residents alerted the DESJ to the fact that several associations have been recruiting people to join their membership and in return offering free course programs. After signing up, the residents discovered that their

accounts had been deducted without their authorization.

The Education Bureau suspects that these residents are victims of scams, and their personal information has been compromised. It has already forwarded the case to the Public Prosecutions Office.

Speaking to TDM, Kong Ngai, the head of DSEJ’s Continuing Education Department, said that the bureau would investigate the matter. He also suggested that residents be alert to such scams and pay an on-site visit to education institutions before they sign up for these programs.

“The scheme is open to all citizens,” Kong told TDM. “They do not have to join the membership in order to take the continuous education development program. [...] We call on the public to report to use any suspected case.”



## MELCO VOLUNTEERISM FOR THE CITY

**D**espite a growing sustainability push in the region, many corporations focus solely on chasing profits and paying dividends, often at the expense of corporate social responsibility (CSR) efforts. What few seem to realise is that being a responsible corporate citizen goes hand in hand with a company’s success.

Melco Resorts is one of the companies that strives to do it all. *Its CSR strategy is founded on the vision of giving back to the community it serves and making a positive difference in the lives of others.* A significant part of this involves volunteerism: Melco’s volunteers collectively spent some 136,000 hours last year on outreach to 40 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) with a turnout of nearly 10,000 participants across all programs.

Among these events is the annual blood donation drive, a Melco tradition which has seen almost 1,000 employees donate to the Macau Blood Transfusion Services Center since 2013. Melco has scheduled three donation events for August

2018, and past donors ranging from management to front-of-house staff have expressed thanks for the opportunity to support hospitals and save lives.

Melco’s drive to do good doesn’t stop there. In May, it sent 60 volunteers to the Pou Tai Integrated Service Center to host games and recreational activities, working with the center to bring fresh joy to the lives of 320-odd elderly residents. The program was lauded for its efforts to instil a social conscience, especially in younger participants, and Melco plans to continue this series at Pou Tai with more upcoming events.

Melco has also not forgotten its duty to the environment. With Macau’s rapid urbanisation and thriving tourism sector taking a toll on its natural beaches, Melco partnered with the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau for a series of major coastal clean-ups. The first session saw over 100 volunteers gather waste and debris in the Hac Sa area for government collection and recycling. Melco Chairman and

CEO Mr Lawrence Ho described the response as “wonderful” and said the company will host several more clean-ups over the summer.

What is Melco’s secret? Few companies inspire such depths of civic-minded devotion. Melco held an event last week to present tokens of appreciation to volunteers as a small gesture to reward all their hard work over the years, but its dedication to staff goes beyond that. For this gaming operator, its people truly are its greatest investment. Melco’s achievements would be impossible were its workforce not satisfied on a daily basis – and happy employees mean good business.

Melco’s dual commitment to sustainability is paying off. The company has achieved multiple local and regional awards recognising its efforts as a responsible corporate citizen. Yet the journey is not over: with tourism and gaming still Macau’s biggest draws, it’s up to operators like Melco to take responsibility and make a difference to the community that they call home.







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# Lotte considers selling China malls amid anti-Korean sentiment



Sohee Kim

**L**OTTE Group, reeling from a wave of anti-Korean sentiment in China for more than a year, is considering selling some of its department stores in the country, a move that would accelerate the conglomerate's withdrawal from the world's second-largest economy.

The sale of some of Lotte Shopping Co.'s five malls is among options being reviewed in the country, a Lotte Group spokesman said, in response to an earlier Chosun Ilbo report. Lotte Confectionery Co., which has three factories in China, is also reviewing its business there, the representative said.

Despite some signs of thawing, Lotte's ongoing struggles illustrates how South Korean companies continue to face hardships in China about

a year and a half after Seoul angered Beijing by deploying a U.S. anti-missile system. Hyundai Motor Co. has also seen its sales fall in the country in the wake of the geopolitical dispute.

## Lotte's ongoing struggles illustrates how South Korean companies continue to face hardships in China

Sales at Lotte's China department business fell 22 percent to 76 billion won (\$68 million)

in 2017, resulting in 70 billion won in operating losses.

Lotte, the Korean retail giant, has agreed to sell most of its supermarkets in China as losses kept piling up. Lotte has also suffered at home as the influx of Chinese consumers visiting its hotels and duty free shops dried up, according to the Lotte spokesman. The group also has theme-park projects and a chemicals business in the country.

Lotte has been at the center of what has been perceived as retaliation against Korean businesses because the group offered one of its golf courses to house the controversial missile-defense system in 2017.

Last week, South Korean Finance Minister Kim Dong-yeon asked Chinese counterpart Liu Kun for China's cooperation to resolve Korean companies' difficulties in China. **Bloomberg**



People placing bets on sporting events at the Meadowlands Racetrack

## GAMING

# Caesars launching sports betting in New Jersey, Mississippi

Wayne Parry, Atlantic City

**T**WO Atlantic City casinos owned by Caesars Entertainment will start taking sports bets this week, and another two in Mississippi will do so in mid-August.

Caesars Entertainment tells The Associated Press its Bally's casino in Atlantic City started taking bets yesterday. Its sister casino in Atlantic City, Harrah's will start taking sports bets on Wednesday.

The company says it soon will offer mobile sports betting, as well, although it did not set a timetable. The gambling industry is closely watching to see which casino will be the first in New Jersey to offer online sports betting following a May ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court on a case brought by the state that cleared the way for all 50 states to offer legal sports betting, should they choose.

By mid-August, Harrah's Gulf Coast in Biloxi and Horseshoe Tunica, both in Mississippi, will begin taking on-premises sports bets. The company says it may expand the mobile betting app to other states besides New Jersey, if and when it makes financial sense to do so.

Bally's and Harrah's will become the third and fourth Atlantic City casinos with sports betting, joining Borgata and Ocean Resort. Two horse racing tracks, Monmouth Park in Oceanport, and the Meadowlands in East

Rutherford, also offer sports betting in New Jersey.

"The recent Supreme Court ruling allows us to expand our sports betting digital and mobile offerings into new markets," said Mark Frissora, president and CEO of Caesars Entertainment. "We recognize that our customers expect exciting new experiences, which is why we will continue to offer new products through our mobile and digital platforms and inside our properties."

Caesars said it will build full sports book facilities at Bally's and Harrah's over the next nine months. Temporary facilities have been set up in Bally's. The company is partnering with Scientific Games to offer the sports betting technology through its OpenBet sports book.

Sports betting began in mid-June in New Jersey at the Borgata and Monmouth Park. Ocean Resort began offering it in the last three days of the month.

During that two-week period, they took in USD16.4 million worth of sports bets.

The Meadowlands, which began sports betting July 14, took in nearly \$3.5 million in sports bets during its first nine days of accepting such bets.

Numerous other gambling companies have applied for permission from New Jersey gambling regulators to offer in-person or mobile sports betting, or both, by the time football season starts in the first week in September. **AP**

## corporate bits

### MELCO RECEIVES GOV'T RECOGNITION FOR LACTATION ROOMS AT RESORTS



Melco Resorts & Entertainment Limited has received recognition from the Macau SAR government for the company's support toward breastfeeding and lactation room facilities available throughout all its major

properties, according to a statement from the gaming operator.

The new rooms can be found at City of Dreams, Studio City, Altira Macau and at the company's Flower City office.

At an event aimed to raise awareness and celebrate World Breastfeeding Week 2018, the Health Bureau presented Melco with this special recognition.

"Melco values employees as our most important asset, being the first gaming operator in Macau to set up lactation rooms across all four of its major properties," said Lawrence Ho, chairman and chief executive officer of Melco. "The acknowledgement from the Health Bureau [...] is a testament to our women and family-friendly policies. [...] We believe the availability of lactation rooms will assist and support mothers returning to work after childbirth."

### MACAO WATER JOINS HANDS WITH MSO TO PROMOTE INCLUSIVE SOCIETY



The 'Show Potential, Swim Together - 2018 Swimming Competition', organized by the Macao Water Supply Company Limited (Macao Water) and the Macao Special Olympics (MSO), was held at the Macao Federation of Trade

Unions Workers Stadium near the Border Gate on Saturday, July 28.

The competition, divided into regular and inclusive categories, attracted around 100 participants including athletes aged between 4 and 45.

In the regular category, MSO athletes participated as individuals or in teams and competed in a variety of aquatic sports including the 25m and 50m freestyle, 25m kick-board race, and water-walking.

In the inclusive category, invited guests and MSO athletes teamed up for the swimming relay and a ball-throwing game.

Since 2005, Macao Water has been working with the MSO to support MSO athletes' recreation and sports training.

The event was sponsored by the Sports Bureau and the Macau Coca-Cola Beverage Co., Ltd., and warmly supported by several local special education institutions.





Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (right) speaks during a joint press conference with Britain's Foreign Minister Jeremy Hunt at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing

## Beijing says still committed to Hong Kong semi-autonomy

CHINA'S foreign minister said yesterday that his country remains committed to the "one country, two systems" governing framework in Hong Kong, despite growing concerns that Beijing is eroding the former British colony's civil liberties.

Wang Yi told reporters following

talks with his British counterpart, Jeremy Hunt, that China would continue to follow the system put in place when the city was turned over to Chinese rule in 1997.

"Hong Kong affairs are the domestic affairs of China. We do not welcome nor do we accept other countries to interfere in China's domestic affairs," Wang said at a

joint news conference.

"But of course China will continue to support and will stay committed to one country, two systems," Wang said.

Beijing promised to let Hong Kong maintain wide autonomy and civil liberties for 50 years, but fears are growing that China's communist leaders are backtra-

cking by oppressing the political opposition.

While the financial center remains among the highest-rated for rule of law and government efficiency, freedom of speech is seen as coming under attack. The government has also moved against a generation of young political activists who emerged after

2014's failed nonviolent protests over Beijing's decision to restrict elections.

Chinese President Xi Jinping warned in a speech last year marking 20 years since Hong Kong became a semi-autonomous region of China that any activities in the city seen as threatening China's sovereignty and stability would be "absolutely impermissible."

Accompanying that hard line, China has angrily denounced critical reports about the implementation of one country, two systems from Britain, with which it signed a joint agreement on post-1997 arrangements, and other nations.

Hunt said that while Britain fully recognizes China's sovereignty over the territory, "We [...] are very much committed to the one country, two systems approach, which we think has served both Hong Kong and China extremely well."

At the beginning of their meeting, Hunt sparked laughter when he misidentified his Chinese-born wife as being Japanese. China and Japan are major rivals for regional influence.

Britain and China are major economic partners, doing about USD91 billion annually in commerce.

Wang said the two countries remain committed to global free trade in the face of stiff U.S. tariffs on Chinese imports and measures taken by China on U.S. soybeans and other products in what Wang called an act of self-defense. **AP**

### TRADE WAR

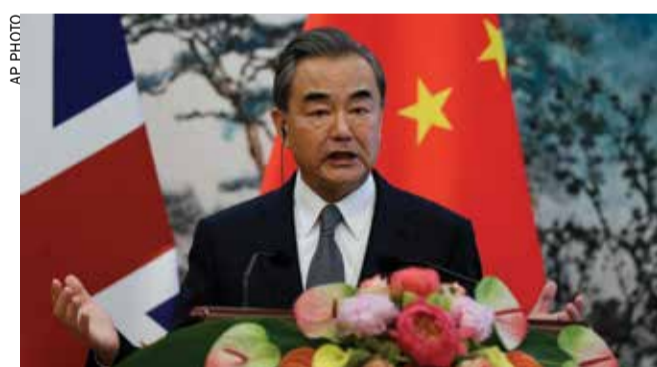
## Wang Yi mocks US's 'perplexing' complaints

WANG Yi may be China's top diplomat, but yesterday he sounded more like the country's chief lecturer of economics.

The Chinese foreign minister took advantage of a visit by his U.K. counterpart to give the U.S. a mocking economics lesson, saying American policies were to blame for the country's trade deficit and the collapse of talks. Wang began in response to a reporter's trade question, saying "let me share with you some basic facts and I believe you will make an objective and sensible assessment."

"The U.S. often says that it is taken advantage of, but this is perplexing. It's like someone who buys a USD100 product in a supermarket, has the product in hand, and then complains that he is \$100 short," Wang said. "Does that logic stand up?"

Wang's defiant remarks underscored deep divisions between the two si-



des with just a month before the public comment ends on Donald Trump's proposal to levy tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese goods. While American and Chinese officials have hinted at the possibility of restarting talks, it's been almost two months they last held high-level negotiations.

"China and the U.S. have had several rounds of consultations and reached important consensus, but regrettably the U.S. did not fulfill its obligations," Wang said. "Nor did it make concerted efforts with China."

Wang was adopting

a common argument against Trump's trade policies, in particular his focus on the U.S. trade deficits. A June 18 essay by JP Morgan Chase & Co's Chief Global Strategist David Kelly titled "My Trade Deficit with Costco" is one example.

"In fact, the U.S. has gained a lot from its trade deficit with China," Wang said. "It gains massive, inexpensive resources and goods, which increase the welfare of consumers and increase the strength of the dollar."

U.K. Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt - on his first official Asia trip since as-

suming the post earlier this month - looked on awkwardly as Wang criticized his country's close ally. While the U.K. is seeking alternative sources of trade after leaving the European Union next year, China is courting international support in its

trade dispute with the U.S. Wang said that he and Hunt had agreed to work together to uphold free trade, multilateral agreements and World Trade Organization rules. Still, he said that China was willing to resume talks with the U.S. if the condi-

tions were right.

"China's door of dialogue and negotiation remains open, but any dialogue must be based on equality and mutual respect," Wang said. "Any threats or pressure by one side will only be counterproductive." **Bloomberg**

### ONE SHOT NEWS



Wing Wah Noodle Shop in Hong Kong is closing down. The landmark outlet has been featured in the Michelin Hong Kong and Macau guide's Bib Gourmand selection since 2009. A 68-year-old "bamboo pole" wonton (traditional Chinese shrimp and minced pork dumplings) noodle shop, Wing Wah Noodle Shop, in downtown Hong Kong is closing down by the end of August.



# Chinese parents panic over infant vaccine safety

Jinshan Hong, Natalie Lung & Daniela Wei

**C**HINA'S vaccine scandal is sparking protests and panic among parents, with the revelation two drugmakers sold poor-quality vaccines for infants reviving anxiety over the country's ability to ensure safety in the world's second-biggest health-care market.

Demonstrators gathered outside the National Health Commission in Beijing yesterday, according to videos posted on Twitter, demanding tougher regulation of vaccine sales in China after Changsheng Bio-Technology Co., a drugmaker listed in Shenzhen, and state-owned vaccine maker Wuhan Institute of Biological Products Co. were found by a government probe to have made hundreds of thousands of low-quality vaccines. Changsheng was found to have also falsified production and inspection data.

The revelations have triggered a crisis of confidence among consumers that's exploded on social media in China. It's also sending parents to Hong Kong to seek vaccinations by foreign drug companies, dealing another setback for China's USD122 billion drug industry, which has been dogged with concerns over safety. The stocks of many Chinese drugmakers have plunged as investigations continue, wiping out the equivalent of about \$22 billion in market value since the scandal broke.

The industry is still recovering from a 2016 scandal over expired vaccines being sold nationally. The reaction from investors and the public have some money managers recalling the tainted milk scandal a decade ago in which at least six babies died and hundreds of thousands of others were sickened after consuming locally made infant formula laced with the chemical melamine.

"The vaccine scandal could be more serious and have wider ripple effects than the tainted milk incident," said Wang Chen, a Shanghai-based partner with Xufunds Investment Management Co. "As long as it concerns public health there's no such thing as a small incident."

The fallout in China's pharmaceutical industry has spread beyond vaccine makers. Health-care companies in the Shanghai Shenzhen CSI 300 index have dropped about 9 percent since Changsheng announced in mid-July it was recalling its rabies vaccine, with none of the 20 stocks traded showing gains during the period.



Vaccine makers Chongqing Zhifei Biological Products Co. and Changchun High & New Technology Industries Inc. have slid at least 20 percent since July 16. Shares in those and other drugmakers dropped yesterday after the securities regulator said that companies found to have severe violations in areas including public health will be forced to delist.

Changsheng, which isn't part of the CSI index, has declined for the past 10 sessions it has traded, tumbling 59 percent to the lowest level in more than three years. Even Shanghai Hile Bio-Technology Co., which produces inoculations for swine, was hit, wiping out about \$483 billion off its market value in the past six days.

## Demonstrators gathered outside the National Health Commission in Beijing yesterday

### FLOCKING TO HONG KONG

The government said about 650,000 child vaccines didn't meet standards. That means they may not offer the children who received them protection from deadly diseases: whooping cough, tetanus and diphtheria. The news has triggered a surge for children's inoculations in Hong Kong from mainland parents, according to Henry Yeung Chiu-fat, a doctor who's president of the Hong Kong Doctors Union.

Hong Kong Vaccination Station, a private clinic in Kowloon's Tsim Sha Tsui, said appointments for some child immunizations are fully booked in July and August because of a surge in demand. Manna Wang, an insurance agent in Shenzhen, booked 20 vaccination appointments for clients last week, compared to an occasional request before.

Olivia Zhang, a Beijing mother of two, was among those who sought shots in Hong Kong for her children. She made an October appointment for her children to get jabs for meningococcal immunization in Hong Kong. Her four-year-old daughter received the Changsheng-produced vaccine in April.

"I will not trust the regulator nor Chinese medicines anymo-

re," said Zhang. "No words can be used to describe my anger when I first read the scandal in news. The safety of children should be society's bottom line."

