



**CINEMATHEQUE SHOWS 14 ANIMATION FILMS**  
The World Animation Festival will showcase a selection of animations from around the world

P2

**MACAU PREPARES FOR ASIAN GAMES**



P7



**PROBE INTO FOUNDER'S BEHAVIOR COMPLETED**  
Wynn Resorts says a committee has finished its probe into the sexual misconduct allegations leveled against Steve Wynn

P9

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**WORLD BRIEFS**



**US** As Hawaii readies for its primary elections, voters are grappling with both an erupting volcano and Hurricane Hector, which threaten to disturb the process. More on p13

**MALAYSIA'S** anti-corruption agency says former Prime Minister Najib Razak will face a new charge of money laundering today over a multibillion-dollar graft scandal at a state investment fund.



**PHILIPPINES** In an expletives-laden encounter on live TV, the president has threatened to kill corrupt police facing administrative and criminal complaints including rape, robbery and involvement in illegal drugs.

**JAPAN** A Tokyo medical school apologized yesterday after an internal investigation confirmed that it altered entrance exam scores for years to limit the number of female students and ensure more men became doctors. More on p13

**AUSTRALIA** A state yesterday reported its first case of a superbug in a hospital patient who likely picked up the drug-resistant fungus in Britain. More on 12

More on backpage

# Appointed lawmakers round on Sulu Sou

P3 AL PLENARY



## For God or party? China's Christians face test of faith

P10-11 FEATURE

## Consulate offers free medical check ups

The Indonesian Consulate in Macau co-held free medical check-ups for Indonesians living in the SAR over the weekend, partnering with different organizations in Indonesia. According to Tri Tharyat, Consul General of Indonesia in Hong Kong and Macau, they now have doctors who are willing to stay longer and extend their services in the city. He said the consulate was expecting over 150 migrant workers to avail from the free consultations offered by at least five doctors from Indonesia. Furthermore, Tharyat also said that the consulate had recently partnered with Healthcare Indonesian Hong Kong, a community organization that assists them with medical missions.

## Newly registered firms mainly in wholesale, retail

A total of 1,720 new companies were incorporated in Macau in the second quarter of the year, mainly in wholesale business and retail, in what represents an increase of 491 year-on-year, the Statistics and Census Service announced this week. Analyzed by industry, there were 556 new companies operating in wholesale and retail and 505 in business services. The total registered capital of new companies in the second quarter reached MOP221 million. Analyzed by size of registered capital, there were 1,331 new companies (77.4 percent of total) with registered capital under MOP50,000, and the total value of capital was MOP34 million. Meanwhile, there were 29 new companies registered with capital of MOP1 million or over, and the total value of capital amounted to MOP138 million. The majority of the capital originated from Macau (47.51 percent) and the Chinese mainland (28.96 percent). Capital from Hong Kong accounted for 14.03 percent of the total.

## Gov't accused of ignoring public opinion

Loi I Weng, a member of the Transport Advisory Council (CCT), has expressed doubts about whether public opinion is taken into account regarding Macau's bus services. Lei criticized the SAR government for what she sees as a lack of transparency in regards to its own bus evaluation mechanism; for a lack of credibility, and for seeming to be "evaluating [bus services] behind closed doors." Lei hopes that the authority can establish a public ranking for public services. She also called on the government not to ignore the CCT's existence and to communicate more with the CCT.

# 14 films to show at World Animation Festival, two Oscar-nominated

**T**HE World Animation Festival, organized by Cinematheque Passion, returns this summer with a selection of animations from around the world. Some 14 films will be screened for the festival, which begins on August 11 and will run until August 26.

Among the films to be screened is *The Breadwinner*, an Oscar-nominated film that tells the tale of an 11-year-old girl who must care for her family after her father's arrest.

Another Oscar-nominated film to be screened at the World Animation Festival is *Anomalisa* by Charlie Kaufman, which won the Grand Jury Prize at the Venice Film Festival. The film explores a central character crippled by the mundane reality of his life, who is reinvigorated after meeting a lively woman who seems distinctly different from other people. *Anomalisa* is the first animated film to win the Grand Jury Prize in Venice.

Meanwhile, *A Town Called Panic* is a comedy feature starring three plastic toys. Based on the Belgian cult TV series,



the surreal adventure begins with an accidental order of 50 million bricks and leads to a trip to the center of the earth and into a parallel underwater universe.

In the Taiwanese animation *On Happiness Road*, audiences are taken through a journey of social change in Taiwan through the perspective of a young girl.

Among the two animations in the China Hit Series is Liu

Jian's *Have a Nice Day*. The film is described by the festival organizer as both "extremely ridiculous and unpredictable, featuring dark humor and a strong animation style [...] rarely seen in Chinese animations."

This year, the director-in-focus is Satoshi Kon. The festival will feature a retrospective of four of his works and delve into the world of his imagination.

*Paprika*, Satoshi Kon's final feature film, shines a light on the blurred line between reality and fiction. In this sci-fi animation, a new revolutionary treatment has been developed to allow therapists to help patients by entering their dreams. When the devices which enable this begin to go missing, a renowned scientist has to delve deep into the dream world to discover who is behind the theft.

A higher education council chaired by the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture will officially be established today, according to a dispatch published in the Government Official Gazette.

Members of the committee will include up to 15 representatives of Macau's higher education institutions and Macau associations, who will collaborate with foreign higher education institutions in organizing higher education courses. The committee will also include up to ten representatives from legally constituted associations in the areas of economy, culture, education, youth, research and higher education and up to five individuals of recognized

## Higher Education Council to be established today



merit, specialists or academics in the area of higher education.

The president of the council, according to its requirements, can invite academics, specialists

and other individuals with knowledge or experience in the matters under discussion to participate in the meetings. However, these participants are not entitled to

vote.

The term of office for the members of the council will be a renewable period of two years.

The council will voice its opinion on the develop-

ment of Macau's higher education and on the formulation of relevant policies, as well as commenting on quality assurance mechanisms for higher education and issuing suggestions.

Besides the abovementioned functions, the council will also submit its opinions on laws related to higher education. The region's higher education laws will proceed to the council for review as well.

The council is entitled to make recommendations and to issue opinions on subjects related to higher education.

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

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

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

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

SECRETARY Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

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

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Sulu Sou



Kou Hoi In (right)

Renato Marques

AL PLENARY

## Nine lawmakers gang up against Sulu Sou

**I**N a Legislative Assembly (AL) session yesterday, nine lawmakers rounded on lawmaker Sulu Sou to criticize him for his position on last week's debate on the creation of the Municipal Affairs Bureau (ICM).

The session was arranged to discuss and approve in detail the bill regarding the "Legal Regime of the rights and interests of elderly citizens" as well as to vote on the proposal of debate in the plenary of the Viva Macau airliner bankruptcy brought by the initiative of lawmakers Jose Pereira Coutinho and Sulu Sou. Instead of the lawmakers using the period to question the government or propose suggestions to address problems affecting the population, they criticized the deliberately provocative position taken by Sou during the July 30 session.

Ma Chi Seng, Kou Hoi In, Ip Sio Kai, Wu Chou Kit, Chan Wa Keong, Iau Teng Pio, Fong Ka Chio, Lao Chi Ngai and Pang Chuan were the nine lawmakers that subscribed to spoken enquiries that turned out to be just expressions of criticism of the behavior of Sou. They argued that the purpose of the interventions was to "restore the historical truth."

Lawmaker Ma was the first to address the topic saying, "we were accused of killing the municipal democracy and this is a twist of the reality," adding, "it is impossible to put the democracy in practice just with slogans that ignore juridical facts."

In a very critical tone, Ma said that the words used by Sou had "threatening content," adding also "to shout, be grumpy and throw things are also behaviors that do not respect the regime of the Assembly."

He said that such behavior "created a bad example for society" and introduced at the AL "a street brawl model." Lawmaker Kou Hoi In complemented the comments

with harsh words classifying the intervention of Sou as a "mockery and an abuse of the rules" accusing Sou of being

**Those who are arrogant, uncompromising, presumptuous, abuse their power.**

KOU HOI IN

"too playful, abusing his powers [as a legislator] just to show off" and of "using this chamber as a theater, forcing the whole hemicycle to collaborate in his ridiculous show."

Kou, addressing the plenary as usual in his name and in

the name of Ip Sio Kai concluded by saying, "he uses democracy to cover up his absolutist ideas."

"The core of democracy is respecting others. Those who are arrogant, uncompromising, presumptuous, abuse their power, do not respect the rules and do not have the qualities to be a democrat cannot talk about democracy," he said. "Calling himself

a member of a democratic party is the biggest insult to democracy."

Meanwhile, lawmakers Lao and Pang, using the same insulting tone, accused Sou of "attempting to introduce the bad parliamentary culture of the neighboring regions or the culture of demonstration into our chamber, [which] pulls into question its solemnity."

"This not only provokes disrespect, but also does not fit the parliamentary essence. This is not about the parliamentary culture of Macau, and in the end, the public will hate it," he said. "This distorted behavior must be censured and can not be allowed to continue to happen in our hemicycle."

## Debate proposal by Coutinho and Sou voted down

**A** proposal to debate the Viva Macau case in the AL plenary was yesterday voted down by the majority of the lawmakers.

Raised on the initiative of lawmakers Jose Pereira Coutinho and Sulu Sou, who intended to clarify why the government not was able to recover the invested money and who is responsible for the failure, the motion received only six votes in favor and 24 against.

Besides the two bidders Coutinho and Sou, Ng Kuok Cheong, Au Kam San, Agnes Lam and Ella Lei, also voted in favor.

In the short debate prior to the vote, several of the lawmakers that voted against remarked that the proposal made no sense

since the issue is already being addressed by a follow-up committee of the AL and is under investigation by the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC).

Several lawmakers also noted that this is not the right time to address the problem as it was almost certain that they could not obtain any more information on the topic, preferring to "give time" to the CCAC to investigate.

Others, like Mak Soi Kun, even showed irritation with the topic, accusing the proposal of being a way to turn a behind-closed-doors discussion into one in the public eye.

After the voting, lawmaker Song Pek Kei, one of the many that voted against,

addressed the plenary as a vote declaration, accusing Coutinho and Sou of "wanting to use the AL as a court" and trying to "interfere with the judiciary authorities."

Instead the plenary approved by full consensus the bill that established the "Legal Regime of the rights and interests of elderly citizens" with a debate in which the lawmakers called on the government to offer more extensive support to senior citizens, namely by raising the subsidies and elderly pensions. On the topic, Secretary Alexis Tam promised to "study" the case and to raise the pension "soon" and "according to the government's economic capabilities."

