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# Times

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**AD**

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# Airport records busiest month ever

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## Fan Bingbing off social media amid China tax rumors

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### WORLD BRIEFS



**CHINA** Starbucks and e-commerce giant Alibaba Group announced a coffee delivery venture, joining the growing competition in China's booming delivery industry. [More on p8](#)

**JAPAN** A Tokyo medical university faced a new allegation after a newspaper report yesterday that the school has allegedly discriminated against female applicants on grounds they tend to quit as doctors after starting families, causing staffing shortages. [More on p12](#)

**US-N.KOREA** President Donald Trump, in a tweet, thanked Kim Jong Un "for keeping your word & starting the process of sending home the remains of our great and beloved missing fallen! I am not at all surprised that you took this kind action." [More on p12](#)

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times Extra

**EL MILAGRO DE DURANGO**

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times

weekend Guide

INSIDE



## GAMING

# Wynn Resorts falls after signs of market cannibalization

**W**YNN Resorts Ltd. tumbled as much as 9.7 percent in late trading after reporting steep declines in revenue and profit at its casino in Macau, the company's biggest market.

While operating revenues rose 9 percent in the second quarter to USD1.61 billion, the total fell short of analysts' estimates of \$1.67 billion. Earnings of \$1.53 a share, excluding some items, trailed projections of \$1.92 a share.

The Las Vegas-based casino giant said that revenue fell 15 percent at Wynn Macau, driven by a decline in betting by high-rollers. Operating revenues at the two-year-old Wynn Palace on Macau's Cotai Strip jumped 57 percent, raising the possibility that the newer resort may be cannibalizing the older one. Earnings at the



company's Las Vegas casinos fell 6.1 percent.

Casino revenues from the

Wynn Macau property were \$473.3 million for the second quarter of 2018, an 18.1 per-

cent decrease from the same period in 2017. Non-casino revenues amounted to about \$70

million, representing a 15.9 percent increase.

Meanwhile, operating revenues from Wynn Palace and total Las Vegas operations increased \$224.2 million and \$3.5 million, respectively.

"Wynn Macau had a tough VIP environment on lower volumes from several junket operators as several competitors got back into the game with new rooms and more credit," Chief Executive Officer Matt Maddox said on a call. "Wynn Macau won't compete on price."

Shares of Wynn were down 8.5 percent to \$146.35 in late trading after falling as low as \$144.55. The stock is down 5.1 percent this year.

Casino operators in Macau, the world's largest gambling market, tumbled in U.S. trading after betting revenue grew less than expected in July.

The stocks also took a beating after Caesars Entertainment Corp., the largest casino owner in the U.S., said room revenue in the third quarter would be light due to fewer events in Las Vegas and competition from rival operators for leisure travelers. **MDT/Bloomberg**

## EDUCATION

## Summer English course to increase students' confidence

**T**HE University of Macau (UM) Faculty of Arts and Humanities (FAH) recently organized a four-week Summer English Immersion Program for incoming first-year students. Participants exchanged ideas with course assistants and experienced living in the residential colleges. According to a statement issued by the UM, "participants say the program significantly increased their confidence when speaking English and improved their listening and speaking skills."

The summer program included a series of intensive courses with interactive learning activities, including games designed to encourage students to communicate with each other in English. In addition, a weekly presentation class provided a platform for students to



build their confidence in public speaking. After class, students joined a variety of extracurricular classes, including drama, singing, and yoga, to integrate English learning into their daily lives.

This year, 43 program assistants from mainland China, Hong Kong, Ma-

cau, the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand, Singapore and Sweden, each with rich experience in teaching English, were invited to assist the event. Participants and instructors stayed in UM's residential colleges to interact with people from different cultural backgrounds.

## National Book Expo showcases local pavilion

**T**HE Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) and the Macao Foundation jointly showcased the Macao Pavilion once again at the 28th National Book Expo in Shenzhen.

The Macao Pavilion, located in the Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan exhibition area of the expo, showcased local World Heritage buildings from multiple perspectives using photographs of the Historic Centre of Macao. Through aerial photography, the Pavilion revealed the mixed urban landscape and Sino-Western cultural exchange which have come to define Macau.

In order to promote Macau's diverse publishing culture at the expo, the IC and the Macao Foundation also presented nearly 300 fine books published by agents of



Macau's publishing sector, adding a total of nearly 1,000 publications to the expo.

According to a statement from the IC, the Pavilion "attracted a ceaseless flow of readers and exhibitors from other cities and provinces, introducing Macau's cultural achievements through

fine books and painting albums."

The National Book Expo is one of the three largest book fairs in China, together with the Beijing Book Fair and the Beijing International Book Fair. The National Book Expo is held in a different location every year, showcasing the accomplishments of the publishing industry and highlighting annual publications.

The 28th National Book Expo, jointly hosted by the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television, the People's Government of Guangdong Province and the People's Government of Shenzhen Municipality, was held from July 19 to July 22 at the Shenzhen Convention & Exhibition Centre.

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Times

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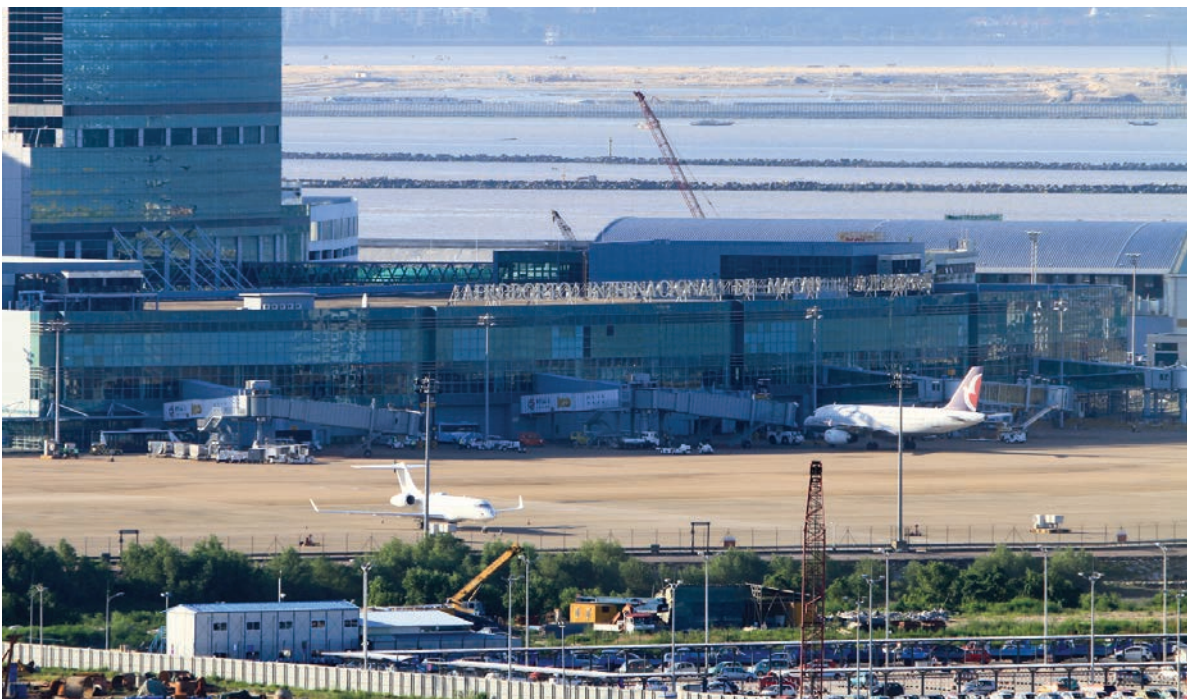
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# Airport passenger traffic reaches new record in July



**T**HE Macau International Airport (MIA) experienced its busiest month ever this summer with over 740,000 passenger movements recorded in July 2018.

In a statement released yesterday, MIA said it had set a new record for the highest volume of passenger traffic in a single month. Average daily passenger traffic was over 23,000, 11 percent higher

compared with the same period last year.

There were over 5,700 aircraft movements in July, 12 percent more than the same period last year. It also sets a new monthly record for air-

craft movement since MIA commenced operations.

Chinese mainland routes continued to perform well in July and took up 36 percent of the overall passenger market, while Southeast Asia

and Taiwan accounted for 41 percent and 22 percent, respectively.

MIA said in the report that it expected passenger traffic and flight movements to grow, and should make another breakthrough during the peak summer vacation season in August.

By the end of July 2018, around 30 airlines operated at MIA, connecting Macau to 50 destinations covering mainland China, Taiwan, Southeast Asia and Northeast Asia. **MDT/Xinhua**

## ONE SHOT NEWS



The Wushu Masters Challenge kicked off yesterday with an inauguration event held at Tap Seac Square. Among other competitions, this year's event includes the World University Wushu Championship, with athletes coming from 25 countries and regions. The Masters Challenge will close on Sunday.

# Civil protection warning system ready to use

Renato Marques

**T**HE newly installed civil protection warning system has already been tested and is ready to be used in August, about one month earlier than what was previously announced, according to the Commissioner-General of the Unitary Police Services (SPU), Ma Io Kun.

Ma made the announcement yesterday during a visit organized by the SPU to showcase its new equipment and command platform for emergency response. The new acquisitions, made in the aftermath of Typhoon Hato in Macau one year ago, aim to step up safety in case of major natural disasters such as heavy rain, tropical storms or typhoons.

Ma said the government takes the topic of emergency response very seriously and noted that the command platform "will enter into [full force] in disaster situations to support civil protection [operations] and, in a normal situation, can also be used for the purposes of training others in the civil protection field such as the perfor-

ming of drills."

The commissioner said that this is the first step towards a standardized civil protection platform to respond to emergency situations, which will be formed between 2022 and 2028.

For the time being – following the conclusion of the task force, which includes local security authorities as well as experts from Tsinghua University – the so-called short-term plan includes the establishment and improvement of different channels of emergency communication. These include broadcast channels such as TV and radio, as well as social media networks like Facebook and WeChat.

This system will also include digital information boards placed at border checkpoints, in the ferry

**■ The commissioner said this is a first step towards a standardized civil protection platform to respond to emergency situations**



Cheang Pou Seong

terminals and different areas of the territory to provide information to residents and tourists alike.

The tour included the command operations room of the Civil Protection Operational Center (COPC) in the immigration building in Pac On, as well as a visit to several locations where street

loudspeakers have been installed to warn the residents of danger. One high-powered speaker is located at a high point of the city (Guia Hill) with smaller ones located in lower areas such as the Inner Harbor, Fai Chi Kei and Ilha Verde.

In total, the authorities are said to have installed 90 speakers, which will broadcast warnings in three languages (Chinese, Portuguese and English).

The speakers will be located in three different stations (Peninsula, Taipa and Coloane), with higher-powered speakers placed at higher points

throughout the city.

They will broadcast three types of warnings. As explained by Cheang Pou Seong, Head of the Community Policing and Public Relations Division, the first warning is related to "evacuation to a safe location (higher ground)" while the second one calls for "prompt evacuation"; the last and most severe one demands "immediate evacuation" from low floors and all low-lying areas to higher grounds or refugee centers.

