



END OF PERMITS TO WORK IN CHINA
Beijing eliminated the need for residents from Taiwan and the SARs to apply for permission to work in China

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LIMITS TO FREEDOM OF SPEECH
The New Macau Association is against the establishment of a "false social alarm" crime

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RESCUERS STRUGGLE TO RECOVER QUAKE'S DEAD

P12 INDONESIA

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WORLD BRIEFS



MALAYSIA Former Prime Minister Najib Razak pleaded not guilty yesterday to three new money-laundering charges related to the alleged multibillion-dollar looting of a state investment fund that led to his stunning electoral defeat three months ago. More on p13

PHILIPPINES Soldiers killed two bomb couriers at an army checkpoint yesterday before the suspected Muslim militants could detonate the explosives in a crowded area in the restive south, military officials said. More on p12



MYANMAR Hundreds of people yesterday commemorated the 30th anniversary of Myanmar's 8888 uprising, a seminal and ultimately bloody episode in the Southeast Asian nation's struggle for democracy.

JAPAN Okinawa Gov. Takeshi Onaga, who led an anti-U.S. military base movement on the southern Japanese island, has died at age 67, Japanese media said.



AUSTRALIA's most populous state was declared entirely in drought yesterday and struggling farmers were given new authority to shoot kangaroos that compete with livestock for sparse pasture during the most intense dry spell in more than 50 years. More on p13

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Gov't will not abide by highest court ruling

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DANIEL BEITLER



SUZANNE WATKINSON, ALEX CHENG

Housing policies encourage Macau investors to look abroad, realtors say

P3 MDT INTERVIEW



Homage to Bravo organized for Sat

Portuguese architect Vicente Bravo passed away on July 28 in Portugal, having lived in Macau for close to 40 years. He was responsible for a number of important architectural works in Macau. To commemorate his contribution to local architecture development, Albergue SCM is organizing a homage to his life, titled "The Man and the Architect – Vicente Bravo." It will be held on Saturday, August 11, at 3 p.m. at Albergue SCM.

Chui debates with lawmakers today

Today's Legislative Assembly plenary session, where Chief Executive Chui Sai On is due to answer lawmakers' questions, will be broadcasted live on the television and radio channels of TDM, from 3 p.m. The proceedings can also be accessed online via the websites of the Legislative Assembly, the MSAR government and the Government Information bureau, among others. Besides attending plenary sessions of the Assembly every year to deliver the Policy Address for the following fiscal year, the Chief Executive also attends two similar sessions each year.

Cultural program to foster residents' sense of pride

The Cultural Bureau (IC) has introduced a Cultural Communication Ambassador program to train local creative people and build their sense of pride in Macau's local culture as well as Chinese culture. The ambassadors will be responsible for advancing the cultural communication between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, as well as in the Greater Bay Area. The program consists of a Seeds Project and a Spokespersons project. The former is relevant to all residents, whereas the latter is only targeted at residents aged 14 and above. The first phase of the program will take place this year, with the launching of a Mascot Design Competition.



Abiding by court judgment would harm public interest, says gov't

Daniel Beitler

THE Macau SAR government says it will not abide by a ruling of the Court of Final Appeal that a construction tender be recalculated after officials committed a mathematical error. But first, the courts will have to agree.

Last month, the Court of Final Appeal ruled that the tender for the construction of a depot for the Light Rail Transit system needed to be reassessed, after one of the interested parties claimed that there had been an incorrect calculation of the company's points performance in the bid.

The verdict followed a months-long legal battle in which even Chief Executive Chui Sai On weighed in, arguing that the courts had no authority to intervene in the awarding of a contract, which was a purely administrative matter.

That intervention was rejected by the Court of Final Appeal, which found that the administrative entities behind the tender had no legal basis to compel the courts to respect the government's decision.

Referring to article 175 of Macau's administrative code, the government now says that to abide by the ruling of the court would be detrimental to the public interest.

Article 175 states that the government is permitted to exempt itself from a court order "when there is absolute and serious harm to the public interest in complying with the decision."

Macau's Transportation Infrastructure Office noted in a statement that, "at present, more than 90 percent of [the] construction contract for [the LRT depot] is completed and what remains to be done consists fundamentally of final adjustments, tests and inspections."

"It is expected that this contract will be terminated before the end of this year," and as such, "if the contract is re-awarded for the small part that has yet to be completed, the time needed for the administrative procedures involved, for the mobilization of personnel, machinery and equipment and for the transfer of work, will have a major impact [...] on the installation of the Light

Rail System in Taipa."

"The government is not defying the court or disobeying the court ruling," local lawyer Jorge Menezes told the Times yesterday. "The government is making use of a faculty provided for by the law."

The government is not defying the court or disobeying the court ruling.

JORGE MENEZES
LAWYER

"There are situations in which it is lawful for the government to claim that abiding by a court judgment would be highly detrimental to the public interest," he explained. "In those situations, if the court agrees with the government, [...] the company at stake can pursue compensation against the government."

Another lawyer in Ma-

cau, who requested to speak anonymously, confirmed Menezes's interpretation. The lawyer told the Times that the decision is not unprecedented and that it is lawful provided that the courts accept the government's interpretation that compliance would harm the public interest.

Nevertheless, it is possible that the government will have to compensate the appellant company out of its own coffers.

Menezes said that, should the courts agree with the government's interpretation, then the relevant parties may discuss compensation. Alternatively, if the courts order the government to abide by the judgment anyway, then the individual person responsible will be fined per day of non-compliance.

"Either the Court of Second Instance will force the government to comply with its January ruling (confirmed by the Court of Final Appeal) if it concludes that complying with the ruling would not be highly [harmful] to the public interest, or the parties will end up discussing compensation," he said.

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Q&A AMBIENTE PROPERTIES

Housing policies encourage Macau investors look abroad

Daniel Beitler

LOCAL real estate agency Ambiente Properties was recently recognized at the UK-based International Property Awards, winning two awards for its property-related services in Macau.

Managing director Suzanne Watkinson said Ambiente was "thrilled" to have won the awards and described the international recognition as a watershed moment in the company's history.

The awards come at an interesting time for Macau's real estate market. The chronic shortage of residential units in the city has been a major issue for the local government and a source of public dissatisfaction for years.

In the last 12 months, a number of policies have been implemented to curb market speculation, disincentivize non-local purchases, empower tenants and punish developers who fail to meet their land concession obligations. There is also talk of residents of both Macau and Hong Kong looking to neighboring Guangdong Province for a solution to the housing problem.

The Times sat down with Watkinson and the general manager of Ambiente Properties, Alex Cheng, to get their take on where the Macau property market is heading next.

Macau Daily Times (MDT) - What are your thoughts on the future of Macau's real estate market? Are we going to return to peak prices any time soon?

Suzanne Watkinson (SW) - Property is all about supply and demand. So, when we talk about [future] prices, it really depends on how much supply is provided. [...] The pipeline of supply is very restricted for the next five years, and so we foresee that, if there is not enough supply and if the locals keep their money in Macau and do not invest outside, then that will push prices up.

Alex Cheng (AC) - Since the presidency of Xi Jinping [began], there have been tight restrictions on Chinese capital and liquidity. The property market in Macau responded to that and prices fell. Now things are becoming more stable again, but we are not



Alex Cheng and Suzanne Watkinson

yet back to peak prices. The prices will also depend on the policies introduced by the Macau government. Certain taxes now imposed on additional properties in Macau are having a negative impact on the demand and that might affect the price.

The new policies are going to encourage people to move money out of Macau.

SUZANNE WATKINSON

MDT - The government has introduced several new measures to curb speculation in the real estate market. Are these measures having the intended effects?

SW - Over the last year, we have seen some interesting developments, including new regulations to help first-time buyers up to the age of

44. That has meant for us a tremendous turnover of the smaller properties below HKD8 million.

But I think the government needs to be really careful about how it implements [housing] policies, because it's directly affecting the Macau people. The new policies are going to encourage people to move money out of Macau. Is that a good thing? I don't think so. The 10 percent extra tax if you are not a Macau ID holder has also really impacted the market and acted as a [disincentive] to outside investors. Also, the taxes on buying a second and third property has definitely depressed the market. With extra stamp duty for second and third properties in Macau, local investors are considering taking their hard-earned money and putting it elsewhere.

