



DOMESTIC FOSTER PLAN

The proposal says that the Canidrome company has "found enough houses" to shelter the animals

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TAX INFORMATION EXCHANGE

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WORLD BRIEFS



PHILIPPINES A bomb-laden van driven by a suspected militant went off in a powerful blast yesterday that killed 11 people, including a soldier, five militiamen and the driver, in a brazen attack that reignited terrorism fears in the southern Philippines.

THAILAND is seeking the extradition from the United Kingdom of former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, who fled her country last year ahead of a conviction on a charge of negligence in overseeing a money-losing rice subsidy program.



NORTH KOREA U.S. spy agencies suspect that North Korea is building new missiles in the same research facility that manufactured the country's ballistic missiles capable of reaching the United States, according to a recent report by The Washington Post, which cited officials who spoke on condition of anonymity in order to describe classified intelligence. [More on p13](#)

JAPAN's nuclear policy-setting panel yesterday approved revised guidelines on plutonium use, putting a cap on its stockpile and pledging to eventually reduce it to address international concerns, but without giving a specific timeline or targets. [More on p13](#)

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PETITION DELIVERED TO GOV'T

7,400 against hazardous materials depots

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RENATO MARQUES



Biggest health center in Macau opens, expected to serve 100,000 people

P4

SJM Holdings yesterday announced that its unaudited consolidated interim results for the six-month period ending June 30 showed that the group's net gaming revenue increased 9.6 percent year-on-year. The figures also show that profit attributable to the company's owners surged by 56.8 percent.

For the same period, the group's adjusted EBITDA grew by almost 30 percent from a year earlier.

For the six-month period ending June 30, mass market gross gaming revenue increased by 13.3 percent, while VIP revenue edged up just 1.4 percent. At the same time, slot machine gross revenue increased by 12 percent year-on-year.

According to the company, SJM controlled a 15.1 percent share of Macau's gaming revenue over the six-month period, including 20.2 percent of the mass market and 12.2 percent of VIP.

The group's flagship casino Grand Lisboa increased its gaming revenue and attributable profit by 8.1 percent and 41 percent

SJM gaming profits surge 56.8 percent

respectively, as compared with a year ago. Its occupancy rate increased by 3 percent from a year earlier to 96.3 percent, while the average daily room rate decreased by 4.6 percent to HKD1,503.

Meanwhile, construction of the Grand Lisboa Palace continued in the first half of 2018. Despite several setbacks, the group is striving for the construction to conclude by the end of the year and to seek the relevant licenses "as soon as possible thereafter."

SJM said that the group maintains a "strong financial position" with cash, bank balances and pledged bank deposits amounting to HKD21.9 billion as of June 30, 2018.

An interim dividend of HK8 cents per ordinary share has been declared, according to the company.



GREATER BAY

Guangdong open to leasing new towns to HK residents

GUANGDONG authorities are open to leasing new towns on the mainland for the purpose of housing Hong Kong residents, the South China Morning Post (SCMP) has reported.

Hailing Macau's rental of a part of Hengqin Island in Zhuhai as a success, Guangdong's housing and urban-rural development department suggested a similar arrangement might be negotiated with Hong Kong.

In a statement, the mainland department said that it was interested in studying the development of new towns in Guangdong occupied with residents of Hong Kong.

"In the next step of constructing the Greater Bay Area, we would consider the housing needs

of different groups and solve housing problems of those including Hong Kong people who come to work and live in the mainland," the statement said.

The pro-establishment political association, Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong (DAB), initially suggested the plan, offering the possibilities of leasing or buying land from mainland cities.

In the case of Macau, the strip of land in Hengqin that hosts the University of Macau is leased for a total of MOP1.2 billion over the course of 40 years.

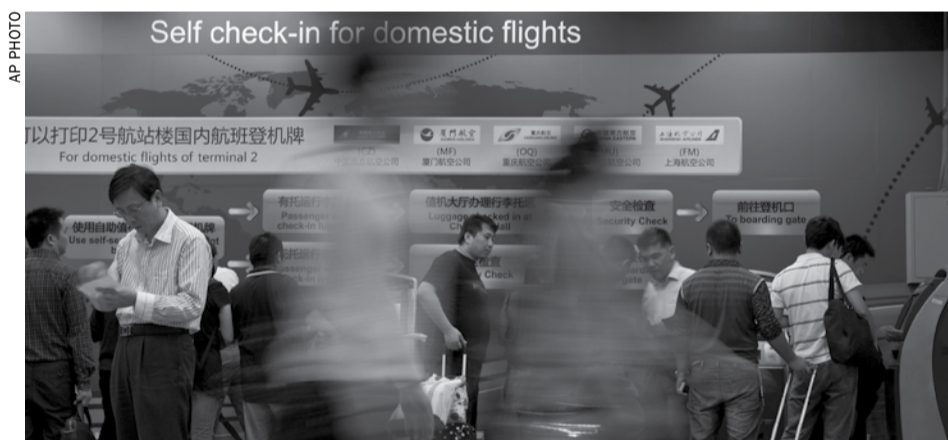
DAB representatives said that the response from the Guangdong authorities was promising and urged the HKSAR administration to pursue

the idea.

According to the SCMP, Association chairwoman Starry Lee said that setting up towns on the mainland was a "win-win situation" made operationally simpler by the soon-to-open infrastructure projects connecting the city to the mainland. She added that these projects would make commuting easier for those working in Hong Kong but living on the mainland.

However, Stanley Wong, chairman of Hong Kong's Housing Authority, noted that challenges might be encountered in convincing Hong Kong residents to relocate further away from Hong Kong Island. Already, he said, families were reluctant to move to the outlying parts of the special administrative region.

Over 80,000 passengers fly between Beijing, Lisbon



BEIJING Capital Airlines has announced that the thrice-weekly direct flight between Beijing and Lisbon has transported over 80,000 passengers during its first year of operation, which it marked last week.

The airline, part of China's HNA Group, indicated that the aircraft serving the route had an average occupancy rate of nearly 80 percent during the low season, above 95 percent during the high season, and "positive future growth prospects." The airline also highlighted the opening of the Beijing-Macau route on July 25, 2017 as a "well-defined contribution towards political approxima-

tion between Portugal and Macau."

The Lisbon-Beijing-Macau connection makes that trip easier, with a short stopover and flight change in Beijing. The route's opening confirms an increase in tourist flow between China and Portugal.

Beijing Capital Airlines is considered the biggest medium-sized civil aviation company in China, with vast experience in operating international flights. Its fleet comprises 79 aircraft, and it operates 49 international routes to 26 cities in 13 countries across Europe, North America, Japan, South Korea and Southeast Asia. **MDT/Macauhub**

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Over 7,400 sign petition against hazardous materials warehouses

Lynzy Valles

REPRESENTATIVES of Seac Pai Van residents, along with a few lawmakers, have delivered a petition with some 7,426 signatures requesting that the draft plan of building two warehouses storing hazardous materials near the Cotai residential area be withdrawn.

A representative of the residents, Edith Mak, expressed that the neighborhood is "worried and scared" about the government's plan to build the dangerous-good-containing warehouses.

Mak explained that the warehouses are located less than 200 meters from residential areas, criticizing the government's draft plan for building warehouses in Concordia Industrial Park.

"This is not a normal warehouse that stores harmless goods, but a warehouse that store dangerous goods. We think that it is a threat to our lives. By locating the warehouses on this site, we are very disappointed with the decision of the government," Mak told the press following the petition delivery at the government headquarters.

"We want to rebut [...] the statement made by Fire Services Bureau Commissioner, Leong Lok Sam. He expressed that that selected site for the warehouses are quite far from the location of infrastructure. We strongly disagree with this idea," said the Seac Pai Van resident.

Mak also lamented that the



Edith Mak, representative of the residents

project lacked a proper public consultation process, as many residents were not informed about it.

"Although the government claimed to have made a public consultation, they have only received two proposals. We want to ask how big of an impact can two proposals make and represent? These 7,000 signatures are the ones that truly represent the voices and thoughts of the residents," she said.

The proposal from the government to build new hazardous materials storage at the industrial park in Coloane had previously raised several questions from the Urban Planning Committee (CPU).

Although Leong previously mentioned that the land plots will serve only as temporary locations for storage "until we can find a more suitable and definitive land plot, that should possibly be in a landfill," residents

hoped that the government will locate the planned warehouses away from residential areas. "Because the site selected is wrong from the very beginning. No matter how safe this warehouse is, we won't believe it. [...] We have collected related information and evidence that is backed up by data. We are not

people going against the government without backed-up information," Mak added.

The Seac Pai Van residents believe that the proposal is an example of "bad urban planning that lacks rationality and future-sightedness."

Meanwhile, lawmaker Sulu Sou, who was also present at the petition delivery, recalled two incidents: the explosion of an illegal warehouse at Ilha Verde in 2003 and the Tianjin Port chemical warehouse explosion in 2015.

"Citizens have [requested] to remove the warehouse for many years but the government refused and did not care about those opinions," he recalled.

"We don't want the residents to [hold demonstrations] on the streets every month regarding these facilities," he added, recalling the protest held last month against the government's crematorium plans.

CE: DEPARTMENTS SHOULD BETTER EXPLAIN NEW PROJECTS

THE CHIEF Executive (CE) said yesterday that public departments should "take a step forward and better explain the new projects to [the] population." Chui Sai On was commenting on the project for the new warehouse for the storage of "hazardous products" that the government plans to install temporarily in a land plot within the Concordia Industrial Park in Coloane, next

to the Coloane Wastewater treatment plant. Responding to citizens' concerns, the CE said that "it is a concern for the government on how to create a healthy environment for the population. In the end, we have the same focus as the population, we all want to be in [a] healthy and safe environment." He noted that on this matter, he is currently "available to hear opinions."



Meeting to debate Lai Chi Vun conservation

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) will organize a meeting on Saturday about the revamp and preservation of the Lai Chi Vun shipyards area. Several heritage conservation experts will speak during Saturday's meeting, which will be held at the Macau Museum of Art at 10 a.m. As recently as in the 1950s, coastal villages were thriving in Macau. Historical accounts indicate that at the time there were around 10,000 fishermen and over 30 shipyards in Macau, many of them in Lai Chi Vun. Suffering from regional competition and the surge of the gaming industry in Macau, the industry collapsed in the 1990s.

Judge suspends taxi driver

A taxi driver who is being accused of locking passengers inside a car and overcharging has had his license suspended. The Public Prosecutions Office (MP) has questioned the suspect, and a judge has ordered that, in addition to the work suspension, he must present himself to authorities on a regular basis and pay bail. A statement issued yesterday by the MP noted that "several cases of taxi drivers suspect of abuse and overcharging have been recently discovered, hence the MP will establish the penal responsibility of the suspects."

Canidrome and Anima submit domestic foster plan

THE Macau (Yat Yeun) Canidrome and Anima - Society for the Protection of Animals have jointly proposed a plan of establishing a domestic foster plan.