There will also be specially equipped vehicles

from the Security Forces that will broadcast the same warnings throughout streets in the affected areas.

The authorities will also issue warnings via SMS. Commenting on the government's efforts to improve safety and emergency drills, the Commissioner-General said, "The Civil Protection works are not an exclusive responsibility of the government and also require the cooperation and collaboration of the population in general and other [non-governmental] entities."

## PJ SEEKING SUSPECTS IN TAXI DRIVERS' BRAWL

Questioned on the sidelines of the event held by the security authorities on Civil Protections Equipment and Information Broadcasting, Judiciary Police (PJ) director Sit Chong Meng said that the force was aware of the recent brawl involving taxi drivers in the Cotai area. The situation was recorded by a resident and has gone viral on several social networks. "As soon as we were [made]

aware of the incident, we started investigations and are currently seeking [...] information and the people involved," said Sit. The director added that the brawl had involved at least 10 people, all of whom are believed to be taxi drivers. He added that one person was injured and that the brawl started while a large group of taxi drivers were waiting for passengers near a hotel in Cotai.



# AIPIM troubled by Civil Protection Law effect on journalism

**T**HE Macau Portuguese and English Press Association (AIPIM) has released a statement outlining its objections to the proposed civil protection law, which is under public consultation until August 11.

In a letter to the Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, the association questions the establishment of a "crime of social alarm" punishable with a three-year prison term. The perspective of introducing such a crime is "causing concerns amongst the journalistic community."

The letter questions if the Penal Code "already has the answers on what is being avoided with the drafting of a new type of crime," meaning that a new type of crime could be redundant.

While noting the obvious conflict that may arise from the law concerning the right to freedom of speech and the freedom to publish, the association also acknowledges a problematic provision that may affect civil servants, including those who work for



broadcasting concessionaires.

The consultation document notes that "civil servants" who refuse to participate in civil pro-

tection work effectively commit the crime of disqualified disobedience, which may entail imprisonment of up to two years

or a fine of up to 240 days. "At this point, we are concerned about the way in which those responsible for the concessionaires for audiovisual broadcasting will be held responsible and in what terms may they incur the crime of qualified disobedience," the AIPIM letter notes, referring to public broadcaster TDM.

The concern is heightened by the fact that it is not yet known which entity in the city will ultimately be responsible for determining whether reports that run contrary to official accounts can be classified as "rumors" or "false social alarm".

"We emphasize that it is fundamental to preserve the guarantees expressed in Article 3 of the Press Law in which it is stated that the right to information includes: 'guarantee of journalists' independence; freedom of publication and dissemination; freedom of enterprise'," the association's statement notes.

"We believe that we are dealing

with something very sensitive which, if not properly delimited and applied with good judgment, could endanger certain fundamental rights, freedoms and guarantees."

**We are dealing with something very sensitive which, if not properly delimited [...] could endanger certain fundamental rights.**

AIPIM LETTER

AIPIM calls on the government to carry out the new law "with extreme care" and "defines very clearly, without ambiguity, the scope [of the prohibition]."

It also urges the authorities to "avoid any result that diminishes the role of journalists and editors of the concessionaire [TDM ...] in accordance with the guarantees expressed in the Law of Press and Basic Law."

AD

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**\*The preferential scheme for companies from Macao (MOP\$2,000.00/booth or MOP\$1,800.00/raw space) includes the following items:**

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Lynzy Valles

**T**HE Legislative Assembly (AL) has approved the request of two lawmakers, Pereira Coutinho and Sulu Sou, for a debate to discuss and vote on the controversial Viva Macau bankruptcy case.

The AL has scheduled the debate for August 7. The two lawmakers said the debate will focus on the MOP212 million-loan case, which they had criticized in last week's AL plenary session.

The Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) is currently investigating the defunct airline to determine whether it had illegally transferred any assets abroad prior to its bankruptcy. However, Sou believes that the probe will take over a year.

"Some cases that were sent to CCAC took over a year to be investigated," Sou told the Times.

"Maybe a defensive reason explains why the government refuses to provide more details [...] to the legislators and the public," he added.

The CCAC probe was opened at the request of the state-owned Industrial Development and Marketing Fund (FDIC), which loaned MOP212 million to the carrier in 2008 and

# AL approves debate on Viva Macau loan case

2009. Viva Macau is now some MOP1.14 billion in debt.

As the loans exceeded MOP9 million, they required authorization from the then Chief Executive (CE) Edmund Ho, in accordance with FDIC regulations.

**Maybe a defensive reason explains why the government refuses to provide more details.**

SULU SOU

Coutinho and Sou also requested an examination of potential family ties involved in the loan process. These may include Kevin Ho, nephew of



Sulu Sou

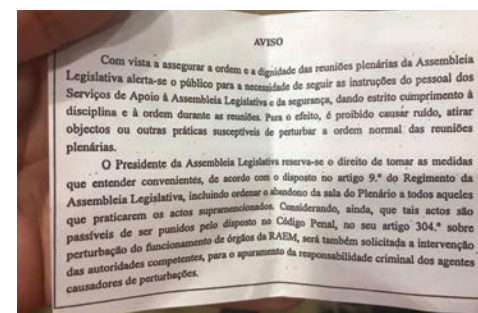
the former CE, who was a director at the Hong Kong-registered guarantor company Eagle Airways, which never directly undertook any aviation activities. Kevin Ho also owns KNJ investment, who recently bought 30 percent of Portuguese group Global Media.

Sou expressed his hopes for the debate to be productive and for the authorities to disclose all reports and documents related to the loan process, including the carrier's letters

to the government to request the loan.

"The AL president [Ho Iat Seng] approved the legislative debate proposal and I think legally, this is all [for] the good of AL," he said.

Coutinho had previously criticized the government for failing to indicate that the loan would be repaid, stressing that the scandal is related to the misuse of public treasury without independent external control.



## AL issues audience warnings

The Legislative Assembly (AL) has been distributing warning notes to the media representatives and members of the public regarding rules and appropriate behaviors during plenary sessions. When asked about the justification for such measures, the AL said that "the 'warning' was distributed to audiences attending sessions inside the plenary room to ensure full awareness of AL rules so that plenary sessions can proceed smoothly and in an orderly manner." The warning specifically prohibits "making noise, throwing objects or other practices that could disturb the normal order of the meetings", among others.

## Theft ring uncovered, 18 arrested

The Judiciary Police (PJ) has exposed a group of thieves which primarily operated in casinos, following an investigation that was triggered by a woman who reported the theft of her bag on July 27. The PJ detained 18 people from mainland China on July 31, who later admitted to being members of a criminal ring that had been active in Macau since June.

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# IC to mark 60th anniversary of Sir Robert Ho Tung Library

**T**O celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Sir Robert Ho Tung Library, the Cultural Affairs Bureau will hold a plaque inauguration ceremony at the library on Saturday. The ceremony will be followed by a series of activities held during the same month, including a talk by architect Carlos Marreiros, who in the 1980s coordinated and implemented the repair projects on the site.

Before it was turned into a library, the building was a private villa bought by Sir Robert Ho Tung in 1918. After his death in 1956, Ho's family executed his will by donating the building and HKD25,000 to the local government to purchase books and turn it into a public library. The Sir Robert Ho Tung Library,

which was at the time the largest public library featuring a collection of about 3,000 books, officially opened to the public on August 1, 1958.

Another activity that will take place will be by architect Andre Lui Chak Keong, who will conduct the 'Relaxing Moment at St. Augustine's Square - Guided Architectural Tour and Sketching Activity' on August 5 and 18, and will present about Eastern and Western architecture in the area and will assist the participants to sketch the urban landscape of the area. The Public Library will also organize a guided tour of the Chinese Ancient Books Chamber at Sir Robert Ho Tung Library on August 11. The aforementioned activities will be conducted in Cantonese without simultaneous interpretation.



# Number of cars and motorbikes decreases



**A**T the end of June 2018, the total number of licensed motor vehicles dropped by 2.3 percent year-on-year to 238,006, according to the transport and communications statistics released this week by the Statistics and Census Service. The number of light motorcycles (27,172) and light automobiles (106,968) decreased by 14.2 percent and 2.3 percent respectively, while heavy motorcycles (96,196) grew by 1.7 percent. New registration of motor vehicles fell by 4.4 percent year-on-year to 3,340 in the second quarter, yet rose by 3.3 percent year-on-year to 7,495 in the first half of the year.

There were 3,333 cases of traffic accidents in the second quarter of 2018 and the number of victims totaled 1,034. Both registered a decrease; 8.2 percent and 9.4 percent respectively year-on-year. In the first half of 2018, the number of traffic accidents decreased

by 5.4 percent year-on-year to 6,817 cases, resulting in 2,184 casualties, 5 of which were fatalities.

In the first half of 2018, cross-border vehicular traffic rose by 2.1 percent year-on-year to 2,423,001, of which traffic through the Cotai border (29.6 percent of the total) increased by 15.2 percent.

Commercial flight movements at the Macau International Airport totaled 29,853, up by 13.2 percent year-on-year. Flight movements to and from mainland China, Thailand and Taiwan grew by 17.2 percent, 14.3 percent and 2.6 percent respectively, while those to and from the Republic of Korea dropped by 9.9 percent.

The gross weight of containerized cargo traveling by land dropped by 13.2 percent year-on-year to 7,254 tonnes, of which cargo passing through the Checkpoint of Cotai (6,900 tonnes) accounted for 95.1 percent.

AD

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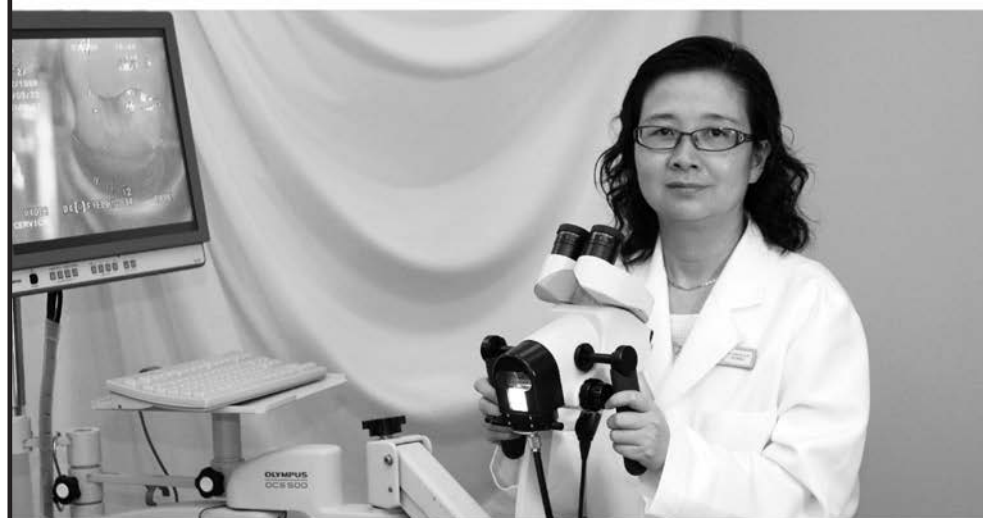


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Sam Lee is a marketing manager and property consultant at JML Property. JML was established in 1994 and offers Investment Property & Homes. It specializes in managing properties for owners and investors, and providing attractive and comfortable homes for tenants.