### ON THE LAWMAKERS' AGENDA

**BUS SERVICE** Ho Ion Sang, addressing the renewal of the public bus companies' concessions, described the government's solution as a "mockery." The lawmaker criticized the inaction from the government to address the problem that has been raised by the Commission Against Corruption since 2011; that it is an "illegal model" of public transportation. Ho urged the government to review the current status of the contract with "Macau Pass" electronic payments that, in his words, suffers from the "illness of the monopolies." On the topic, Ho called on the government to seriously consider other models "in order to promote diversification and consequent competition."

**ROAD SAFETY** Sulu Sou delivered a spoken inquiry in which he addressed the concerns of motorcyclists regarding both road safety and parking solutions. Sou recalled that in 2007 thousands of motorcyclists took part in a slow-drive protest against law enforcement methods by the authorities. "It has been more than 10 years, but the chaotic situation of many vehicles and a few parking spaces has not yet been solved." Sou gave as an example the neighboring region of Hong Kong where the government "has realized in recent years that this 'fines deterrent illusion' is nothing more than a 'hiding the head in the sand policy' that does not focus on real problems."

**LAND PLOTS** Ella Lei and Au Kam San said that the government's reclamation of undeveloped land plots is beneficial for Macau society. In two separate interventions, lawmakers Ella Lei and Au Kam San addressed the problem of the land concessions, recalling that "contrary to what many people claim" the mechanism of not allowing the extension of expired land concessions was already in the previous land law and is not exclusive from the latest amendment. In this sense, the lawmakers consider that the current system of reclaiming undeveloped land plots is superior to a system that concedes "unregulated" concessions without a public tender. Both agree also that "is not urgent" to amend the current land law.

## LRT Seac Pai Van advance works start today

The advance works of the construction of the Light Rapid Transit (LRT) Seac Pai Van section project will be carried out from today for a period of 293 days. Transportation at Estrada do Istmo, close to the kart race track side, will be limited, with some lanes temporarily closed for approximately 160 days. The advance works project has been outsourced to China Road and Bridge Corporation. The works include interchanging foundation works, and the building of main structures, temporary roads, and the site office itself.

## 9th food and cultural festival to kick off on Sept 28

The 9th International Cultural and Food Festival will kick off on September 28th at the Macau Fisherman's Wharf. The ten-day food event, which will be organized by seven local organizations, will end on October 7. The organizers expect to host between 20,000 and 25,000 visitors daily, with an estimated budget of over six million patacas. More than 100 stalls will be available at the festival, featuring food, retail and exhibition items, and tourist attractions. The organizers are calling for the participation of local food retailers.

# Low demands information from US on super yacht's fate

**MALAYSIA** has issued a warrant to formally seize a USD250-million super yacht at the center of a tug-of-war between Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad and financier Jho Low.

The Attorney-General's Chambers issued the arrest warrant on Aug. 6, thereby the vessel is "properly seized under the laws of Malaysia," the nation's top prosecutor Tommy Thomas said in a statement. The yacht arrived at a port in the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur yesterday, after it traveled from Indonesia where it was seized in February as part of the U.S. Justice Department's probe into 1MDB.

As Mahathir called for the yacht's owner to prove that it wasn't bought using money from the Malaysian state fund, lawyers representing Low Taek Jho filed a notice to a California district court on Monday to direct the U.S. government to reveal its knowledge of the transfer of the yacht to Malaysia. Thomas said the seizure was the result of mutual legal



Jho Low has reportedly left Macau as of early July

assistance treaties between Indonesia, Malaysia and the U.S., which were activated recently, as well as high-level talks at agencies in the three countries.

In the Monday filing, Low's legal team opposed the U.S. government's request to suspend proceedings while it finds out Malaysia's intentions for the ship. His lawyers also asked the U.S. to state any efforts it has

made to secure the vessel and get clarification from Malaysia in a status report by Aug. 17.

Thom Mrozek, a spokesman for the U.S. attorney's office in Los Angeles, said the U.S. was not party to the agreement between Indonesia and Malaysia.

The yacht, which was seized by Indonesian police in February, is among the \$1.7 billion of assets that U.S. investigators said

were illegally bought using money diverted from state fund 1Malaysia Development Bhd. Mahathir thanked Indonesian President Joko Widodo for his cooperation in transferring the vessel and "resolving the problem faced by Malaysia," he said in a Monday statement.

Mahathir is seeking to reclaim \$4.5 billion of funds potentially lost through the troubled state fund, including by trying to recover fees from Goldman Sachs Group Inc. and taking legal action to recoup compensation paid to the fund's ex-president. Malaysia is considering selling the yacht and returning the funds to the public, Finance Minister Lim Guan Eng said on Monday, adding that the attorney-general will first ensure proper proceedings.

Malaysia has issued an arrest warrant for Low, who remains at large. The police received information from their Macau counterparts that he had left the territory for an unknown location as of early July, with no further insight on his whereabouts. **Bloomberg**

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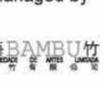
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RENATO MARQUES



## Municipal Affairs Bureau ready by 2019

**T**HE Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan, said on Monday that the government had almost completed drafting the set of legislative bills associated with the establishment of the new Municipal Affairs Bureau. Speaking to reporters after a meeting of one of the Legislative Assembly's (AL) standing committees, Chan said she expected all procedures to be completed before the scheduled establishment of the entity which will replace the Institute for Civic and Municipal Affairs, on January 1, 2019. The draft bills cover topics such as updating the functions of other public departments following the establishment of the new bureau. For instance, several matters related to firear-

ms, ammunition, fireworks and firecrackers, which are currently overseen by the IACM, will be transferred to the police.

Chan stated that the government will announce the selection criteria for members of the bureau's 25-strong consultative body in due course. The selection process will include a self-recommendation scheme for people interested in joining.

Chan said the government welcomed members of the public to sit on the consultative body, provided they were dedicated to serving the community and able to fulfill the relevant legal requirements. Chan also pledged to explain to the public the reasoning behind the selection of each of the consultative body's 25 members.

# Monetary Authority remind public to be vigilant against cryptos

**T**HE Monetary Authority of Macau (AMCM) has reiterated that virtual currencies are not legal tender in Macau, nor can they be treated as financial instruments. Accordingly, the entity reminds the public to "remain vigilant [as] virtual currencies might involve fraud, or might even be used for illegal activities."

An alleged cryptocurrency scam has affected more than 70 local residents and resulted in the potential loss of more than HKD13 million, after Hong Kong and Macau partners allegedly recruited investors during a series of business seminars in late 2017.

The Macau residents invested a combined HKD20.1 million in the cryptocurrency business, but have only managed to recover HKD6.3 million to date.

The AMCM has explicitly required all banks and payment service institutions in Macau not to participate in or provide, whether directly or indirectly, any financial services that involve the use of virtual currencies

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or virtual commodities as the means of payment. It has restated that the provision of regulated activities, for example foreign exchange transactions, cross-border fund transfers, or trading platforms for financial activities, without proper authorization constitutes a violation of the Financial System Act.

Though cryptocurrency businesses are legal in the private sector,

on previous occasions, the Monetary Authority of Macau has said that it does not "approve" of them in general and wants to "curb their occurrence."

The AMCM has established a closely collaborative mechanism with the Judiciary Police to combat illegal financial activities and called attention to the potential risks involved.

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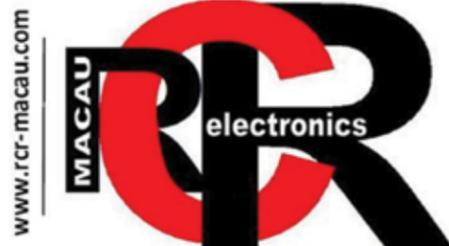
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## Realtors called to obtain licenses before new law's implementation

**T**HE Housing Bureau (IH) is calling the city's property management companies that have not applied for a license to submit their applications to the bureau before Macau's new property management law comes into effect.

Yesterday, IH issued a statement noting that if owners of property management companies which are engaged in tiered building management business do not hold a valid license, then, as of August 22 (when the law comes into effect), owners will be subject to a fine of between MOP50,000 and MOP500,000.

According to the bureau statement, since February 6, IH has been accepting applications for commercial business licenses and temporary licenses with respect to tiered building management. As of August 3, the bureau has received 205 applications.

The applications include 152 temporary license applications.

Some 153 applications have been approved, with the relevant licenses already issued, including 113 temporary licenses and 40 licenses. Two applications for temporary licenses were not approved.

Property management companies are required to convene the first meeting of the tiered building owners in accordance with the law.

On August 12, IH will organize a workshop at its office in the islands and will invite local legal experts and other representatives to explain the laws to property management companies.

**A**T the government headquarters, the Chief Executive met with the delegation which will represent Macau in the 18th Asian Games, before the delegation departs to Jakarta.

The 18th Asian Games will be held in the Indonesian capital between August 18 and September 2.

Football will be the opening sport of the 2018 Asian Games on August 10, ahead of the opening ceremony on August 18.

The MSAR delegation, comprising 110 athletes and 56 officials, medical staff, team leaders, coaches, will take part in 16 competitions: swimming, diving, synchronized swimming, athletics, badminton, bowling, boxing, canoeing, cycling, fencing, judo, karate, squash, table tennis, taekwondo, triathlon, and wushu.

The athletes will leave for Jakarta on August 15 and return to Macau on September 3.

The director of the Sports Bureau (ID), Pun Weng Kun, on the sidelines of the farewell ceremony, said, the "ID gives great support to every single squad."

When talking about his and the ID's expectations for the

# Delegation prepares departure for Asian Games in Jakarta



competition, Pun declared, "I believe that all athletes who are capable enough to have made it to the Asian Games are the elites of Macau. I have confidence in them, and I believe that the athletes will do their utmost in every competition."

The ID director hopes that Macau residents can also transmit their confidence and support to

the athletes in all different sports.

Although the delegation is almost reaching the deadline for departure, a few immigration issues are still unresolved. The director confirmed rumors that some of the athletes are encountering visa problems due to the passports they are using to enter Indonesia.

"Every single athlete has their own documents to allow them to visit different countries," Pun explained, adding that the ID "recently [noticed] that the Indonesia Asian Games 2018 Organizing Committee and the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) have the [same] regulation" in regard to athletes' passports.

However, the local sports authority is still currently discussing this issue with relevant organizations.

"We are making our last hurrah to discuss with the organizing committee and OCA about all kinds of special situations," said Pun. "[In the past] we [the athletes] have tried to use different passports to participate in this competition. [...] The situation is optimistic, but we still have to wait for OCA's final decision." **JZ**

## Number of credit cards continues to rise

**T**HE total number of personal credit cards issued by banks in Macau continued to rise in the second quarter of 2018, according to the latest statistics from the Monetary Authority of Macau. Both the credit card turnover and total repayments witnessed double-digit growth from a year ago.

On the back of the increasing dual-currency and triple-currency cards, the total number of personal credit cards issued by banks in Macau stood

at 1.24 million at end-June 2018, equivalent to an increase of 2.2 percent over a quarter earlier or 10.4 percent over a year earlier.