"In order to provide immediate and proper care to the greyhounds: Domestic Foster Plan - Macao Canidrome currently has found enough houses, most of which are villas or detached houses, totaling more than 166,000 square feet," a press release issued by the Canidrome reads. "It can provide about 100 square feet of activi-



ty spaces for each dog, and staff will be arranged for taking turns to take care of the dogs for all day. Furthermore, staff members along with Anima volunteers

will take turns caring for the dogs all day.

The company also says that it would welcome daily inspections from the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau,

all in the name of its new "open and transparent" attitude.

The company states that the proposal is "aimed at preparing a proper dwelling place that conforms to international standards of fostering greyhounds, thereby initiating a responsible adoption procedure under the supervision and management of Anima."

Last week, the Canidrome and the animal rights association announced a plan to set up an international center for the rehoming of former racing greyhounds in an area

located in Pac On, Taipa.

However, it is still pending approval by the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau, who will need to decide if the land can be used for rehoming the animals.

The Chief Executive yesterday commented on the proposal from the two parties, saying, "I have spoken to Secretary [for Transport and Public Works] Raimundo do Rosario even this morning, and all I can say is that until [yesterday] he has not yet received any application regarding the land plot mentioned."

Chui Sai On said that only when the government receives a request to change the land plot use can "further steps can be [taken]."

Viva Macau case: 'We should wait calmly for the results'

Commenting on the case of the subsidies paid by the Macau government to the bankrupted airline Viva Macau, the Chief Executive (CE) noted that the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, has already forwarded his report to the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) to proceed with an investigation. "Now we need to wait for the investigation that will also produce a report that will be [made] public," Chui said. "According to its status, the CCAC, if there is any illicit [activity] ... will for sure forward it to the Public Prosecutions Office," the CE said, not wanting to comment more on future possibilities and noting that the public should wait for the results of the investigation and final report of the CCAC.

MIMF tickets go on sale Sunday

Tickets for the 32nd Macau International Music Festival (MIMF) will be available for purchase through the Macau Ticketing Network, starting from 10 a.m. on Sunday, August 5. According to a statement from the organizer, the Cultural Affairs Bureau, queuing vouchers will be distributed from 9 a.m., "for the convenience of the public." Telephone and online booking will be made available from 12 p.m. on the same day. Various types of discounts will be on offer for this edition of the MIMF, including an early bird discount (for those who acquire tickets before August 12), a 50 percent discount to holders of the Macau Senior Citizen Card or the Disability Assessment Registration Card, and several others for the owners of select bank cards. The MIMF is being held from September 28 until October 28, featuring 22 performances and 16 programs.

Gov't confirms visa-on-arrival to Myanmar

The Identification Services Bureau has been notified by the Consulate General of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Hong Kong that holders of the Macau SAR Passport can apply for visas on arrival in Myanmar for the purpose of tourism. Eligible persons can apply for visa-on-arrival at Yangon International Airport, Mandalay International Airport, and Nay Pyi Taw International Airport for a maximum stay of 30 days. The measure will take effect on October 1. At present, a total of 138 countries or territories have agreed to grant visa-free access or visa-on-arrival to the Macau SAR Passport holders. The visa relaxation was reported last week by the Times, citing Myanmar media. The country will also start granting visa-free entry to citizens of Japan and South Korea.

UM professor made criminology society chairman

Professor Liu Jianhong from the Department of Sociology at the University of Macau (UM) was elected chairman of the General Assembly of the Asian Criminological Society (ACS) during the organization's tenth annual conference held in Penang, Malaysia. Liu will serve a three-year term from 2018 to 2021. According to a statement from the UM, the professor has made "significant contributions to the promotion of Asian criminology in academia." The ACS is one of the world's most influential academic organizations in the field of criminology. It aims to promote the study of criminology and criminal justice across Asia and to enhance collaboration in the fields of criminology and criminal justice among scholars and practitioners. The ACS has held annual meetings in 10 countries and regions, including mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau. In addition to his new post, Liu is currently the president of the Scientific Commission of the International Society for Criminology and editor-in-chief of the Asian Journal of Criminology.



RENATO MARQUES



Biggest Macau health center opens, expected to serve 100,000

Renato Marques

A new health care center was inaugurated yesterday at the Public Housing Building, Cheng I, in Ilha Verde district. The new unit, the eighth of its kind in the region, is the "biggest health care center in Macau and it is oriented to provide health services to the Northern district together with Areia Preta and Fai Chi Kei Health Care Center [located just two blocks away]," the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, said in his inaugural speech.

Regarding the project, Tam noted that the interconnection between the three health care units is essential for the "densely populated area," and he commented that he expects the new unit which entered into operation yesterday could "fulfill the needs of 90,000 to 100,000 residents."

In Tam's words, the entry into operation of this new health

care center "represents development and improvement of the primary level of health care services of Macau." He noted that the efforts of the government to equip such facilities, old and new, with modern technologies and equipment allowed the previous seven existing units to be awarded with the Accreditation from the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards between 2014 and 2017.

This led Tam to say, "Macau is at the world's forefront in terms of universal coverage of health," adding, "this adds tranquility to the residents as there are no reasons for concern."

The Secretary also highlighted that besides being able to provide primary level health care services to elderly people, children and mothers, the Center inaugurated yesterday can also provide a service for pediatrics assessment and rehabilitation as well as for the

treatment of dementia in elderly people and general community rehabilitation.

Speaking about other upcoming projects promoted by the Health Bureau (SSM), Tam noted that the Elderly Home and Convalescent Hospital of Ka-Ho, expected to open soon, will provide "ease of the access to these services by the residents." There are also projects for two new health care centers to be included on the Zone A

of the new landfills on the land plots A8 and C9, discussions for which have already commenced at the Urban Planning Committee (CPU) at a meeting held two weeks ago.

Such projects were targeted at the meeting held on July 18, with many committee members calling for a "clear[er] picture" of the projects and of the integration of the future developments into the new urban area.

ALEXIS TAM: 'IT'S IMPORTANT FOR MACAU TO HAVE A CREMATORIUM'

ON THE sidelines of the inauguration, Alexis Tam said it is important for Macau to have crematorium. "We need it!" Tam said, citing reasons of public health. The Secretary refrained from offering too many comments on the topic, as he mentioned that the matter that is

under the authority of other secretariats, namely, the Transport and Public Works in regards to land resources, and of the Administration and Justice, which has jurisdiction and authority over the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau, and handles the procedures related to cemeteries.

OECD tax information exchange into force from September

THE government announced that Macau is set to comply with the application of the "Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters" in the MSAR, the Office of the Secretary for Economy and Finance said in a statement.

The memorandum, which will soon enter into force, will make Macau compliant with the international rules regarding the exchange of tax information, which were established by entities such as the Organization for Economic Co-operation

and Development and the European Union (OECD)

The memorandum recalls that the Government of Macau, with the support of the central government of China, has concluded the Agreement on Multilateral Authori-

ties Responsible for the Automatic Exchange of Financial Information relating to Financial Accounts.

The government also stated that with the MSAR's application of the agreement, the region will be able to effectively raise the level

of compliance in international tax cooperation and maintain a good international image in the areas of tax practice and cooperation. This is particularly notable as these factors contribute to its international image and credibility.



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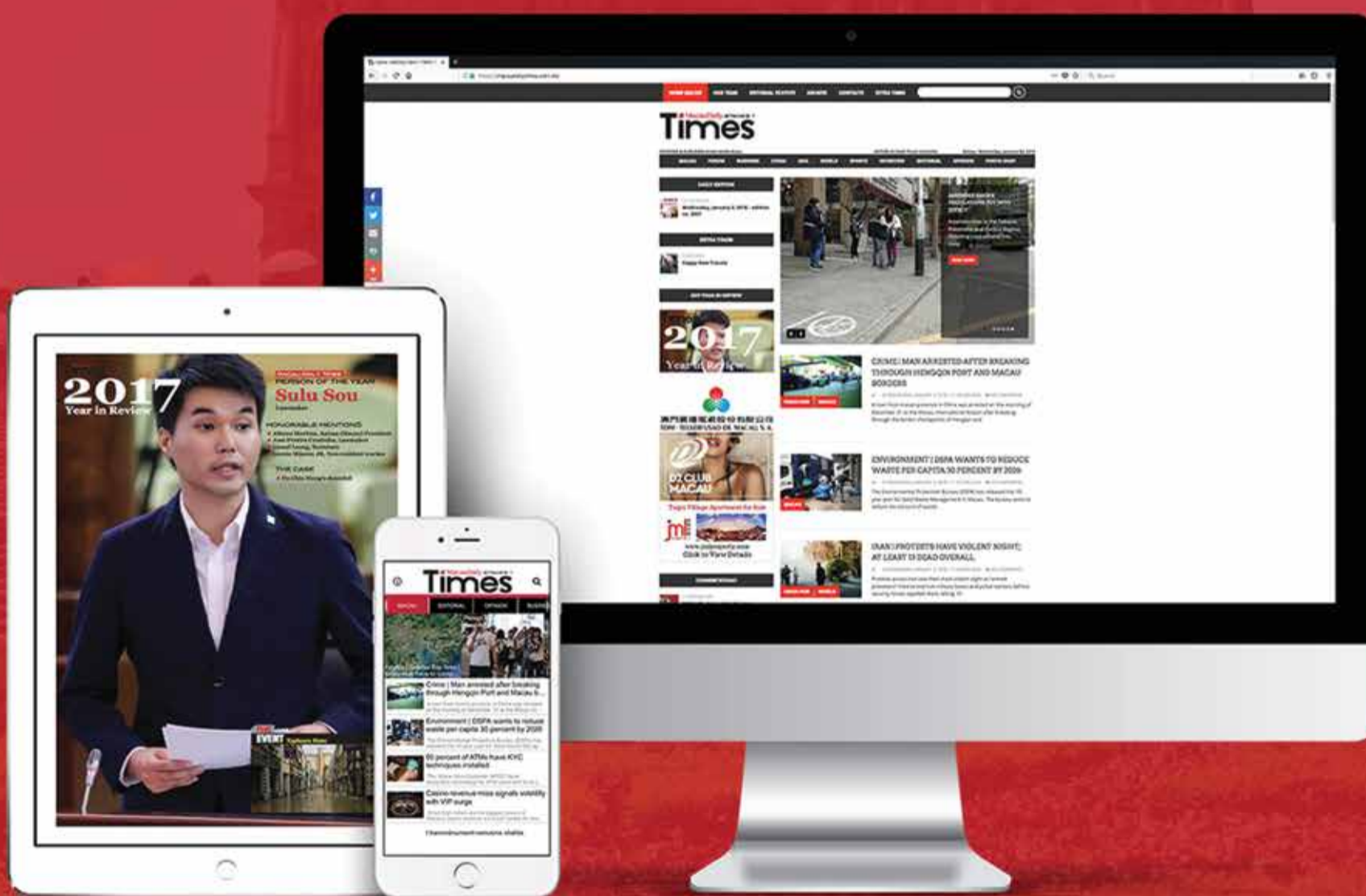
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SURVEY

HK residents positive towards Macau citizens but not gov't

A poll conducted by the University of Hong Kong Public Opinion Programme showed that its residents regarded Macau citizens positively, but not its government.