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SAM LEE

A hard-money loan is simply a high-interest short term loan that is usually secured against a property. It is a way for investors or developers to raise funds without going to traditional mortgage lending institutions.

Traditional mortgage issuing institutions carry out an often slow and painful process of due diligence on the borrower and check indicators such as credit score or employment status to ensure that the borrower has the ability to pay back the loan.

Hard money lenders take a different approach of securing the loan against a real asset and effectively hedging against the possibi-

lity of a default from the borrower. Because the protection that the property offers, hard money loans can be issued much quicker than traditional mortgage loans.

Hard money loans are usually issued on a short-term basis of usually between 1 and 5 years and have much higher interest rates compared to traditional loans.

Investors will often use hard money loans to purchase an investment property quickly and subsequently refinance through a traditional mortgage institution at a lower interest rate to pay the private investor back. Of course, the key is to make sure that the returns from the invest-

ment covers all financing costs.

Hard money is also sometimes used as a last resort by home owners in need of a big loan but who cannot qualify for traditional refinancing. This is obviously not the most responsible application of hard money lending, and in these situations, it's in the borrower's best interest to pay the loan back as soon as possible due to the higher interest rate.

As a responsible investor, you can borrow hard money to purchase investment properties as mentioned above, or you can become the hard money lender and look for passive high interest returns over the short term.

Starbucks, Alibaba announce China delivery venture



A woman cleans an outdoor lamp near a Starbucks coffee outlet in Beijing

STARBUCKS and Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group announced a coffee delivery venture yesterday, joining the growing competition in China's booming delivery industry.

Starbucks Coffee Co. and Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. said the venture starts next month in Beijing and Shanghai. It will expand to 30 cities by the end of the year.

Starbucks joins a booming Chinese delivery industry for goods ranging from clothes to groceries to cooked food.

Its venture with Alibaba

mimics Luckin Coffee, a Chinese upstart that opened this year and is challenging Starbucks by delivering coffee ordered over a mobile phone app.

Starbucks, which opened its first mainland China location in 1999, has 3,400 outlets in 140 Chinese cities but faces intense competition. The company said in its latest quarterly results Chinese sales declined 2 percent.

Alibaba is the world's biggest e-commerce company by total value of the merchandise sold across its

platforms. The bulk of those sales are business-to-business, but the company is increasingly expanding into consumer-oriented services.

The companies said their partnership will give Starbucks access to Alibaba's consumer platforms including food delivery service Ele.me and online supermarket Hema.

"We are breaking the physical and virtual barriers between the home, office, in-store and digital space," the CEO of Starbucks China, Belinda Wong, said in a statement. AP



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Mark Bergen, Shelly Banjo

# Google's secret China project sparks fury among workers

**G**OOGLE staff awoke yesterday to surprising news: Their company is working on a search app tailored, and censored, for China. The project, kept secret from all but select teams and leaders, sparked a furious internal debate. Yet the move couldn't have been entirely surprising for Googlers.

Sundar Pichai, chief executive officer since 2015, has made no secret of his desire to take the search giant back to mainland China. The executive is more pragmatic about the world's largest internet market than Google's founders, who pulled search from the mainland in 2010 over censorship concerns.

Under Pichai, Google has invested in Chinese companies, met with its leaders and made it a priority to spread Google's artificial intelligence technology across the country. But bringing search back would be Pichai's boldest move yet and will put his personal stamp firmly on the company.

Co-founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin built Google to "organize the world's information and make it universally available." They viewed China as a threat to the company's stance as a defender of the open web. Pichai, in contrast, sees China as a hotbed of engineering talent and an appealing market.

Pichai's new leadership style and priorities haven't always sat well with the Google rank and file. Within hours of the China search news breaking, several staff privately criticized the plans. Two employees who spoke to Bloomberg News compared it to Project Maven, a Google AI contract with the Pentagon that sparked an internal revolt earlier this year. The company is not renewing that deal.

Another person who has seen some early examples of the Chinese search app, code-named Dragonfly, described it as a "censorship engine." People

trust Google to share true information and the Chinese search app is a betrayal of that, the employee said. The Google workers asked not to be identified because they're not permitted to discuss internal matters.

**As a Chinese citizen working for a company that my parents and relatives can't access is demotivating.**

GOOGLE WORKER IN CHINA

One employee transferred to a different role at the company because of ethical concerns with Dragonfly, according to an internal message viewed by Bloomberg News. An unnamed company vice president asked to keep details of the project private so they would not leak to the public, the internal message read.

Google said on Wednesday that the company does not "comment on speculation about future plans" and declined to comment further. In 2010, Brin, now president of parent Alphabet Inc., told the Wall Street Journal, that China's policies of censorship and surveillance has the "same earmarks of totalitarianism" as Soviet Russia, where he was born. Brin did not respond to an email requesting comment on Wednesday.

Some Googlers, however, posted missives of support for the project on internal message



boards on Wednesday. Google's mission of organizing the world's information shouldn't leave out a fifth of the planet, one person wrote in a post viewed by Bloomberg News. Another said that boycotting the country did little to change the Chinese government or "bring any positive change."

A worker in China lamented their inability to access Google services in the country, such as sharing pictures through Google Photos or even recommending the app engine they are working on. "As a Chinese citizen working for a company that my parents and relatives can't access is demotivating," the person wrote on a message board.

Dragonfly was a popular topic on Memegen, an internal online photo messaging board and cultural barometer at the company. One meme cited a popular Google slogan -- "Put the user first" - with an asterisk attached: "Chinese users excluded, because we do not agree with your government." A second post questioned the merits of American staff deciding global policies. Westerners debating Google entering China

"feels somehow like men debating regulating women's bodies," it read.

Pichai has not directly addressed the issue of Chinese censorship. But he and his deputies often note the international scope of the company's ambition. Diane Greene, CEO of Google's cloud-computing unit, would not comment on plans to enter China in an interview with Bloomberg News last week. "We want to be a global cloud. Customers want us to be a global cloud," she said.

In March, two months after opening an AI lab in Beijing, Pichai visited the city and said he was "looking forward to expanding" research efforts there. Two years before that, at the Code Conference, Pichai said, "Google is for everyone. We want to be in China serving Chinese users."

Search might not be the only way Google is trying to build a China presence. The company is developing a news aggregation app that would comply with the country's censorship laws, the Information reported, citing unidentified people familiar with the project.

Even if Google were to launch

search in China now, it's unclear if people would use it. Since its departure, Baidu Inc. has come to dominate traditional search while many users have turned away from desktops in favor of using specific mobile apps. That includes looking through Meituan for food, Alibaba for e-commerce, Toutiao for news and WeChat for most other things.

"While Google was blocked, China's market continued to develop," said Brock Silvers, managing director of Kaiyuan Capital in Shanghai. "Google may now set aside principle in exchange for Chinese market access, but it seems unlikely to dominate."

Pichai has been plotting Google's search moves in China for months, if not years, with an approach focused more on partnerships. Cooperation with internet leader Tencent Holdings Ltd. stands out. Google struck a long-term patent deal with the Chinese company, the owner of WeChat, and said it would usher in further tie-ups. The U.S. company also launched a game available exclusively on WeChat and invested \$550 million in Tencent-backed e-commerce site JD.com.

Yet relations between China and Google's home country have soured recently amid trade tensions. Facebook's attempt to open an innovation hub was rejected while Qualcomm Inc. walked away from the chip industry's biggest deal when mainland regulators didn't approve it.

It's hard to imagine Chinese authorities deciding Google's fate without considering the political climate, said Charles Mok, a legislative counselor in Hong Kong. "Anything that has to do with big American companies now has to do with the U.S.-China trade war," he said. **Bloomberg**

## corporate bits

### ART EXHIBITION HELD AT MGM COTAI



Gaming operator MGM is the "special partner" of Alter Ego, one of the

highlights of the first annual 'Encounter in Macao - Arts and Cultural

Festival between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries'.

From now until September 9, MGM Cotai will exhibit 'Stratum 03', an illusionary floor art piece by Portuguese artist Add Fuel which reinterprets traditional tile design; as well as 'Digital Best Guess', a site-specific digital installation by Pedro Ferreira and Rita João, the team behind Pedrita Studio.

The exhibition displays artworks from mainland China, Macau, Hong Kong, Portugal, Angola, Brazil and many other Portuguese-speaking countries, representing contemporary art trends in China and the Portuguese-speaking countries.

### CEM VISITS STREETLIGHT PROJECT IN SHENZHEN



CEM organized a two-day smart streetlight visit to Shenzhen for an on-site smart streetlight and smart city project study for the members of

the CEM Customer Liaison Committee (CLC), the electric company said in a statement.

The 24-member delegation was led by Vong Kok Seng,

CLC President, along with representatives of local associations in Macau, as well as CEM representatives.

On August 1, the delegation arrived in Shenzhen and had a meeting with Shenzhen Unilumin Technology Co. Ltd., which is the major contractor of smart streetlights in Shenzhen.

The delegation continued the visit in Shenzhen yesterday and visited Huawei's Smart Operation Centre in Longgang, smart streetlight management system and Huawei Industry Solutions Executive Briefing Center in Bantian.

According to CEM, the visit helped CLC members better understand smart city-related projects and provided valuable experience for Macau to promote smart city-related work in the future.



**X-MEN** actress Fan Bingbing has disappeared from social media amid rumors she has been barred from leaving China during a tax evasion investigation.

Fan, 36, usually maintains a prominent presence on China's main microblogging service Weibo, where she has more than 62 million followers. However, her account hasn't been updated since June 2, when she wrote about the work of her charitable foundation.

Her boyfriend, actor Li Chen, has not updated his account since July 6.

Unconfirmed reports circulating online say both have been barred from leaving China as the authorities look into claims that Fan was given dual contracts for her work: a public one giving her official salary and a private one stating her actual, much higher, pay.

Chinese media reports say neither Fan, her production company nor agent can be reached, boosting speculation that all have been caught up in the probe. Police rarely comment on such investigations until a conclusion has been reached.

However, in a June 3 statement, Fan's production company stated that Fan had never signed any "ying-yang" contract, so named because of their dual natures.

Fan has appeared in dozens of movies and TV series in China, but is best known internationally for her role as Blink in 2014's "X-Men: Days of Future Past."

## X-Men's Fan Bingbing off social media amid China tax rumors



Fan Bingbing

She is one of China's wealthiest entertainers, pulling down tens of millions of dollars

for her roles, along with substantial amounts in appearance fees and product endorsements.

Chinese authorities have sought to rein in high salaries for actors that can eat up much

of a production's budget. In June, regulators capped pay at 40 percent of a total TV show's production budget and 70 percent of the total paid to the actors in films.

**Fan, 36, usually maintains a prominent presence on Weibo, where she has more than 62 million followers**

Criminal cases can be career-ending for Chinese celebrities because the communist authorities, who possess ultimate control over what content is released, have ordered offenders blacklisted.