The number of MOP-denominated cards, HKD cards and RMB cards grew year-on-year by 10.2 percent (to 878,600), 3.8 percent (to 90,200) and 13.3 percent (to 274,500) respectively.

At the end of June 2018, credit card credit limit granted by banks in Macau reached MOP30.2

billion, up 2.5 percent from end-March 2018 or 13 percent from end-June 2017. Credit card receivables amounted to MOP2.5 billion, of which the rollover amount totaled MOP774.7 million, representing 30.4 percent of credit card receivables.

The delinquency ratio, i.e. the ratio of delinquent amount overdue for more than three months to credit card receivables, fell from 1.59 percent at end-March 2018 to 1.49 percent at end-June 2018.



For the second quarter of 2018, the credit card turnover totaled MOP5.5 billion, equivalent to a rise of 1.1 percent quarter-to-quarter or 12.1 percent year-on-year.

The cash advance turnover was MOP220.2 million, occupying 4 per-

cent of total credit card turnover. Credit card repayments, in which payments for interest and fees are included, dropped 5.4 percent from the previous quarter but rose 14.6 percent from the same period last year to MOP5.4 billion.

### corporate bits

#### LVS LAUNCHES NEW PROGRAM TO BOOST PERFORMANCE IN SOCIAL ISSUES



Las Vegas Sands (LVS) has announced Project Protect, a comprehensive global initiative to accelera-

te its performance in responsible gaming, and the prevention of money laundering and human trafficking.

According to a statement, the project coalesces its efforts around policy and procedural enhancements in each of the core areas and introduces team member training to build solutions that meet and exceed government regulations and standard industry performance.

On the heels of World Day Against Trafficking in Persons on July 30, Project Protect kicked off with team member education activities timed around Responsible Gaming Education Week until Friday in the United States.

"Our goal is zero tolerance for negative or harmful activity in our properties to safeguard our guests, our team members and the communities where we operate," said Lon Jacobs, executive vice president and global general counsel.

In partnership with Sands Academy, Project Protect trainings will span the company's current responsible gaming education programs, and add a new curriculum to educate team members on global and regional money laundering and human trafficking threats, amongst others.

#### TDM WORLD CUP BROADCASTS REACH 300,000 PEOPLE IN MACAU



About 300,000 people, which is over 73 percent of Macau's population, watched the 2018 FIFA World Cup on TDM's multimedia platforms.

According to a statement issued by the state broadcaster, almost

180,000 people watched the final live match of France vs Croatia, whilst the average audience figure for the two semi-final and second runner-up matches was around 120,000.

According to the pre-

viously announced figure, over 500,000 views were recorded for the 64 matches broadcasted via TDM website and TDM App.

TDM was the city's sole official broadcaster of the championship.



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Bhuma Shrivastava

**I**NDIA plans to roll out state-of-the-art 5G telecom services in the next four years, a senior official said, as the nation rushes to catch up with its Asian peers.

"We are not there yet," Telecom Secretary Aruna Sundararajan said in an interview in New Delhi, adding that complete roll-out of 5G will be done by 2022. "5G won't be driven by supply, it'll be driven by demand and the rest of industry needs to wake up to this."

The South Asian nation, traditionally a laggard while embracing latest technology in telecommunications, will follow South Korea, Japan and China where 5G service will be offered within the next two years. The high-speed and low latency service will help Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Digital India plan, which seeks to broaden Internet access, and the Smart Cities initiative.

"If we want smart cities, clearly we need smart infrastructure for it," Sundararajan said, adding some early stage projects may start rolling out as early as 2020.

The new technology has advantages of massive connectivity, low power consumption and boasts of download speeds and capacity that can enable autonomous vehicles, drones, remotely assisted surgeries and traffic control.

A slight delay, however, might actually be beneficial for India, according to Sanford C. Bernstein's Hong Kong-based analyst Christopher Lane, who expect-

# 5G coming to India by 2022 after pit stops in Korea, China

ts South Korea to launch these services by March 2019, Japan in late 2019 and China, along with most western major cities, in 2020.

"India needs China to launch to drive economies of scale and lower cost 5G handsets. I think 2022 or later is appropriate for India," Lane said in an email.

**If we want smart cities, clearly we need smart infrastructure for it.**

SUNDARARAJAN

South Korea, which recently tested its 5G technology during the Winter Olympics in February with self-driving cars, virtual reality games and a motion-detection system to ward off menacing wild boars, is planning an airwaves auction to commercially deploy 5G wireless services.

Japanese firms are gearing up, as are the U.S. carriers. Italy is targeting a September auction of spectrum that could be used



for 5G while the U.K. sold bandwidth in April that included some earmarked for these services. The Hong Kong government is even considering giving airwaves away for free.

India's telecom regulator too last week proposed floor prices for auctioning spectrum dedicated for 5G roll out although the auction dates are yet to be announced.

As part of the roll-out, India is aiming to increase its fiber backbone to 2.5 million kilome-

ters (1.6 million miles) by 2022 from 1.5 million kilometers right now.

A denser fiber network will aid operators gear up for speedier content-heavy 5G services and move away from discounted battle for market share under way after upstart Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd. debuted with 4G services and offered free voice calls in 2016.

"A robust optic fiber network is also very important, both for front haul and the back haul,"

said Anthea Lai, a Bloomberg Intelligence analyst in Hong Kong. "The more fiber the better it is for 5G services."

So far, telecom infrastructure has got second place to physical infrastructure as Asian nation struggled to beef up its roads, ports and airports.

"Digital infrastructure is invisible infrastructure. Just because it's invisible, people are not willing to spend on it and promote it," said Sundararajan. "And that needs to change." **Bloomberg**

## Wynn Resorts' probe into founder's behavior done

**C**ASINO operator Wynn Resorts says an internal committee has finished its investigation into the sexual misconduct allegations leveled against company founder Steve Wynn.

In a securities filing Monday, the company said the board of directors received the final presentation from the committee Friday but will not release any results publicly until gambling regulators finish their investigations.

The company says the internal committee will share its findings with gambling regulators.

Gambling regulators in Nevada and Massachusetts began investigating the allegations after the Wall Street



Steve Wynn

Journal first reported them in January.

Committee chairwoman Pat Mulroy in May told investors the committee had interviewed more than 100

people and reviewed 3 million documents.

Wynn resigned as chairman and CEO of the company in February. He has denied the allegations. **AP**

## Paulson attracts Chinese suitor for Steinway

**S**TEINWAY Musical Instruments Inc., the legendary piano maker controlled by U.S. hedge fund billionaire John Paulson, has attracted takeover interest from China Poly Group Corp., people familiar with the matter said.

The state-owned conglomerate is in the early stages of considering an offer for Steinway, the people said. Other suitors may also emerge for the business, according to the people, who asked not to be identified because the deliberations are private.

Steinway should be able to fetch a high valuation given that the company may reach 30 percent to 40 percent annual sales growth in China, according to Shaun Rein, founder and managing director of the China Market Research Group. A Chinese company like Poly Group could help improve Steinway's distribution ne-

twork in the country, which has been weak so far, he said.

"Steinway has massive potential in China as consumers love the brand," Rein said by phone yesterday. "As Chinese middle-class families get wealthier, they'll be willing to spend on a luxury piano for their kids as they see music as a key part of their education. And nobody beats Steinway on that."

Poly Group started in 1992 as a supplier of defense equipment for the Chinese military. The conglomerate now has operations spanning explosives manufacturing, real estate, mining, cinemas and the arts. Hong Kong-listed unit Poly Culture Group Corp. owns China's biggest home-grown auction house, in addition to running a chain of theaters that have hosted musicals like "Cats" and performances by the likes of the London Sym-

phony Orchestra.

Paulson's New York-based investment firm Paulson & Co. agreed to acquire Steinway in 2013 for about USD512 million, beating rival bidders including South Korea's Samick Musical Instruments Co. The piano maker that gave the company its name was founded in 1853 by German immigrant Henry Engelhard Steinway in a Manhattan loft on Varick Street, and over the following decades became a brand recognized worldwide. In March, it opened a new Asia-Pacific headquarters in Shanghai.

Paulson has a net worth of \$5.5 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. An official at Poly Group and a representative for Paulson & Co. declined to comment. A representative for Steinway didn't immediately reply to queries outside regular U.S. business hours. **Bloomberg**

Yanan Wang, Nanyang

'WE MUST PAY SO DEARLY'

# Xi's dream becomes nightmare fo

**T**HE 62-year-old Chinese shopkeeper had waited nearly his entire adult life to see his dream of building a church come true — a brick house with a sunny courtyard and spacious hall with room for 200 believers.

But in March, about a dozen police officers and local officials suddenly showed up at the church on his property and made the frightened congregants disperse. They ordered that the cross, a painting of the Last Supper and Bible verse calligraphy be taken down. And they demanded that all services stop until each person, along with the church itself, was registered with the government, said the shopkeeper, Guo.

Without warning, Guo and his neighbors in China's Christian heartland province of Henan had found themselves on the front lines of an ambitious new effort by the officially atheist ruling Communist Party to dictate — and in some cases displace — the practice of faith in the country.

"I've always prayed for our country's leaders, for our country to get stronger," said Guo, who gave only his last name out of fear of government retribution. "They were never this severe before, not since I started going to church in the 80's. Why are they telling us to stop now?"

Under President Xi Jinping, China's most powerful leader since Mao Zedong, believers are seeing their freedoms shrink dramatically even as the country undergoes a religious revival. Experts and activists say that as he consolidates his power, Xi is waging the most severe systematic suppression of Christianity in the country since religious freedom was written into the Chinese constitution in 1982.

The crackdown on Christianity is part of a broader push by Xi to "Sinicize" all the nation's religions by infusing them with "Chinese characteristics" such as loyalty to the Communist Party. Islamic crescents and domes have been stripped from mosques, and a campaign launched to "re-educate" tens of thousands of Uighur Muslims. Tibetan children have been moved from Buddhist temples to schools and banned from religious activities during their summer holidays, state-run media report.

This spring, a five-year plan to "Sinicize" Christianity in particular was introduced, along with new rules on religious affairs. Over the last several months, local governments across the country have shut down hundreds of private Christian "house churches." A statement last week from 47 in Beijing alone said they had faced "unprecedented" harassment since February.

Authorities have also seized Bibles, while major e-commerce retailers JD.com and Taobao pulled them off their sites. Children and party members are banned from churches in some areas, and

at least one township has encouraged Christians to replace posters of Jesus with portraits of Xi. Some Christians have resorted to holding services in secret.