The university's telephone poll, carried out earlier this month, asked residents if they felt positively or negatively towards certain governments and their people.

Singapore scored most positively in the list of 14 regions, according to the poll's 502 participants.

The poll also showed that 37 percent said they felt positive towards Macau's government, while 22 percent said they felt negative. Fifty-one percent of the participants said they felt positive towards Macau's people, while 14 percent said the opposite.



Pedestrians walk on a footbridge in the Central business district of Hong Kong

The net score for Macau residents was about 50, while the MSAR's government scored below 20.

Hong Kong residents showed fondness towards Singapore's government, as 62.5 percent said they felt positively towards it, while only 7.4 percent said they felt negative.

Andrew Fung Ho-keung, director and CEO of the think tank Hong Kong Po-

licy Research Institute, said that Hong Kong residents admired the Lion City's government, as cited in a report issued by the South China Morning Post.

"Singapore has always given people the impression of a very progressive, modern and efficient city. [...] They have a democratic election, there is no corruption, they place importance on a diverse city, and they

have affordable housing – these are all qualities and values that Hong Kong people like," Fung said.

However, Joe Chau, president of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Small and Medium Business believed that Hong Kong was a much better place than many other overseas countries, be it Singapore or the U.S.

"The general public might easily get the impression that the Hong Kong government is not efficient because of news of project delays. But very often, consultation takes a long time," he said.

The poll found people in Taiwan, Japan and Singapore were regarded positively, but did not echo the same sentiments towards mainlanders, who ranked the lowest in terms of net score for its people.

TOURISM

Package tour visitors climb 3.1pct in June

VISITORS on package tours totaled 682,000 in June 2018, according to the latest data from the Statistics and Census Bureau, up by 3.1 percent year-on-year and yet down by 4 percent month-to-month. Package tour visitors from mainland China (515,000) edged down by 0.1 percent compared with the same month last year, while those from South Korea (45,000) and Taiwan (59,000) increased by 16.5 percent and 67.6 percent respectively.

China (764,000) and Taiwan (44,000) increased by 11 percent and 4.4 percent respectively, while those from South Korea (39,000) and Hong Kong (138,000) dropped by 5.2 percent and 8.2 percent.

In the first half of 2018, guests of hotels and guesthouses reached over 6.8 million, up by 7.8 percent year-on-year. The average occupancy rate of hotels & guesthouses rose by 4 percentage points to 88.6 percent.

Meanwhile, outbound residents using the services of travel agencies increased by 14.1 percent year-on-year to 123,000, and the number of residents traveling on package tours decreased by 15.6 percent to 37,000, with those going to mainland China dropping 2.7 percent to 28,000.

In the first half-year of 2018, outbound residents using the services of travel agencies amounted to 765,000, up by around 15 percent year-on-year.

For the first half-year of 2018, package tour visitors totaled 4.27 million, up by 13.8 percent year-on-year.

There were 116 hotels and guesthouses operating at the end of June 2018 with a total of 39,000 guest rooms. The number of guests of hotels and guesthouses during the month rose by 6 percent year-on-year to 1.15 million. Guests coming from mainland

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GAMING

MGM, Caesars racing to cash in on sports betting market

Regina Garcia Cano, Wayne Parry

TWO titans of the casino industry are racing to cash in on the newly created U.S. sports betting market, taking steps to expand their footprint and strengthen their positions as more states approve necessary regulations and people become more interested in legally gambling on pro and college sports.

MGM Resorts International reached separate agreements Monday with a European bookmaker and a U.S.-based regional casino operator that will give it technological expertise and market access in several states where it doesn't already operate casino-resorts. Meanwhile, Caesars Entertainment opened the sports book at one of its New Jersey casinos and will do the same Wednesday at another property.

The moves from the casino operators come more than two months after the U.S. Supreme Court cleared the way for all 50 states to offer legal sports betting, should they desire. The ruling has prompted deals among gambling and technology companies that want to get ahead in an industry expected to expand across the United States.

The first of two agreements MGM Resorts announced Monday is a joint venture with the United Kingdom-based owner of Ladbrokes, GVC Holdings, that will lead to the creation of a sports betting and online gambling platform in the U.S. The platform will include a mobile

AP PHOTO



app and website with features like odds and highlights.

The separate agreement with Boyd Gaming Corp. opens markets for both companies, allowing them to offer sports betting and online wagering in 15 states where they operate casino-resorts. Boyd will give MGM access to Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana and other states pending the closure of planned casino purchases.

"We believe the joint venture deal is a net positive for both GVC and MGM as MGM gains the invaluable, and difficult to recreate technology platform and online expertise that GVC

possesses in a cost efficient manner," Deutsche Bank analyst Carlo Santarelli wrote in a note to investors. "We also believe the deal helps both Companies in their speed to market, an important element, in our view, of U.S. sports betting as we expect market shares on a state by state basis to be largely concentrated over time."

MGM said in a statement the platform with GVC will benefit from its existing 30-million reward-member database as well as from the "market access agreement with Boyd Gaming which provides a pathway to access a total of fifteen states with

an addressable population of approximately 90 million."

MGM's Borgata casino-resort in New Jersey already offers sports betting. Caesars-owned Bally's casino in Atlantic City started taking sports bets Monday morning and 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.

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.

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.

Kevin Ortzman, who runs Caesars Entertainment's three Atlantic City casinos, said sports betting will bring a new customer through the doors, and soon, online. He said he hopes to have that approval from New Jersey gambling regulators by mid-August, while noting that numerous other gambling companies are all seeking the same thing at the same time in New Jersey.

As of Monday, no one had yet been approved for mobile or online sports betting in New Jersey.

"The sports betting customer is not your typical core gaming customer that Atlantic City has been used to," he said. "Offering this as another wagering opportunity opens up a whole new chance to integrate this with our food and beverage, gaming and entertainment offerings."

The company is partnering with Scientific Games to offer the sports betting technology through its OpenBet sports book.

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**

Billionaire Li's FWD said to mull Singapore dual-class IPO

HONG Kong billionaire Richard Li's FWD Group is considering listing in Singapore with a dual-class structure, as the insurer moves ahead with its initial public offering preparations, people with knowledge of the matter said.

FWD is discussing with advisers the merits of listing in Singapore using such a structure, which can offer enhanced voting power to protect the influence of founders and management, according to the people. The insurer has consulted Singapore Exchange Ltd. officials about the possibility, the people said, asking not to

be identified as the deliberations are private.

The Hong Kong-based company is also considering its home city as a potential listing venue, the people said. FWD has started laying the groundwork for an IPO that could take place in the next couple years, Bloomberg News reported last month.

A Singapore listing of FWD, which manages more than USD26.6 billion of assets, would be a coup for the Southeast Asian exchange as it seeks to grab a greater share of deals from competing financial centers. The bourse last month joined Hong

Kong in approving regulations that allow companies to list with dual-class shares.

No final decisions have been made, and there's no certainty the deliberations will lead to a transaction, according to the people. Representatives for FWD and SGX declined to comment.

The Singapore bourse has been working to attract big-ticket listings from overseas. It is considering a range of measures to woo a listing of energy giant Saudi Arabian Oil Co., people with knowledge of the matter said last year.

The exchange was

pushing in 2011 to attract a share sale from English soccer team Manchester United, and it was seeking the next year to attract a listing of Formula One that could have raised as much as \$3 billion, Bloomberg News reported at the time. Manchester United eventually chose to list in the U.S., while Formula One's IPO didn't take place in part due to a volatile equity market.

FWD's backers include Singapore sovereign wealth fund GIC Pte. Other investors include Swiss Re AG, the world's second-largest reinsurer, and Asian private equity firm RRJ Capital.



Li, the son of Hong Kong's richest man, has been building FWD through acquisitions over the last five years. He formed the company after spending \$2.1 billion to buy ING Groep NV's insurance and pension units in Hong Kong, Macau and Thailand in 2013.

Since then, FWD has expanded in Japan and Southeast Asia and tied

up with banks in the region to sell its insurance policies. The company had over 2.7 million customers spread across eight Asian markets at the end of last year, its website shows.

Thailand is FWD's biggest market in terms of customers, followed by its Hong Kong and Macau business, according to its website. **Bloomberg**

ANGOLA

Embargo on forest resource exploitation lifted

THE Angolan Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry plans to remove the embargo placed on exploration of forest resources on August 8 with the opening of the 2018 campaign in a ceremony to be held in the province of Moxico, said the Angolan national director of Forests, Domingos Nazaré Veloso.

Nazaré Veloso said that the ceremony will take place during the next advisory council of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, on August 8 and 9 in the city of Luena, capital of the province of Moxico.

The order to suspend all activities related to the exploration of forest resources was enacted in January by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, when news of illegal felling across the country was



rife, with the provinces of Kwando Kubango and Moxico seen as the main areas where this was occurring.

In addition to indiscriminate felling, another concern of the authorities was the subsequent treatment of timber, from transport to sale. In this regard, the Ministries of Agriculture, of the Interior and of Transport approved a Joint Executive Order in 2016, which governs the inter-provincial transport

of timber.

At the time the suspension was announced, the Ministry of Agriculture justified the measure with the need to adapt the operation of the sector to new legislation, approved in 2017, replacing laws in place since the colonial period.

Similarly to the previous law, the new legislation allows national citizens to explore forest resources but to export it requires

prior presentation of the proof of payment by deposit in one of the country's banks, or a letter of credit of the currencies corresponding to the shipment of cubic metres to be explored in a given area.

Angola has a forest area estimated at 69.3 million hectares, representing 55.6 percent of its land area, and commercial timber reserves estimated at 4.5 billion cubic metres. **MDT/Macauhub**

BRAZIL

Chinese ambassador announces interest in railway investment

CHINA'S government is interested in investing in railways and urban transport in Brazil, in the case of the VLT or light railway and the metro itself, said Ambassador Li Jinzhang, who noted the good results achieved with investments in port infrastructure.

The Chinese ambassador to Brazil also told Brazilian news agency Agência Brasil that a Chinese company, which he did not identify, has already submitted a proposal for the construction of a surface light railway to the Federal District government, where the country's capital, Brasília, is located.

Li Jinzhang recalled that the governments of his country and Brazil have already set out the priority areas for investments – energy, telecommunications, infrastructure, agriculture and science and

technology.

"Infrastructure is the most important area of bilateral cooperation. The Brazilian government expects Chinese companies to increase investment and the Chinese government will also motivate Chinese companies to deepen cooperation in this area," he said.

Jinzhang also said that the Chinese authorities "are eager" to find a solution to reduce or eliminate import surcharges on Brazilian products, which include chicken meat and sugar.

The issue of Chinese surcharges was one of the subjects discussed between Brazilian President Michel Temer and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping during the 10th BRICS summit (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa), which ended on 27 July in Johannesburg, South Africa. **MDT/Macauhub**

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SU LINGMIN

Leukemia patient livestreams to pay for treatment



Su Lingmin with a mask at her hospital bed in Harbin in northeastern Heilongjiang province

Yanan Wang, Beijing

At least once a week, Su Lingmin films herself singing, sharing health tips and chatting with hundreds of fans from her hospital bed.