MDT - How is the rental market affected by the new regulations?

SW - We have clients who own multiple properties [in Macau] and because of the new regulations - where tenants have the right to stay for three years now instead of two - our clients said 'pull them off the market, we want to sell them before that time.'

[...] The return on investment is so minimal compared to the capital value of the property that many owners don't want to go through the trouble of leasing their properties. So that's fewer properties on the market to rent - and guess what? The rental prices go up.

MDT - Speaking of new laws and regulations, what is your take on the controversial Pearl Horizon project and the reclamation of idle plots?

AC - I used to work in the land department [of the government] in Hong Kong and saw that it was quite common that when the land plot expired before the development was complete, the government would extend the concession until the development was finished and they would charge a premium [to the developer] as a penalty. There are over 1,000 individual buyers [in the Pearl Horizon case] and many have been paying mortgages for years. If the government wants a stable situation, then one of the solutions for the government is to do the same as in Hong Kong; grant an extension and charge a penalty to the developer.

SW - That is in the case when the developer is legi-

timately building but they have just run out of time to complete. There are instances when the developer will just have the land and sit on it. They will consider that it is too expensive to develop the land now and will wait for [construction] costs to come down. We are not so involved on the developer level, but I do hear these stories that it is extremely difficult to get these approvals from the government. First of all, you are approved that you can build for 40 storeys, and then the height is reduced. The goalposts keep changing and that makes it very difficult for the developer.

MDT - Hengqin is becoming a hub for local businesses, but what is the potential for residential areas to form there? Can a new supply of housing on the island impact local property prices?

AC - Right now, it is still too early for people [from Macau] to live in Hengqin. It might be another 10 to 15 years before [Hengqin] is ready. You need to move people into residential areas and that might take a few years. Then the commercial activity - like restaurants, shops and schools - will start a couple of years later.

SW - There may be demand for places outside of Macau, but that won't necessarily impact demand for residential units within the city. It's like in Hong Kong; Central will always be central. Doing [real estate] business in Zhuhai is not yet simple. It's really not ready yet. We have seen some other, bigger agencies being stung quite badly over there. You can't forget that it's China - so it's Chinese regulations. We know people; one minute they own the property and part of the public areas, and then the next they don't [...] the changing of the rules makes it too [risky] to mess with clients' money there. I wish that there were more clear policies on how to do business there. We need more clarity there in order to carry out work on the behalf of our clients.

MDT - Do you expect the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge to make living outside of the MSAR more attractive for locals?

SW - I honestly don't think so. It will be great for the tourists, but when we want to go to Hong Kong, we don't want to go to Lantau and then onward [...] we want to go straight to Central. The tragedy in my mind was that there is not going to be a train. That would really have given connectivity between the areas and that might have had an impact on the property market.

Football court planned at Coloane

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) is planning to build a second football court next to the first football court located at R. do Estaleiro in Coloane. The IC recently met with the Advisory Council of Community Services of the Islands to introduce the latest updates regarding the Lai Chi Vun shipyards development plan and Coloane Archaeological work. With respect to the former, the IC claims that, as far as possible, it will not ask residents near Lai Chi Vun shipyards to leave the area once the government begins undertaking work at the site.

Entrance age for internet cafes proposed to increase

Liu Fengming, member of the Advisory Council of Community Services of the Islands, has suggested for the government to adopt a higher minimum age for those entering internet cafes. Currently, Macau's law allows youth aged 12 years old or above to enter internet cafes. Liu proposes that Macau should learn from its neighboring regions, which have regulated that minors aged below 18 years old are prevented from entering internet cafes. In Liu's opinion, juveniles are easily influenced by misleading online information, and they can quickly become addicted to the internet after visiting internet cafes, with this addiction then affecting their school performance.

GAMING

Duterte cancels second casino project this year

PHILIPPINES President Rodrigo Duterte is planning to cancel Landing International Development's USD1.5-billion proposed casino resort in Manila, just one week after the Hong Kong-listed company was granted a provisional gaming permit from the country's gaming regulator and only minutes after it broke ground on the project. According to Reuters, a spokesperson for the government said that the contract Landing initially signed had put the government at a disadvantage because the rental payment was unacceptable.

"Sorry to burst your bubble, people, but the president said that is grossly disadvantageous to the government," spokesman Harry Roque said, according to Reuters.

However, Landing said in a statement that it believes the firm remains a "valid



leaseholder" and can continue developing the project "unless the lease contract is cancelled or nullified on solid legal grounds by the courts."

The project is thought to include 155 gaming tables and 239 slot machines. It was slated to commence operations

by 2022.

It is not the first time that gaming regulator PAGCOR and the Philippine president have issued contradictory statements regarding future casino developments.

In April this year, Duterte said he would establish the destination island of Bora-

cay as a land reform area on the basis of environmental concerns, effectively rejecting a provisional USD500-million casino project already green lighted by PAGCOR to partners Galaxy Entertainment Group and Philippine-based AB Leisure Exponent.

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China confirms end of work permits for Taiwanese, SARs

BEIJING yesterday said it has eliminated the need for Taiwanese citizens to apply for permission to work in China, in its latest effort to woo the island's skilled younger workers amid a diplomatic freeze.

The move is part of a package that aims to provide Taiwanese with treatment equal to that of Chinese in studying, starting businesses and employment, said the spokesman for the Cabinet's Taiwan Affairs Office, Ma Xiaoguang.

The elimination of work permits was also extended to residents of Hong Kong and Macau, former British and Portuguese colonies that reverted to Chinese rule late last century. China is also anxious to win over young Hong Kongers, many of whom see their city being dominated by the mainland economy while its civil liberties are under increasing threat.

As the Times reported earlier



Pedestrians walk past market stalls in Taipei, Taiwan

this week, in a State Council meeting last month, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang had already announced that the government was set to eliminate 17 administrative regulations that previously governed business development in a bid to facilitate economic integration.

On Friday, the State Council said: "Following the abolishment, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security will introduce support measures to further facilitate Hong Kong and Macau residents to work and start a business on

the mainland."

China hopes measures such as the elimination of work permits will undercut support for the self-governing Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen, whom Beijing loathes for her refusal to endorse the notion that Taiwan is a part of China.

Beijing already offers preferential terms for talented young people from the high-tech island to work in cities such as Shanghai and Beijing, including reduced regulations and much larger potential markets than those available in Taiwan.

That's the carrot to Beijing's stick of ratcheting up Taiwan's diplomatic isolation and advertising its threat to invade the island to bring it under Chinese rule.

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

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

Meanwhile, Beijing has sent warplanes on patrols around the island and staged war games on its side of the Taiwan Strait. **MDT/Agencies**

62 percent of taxi infractions related to overcharging

The Public Security Police Force (PSP) recorded 528 taxi infractions during the month of July, according to a statement released by the PSP. The infractions include 329 cases (62 percent) of over-charging and 100 cases (19 percent) of taxi drivers who refused to accept passengers. The remaining 99 cases involved other kinds of infractions. During that same period, the police recorded nine cases involving unauthorized taxis. A total of 399 taxi offences were detected in June. Over 300 of those offences were related to overcharging and drivers refusing to carry passengers.

New science council includes three new members

The Chief Executive has appointed 19 members to the Science and Technology Council for a two-years term that started yesterday. The list of new members of the council is as follows: Wang Yitao, Iao Seng Tong, Ho Sio Kam, U Seng Pan, Lee Koi Ian, Lu Hong, Lam Kam Seng, Chuck Chung Yin, Jiang Zhi-Hong, Duan Hongyi, Rui Paulo da Silva Martins, Kou Kam Fai, Zhang Keke, Zhang Shuguang, Chan Kuai Son, Jeong Man Un, Zheng Jiezhao, Liu Hei Wan and Hon Chi Ting. Zhang Keke, Chan Kuai Son, and Jeong Man Un are also newly appointed members.