A dozen Chinese Protestants interviewed by the Associated Press described gatherings that were raided, interrogations and surveillance, and one pastor said hundreds of his congregants were questioned individually about their faith. Like Guo, the majority requested that their names be partly or fully withheld because they feared punishment from authorities. After reporters visited Henan in June, some interviewees said they were contacted by police or local officials who urged them not to discuss any new measures around Christianity.

## Xi is waging the most severe systematic suppression of Christianity in China since religious freedom was written into the constitution in 1982

The party has long been wary of Christianity because of its affiliation with Western political values. Several Chinese human rights lawyers jailed for their work, including Jiang Tianyong and Li Heping, are outspoken Christians. So too are many Hong Kong pro-democracy activists, not least among them 2014 protest leader Joshua Wong.

"Chinese leaders have always been suspicious of the political challenge or threat that Christianity poses to the Communist regime," said Xi Lian, a scholar of Christianity in China at Duke University. "Under Xi, this fear of Western infiltration has intensified and gained a prominence that we haven't seen for a long time."

### A SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Guo, who keeps a small storefront selling ornate doors in a riverside district, once had eyesight so poor that he could not distinguish the sky from the earth. But after finding God at 27 years old, he made a seemingly miraculous recovery that he attributes to his faith.

For decades, he, like many Christians in China, shuttled from one unregistered house church to another, where folding chairs served as pews and coffee

tables as lecterns. Two years ago, he and 10 other Christians pooled their money to erect a permanent church on his property.

They are part of what experts describe as a spiritual awakening in China.

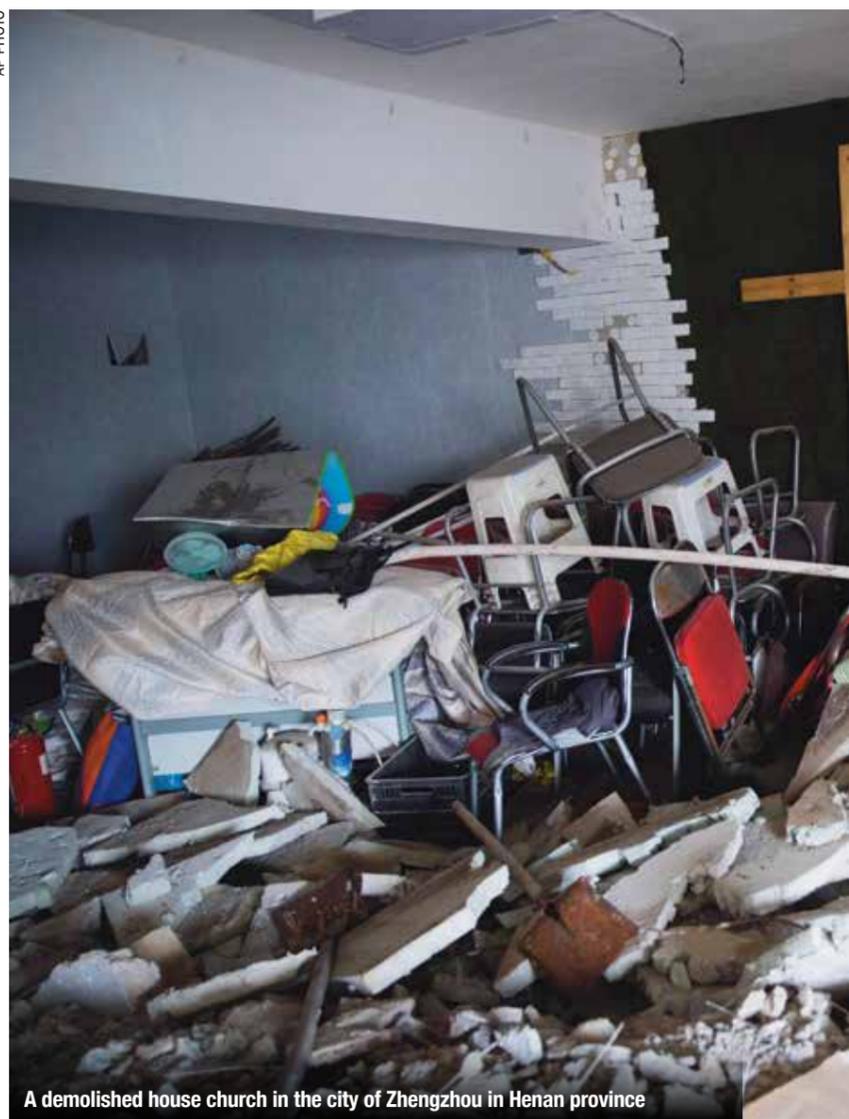
The number of Chinese believers of all faiths has doubled in two decades to an estimated 200 million, by official count, as the hold of the Communist party has weakened. Among them are an estimated 67 million Christians, including Catholics — a number that is expected to swell to become the world's largest Christian population in a matter of decades. This rapid growth has reinvigorated the party's longtime mission to domesticate a religion traditionally aligned with the West.

Historians believe that Christianity was known to China as early as the seventh century, and was later propagated by Jesuit missionaries starting in the 1500s. In recent decades the religion has faced by turns heavy persecution and tacit acceptance.

During the Cultural Revolution, when Mao sought to eradicate all religions, Christians were jailed, tortured and publicly humiliated. But they survived by operating covertly and grew steadily in number after Mao's death in 1976, when a populace disillusioned with the Communist Party began to seek moral guidance elsewhere.

Chinese Christians say the Bible gives them a sense of right versus wrong and the strength to endure in a country where power often trumps justice. While China's rapid growth has brought prosperity to many, others despair at what they see as a deterioration of public morals. The deaths of children in scandals involving tainted infant formula and shoddy-built schools in recent years have led to the sense that modern China was in the midst of an ethical crisis.

"After the 'collapse' of communist ideology, no value system has been in place to fill the spiri-



A demolished house church in the city of Zhengzhou in Henan province

tual vacuum," said writer Zhang Lijia. "China has witnessed a religious revival in recent decades precisely because of this vacuum and relaxed control."

Officials once largely tolerated the unregistered Protestant house churches that sprang up independent of the official Christian Council, clamping down on some while allowing others to grow. But this year they have taken a tougher approach that relies partly on "thought reform" — a phrase for political indoctrination. Last November, Christian residents of a rural township in southeast Jiangxi province were persuaded to replace posters of

the cross and Jesus Christ inside their homes with portraits of Xi, a local official said.

"Through our thought reform, they've voluntarily done it," Qi Yan, a member of the township party committee, told the AP by phone. "The move is aimed at Christian families in poverty, and we educated them to believe in science and not in superstition, making them believe in the party."

The poster campaign appears to symbolize what analysts see as the underlying force driving the change in the party's approach to religion: the ascendance of Xi.

"Xi is a closet Maoist — he is



A child stands near a slogan that reads "Communist party members cannot take part in religious activities" near a church in the city of Pingdingshan



Xu Shijuan, a 63-year-old Seventh-Day Adventist

# r Christians: churches raided, silenced



very anxious about thought control," said Willy Lam, a Chinese politics expert at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. "He definitely does not want people to be faithful members of the church, because then people would profess their allegiance to the church rather than to the party, or more exactly, to Xi himself."

Various state and local officials declined repeated requests to comment. But in 2016, Xi explicitly warned against the perceived foreign threats tied to faith, telling a religion conference: "We must resolutely guard against overseas infiltrations via religious means." And in April,

the religious affairs department published an article saying that churches must endorse the party's leadership as part of "Sinicization."

"Only Sinicized churches can obtain God's love," the article stated.

The government is even cracking down on Christians more aggressively through legal means. In March, a prominent Chinese house church leader with US permanent residency was sentenced to seven years in prison after he built Christian schools in Myanmar. And half a dozen Christians were sentenced last month to up to 13 years in jail

for involvement in a "cult," according to U.S.-based Christian non-profit ChinaAid.

The pressure has pushed several dozen pastors and their families to flee to the United States in recent years, ChinaAid says. The wife of one pastor under house arrest left for Midland, Texas about a year ago, after authorities warned that their children might have trouble getting an education in China. She said members of their church in China were barred from being baptized, and even a simple Christmas service was interrupted.

"The government says that we have religious freedom, but really there is no freedom at all," said the pastor's wife, who asked to remain anonymous for her husband's safety. "Many of our Christian brothers and sisters are upset and fearful."

Those who resist pay the price.

After Jin Mingri, a prominent pastor who leads Zion Church in Beijing, refused local authorities' request to install surveillance cameras inside his house church, police individually questioned hundreds of members of the 1,500-person congregation, he said. The congregants faced veiled threats, Jin said, and many were asked to sign a pledge promising to leave Zion, which the government agents called illegal, politically incorrect and a cult. Some people lost their jobs or were evicted from rented apartments because police intimidated their bosses and landlords.

For 11 years, the church has been housed on one floor of an office building, but the property management informed Jin in May that they would have to move out at the end of the summer. Jin said the management admitted to being influenced by external "pressures."

"A lot of our flock are terrified by the pressure that the government is putting on them," he said. "It's painful to think that in our own country's capital, we must pay so dearly just to practice our faith."

## CRACKDOWN IN HENAN

At the epicenter of the drive to control the Christian community in China is Henan, the cradle of Chinese civilization and the entry point for many of the earliest foreign missionaries. Today, the province is one of the most populous in the country and a key part of Xi's fight against poverty, as proclaimed by red banners across acres of peanut farms and oil fields.

Around the time authorities ordered Guo's church to stop congregating in March, his district announced a crackdown on private Christian meeting spots. On a single Sunday morning, the announcement said, 700 religious banners were removed, 200 religious texts seized and 31 illegal Christian gathering places shut down. Officials went door-to-door stripping decorative scrolls bearing the cross from home entrances.

**God's path cannot be blocked. The more you try to control it, the more it will grow.**

XU SHIJUAN  
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

In Zhengzhou, Henan's capital, all that is left of one house church is shattered glass, tangled wires and torn hymnbooks, strewn among the rubble of a knocked-down wall. Pegged to another wall is a single wooden cross, still intact.

The church inside a commercial building had served about 100 believers for years. But in late January, nearly 60 officials from the local religion department and police station appeared without warning. Armed with electric saws, they demolished the church, confiscated Bibles and computers and held a handful of young worshippers — including a 14-year-old girl — at a police station for more than 10 hours, according to a church leader.

The authorities called the church illegal. The church leader said they had brought documentation to the religion department three or four times in an attempt to formally register it, but never received a response. Now, they have ceased to congregate.

The church leader prays that the government will change its mind.

"We support President Xi," he said. "All we ask for is a space for our faith."

That space for Xu Shijuan, a 63-year-old Seventh-Day Adven-

tist, was her living room, where she held house church gatherings for four years. She stopped in March, after a group of men led by a local official ordered her to disband the meeting of about two dozen elderly Christians.

"If you don't heed our orders, the next group to come will be law enforcement," he said, according to Xu. "They will use force to disband you."