China's last major celebrity scandal was in 2014, when Jaycee Chan, an aspiring entertainer and the son of actor Jackie Chan, was sentenced to six months in prison for allowing others to smoke marijuana in his Beijing apartment. **AP**

### BEIJING

## High-ranking monk accused of sexually harassing nuns

A high-ranking Chinese monk was accused of coerced nuns into sex by "controlling their minds," BBC News has reported.

Abbot Xuecheng's alleged actions were detailed in a report sent to government officials by two monks from Longquan temple where he is based. The temple, in Beijing, has accused the latter of "distorting facts."

Xuecheng, who denied the allegations, is the head of the Buddhist Association of China, the youngest person to ever hold the position, and a political adviser to the government.

The BBC reports the abbot also has more than a million followers on Chinese social network Weibo. The temple said in a statement posted on Weibo that it would call for an investigation team to be set up, but stressed Xuecheng's denial of the charges.

It said the "fabricated eviden-



Longquan temple

ce" had "illegal intentions to maliciously frame Abbot Xuecheng".

The report written by two monks at Longquan temple, Xianjia and Xianqi, accuses Abbot Xuecheng of sending illicit messages to the nuns and coercing them into sexual relations.

The report alleges that six nuns were targeted - four gave in to his requests.

It also accuses the abbot of

using text messages to "mind-control" the nuns by claiming that sex was part of their study of Buddhist doctrines.

The 95-page document, which was leaked online, also said one of the nuns had filed a police report in June alleging Xuecheng had sexually assaulted her.

According to the monks, they began investigations into Xuecheng's actions after a nun who stayed in Beijing in December

2017 showed them sexual messages sent from the abbot.

"Longquan temple is under his spell," said the report. "Xuecheng manipulated disciples to serve his 'Buddhist empire'."

Xuecheng was taken in for questioning but has now been released, according to a source speaking to state media outlet the Global Times.

The temple accused the monks of "forging materials, distorting facts and spreading false information".

The report has been circulating on Chinese social media platforms but it appears the authorities are deleting or censoring it.

Monk Xianqi confirmed to the BBC that he co-wrote the report but rejected an interview request. He said he had "no idea" how it leaked and said he did not have plans to publish it.

The #MeToo movement, which erupted in the US last year and led to dozens of high-profile figures being publicly shamed for sexual misconduct, has been slow to take off in China.

According to the BBC, the movement now appears to be moving forward, despite accusations the government has been censoring reports.

## Man from Taiwan sentenced for illegal arms exportation try

**T**HE U.S. Attorney's Office in Arizona says a man from Taiwan has been sentenced to two years and nine months imprisonment for trying to export ammunition and firearm assemblies to the self-governed island off China's coast.

The office said yesterday that U.S. District Judge G. Murray Snow sentenced Fu Sheng Yang, who previously pleaded guilty to one count of attempting to smuggle goods from the U.S.

Federal authorities say the 39-year-old from Taipei entered the U.S. legally on June 20, 2017 and over the next two days bought 10,000 rounds of ammunition. He also took possession of 40 upper receivers for firearms with the intent of illegally exporting them to Taiwan.

Arizona troopers found the items when they stopped Yang for speeding on June 22, 2017.



## SOUTH CHINA SEA

# Beijing calls draft pact on sea feud a 'breakthrough' in talks

Annabelle Liang  
& Jim Gomez, Singapore

**C**HINA'S top diplomat said yesterday that an initial draft of a proposed pact with Southeast Asia aimed at preventing fighting in the disputed South China Sea was a "breakthrough" in talks that can progress further without outside interference.

China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which includes four rival claimants involved in the territorial rifts, have been holding sporadic talks for years to craft a "code of conduct," a set of regional norms and rules aimed at preventing a shooting war in the disputed waters.

Singapore Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan announced at the start of an annual meeting of top diplomats from China and the 10-nation bloc in Singapore that both sides have agreed on an initial draft that will be the basis of future negotiations. He called the development a "milestone."

"This is good news," Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told the ASEAN ministers. "This is a breakthrough for the COC (code of conduct) negotiation."

Huddled among themselves in



Foreign Minister Wang Yi (third from right) on the sidelines of the 51st ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting in Singapore

a separate meeting earlier, the ASEAN foreign ministers praised the completion of the draft.

According to a draft of a joint post-conference communique by the ministers, obtained by The Associated Press, they said "they were encouraged by the progress of the substantive negotiations towards the early

conclusion of an effective code of conduct in the South China Sea on a mutually agreed timeline."

Some of the ministers, however, were expected to repeat their concerns over China's transformation of seven disputed reefs into man-made islands, including three with

runways, which now resemble small cities armed with weapons systems, including surface-to-air missiles. China has come under intense criticism for the militarization of the strategic waterway, but has said it has the right to build on its territory and defend them at all costs.

The ministers "took note of the concerns expressed by some countries on the land reclamations in the area, which have eroded trust and confidence, increased tensions and may undermine peace, security and stability in the region," the draft communique said, without naming China and reflecting the internal divisions over the touchy issue.

ASEAN members Cambodia and Laos, which are known China allies, have opposed the use of strong language against Beijing over the disputes. Vietnam and Indonesia have backed stronger rhetoric against China's assertive actions.

"There will be the inevitable differences, if not tensions, within ASEAN on what should be in the document. You have claimant and non-claimant states. You have countries with very close ties with China and those more cautious of China," said Eugene Tan, an associate professor of law at Singapore Management University.

"A meeting of minds is essential to set the stage for the arduous road ahead," Tan said.

Aside from China and Taiwan, ASEAN members Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam have had overlapping claims in the South China Sea, where a bulk of the commerce and oil that fuels Asia's bustling economies transits through.

The U.S. military has deployed ships and jets to patrol the waters in a security presence it says is aimed at promoting freedom of navigation and overflight, but which China says Washington is meddling in an Asian dispute.

## TRADE WAR

# China appeals for US calm after new tariff threat

**C**HINA appealed to Washington yesterday to stay calm and "correct its attitude" following a U.S. threat to raise tariffs on USD200 billion of Chinese goods in a dispute over technology policy.

A foreign ministry spokesman, Geng Shuang, said Beijing was open to dialogue but gave no indication about the status of possible negotiations.

That reflected American frustration that Beijing retaliated by raising its own duties on U.S. imports in response to tariff hikes on Chinese goods over complaints the communist government steals or pressures companies to hand over technology.

"We urge the United States to correct its attitude and not to try to blackmail China because it will never work," said Geng at a news conference. "We advise the United States to



be level-headed and avoid simply acting on impulse, otherwise it will ultimately hurt itself."

"Our door for dialogue is always open. But dialogue must be based on mutual respect, equality, rules and credibility," said Geng. "Now, the US coerces and pressures others unilaterally. It will only be counterproductive."

The U.S. Trade Representative announced previously it was considering raising import duties on an additional list of Chinese goods by 25 percent instead of the previously planned 10 percent.

The United States has already imposed 25 percent tariffs on \$34 billion in Chinese imports and is readying 25 percent tari-

ffs on another \$16 billion worth to punish China for allegedly using predatory tactics to obtain U.S. technology. The Chinese have retaliated in kind.

Last month, the U.S. proposed 10 percent tariffs on another \$200 billion in Chinese products — from parachutes to sardines — in response to China's retaliation. But President Donald Trump now wants U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer to consider more than doubling those tariffs to 25 percent. The government will seek public comment on the higher tariffs. A hearing on the levies is scheduled for Aug. 20-23.

"The Trump Administration continues to urge China to stop its unfair practices, open its market and engage in true market competition," Lighthizer said, adding that, "Regrettably, instead of changing

its harmful behavior, China has illegally retaliated against U.S. workers, farmers, ranchers and businesses."

Trump has threatened to escalate the conflict even more by taxing virtually all of the \$500 billion worth of goods China ships annually to the United States.

"The president is going to continue to hold China responsible for their unfair trade practices," said White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders. "This has gone on for long enough and he's going to do something about it."

But Trump's tariffs have drawn criticism at home in the United States for driving up costs for consumers and companies that rely on Chinese imports.

"We said before that this round of tariffs amounted to doubling down on the

recklessness of imposing trade policy that will hurt U.S. families and workers more than they will hurt China," said Matthew Shay, president of the National Retail Federation. "Increasing the size of the tariffs is merely increasing the harm that will be done."

Mickey Kantor, who was U.S. trade representative under President Bill Clinton, warned that a trade war with China will take a toll on a U.S. healthy economy that from April through June registered the fastest growth since 2014.

"Our economy is in terrific shape," said Kantor, now a partner at the Mayer Brown law firm. "Why in the world would you do this? It makes no sense. We don't need it. It will cost us jobs and investment. It will slow the economy." **MDT/AP**



## JAPAN

# Report alleges Tokyo med school altered test results to fail women

A Tokyo medical university faced a new allegation after a newspaper report yesterday that the school has allegedly discriminated against female applicants on grounds they tend to quit as doctors after starting families, causing staffing shortages.

The Yomiuri newspaper said that Tokyo Medical University has since around 2011 manipulated entrance exam results only for women to keep female student population low. Quoting unidentified sources, it says the manipulation started after the number of successful female applicants reached 38 percent of the total in 2010.

Two other Japanese media, including NHK public television and Kyodo News, also reported the exam manipulation. Quoting unnamed sources, NHK said that female applicants' scores were slashed by about 10 percent in some years.

The allegation surfaced during the school's ongoing probe of a separate scandal in which its former director allegedly admitted the son of a top education bureaucrat to the school in exchange for a favor.

The school's public affairs de-

partment said officials were surprised by the Yomiuri report and have no knowledge of the reported manipulation. It promised to look into the matter.

In Japan, many women are college educated but after graduation face discrimination in hiring and pay, while long working hours and lack of support in child rearing and domestic help by their husbands often force them to give up their careers. As aging population grows in Japan and birth rates remain low, many workplaces including hospitals are chronically short staffed.

Exam results of female applicants are often superior to men, and the school would have to accept more women than their intended number without the measure, the Yomiuri quoted its sources as saying.

In Japan, medical graduates usually end up working at school-affiliated hospitals.

According to the Yomiuri, the school started to keep the percentage of annual female admissions at about 30 percent by manipulating the test scores to get more women to fail. AP

AP PHOTO



Tokyo Medical University

## HAWAII

# How the US military will identify remains from North Korea

VICE President Mike Pence is flying to Hawaii on yesterday to receive 55 boxes of bones recently handed over by North Korea. The remains are believed to belong to servicemen from the U.S. and other United Nations member countries who fought alongside the U.S. during the Korean War.

Here's a look at what will happen next:

## WHERE WILL THE REMAINS BE TAKEN?

The remains will go to a lab in Hawaii run by the military agency that identifies missing servicemen and women from past conflicts. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency identifies remains from battlefields around the world. The agency also has a lab at Offutt Air Force Base near Omaha, Nebraska, though the remains arriving this week will be analyzed at Hawaii's Joint Base Pearl



Artifacts from the Korean War are displayed at the U.S. Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency Laboratory at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii

Harbor-Hickam.