### SCRUTINY ON DRUGMAKERS

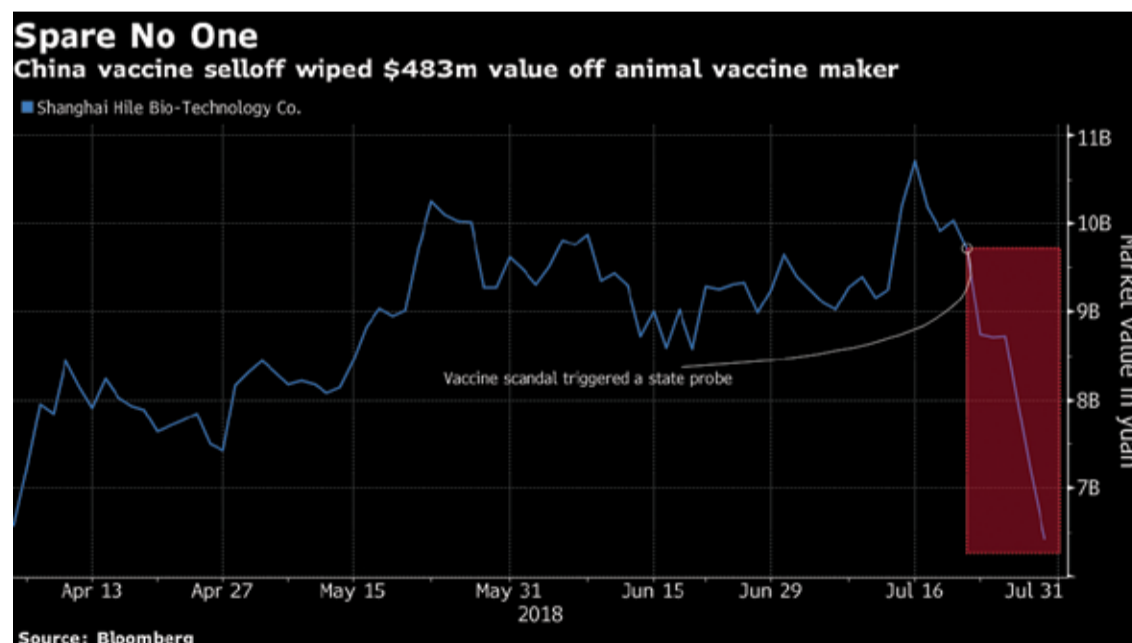
Insurance agents, including ones from industry giants AIA Group Ltd. and Prudential Plc, are advertising services on WeChat and Weibo social media platforms to help mainland families make appointments at private clinics in Hong Kong. AIA and Prudential representatives did not respond to requests for comment.

As for investors, many are bracing for authorities to scrutinize some sectors of the pharmaceutical industry. The public outcry has been so pronounced that Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and President Xi Jinping have stepped in to vow action. The Chinese government said it will continue investigating the country's \$4.4 billion vaccine industry.

Authorities are now under pressure to toughen regulations to win public trust, said Sun Jianbo, president of China Vision Capital Management in Beijing.

"For health care companies, I expect them to step up quality control, which could lead to slower earnings growth and weaker profitability," he said. "The impact on the sector's shares will be long term." **Bloomberg**

## Vaccine scare wipes USD483 million from pig drug stock



**C**HINA'S vaccine scandal is taking a toll in the stock market - even on a company that makes swine vaccines.

Shanghai Hile Bio-Technology Co., which gets its revenue from selling pig and poultry vaccines, has tumbled 34 percent over the last six days as violations by a human vaccine maker triggered a probe into the sector. The company's clarification on July 23 that it never produced or sold human vaccines was little help, as the selloff wiped 3.3 billion yuan (USD483 million) off its market value.

The selloff in health-care stocks intensified yesterday after China's securities regulator said companies with severe violations in areas including public health could be forced to delist. Drug-

makers are among areas that are particularly at risk under the stricter delisting rules given the risk of public health incidents, according to KGI Securities. Many health-care stocks were "wrongly implicated" in the selloff, one top-performing fund manager said last week.

Changsheng Bio-Technology Co., which was found to have sold low-quality vaccines for infants, began trading under an investment risk warning last Thursday and dropped by the narrowed 5 percent daily limit for a third day. Chongqing Zhifei Biological Products Co. sank by the 10 percent daily limit while Changchun High & New Technology Industries Group Inc. retreated 6.8 percent. **Bloomberg**





Incumbent Prime Minister Hun Sen

## CAMBODIA

# Opposition says election was death of democracy

Sopheng Cheang  
& Jerry Harmer, Phnom Penh

**T**HE ruling party of Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen congratulated itself yesterday on its election victory, while the opposition party unable to contest the polls said they marked the death of democracy in the Southeast Asian country, making its government and any dealings with it illegitimate.

Sok Eysan, the spokesman for Hun Sen's Cambodian Peo-

ple's Party, described Sunday's vote as a "brilliant victory" and said the country would move forward "under the umbrella of peace and political stability."

Although 20 parties contested the election, the only one with the popularity and organization to mount a real challenge, the Cambodian National Rescue Party, was dissolved last year by the Supreme Court in a ruling generally seen as political and ensuring that Hun Sen would extend his 33 years in power by another five-year term.

The opposition CNRP, in a statement issued by some of its former leaders in Jakarta, Indonesia, said that following the "sham election [...] what was left of a democracy in name only has been replaced with an outright dictatorship."

The statement predicted that in reaction to the polls, foreign countries would apply punitive sanctions that would cripple the economy.

Declaring Hun Sen's government illegitimate, it warned "governments and busines-

ses across the world that the agreements, deals and accords signed as of today by Cambodia's de facto regime will have no legal validity and will be revised by the future democratic government of Cambodia."

**[Following the] sham election [...] what was left of a democracy in name only has been replaced with an outright dictatorship.**

CNRP

Preliminary election results released by the state National Election Committee showed that Hun Sen's party won at least 70 percent of the vote in each of the country's 25 provinces. Under the election's system of proportional representation, the party will likely take more than 100 of the 125 seats in the National Assembly.

The disbanded CNRP's former leaders had urged people not to vote in what was dubbed a "clean finger" campaign because those who cast ballots had to dip a finger in indelible ink, a practice meant to thwart multiple voting.

But its campaign fizzled, if the official turnout tallies are accurate. According to the National Election Committee, more than 6.8 million registered voters, or 82.2 percent, cast ballots.

Criticism of the election as unfree and unfair came from Western governments and other groups.

The United States said it regretted the "flawed elections" and would consider its response, including expanding visa restrictions that were announced in December.

A statement from the White House press secretary's office said the U.S. was disappointed in the government's decision to disenfranchise voters, citing the exclusion of the principal opposition party, the jailing and banning of its officials, and threats to punish nonvoters.

Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said in a statement that Hun Sen's moves to eliminate his political opponents had reversed more than 25 years of progress toward democracy in Cambodia.

"Australia is concerned the election took place in an environment where not all political parties, civil society organizations and media could operate freely," Bishop said. She added that Australia will continue to urge the Cambodian government to take steps to allow free and open political debate without violence and intimidation.

A veteran Indonesian politician and lawyer who has championed human rights said the Cambodian election was a "sign of danger" for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations that could set back democracy across the region.

Former Indonesian Attorney-General Marzuki Darusman, who currently heads the U.N. Fact-finding Mission on Myanmar investigating abuses by security forces in Rakhine state, said Indonesia as one of the world's largest democracies must "seriously address" the Cambodian situation.

He told a news conference held by the disbanded CNRP in Jakarta that "I think we're looking at a possible domino effect of what is happening in Cambodia across ASEAN as a whole if this is not addressed." AP

## EAST TIMOR

# Australian minister visits Dili to repairs relations

**A**USTRALIA'S foreign minister was visiting East Timor yesterday to repair bilateral ties after a bitter dispute over energy revenue and spying allegations.

Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said she is the national capital Dili to meet newly elected leaders. She is the first Australian minister to visit the near neighbor in five years.

Australia, a wealthy nation of 25 million people, ended an acrimonious dispute with the poor, half-island nation of 1.5 million people in March with the signing of a bilateral treat-



ty that shares oil and gas revenue from the Timor Sea which separates them.

East Timor had challenged the validity of a revenue-sharing agreement

signed in 2006 because it alleged Australia had bugged government offices in Dili in 2004 to gain an unfair advantage in negotiations.

"The signing of our historic maritime boundary treaty has opened a new chapter in relations between Australia and Timor-Leste," Bishop told Australian Broadcasting Corp. yesterday, referring to East Timor by its preferred name.

"It was a matter of ongoing tension, it was a concern for us in terms of our relationship with Timor-Leste and I'm pleased that we were able to commit to a process that led to a fair and balanced outcome and now we can get on with supporting Timor-Leste in achieving

its economic potential," Bishop added.