Xu readily complied. "The people have dispersed, but our faith has not," she told the AP at her home in Zhengzhou. "God's path cannot be blocked. The more you try to control it, the more it will grow."

Even Protestant churches already registered with the state have not been spared greater restrictions. When reporters visited five such churches in Henan this June, all bore notices at their entrances stating that minors and party members were not allowed inside. A banner above one church door exhorted members to "implement the basic direction of the party's religious work." Another church erected a Chinese flag at the foot of its steps.

Some congregations now sing the national anthem during services, according to a house church pastor named Liu. Another pastor said his government-approved church shut down its Sunday school and cancelled all activities for children after receiving orders in February.

Across Henan, house churches that once hosted gatherings of hundreds have now sealed their doors and split into groups of no more than a handful. Services are announced last-minute and held in different locations each week, often under the cloak of darkness.

For a time, Guo's church did the same. They avoided congregating on Sundays to escape authorities' notice.

But the church members were scared, and the group dwindled to 30. Authorities appealed to Guo to help gather information on his fellow Christians. He was given a form, reviewed by the AP, which asked for churchgoers' names, educational background and addresses, as well as the length of time they had been faithful and whether they were baptized.

The brick house was largely deserted this summer. Around the door frame, tattered red outlines remained of a scroll that once read "God's love is as deep as the sea."

Inside, Guo has refused to remove the cross and other decorations, telling authorities they are within his private property.

Among them, pinned to a wall in the nave, is a bright blue poster that quotes China's constitutional promise of religious freedom. **AP**



Pastor Jin Mingri leads a class on the basics of Christian beliefs at the Zion Church in Beijing

## INDONESIA

# Man saved from quake-flattened mosque on island

Andi Jatmiko & Niniek Karmini,  
Lading-Lading

**SOLDIERS** have pulled a man alive from the rubble of a large mosque flattened by an earthquake on the Indonesian island of Lombok, while thousands of homeless locals waited for aid yesterday and stranded tourists camped at beaches and in the lobbies of damaged hotels.

The north of Lombok has been devastated by the magnitude 7.0 quake that struck Sunday night, killing at least 105 people, seriously injuring more than 230 and destroying thousands of buildings. Two days after the quake, rescuers were still struggling to reach all the affected areas and authorities expected the death toll to rise.

Disaster officials have not said how many people they believe are buried beneath the ruins of the Jabal Nur mosque in Lading-Lading but the village head, Budhiawan, said about 30 based on unclaimed belongings left outside the mosque.

Muhamad Juanda, who narrowly escaped, said 100 people were inside praying when the earth began to roll. Many got out but dozens were trapped, he said.

"When the earthquake happened, I stopped praying with dozens of other people. I stayed during the first shock, but the shock grew stronger and we rolled around trying to run out," he said.

Video shot sometime Monday by a soldier showed rescuers shouting "Thank God" as a man was pulled from a space under the mosque's flattened roof and staggered away from the ruins supported by soldiers.

"You're safe, mister," said one of the soldiers as emotion overcame the man, clad in Islamic robes, and villagers crowded



In this image made from video released by the Indonesian military, a man is carried by soldiers after they rescued him from a collapsed mosque

around him.

Disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said he hopes "a lot" of people can be saved from the mosque. Two people were rescued from the debris Monday including a woman with a broken leg, said villager Supri Yono, and three were found dead. An AP reporter saw one body recovered Tuesday.

"We're forced to deal with broken bones in the traditio-

nal way at home because the hospital had to deal with hundreds of other injuries," said Budhiawan, the village head.

Rescuers were using heavy duty cutting equipment on Tuesday to prize apart the tangled mound of debris.

Aid organizations, already on Lombok after it was hit a week earlier by a 6.4 quake that killed 16 people, said they were stepping up their humanitarian efforts.

Oxfam said more than 20,000 people were in temporary shelters and thousands more were camping out in the open. It said clean drinking water was scarce because of a recent spell of extremely dry weather in Lombok. Food, medical supplies, tarpaulins and clothes are also urgently needed, it said.

The lush countryside of northern Lombok is pockmarked with collapsed homes and shops and damaged mosques. Thousands of people sat on roadsides outside their houses under blue makeshift tents and tarps, too afraid to stay inside because of aftershocks or their homes now uninhabitable.

## Lombok has been devastated by the magnitude 7 quake that struck Sunday night, killing at least 105 people

In the northern town of Tanjung, rescue workers in orange uniforms spent a second day trying to recover a body from the rubble of a destroyed home as a foul stench rose above it.

The brother-in-law of the dead man complained that authorities have not brought in heavy equipment that it is desperately needed.

"I want him to be pulled out of there immediately. But they're working too slow," said Masin, the brother-in-law, as ambulances passed by, sirens wailing.

Behind him, the rescuers, a dozen of them, were drilling

into a flattened concrete wall. They had already used saws to cut a square out of the slab but could not find the body.

"The body is pinned underneath. We brought in sniffer dog and used saws and a drill but we can't figure out where he is," said Aprintinus Titus, a rescue worker from the National Search and Rescue Agency.

"We will not give up until we pull him out of this rubble. We know how hard his family is suffering," said Titus.

Hundreds of tourists and workers were still struggling to get off three outlying resort islands where power was cut off and hotels and hostels were damaged. Nugroho said more than 4,600 foreign and Indonesian tourists had been evacuated from the islands, with ships taking people to ports in Lombok and Benoa, Bali.

British tourist Saffron Amis, who was stranded on Gili Trawangan island, said she spent a second night outdoors as aftershocks rattled the region before finally securing space on a boat.

"We slept in a bungalow until another quake hit us at midnight and then we moved to the beach," she said.

At Lombok's airport, dozens of tourists slept on the floor as they waited for flights off the island. Many hotels closed because of damage but some allowed travelers to camp in their lobbies.

"That was my first experience with the earthquake and it was really terrible," said Lize Reert, a Belgian woman among the several thousand who fled Gili Trawangan. "It was a nightmare in my life."

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

Indonesia is prone to earthquakes because of its location on the "Ring of Fire," an arc of volcanoes and fault lines in the Pacific Basin. In December 2004, a massive magnitude 9.1 earthquake off Sumatra triggered a tsunami that killed 230,000 people in a dozen countries. **AP**

## AUSTRALIA

# Victoria state reports its first case of superbug fungus

**A**N Australian state yesterday reported its first case of a superbug in a hospital patient who likely picked up the drug-resistant fungus in Britain.

Victoria Deputy Chief Health Officer Brett Sutton said health officials were taking a "search and destroy" approach to

ensure the *Candida auris* fungus did not spread.

"The man was isolated as soon as the diagnosis was made and intense cleaning and disinfection has occurred," Sutton said in a statement.

First identified in Japan in 2009, the fungus has spread to more than a dozen countries including

the United States where it is becoming a menace in hospitals, mostly in New York and New Jersey.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said a single case of the fungus had previously been reported from Australia. The CDC website does not say where or when. Victoria

health officials did not immediately respond to a question for information about the previous Australian case.

The patient, aged in his 70s, was being treated in a hospital in Melbourne, the second most populous Australian city, for a pre-existing medical condition when the diagnosis

was made, Sutton said.

"The patient has not been infected by the condition, but has been colonized," Sutton said, explaining that the patient was a carrier without symptoms.

The patient had likely acquired the organism in a British hospital, Sutton said. No details were gi-

ven on when the man was in Britain.

Most vulnerable are fragile hospital patients, particularly newborns and the elderly. The fungus tends to be diagnosed in patients after they've been in hospitals for several weeks. The fungus can infect wounds, ears and the bloodstream. **AP**

Audrey McAvoy & Jennifer Sinco  
Kelleher, Honolulu

## HAWAII

# Island grapples with lava, hurricane as election nears

**A**S Hawaii readies for its primary elections, voters are grappling with an erupting volcano and Hurricane Hector.

Elections are challenging times for candidates even in the best of circumstances. But Big Island politicians frequently have extra adversity, given they live on top of one of the world's most active volcanoes and in the general vicinity of hurricanes that barrel through the central Pacific Ocean many summers.

The island has a history of nature-related election disruptions: In 2014, Tropical Storm Iselle forced the same two precincts hit hardest by Kilauea volcano to close the day of the primary. The state Office of Elections organized a makeup election day for the two precincts six days later.

This year, the disruption is possibly broader, as lava from Kilauea volcano has destroyed more than 700 homes since May and upended the local economy.

Many voters have left the island after losing their homes and jobs. Or they're struggling to keep their businesses afloat because tourism has dropped dramatically.

"People are still scrambling. They're still in a bit of shock," said Eileen O'Hara, a county councilwoman who is running for reelection. "Their attention is not focused on the election."

O'Hara's council district includes Leilani Estates, the neighborhood where lava burst through cracks in people's backyards on May 3, and Kapoho, a beach town smothered by lava.

The precinct usually pulls in 1,200 to 1,400 votes, O'Hara said. But she worries only about 1,000 people may manage to vote this time.

Mary Dressler, a naturopathic doctor in Pahoa, said it was bad

AP PHOTO



Lava from the last active eruption site on Hawaii's Kilauea volcano is shown near Pahoa

timing for an election. Many people were feeling lost, she said. Dressler herself has experienced a dramatic drop in business, which has been stressful.

"I know for myself, that has been the least of my worries," she said of voting.

Several candidates said they would normally have started campaigning in May. But that's when Kilauea began erupting lava in Leilani Estates, forcing thousands of people to flee.

Ric Wirick, who is running for county council, said he and another candidate spent the first month after the eruption volunteering at an evacuation shelter in Pahoa town.

When Wirick was ready to start campaigning, the state Office of Elections decided it would have all voters in two precincts vote exclusively by mail because authorities were worried people wouldn't be able to get to the polls on election day. It mailed 6,000 ballots to voters there on June 25. After an uproar, and a complaint from the ACLU of Hawaii, the office set up an in-person polling place in Pahoa for both early voting and election day.

Wirick believes many people voted as soon as they received their ballots.

"I don't believe the voters had a fair chance to get to know the

candidates," he said. He suspects many people just voted for names they recognized. He said he's complained to the Federal Elections Commission.

Pat Nakamoto, Hawaii County's election program administrator, said her office mailed 3,481 ballots to voters in the 3rd precinct in Pahoa, and received 602 back as of Friday. It mailed 3,081 ballots to the 4th precinct and has received 517.

County elections officials went to the Federal Emergency Management Agency center in Pahoa to inform residents about voter registration and the election. They also put up posters at evacuation shelters.

Nakamoto said her office didn't have information on what percentage of registered voters had been forced to leave their homes because of the eruption.

Kilauea has been erupting from Leilani Estates for three months now, but lava volume dropped dramatically over the weekend. Scientists don't know whether the change signifies the flows will peter out, as it's common for eruptions to wax and wane.