"Now I'm a professional livestreamer," she said with a smile in a video last week. "What else can I do?"

Diagnosed with leukemia four months ago, the 27-year-old native of Harbin is helping give a human face to the struggle for more affordable cancer drugs in China.

That cause has been bolstered by the popularity of a recent film, "Dying to Survive," which follows the darkly comedic capers of a Chinese businessman-turned-drug smuggler who saves lives by illegally importing a leukemia drug from India, where it costs several times less than in China.

Inspired by a true story, the movie has made more than USD400 million since its release in early July, winning praise from moviegoers and critics and prompting government action.

State news agency Xinhua reported last week that several provinces have lowered drug prices by up to 10 percent since the end of June. Most of the drugs targeted for price reductions are imported, like the Swiss-developed Gleevec

medication in "Dying to Survive."

Beijing previously announced in May that cancer drugs would be exempt from import tariffs. Chinese labs are said to be designing equally effective drugs for a fraction of the price, Xinhua said.

■ Su is helping give a human face to the struggle for affordable cancer drugs in China

"Imported drugs are just too expensive," said Du Yanan of the Beijing-based Heart to Heart foundation. Du runs a program that matches each yuan (\$0.14) that leukemia patients spend on a form of Gleevec that costs 10,000 yuan (\$1,474) for a single box of pills.

Commenting on the discussions sparked by the film, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang vowed to accelerate the process of making cancer medication more affordable.

"At the moment when there is a single cancer patient at home, the whole

family must pour out all its resources," the premier acknowledged.

Some have criticized "Dying to Survive" for vilifying the foreign pharmaceutical company behind the expensive drugs while absolving Chinese authorities of responsibility. But such a portrayal may be necessary to accomplish the unusual feat of at once being critical and assuaging censors, said prominent social commentator Shi Shusi.

"Dying to Survive" was able to "walk the thin tightrope of the regulators' tolerance" because it addressed serious issues in an indirect, at times slapstick form, Shi said.

"Capitalists have held our moral values for ransom in modern Chinese society," Shi said. "But this movie shows the desire of Chinese audiences for high-quality art."

For Su, the leukemia patient in Harbin, the movie spelled out her experience with cancer when one character intoned, "There is only one disease in this world — the disease of being poor."

On her livestreams, Su sometimes wears a surgical mask. Often, her broadcasts are interrupted by a nurse or doctor who has come to check her blood levels.

She thought at first that she was just stricken with the common cold. One ni-

ght, she was walking home from a noodle restaurant when she suddenly felt dizzy. By the time she reached her apartment just a few blocks away, she was so weak that her cousin had to carry her to their sixth-floor unit.

Then came the diagnosis, which her parents had at first attempted to hide. They were an "average family," Su said, with a stable income from her father's salary as a public servant.

But it was not enough to cover her treatment for the next five years — the length of time her doctor estimated it would take for the cancer to be removed from her system — even when they had already sold their house and spent nearly 400,000 yuan (\$58,979) in the last four months.

So Su downloaded Inke, a popular Chinese livestreaming app, and started making videos about life with leukemia. After six weeks, she had nearly 800 fans — enough to make up to 400 yuan (\$60) at a time from the virtual gifts her viewers sent her.

The meager earnings were not yet enough to make a real dent in her medical bills, Su said, but livestreaming boosted her confidence and staved off the loneliness of being stuck in a hospital room.

"I am sick, but I'm happy," Su often tells her viewers. "I know I can be cured." AP

Australia says US, Japan partnership doesn't challenge China

An Australian minister said yesterday a new infrastructure partnership with the United States and Japan does not challenge growing Chinese investment in the Indo-Pacific region.

The U.S. Overseas Private Investment Corp., the Japan Bank for Investment Cooperation and the Australian government announced earlier this week a trilateral partnership to invest in infrastructure in the region.

The move comes amid growing concerns about an increase in Chinese influence through the country's One Belt One Road infrastructure program.

Trade Minister Steve Ciobo denied the three-way initiative was a challenge to China, saying it only added to various regional programs already underway.

"It's wrong to view these things as either/or. The fact is we can participate in and be part of all of the initiatives in the region," Ciobo told Sky News television.

"All of this, this broad sweep of initiatives in the region, is all about addressing the huge unmet demand for the provision of infrastructure throughout the Indo-Pacific region," he added.

Ciobo said he did not expect a backlash from China.

"The fact is that we demonstrate consistently that Australia is very focused on making sure that we can help the least-developed economies in our region to get on to a more economically sustainable footing," he said.

In Beijing, foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said China viewed the move positively and was willing to work "together with relevant countries including the U.S. to boost regional economic growth, stability and prosperity."

"If the U.S. and any other countries have the will to step up infrastructure investment to boost regional interconnectivity, we welcome it," Geng told reporters at a daily briefing.

Without making specific reference to China, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Monday the United States is seeking "partners, not domination" in the region.

The three partners said in a joint statement that good investments stem from transparency, open competition, sustainability, adhering to robust global standards, employing the local workforce, and avoiding unsustainable debt burdens.

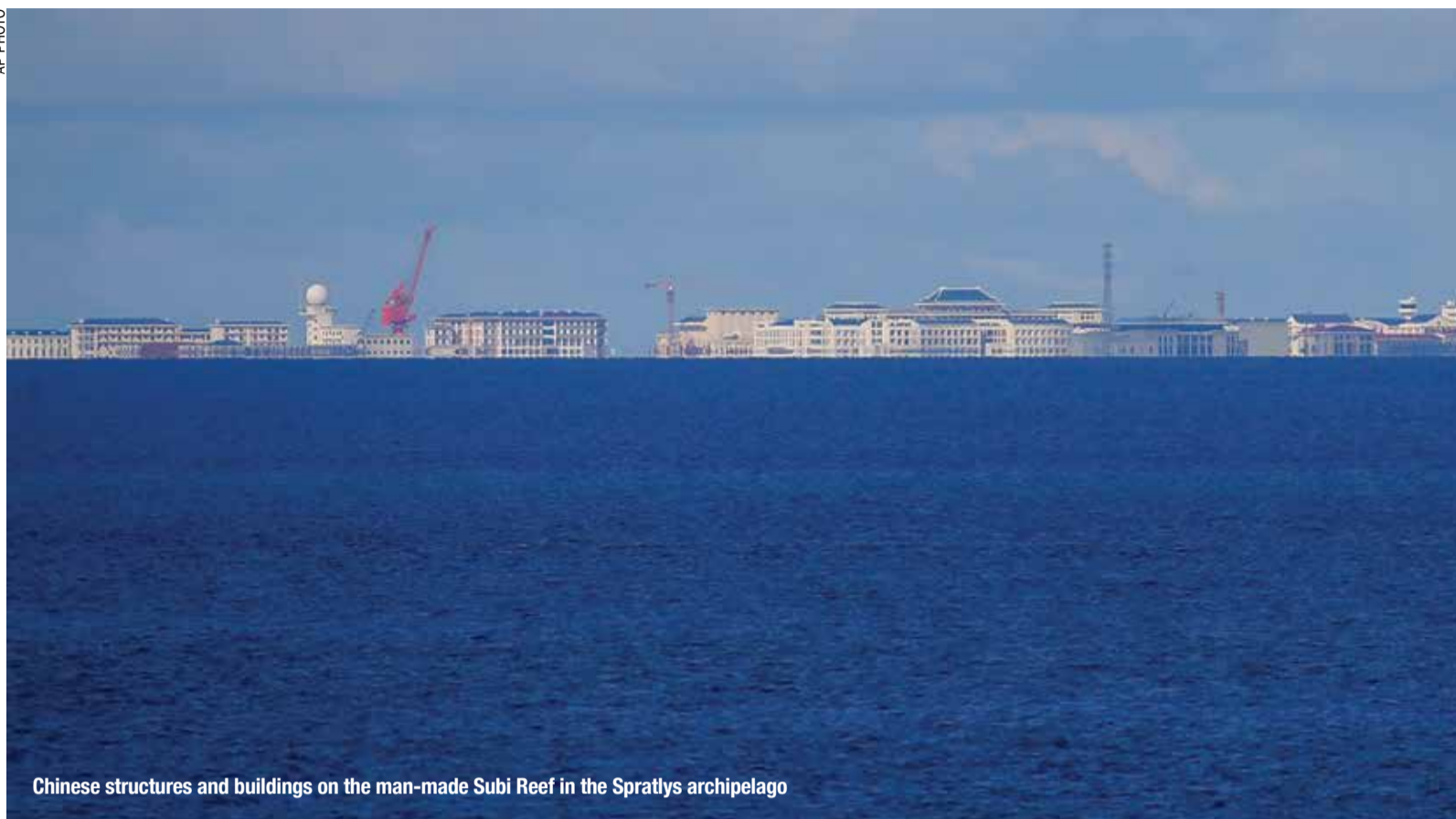
"We will uphold these principles as we mobilize investment in infrastructure, such as energy, transportation, tourism, and technology that will help stabilize economies, enhance connectivity, and provide lasting benefits throughout the region," the statement said.

Australia and New Zealand said last month they were set to seal a new security agreement with their Pacific island neighbors as China increases its influence in the region.

The agreement was expected to be signed at the 18-nation Pacific Islands Forum in September, New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade said, describing the Pacific as an "increasingly contested strategic environment."

China protested in January when Australian Minister for International Development and the Pacific Concetta Fierravanti-Wells said Chinese aid programs in poor Pacific island countries were creating "white elephants" that threatened economic stability without delivering benefits. AP

AP PHOTO



Chinese structures and buildings on the man-made Subi Reef in the Spratlys archipelago

SOUTH CHINA SEA

Philippines raises concern over Chinese radio warnings

Jim Gomez, Manila

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, officials said.

A Philippine government report seen by The Associated Press showed that in the second half of last year, Philippine military aircraft received Chinese radio warnings at least 46 times while patrolling near artificial islands built by China in the South China Sea's Spratly archipelago.

The Chinese radio messages were "meant to step up their tactics to our pilots conducting maritime air surveillance in the West Philippine Sea," the report said, using the Philippine name for the South China Sea.

Philippine officials have raised their concern twice over the radio transmissions, including in a meeting with Chinese counterparts in Manila earlier this year that focused on the Asian countries' long-unresolved territorial disputes, according to two officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the issue publicly.

It's a new problem that emerged after China transformed seven disputed reefs into islands using dredged sand in the Spratlys, where the new islands now stand in close proximity to islands occupied by Vietnam, the Philippines and Taiwan. Malaysia and Brunei are the other claimants to the chain of islands and barren islets and atolls.

The messages used to originate from Chinese coast guard ships in past years but military officials suspect transmissions now are also being sent from the Beijing-held artificial islands,

where far more powerful communications and surveillance equipment has been installed along with weapons such as surface-to-air missiles.