AD

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Principais trabalhos de prevenção e redução de desastres do Governo da RAEM

Optimização da qualidade do sistema de electricidade de Macau

- Aperfeiçoamento da rede eléctrica de média tensão para evitar que as inundações nas zonas baixas da cidade afectem o seu funcionamento;
- Elevação da altura das instalações dos equipamentos eléctricos nas zonas baixas da cidade;
- Instalação de painéis de retenção de água nos postos de transformação para reforçar a selagem dos cabos eléctricos e instalação de bombas aspirantes;
- Revisão dos requisitos dos equipamentos eléctricos dos edifícios novos das zonas baixas da cidade para elevar a capacidade de protecção contra inundações;
- Elevação dos postos de transformação nas zonas do Porto Interior que reúnem as condições necessárias;
- Aceleração da construção de grupos motor-generador a gás natural, com vista à sua entrada em operação antes do verão de 2021, para reforçar a capacidade de produção de energia eléctrica em Macau, o que permitirá que, em situações de emergência, aquela seja aumentada para 50%, garantindo, assim, um fornecimento autónomo de electricidade a instalações prioritárias, nomeadamente hospitais, de comunicações e de abastecimento de água, e bem assim à maioria dos residentes.

Aprofundamento do conhecimento dos residentes quanto à prevenção de desastres e situações de evacuação

- No dia 28 de Abril, os 29 membros da estrutura de protecção civil realizaram o exercício "Peixe de cristal";
- Os Serviços de Polícia Unitários e outros serviços da área da segurança, com vista à divulgação dos trabalhos da estrutura de protecção civil, visitaram zonas comunitárias e associações, e, em conjunto com a Direcção dos Serviços de Educação e Juventude, visitaram também 77 escolas;
- Para assinalar Dia Internacional para a Redução dos Desastres Naturais, e durante os meses de Outubro e Novembro, todas as escolas de Macau serão incentivadas a realizar simulacros do sistema de emergência para reforçarem a sua prática nessa área;
- O plano de prevenção de desastres nas escolas já foi divulgado, de modo a criar um mecanismo de segurança escolar a longo prazo;
- Este ano, durante a Semana da Ciência e Tecnologia, será disponibilizada uma experiência de realidade virtual (VR) de tufões, terramotos, prevenção e redução de incêndios, e haverá aulas e simulacros sobre esses temas;
- O Fundo para o Desenvolvimento das Ciências e da Tecnologia continuará a promover, com a participação de peritos convidados, palestras sobre tufões, terramotos e diferentes formas de prevenção e redução de desastres; Através do financiamento de trabalhos sobre a generalização da prevenção e redução de desastres, pretende-se incentivar e apoiar as escolas de Macau na realização de actividades sobre esta temática.

Medidas de aperfeiçoamento na área da meteorologia

Alteração do sistema de aviso de "storm surge"

Nível	Previsão do nível do mar
1 Azul	Inferior a 0,5m acima do nível do pavimento
2 Amarelo	0,5m-1,0m acima do pavimento
3 Laranja	1,0m-1,5m acima do pavimento
4 Vermelho	1,5m-2,5m acima do pavimento
5 Preto	2,5m acima do pavimento

Alteração da categoria das tempestades tropicais

Categoria	Velocidade máxima no centro da tempestade
Depressão tropical	41km/h até 62km/h
Tempestade tropical	63km/h até 87km/h
Forte tempestade tropical	88km/h até 117km/h
Tufão	118km/h até 149km/h
NOVO Tufão forte	150km/h até 184km/h
NOVO Tufão muito forte	185km/h ou superior

- Alteração do sistema de aviso de "storm surge" e das categorias de tempestade tropical;
- Emissão oportuna de avisos sobre os sinais das tempestades tropicais e a sua velocidade;
- Criação do mecanismo específico de consulta interna de tempestades tropicais para uma análise e avaliação mais generalizada e objectiva;
- Alteração dos cálculos baseados na velocidade do vento para a "média da velocidade do vento a cada dez minutos";
- Reforço do intercâmbio com os serviços meteorológicos das regiões vizinhas, e envio de pessoal para estágios e formação;
- Aumento do aluguer de circuitos de banda larga com vista a receber mais informações meteorológicas do exterior, expandindo a área de monitorização.

Medidas de protecção contra inundações

- Construção de mais 13 poços para instalação de bombas fixas na marginal do Porto Interior e injeção de produtos específicos para a prevenção de infiltrações;
- Reforço do escoamento das redes de esgotos;
- O Governo está empenhado em iniciar os estudos sobre o Plano Geral de Protecção Contra Inundações e de Drenagem na Zona Marginal do Lado Oeste de Coloane;
- Já se iniciaram os trabalhos de construção das estações elevatórias de águas pluviais e esgotos com caixas de seccionamento das águas pluviais;
- Garantia do funcionamento estável e sustentável das estações elevatórias;
- Construção de um murete de protecção contra inundações de 1,5m de altura nas instalações contra inundações existentes no Porto Interior, de estrutura semi-desmontável ou totalmente desmontável, em betão armado, com um padrão de prevenção e resistência a possíveis inundações que ocorram uma vez em cada 20 anos;
- O murete de protecção contra inundações tem um comprimento de 2,13km, desde a Escola de Pilotagem da Barra até ao Edifício Portuário no Lam Mau.

Aumento das instalações de emergência, fuga, prevenção e salvamento em situação de catástrofe

- Criação de 16 centros de abrigo para evacuação de emergência em Macau, 4 pontos de encontro para pessoas que necessitem de apoio/locais de permanência para evacuação de emergência;
- Instalação do "Sistema de aviso nos pontos altos" nos três pontos altos de Macau, nomeadamente no Farol da Guia, na Taipa Grande e no Alto de Coloane, bem como do sistema de divulgação e aviso nas zonas baixas em 90 postes de sistema de videovigilância;
- Aumento de 5 mergulhadores (de 16 passam a 21);
- Mais acções de formação destinadas ao pessoal de salvamento em altitude;
- Aumento de equipamentos destinados ao salvamento em parques de estacionamento, nomeadamente drones marítimos, robô submarino controlado por cabos, rádios de comunicação subaquática, máscaras full-face para mergulhadores e botes rápidos de patrulhamento equipados com aparelhos de visão nocturna e de controlo;
- Aumento da quantidade e diversificação dos modelos de botes de borracha, geradores, bombas aspirantes de maior capacidade, ferramentas de arrombamento, serras eléctricas, entre outros equipamentos.

Obras de construção de comportas a longo prazo no Porto Interior

(O projecto já foi submetido ao Governo Central)

Está prevista a construção de comportas amovíveis de retenção de maré na foz da via fluvial de Wanzai, junto à Barra.

650m de largura

3 portões onde não é permitida passagem

3 portões onde é permitida passagem

Protecção contra marés de 5,8m de altura

Passagem permitida a embarcações

Tendo por referência um padrão de resistência de possíveis inundações a ocorrer uma vez em cada 200 anos, a altura será superior a 5,58m de altura, ou seja, superior ao nível mais alto da preia-mar registado durante a ocorrência do tufão Hato.

Apoio a pequenas e médias empresas estabelecidas nas zonas baixas da cidade

- Lançamento do "Plano de apoio financeiro para a instalação da plataforma contra inundações destinado às pequenas e médias empresas"
- Lançamento do "Plano de apoio financeiro para a instalação de portas móveis e bombas contra inundações destinado às pequenas e médias empresas"

Alteração da Lei de Bases da Protecção Civil

Elaboração do Plano Decenal de Prevenção e Redução de Desastres em Macau (2019-2028)

Elaboração do Plano de contingência de resposta a incidentes imprevistos

Criação da plataforma de aplicação do comando de contingência

Estudo sobre a criação do regime de seguro contra grandes desastres

ANM urges gov't to quit controlling freedom of speech

Julie Zhu

THE New Macau Association (ANM) has called on the government to stop manipulating the media, following proposed changes to the Civil Protection Law, which is currently open for public consultation. ANM has emphasized the media's civil responsibility to report on the government's exercise of authority. The bill includes the establishment of a new crime of creating "false social alarm."