## ■ The island has a history of nature-related election disruptions

Meanwhile, a tropical storm watch was in effect today [Macau time] for the Big Island as Hurricane Hector neared. The category 4 storm was expected to weaken and pass 241 kilometers south of the island Wednesday.

Hawaii County Mayor Harry Kim said officials would be prepared for whatever nature brings.

"The volcano, Madam Pele, has totally wiped out all the homes that would have been in danger," he said, referring to the Hawaiian volcano goddess. Those neighborhoods suffered a lot of damage from Tropical Storm Iselle in 2014, he said.

"You accept it. This is nature's way," he said. **AP**

## JAPAN

# Med school confirms altering scores to limit women

AP PHOTO



Internal investigation committee members hold a press conference on an investigation on fraud into its admissions process of Tokyo Medical University yesterday

**A** Tokyo medical school apologized yesterday after an internal investigation confirmed that it systematically altered entrance exam scores for years to limit the number of female students and ensure more men became doctors.

Tokyo Medical University manipulated all entrance exam results starting in 2000 or even earlier, according to findings released Tuesday by lawyers involved in the investigation, confirming recent reports in Japanese media.

The school said the manipulation should not have occurred and would not in the future, and it will consider retroactively admitting

those who otherwise would have passed the exams, although it did not explain how it would do so.

The manipulation was revealed during an investigation of the alleged wrongful admission of a bureaucrat's son in exchange for favorable treatment for the school in a ministry project. The bureaucrat and the former head of the school have been charged with bribery.

The investigation found that last year the school reduced all applicants' first-stage test scores by 20 percent and then added up to 20 points for male applicants, and that similar manipulations had taken

place for years. It said the school wanted fewer female doctors because it anticipated they would shorten or halt their careers after becoming mothers.

"We sincerely apologize for the serious wrongdoing involving entrance exams that has caused concern and trouble for many people and betrayed the public's trust," school managing director Tetsuo Yukioka said. He denied any previous knowledge of the score manipulation and said he was never involved.

"I suspect that there was a lack of sensitivity to the rules of modern society, in which women should not

be treated differently because of their gender," he said.

Yukioka said women were not treated differently once they were accepted, but acknowledged that some people even believed women were not allowed to become surgeons.

Nearly 50 percent of Japanese women are college educated — one of the world's highest levels — but they often face discrimination in the workforce. Women also are considered responsible for home-making, childrearing and elderly care, while men are expected to work long hours and outside care services are limited. **AP**



Alex Jones (center right) is escorted by police out of a crowd of protesters outside the Republican convention in Cleveland, in 2016

Barbara Ortutay, New York

## SOCIAL MEDIA

# Major tech companies remove Alex Jones for hate, bullying

**MAJOR** tech companies have begun to ban right-wing conspiracy theorist Alex Jones from their services, reflecting a more aggressive enforcement of policies against hate speech following protests on social media.

Facebook has taken down four pages belonging to Jones, including two featuring his “Infowars” show, for violating its hate speech and bullying policies. Over the past several days, Apple, YouTube and Spotify have also removed material published by Jones. Twitter, which hasn’t banned Jones, has also faced similar calls.

Facebook has also suspended Jones’ account for 30 days because he repeatedly violated the company’s community standards against hate speech that “attacks or dehumanizes others,” it said in a statement yesterday [Macau time]. The 30-day suspension of Jones himself appears to have gone into effect in late July.

Twitter would not comment on Jones.

“We’ve been banned completely on Facebook, Apple, & Spotify,” Jones wrote on Twitter. “What conservative news outlet will be next?”

Jones has amassed a large following on the right while promulgating conspiracy theories that claim terror attacks such as 9/11 were actually carried out by the government. Among his claims is that the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School mass shooting, which left 20 children and six adults dead, was a hoax.

It’s unclear why the companies are cracking down on

Jones now, after allowing him to publish for years. Facebook has been under fire recently for not banning Jones, but as recently as July 12 it tweeted that it sees pages “on both the left and right pumping out what they consider opinion or analysis — but others call fake news.”

“We believe banning these Pages would be contrary to the basic principles of free speech,” Facebook posted in response to a question from CNN reporter Oliver Darcy, who had been pressing the company on why it continued to allow “Infowars” on its platform.

On Monday, the company said that it “unpublished” the four pages after receiving reports that they contained content “glorifying violence” and used “dehumanizing language” to describe Muslims, immigrants and transgender people.

“While much of the discussion around Infowars has been related to false news [...] none of the violations that spurred today’s removals were related to this,” Facebook said on Monday.

Facebook is the latest tech company to take action against Jones following social-media backlash. BuzzFeed News reported Sunday that Apple has removed five of Infowars’ six podcasts from its iTunes and Podcast apps for violating hate speech guidelines.

In response to a query from the Associated Press, Apple said only that it “does not tolerate hate speech” and referenced its guidelines for creators and developers, but did not name Jones or comment further. As of Monday, iTunes searches for “Infowars” or “Alex Jones” turned up no podcasts created by Jones. Entering the web addresses for specific shows brought up a notice that the content is not available.

Last week, music streaming service Spotify removed some episodes of “The Alex Jones Show” podcast for breaching its hate content policy.

And as of Monday, Alex Jones’s channel was not available on YouTube, with a notice that the account “has been terminated for violating YouTube’s Community Guidelines.” The Infowars YouTube channel was also labeled as “terminated.”

Jones says his shows, which are broadcast on radio, and online platforms, reach at least 70 million people a week. It’s unclear how the latest bans have affected his reach.

YouTube said in a statement that when users violate its policies against hate speech and harassment, “we terminate their accounts.” But the company did not give specifics on Jones or Infowars.

“What it reflects is a slow rea-

lization that the platforms are megaphones to fuel extremist ideas,” said Keegan Hanks, research analyst for the Southern Poverty Law Center’s Intelligence Project, who focuses on far right extremist propaganda online. The decision to enforce policies, he added, “has been a long time coming.”

## ■ It’s unclear why the companies are cracking down on Jones now, after allowing him to publish for years

Hanks added that he is “not surprised” that Twitter continues to allow Jones on its platform.

“If they were to ban Alex Jones,” he said, he’d question why the company doesn’t ban “outright white supremacists, including those who have participated in violent rallies.”

Families of some Sandy Hook victims have sued Jones for defamation, and he now acknowledges that the shooting occurred but says his claims were

free speech.

Last month, the parents of one of the children killed in the shooting wrote an open letter to Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg calling on him to ban “conspiracy groups and anti-government provocateurs” that use social media to call the massacre a hoax and harass and threaten the families of the victims.

“Our families are in danger as a direct result of the hundreds of thousands of people who see and believe the lies and hate speech, which you have decided should be protected,” wrote Lenny Pozner and Veronique De La Rosa, the parents of Noah, who was six years old when he died at Sandy Hook.

Brent Bozell, the president of the nonprofit Media Research Council, whose stated mission is to “to expose and neutralize the propaganda arm of the Left: the national news media,” called the crackdown in Infowars a “slippery slope.”

“[It’s] a dangerous cliff that these social media companies are jumping off to satisfy CNN and other liberal outlets,” Bozell said in a statement. “Social media sites are supposedly neutral platforms, but they are increasingly becoming opportunities for the left and major media to censor any content that they don’t like.” AP

## TRUMP SANCTIONS

# EU says encouraging trade with Iran is crucial to nuke deal

**T**HE European Union foreign policy chief says the EU is encouraging enterprises to increase their business with Iran, as that country has been compliant with their nuclear-related commitments.

Federica Mogherini told reporters yesterday during her trip to Wellington, New Zealand, that it's up to Europeans to decide who they want to trade with.

"We are doing our best to keep Iran in the deal, to keep Iran benefiting from the economic benefits that the agreement brings to the people of Iran because we believe this is in the security interests of not only our region, but also of the world," she said. "If there is one piece of international agreements on nuclear non-proliferation that is delivering, it has to be maintained."

The United States reimposed stiff economic sanctions on Iran, ratcheting up pressure on the Islamic Republic despite statements of deep dismay from European allies, three months after President Donald Trump pulled the U.S. out of the international accord limiting Iran's nuclear

activities.

Trump declared that the landmark 2015 agreement was "horrible," leaving the Iranian government flush with cash to fuel conflict in the Middle East. Iran accused the U.S. of reneging on the nuclear agreement, signed by the Obama administration, and of causing recent Iranian economic unrest.

European allies said they "deeply regret" the U.S. action.

Trump said in a statement, "We urge all nations to take such steps to make clear that the Iranian regime faces a choice: either change its threatening, destabilizing behavior and reintegrate with the global economy, or continue down a path of economic isolation."

A first set of reimposed U.S. sanctions affect financial transactions that involve U.S. dollars, Iran's automotive sector, the purchase of commercial planes and metals including gold.

A second batch of U.S. sanctions targeting Iran's oil sector and central bank are to be reimposed in early November.

Trump warned that those who don't wind down their economic ties to Iran "risk severe

consequences."

European ministers said the Iran deal was crucial for Europe's and the world's security, and the European Union issued a "blocking statute" Monday to protect European businesses from the impact of the sanctions.

Mogherini, speaking at a news conference alongside New Zealand Foreign Minister Winston Peters, said the EU and New Zealand saw the need to maintain the nuclear deal with Iran, notwithstanding the U.S. withdrawal, and that she and Peters had discussed in detail how to keep open trade and financial channels with Iran.

"We are encouraging small and medium enterprises in particular to increase business with and in Iran as part of something [that] for us is a security priority," Mogherini said, explaining that trade is an integral part of the nuclear deal.

Trade between Iran and the EU "is a fundamental aspect of the Iranian right to have an economic advantage in exchange for what they have done so far, which is being compliant with all their nuclear-related commitments," Mogherini said. **AP**



US

# Largest wildfire in California history still growing

**W**ILDFIRES tearing through trees and

brush, rampaging up hillsides and incinerating neighborhoods: The place names change but the devastation is showing signs of becoming the new normal in California.

Yesterday [Macau time], twin fires being treated as one incident north of San Francisco became the largest wildfire in state history, destroying 1,148 square kilometers — nearly the size of the city of Los Angeles.

The Mendocino Complex was still growing as it broke the record set last December. The Thomas Fire killed two people, burned 440 square miles, and destroyed more than 1,000 buildings in Southern California before being fully contained Jan. 12.

The Mendocino Complex, which is 30 percent contained, has been less destructive to property than some of the other wildfires in the state because it is mostly raging in remote areas. But officials say it threatens 11,300 buildings and some new evacuations were ordered over the weekend as the flames spread.

Hotter weather attributed to climate change is drying out vegetation, creating more intense fires that spread quickly from rural areas to city subdivisions, climate and fire experts say. But they also

blame cities and towns that are expanding housing into previously undeveloped areas.