"Our ships and aircraft have observed an increase in radio queries that appear to originate from new land-based facilities in the South China Sea," Commander Clay Doss, public affairs officer of the U.S. 7th Fleet, told the AP by email in response to questions about the Chinese messages.

"These communications do not affect our operations," Doss said.

Although the U.S. lays no claims to the strategic waterway, its Navy has deployed ships and aircraft in operations to promote freedom of navigation and overflight, but which China protests as foreign meddling in an Asian dispute.

U.S. Navy ships and aircraft communicate routinely with regional navies, including the

Chinese navy. "The vast majority of these communications are professional, and when that is not the case, those issues are addressed by appropriate diplomatic and military channels," Doss said.

A Philippine air force plane on patrol near the Chinese-held islands received a particularly offensive radio message in late January when it was warned by Chinese forces that it was "endangering the security of the Chinese reef. Leave immediately and keep off to avoid misunderstanding," according to the Philippine government report.

Shortly afterward, the plane received a veiled threat: "Philippine military aircraft, I am warning you again, leave immediately or you will pay the possible consequences." The Filipino pilot later "sighted two flare warning signals from the reef," said the report, which identified the Chinese-occupied island as Gaven Reef.

Chinese Embassy officials did not reply to requests for comment, but Beijing officials have repeatedly said they have the right to build on what they say is their territory and defend their sovereignty at all costs.

■ The messages used to originate from Chinese coast guard ships but [...] transmissions now are being sent from the Beijing-held artificial islands

Philippine air force chief Lt. Gen. Galileo Gerard Rio Kintanar Jr. said Filipino pilots respond calmly to the Chinese radio messages and proceed with their mission as planned, adding that the higher number of reported radio challenges reflects the Philippine military's commitment to protect the country's territorial interests through intensified patrols.

"They do that because of their claim to that area and we have a standard response and proceed with what we're doing," Kintanar said.

In April last year, Chinese forces attempted by radio to drive away two Philippine military aircraft carrying the country's defense and military chiefs, along with other top security officials and about 40 journalists, to Philippine-occupied Thitu island, which in the Philippines is called Pag-asa.

Thitu is more than 22 kilometers from Subi Reef, once a coral outcrop that now resembles a small Chinese city with a runway and skyline visible from the Philippine-held island when its lights glow at night.

China warned the Philippine planes that they were straying into its territory, and that they should turn around to avoid any mishap. The aircraft responded by saying they were flying over Philippine territory. **AP**

SURVEY

China manufacturing weakens in July

CHINA'S manufacturing decelerated in July as exports and domestic demand weakened, a survey showed yesterday, adding to challenges for Beijing amid rising trade tension with Washington.

The China Federal of Logistics & Purchasing said its monthly purchasing managers' index declined to 51.2 from June's 51.5 on a 100-point scale on which numbers above 50 show activity expanding.

Measures for output and new orders declined while the export index was unchanged at 49.8 on the same 50-point scale.

Forecasters have expected Chinese industrial activity to weaken since regulators started tight-

ening controls on bank lending last year to rein in surging debt.

Beijing's trade dispute with Washington has added to concern about the impact on manufacturing.

The Trump administration raised import duties

July 6 on USD34 billion of Chinese goods in a dispute over technology policy. Beijing retaliated by hiking its own tariffs on the same amount of U.S. imports.

Exports have shrunk as a share of China's eco-

nomy and contribute less than 1 percent of annual economic growth but still support millions of manufacturing jobs.

The International Monetary Fund forecasts this year's Chinese economic growth to decline from last year's 6.9 percent to a still-robust 6.6 percent. Longer-term, the IMF expects growth to decline to 5.5 percent by 2023. **AP**



MALAYSIA

Civil aviation chief quits over Flight 370 lapses

MALAYSIA'S civil aviation chief said yesterday he has resigned to take responsibility after an independent investigative report highlighted shortcomings in the air traffic control center during Malaysia Airlines Flight 370's disappearance four years ago.

The report released Monday raised the possibility that the jet may have been hijacked even though there was no conclusive evidence of why it went off course and flew for over seven hours after severing communications.

Azharuddin Abdul Rahman

said the report didn't blame the civil aviation department for the plane's loss but found that the Kuala Lumpur air traffic control center failed to comply with operating procedures.

"Therefore, it is with regret and after much thought and contemplation that I have decided to resign as chairman of Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia," he said in his statement, adding he has presented his resignation and will step down in two weeks.

The jet 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 investigative report, prepared by a 19-member international team, said the cause of the disappearance cannot be determined until the wreckage and the plane's black boxes are found.

However, the report 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 and not getting in touch with the military for help.

New Malaysian Transport Minister Anthony Loke said yesterday the government has formed a committee to investigate and take action on any misconduct based on the report's findings.

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 a crash site.

Grace Subathirai Nathan, whose mother was aboard the plane, said the outcome could have been different if Malaysia's

air traffic control didn't commit "horrible mistakes."

She welcomed the "display of accountability" by Azharuddin, who headed operations at the time of the jet's disappearance and gave daily media briefings, but said he has "taken the easy way out."

"He has not explained the failings of the controllers, why it happened, what caused it? Was [it] incompetence? Was it neglect? What was it?" she wrote on Facebook.

"I hope that immediate action is taken against all the people who made these mistakes as a lesson for these people who hold a huge responsibility to take their jobs more seriously so that we can avoid disasters like this from happening again," Nathan said.

Malaysia's government has said it will resume searching if credible evidence of the plane's location emerges. **AP**

AUSTRALIA

Extremist sentenced to 17 years in prison for plot

AN extremist who planned a suicide attack with Molotov cocktails in Australia after he was prevented from flying to Syria to fight was sentenced by an Australian judge yesterday to 17 years in prison.

Agim Kruezi, 25, had pleaded guilty in the Queensland state Supreme Court to preparing for an incursion into a foreign state and preparing for a terrorist act.

It is illegal under Australian law for an Australian citizen to fight in a foreign country except for a state military force.

Kruezi was sentenced to 17 years and four months in prison, with a non-parole period of 13 years.

Justice Rosalyn Atkinson found he had not rejected the violent, extremist views that led him to buying materials to create Molotov cocktails to unleash an attack. "You remain a serious risk to the public," Atkinson said.

She ruled Kruezi wanted to create "death or destruction" in Australia and was motivated by a religious duty.

Kruezi's bid to travel to Syria to fight with al-Qai-

da-affiliated Jabhat Al Nusrah in March 2014 was blocked by officials at Brisbane Airport.

He turned his focus to an attack on home soil after his passport was canceled.

He was arrested in a police raid at his home in Logan, south of Brisbane, in September 2014 after buying 10 liters of gasoline in a jerry can.

Prosecutor Lincoln Crowley told the court Kruezi was planning "to kill random, innocent people in a public place and ultimately die as a martyr in that attack." **AP**



Milazim Kruezi (center) the father of Agim Kruezi, an extremist sentenced to 17 years in prison, leaves the Supreme Court in Brisbane

KOREAS

Rival generals discuss easing military confrontation

Hyung-Jin Kim, Seoul

GENERALS from the rival Koreas met yesterday at their shared border for talks on easing their countries' decades-long military standoff, the second such meeting since their leaders held a landmark summit in April and pledged to reduce the danger of another war on the peninsula.

The meeting comes days after North Korea returned the reported remains of U.S. war dead, the most recent sign of positive diplomacy after last year's threats of war.

The Korean generals met at the border village of Panmunjom and discussed the implementation of agreements from the inter-Korean summit on non-nuclear military issues. Some experts say South Korea can't agree on any drastic measures to reduce animosity unless the North takes serious steps toward nuclear disarmament.

In the April 27 summit, the leaders of the Koreas agreed to disarm a jointly controlled area at Panmunjom, work to prevent accidental clashes along their disputed western sea boundary and halt all hostile acts. Since then, the Koreas have dismantled their frontline propaganda loudspeakers, restored a military hotline and held their first general-level talks since 2007.

The generals were expected to



North Korean Lt. Gen. An Ik San (center left) shakes hands with his South Korean counterpart Maj. Gen. Kim Do-gyun at the border village of Panmunjom

discuss a reduction in the number of military guards at Panmunjom, the withdrawal of heavy weapons from the area, and the removal of some guard posts from the Demilitarized Zone, a buffer zone that separates the two countries. They could also talk about ways to ensure that fishermen operate peacefully along the Korean sea boundary, the site of several bloody naval skirmishes in recent years.

The Defense Ministry wouldn't discuss any detailed agenda for the talks.

The meeting began in an amicable manner with delegates from both countries saying they expect a meaningful outcome.

Chief North Korean delegate Lt. Gen. An Ik San said he felt a

"sense of mission" to contribute to peace and prosperity for the Koreas. His South Korean counterpart, Maj. Gen. Kim Do Gyun, said he was confident the talks would produce "achievements that South and North Korea and the international community want," according to South Korean media pool reports from the venue.

Last Friday, North Korea returned what were said to be dozens of remains of American soldiers missing from the 1950-53 Korean War, something leader Kim Jong Un promised during a June summit with U.S. President Donald Trump.

Trump thanked Kim for "fulfilling a promise" to send back U.S. remains and said it was

a step in the right direction following their summit.

During the Singapore meeting, Kim also committed to work toward the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula while Trump promised to provide security assurances. But there have been worries that North Korea hasn't taken any serious disarmament measures since then.

In exchange for returning the U.S. war dead, North Korea may demand that the United States agree on a declaration to end the Korean War as a U.S. security guarantee. That could be discussed at the meeting, according to analyst Cho Han Bum at Seoul's Korea Institute for National Unification.

The Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty, leaving the peninsula in a technical state of war. North Korea has long argued its nuclear weapons are a response to U.S. military threats, saying it wants to sign a peace treaty with the United States to formally end the war. That could then allow the North to demand the pullout of 28,500 U.S. troops deployed in South Korea.

An, the North Korean delegate, mentioned a South Korean media report that North Korea would ask South Korea to pressure the United States to jointly declare the war's end. "Before determining whether that [report] is accurate, I realize that the entire people in North and South Korea think highly of our meeting," he said.

The generals were expected to discuss a reduction in the number of military guards at Panmunjom

The military talks are part of a number of recent steps toward reconciliation by the Koreas that began with North Korea's participation in February's Winter Olympics in South Korea. The Koreas are to field combined teams in basketball, rowing and canoeing during the upcoming Asian Games in Indonesia. Yesterday, North and South Korean athletes trained together in rowing and canoeing in southern South Korea. **AP**

JAPAN

Tokyo pledges to reduce plutonium, but doesn't say how

JAPAN'S nuclear policy-setting panel yesterday approved revised guidelines on plutonium use, putting a cap on its stockpile and pledging to eventually reduce it to address international concerns, but without giving a specific timeline or targets.

The Japan Atomic Energy Commission's guidelines call for some government oversight to carefully regulate operation of the Rokkasho reprocessing plant in northern Japan when it starts up in three years so the amount of extracted plutonium doesn't spike.