The agency also sends DNA samples for analysis to the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware. Many families who are awaiting the return of their loved ones from the Korean War have already submitted DNA samples to the agen-

cy to help in the identification process.

## HOW WILL THE REMAINS BE IDENTIFIED?

Typically, the agency's forensic anthropologists study any evidence found with the remains for clues, such as military uniforms, identification tags and

personal items like wedding rings. But North Korea provided only a single military dog tag with the 55 boxes.

The anthropologists also study remains to determine their sex, race, size and age. Scientists search bones for evidence of trauma caused at the time of death and for previous

injuries or conditions like arthritis.

Dental experts will compare dental records, including any X-rays, with the remains.

Three-quarters of the remains the agency identifies are determined with the help of mitochondrial DNA, which is a type of DNA that's passed from mother to child.

The lab does this by taking DNA samples from bones and teeth. The DNA lab in Delaware extracts the mitochondrial DNA from the sample to determine its genetic sequence and compares this with samples provided by relatives.

The agency uses mitochondrial DNA so often because it's durable and each sample has a large number of copies, making it an effective way to identify bones. Though recent advances in DNA technology have made other types of DNA analysis possible as well.

## HOW MANY U.S. SERVICEMEN ARE MISSING FROM THE KOREAN WAR?

There are 7,699 U.S. service members listed as unaccounted for from the 1950-53 Korean War,

of which about 5,300 are believed to have died on North Korean soil. There remainder are those who died in South Korea but have not been recovered; those who died in air crashes at sea or on ships at sea, as well as a number who are believed to have been taken to China.

The war killed millions, including 36,000 American soldiers.

Sixteen other United Nations member countries fought alongside U.S. service members on behalf of South Korea. Some of them, including Australia, Belgium, France and the Philippines, have yet to recover some of their war dead from North Korea.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis has said some remains could turn out to be those of missing from other nations. He said this was an international effort to bring closure for families.

## HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO IDENTIFY THE REMAINS?

Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency spokesman Chuck Pritchard says each case will be different. Some could take several months while others could take years. AP



AP PHOTO



New-found dad Peter Peacock, 68, (right) embraces Gypsy Diamond, 36, in Melbourne

## AUSTRALIA

# New law helps daughter of sperm donor find her father

Kristen Gelineau, Melbourne

**F**OR Peter Peacock, fate arrived in the form of a registered letter.

The letter looked to be a bit of a letdown. Peacock had gone to the post office expecting an aviator jacket he'd ordered online. The Australian grandfather tore the envelope open as he walked to his car — at which point he stopped dead in his tracks.

"Dear Mr Peacock," the letter began. "The Victorian Assisted Reproductive Treatment Authority (VARTA) has received an enquiry of a personal nature which may or may not relate to you. The matter concerns a record held in relation to a project you may have assisted with at Prince Henry's Institute."

Prince Henry's? The Melbourne clinic where he'd donated sperm nearly 40 years ago?

There could be only one reason for such a letter, he thought. Someone out there had come to life through his donation.

His mind raced. How could this person even know who he was? He had been promised his donation would be anonymous.

And for decades it was, until a new law in one Australian state gave the offspring of sperm

and egg donors the legal right to know who they are, despite promises of anonymity.

Which is why a week after receiving that letter, Peacock found himself staring at a photograph of a woman named Gypsy Diamond, whose face looked so much like his own that he felt an instant and overwhelming connection.

## ■ A new law in Victoria state gave the offspring of sperm and egg donors the legal right to know who they are

"God almighty, I looked at it and I thought — 'Bloody hell. I can't deny that girl,'" he says. "She was my child from the start."

Behind Victoria state's donor identity law, which took effect in 2017, was a quest for the truth by people whose lives began in a lab. In its early days, the sperm

and egg donation industry was swathed in secrecy, leaving some children desperate to complete the puzzle of their identity. They also wanted to know their family medical histories.

Some countries, including Australia, have now banned anonymous donation. But Victoria is only the second jurisdiction in the world to impose a law retroactively stripping away anonymity without the donor's consent. Switzerland was the first to do so in 2001, but many donor records were destroyed.

Under the law, donors do have the right to demand that their offspring not contact them. Anyone who violates a contact veto can be fined 7,900 Australian dollars (\$6,000).

Ian Morrison, one of Victoria's 2,000-or-so donors who were assured anonymity, is angered by the law, and worries that the people seeking their donors haven't considered the feelings of those who raised them.

"If they're expecting to get two big happy families, that ain't going to happen," he says.

Gypsy Diamond's quest to find her donor began when she was 21, after her mother abruptly told her that her dad was not her biological father.

For years, the curiosity about

her heritage gnawed at her, but little information was available.

One day in April 2017, her phone rang. It was Kate Bourne, a counselor at VARTA.

"Are you sitting down?" Bourne asked. "I've just got off the phone to your donor."

Peacock, a long-divorced 68-year-old, had no idea whether contact with Diamond would alter his peaceful life.

He had become a donor in a bid to help others have the child they'd always wanted. He donated around eight times, received \$10 a sample, and used the money to buy a new set of power tools.

"I gave because I thought I was going to do some good somewhere," Peacock says. "The drill was a bonus."

He was curious, so he agreed to an e-mail correspondence with Diamond.

Bourne called Diamond to deliver the news. Diamond quickly found Peacock's Facebook profile. Her heart raced. She had never seen anyone who looked so much like her. She sent an email and two photos of herself.

Peacock, too, was stunned by their similarities. Both love Shiraz and antipasto, cheer for the same football team, and share a cheeky sense of humor.

"I can see so much of yourself in me... especially the eyes," Diamond wrote. "I've never felt anything like it."

He asked her if Gypsy Diamond was her real name. She assured him it was.

"If I was going to make one up to contact my donor," she wrote, "I probably wouldn't choose one that sounded like a porn star."

Both worried about how the news would affect their families. Peacock's older daughter eventually struck up a friendly correspondence with Diamond, but the younger one was unsettled by the emergence of Diamond, 36. "I'm not the youngest anymore," she told Peacock.

Diamond feared confusing or upsetting her own father, who had early-onset Alzheimer's. When she finally told him about Peacock, he seemed to take it well.

One question still nagged at Diamond: Was Peacock also the biological father of her brother?

Diamond asked Peacock to find out from VARTA whether any other children had been created with his donations.

In August last year, his phone rang.

"Are you sitting down?" Bourne asked. He wasn't. She continued: "There are 16."

Peacock sat down.

Besides Diamond and her brother, there were another 14 unknown adults wandering around with his DNA.

Legally, he could request their identities. But if he did, they would be notified. Most children conceived from anonymous donations are never told about their heritage. Peacock couldn't imagine dropping such a bomb on them.

He decided that if any of his offspring come looking for him, he will welcome them into his life. But he won't seek them out.

Peacock and Diamond met nearly a year after their first emails, in March at a car show. Both were jittery. Peacock told Diamond to search for the good-looking bloke with the red and white umbrella. She could size him up from a distance, he said. If she walked on by, no hard feelings.

When Diamond spotted him, she steeled herself, then made a beeline.

Peacock looked up and saw her. They grinned and embraced.

Soon, they were chatting like old chums. Diamond's husband eventually joined them, along with her sons.

She didn't tell her children who Peacock was. At 8 and 5, they are too young to understand.

But for her, Peacock is family, even if she can't define his role.

"I know that he's just going to be a big part of my life," she says. "Where it goes from there, I don't know. I don't really have a name for it."

Peacock feels the same.

"I'm not her father, I'm not her uncle, but I'm still part of her," he says. "She is a part of me." **AP**





White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders

## US White House says Trump's tweet about Russia probe was an opinion

Jonathan Lemire  
& Zeke Miller, Washington

**P**RESIDENT Donald Trump bluntly declared his attorney general should terminate “right now” the federal probe into the campaign that took him to the White House, a newly fervent attack on the special counsel investigation that could imperil his presidency. Trump also assailed the trial, just underway, of his former campaign chairman by the special counsel’s team.

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders scrambled to explain that Trump’s tweet yesterday [Macau time] was “not an order” and the president was not directing his attorney general to do anything.

“It’s the president’s opinion,” she said.

But Trump’s early morning tweetstorm again raised the specter that he could try to more directly bring special counsel Robert Mueller’s Russia-Trump election-collusion probe to a premature end. And it revived the idea that the president’s tweets themselves might be used as evidence that he is attempting to obstruct justice.

Meanwhile, Trump attorney Rudy Giuliani said negotiations are continuing to have Trump sit down for questions from Mueller, though the lawyer said, “I’m not going to give you a lot of hope that it’s going to ha-

ppen.” He said both sides had exchanged proposals for conditions for such an interview, “and yesterday we got a letter back from them and now we’re in the process of responding.”

**🐦 This is a terrible situation and Attorney General Jeff Sessions should stop this Rigged Witch Hunt right now.**

TRUMP TWEET

Trump has raged privately in recent days that both the forces of government and the media are trying to undermine him. That includes trumped-up charges against his former campaign chairman, Paul Manafort, and distorting the outcome of the Helsinki summit to make it appear he was beholden to Russia, according to two Republicans close to the White House not authorized to speak about private conversations.

Trump was closely monitoring news coverage of the Manafort proceedings, which provoked the spate of incendiary tweets, according to the two Republicans and two White House officials.

“The president’s not obstructing, he’s fighting back,” said Sanders, dismissing the idea Trump’s tweets could be tantamount to obstruction of justice.

The most inflammatory of Trump’s tweets said, “This is a terrible situation and Attorney General Jeff Sessions should stop this Rigged Witch Hunt right now, before it continues to stain our country any further. Bob Mueller is totally conflicted, and his 17 Angry Democrats that are doing his dirty work are a disgrace to USA!”

The president’s anger came the day after the start of the trial of Manafort, who is facing federal charges of bank fraud and tax evasion. And while Mueller did not bring any election-related charges against Manafort, the specter of the Russian investigation is hanging over the Alexandria, Virginia, courthouse. And Trump’s White House.

“Paul Manafort worked for Ronald Reagan, Bob Dole and many other highly prominent and respected political leaders,” Trump tweeted. “He worked for me for a very short time. Why didn’t government tell me that he was under investigation. These old charges have nothing to do with Collusion - a Hoax!”

Later the president invoked one of the nation’s most notorious criminals, 1920s gangster Al Capone, and posed the question “who was treated worse” while airing his grievance about Manafort being held in solitary

confinement ahead of a conviction. Manafort is in detention after having his bail revoked because of allegations that he was attempting to tamper with witnesses in his case. Federal prosecutors revealed last month that he was afforded unusual privileges while in detention.

Trump has spent more than a year trying to distance himself from his one-time top political aide, and to minimize the role Manafort played in his campaign. Trump’s protestations aside, Manafort worked on the campaign during a critical six-month period in 2016, during which he led the effort to ensure Trump won the Republican nomination. He oversaw the early days of the general election effort.

Sanders said Trump wants Mueller’s investigation concluded swiftly without intervention, though Trump has publicly mused as recently as May about interfering in the Department of Justice’s oversight of the probe. “At some point I will have no choice but to use the powers granted to the Presidency and get involved!” he tweeted then.