More than 14,000 firefighters are battling more than a dozen major blazes throughout California, state Department of Forestry and Fire Protection spokesman Scott McLean said.

"I can remember a couple of years ago when we saw 10 to 12,000 firefighters in the states of California, Oregon and Washington and never the 14,000 we see now," he said.

## Hotter weather attributed to climate change is drying out vegetation

Crews made progress over the weekend against one of the two blazes in the Mendocino Complex with help from water-dropping aircraft, Cal Fire operations chief Charlie Blankeheim said in a video on Facebook.

But the other one is growing after spreading into the Mendocino National Forest.

Meanwhile, a new fire erupted south of Los Angeles in Orange County and quickly spread through the

chaparral-covered ridges of the Cleveland National Forest. Campgrounds and homes in Holy Jim Canyon were ordered evacuated. The fire sent up an enormous pillar of smoke and ash.

Farther north, crews gained ground against a deadly blaze that has destroyed more than 1,000 homes in and around Redding. It was nearly halfway contained, Cal Fire said.

The wildfire about 360 kilometers north of San Francisco started more than two weeks ago by sparks from the steel wheel of a towed-trailer's flat tire. It killed two firefighters and four residents and displaced more than 38,000 people.

Officials began allowing some residents to return to their neighborhoods. But tens of thousands of others were still evacuated.

The fires in Northern California have created such a haze of smoke in the Central Valley that Sacramento County health officials advised residents to avoid outdoor activities for the entire week.

Another blaze that ignited last week in the Sierra Nevada has damaged a historic Northern California resort in the Stanislaus National Forest. The nearly century-old Dardanelle Resort has sustained massive structural damage, though the details were unclear, the Sacramento Bee newspaper reported. **AP**



European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini and New Zealand Foreign Minister Winston Peters

## what's ON



## MONKEY KING

TIME: 4pm &amp; 8pm daily (except on Thursdays)

VENUE: Sands Cotai Theatre

ADMISSION: MOP380, MOP480, MOP680, MOP980, MOP1280

COTAI TICKETING: (853) 2882 8818

KONG SENG TICKETING: (853) 2855 5555

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

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

UNTIL: September 9, 2018

VENUE: Ox Warehouse

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

## MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (Except on Thursdays; open on public holidays)

VENUE: Macau Science Center

ADMISSION: MOP25 (Exhibition Centre)

MOP60 (Planetarium 2D dome or 2D sky shows)

MOP80 (Planetarium 3D dome or 3D sky shows)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

## EXHIBITION OF NEW WORKS IN MAM COLLECTION

TIME: 10am-7pm (last admission 6:30pm; closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: October 26, 2018

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

## Offbeat

AP PHOTO  
Claire Danes stars in "Homeland" as now former CIA agent Carrie

## SHOWTIME SERIES 'HOMELAND' TO END IN 2019 WITH SEASON 8

Showtime says that its acclaimed series "Homeland" will end in 2019 with its eighth season.

The show's conclusion was announced yesterday by Showtime Networks chief David Nevins, who called the Emmy-winning "Homeland" a game-changer for the premium cable channel.

Nevins told a TV critics' meeting that creator-producer Alex Gansa will bring the national security drama to what he called its "proper conclusion."

In a statement, Gansa said he was sad to see the series end but said that it's time.

Claire Danes stars in "Homeland," which has taken her bipolar, now former CIA agent Carrie through dangerous conflicts that sometimes mirrored real-world events.

Last season, Carrie struggled to uncover an international conspiracy trying to harm America's democratic institutions.

The final season of "Homeland" will debut in June 2019.

## TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Portuguese Soap Opera
15:55	Miscellaneous
16:15	Portuguese Comedy
17:40	Miscellaneous
18:45	Miscellaneous
19:35	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	News from my Country (Portugal)
22:05	Around the World
22:20	Liberty 21 (Portuguese Serie)
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Miscellaneous
00:35	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:20	RTPi Live

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

02 JUL - 04 AUG



## INCREDIBLES 2

ROOM 1

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

Director: Brad Bird

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

Language: Cantonese (Chinese)

Duration: 118min



## MISSION IMPOSSIBLE - FALLOUT

ROOM 2

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

ROOM 3

4:30pm

Director: Christopher McQuarrie

Starring: Tom Cruise, Henry Cavill, Simon Pegg

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 118min



## CHRISTOPHERS 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



## 1963 TRAIN ROBBERS MAKE OFF WITH MILLIONS

Thieves have ambushed the Glasgow to Euston mail train and stolen thousands of pounds.

Banks estimate they have lost over £2m in used, untraceable banknotes in the biggest ever raid on a British train.

The Post Office train - known as the Up Special - had run every night, without interference, for 125 years until it was brought to a halt by a red light at 0315 GMT in Buckinghamshire.

Driver Jack Mills, 58, has been detained in hospital in Aylesbury with head injuries after being coshed by the raiders, who police believe were masked and armed with sticks and iron bars.

But most of the 75 mail sorters working on the train were unaware of the 20 minute incident as the thieves uncoupled the engine and front two carriages of the train and drove them up to Bridego Bridge a mile away.

There they broke into the second carriage - restraining the four postal workers inside - and loaded 120 mail and money bags into a lorry waiting on the road beneath.

Investigators - including Buckinghamshire Police, the British Transport Police and the Post Office - were on the scene, near Cheddington, in the early hours of the morning and found signals had been tampered with and telephone wires cut.

The Detective Superintendent of Buckinghamshire CID said: "This was obviously a brilliantly planned operation."

Rewards totalling a record £260,000 have already been offered by insurers, banks and the Post Office for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the gang and return of the money.

The Postmaster-General Mr Bevins explained the robbery may have been an "inside job" and has called for a "full and urgent" inquiry into security on Royal Mail trains.

He was concerned the money on board had not been defaced, since much of it was en route to be destroyed.

Labour MP for Burnley Dan Jones proposed a bill to improve security on mail trains two years ago and in the House of Commons today expressed outrage that the matter had still not been addressed.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The total amount stolen was put at £2.6m in a heist that became known as the Great Train Robbery.

After a massive police operation the gang's abandoned hideout was found at Leatherslade Farm in Bedfordshire.

Just over six months later 12 - of a gang of 15 - thieves were sentenced to jail-terms totalling more than 300 years.

The robbery's mastermind, Bruce Reynolds, evaded capture until 1969, when he was given a 10 year sentence.

In the meantime two of his accomplices - Charlie Wilson and Ronnie Biggs - escaped.

Biggs only returned to the UK in 2001 for medical treatment and was imprisoned to serve the remainder of his 28 year sentence.

He was released in August 2009 on compassionate grounds after suffering several strokes.

Jack Mills never worked again and died in 1970.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 An array of surprises is coming your way soon...

Taurus April 20-May 20 When faced with an unpleasant reality, it's usually not very wise to stick your head in the sand.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 If you've been feeling limited or held back from where you want to go lately...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 If you're going to be in the public eye today, be prepared to put on your best game face.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Loose lips sink ships, so watch whom you confide in today.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Do more. This is a very simple call to action that might make you feel a little defensive...

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You've lived life long enough to know that nothing - and no one - is perfect.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Pay special attention to start the conversations you need to start ... don't let someone else establish the framework...

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 All of your efforts are starting to pay off - and the lesson you should be learning is that the more you put into something...

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Maybe you're tired of waiting for that phone call that seems less and less likely to come.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 It's very important for you to keep your eyes open and look for opportunities.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 There's a strong energy of appreciation around you right now, so expect a surge in your popularity...

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles categorized as Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard.

WEATHER

Weather forecast table for China and World locations including Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1-"Clueless" catchphrase; 5- Cairo cobras; 9- Big name at Indy; 14- Actor Auberonjouis; 15- Musical composition for two; 16- Norman Vincent ...; 17- James ... Jones; 18- Like grass in the morning; 19- Mrs. Gorbachev; 20- Pompous; 22- Endless; 24- Paddled; 26- Norma ...; 27- Late bloomers; 30- Go beyond; 35- Vice ...; 36- Prepare food; 37- Travel from place to place; 38- Altar vow; 39- Start for fish, meatballs, or massage; 42- Actor Vigoda; 43- Yes, there is ...; 45- Gripped; 46- Fertile area in a desert; 48- Some Annapurna climbers; 50- Combines; 51- Soccer standout Hamm; 52- Cavalry sword; 54- Capital of Georgia; 58- Lasting all day; 62- Light grayish brown; 63- The Tower of Pisa does this; 65- ... saw Elba; 66- Bugs bugs him; 67- Singer k.d.; 68- Edinburgh native; 69- Looks after; 70- Yours, in Tours; 71- Without;

Down clues and 'Yesterday's solution' crossword grid.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



FOR SALE and FOR RENT advertisement for JML Property.

Real estate listing: Choi Long Meng Chui, Three Bedroom Apartment, Ref. 18045555.

Real estate listing: Old Macau, Unique Walk Up, Three Bedroom Apartment, Ref. 18065557.

Real estate listing: Manhattan D unit, High Floor, Four Bedrooms Apartment, Ref. 18075558.

Real estate listing: Violet Court, Hellene Gardens, Beautifully Designed Apartment, Ref. 18035546.

Real estate listing: Venus Court NAPA Macau, 3 Bedrooms Apartment, Fully Furnished, Ref. 18070686.

AD

AUTO RACING

# NASCAR chairman France takes leave after DWI, drug arrest

NASCAR chairman and CEO Brian France announced yesterday [Macau time] he was taking an indefinite leave of absence following his arrest in the Hamptons on charges of driving while intoxicated and criminal possession of oxycodone.

France was seen blowing through a stop sign in Sag Harbor over the weekend and later had a blood-alcohol content that was more than twice the legal limit for driving, smelled of booze and slurred his words, police said.

He said in a statement that effective immediately he would be taking a leave of absence from his position "to focus on my personal affairs."

"I apologize to our fans, our industry and my family for the impact of my actions last night," he said.

France has been NASCAR's chairman and CEO since 2003. His uncle Jim France, a vice chairman and executive vice president, will take over those roles on an interim basis.

AP PHOTO



Brian France, Chairman of NASCAR

France, 56, spent the night in jail and was arraigned at Sag Harbor Village Justice Court. He was released on his own recognizance and is due back in court Sept. 14.

His lawyer referred reporters to a NASCAR statement on the matter. The organization said it

takes his arrest "as a serious matter and will issue a statement after we have all of the facts."

France was pulled over and arrested at about 7:30 p.m. Sunday. Police said they saw his 2017 Lexus roll through a stop sign near the Sag Harbor waterfront.

His eyes were red and glassy, and he struggled to keep his balance during field sobriety tests, police said. Tests showed his blood-alcohol content was 0.18, police said. The legal limit for driving in New York is 0.08.

Officers found five oxycodone pills during a subsequent search,

ch, police said.