East Timor dropped its case against Australia in the United Nation's highest court last year as an act of goodwill ahead of their agreement on the new treaty that gives most of the Timor Sea revenue to Dili.

Australia last month confirmed that it had charged a former Australian spy, who cannot be named, and his lawyer Bernard Collaery with conspiring to reveal secret information in relation to the espionage allegation.

The spy was to testify in East Timor's case against Australia in The Hague, but secret service agents raided his Canberra home and took his passport in 2013.

Bishop said the charges were not a cause of tension between the two governments.

"The Timorese government has been asked about it and they have said quite rightly that it's a matter for Australia," Bishop said.

The spy and lawyer will make their first court appearances on the charges in September. AP



MH370

# Report says third party intervention in Malay flight mystery

Eileen Ng, Putrajaya

A Malaysian-led independent investigation report released yesterday, more than four years after Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 disappeared, highlighted shortcomings in the government's response and raised the possibility of "intervention by a third party."

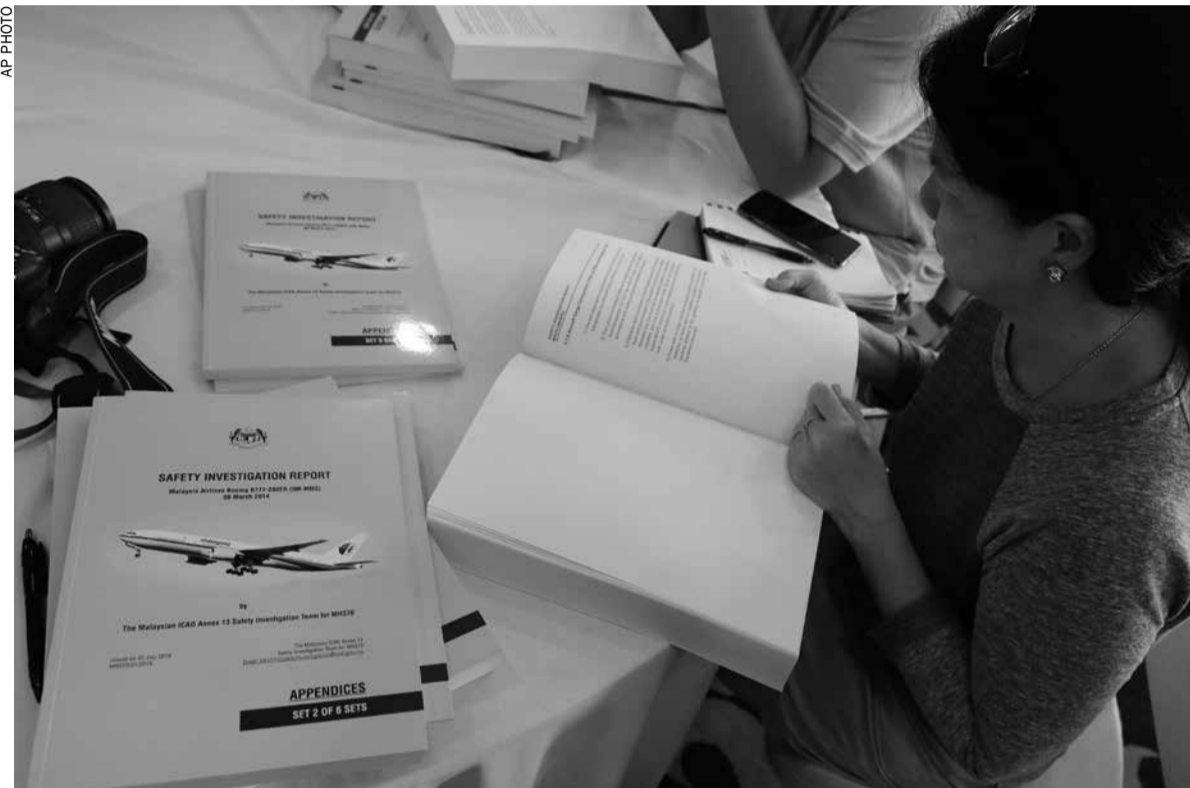
The report, prepared by a 19-member international team, reiterated Malaysia's assertion the plane was deliberately diverted and flown for over seven hours after severing communications.

Chief investigator Kok Soo Chon said the cause of the disappearance cannot be determined until the wreckage and the plane's black boxes are found. He said there was no evidence of abnormal behavior or stress in the two pilots that could lead them to hijack the plane but all passengers were also cleared by police and had no pilot training.

"We are not of the opinion that it could be an event committed by the pilot," Kok told a media briefing.

"We cannot rule out unlawful interference by a third party," such as someone holding the pilots hostage, he said. But he added that no group has said it hijacked the plane and no ransom demands have been made, compounding the mystery. Kok said it was up to police to investigate.

He said the investigation showed lapses by air traffic control, including a failure to swiftly initiate an emergency response and monitor radar continuously, relying too much on information from Malaysia Airlines



Copies of the final investigation report on missing flight MH370 are offered to the media in Putrajaya

and not getting in touch with the military for help.

The plane carrying 239 people from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing vanished March 8, 2014, and is presumed to have crashed in the far southern Indian Ocean. The report said there was insufficient information to determine if the aircraft broke up in the air or during impact with the ocean.

Scattered pieces of debris that washed ashore on African beaches and Indian Ocean islands indicated a distant remote stretch of the ocean where the plane likely crashed. But a government search by Australia, Malaysia and China failed to pinpoint a location. And a second, private search by U.S. company Ocean Infinity that finished at the end of May also found no sign of the

wreckage.

Family members of those on board the plane said after a briefing by the investigation team that they were frustrated because there were many gaps in the probe and questions left unanswered.

"There is nothing new but it highlighted failings of some government agencies" that did not follow protocol and guidelines, said Grace Nathan, whose mother was on board the plane.

She said the scope of the safety investigation was also too limited, depended too much on information supplied to them by other parties rather than on their own probe, and didn't discuss the scope of the searches.

Sakinab Shah, sister of senior pilot Captain Zaharie Ahmad

Shah, said she felt "relieved and happy" that Zaharie was again cleared of blame.

"But still, it cannot end here. They have to continue the search until they find the plane," she said.

Officials said yesterday's report is still not a final accounting because the plane hasn't been found. Malaysia's government has said it is open to resume searching if credible evidence of the plane's location emerges.

The "rogue pilot" theory still arises in public discussions despite Malaysian authorities saying there was no evidence linking Zaharie or his co-pilot, Fariq Abdul Hamid, to any wrongdoing.

Kok said it was "human nature" to speculate on sensational

conspiracy theories but that the team relied on facts.

He said police retrieved over 2,700 coordinates from various file segments found in Zaharie's home flight simulator. This included seven "manually programmed waypoint coordinates" that when linked could fly from the Kuala Lumpur airport to the southern Indian Ocean, but police could not determine if the coordinates were found in a single file or from different files, he said.

## Investigators couldn't find any flaws with the plane and dismissed the theory that it was remotely controlled

Police didn't find any data that showed a similar route flown by Flight 370 and concluded that there were "no unusual activities other than game-related flight simulations," Kok said.

He said investigators couldn't find any flaws with the plane and dismissed the theory that it was remotely controlled. Boeing has such technology to foil plane hijacking but hasn't used it on any commercial planes, he added.

New Malaysian Transport Minister Anthony Loke said the government will investigate and take action against any misconduct based on the report findings. AP

INDONESIA

# Hundreds stranded on mountain after earthquake

RESCUERS are trying to evacuate hundreds of tourists stranded on Mount Rinjani on the Indonesian island of Lombok after an earthquake that killed 16 people triggered landslides.

Mount Rinjani National Park chief, Sudiyono, said yesterday a team of about 165 rescuers is expected to reach a crater lake where the foreign and Indonesian trekkers are trapped by late afternoon.

"Providing food and medicine to them as soon as possible is now our priority," said Sudiyono, who uses one name.

The landslides on Rinjani killed an Indonesian student, raising the death toll from the magnitude 6.4 earthquake to 16.

The shallow quake early Sunday damaged more than 1,400 houses and was felt on neighboring Bali, where no damage or casualties were reported.

Indonesia's meteorology and geophysics agency has recorded more than 270 aftershocks.

The National Disaster Mitigation Agency said more than 680 people are stranded on Rinjani based on figures from its entry gates where visitors are registered. Most are foreign — from 26 countries, including more than 330 from Thailand.

Like Bali, Lombok is known for pristine beaches and mountains. Hotels and other buildings in both locations are not allowed to exceed the height of coconut trees.

Indonesia is prone to earthquakes due to its location on the "Ring of Fire," an arc of volcanoes and fault lines encircling the Pacific Ocean.

In December 2004, a massive magnitude 9.1 earthquake off Sumatra triggered a tsunami that killed 230,000 people in a dozen countries. AP



Earthquake survivors receive medical treatment at a temporary shelter in Sembalun, East Lombok



VATICAN CITY

# Pope accepts resignation of bishop convicted of sex abuse cover-up

**POPE** Francis yesterday accepted the resignation of an Australian archbishop convicted in criminal court of covering up the sexual abuse of children by a priest, taking action after coming under mounting pressure from ordinary Catholics, priests and even the Australian prime minister.