Those who spread false rumors during crisis periods, such as catastrophes, accidents, disease outbreaks, or terrorist attacks, may be caught under the new regulation that imposes harsher penalties in addition to the ones currently established by the Macau Penal Code.

Under the proposed regulation, the punishment would be increased from six months' imprisonment to three years.



The task of contributing to "social harmony" and the enforcement of these rules will also apply to the media, with the government addressing the "added responsibility of support on the disclosure of information by media outlets" in the proposed change.

"No media should be responsible to government. The media should only obey the law," association member Sulu Sou said.

The association believes that the media will only become the voice of the government if it reports only on a specified range of topics regulated by the government itself.

Regarding the "false social alarm" crime, ANM considers it the government's responsibility to release timely, open and correct information.

"Most of the articles related to crimes in [any] laws involving

freedom of speech have a disclaimer: to avoid letting the government abuse the articles in order to prosecute the public," said Sou, adding that "however, this draft does not have a disclaimer, and apparently the proposal has not considered how to protect the freedom of speech."

The association calls for the government to clearly define the "social security matters" that will be within the scope of this

law, and to clearly exclude demonstrations and incidents in which people exercise their civil rights.

In addition, Sou commented that "under the government's arrangement, Macau is a very dangerous city."

The media does not need the government to teach it how to do things.

SULU SOU

"The media does not need the government to teach it how to do things," said Sou.

Regarding the heavy punishment that the new bill proposes, Sou commented, "the public hopes that government officials can be accountable. [However, according to the proposal], there will not be just a little bit of punishment [targeting] the public."

Furthermore, ANM urges the government not to suppress freedom of speech.

DURING the first seven months of this year, the Health Bureau (SSM) inspectors, together with the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau, have conducted a total of 512 inspections in casinos. According to a statement released by SSM, the number of charges related to illegal smokers increased 111.4 percent year on year.

The inspections resulted in a total of 964 prosecutions. The data indicates that 910 of the culprits (94.4 per-

More illegal smokers prosecuted

cent of the total) were male and 54 were female. Around 88 percent of them were tourists, 11.8 percent were Macau residents, and 0.1 percent were non-resident workers.

During the same period, SSM carried out a total of 208,373 inspections, representing a daily average of 983 inspections.

The inspections resulted in a total of 3,196 charges, including 3,185

cases of illegal smoking, seven cases of illegal labeling of tobacco products, and four cases of illegal sales of tobacco products.

The number of people who have been accused of illegally smoking decreased 29.1 percent to 1,309, of which 1,065 (93.1 percent) were male, 220 (6.9 percent) were female, 2,025 (63.6 percent) were tourists, 1,065 (33.4 percent) were Macau

residents, and 95 (3 percent) were non-resident workers.

In 88 cases, police assistance was required, with officers being called to the scene.

Most of the incidents (964) were detected in casinos, 402 in parks, gardens and recreation areas and 304 in bus and taxi stands.

According to the SSM, 82.8 percent of the smokers have already paid their fines.



corporate bits

GALAXY POSTS FIRST HALF-YEAR NET REVENUE OF USD28.1 BILLION



Galaxy Entertainment Group yesterday reported the second quarter and half year results in 2018.

The group's 1H results posted net revenue of USD28.1 billion, up 25 percent year-on-year, and generating Adjusted EBITDA of USD8.6 billion, up 34 percent year-on-year. Net profit attributable to shareholders increased to USD7.2 billion. Galaxy Macau's Adjusted EBITDA was USD6.5 billion, up 28 percent year-on-year. StarWorld Macau's Adjusted EBITDA was USD2 billion, up 41 percent year-on-year. Broadway Macau's Adjusted EBITDA was USD15 million versus USD7 million in 1H 2017.

According to a statement issued yesterday by Galaxy Group, "during 1H 2018, GEG experienced bad luck

in its gaming operation, which decreased its Adjusted EBITDA by approximately USD229 million." Normalized 1H 2018 Adjusted EBITDA grew 38 percent year-on-year to USD8.9 billion.

The group's total gross gaming revenue on a management basis 1 in 1H 2018 was USD34.3 billion, up 30 percent year-on-year as total mass table gross gaming revenue was USD13.5 billion, up 18 percent year-on-year.

VIP rolling chip volume was USD162.0 billion, up 29 percent year-on-year during the first half of the year. This translated to gross gaming revenue of USD5.1 billion, up 33 percent year-on-year. Q2 gross gaming revenue was USD2.4 billion, up 15 percent year-on-year and down 10 percent quarter-

on-quarter. Total electronic gross gaming revenue was USD1.2 billion, up 13% year-on-year.

Quoted in the statement, Lui Che Woo, chairman of GEG, said that on the development front, the group "continued to move forward with its Cotai Phases 3 & 4, which will include approximately 4,500 hotel rooms, including family and premium high end rooms, significant MICE space, a 16,000-seat multi-purpose arena, food and beverage, retail and casinos, among others. Further, we are advancing the conceptual plans for our development in Hengqin for a low density integrated resort that will complement our high energy resorts in Macau. The group has a clearly defined growth development pipeline."

Wynn Resorts adds former Deutsche Bank CEO to board

Casino operator Wynn Resorts has appointed its current CEO and the former CEO of Deutsche Bank to its board of directors. The Las Vegas-based company announced the appointments Tuesday. The addition of Wynn Resorts CEO Matt Maddox and former Deutsche Bank executive Richard Byrne brings the number of board members to 11. The company's board has been overhauled since founder Steve Wynn resigned as chairman and CEO in February after sexual misconduct allegations against him first surfaced. He has denied the accusations. The announcement came a day after the company disclosed that casino industry veteran Phil Satre has been named board vice chairman and will become chairman by Dec. 31. Maddox joined the casino operator when it was founded in 2002. Byrne is the president of Benefit Street Partners.

Disney says its new streaming service won't rival Netflix

Disney's upcoming streaming service won't try to compete directly with Netflix and Amazon, but will focus instead on quality — namely original programs from Disney's "Star Wars," Pixar and Marvel brands. The details from Disney CEO Bob Iger came as Disney reported a growth in earnings for the latest quarter, though results missed expectations. With Comcast out of the bidding war, Disney is planning to move forward with its USD71.3 billion purchase of Fox's entertainment assets, in part to boost a Disney-branded streaming service set to launch in late 2019. Disney's shareholders and U.S. regulators have approved the Fox bid. Disney is awaiting regulatory approval overseas.

Crypto's USD600 billion crash hits a new low

Eric Lam

THE 2018 selloff in cryptocurrencies plumbed new depths yesterday after the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission dented enthusiasts' hopes for a Van Eck exchange-traded fund backed by Bitcoin.

A broad selloff in coins of all sizes reduced the market value of virtual currencies tracked by Coinmarketcap.com to about USD230 billion, the lowest level since November. Digital assets have now lost about \$600 billion since crypto-mania peaked in January, equivalent to erasing the entire market value of Visa Inc. twice over. (Shares of the payments processor are trading near a record high.)

The SEC postponed its decision on whether to approve the Bitcoin ETF, dealing a blow to bulls who had bet a green light from the regulator would help sustain



last month's tenuous rally. Optimists are counting on the wider adoption of cryptocurrencies to support prices, but regulators and many institutional investors have remained wary amid concerns over security and market manipulation.

Bitcoin dropped 5.6 percent to \$6,484 as of 8:19 a.m. in New York, after earlier falling as much as 7 percent. It's down 55 percent this year, according

to Bloomberg composite pricing. Ripple slumped 10 percent while Ether and Litecoin sank at least 4.7 percent. All but two of the 100 biggest virtual currencies tracked by Coinmarketcap.com slumped over the past 24 hours.