Trump has repeatedly belittled the probe as “a hoax,” as those close to him suggest he feels that any talk of Russian interference tarnishes his electoral victory and delegitimizes his presidency.

One of the president’s confidants deemed Trump in “a dark place,” seething about the lon-

glasting probe and the media’s depiction of his White House under siege. Though long antagonistic toward the press, Trump’s anger toward the media has only grown over the past month, as he has berated coverage of his Singapore and Helsinki summits, the possible prosecutorial cooperation of his former legal “fixer” Michael Cohen and the Mueller probe.

After complaining about the tough questions he received from American reporters in Finland, Trump has largely steered clear of the mainstream media, instead opting for safer spaces like an interview with ally Rush Limbaugh this week. From the White House briefing room podium, Sanders declined to denounce the harassment of a CNN reporter during a Trump rally in Florida on Tuesday.

The president’s social media outburst renewed discussion of the significance of his tweets.

Rudy Giuliani, the president’s lawyer, stressed that Trump was just issuing an opinion, though he also said the White House believes “the investigation should be brought to a close.”

“I guess, if we were playing poker — we’re not — put up or shut up, what do you got?” Giuliani said. “We have every reason to believe they don’t have anything.”

When pressed by reporters on how she tells the difference between a presidential order or an opinion, Sanders said Trump makes his intentions “pretty clear.”

But the line between registering an opinion or governing by tweet has bedeviled the White House from the start, even when former press secretary Sean Spicer declared tweets could be official White House statements. Earlier this year, Trump blindsided the Defense Department when he tweeted out a transgender ban for the military, prompting the Pentagon to slow walk the program.

Mueller already is interested in some of Trump’s tweets to the extent they raise obstruction of justice concerns. Though experts believe obstruction by tweet is possible, prosecutors have to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that a particular act got in the way of an investigation and that the person who did it intended to obstruct.

The president’s tweets were greeted warily in Capitol Hill, with most lawmakers, regardless of party, urging Trump to let the probe run its course.

No. 3 Senate GOP leader John Thune of South Dakota said, “The idea that they should truncate it doesn’t make sense to me.” Democratic Sen. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut went much further, declaring, “There is now highly credible evidence that the president of the United States is committing obstruction of justice in real time, right before our eyes.” **AP**



ZIMBABWE

# President appeals for calm after election violence



Christopher Torchia, Harare

**Z**IMBABWE'S president said yesterday that his government has been in touch with the main opposition leader in an attempt to ease tensions after election-related violence in the country's capital.

As the African nation awaited results from its presidential elec-

tion earlier this week, President Emmerson Mnangagwa tweeted that "we have been in communication" with challenger Nelson Chamisa and that "we must maintain this dialogue in order to protect the peace we hold dear."

Mnangagwa's conciliatory remarks came a day after soldiers occupied the streets of Harare, shooting live rounds and beating

demonstrators, many of whom were throwing rocks and setting fires to protest alleged fraud in Monday's election. Three people were killed.

The violence erupted after the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission said the ruling ZANU-PF party won a majority in parliament. The commission, which must announce the presidential

results by tomorrow, has said the vote was free and fair.

In a series of tweets, Mnangagwa also called for an "independent investigation" into the violence in Harare, saying those responsible "should be identified and brought to justice."

Mnangagwa previously said the opposition was to blame for the violence, though some international observers criticized the military for opening fire on unarmed civilians.

On Thursday, the streets of Harare were quiet as soldiers on foot and in trucks moved around, instructing vendors and other people to leave the city center by noon. There was a heavy police presence around the headquarters of the opposition Movement for Democratic Change party, which had sought to dislodge the ruling party at the polls after decades of rule by former longtime leader Robert Mugabe.

The military deployment was the first time that soldiers had appeared in the capital's streets since a military takeover led to the ouster of Mugabe in November. At that time, residents welcomed the soldiers as liberators.

Home Affairs Minister Obert Mpofu said late Wednesday that the military will remain in the capital until "this situation is over." AP

## CHINA CALLS ELECTION 'ORDERLY', EU ALERTS TO SHORTCOMINGS


**CHINA IS** calling Zimbabwe's election "orderly" and urges Zimbabweans to maintain peace and stability after the violence in the capital left three people dead. Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang says Zimbabwe invited China to send an election observer mission and the mission found Zimbabweans to be "well-engaged" in Monday's vote. China has had growing

influence in the southern African nation. Meanwhile, the European Union is appealing for calm in Zimbabwe after the violence linked to the elections that the EU says were marred by "shortcomings." The head of the Commonwealth election observers in Zimbabwe is condemning what he calls the "excessive use of force against unarmed civilians" by security forces.

AD

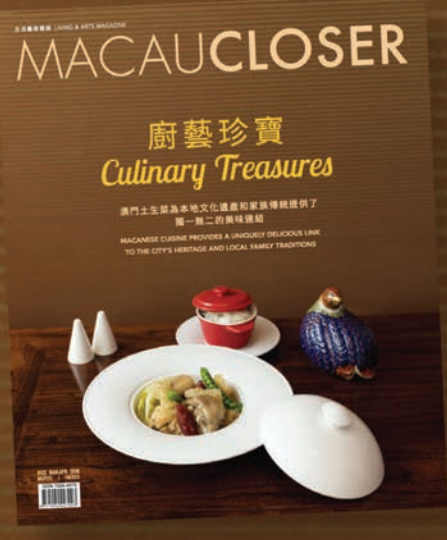

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## TV canal macau



## FRIDAY

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

## SATURDAY

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

## SUNDAY

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

## Offbeat

## COLORADO MAN FINED USD1K FOR REPEATEDLY FEEDING BEARS

A Colorado man has been fined USD1,000 for intentionally feeding bears for the third time in the past eight years.

The Durango Herald reports a resident reported to Colorado Parks and Wildlife that they had seen a man leaving out food in his backyard for bears.

Wildlife Manager Matt Thorpe says the resident took pictures and provided them to officials.

An investigation found that the man had previously been fined for the same behavior in 2010 and 2012.

In Colorado, it's illegal to knowingly feed bears.

The first offense carries a \$100 fine. The second violation gives a \$500 fine.

Thorpe said Colorado Parks and Wildlife contacted the man on Sunday, who paid the fine on the spot.

He can be fined another \$1,000 if he breaks the law again.

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

02 Aug - 03 Aug



## INCREDIBLES 2

ROOM 1

2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30pm

Director: Brad Bird

Starring: Craig T. Nelson, Holly Hunter, Sarah Vowell

Language: Cantonese (Chinese)

Duration: 118min



## MISSION IMPOSSIBLE - FALLOUT

ROOM 2

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

ROOM 3

4:30pm

Director: Christopher McQuarrie

Starring: Paul Rudd, Evangeline Lilly, Michael Douglas

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 118min



## CHRISTOPHE ROBIN

ROOM 3

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

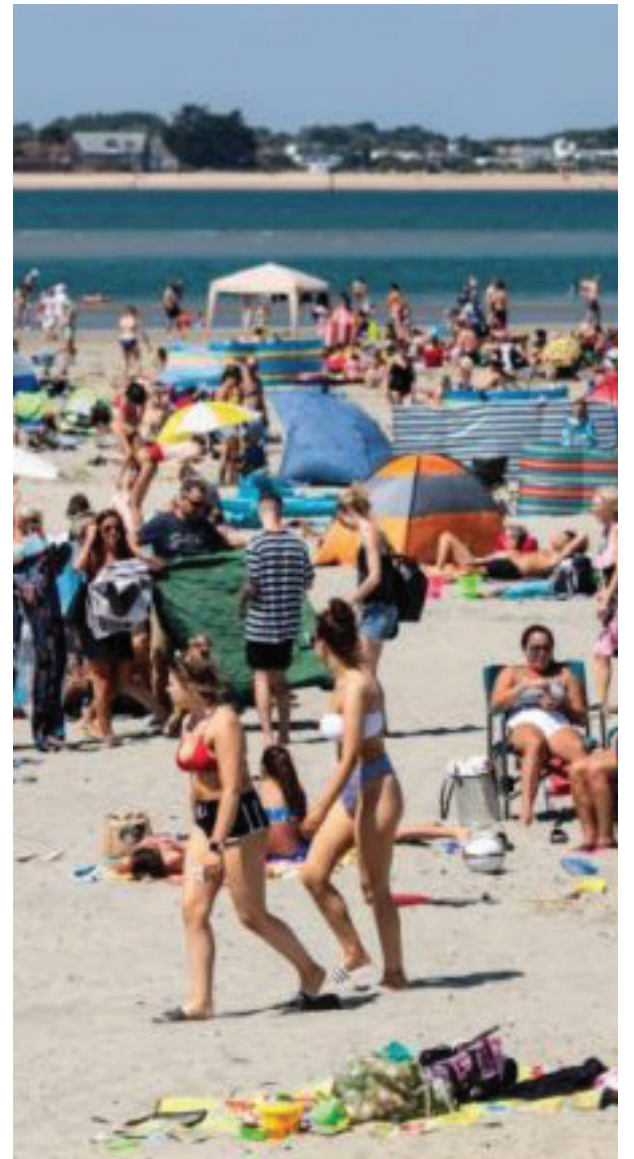
Director: Marc Forster

Starring: Ewan McGregor, Hayley Atwell, Bronte Carmichael

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 147min

## this day in history



## 1990 UK TEMPERATURES REACH RECORD HIGH

A weather station in Leicestershire has recorded the highest temperature ever known in Britain.

The figure of 37.1C, or 99F, recorded at a weather station in Nailstone, Leicestershire, is 1 degree Fahrenheit higher than the previous record set in 1911.

The new record has not been officially confirmed, weather experts have said it appears authentic.

Although the sweltering temperatures are being enjoyed by holidaymakers and sun seekers, they are not good news for everyone.

Fire crews are battling countryside fires in North Yorkshire and more than 100 square miles (259 square kilometres) of the Peak District National Park will be closed from midnight on Sunday to protect the moorland from careless visitors.

Penguins at Bristol zoo and a herd of rare pigs from Ludlow in Shropshire, are receiving daily cold showers of water to prevent them from dehydrating.

Many roads around the country are clogged as motorists make their way to coastal resorts and some intercity trains will be running at reduced speeds because of possible distortion of the rails in the intense heat.

Reservoir levels are also falling but officials are confident that supplies are not yet at risk.

Mr Mike Carey, from the Water Services Association, said: "Most people are still getting their full supply of water without any restrictions at all.

"In fact, 46 million people have no restrictions of any sort at the moment."

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The record was broken on 10 August 2003 - first when 37.9C (100.2F) was recorded at Heathrow Airport, then later by a temperature of 38.1C (100.6F) in Gravesend, Kent.

Weather experts predict that over the next 80 years temperatures could reach 40C.

Research is continually being carried out to try to establish why average global temperatures have risen significantly over the past century.

Reports suggest it is a combination of human activity, solar activity and warmer oceans.



**YOUR STARS**

**Aries**  
Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
Being too frank would just be hurtful. Unless fortunes are to be made or lost depending on your wording, then being vague is what the situation calls for. You can clear up any misunderstandings later.