It was the second major announcement of a sex abuse-related resignation in as many days, after Francis' dramatic sanctioning this weekend of a U.S. cardinal, suggesting he is keen to clean house before he heads to Dublin next month for a big Catholic family rally. The sex abuse scandal is likely to dominate the trip given Ireland's devastating history with predator priests and the bishops who covered for them.

In Australia, Adelaide Archbishop Philip Wilson was convicted in May of failing to report to police the repeated abuse of two altar boys by a pedophile priest in the Hunter Valley region north of Sydney during the 1970s.



AP PHOTO

He became the highest-ranking Catholic cleric ever convicted in a criminal court of abuse cover-up.

Wilson, who denied the accusations, had immediately stepped aside after he was convicted but

refused to resign pending an appeal. Francis had appointed a temporary administrator to run the diocese in the meantime.

As recently as last week, though, Wilson acknowledged that

calls for his sacking were increasing, and Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull added his voice to the chorus July 19 in urging Francis to fire him.

In a one-line statement, the Va-

atican said Francis had accepted Wilson's resignation. At 67, he is well under the normal retirement age for bishops of 75.

In a statement issued by the archdiocese, Wilson said he had submitted his resignation to Francis of his own will on July 20 — a day after Turnbull's call — and said he hoped his decision would help abuse victims and the rest of the Catholic community heal.

"I had hoped to defer this decision until after the appeal process had been completed," Wilson said. "However, there is just too much pain and distress being caused by my maintaining the office of archbishop."

Wilson was sentenced by the Newcastle court to 12 months in detention.

Francis' decision to accept the resignation is significant given he has previously refrained from taking action against accused bishops that might be perceived as prejudicing outcomes in civil or criminal cases.

Another Australian prelate, Cardinal George Pell, for example, has been on leave as the Vatican's finance czar while he faces criminal trial on accusations of sexual abuse. But Pell, who denies the charges, remains a cardinal, head of the Vatican's economy secretariat and a member of Francis' core group of nine cardinal advisers. **AP**

AD



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ZIMBABWE

# Country votes for first time without Mugabe on ballot

Christopher Torchia & Farai Mutsaka, Harare

**Z**IMBABWEANS yesterday were voting peacefully in their first election without Robert Mugabe on the ballot, a contest that could bring international legitimacy and investment or signal more stagnation if the vote is seriously flawed.

About 5.5 million people were registered to vote in this southern African nation anxious for change after economic and political paralysis during the nearly four-decade rule of the 94-year-old Mugabe.

Long lines formed outside many polling stations in Harare, the capital, and elsewhere. Anyone in line as of the 7 p.m. closing time could still vote.

"I want to do this and get on with my business. I am not leaving anything to chance. This is my future," said Emerina Akenida, a first-time voter.

Thousands of election monitors fanned out across the country to observe a process that

AP PHOTO



the opposition said was biased against them despite electoral commission assurances that it will be credible.

The two main contenders were 75-year-old President Emmerson Mnangagwa, a former deputy president who took over after Mugabe stepped down under military pressure last year, and 40-year-old Nelson Chamisa, a lawyer and pastor who beca-

me head of the main opposition party a few months ago after the death of its leader Morgan Tsvangirai.

Mugabe on Sunday called Chamisa the only viable candidate and rejected Mnangagwa and the ruling party, saying that "I cannot vote for those who have tormented me."

Piercing whistles and cheers greeted Chamisa as he voted out-

side Harare, who declared on Twitter that "minus the ballot mischief [...] Victory is certainly certain!" He said he hoped voting in rural areas, where most of Zimbabwe's voters are and where the ruling party usually holds away, will be fair.

Mnangagwa urged Zimbabweans to be peaceful, tweeting: "We are one people, with one dream and one destiny. We will

sink or swim together." He voted and told reporters he took Mugabe's criticism in stride, saying: "He is a citizen [...] He can engage me anytime."

A record of more than 20 presidential candidates and nearly 130 political parties were participating. If no presidential candidate wins 50 percent of the vote, a runoff will be held Sept. 8.

"This is a critical moment in Zimbabwe's democratic journey," said Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former Liberian president and a leader of one of the international observer missions.

"The elections today provide an opportunity to break with the past," Sirleaf said at a polling station in Harare. "The lines and voter enthusiasm we are seeing this morning must be matched by an accurate count and their choice must be honored."

Past elections were marred by violence, intimidation and irregularities, but Mnangagwa, a former enforcer for Mugabe who says he now represents change, has promised that this election will be free and fair.

The presence of Western election monitors for the first time in years is an indicator of a freer political environment, though concerns have been raised about state media bias toward the ruling party as well as a lack of transparency with the printing of ballot papers. AP

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## CATALOGUE EXHIBITION IN CELEBRATION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF MACAO MUSEUM

TIME: 10am-6pm (closed on Fridays)

UNTIL: August 30, 2018

VENUE: Kun Iam Ecumenical Centre

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 1516

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

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

UNTIL: September 9, 2018

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

## Offbeat



## 50 YEARS ON, McDONALD'S ISN'T MESSING WITH 'LE' BIG MAC

McDonald's is fighting to hold onto customers as the Big Mac turns 50, but it's not messing with the makings of its most famous burger.

The company is celebrating the 1968 national launch of the double-decker sandwich whose ingredients of "two all-beef patties, special sauce, lettuce, cheese, pickles, onions and a sesame seed bun" were seared into American memories by a TV jingle. But the milestone comes as the company reduces its number of U.S. stores. McDonald's said last week that customers are visiting less often. Other more trendy burger options are reaching into the heartland.

The "Golden Arches" still have a massive global reach, and the McDonald's brand of cheeseburgers, chicken nuggets and french fries remains recognizable around the world. But on its critical home turf, the company is toiling to stay relevant. Kale now appears in salads, fresh has replaced frozen beef patties in Quarter Pounders, and some stores now offer ordering kiosks, food delivery and barista-style cafes.

The Big Mac remains unchanged, showing just how much McDonald's and the rest of fast-food have evolved.

"Clearly, we've gotten a little more sophisticated in our menu development," McDonald's CEO Steve Easterbrook said in a phone interview.

As with many of its popular and long-lasting menu items, the idea for the Big Mac came from a franchisee.

In 1967, Michael James "Jim" Delligatti lobbied the company to let him test the burger at his Pittsburgh restaurants. Later, he acknowledged the Big Mac's similarity to a popular sandwich sold by the Big Boy chain.

"This wasn't like discovering the light bulb. The bulb was already there. All I did was screw it in the socket," Delligatti said, according to "Behind the Arches."

McDonald's agreed to let Delligatti sell the sandwich at a single location, on the condition that he use the company's standard bun. It didn't work. Delligatti tried a bigger sesame seed bun, and the burger soon lifted sales by more than 12 percent.

After similar results at more stores, the Big Mac was added to the national menu in 1968. Other ideas from franchisees that hit the big time include the Filet-O-Fish, Egg McMuffin, Apple Pie (once deep-fried but now baked), and the Shamrock Shake.

## TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:15	Miscellaneous
17:35	Portuguese Documentary
18:00	Maternity
19:35	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	Documentary
21:45	Chinese Documentary
22:25	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Miscellaneous
00:25	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:10	RTPi Live

## 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



President George H. W. Bush

## 1991 SUPERPOWERS TO CUT NUCLEAR WARHEADS

The United States and the Soviet Union have signed an historic agreement reducing their stockpiles of nuclear warheads by about a third.

The Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, known as Start, was signed in Moscow by US President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

At a joint news conference after the signing ceremony, Mr Bush described the Start treaty as "a significant step forward in dispelling half a century of mistrust".

Mr Gorbachev said it promised to be the start of "an irreversible process" of arms reduction, but stressed there was "still a lot to do".

The agreement took more than nine years to negotiate, and reduces each side's strategic nuclear weapons by about 35% over seven years.

The Soviet Union's land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles will also be cut by 50%.

It is the first major agreement between the two countries over arms reduction since the Salt treaties, signed in 1972 and 1979, which limited the numbers of long-range nuclear missiles.

The Start treaty goes further, however, by committing the superpowers to scaling down their fleets of nuclear missiles and bombers, rather than just limiting expansion.

However, it still leaves the US and the Soviet Union with 9,000 and 7,000 warheads respectively. There was also no agreement over space weapons, or sea-launched cruise missiles.

Throughout the two-day summit, the emphasis has been on a new era of cooperation between the two sides.

Mr Bush and Mr Gorbachev spent much of their time discussing Mr Gorbachev's attempts to reform the ailing Soviet economy and the help that might be offered by the West, although neither leader would be drawn on specific details.

They are also understood to have discussed a jointly-sponsored Middle East peace conference.