The SEC now has until Sept. 30 to "approve or disapprove, or institute proceedings to determine whether to disapprove" a proposed rule change from Cboe Global Markets Inc.

that would allow the listing of an ETF from VanEck Associates Corp. and SolidX Partners Inc., the regulator said in a statement. An initial deadline was due to expire next week.

The regulator denied an exchange's request to list a similar fund run by Tyler and Cameron Winklevoss late last month. Some had argued that VanEck's proposal was more likely to gain approval thanks in part to plans for a high minimum share price that would discourage retail investors. The SEC received more than 1,300 comments on the proposed rule change as of Aug. 6, it said.

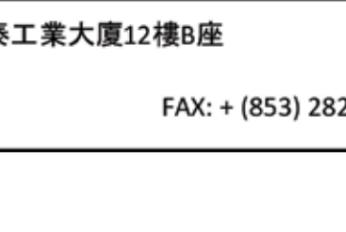
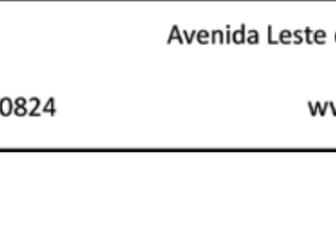
News hasn't been all negative this week for digital currencies and their acceptance by Wall Street. Goldman Sachs Group Inc. is considering a plan to offer custody for crypto funds, people with knowledge of the matter said. **Bloomberg**

AD



RCR Electronics (Macau) Ltd.

中葡電子(澳門)有限公司

<p>ELV Systems Specialists 專業的弱電系統</p>			<p>Surveillance Systems 監控系統</p>
<p>Design & Budgets 設計和預算</p>			<p>Intrusion Alarm Systems 入侵警報系統</p>
<p>Project Management 項目管理</p>			<p>Access Control Systems 門禁系統</p>
<p>Maintenance & Service 維修和服務</p>			<p>AV/TV, Telephone & Display Systems AV/TV,電話和顯示系統</p>
<p>Risk Assessment & Management 風險評估和管理</p>			<p>Fire Detection & Supression Systems 火焰偵測和滅火系統</p>
<p>Survey & Troubleshooting Services 檢驗和故障診斷與維修服務</p>			<p>Network & Structure Cable 網絡和綜合佈線</p>

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Youkyung Lee, Seoul

SAMSUNG Electronics plans to spend a whopping USD22 billion over the next three years on artificial intelligence, auto components and other future businesses as the company maps out its strategy under the restored leadership of Vice Chairman Lee Jae-yong after he was freed from prison.

The announcement yesterday by South Korea's biggest business group was welcome news, coming at a time of deepening unease over slowing growth in Asia's fourth largest economy. It also highlights that South Korea's decades-old reliance on big businesses for jobs and investments is unlikely to end anytime soon since the country lacks a strong pool of small and medium-sized companies found in Japan or Germany.

Samsung said it will spend the sum, amounting to 25 trillion won, on hiring artificial intelligence researchers in about 1,000 artificial intelligence centers around the world, on ensuring it will be a global player in next generation telecoms technology called 5G and on deepening its involvement in electronic components for future cars.

"Samsung expects innovations powered by AI technology will drive the industry's transformation, while the next-generation 5G telecommunications technology will create new opportunities in autonomous driving, the Internet of Things (IoT) and robotics," the company said in a

Samsung plans USD22 billion for artificial intelligence, autos



statement.

Some of the funding will go to Samsung's biopharmaceutical businesses. Samsung has been beefing up its contract drug making operations to help counter a potential decline in its mainstay electronics businesses.

South Korea relies heavily on Samsung and its affiliated companies for investment and jobs, even after a corruption scandal that resulted in Lee's conviction for bribery. Lee was freed after nearly a year in jail but former President Park Geun-hye and a close associate remain imprisoned for bribery and other charges.

Lee kept a low profile after his release in February but has been emerging in his public role in recent weeks. The most notable appearance was in India, where Lee met with President Moon Jae-in and Samsung announced plans to expand its smartphone production there.

Including the latest plan, spending by Samsung Electronics and its affiliates on research and development and capital expenditures over the next three years will amount to 180 trillion won (\$161 billion), Samsung said. Of that total, 130 trillion won will stay in South Korea, the company said. The rest will likely be

distributed to China, Vietnam and other production lines overseas.

Samsung also said yesterday that it plans to create 20,000 more jobs over the next three years, on top of a previously announced 20,000 new jobs. The new investment is expected to indirectly lead to about 700,000 jobs in related industries and businesses in South Korea, Samsung said without giving a time frame.

■ Even by Samsung's standard, the size of the investment announced yesterday was huge

No company in South Korea can match Samsung's scale in investment or job creation. But even by Samsung's standard, the size of the investment announced yesterday was huge. In 2010, under the leadership of Lee's fa-

ther, Lee Kun-hee, who was then in charge of the group, Samsung had said it would spend 23 trillion won over the following 10 years on future businesses.

South Korean voters weary of scandals and critical of big businesses like Samsung elected President Moon to replace Park after she was ousted.

Moon pledged to reform outdated practices and abuses in politics and in business and appointed a critic of big conglomerates, known as "chaebols," to lead South Korea's fair-trade commission.

Such moves raised hopes for change, but more than a year after taking office Moon's administration is facing mounting criticism over its handling of the economy. Youth unemployment rates are at historic highs and exports, apart from the booming memory chip sector, have been slow to recover. Moon's approval rates have fallen to around 60 percent for the first time, the lowest level since he took office.

Samsung's investment announcement came two days after the finance minister visited a Samsung computer chip factory, where he touted Samsung's importance in South Korea's economy. **AP**

Shenzhen billionaire following his Stanford tech dream

Blake Schmidt

THE idea came to him while lounging on the Stanford University lawn as an electrical engineering student: a flexible display that could be tucked away like a pen. "Big screens that we can roll up and put in our pocket," said Bill Liu, 35, founder of Shenzhen, China-based unicorn Royole Corp.

Liu has been chasing that dream ever since, and after demonstrating the world's thinnest flexible, full-color smartphone display in 2014, he now has a long list of venture capitalists backing him.

Following a stint as a research scientist at International Business Machines Corp. in New York, Liu moved to Shenzhen and founded Royole with two other engineers with Stanford backgrounds. Now in its sixth year, the startup was

valued at USD5 billion in its latest Series E round of funding. Many of its 2,000 employees are working to mass produce the displays at a Shenzhen production campus built with Royole's cache of VC money.

Liu sees an opportunity to change one of the most fundamental human-machine interfaces of our time. By offering a solution to the conflict between visual experience and portability, he figures Royole can overhaul the devices by which most information is absorbed these days.

"People really want to see beautiful, high-resolution big screens, which is why TVs and theaters keep getting bigger," he said "But it's at conflict with portability. If we can make something that combines both in one device, it can be amazing."

Company filings show Liu has about a 42 per-

cent stake of the company, giving him a \$2.1 billion fortune, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. Co-founders Peng Wei and Xiaojun Yu, who also studied at Stanford, have smaller stakes.

Royole's line of products include 3-D mobile theaters, "wearable" flex displays and a smart writing pad, which it sells on Amazon.com, JD.com and flagship stores in China, the U.S. and Europe. But its main source of revenue is business-to-business sales of its technology solutions, such as a lamp by China's Oppl Lighting Co., which can be adjusted with touch technology built into the stand.

Liu said he's working on potential deals with smartphone makers and vehicle companies interested in Royole's curved dashboard. A partnership with Chinese athletic goods maker

Li-Ning is also in the works.

Flexible displays including the curved design used by Samsung Electronics Co. account for about a third of total smartphone display shipments, said Jerry Kang, an IHS Market analyst. He said the technology will have a majority of the market by 2022, when shipments of smartphone displays are expected to have tripled. "Mobile brands will try to make their products with larger screens in a more convenient way," he said.

Royole isn't the only game in town or even the biggest. BOE Technology Group Co.'s flexible AMOLED display production line in Chengdu, China, began running May 11, the company said on its WeChat account. Total investment for the line is 46.5 billion yuan (\$6.8 billion).