Despite security concerns raised by Washington

and others, the stockpile isn't decreasing due to difficulties in achieving a full nuclear fuel recycling program and slow restarts of reactors amid setbacks from the 2011 Fukushima disaster.

The guidelines, updated for the first time in 15 years, also urge Japanese utility operators to steadily consume plutonium reprocessed overseas, but does not elaborate on how that works out with additional plutonium from Rokkasho.

The guidelines say Japan's stockpile should not exceed "the current level."

Japan now has about 47 tons of separated pluto-

nium — 11 tons at home, and 36 tons in Britain and France, where spent fuel from Japanese nuclear plants has been reprocessed and stored because Japan is not able to reprocess it into MOX fuel at home. The amount is enough to make about 6,000 atomic bombs.

Japan reprocesses spent fuel, instead of disposing it as waste, to extract plutonium and uranium to make MOX fuel for reuse, while the U.S. discontinued the costly program. Allowed under international safeguard rules, Japan is the only non-nuclear weapons state that separates plutonium for peaceful

uses, though the same technology can make atomic bombs.

The stockpile largely comes from overly optimistic projections that had relied on the Monju plutonium reactor, and its failure has forced Japan to resort to conventional light water reactors as the only realistic option to burn it.

Seven years after the Fukushima meltdown, five of the 38 workable reactors have restarted, but only three of them are approved as MOX compatible and together they consume just over 1 ton of plutonium annually.

Japan has long denied any possible misuse of the



The Pacific Egret cargo vessel carrying MOX, a mixture of plutonium and uranium fuel, at Takahama nuclear power plant, last year

material and reprocessing technology, and has pledged to not possess plutonium that does not have a planned use. But its failure to reduce the stockpile of separated plutonium doesn't look good, especially as the U.S. wants North Korea to get rid of its nuclear weapons and

abandon reprocessing capabilities.

China has announced plans to build a similar reprocessing plant with France, while South Korea has expressed interest in reprocessing, raising a concern over future plutonium concentration in the region, experts say. **AP**



FOR NEARLY THEIR ENTIRE LIVES

This frame grab from a video provided by Mercy for Animals shows a pig in an undercover video released by the group

ANIMAL RIGHTS

Undercover video shows pig abuse but also common practices

Colleen Slevin, Denver

RECENTLY released undercover video showing pigs being kicked, hit and punched at a Kentucky supplier for the world's largest meat producer drew prompt condemnation from animal rights groups and the agricultural industry alike.

However, the images sandwiched in between — adult pigs in cages barely bigger than their bodies and a piglet squealing while being castrated — show still widely accepted industry practices, but were aimed at pressuring Brazilian-based JBS to abandon them.

Ten states — none major pork producers — have passed laws that ban or phase out the use of those narrow metal cages, known as gestation crates or stalls, where sows are confined during their frequent pregnancies.

Among them is California, where voters agreed to phase out the crates along with chicken cages and veal crates starting in 2015. This fall, voters will be asked to go further and ban the sale of pork from pigs confined to the crates, along with pork from their offspring. The measure also would bar the sale of veal from crated calves and

eggs from caged chickens.

Massachusetts voters passed a similar ban in 2016 that takes effect in 2022.

Sows account for only about 6 percent of the pigs on American farms, but pork producers have been slow to give up confinement, said Josh Balk, vice president of farm animal protection for The Humane Society of the United States.

While shoppers are familiar with the bewildering array of cage-free and free-range egg options in stores, how pigs are raised is not something frequently touted on bacon or sausage packages.

Still, activists have made an impact with their gradual, state-by-state approach of passing ballot measures and bills to outlaw crates, and by gathering pledges from more than 100 large restaurant and food companies including McDonald's, Chipotle and Target, to move away from suppliers that use gestation crates. Some meat producers have also pledged to phase them out.

The world's largest pork producer, Smithfield Foods, announced in January it had switched to open group housing for pregnant pigs at its company-owned U.S. farms. JBS has said it plans to transition to col-

lective rather than individual crates by 2025. In January, it said 45 percent of its suppliers have already made the switch. JBS' U.S. branch, based in Greeley, Colorado, suspended shipments from the Franklin, Kentucky, farm after the video was released earlier this month by Los Angeles-based Mercy for Animals, a backer of the California proposal. It said it would investigate the incident at the farm operated by Tennessee-based Tosh Farms.

"Animal welfare is a priority for our company and our customers," JBS USA said in a statement at the time. "We will ensure that all of our suppliers adhere to our high standards for animal care."

An estimated 75 percent of U.S. pig farms regularly use gestation stalls. The rest are owned by companies that pledged to cut stall use or are in states that ban it, and mostly use open pens instead, according to the National Pork Producers Council.

However, even most of those farms still use gestation stalls when sows are artificially inseminated, and some use them to test whether the sows are pregnant, council spokesman David Warner said. State bans, like Colorado's, typically include ex-

ceptions for testing, treatment or research.

After sows give birth, farms that use confinement usually put them in slightly larger farrowing stalls, which give them enough room to lie down and nurse their piglets.

While shoppers are familiar with free-range egg options, how pigs are raised is not touted on bacon or sausage packages

Gestation stalls are intended to minimize fighting among hierarchical sows and protect workers from the pregnant animals, which can weigh between 350 and 450 pounds (160 and 200 kilograms), said Sarah Crawford, assistant vice president of animal welfare for the National Pork Board in Des Moines, Iowa. She said the stalls

are long enough for the animals to lie in, and research has shown some will choose a stall over living in a group.

"The good thing is farmers have the choice to decide what fits best for their farm," she said.

Temple Grandin, an animal science professor at Colorado State University and consultant on livestock treatment, said confined pregnant pigs lack the space to turn around, and compared the experience to humans having to spend their lives in an airline seat.

Grandin, who has worked for JBS in the past, said crates should be phased out and has seen group housing for pigs working well. She also said the way male piglets are castrated — done in their first week to prevent aggression and variations in meat flavor — could change too because of new research into pain medication for livestock.

"Gradually, people are realizing that these animals feel pain and we need to give them pain relief," she said.

Balk of The Humane Society, a major funder of the California proposal, said gestation crates typically are used in places like China and Europe, although the European Union allows sows to be confined for only the first six weeks — or about a third — of their pregnancy.

U.S. farms, he said, shouldn't resort to "substandard practices."

"Instead, we should set the bar on proper treatment of animals that reflects our mercy and compassion toward animals," Balk said. **AP**

US

Threats aside, Trump says he's willing to meet with Iranians

Jill Colvin, Washington

PRESIDENT Donald Trump said that he'd "certainly meet" with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, and without preconditions, if the Iranian leader were willing.

Speaking yesterday [Macau time] during a joint news conference with Italy's premier, Trump said he would meet with the Iranians "anytime they want to."

"I'll meet with anybody," he said. "There's nothing wrong with meeting."

The overture comes as Trump and the Iranians have been escalating their rhetoric after Trump's May withdrawal from the landmark nuclear accord. The United States has also vowed to boost sanctions until Iran changes its regional policies, including its support for regional militant groups. The first of those sanctions went into effect yesterday.

Iranian officials reacted skeptically. Iran's semi-offi-



cial ISNA news agency quoted political adviser Hamid Aboutalebi as saying that for talks to happen, the U.S. needs to rejoin the nuclear deal.

It's unclear whether Rouhani has any interest in meeting with Trump. Rouhani's chief

of staff claimed earlier this month in Iran's state-owned newspaper that Rouhani had rejected eight requests from Trump for one-on-one talks last year.

Rouhani recently warned the U.S. that "war with Iran is the mother of all wars,"

prompting an all-caps retort from Trump.

"To Iranian President Rouhani," he wrote on Twitter. "NEVER, EVER THREATEN THE UNITED STATES AGAIN OR YOU WILL SUFFER CONSEQUENCES THE LIKES OF WHICH FEW THROUGHOUT HISTORY HAVE EVER SUFFERED BEFORE. WE ARE NO LONGER A COUNTRY THAT WILL STAND FOR YOUR DEMENTED WORDS OF VIOLENCE & DEATH."

He ended the message with a warning: "BE CAUTIOUS!"

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif fired back with his own message that began, "COLOR US UNIMPRESSED."

Trump tempered his threatening rhetoric two days later when he said his administration stands ready for Iran to come back to the negotiating table.

"We're ready to make a real deal, not the deal that was done by the previous admi-

nistration, which was a disaster," he said.

Trump has long cast himself as a master negotiator who is most effective when he meets with his counterparts face-to-face. He pointed to his recent one-on-ones with North Korea's Kim Jong Un and Russia's Vladimir Putin as examples of the benefits of such get-togethers.

"I believe in meeting," he said, talking up the benefits of "speaking to other people, especially when you're talking about potentials of war and death and famine and lots of other things."

Asked whether he would set any preconditions for the meetings, Trump was clear.

"No preconditions, no. If they want to meet, I'll meet anytime they want, anytime they want," he said. "Good for the country, good for them, good for us and good for the world. No preconditions. If they want to meet, I'll meet."

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told CNBC that he was onboard with the president's invitation, saying Trump "wants to meet with folks to solve problems."

Early reaction on Capitol Hill was mixed, with Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., who is often critical of Trump, telling reporters: "I actually think that's a good idea." AP

AD

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what's ON



SCULPTURE — A JOURNEY, EXHIBITION BY ANTONIO LEÇA

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

UNTIL: October 21, 2018

VENUE: A2 Gallery, Albergue SCM

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550

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

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

UNTIL: September 9, 2018

VENUE: Ox Warehouse

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

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

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

UNTIL: September 9, 2018

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Old Court Building,

Tap Seac Gallery, Taipa Houses Museum

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

Offbeat



"Greta the Great White Shark," one of six huge sea-life sculptures from a project called Washed Ashore: Art to Save the Sea

HUGE SEA-LIFE SCULPTURES MADE FROM OCEAN'S PLASTIC TRASH

Huge sculptures of sea life are dotted about New Orleans' aquarium and zoo, all of them made from plastic trash that washed ashore. There's a great white shark made partly of bottle caps and beach toys and a jellyfish made mostly of cut-up water bottles.

The artwork, part of a project called Washed Ashore: Art to Save the Sea, is the creation of Angela Haseltine Pozzi, who started making the pieces after seeing plastic heaped by the waves onto Oregon's southern coast. Pozzi was in the town of Bandon, where her grandparents had lived, mourning her first husband's death.

"I'd known its beaches all my life," she said. "I went to the ocean to heal and found that the ocean needed healing."

She wants the scale of her creations to make people realize just how much plastic gets into the ocean — and to act on that knowledge. Signs next to each piece suggest simple ways to reduce the problem, such as not using plastic straws, re-using water bottles, and picking up other people's litter.

"Every piece of trash picked up and properly disposed of is a piece that will not cause harm to local environments and animals," states the sign for "Greta the Great White Shark."

Pozzi's aim is art that is "beautiful, and a little horrifying."

An army of volunteers in Oregon — about 10,000 since Pozzi started in 2010 — help her collect, prepare and assemble the beach trash into art. One of their wash-basins for plastic is a bathtub also found on the beach.