**Taurus**  
April 20-May 20  
Your subconscious is sending up more signals than you can read. Don't pretend that you can pick a winner in this state of mind. You can't tell the real thing from a fake and everything that glitters is enticing. Resist.

**Gemini**  
May 21-Jun. 21  
How an important financial drama plays itself out is up to you. You're both author and director, and you can play a starring role if you so wish. Letting someone else do the job would be a fatal mistake for your finances.

**Cancer**  
Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
Social situations can get in the way of work and that is expected. Your bank account won't suffer because of it, so don't get too anxious. It's not just your private problems. All of your coworkers are dealing with the same issue.

**Leo**  
Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
You are all fired up and ready for some travel. Unfortunately, you aren't going anywhere anytime soon. You can use your excitement to change the scenery right in front of you, though, as long as you stick to your budget.

**Virgo**  
Aug. 23-Sept. 22  
You need a yes-man, because you feel like saying no to everything. You want to throw in the towel and forget about it almost as soon as you begin. Force yourself to follow through instead. You'll be happy you did.

**Libra**  
Sep.23-Oct. 22  
You need to balance your account and fast. Your current projects aren't going to do the trick. It's the wrong time of year to drum up anything new, but desperate situations call for desperate measures.

**Scorpio**  
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21  
You're being hit up by the modern day equivalent of the traveling salesman. You know what you're dealing with right away but remember the old adage: If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

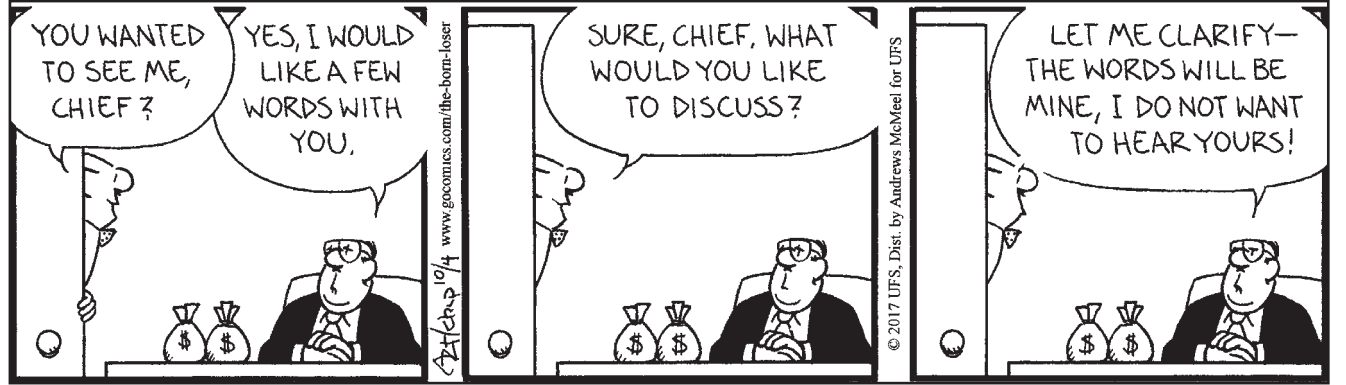
**Sagittarius**  
Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
You're not at the point of sitting back and observing your domain just yet. You're still building the very basics of your kingdom. But even they can be put aside when friendship and goodwill make an appearance.

**Capricorn**  
Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
The more discipline you can muster, the more money you'll make. Even the most unlikely of goals can be met with it as your only tool. Stay on course and all things are possible.

**Aquarius**  
Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
Your network is growing. You get new members each and every day. That isn't translating into money yet, but it will soon. Until then, keep nurturing new connections.

**Pisces**  
Feb.19-Mar. 20  
A blabber mouth might give you some shocking news. You can stand there stunned or you can make good use of it. What starts out on a sour note brings with it the chance to redeem both the event and yourself.

**THE BORN LOSER** by Chip Sansom



**SUDOKU**

**Easy**

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

**Easy+**

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

**Medium**

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

**Hard**

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

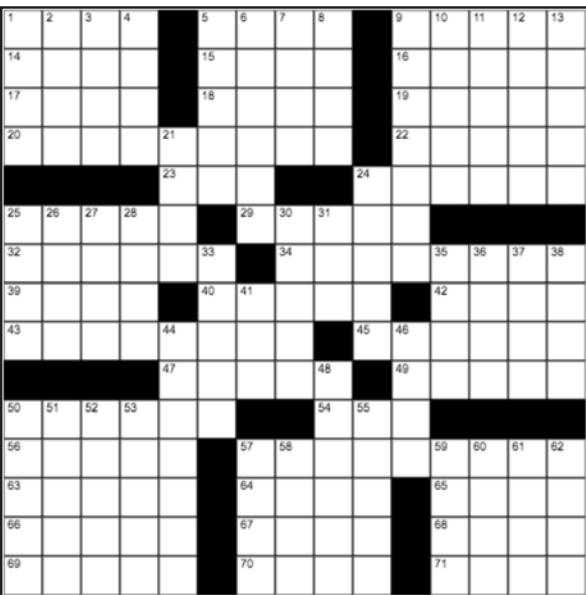
**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	27	36	clear
Harbin	20	32	cloudy
Tianjin	29	37	clear
Urumqi	22	30	clear/cloudy
Xi'an	26	37	clear/shower
Lhasa	11	21	drizzle
Chengdu	22	29	rainstorm/heavy
Chongqing	24	34	cloudy/drizzle
Kunming	18	22	shower/moderate
Nanjing	26	30	thundershower/heavy
Shanghai	27	31	heavy rain
Wuhan	26	34	cloudy
Hangzhou	25	32	heavy rain
Taipei	29	34	overcast/thundershower
Guangzhou	27	34	thundershower
Hong Kong	27	33	cloudy
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	16	31	clear
Frankfurt	21	32	drizzle
Paris	20	31	clear
London	14	25	cloudy/clear
New York	25	28	moderate rain/drizzle

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS:** 1- Area; 5- A \_\_\_ formality; 9- Beer choice; 14- Thought; 15- National competitor; 16- Sniggler; 17- Long and Peeples; 18- Cut the crop; 19- French composer Erik; 20- Assuredly; 22- Male deer; 23- Writer Hentoff; 24- Discovers; 25- Senator Specter; 29- More secure; 32- Gadget; 34- Comforting; 39- Hamburg's river; 40- Big name in printers; 42- To \_\_\_ (exactly); 43- Stretch; 45- Car heart; 47- Hopping mad; 49- Ed of "Lou Grant"; 50- Legally responsible; 54- Flight; 56- Founded: abbr.; 57- Pedantic or formal quality; 63- \_\_\_ Haute; 64- Bishop of Rome; 65- Change for a five; 66- Old newsman; 67- "Born Free" lion; 68- Jutting rock; 69- Soul mate?; 70- Lively dance; 71- Shipped off;

**DOWN:** 1- Bluish white metallic element; 2- Comics canine; 3- Close by; 4- Sunrise direction; 5- "West Side Story" song; 6- Happenings; 7- Iranian coin; 8- Catch a view of; 9- Final course; 10- Gaucho's rope; 11- Communion table; 12- Pretend; 13- Lock of hair; 21- Tolstoy's Karenina; 24- Sierra \_\_\_; 25- Zip-\_\_\_-Doo-Dah; 26- Drum sound; 27- Timber wolf; 28- Utopia; 30- It's a plus; 31- Rock's \_\_\_ Fighters; 33- The Wreck of the Mary \_\_\_; 35- Witches; 36- Pack \_\_\_ (quit); 37- Hawaii's state bird; 38- Grandpa Walton portrayer; 41- School org.; 44- Unit of magnetomotive force; 46- Reputation; 48- Go by; 50- Lewd one; 51- Grenoble's river; 52- Skylit lobbies; 53- Less covered; 55- Let's Make \_\_\_; 57- Impersonator; 58- "Unforgettable" singer; 59- Soft shoes; 60- As to; 61- Actor Penn; 62- High-ranking NCO;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

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



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





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Paul Newberry, Atlanta

FOOTBALL

# Juventus wins MLS All-Star Game on penalties after 1-1 draw

**J**OSEF Martinez posed defiantly alongside the goal while pyrotechnics went off in front of the giddy Atlanta fans.

It was a familiar stance for the MLS scoring machine.

In the end, the celebration belonged to Juventus.

The Italian powerhouse prevailed on penalty kicks in the MLS All-Star game after the match ended in a 1-1 draw yesterday [Macau time], a bit of a letdown for a crowd of 72,317.

At least the A-T-L got to see its hometown favorite do what he does best.

On pace for a record-shattering season, Martinez fittingly scored the lone goal for the MLS stars.

"I feel very happy," Martinez said through a translator. "It was a very important game, a very important moment."

Juventus scored on all five of its penalties, winning when Mattia De Sciglio drilled one into the upper left corner past Columbus goalkeeper Zack Steffen. The MLS scored on its first three penalties, but Bradley Wright-Phillips of New York Red Bulls left the door open in the fourth round when he yanked his attempt off the left post.

It was the second straight year that the All-Star Game ended in a 1-1 draw and was decided by penalties. In 2017, Real Madrid prevailed over the MLS squad 4-2 at Chicago's Soldier Field.

"It was really a wonderful game," Juventus manager Massimiliano Allegri said. "It was good preparation."

Indeed, this was nothing more than a warmup for the Italian powerhouse, which begins its pursuit of an eighth straight Serie A title in less than three weeks.

In the midst of a four-game American tour, Juventus brought along a number of younger players who have yet to claim a spot with the senior team — including 17-year-old Nicolò Fagioli, who scored on the first penalty kick.

Notably left behind was Juventus' prized acquisition of the offseason — five-time FIFA Player of the Year Cristiano Ronaldo. The 33-year-old remained in Europe to rest and train after Portugal's elimination from the World Cup and his pricey transfer from Real Madrid.

The MLS team faced its own challenges. There were only a couple of days to blend together an all-star squad from the 23-team league — a group that didn't include LA Galaxy forward Zlatan Ibrahimovic. The 36-year-old Swede, who played with Juventus from 2004-06 and ranks second in MLS with 15 goals, skipped the exhibition match, saying he needed the rest after playing three league matches in a nine-day span that included his first MLS hat trick.

"Taking into account that we only had two days together, I think everyone did an excellent job," said Atlanta United coach Tata Martino, who guided the MLS team.

This game was a showcase for Atlanta United and USD1.5 billion Mercedes-Benz Stadium, where record crowds have flocked since the club joined MLS in 2017. The team



Juventus midfielder Daniel Regain avoids hitting Juventus goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny (right) with MLS All-Star forward Josef Martinez (left)

is averaging nearly 52,000 per game this season and already has drawn five largest single-game league crowds in MLS history — each more than 70,000.

Add another attendance mark to the ever-growing list. It was the largest turnout in the history of the MLS All-Star Game, surpassing the crowd of 70,728 for the 2010 match in Houston.

Juventus jumped ahead in the 21st minute. Giving the Italians far too much room to develop the play, the MLS back line allowed Matheus Pereira to go unchallenged as he curled a left-footed pass in front of the goal. Andrea Favilli flicked it past Atlanta keeper Brad Guzan with a nifty header.