Royole's investors include Knight Capital, IDG Capital,



Bill Liu

tal, Poly Capital Management, AMTD Group, the funds of Chinese tycoon Xie Zhikun and the venture capital arm of the Shenzhen government.

Liu is one among a growing number of Chinese billionaires including biotech tycoons Lou Jing and Frank Zhang who earned degrees in the U.S. before returning to the homeland to do business.

After years of struggling to stop the outward migration, the government is making headway in luring foreign-educated Chinese back home. The Center for China and Globalization, which publishes a list of the top 50 returnees based on innovation and entrepreneurship, called the wave the largest since China's

civil war ended in 1949. Chinese state media lauded the movement as a "reverse brain drain."

Liu said he's found inspiration in Shenzhen entrepreneurs such as Huawei Technologies Co.'s founder Ren Zhengfei, as well as those with roots in Silicon Valley. He recently met Apple Inc. co-founder Steve Wozniak on a panel near Shenzhen, where the U.S. company is planning a research and development center.

"Steve Jobs was a great entrepreneur," he said of Apple's late chairman. "But I don't want to be any one of them. Everyone's different. What really matters is to digest the spirit from other great people." **Bloomberg**

July exports accelerate despite Trump's tariff hike

CHINA'S exports to the United States rose by double digits in July, shrugging off President Donald Trump's tariff hikes in a fight over technology policy.

Sales to China's biggest export market defied forecasts they might slump after merchants rushed to fill orders before Washington imposed trade penalties July 6, customs data showed yesterday.

Exports to the United States rose 13.3 percent over a year earlier to USD41.5 billion. That was off slightly from June's 13.6 percent rate but still stronger than China's global export growth.

"Today's trade data don't show any significant impact from the first round of U.S. tariffs," said Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics in a report.

Global exports rose 12.2 percent to \$215.5 billion, accelerating from June's 11.3 percent growth. Imports surged 27.3 percent to \$187.5 billion, up from the previous month's 14.1 percent.

The politically volatile surplus with the United States expanded by 11 percent to \$28 billion.

Beijing has warned exporters face "rising instabilities" after Washington slapped 25 percent duties on \$34 billion of Chinese goods in response to complaints the communist government steals or pressures foreign companies to hand over technology. China retaliated with higher duties on a similar amount of American goods.

On Tuesday, the Trump administration announced it would go ahead with previously announced 25 percent tariffs on an additional \$16 billion of Chinese imports. There was no immediate response from Beijing.

Washington also has threatened possible penalties on a \$200 billion list of Chinese goods. Beijing says it is ready to retaliate against \$60 billion of American imports.

Exports to the rest of the world may have been helped by a weaker Chinese currency. The yuan has declined by 8 percent this year against the dollar and by about 4 percent against a basket of global currencies.

The conflict with Washington, coupled with weakening global demand, adds to challenges for Beijing as economic growth falls off after regulators tightened controls on bank lending to rein in surging debt.

The unusually strong July import figures reflected higher prices, according to Evans-Pritchard. He said the amount of goods China imported in July appeared to have risen about 3.7 percent over a year earlier, reversing a 4.8 percent decline the previous month.

"We expect export growth to cool in the coming months, though this will primarily reflect softer global growth rather than U.S. tariffs," said Evans-Pritchard.

"Import growth is likely to slow as domestic headwinds continue to weigh on economic activity."

China's global trade surplus narrowed by 40 percent from a year earlier to \$28 billion. The trade gap with the 28-nation European Union contracted by 8 percent to \$11.2 billion.

China is running out of American goods for retaliatory tariffs due to their lopsided trade balance.

Last year's imports from the United States totaled about \$130 billion. That leaves about \$20 billion for penalty tariffs after increases either imposed or threatened on a total of \$110 billion of U.S. goods are counted.

Beijing has stepped up efforts, so far without success, to recruit governments including Germany and France as allies. They criticize Trump's tactics but share U.S. complaints about Chinese industrial policy and market barriers. AP

Paul Wiseman, Washington

TRADE WAR

ALREADY threatened by escalating U.S. taxes on its goods, China is about to find it much harder to invest in U.S. companies or to buy American technology in such cutting-edge areas as robotics, artificial intelligence and virtual reality.

President Donald Trump is expected as early as this week to sign legislation to tighten the U.S. government's scrutiny of foreign investments and exports of sensitive technology.

The law, which Congress passed in a rare show of unity among Republicans and Democrats, doesn't single out China. But there's no doubt the intended target is Beijing. The Trump administration has accused China of using predatory tactics to steal American technology.

"As a policy signal, it speaks with a very loud voice," said Harry Clark, head of the international trade practice at the law firm Orrick. "Leading decision makers and Congress are very concerned about technology transfer to China."

The Trump administration has already imposed tariffs on USD34 billion in Chinese exports, is preparing taxes on a further \$16 billion and has threatened to target an additional \$200 billion of Beijing's exports and maybe still more.

As part of the same punitive campaign, Trump had initially ordered the Treasury Department to draft investment restrictions aimed specifically at China. But in late June, Trump decided instead to back Congress' effort to tighten existing investment restrictions and export controls on all countries, rather than China alone.

The new law strengthens reviews of foreign investment by the existing Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, or CFIUS, which is led by Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin. The

US to impose tight



committee can now review any investments that grant foreigners access to a U.S. company's high-tech trade secrets. Before the change, such reviews were done only when a foreigner gained control of a company.

The new law also gives the committee oversight of real

estate deals that are deemed to pose a national security risk by putting foreigners in "close proximity" to government offices and military bases. The legislation will also crack down on deals that appear structured to evade such oversight.

Congress is also directing the committee to go beyond

Court sentences six in graduate exam cheating scheme

SIX people have been imprisoned for up to four years for their part in a scheme to cheat on China's national graduate school exam, state media reported yesterday.

Exam takers were provided with wireless transmitters and receivers and told to read the questions out

loud, according to the reports. Researchers off-site would then find the answers in textbooks and read them to the test takers through their receivers.

Among those sentenced Tuesday were two exam takers who helped recruit clients. It wasn't clear how

much the cheaters paid for the service or what punishment they received, although permanent disqualification from the exams is the usual sanction in such cases.

The six defendants were sentenced to between 20 months and four years and fined up to 40,000

yuan (USD5,900). They could have faced as much as seven years in prison under a 2015 amendment to the law.

Exam scores make up the overwhelming preponderance of criteria for acceptance in the Chinese education system from early education onward.



ter curbs on China's tech investment



specific cases to identify patterns in foreign investment — if, for example, Chinese companies are acquiring a specific technology — and to work with U.S. allies that share its concerns about Beijing's high-tech ambitions.

"Treasury can now share information," said Rod Hunter, a partner at the Baker

McKenzie law firm and a former White House economic adviser. "They used to have to do all kinds of backflips and workarounds with allied governments to deal with this sort of issue."

The new law also strengthens the Commerce Department's oversight of high-tech exports. Government agen-

cies will identify sensitive "emerging and foundational technologies" that will be subject to tougher export controls.

Hunter said he thought the stricter oversight of high-tech exports could potentially impose a bigger impact on China than the tariffs the Trump administration has

imposed on Beijing's exports to the United States.

Still, the new measures could burden U.S. companies that will find it harder to attract Chinese investment or to share with Chinese partners or customers technology that the U.S. government might deem sensitive.

"It could be that we're pushing American tech firms out of China," said Derek Scissors, China specialist at the conservative American Enterprise Institute.

The crackdown reflects a sharp reversal in U.S. attitudes toward Chinese investment. From virtually nothing in 2000, Chinese direct investment in the United States (including new plants and offices and acquisitions of American companies) reached a record \$46 billion in 2016, according to the Rhodium Group research firm.

■ The law, which Congress passed in a rare show of unity, doesn't single out China. But the intended target is Beijing

Chinese investors sank money into U.S. companies involved in artificial intelligence, robotics and blockchain technology, which is used to do business in cryptocurrencies. U.S. policymakers began to worry about what the Chinese were up to, especially after leaders in Beijing made their ambitions clear: They intend to nurture homegrown Chinese companies

that will contend for global dominance in such fields as electric cars, robotics and medical devices.