Mr Bush's visit takes place at a time of increasing unrest in the Soviet republics.

Six months ago Moscow put down an uprising in Lithuania, and just yesterday six Lithuanian border guards were killed in suspicious circumstances.

Both Mr Bush and Mr Gorbachev said they regretted the incident, but refused to comment further.

In an indication of the delicate balance of power in the Soviet Union, Mr Bush has taken time during his visit to meet the President of the Russian Republic, Boris Yeltsin, for private talks.

However, he was quick to reassure journalists in Moscow he continues to support Mr Gorbachev and the Soviet government.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The Soviet Union collapsed in December 1991, before the Start treaty could be ratified.

After an intense period of diplomacy, agreements were reached with the Russian Federation and three former Soviet states where nuclear weapons were stationed - Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan.

The Start Treaty finally came into effect in December 1994, although the targets set out in the treaty were not met until 2001.

In 1993, the Start II treaty agreed to scrap a further 3,000-3,500 warheads. It was ratified by the US Congress in 1996.

In 1997, US President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin extended the treaty's deadline to 2007, and set out to begin negotiations on a Start III treaty for further reductions.

Eventually Start II and Start III were superseded by a further arms reduction treaty signed in 2002.

The Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty, better known as the Treaty of Moscow, aims to cut the nuclear warheads of each side to between 1,700 and 2,200 by 2012 - a reduction of about two-thirds.



**YOUR STARS**

**♈ Mar. 21-Apr. 19**  
You can have a great day if you don't think about anything except what's in front of you, and be sure to do it well. If you're cooking, make it a gourmet meal. If you're doing something physical, be daring. You get the idea

**♉ Taurus**  
**April 20-May 20**  
Attachments are more important than ever. You need security in life, and you're not getting the financial variety, at least not at the moment. Focus on the people you value.

**♊ Gemini**  
**May 21-Jun. 21**  
Be careful what you say, unless you can afford to put your money where your mouth is. If not, don't offer any ideas. You may just see them put into action.

**♋ Cancer**  
**Jun. 22-Jul. 22**  
Life just gets bigger and better, even if you can't see the same sparkle you once could. Interest is still accruing on your inner investments, if not your outer ones. Enjoy growing.

**♌ Leo**  
**Jul. 23-Aug. 22**  
You're certainly not at one of life's pinnacles. That leaves you plenty of room to move forward. Keep aiming for that high point, even if the only capital you have is willpower.

**♍ Virgo**  
**Aug. 23-Sept. 22**  
So how does it feel to be the underdog? It's a rank you don't want to brag about, that's for sure. But if your last place ribbon is obvious, then make the most of your little guy status.

**♎ Libra**  
**Sep.23-Oct. 22**  
Just how much longer will this dry spell last? You don't have any ready answers, not that anyone is looking to you for them anyway. But on the off chance someone asks, it pays to be prepared.

**♏ Scorpio**  
**Oct. 23 - Nov. 21**  
Your biggest challenge is accepting the status quo. But conditions won't be changing anytime soon, so don't even bother asking. Learn to live with a flat line.

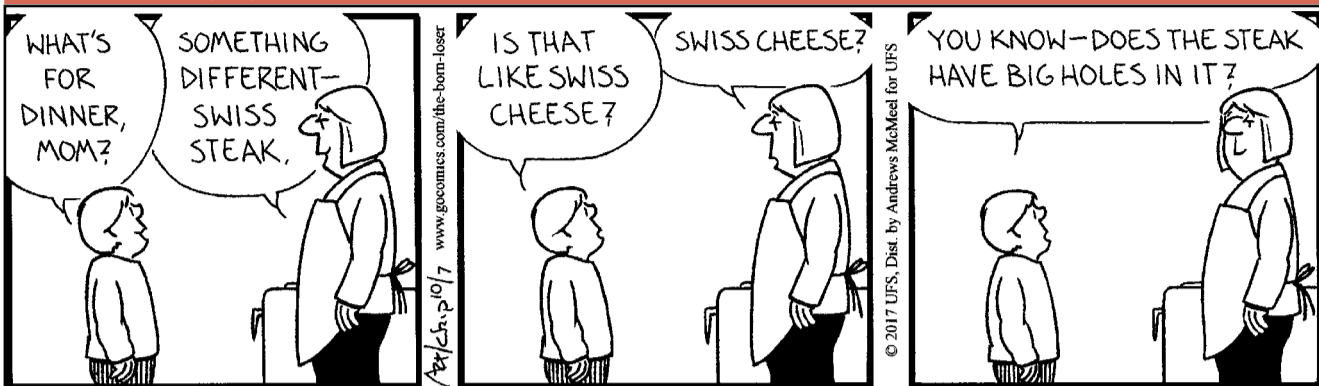
**♐ Sagittarius**  
**Nov. 22-Dec. 21**  
You used to think hoping for good luck was a waste of time, but these days, what do you have to lose? Hard work won't help you make any extra pennies. You might as well start flipping coins.

**♑ Capricorn**  
**Dec. 22-Jan. 19**  
This isn't the old days. Don't be talked into sharing if you don't have enough for you and yours. Some around you may feel more deserving but you ultimately control the purse strings.

**♒ Aquarius**  
**Jan. 20-Feb. 18**  
You don't have any energy to waste on power struggles. The real struggle is so important you can't afford even the slightest distraction from it. In fact, you're about due for extraordinary measures, so start saving up.

**♓ Pisces**  
**Feb.19-Mar. 20**  
It's easy to slip into a fantasy world when the real one starts to feel overwhelming, but daydreams won't put bread on the table. Don't let your mind wander into greener pastures.

**THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom**



**SUDOKU**

**Easy**

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

**Easy+**

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

**Medium**

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

**Hard**

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

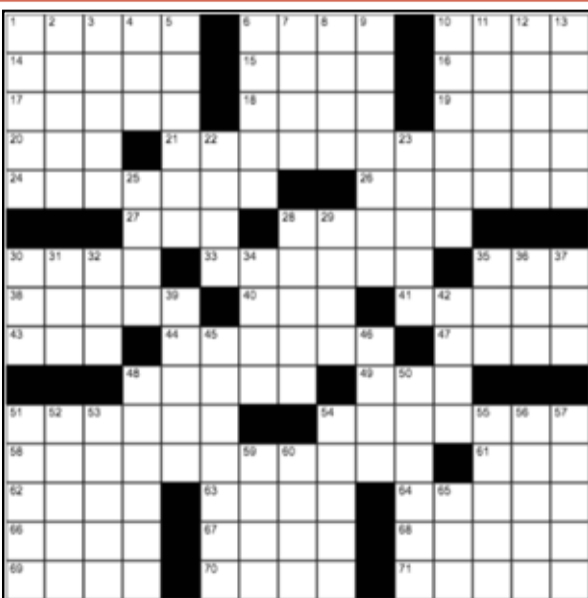
**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	26	35	clear
Harbin	23	30	shower/thundershower
Tianjin	28	36	clear
Urumqi	20	28	clear/cloudy
Xi'an	23	34	moderate rain/drizzle
Lhasa	12	22	moderate rain/shower
Chengdu	23	30	drizzle
Chongqing	26	36	drizzle/cloudy
Kunming	17	23	moderate rain
Nanjing	26	34	cloudy
Shanghai	28	35	cloudy
Wuhan	26	37	cloudy/drizzle
Hangzhou	27	36	cloudy/thundershower
Taipei	27	35	cloudy/clear
Guangzhou	26	35	cloudy/thundershower
Hong Kong	28	33	cloudy
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	15	27	clear
Frankfurt	21	33	cloudy/clear
Paris	19	27	drizzle
London	15	21	drizzle
New York	20	28	overcast/drizzle

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS:** 1- Anklebone; 6- Heroin, slangily; 10- Standard; 14- Strike \_\_\_; 15- Inter \_\_\_; 16- \_\_\_-Day vitamins; 17- Sacred text of Islam; 18- Author Morrison; 19- Read a bar code; 20- Guido's high note; 21- Chinese medical practice; 24- Without interruption; 26- Land covered with trees; 27- \_\_\_ the fields we go...; 28- Place to sweat it out; 30- Bridge position; 33- Dual; 35- Grazing spot; 38- Bright bunch; 40- Feel lousy; 41- Hanker; 43- General on Chinese menus; 44- Make fat; 47- Very small; 48- Nouveau \_\_\_; 49- Repair shop fig.; 51- Maintain; 54- Forbidden by law; 58- Perilously; 61- Sugary suffix; 62- Jai \_\_\_; 63- Otherwise; 64- Gladden; 66- Emperor of Rome 54-68; 67- Prophet; 68- Great; 69- Black cat, maybe; 70- "Smooth Operator" singer; 71- Layers;

**DOWN:** 1- Captivated (by); 2- Speed skater \_\_\_ Anton Ohno; 3- Navigation acronym; 4- NATO member; 5- House in D.C.; 6- Showed interest; 7- Hoof sound; 8- Hokkaido native; 9- Profitable; 10- Cosa \_\_\_; 11- When prompted; 12- Brings up; 13- "Olympia" painter; 22- Thin rope; 23- Brooklyn's \_\_\_ Island; 25- Drunkards; 28- Connected series of rooms; 29- Competent; 30- CPR expert; 31- DDE's rival; 32- \_\_\_-Cone; 34- Vow; 35- China's Chou En-\_\_\_; 36- East ender?; 37- At least one; 39- Ablaze; 42- Suffix with cigar; 45- Girl on film; 46- 1994 Jodie Foster film; 48- District; 50- Most cunning; 51- A Bell for \_\_\_; 52- "The Crucible" setting; 53- Entrap; 54- Grenoble's river; 55- Lose it; 56- Late bloomer?; 57- Sly looks; 59- Olive genus; 60- Second hand, took advantage of; 65- Him, to Henri;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

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



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CYCLING

# Team Sky's dominance at Tour de France set to continue

**T**HE Tour de France has a new champion, but the narrative remains the same at cycling's biggest race: Team Sky's domination has no limits.