The lead didn't last long. Five minutes later, Martinez sent

the Atlanta fans into a frenzy with a goal of pure persistence.

Minnesota's Francisco Calvo got off a blistering shot in front of the net, which was brilliantly swatted away by keeper Wojciech Szczesny with a leaping save. The rebound ricocheted to the side of the net, where Montreal's Ignacio Piatti attempted to head it in from a tough angle. The ball bounced along the line, all the way to the other side of the net, where Martinez got a head on it — just enough to slide it into the net while Juventus defender Alex Sandro flailed at it helplessly with his feet while sprawled on his back.

With 24 goals in just 23 league games, Martinez is on pace to easily eclipse the MLS scoring record of 27 goals and has essentially been conceded the Golden Boot with a third of the season remaining.

"I don't ever think about it. That just adds pressure," Martinez said of his chance to become the league's most prolific scorer. "I leave that in God's hands."

It was a thrill to score against Juventus, even though it was just an exhibition.

Before coming to Atlanta, the Venezuelan played in Serie A with Torino, Juventus' city rival.

"I scored against them with Torino," Martinez said with a smile, "but I was offside." **AP**

BADMINTON

# Lin falls to Shi in third round; Axelsen, Tai advance



Lin Dan of China

**FIVE-TIME** champion Lin Dan fell to Chinese compatriot Shi Yuqi again while No. 1s Viktor Axelsen and Tai Tzu Ying moved into the quarterfinals at the world badminton championships yesterday.

Lin lost to Shi, 12 years his junior, 21-15, 21-9. Shi pulled away early in the first game. In the second, a six-point string to 13-6 put Shi in control.

Lin hasn't won the championships in five years but he was runner-up last year at 33, and can't be underestimated.

Shi beat him for the third time this year, including in a thrilling All England

final, and for the fifth time in six career meetings.

Axelsen defeated Angus Ng Ka Long of Hong Kong 21-19, 21-18, overcoming early leads by Ng in both testing games.

"I didn't feel that good on court, to be honest," Axelsen said. "My opponent definitely made it tough for me."

The top-seeded Dane will next face Olympic champion Chen Long, whom he beat in the semifinals of last year's worlds en route to the title.

Chen beat No. 14-seeded Kenta Nishimoto 21-18, 21-19.

Unseeded Darren Liew of

Malaysia upset fifth-seeded Kidambi Srikanth of India 21-18, 21-8, and joined Asian champion Kenta Momota and Chou Tien Chen in the quarterfinals.

Tai beat Zhang Beiwen of the United States 21-19, 21-14 in what seems to be an inexorable march to her first world title.

Tai has looked unstoppable in 2018, with only one loss in 36 matches. Her lone defeat came against Ratchanok Intanon in January in the Malaysia Masters final.

Ratchanok, the 2013 world champion, was defeated by Saina Nehwal of India 21-16, 21-19. The

result was an upset on seedings but not on history. Nehwal has won 10 of their 15 matchups, including the last four.

Second-seeded Akane Yamaguchi of Japan eased past Nitchaon Jindapol of Thailand in straight games to advance, along with No. 5 Chen Yufei and No. 6 He Bingjiao of China.

Also through were two-time world champion Carolina Marin, and defending champion Nozomi Okuhara.

Marin meets Nehwal, and Okuhara will play third-seeded Pusarla Sindhu of India in a repeat of last year's final. **AP**



opinion

Bizcuits

Leanda Lee



BONUS POINTS FOR BONUS ASSETS

Five years ago, I wrote to the Chief Executive. My message may have fallen on deaf ears, maybe not, but nothing ventured, nothing gained, and I felt it worthwhile raising a number of issues in the immigration assessment process in the hope that, at some time in the future, applications for residency would assess contributions to our Macau community in broader terms than merely economic ones.

I welcome the fact that IPIM now offers much more information publicly than in past years about what is to be assessed and why. The preliminary self-assessment tool on IPIM's website is very helpful, both to determine potential eligibility and to understand what criteria are important. For those who want more detail, there are guidelines available in English now. In earlier days, it was hit and miss, try it and see, with the corresponding waste of time, anticipation, frustration and disappointment, and the inevitable reliance on word of mouth advice of those who had gone before. Future residents are no longer working in a Macau applicant haze.

The application process for managerial personnel and technical and professional residency now includes requests for more information than previously about the family members that come 'attached' to the application. However, currently it is still the main applicant who is assessed on their income level, their technical expertise and educational qualifications which are "considered particularly beneficial to the Macao SAR". This is all with the view of assessing how they may contribute to economic development.

I have two concerns with this process and these criteria: the first is the sole focus on the main applicant, and the second is the lost opportunity of looking beyond Macau's economic needs. Granted, it is difficult to change the stated ambit of economic development that underpins these residency applications when assessment is done by the body that exists precisely to promote business via trade and onshore investment.

When an individual brings their family along, there are more resources available in this cluster of individuals than just the main applicant. The assessment system as it stands now has lost sight of this and appears to view those who are attached as burdens upon the community rather than productive assets. One criterion for assessment is "the number of family members to be included in the temporary residency extension". The presumption of the more the merrier appears false here.

Family members may have much to offer the community. Spouses are generally equally, or better, educated and qualified than the main applicant. If granted residency the trailing spouse will also have the right to work, volunteer and become valued community members. Although a CV of the spouse might be requested by IPIM, it is strange that no proof of academic qualifications is required. Should some allowance in the residency assessment be given to how the whole family may add vibrance to community life through work, sporting, cultural, literary, entrepreneurial and educational activities, among many others, we might begin to see parenthetically a broader diversification of economic and community activity.

As such, a points system which while assessing the main applicant for their foundational contribution to economic development, could also offer bonus or compensatory points for what the family as a whole brings. It could look at a broad array of capital our community wants to see in immigrants. These might include investment in residential property or other local assets, language ability, representation in local and international cultural competitions and sporting events, and the level of activity in community initiatives and cultural outputs.

If we aim to accept only a select few new residents each year, then let's value, utilise and reward them for all they have to bring, not just their meagre economic value.

THE ICELAND STOPS HUNTING MINKE WHALES, BUT ONLY FOR THIS SEASON

One of Iceland's top whaling companies says it has stopped hunting minke whales this year, in response to a new government regulation that has enlarged the protected area for baleen whales.

Gunnar Jonsson, owner of whaling company IP-Utgerd Ltd said yesterday that the temporary halt to whaling comes about a month earlier than expected.

Jonsson said obeying the new rule would require

sailing out further than normal to harpoon the whales and that to do so wasn't economically viable.

In a statement, the International Fund for Animal Welfare called the development "very good news for minke whales and for Iceland," but noted the country had simply imported minke whale meat from Norway.

Jonsson said his company would now focus on improving its boats for next year's whaling season.

Pope changes death penalty teaching, now 'inadmissible'



Nicole Winfield, Vatican City

POPE Francis has changed Catholic Church teaching about the death penalty, saying in a new policy published yesterday that it is always "inadmissible" because it "attacks" the inherent dignity of all humans.

The Vatican said Francis had approved a change to the Catechism of the Catholic Church — the compilation of official Catholic teaching. Previously, the catechism said the church didn't exclude recourse to capital punishment "if this is the only possible way of effectively defending human lives against the unjust aggressor."

The new teaching, contained in Catechism No. 2267, says the previous policy is outdated, that there are other ways to protect the common good, and that the church should instead commit itself to working to end capital punishment.

"The church teaches, in the light of the Gospel, that the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person and she works with determination for its abolition worldwide," reads the new text, which was approved in May but only published yesterday.

The death penalty has been abolished in most of Europe and South America, but it is still in use in the United States and in several countries in Asia, Africa and the Mideast. In addition, just this week Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said Turkey

could soon move to reinstate the death penalty, which it had abolished in 2004 as part of its bid to join the European Union.

In an accompanying letter explaining the change, the head of the Vatican's doctrine office said the development of Catholic doctrine on capital punishment didn't contradict prior teaching but rather was an evolution of it.

Francis had approved a change to the Catechism [which] didn't exclude recourse to capital punishment

"If, in fact the political and social situation of the past made the death penalty an acceptable means for the protection of the common good, today the increasing understanding that the dignity of a person is not lost even after committing the most serious crimes," said Cardinal Luis Ladaria, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Ladaria said the new change aims to "give energy" to the anti-death penalty movement "and, in respectful dialogue with civil authorities, to encourage the creation of conditions that allow for the elimination of the death

penalty where it is still in effect."

Francis has long railed against the death penalty, insisting it can never be justified, no matter how heinous the crime. He has also long made prison ministry a mainstay of his vocation. On nearly every foreign trip, Francis has visited with inmates to offer words of solidarity and hope, and he still stays in touch with a group of Argentine inmates he ministered to during his years as archbishop of Buenos Aires.

He announced his intention to change church teaching on capital punishment last October, when he marked the 25th anniversary of the publication of the catechism by announcing his intention to update it. The catechism, first promulgated by St. John Paul II, gives Catholics an easy, go-to guide for church teaching on everything from the sacraments to sex.

At that 2017 ceremony, Francis said the death penalty violates the Gospel and amounts to the voluntary killing of a human life, which "is always sacred in the eyes of the creator."

He acknowledged that in the past even the Papal States had allowed this "extreme and inhuman recourse." But he said the Holy See had erred in allowing a mentality that was "more legalistic than Christian" and now knew better.

Amnesty International, which has long campaigned for a worldwide ban on the death penalty, welcomed the development as an "important step forward." AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	30-50 Good
High Density Residential Area	20-40 Good
Ambient	25-45 Good

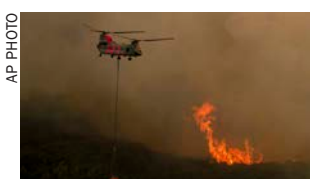
WORLD BRIEFS



GOLAN HEIGHTS U.N. peacekeepers returned to patrol the frontier between Syria and the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, years after an escalation in fighting and abduction of U.N. troops had prompted them to withdraw, Russia's Defense Ministry announced. For the first time, Russian forces joined the peacekeepers — a sign of Russia's deepening involvement as a mediator between Israel and Syria.



IBERIAN PENINSULA Hot air from Africa is bringing a new heatwave to Europe, prompting health warnings about Sahara Desert dust and exceptionally high temperatures that are forecast to peak at 47 degrees Celsius in some southern areas. The torrid weather meant public services were put on alert in the Iberian Peninsula.



US Just a month into the budget year, the state has already spent more than one-quarter of its annual fire budget, at least USD125 million, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said. More than 13,000 firefighters are battling fires with the help of crews from as far away as Florida.



HEMINGWAY "A Room on the Garden Side," written in 1956, is being published for the first time. The brief, World War II-era fiction appears this week in the summer edition of The Strand Magazine, a literary quarterly which has released obscure works by Raymond Chandler, John Steinbeck and others. "Hemingway's deep love for Paris as it is just emerging from Nazi occupation is on full display, as are the hallmarks of his prose," editor Andrew F. Gulli wrote.