In March, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative reported that Chinese investors were using money provided by Beijing to outbid private companies and pay above-market rates for technology and talent. And last year, a Defense Department report sounded the alarm about China obtaining technology that could have military uses.

"The line demarcating products designed and used for commercial versus military purposes is blurring," said the report from the Pentagon's Defense Innovation Unit Experimental.

It noted that virtual-reality gaming was becoming as sophisticated as what the armed forces use for battlefield simulations and that facial recognition technology used in social media can track terrorists.

Even before the new law, U.S. reviews of Chinese investments were becoming stricter. In January, the government effectively blocked the acquisition of the Dallas-based money transfer service MoneyGram by the Chinese firm Ant Financial. Its concern was that the deal would give China access to the financial records of millions of Americans, including members of the military.

The result has been a deepfreeze in direct Chinese investment in the United States: It tumbled 36 percent last year to \$29 billion. In the first half of this year, such investment dropped to its lowest level in seven years — \$1.8 billion — down 90 percent from the first six months of 2017, according to Rhodium Group. **AP**

INVESTIGATORS in China have begun recalling defective vaccines produced by a Chinese drugmaker from domestic and overseas markets, health authorities said.

Investigators found Changchun Changsheng Life Sciences Ltd. had blended expired fluids in its vaccines and falsified records from as early as April 2014, the National Health Commission said in a statement this week.

The names of the overseas countries were not given, but the recall in-

Beijing orders recall from overseas as vaccine scandal churns

dicated the scandal gripping China may have spread to foreign markets, dealing a potentially heavy blow to the reputation of China's sprawling pharmaceutical sector.

The commission did not immediately respond to a fax yesterday seeking comment.

Regulators ordered a production halt last month, but public anger

soared after documents leaked online showed regulators had found inconsistencies in 2017 but failed to take immediate action.

President Xi Jinping and other top officials have reacted swiftly to contain outrage by condemning Changsheng and pledging improved regulation of food and medicine safety, two areas of perennial

concern in China that could fuel anti-government sentiment among the growing urban middle class.

Regulators have launched nationwide spot checks on vaccine makers while the central government has set up a panel of experts to review vaccine safety in China's massive USD122 billion pharmaceutical industry.



Changsheng was China's second-largest rabies vaccine manufacturer before the scandal hit.

Police in northeast Chi-

na said last week they would seek the arrest of 18 Changsheng executives, including chairwoman Gao Junfang. **AP**

Todd Pitman, Tanjung

INDONESIA

Rescuers struggle to recover quake's dead, help the living

THE rescue team had done everything it could to locate the body of the man, who had been killed instantly when a massive earthquake collapsed his home Sunday night on the Indonesian island of Lombok.

They used hacksaws to cut a square into concrete wall. They used crowbars and dogs and a power drill. But by Tuesday afternoon, with the unmistakable stench of rotting flesh in the air, they were sweating and at their wits' end. The body of 60-year-old Abdul Malik, one of at least 130 people killed in the 7.0-magnitude quake, would have to stay under the rubble for a third day.

"It's taking far too long," said 50-year-old Masini, the victim's brother-in-law who watched more than a dozen helmeted emergency workers in orange jumpsuits drill into a thick layer of concrete.

The tragic scene underscored the challenges Indonesia faces after this natural disaster. The quake shattered homes and lives on this island, displacing more than 84,000 people, according to disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho.

At least 4,600 foreign and Indonesian tourists also have been evacuated from three smaller islands off Lombok's coast so far, Nugroho said. The islets are renowned for their crystal clear waters that draw snorkelers and divers from all over the world.

But with not enough boats to evacuate tourists quickly and too few planes to fly them out of Lombok, many visitors were forced to wait for hours or camp on beaches and the floor of the international airport in Mataram.

On the winding roads running north from the airport, which lead to destroyed villages shadowed by tall palm trees, the disaster's impact was evident. Villagers fearing aftershocks could be seen camped by the thousands un-

AP PHOTO



der makeshift blue tarpaulins held together with bamboo and sticks. Some held up simple cardboard signs begging for aid as ambulances and other vehicles raged by.

"We need food and water," said one. "Please donate," said another.

The international charity Oxfam said drinking water was scarce because of a recent spell of extremely dry weather in Lombok. Food, medical supplies, tarps and clothes are also urgently needed, it said.

By late Tuesday, the government appeared to be focused on finding bodies, and wherever possible, survivors.

Masini said his brother-in-law, Abdul Malik, who owned a small grocery store next to his home in Tanjung, was sitting in his living room with family when the catastrophe struck. Although his family managed to make it out, Abdul Malik was crushed by a thick concrete wall.

The rescuers are working "too slow," Masini said. "They should be bringing in heavy equipment to speed this up."

Arintinus Titus, from the National Search and Rescue Agency, acknowledged they needed better tools. But he said "we will not give up until we pull him out of this rubble.

We know how hard his family is suffering."

A few kilometers up the road, rescuers earlier Tuesday pulled a single body from a pancaked pile of broken concrete and twisted rebar that once held together the multistory Jabal Nur Mosque, whose green dome had shattered and collapsed.

A 66-year-old village elder, Supardi, said a 6.4-magnitude quake that hit Lombok a week earlier had caused countless cracks in the mosque's walls.

Those were going to be repaired, he said, but people were just getting over the first quake and more than half the

village's 1,500 people were sleeping outside.

Large earthquakes are often followed by less-powerful aftershocks. But "nobody expected a stronger quake would occur in such a short amount of time," said Supardi, who said he was praying in the mosque when the tremor hit.

He described a roar that knocked out the electricity and sent people fleeing outside. "It destroyed everything," he said.

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.

By Tuesday evening, the search effort at the mosque ended after dogs failed to find more bodies and no other families reported missing loved ones there, said Anak Agung Alit Supartana, who heads the region's Search and Rescue Agency office. There had been reports that dozens of people were killed at the site.

Supartana said two people had been found alive, along with three bodies. But the rescuers and heavy equipment were "very much needed elsewhere, so we decided to shift the operation" to other locations.

As it turned out, one was the crushed home of Masini's brother-in-law. The teams and one excavator arrived after dark Tuesday to investigate. But officials said they would have to resume their search for the body there at first light yesterday. **AP**

PHILIPPINES

Troops kill two suspected bomb couriers in south

PHILIPPINE troops killed two bomb couriers at an army checkpoint yesterday before the suspected Muslim militants could detonate the explosives in a crowded area in the restive south, military officials said.

One of the two local militants opened fire at soldiers who flagged them down at a checkpoint yesterday, sparking a brief gunbattle in M'lang town

in North Cotabato province, said Brig. Cirilito Sobejana.

Troops have been alerted to brace for possible retaliation by militants.

Police defused a bomb made from a 60 mm mortar round that was carried by the two suspects along with a pistol and a cellphone, which was to be used to remotely detonate the explosive, Sobejana said.

The two belonged to Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, one of a number of small armed groups aligned with the Islamic State group that have turned to bombings to project they're still a force to reckon with amid battle setbacks, he said.

"They're running low on logistics and ammunition and cannot fight our troops face-to-face so they're resorting to these

IED emplacements to cause a public alarm and send the message that they still exist," Sobejana said by telephone.

Last week, a bomb-laden van driven by a suspected militant went off in a powerful blast that killed 11 people, including a soldier, five militiamen and the driver, in a brazen attack near an army militia outpost in Lamitan city on southern Basilan island.

Militiamen, who had been alerted about possible bombings, stopped the van also at a checkpoint in Colonia village, where the bomb went off, military officials said.

The Islamic State group, through its media arm, claimed credit for the attack, saying the attacker was a Moroccan. It, however, inaccurately cited a much higher military death toll.

Government forces have

been on alert in the south, scene of decades-long Muslim separatist unrest, after President Rodrigo Duterte signed a new autonomy agreement last week with the biggest Muslim rebel group.