France is a third-generation leader of NASCAR. His late grandfather Bill France Sr. founded the company in 1948.

He's introduced a playoff system, overhauled the design of its cars and pushed for diversity within the circuit's predominantly white, male ranks.

In recent years, he's been dealing with plunging attendance and TV ratings and departing sponsors, attributing the downturn to the challenge of connecting with a new, younger generation of fans.

France last month characterized as "rumors" reports that his family was looking into selling its racing properties.

"The France family is locked and loaded in its dedication to NASCAR," France told SiriusXM NASCAR Radio. "We're focused on ruling and managing NASCAR. There's nothing to report on that. Rumors are always interesting, but they're seldom right."

France was charged with reckless driving in Seminole County, Florida, in 2005 and was ordered to pay a USD760 fine and complete an aggressive-driver program, court records show.

The following year, according to a police report, he crashed his Lexus into a tree after entering a restaurant parking lot in Daytona Beach, Florida. AP

AD

MACAUCLOSER

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**M**AJORITY shareholder Stan Kroenke has made an offer to take full ownership of Arsenal in a deal that would value the English Premier League club at 1.8 billion pounds (USD2.3 billion).

The U.S.-based Kroenke Sports and Entertainment owns 67 percent of the club and has offered to purchase the 30 percent held by Alisher Usmanov's Red and White Securities firm.

In a statement published yesterday via the London Stock Exchange, the company said the successful implementation of the offer would bring benefits of a single owner "better able to move quickly in furtherance of the club's strategy and ambitions. KSE is a committed, long-term owner of the club."

"We at KSE are moving forward with this offer leading to 100 percent ownership of the club," Kroenke was quoted as saying. "We appreciate Mr. Usmanov's dedication to the Arsenal Football Club and the storied ethos and history the club represents."

The KSE, which also owns the NFL's Los Angeles Rams, said it has received an "irrevocable undertaking" from Red and White Securities to accept the offer for its 18,695 Arsenal shares as soon as possible.

FOOTBALL

# Stan Kroenke makes offer to take full ownership of Arsenal

The statement on the London Stock Exchange said KSE, a Delaware corporation owned by Kroenke, holds 41,743 Arsenal shares. It said Arsenal shareholders under the offer will be entitled to receive 29,419.64 pounds for each share.

The Arsenal Supporters' Trust, a fan group, said the news of Kroenke's offer "marks a dreadful day" for the club.

"Kroenke plans to forcibly purchase the shares held by Arsenal fans. Many of these fans are AST members and hold their shares not for value but as custodians who care for the future of the club," the trust said in a statement. "Kroenke's actions will neuter their voice and involvement."

Arsenal last won the Premier League title in 2004. Arsene Wenger ended his 22 years as manager after a sixth-place finish last season and has been replaced by Unai Emery. **AP**



Los Angeles Rams owner Stan Kroenke



Essam El Hadary, 45, deflects a penalty during the match between Saudi Arabia and Egypt at the World Cup 2018

## Egypt keeper, oldest World Cup player, quits national team

**E**GYPT goalkeeper Essam El Hadary is retiring from the national team after becoming the oldest man to play in a World Cup match.

El Hadary started the World Cup as Egypt's backup goalkeeper, but he played in his team's final group match in Russia, saving a penalty in the 2-1 loss to Saudi Arabia on June 25.

"After 22 years, four months and 12 days, I

saw it as the best moment to hang up my gloves," the 45-year-old El Hadary wrote on Facebook. "This is a moment I didn't want to come [...] I am very proud to have played with the national team in 159 internationals, participating in unprecedented achievements."

El Hadary made his debut for the national team in 1996. He won four African Cup of Nations titles

with Egypt, including three straight with him as goalkeeper in 2006, 2008 and 2010.

Teammate Mohamed Salah hailed the veteran goalkeeper on Twitter.

"A new legend from a great golden generation is leaving us," the Liverpool forward wrote yesterday.

In Russia, El Hadary overtook Faryd Mondragon, who was 43 when he came on as a late substitute in Colombia's 4-1

victory over Japan four years ago at the World Cup in Brazil.

El Hadary, who will continue to play for Egyptian club Ismaili, first rose to prominence with Cairo club Al-Ahly, but he fell out with management and left in 2008 for Switzerland. Since then, El Hadary he has become something of a soccer nomad, playing for several clubs in Egypt, Sudan and Saudi Arabia. **AP**

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opinion

Macau Matters

Richard Whitfield



ZERO-WASTE LIFESTYLES

I seem to be on a waste elimination jag at present, but it is a relevant topic for Macau given that the local Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPB) is asking for stronger support for recycling programs. They recently noted that only 18%-20% of wastes are recycled in Macau, while the comparable rates for Hong Kong and Singapore are 33% and 61%, respectively (in 2015-16). Moreover, in Macau we dispose of 2.11kg of waste per person per day, again, an average higher than Hong Kong or Singapore.

Clearly, we need to do better, and my earlier articles about composting coffee grounds/food wastes provide a good starting point. But this will probably require government money, which we can afford and should be spent.

Internationally, Bea Johnson is well known for living and promoting zero waste lifestyles – there are several videos available of her informative presentations on this subject. (Don't you just love how all kinds of information is now readily available on the global Internet at the touch of a few buttons! It is a pity that China restricts access to it to much.) She often talks about five principles for getting to zero waste which should be applied in sequence:

- Refuse the things that you do not need, eg take your own shopping bag and refuse plastic bags
- Reduce use of the things you actually need, eg reduce your wardrobe to just a few outfits
- Reuse what you consume, eg use grey water to irrigate your garden
- Recycle only what you cannot reuse, eg send used aluminium cans for recycling
- Rot everything else, ie make it into compost

These are very simple, and yet very powerful, principles and it is clearly important to apply them in sequence. They begin by minimizing the wastes that come into your life – prevention is always better than cure. And go on to consider how wastes can be converted into productive resources – preferring reuses that require minimal material reprocessing, eg it is better to reuse a glass container “as is” rather than melt it down to make a new container.

These principles also help you to minimize costs as well as wastes, eg only buying new clothes when they are really needed will clearly reduce your living costs.

These principles also clearly apply at both the personal and commercial/industrial scale and, in fact, can have a much larger impact when applied commercially. A household may need to dispose of a few 1kg of food waste each day, but a casino may need to dispose of a few 1,000kg of food waste each day. Thus getting one casino to compost its food waste is equivalent to getting a few thousand households composting.

At a personal level I have also always found that children are much more receptive to these kinds of ideas than adults – probably because they do not need to unlearn bad habits and the logic is easy to understand. Kids are also excellent at manipulating their parents into doing things that they may otherwise be too lazy to do.

I am sure that we can do much better in Macau at reducing the amount of waste that we burn or dispose of in landfills. The government needs to support these efforts with regulations and money to encourage good behaviors and provide infrastructure and business opportunities. (For example, I understand that a local glass recycling plant was severely damaged during Typhoon Hato and needs support to get up and running again.) It also needs to strengthen its promotion efforts and activities and these should be especially focused on children and larger commercial waste producers.

THE POLICE WARN ‘NO-DEAL’ BREXIT BUZZ PUTS THE PUBLIC AT RISK

British police commissioners are warning that a sharp break from the European Union may put the public at risk.

The Association of Police and Crime Commissioners warns in a letter released yesterday that leaving the EU without an agreement on future relations would mean “a significant loss of operational capacity” because police would instantly lose access to cross-border investigative powers and databases.

The association, whose members are elected officials responsible for policing in England and Wales, says these concerns come as the threat from foreign nationals targeting the U.K. from abroad is increasing.

Tensions are rising as Britain tries to hammer out an agreement by October that can be approved by all the EU member states before the U.K. leaves the bloc on March 29.

Italian premier visits victims of fiery crash near Bologna



The moment a truck that was transporting flammable substances explodes after colliding with another truck on a highway in the outskirts of Bologna

Colleen Barry, Milan

ITALY'S premier visited victims of the fiery crash of a tanker truck carrying highly flammable gas near Bologna, saying yesterday that it was important to understand what happened to prevent future tragedies. The truck's driver was the only person killed.

“I am here today to demonstrate the closeness of the government to the people who are suffering, but also to understand why so that these things are not repeated,” said Giuseppe Conte, who plans to travel later to the scene of another deadly crash in southern Italy.

Prosecutors have opened

an investigation into the Bologna accident, triggered when the tanker truck carrying liquefied petroleum gas, or LPG, rammied into a truck stuck in a line of traffic. The tanker immediately caught fire, and then exploded a short time later across eight lanes, collapsing part of the raised highway.

Police video shows that by the time of the explosion, most vehicles had been evacuated from the highway.

Highway police said only the tanker driver died in the crash, revising earlier reports by the carabinieri that there were two dead. Dozens of people were injured, many with burns or cuts from flying glass when win-

dows of buildings nearby were shattered in the blast.

The victim was identified as 41-year-old Andrea Anziolin of the northern city of Vicenza.

“Maybe it was a moment of distraction, or a wave of sleepiness,” Bologna prosecutor Giuseppe Amato told RAI radio. “But it is too early to say with certainty.”

Conte will later travel to the southern region of Puglia, where a van packed with immigrant farmworkers overturned after colliding with a truck carrying tomatoes in the southern Puglia region, killing 12. It was the second such fatal accident in the area in the space of three days. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Antonio Calanni Ferragosto



A child pretends he is swimming, in shallow water at a fountain in Milan yesterday. As Italy prepares for an almost complete stop for “Ferragosto” mid-August holidays, those who were not able to leave for traditional sea or mountain vacations, can use the city's fountains and their imagination to refresh as temperatures regularly exceed 30 degrees C.

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	30-50 Good	😊
High Density Residential Area	20-40 Good	😊
Ambient	30-50 Moderate	😊

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS



INDIA Muthuvel Karunanidhi, a highly popular scriptwriter-turned-politician in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, has died after a prolonged illness. He was 94.

ISRAEL-PALESTINE

The Israeli military said yesterday it struck a Hamas military post in the Gaza Strip in response to militant fire at Israeli troops, while Hamas said two of its fighters were killed after taking part in a gunfire parade inside a militant camp.



GERMANY Police evacuated part of a terminal at Germany's busiest airport yesterday after a security official mistakenly allowed a French family that hadn't completed required security checks into a secure area.

SPAIN Media are publishing previously unseen photographs of some of the men authorities identified as the extremists behind last year's terror attacks in Barcelona and a nearby resort town.



BRAZIL-VENEZUELA Brazilian health workers have moved to stem an outbreak of measles being brought by Venezuelans, many famished and sick, who have fled their homeland amid economic and political turmoil.

US A federal appeals court is hearing arguments by the state of California and advocacy groups who contend the Trump administration overreached by waiving environmental reviews to speed construction of the president's prized border wall with Mexico.