She now has more than 70 pieces in three exhibitions currently traveling the U.S., and has requests from overseas. Her work has been displayed at zoos, aquariums and botanical gardens, and she has permanent exhibits at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History and a gallery in Bandon.

The Audubon Aquarium of the Americas is currently showing six sculptures, while one of a puffin is on display at the Audubon Zoo; more pieces will be added to both locations in October.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:15	Macau Festivities - Lu Pan
17:10	Miscellaneous
18:00	Maternity
18:50	Odyssey
19:35	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	Non-daily Portuguese News
22:10	Around the World
22:25	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Miscellaneous
00:35	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:20	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

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: Tom Cruise, Henry Cavill, Simon Pegg

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 118min



CHRISTOPHE ROBIN

ROOM 3

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

Director: Marc Forster

Starring: Ewan McGregor, Hayley Atwell, Bronte Carmichael

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 147min

this day in history



1944 UPRISING TO FREE WARSAW BEGINS

The Polish Home Army has begun a battle to liberate Warsaw, the first European capital to fall to the Germans nearly five years ago.

At 1700 local time, the code signal "Tempest" was given and there was a wave of explosions and rifle fire throughout the city.

Reports from Poland say the timing of the uprising was chosen for maximum effect as the Germans appeared to be about to withdraw from Warsaw.

The German frontline has been forced to retreat over the past few months in the face of a sustained attack from the Red Army, forcing them out of the Baltic States, Belorussia and western Poland.

Soviet troops are now said to be fighting within 10-12 miles of Praga, the suburb on Warsaw's right bank.

To the north of the city, Soviet troops are advancing north-westward to Warsaw, with the River Vistula on their left flank.

General Tadeusz 'Bor' Komorowski, commander-in-chief of the Home Army, or Armia Krajowa, wanted to take the Germans by surprise and seized his opportunity in late afternoon.

He sent out a rallying call to his troops: "Today I have issued the order you have been waiting for, the order to begin open battle against Poland's age-old enemy, the German invader."

"After nearly five years of uninterrupted and heavy fighting underground, today you will carry your arms in the open in order to free your country again and to render exemplary punishment to the German criminals for the terror and crimes committed on Polish soil."

He has an estimated 40,000 troops, including 4,000 women, but they have only enough arms for about 2,500 - and most of those are rifles and tommy guns.

During the first day's fighting significant areas of the city's left bank have been captured, including the main post office and mint. Gas, electricity and water services have all been returned to Polish hands.

A network of street barricades has been erected blocking the flow of traffic in and out of the city.

Reports speak of a great pall of smoke hanging over the city - though to have been caused by the Germans setting fire to buildings.

Casualty reports suggest 2,000 Poles and 500 Germans may have been killed.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The battle for control of Warsaw lasted 63 days and ended with surrender by the Poles on 3 October 1944.

A German counter-offensive began on 5 August 1944. Orders were given to round up civilians and shoot them. Women were used as human shields for the German tanks.

During the uprising, the civilian population of Warsaw was kept in touch with newspapers published mostly by the Home Army and a local radio station. The final paper was printed on 5 October 1944 and the radio broadcast its last programme on 4 October.

General Bor had planned for the liberation of Warsaw to take about a week. But he received no help from the Soviets, who ceased their offensive towards the capital.

They also refused to allow the Allies to use Soviet bases to take-off and land. So the pilots were forced, instead, to fly up from Italy. Without fighter escorts many were lost and many of their supplies ended up in the wrong hands.

Final casualties were over 15,000 dead or missing, 5,000 wounded, and 200,000 Polish civilians dead. On the German side there were an estimated 16,000 dead and 9,000 wounded.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 It's a good day to hash out disagreements at work or nearly anywhere else.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Take a second or third look at your situation - is it really as bad as you had feared?

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Don't get too excited about how much you've got to do - your energy is better spent on dreaming up new ideas and making plans.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Try not to miss the point of whatever news comes your way - though it may be hard to discern which bits are most important.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Its time for you to make a new friend! That doesn't mean you have to force anything, but you should at least open up to new coworkers or chat with folks in new social situations.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Work - or the lack of it - may cause problems today, but there's good news: You're on the way back into balance!

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Your fierce, brainy energy is making life easier for you today - but not in a boring way! Your great ideas and big plans help you to see the best way to cut through the bureaucracy and get your way.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 The little details really matter - so make sure you're paying close attention! If you have to sign anything, read it twice and get someone else you trust to do the same.

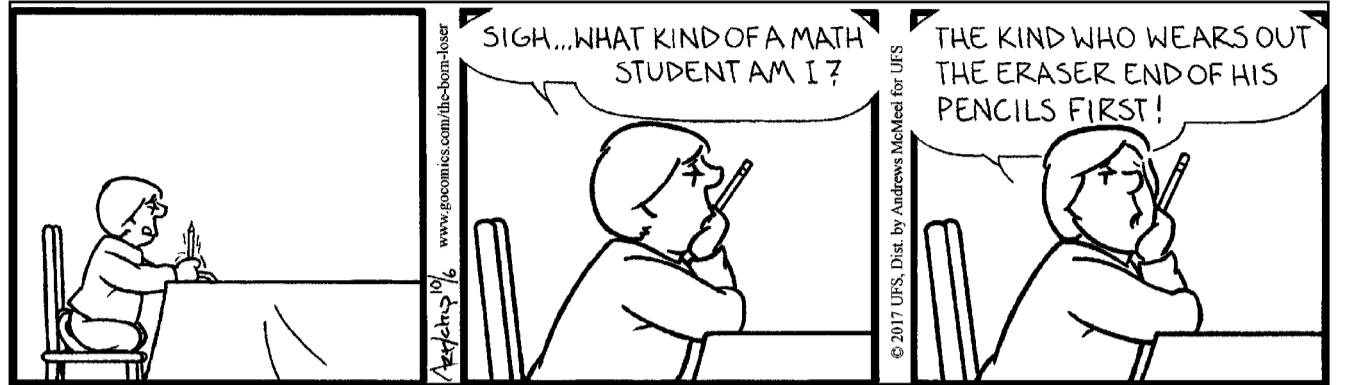
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 People are not to be trusted today - though that's not to say they are actively trying to stab you in the back!

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You may be a little more social than usual today, but there's no need for you to go nuts. If anything, you may find that your energy is better spent on parties than on work projects or other stuff.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Your unique take on today's events makes you perfect for finding solutions - or opportunities! It's a great day to advance your agenda, whatever it may be, and to show others where to go.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You have two conflicting goals today, but you don't have to worry too much about choosing just yet. If anything, you may be able to find a way to have your cake and eat it, too!

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle.

WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION for various cities in CHINA and WORLD.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Swindle; 5- Harvests; 10- Touched down; 14- Great lake; 15- Sufficient; 16- Mystique; 17- Some wines; 18- That is to say...; 19- Salon sweepings; 20- Baa maids?; 21- Bulbous plant; 23- Corner key; 25- Ages; 26- Launching of a rocket; 31- Governed; 35- Backtalk; 36- Painter Uccello; 38- Donates; 40- Et (and other men); 42- Tire pattern; 44- ... kleine Nachtmusik; 45- Fundamental; 47- California border lake; 49- Draw; 50- Hot stuff; 52- Eyeglasses with tinted lenses; 54- Old English letter; 56- Tree-ring indication; 57- Percolator; 62- Iowa city; 66- An apple or a planet will have this at the centre; 67- Rice-...; 68- Bright star; 69- 1997 Peter Fonda role; 70- Scout master?; 71- Some digits; 72- Get an A, say; 73- ... a high note; 74- Monster;

DOWN: 1- Shrivelled, without moisture; 2- Ship's company; 3- West Wing worker; 4- Untidy states; 5- Wet weather wear; 6- Anarchist Goldman; 7- Copycat; 8- Position; 9- Elder; 10- Sounds of pleasure; 11- Hawaiian outdoor feast; 12- Eye part; 13- It paves the way; 22- Cozy; 24- Indy 500 sponsor; 26- Tell all; 27- Pale purple; 28- Imitative; 29- Permanent army post; 30- Hopping bloodsuckers; 32- Fail to tell the truth; 33- Madonna role; 34- Actor Leary; 37- Honolulu's island; 39- Matches a bet; 41- "Rocky ..." (1982); 43- Contribution; 46- Musical staff sign; 48- The fruit of a hen; 51- Think; 53- Simple shed; 55- Long-legged bird; 57- Soft drink choice; 58- Minerals; 59- Professional charges; 60- Fishing hole; 61- Not fooled by; 63- Electronic music pioneer; 64- Perpetually; 65- Freelancer's encl.; 66- Drinking vessel;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



Real estate advertisement for JML Property, featuring 'FOR SALE' and 'FOR RENT' sections with details for various properties like Choi Long Meng Chui, Old Macau, The Buckingham, and Violet Court.



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Andy Murray of Britain chases a ball to return against Mackenzie McDonald

TENNIS

Murray tests hip, comes back to edge McDonald in Washington

Howard Fendrich, Washington

ANDY Murray let out one yell, then another, and violently pumped his right fist. Quite a reaction, considering this was merely a first-round victory over an inexperienced opponent who recently cracked the top 100 for the first time.

Still, this meant something to Murray. It was a test of his surgically repaired hip, and he put aside a deficit and some real

rust to win his first hard-court match in nearly 1½ years, coming back at the Citi Open to edge Mackenzie McDonald of the U.S. 3-6, 6-4, 7-5.

"I enjoyed getting through that one — obviously, you see by the celebration," Murray said.

"It was great to get through that one," he said, "but in terms of the actual way that I went about the match and played the match, I wasn't that happy with it."

There were stretches when Murray looked very much like exactly what he is at the moment: a guy working his back from an operation in January. Particularly when he was failing to convert any of the five match points he held while serving for the win at 5-4 in the final set. He won on his seventh, though.

Murray is a former No. 1 who owns two Wimbledon trophies plus another from the U.S. Open. But he's ranked just 832nd now, on account of so

much time away. He sat out the second half of last season because of the bad hip, and then didn't compete this year until June.

This match was only Murray's fourth of 2018. No. 5 will come in the second round of the Citi Open against Kyle Edmund, the man who overtook him as Britain's top-ranked man during Murray's injury absence.

"I'll certainly have to play better tennis," Murray said.

He pulled out of Wimbledon on July 1 because, he said at the

time, it "might be a bit too soon in the recovery process" for his hip to try to compete in best-of-five-set matches.

Against McDonald, he said, "the movements and stuff were fine. I chased balls down. Obviously lasted pretty well."

Murray played just fine for the opening 10 minutes, breaking for a 2-0 lead. And then his game devolved for quite a lengthy spell into a ragged display, filled with six double-faults — two in a row to get broken to 2-1 — and shots that missed the mark.

The 23-year-old McDonald, a Californian who won NCAA singles and doubles titles at UCLA, made it to the fourth round at the All England Club this month, the first time he had made it that far at a major tournament. That put him into the top 100, and he's now 80th.