By placing Geraint Thomas on top of the podium on the Champs-Elysees on Sunday, the British outfit ended three weeks of racing which sadly lacked suspense with a sixth win in the past seven Tours.

Once again, Team Sky riders have been untouchable on the roads of France, controlling the race with ease as Thomas became the third Briton to win the Tour after Bradley Wiggins and four-time champion Chris Froome.

Since Wiggins won in 2012 wearing a Team Sky jersey, the richest team in the peloton has claimed every edition of the race except one, in 2014 when Froome crashed out and Vincenzo Nibali of Italy emerged victorious.

Even the expulsion of Gianni Moscon for punching a rival during Stage 15 had no effect



Tour de France winner Britain's Geraint Thomas

on Sky's well-oiled machine, as the team managed by Dave Brailsford completed a fourth

consecutive Grand Tour win. "We were well behind our goals the year we started, we

did better the next year then we won the Tour with Bradley," said Brailsford, who has supervised the team since it was created in 2010. "Chris Froome learned a lot by riding alongside Bradley, he gained a lot of experience, then Geraint learned from Chris. It is passed on from a generation to the next. We are always thinking about the future."

Although Thomas has yet to extend his contract with Sky, both he and Froome are expected to be part of the team next season. At 32, Thomas is in the best form of his life while the 33-year-old Froome will try again to equal five-time Tour winners Jacques Anquetil, Eddy Merckx, Bernard Hinault and Miguel Indurain.

More talent is already emerging behind them in Egan Bernal, the 21-year-old Colombian rider who competed at his first Tour this summer. Bernal did amazing work for Thomas and Froome in the mountains, assisting both in the final Pyrenees stage. Des-

pite his relentless efforts as a domestique, Bernal still managed a 15th-place finish overall.

In addition to Bernal, Brailsford has also recruited two of the brightest prospects in cycling, 21-year-old Pavel Sivakov and Tao Geoghegan Hart, who is 23-years-old.

"My job is to look three or four years ahead," Brailsford said. "Our riders in their 30's won't be there forever. Within the next two or three seasons, I will have the opportunity to add other youngsters in the group. This year, Egan has been looking very carefully at what Chris does, he kept asking questions, looked at everything we do to win the Tour. It was the best possible experience for the future."

Sky's rivals have often complained of a lack of means in attempting to dethrone the British giant at the Tour. Sky has an estimated budget of USD40 million, about double that of Tom Dumoulin's Sunweb team.

"Of course, they have more money to spend, it makes life easier sometimes," said Dumoulin, the runner-up to Thomas. "Of course, having a big budget matters. But it would be too easy to say that Geraint Thomas had a big advantage just with this team. He was the strongest rider." AP

AD

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BASEBALL

# Old ballplayer tweets highlight team fears of social media

Cliff Brunt

**A**S major leaguers Trea Turner, Sean Newcomb and Josh Hader face up to racist and homophobic tweets they sent as teenagers, publicist Lauren Walsh recalls how she dealt with a football player who had offensive Facebook posts years before he prepared for the NFL draft.

She went through his whole social media history, taking down any posts that even raised an eyebrow.

Scrubbing tweets, Instagram posts and other comments, captions and status updates has grown into a top priority for LW Branding, Walsh's company that has helped 40 NFL athletes with image control in the past 3 1/2 years.

"Any client that we take on, that's generally the first step we do in the process," Walsh said. "This can take someone down in an instant. All it takes is one tweet. Now, he's going to be known for this. This is what people are talking about."

Turner and Newcomb are the latest high-profile athletes burned by reckless posts from years past. The 25-year-old Newcomb nearly threw a no-hitter for the Braves against the Dodgers on Sunday — a career defining moment that took a turn when he called reporters back into the clubhouse to apologize for offensive tweets sent in 2011 and 2012, when he was 18.

Homophobic and racially insensitive tweets by Turner from



Washington Nationals' Trea Turner

2011 and 2012 surfaced yesterday [Macau time]. The 25-year-old Turner, a shortstop for the Washington Nationals, apologized in a statement released by the team.

"I believe people who know me understand those regrettable actions do not reflect my values or who I am," Turner said. "But I understand the hurtful nature of such language and am sorry to have brought any negative light to the Nationals organization, myself or the game I love."

Hader, who pitches for the Milwaukee Brewers, is still in apology mode after tweets from his past surfaced during the All-Star Game this month. He was given a standing ovation in his

first game back in Milwaukee, and then booed when the Brewers made their first road trip of the second half of the season in San Francisco.

The trend touches many young athletes, with millions of posts from thousands of players who have been online since they were kids.

Former Wyoming quarterback Josh Allen apologized for a series of offensive tweets he sent while in high school that were revealed right before the NFL draft, when the Buffalo Bills selected him seventh overall. As Villanova's Donte DiVincenzo was celebrating being named most outstanding player of the Final Four, some of his old

tweets that included racially insensitive and homophobic comments made headlines.

"This stuff happens all the time and it happens when they get their shining moment," Walsh said. "When all of us were 17, we weren't thinking about where we were going to be in our lives seven years down the road."

## Homophobic and racially insensitive tweets by Turner from 2011 and 2012 surfaced yesterday

But athletes should start thinking about the bigger picture, as damage from slip-ups can be critical to coaches and executives, Walsh said.

The mistakes by Turner, Hader and Newcomb will be discussed by athletic departments, professional teams, agents and handlers looking to protect themselves and their players. As higher-ups grow more aware of the damage social media mishaps can cause, vetting could become more rigid as a key part of evaluating a multi-million-dollar investment.

"In light of recent events, that's definitely something our staff will discuss to potentially eliminate the chance of a

negative situation that puts a student-athlete in a bad light," said Creighton spokesman Rob Anderson, who said he doesn't know of any staffer going through a player's entire social media history.

Varsity Monitor keeps up with social media and offers education programs for 15 Division I schools, including North Carolina, Texas and Florida. Chief executive Joe Purvis said business is at an all-time high since 2010, with sales doubling in the past year.

It's not just athletes who should be wary of their past mistakes, Purvis said.

"Sports recruiters and normal employment recruiters are now looking at social media profiles as well as resumes as a standard of that person's character," he said. "If your social profiles have negative posts, they will assume you are negative."

In the sports world, college might actually be too late to make changes. Social media can factor into whether an athlete is even offered a scholarship.

"We've stopped recruiting someone based on what kind of person he is after coaches had chances to assess everything in their life, including social media," said Georgia Southern spokesman Bryan Johnston.

Most schools designate a member of each team's coaching staff to monitor the social media channels of athletes. But the sheer volume of several hundred athletes per school makes it nearly impossible to keep up with everything.

Many schools have presentations early in the school year to educate students about the importance of being smart about social media. North Carolina brings in Derrick Mayes, a former NFL player and co-founder of 5.0 Communications, for "scared straight" seminars to athletes. **AP**

FOOTBALL

# Neymar admits exaggerated reactions at World Cup in ad

**NEYMAR** used a sponsor's ad to admit he exaggerated some of his reactions after being fouled during the World Cup in Russia. The video, published yesterday and broadcast on several Brazilian TV networks, features the striker accepting criticism for the first time and promising to pick himself up.

The striker scored two goals in the tournament and was not too disappointing until his team got knocked out by Belgium in the quarter-finals, but fans and players have

spoken much more about his theatrics on the pitch, which included dives, rolling and frequent arguing with referees.

"You may think I exaggerate. And sometimes I do exaggerate. But the truth is I suffer on the pitch," Neymar said in the ad sponsored by personal care products maker Gillette.

Since Brazil's elimination, Neymar only spoke about the defeat in Russia via Instagram. In the ad he tried to explain why he did not speak right after

the Belgium game, which fostered even more criticism of his behavior at home.