He took six of seven games in one stretch and was actually one point from serving for the victory, holding a break point while already ahead by a set and 4-3 in the second. Eventually, Murray righted himself, just before rain returned.

That forced the postponement until Tuesday of a match involving another three-time major champ: Stan Wawrinka, who was scheduled to face American qualifier Donald Young.

In other matches, Noah Rubin got past Mikhail Youzhny 6-4, 6-4, Tim Smyczek beat Ricardas Berankis 7-6 (4), 6-2, and Malek Jaziri defeated Evgeny Donskoy 6-4, 6-1. Rubin now faces No. 2 seed John Isner, Jaziri plays No. 1 seed and defending champion Alexander Zverev, while Smyczek meets Zverev's older brother, No. 15 seed Mischa.

In women's results, two-time major champion Svetlana Kuznetsova beat Kristie Ahn 6-2, 6-1, Katie Boulter eliminated No. 5 seed Aleksandra Krunic 6-2, 6-0, and Andrea Petkovic defeated Jamie Loeb 6-1, 6-1. **AP**

FOOTBALL

NZ women's coach quits after player uprising

Andreas Heraf, the Austrian-born coach of the New Zealand women's football team, has resigned weeks after players decried his tactics and coaching methods in an unprecedented and public mutiny.

Heraf has been on special leave since June when New Zealand Football received letters from 13 members of the national team saying they would not play for New Zealand if he remained in charge. Some of the letters alle-

ged bullying and intimidation by Heraf who was also New Zealand Football's technical director.

In a statement yesterday, NZF president Deryck Shaw said he had accepted Heraf's resignation effectively immediately. He said a review into New Zealand Football's "culture" and Heraf's actions as national coach would continue and Heraf had agreed to co-operate.

Shaw said "part of the resignation is that An-

dreas has confirmed that he will fully participate in the review and we will look to the findings of the review to determine the outcomes around this matter."

Heraf's resignation follows that of NZF chief executive Andy Martin who quit the organization earlier this month. Martin resigned citing family reasons but was under pressure to explain when he first knew of concerns about Heraf's coaching style. **AP**

RUGBY

James Slipper to make comeback for Super Rugby XV

FORMER Australia prop James Slipper will return from a two-months drug suspension to play for an Australian Super Rugby selection against the Wallabies Friday in a warm-up match ahead of the Rugby Championship.

Slipper, who has played 86 tests, was suspended in May and fined USD27,500 after testing positive to cocaine for a second time. The ban ended on July 15 and the 29-year-old Slipper was one of four former test players named yesterday

by coach John Manenti in his squad for the match at Sydney's Leichhardt Oval.

"James's enthusiasm has really impressed me since we invited him to join," Manenti said. "He's keen to be back out there and training hard but also really wants to get his old Wallabies teammates firing ahead of that first Bledisloe. That just shows the character of the bloke."

Locks Blake Enever and Matt Philip and backrower Richard Hardwick are the other

capped players in the invitation team. All but five members of Manenti's squad have current Super Rugby contracts.

"We'll have some fun this week but make no mistake," Manenti said. "We will prepare as best we can to give [Wallabies coach Michael Cheika's] side a real shake on Friday night."

"I know how important this game could prove to be ahead of the Bledisloe Cup so we need to play with real accuracy and plenty of intensity straight from the kickoff." **AP**

opinion

Macau Matters

Richard Whitfield



FOOD WASTE COMPOSTING

In early July I wrote an article about the value of recycling used coffee grounds and how it would be a good social enterprise for Macau. It has been pointed out to me that this is the tip of the iceberg and that recycling food waste is a much bigger issue, and a much bigger opportunity for Macau.

We currently have about 2.8 million tourist arrivals each month, and on average each one stays a bit over 1 day, ie for about 3 meals. Thus, Macau food outlets serve around 8.5 million meals to tourists each month. Even at a modest 200g/meal, this represents consumption of about 1,700 ton/month of food. It is not unreasonable to expect that 15+% of this food, ie 250+ ton/month, is wasted. Interestingly, much of this food waste is generated in the food courts and other outlets of just a handful of large casino properties. For example, I have heard of one casino property that generates up to 50 ton/month of food waste and so a few other properties must generate more.

This is a very large volume of food waste to be dealt with and dumping it into landfill or burning it is totally inappropriate. Composting is a much better use. It keeps the material out of landfills and breaks it down using aerobic processes that produce minimal methane or other greenhouse gases. Moreover, compost is a very valuable resource for maintaining the fertility of farmlands.

There are many large commercial facilities for dealing with food waste around the world that use composting and digestion. Composting converts the waste to a valuable resource while digesting simply liquefies the food waste so it can be mixed into sewerage and disposed of that way. Composting is clearly the better long term approach from an environmental perspective.

I am told that the Macau government has been encouraging the major casino groups to adopt food waste composting and digesting technologies and at least two different properties have already purchased both kinds of equipment for testing. However, individual property-based facilities have several problems, ie they do not take advantage of the potential economies of scale, are costly assets on each property's balance sheet (reducing their ROI), occupy valuable property space and need to be operated by imported workers that need "Blue Cards".

I believe that a single large composting facility on Hengqin Island operated as a social enterprise is a much better strategy. Hengqin has the advantage of being a relatively inexpensive location that is closer to farmlands that can use much of the compost produced and can use Chinese labor (no "Blue Cards"). There should also be considerable extra green matter available there (from farm plant waste) to be mixed with the food waste to increase production volumes. One concern with locating a composting facility on Hengqin Island would be having special arrangements to overcome the difficulties of importing waste materials into China, but I am sure they could be overcome.

A commercial scale composting facility for Macau would probably require government support to help with the initial capital investment, but should produce good operating revenues and would be a clear signal that Macau supports good environmental practices. It should also be well supported by Macau casino operators and other food outlets, if the alternative is running their own facilities. Who is interested in moving this forward?

THE BOB WOODWARD WRITING INSIDE BUZZ ACCOUNT OF TRUMP WHITE HOUSE

The next writer to take a close look at the Trump presidency: Bob Woodward.

The celebrated journalist of Watergate fame has written "Fear: Trump in the White House," Simon & Schuster announced yesterday [Macau time].

The book is coming out Sept. 11. According to the publisher, Woodward is drawing on "hundreds of hours" of interviews, along with notes, files and diaries to evoke the "harrowing life" within the White House.

Over the past 40 years, Woodward has written best-selling accounts of several administrations.

He and fellow Washington Post reporter Carl Bernstein teamed up on two classics about President Richard Nixon, "All the President's Men" and "The Final Days."

"Fear" also renews a Woodward tradition that had been on hold for several years: a book about the sitting president, released during an election year.

Animals, crops suffering as Europe's heatwave hits new highs



Young men jump into Lake Lucerne in Beckenried, Canton Nidwalden, Switzerland

Kirsten Grieshaber, Berlin

THE heatwave gripping large stretches of Europe has already been blamed for deadly forest fires and crop failures and now freshwater fish could be its next victims.

Yesterday, Germany was forecast to experience the highest temperatures of the year so far, with the mercury expected to rise as high as 39 C in some regions.

Rivers like the Rhine and the Elbe have soaked up so much heat that fish are beginning to suffocate.

"I'm expecting a tragedy as soon as next week," Philipp Sicher from the Swiss Fishery Association told German news agency dpa.

In Hamburg, the authorities collected almost five metric tons of dead fish from ponds over the weekend, dpa reported. Firefighters have started pumping fresh water into some ponds and lakes in a bid to raise oxygen levels.

Several of Germany's nuclear power stations are reducing energy output because rivers used to cool the power plants are too warm.

The low water levels have also made shipping more difficult, with a complete ban imposed on boats on the Oder river in eastern Germany.

Meanwhile, the country's Farmer's Association is asking the government for 1 billion euros (USD1.17 billion) in financial aid to help cover losses from this year's poor harvest.

Association president Joachim Rukwied said German farmers expect the grain har-

vest to be 20 percent smaller than last year, with rapeseed crops down 30 percent, as it has barely rained during the past 12 weeks, dpa reported.

A group representing potato farmers said they're expecting harvests to be 25 percent smaller than last year and warned that the losses may lead not only to more expensive but also shorter French fries — because the spuds are so small this year.

Police dogs in Zurich have been getting special shoes to prevent them from burning their paws

The oceans, too, have been affected. Authorities in Poland last week banned swimming at over 50 beaches along its Baltic coast, after hot weather led to the growth of toxic bacteria in the unusually warm sea. Water temperatures in the Baltic Sea exceeded 23 C in some places. Emergency water rescuers told vacationers on hot, sandy beaches — from Swinoujscie in the west to Gdynia in the east — not to enter the sea, where thick, green-brown cyanobacteria colonies have grown and pose a health threat.

Near Wildeshausen, in northern Germany, medics had to attend to a group of about 20 children and teens Monday night after the air conditioning in the bus they were traveling in broke down.

Police dogs in the Swiss city of Zurich have been getting special shoes to prevent them from burning their paws on the scorching streets. Swiss authorities have also cancelled traditional fireworks displays in some areas during today's national holiday celebrations, citing the high risk of forest fires.

Across Europe, forest fires have already caused major damage. Earlier this month, 92 people died in Greece — the deadliest wildfire in recent history.

Temperatures of up to 45 C are forecast on the Iberian peninsula from today and authorities are making preparations for emergencies during the heatwave expected to continue through Sunday.

In Spain, 27 of the country's 50 provinces are at "extreme risk" from heat beginning tomorrow, the national weather agency said. In neighboring Portugal, the General Directorate for Health warned about dust blowing in from North Africa and authorities said almost 11,000 firefighters and 56 aircraft are on standby to tackle forest fires.

The simmering heat, however, has some winners, too.

Beer brewers in Germany have seen sales rise by 0.6 percent, or 300,000 hectoliters, in the first half of 2018 compared to the same period last year. **AP**

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	25-45 Good	
High Density Residential Area	10-30 Good	
Ambient	25-45 Good	

WORLD BRIEFS



RUSSIA Four members of the Russian punk protest group Pussy Riot who disrupted the World Cup final have been detained just after being released from jail in Moscow.

SYRIA The government regained control of the frontier with the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights for the first time in seven years, after Islamic State-linked militants gave up their last pocket of territory in the area.



GREECE still faces an uphill struggle after the end of its bailout program and it is not clear that its public debt load will be sustainable in the long term, the International Monetary Fund said yesterday.

SLOVAKIA The president says a recently established base in Slovakia for a Russian motorcycle club known for its allegiance to President Vladimir Putin poses a security risk.

FRANCE President Emmanuel Macron's government is facing two votes of no confidence brought by opposition parties in response to a political uproar triggered by a former presidential security aide seen in a video beating a protester.



COLOMBIA Powerful former Colombian President Alvaro Uribe is mounting his defense against allegations of bribery and witness tampering. The Supreme Court is investigating Uribe for allegedly pressuring witnesses in a protracted legal dispute with another senator.

VENEZUELA Most of Venezuela's capital is without power following a failure at an electrical plant that is paralyzing metro lines.