"When I leave without giving interviews it is not because I only want the victory laurels. It is because I still haven't learned to disappoint you. When I look impolite, it is not because I am a spoiled kid. It is because I have not learned how to be frustrated," the player said.

Neymar said his football style is akin to a boy's that "sometime charms the world, sometimes irritates

the whole world."

"I fight to keep that boy alive inside of me, but not on the pitch," he said.

"You may think I fall too much," Neymar continued. "But the truth is I did not fall. I fell apart," he said, in a reference to Brazil's quarter-finals elimination against Belgium. "That hurts more than any step on an operated ankle."

The piece ends with Neymar's pledge to be a new man less than a month after Brazil was knocked out of the World Cup.



"I took long to accept your criticism. I took long to look at myself in the mirror and become a new man," Neymar said. "I fell, but only who falls can pick himself up." Neymar ends his ad

asking fans to make a choice.

"You can keep casting stones. Or throw these stones away and help me stand. When I stand, all of Brazil stands with me," he said. **AP**



opinion

**Our Desk**  
Renato Marques



**THE DUNNING-KRUGER EFFECT**

You may have already been introduced to this psychological theory “coincidentally” established in 1999 by then-Cornell University psychologists David Dunning and Justin Kruger, for whom the theory is named. If not, do not worry, as I will explain it. In short, the Dunning-Kruger effect is a cognitive bias whereby people who are incompetent at something are unable to recognize their own incompetence. Additionally, they not only fail to recognize their own incompetence, they usually also feel more competent than they actually are.

According to several studies, this is more common than one would expect. Although these people are masked and hard to spot in some situations, in others it is clear due to their attitude and behavior.

One of the characteristics of people exhibiting the Dunning-Kruger effect is that they respond poorly to constructive criticism. Instead of trying to understand the underlying issues, they often freak out when criticized or opposed, or flee the situation then immediately fight against the unwanted feedback.

When explaining the outcomes of studies which led to the development of the theory, Dunning said, “The irony of the Dunning-Kruger Effect is that the knowledge and intelligence that are required to be good at a task are often the same qualities needed to recognize that one is not good at that task. If one lacks such knowledge and intelligence, one remains ignorant that one is not good at that task.”

In their paper “Unskilled and unaware of it: how difficulties in recognizing one’s own incompetence lead to inflated self-assessments,” Dunning and Kruger led a team of psychology professionals across four studies which tested factors such as humor, grammar and logic. They found that all participants who scored in the bottom quartile grossly overestimated their test performance and ability. Recently, Professor Dunning, who still studies the topic at the University of Michigan, said that although the prospect seems a little scary, all is not lost, as recent studies show that in many organizations, people are underperforming simply because they do not know that they could be doing better, or do not know what great performance looks like and lack examples. This occurs for two reasons mostly. One is self-defense: “You [would] rather be the best from your class/company/circle of friends, than average or mediocre among the best.” The second reason is that “they just really lack the knowledge and ability, and do not possess any relevant experience from which they can learn from.” The good news, however, is that most of these people can be taught, and most are eventually able to see the difference between their previously poor performance and their newly improved performance.

But on the problem of education and training, how can we improve the performance of people under the Dunning-Kruger effect when they are the leaders, managers and trainers? This question is addressed precisely in a different but co-related study, where employees were asked about feedback on their performance. Over a third responded that they “never” or “rarely” received any feedback on their work and performance. Perhaps before we blame people in general for their “poor performance”, “lack of interest” and “ignorance” on a certain topic, we should first look to the leadership skills of those who initiated it.

THE AFTER #MeToo, IN GERMANY COMES BUZZ #MeTwo

After #MeToo comes #MeTwo. The hashtag has become a rallying point for scores of second- and third-generation immigrants in Germany, who have taken to Twitter to share their accounts of everyday racism and how they still struggle to be accepted as Germans. The hashtag, which echoes the #MeToo movement against sexual harassment, was created by Ali Can, a 24-year-old journalist of Turkish descent, following the furor over Turkish-German soccer star Mesut Ozil’s re-

cent resignation from the German national team. Ozil, the son of Turkish immigrants, quit earlier this month after fierce criticism of his decision to pose for a picture with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Can used the #MeTwo hashtag because he wanted to show that ethnic minorities in Germany often feel connected to two cultures or places at the same time: Germany and the country of their or their ancestors’ origin.

**In Panama City’s booming colonial core, locals fight to stay**

Juan Zamorano, Panama City

ESTHER Marina Sanchez has watched her neighborhood — the heart of Panama City — transformed by its designation as a UNESCO world heritage site. Tourists and well-heeled Panamanians now stroll the paving-stone streets among gaudy hotels, fancy restaurants and trendy discos that have popped up in once-dilapidated colonial-era buildings.

Gone are the gangs, the decay and abandoned structures — as well as Sanchez’s home, and those of most of her neighbors.

Sanchez recalled how her landowner offered the family money 2½ years ago, but said they didn’t really have a choice: “Take it or leave it, but you’re leaving.”

A fast-moving real estate boom spurred by the 1997 declaration of the Casco Antiguo district as a world heritage site has irrevocably altered the character of the neighborhood.

Locals initially welcomed the designation, hoping to reap the benefits of the revitalization that would come. But it ended up pricing them out, as long-absent landowners suddenly saw money to be made by converting properties to hotels or night spots or renting them to well-heeled tenants.

“Instead of being a benefit, it has brought us pain, powerlessness. It has diminished us as a family,” said Sanchez, the 59-year-old leader of a residents’ association. “The social fabric that was declared here has been torn apart.”

According to census figures, the population of the Casco and neighboring San Felipe districts has dropped from about 16,000 in the early 1990s to a little over 2,000 today.

The seaside Casco and its defensive walls were founded in 1673 to replace the first Spanish settlement on the Pacific Coast after it was sacked by pirates. It housed — and houses — some of the country’s central institutions: the official presidential residence, the Metropolitan Cathedral and the National Theater.



Graffiti on a wall near the beach in the Casco Viejo neighborhood in Panama City

Over the years it fell into disrepair as newer neighborhoods elsewhere in the city became more attractive. Wealthy residents moved out, and low-income families and gangs moved in, in many cases squatting in abandoned architectural treasures.

**Population of the Casco and neighboring districts has dropped from 16,000 in the early 1990s to a little over 2,000**

The UNESCO declaration suddenly reversed that trend.

The change is readily apparent. Scenes of elderly residents chatting in public squares, kids kicking around soccer balls and laundry flapping from balcony clotheslines have all but disappeared.

They have been replaced by flip-flop-clad tourists snapping pictures of historic churches and dining in sidewalk cafes near a scattering of jacaranda flowers. At night, music echoes through the streets. “It is more developed. You can tell that they have brought substantial labor to the restoration,” said

Roberto Perez, a tourist from Madrid. The last time he visited, in 2008, a group of youths mobbed him and made off with his camera. This time he enjoyed the Casco so much he extended his stay.

“There was a good vibe, good music, good atmosphere,” Perez said.

Sanchez and her relatives, along with 27 other families, ended up in an abandoned three-story school with no electricity, among the last holdouts of longtime residents. Sleeping in converted classrooms, they share bathrooms and hang laundry out on interior balconies just down the street from a luxury hotel that used to be home to local gang leaders.

Nearby, they maintain a round-the-clock protest camp on an empty lot that authorities had hoped to auction off, demanding the government build them new housing on the spot. They posted a sign reading: “The country is being sold to the highest bidder.”

Many locals who have been forced out over the years ended up in homes far away on the city’s outskirts, but Sanchez and others swear they will not accept relocation outside the neighborhood they call home.

Authorities say displacement of families who decades ago took over the deteriorating buildings would have happened sooner or later, once landowners saw value in retaking those properties. AP

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

SOURCE: DSI/MG

**WORLD BRIEFS**



**MYANMAR** One of two Reuters journalists charged with possessing official information testified yesterday that he knew nothing about documents that police allegedly found on his phone and had no idea where they came from.

**AUSTRALIA-EAST TIMOR** Australia’s foreign minister was visiting East Timor yesterday to repair bilateral ties after a bitter dispute over energy revenue and spying allegations. More on p12

**INDIA** yesterday released a final draft of a list of its citizens in the northeastern state of Assam, leaving some 4 million people on edge to prove their Indian nationality.

**SYRIA** Government forces pressed ahead with their offensive in the country’s south yesterday despite threats by the Islamic State group to kill civilians it recently captured there.



**SWEDEN** Foreign firefighters who helped their Swedish colleagues with raging wildfires in the past weeks have begun returning home as the fires die down, emergency authorities in Sweden said yesterday.



**US-NICARAGUA** The White House is condemning months of violent conflict in Nicaragua that has left hundreds dead. A spokesperson said that President Daniel Ortega and his vice president are “ultimately responsible for the pro-government parapolice that have brutalized their own people.”

**MEXICO** Police and soldiers have arrested a suspect in the disappearance of three Italian men in the western state of Michoacan.