The peace deal has been opposed by much smaller but violent extremist bands like the Abu Sayyaf and others, which have associated themselves with the IS. **AP**



Pink cancels fourth Sydney show, vows to be on stage Saturday

POP superstar Pink yesterday postponed a fourth Sydney show but vowed to be back on stage Saturday following a stomach virus.

Her "Beautiful Trauma" world tour's first concert in Sydney was scheduled for last Friday, but she canceled that show on doctor's orders.

The 38-year-old battled through a Saturday night show.

Promoter Live Nation said Pink was admitted to a hospital on Sunday suffering from dehydration and was discharged. But she was readmitted and diagnosed with a gastric virus hours before her Monday concert was due to begin.

She was discharged from the hospital the next day, but Tuesday night's concert was canceled.

Pink said today's concert would be the fourth and last cancellation.

"Our next show will be Saturday, and until then I

will be drinking green tea and spending time with my kids," Pink posted on Instagram.

"My sincere apologies to any of the ticket holders that this has affected," she said.

Pink's Australian tour is scheduled from July 4 to Aug. 26.

Live Nation later said Pink would return to Sydney after the New Zealand leg of her tour to perform most of the postponed concerts. The new Sydney show dates are Aug. 24 and Sept. 17-19.

"Thank you for your patience, compassion and support. I look forward to rocking out with all of you as we have done for many, many years," Pink said.

She thanked her supporters as well as staff at inner-city Saint Vincent's Hospital for their care.

She last toured Australia in 2013, when she performed 46 shows as part of her "Truth About Love" world tour. **AP**

AUSTRALIA

Most populous state entirely in drought

Rod McGuirk, Canberra

AUSTRALIA'S most populous state was declared entirely in drought yesterday and struggling farmers were given new authority to shoot kangaroos that compete with livestock for sparse pasture during the most intense dry spell in more than 50 years.

Much of Australia's southeast is struggling with drought. But the drought conditions in New South Wales state this year have been the driest and most widespread since 1965.

The state government said that 100 percent of New South Wales' land area of more than 800,000 square kilometers was now in drought.

Primary Industries Minister Niall Blair said farmers were enduring one of the driest Southern Hemisphere winters on record.

"This is tough. There isn't a person in the state that isn't hoping to see some rain for our farmers and regional communities," Blair said in a statement.

Farm reservoirs have dried up and crops are failing.

State and federal governments are providing financial help, but not enough for many farmers.

With dry conditions forecast to continue for the next three months, farmers had to decide whether to continue the expensive and laborious task of hand-feeding cattle and sheep or sell their livestock.

The state government yesterday also lifted the number of kangaroos that farmers are allowed to shoot



Australian PM Malcolm Turnbull (second right) looks at dry soil with farmers during a visit to a farm

and reduced bureaucratic red tape facing land holders applying for permission to shoot.

The requirement to tag dead kangaroos to keep a tally of the number shot across the state had been dispensed with.

"Many farmers are taking livestock off their paddocks, only to then see kangaroos move in and take whatever is left," Blair said.

"If we don't manage this situation, we will start to see tens of thousands of kangaroos starving and suffering, ultimately leading to a major ani-

100 percent of New South Wales' land area of more than 800,000 sqm was now in drought

mal welfare crisis," he added.

But Ray Borda, president of the Kangaroo Industries Association of Australia, which represents commercial shooters who hunt kangaroos for meat and leather, raised animal welfare concerns about the regulation changes.

"Anybody on the land that will make a phone call to the Department of Environment can get permission to shoot almost whatever they want to shoot and it's un-audited and unchecked and that's our concern — animal welfare," Borda told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

The government would have been better off subsidizing professional shooters to reduce kangaroo numbers more humanely, he said.

"We see this as probably the worst possible outcome for the kangaroo, but I've got to emphasize we do understand the plight that farmers are in," Borda said. **AP**

FORMER Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak pleaded not guilty to three new money-laundering charges related to the alleged multi-billion-dollar looting of a state investment fund that led to his stunning electoral defeat three months ago.

Dressed in a grey suit, Najib was calm and spoke softly as he entered his plea in the High Court. He has previously accused Malaysia's new government of seeking political vengeance and vowed to clear his name in his trial.

Najib, 65, had pleaded not guilty last month to abuse of power and three counts of criminal breach of trust.

All of the charges against him involve the transfer of 42 million ringgit (USD10.3

MALAYSIA

Ex-PM pleads not guilty to money laundering charges



Former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak (center) arrives at the High Court of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur

million) into his bank accounts from SRC International, a former unit of the 1MDB fund

that international investigators say was looted of billions by Najib's associates.

Abuse of power and breach of trust carry a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison for each count. Each money-laundering count carries a penalty of up to 15 years in prison and a fine of not less than five times the sum laundered.

Najib set up 1MDB when he took power in 2009 for the stated purpose of promoting economic development, but the fund amassed billions in debts and is being investigated in the U.S. and several other countries for alleged cross-border embezzlement and money laun-

dering.

After leaked documents exposed the scandal, Najib sacked critics in his government, muzzled the media and quashed investigations. Public anger led to the defeat of Najib's long-ruling coalition in May 9 elections and ushered in the first change of power since Malaysia gained independence from Britain in 1957.

The new government reopened the investigations stifled under Najib's rule and barred him and his wife from leaving the country. Police also seized jewelry

and valuables valued at more than 1.1 billion ringgit (\$270.2 million) from properties linked to Najib.

His case yesterday was heard by a new judge after the previous judge, who is the brother of a senior official in Najib's Malay party, was transferred to another court.

Najib's lawyer Muhammad Shafee Abdullah questioned why the previous judge was suddenly transferred out even though there were no applications to remove him. Prosecutors said the transfer of judges was a normal procedure.

The court will resume Friday to hear a bid by Shafee for a gag order to bar the media from reporting on the merits of the case. The judge is expected to set trial dates then. **AP**

Deb Riechmann, Washington

THE U.S. is bracing for cyberattacks Iran could launch in retaliation for the re-imposition of sanctions this week by President Donald Trump, cybersecurity and intelligence experts say.

Concern over that cyber threat has been rising since May, when Trump pulled out of the 2015 nuclear deal, under which the U.S. and other world powers eased economic sanctions in exchange for curbs on Iran's nuclear program. The experts say the threat would intensify following Washington's move earlier this week to re-impose economic restrictions on Tehran.

"While we have no specific threats, we have seen an increase in chatter related to Iranian threat activity over the past several weeks," said Priscilla Moriuchi, director of strategic threat development at Recorded Future, a global real-time cyber threat intelligence company. The Massachusetts-based company predicted back in May that the U.S. withdrawal from the nuclear agreement would provoke a cyber response from the Iranian government within two to four months.

U.S. intelligence agencies have singled out Iran as one of the main foreign cyber threats facing America, along with Russia, China and North Korea. A wave of attacks that U.S. authorities blamed on Iran between 2012 and 2014 targeted banks and caused tens of millions of dollars in damage. They also targeted but failed to penetrate critical infrastructure.

Iran denies using its cyber capabilities for offensive purposes, and accuses the U.S. of targeting Iran. Several years ago, the top-secret Stuxnet computer virus destroyed centrifuges involved in Iran's contested nuclear program. Stuxnet, which is widely believed to be an American and Israeli creation, caused thousands of centrifuges at Iran's Natanz nuclear facility to spin themselves to destruction at the height of the West's fears over Iran's program.

"The United States has been the most aggressive country in the world in offensive cyber activity and publicly boasted about attacking targets across the world," said Alireza Miryousefi, spokesman for Iran's diplomatic mission at the United Nations, contending that Iran's cyber capabilities are "exclusively for defensive purposes."

Gen. Qassem Soleimani, who heads the elite Quds Force of Iran's hard-line paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, has sounded more ominous, warning late last month about Iran's capabilities in "asymmetric war," a veiled reference to nontradi-



Iranian President Hassan Rouhani

INTELLIGENCE

US braces for possible cyberattacks after Iran sanctions

tional warfare that could include cyber attacks.

The Trump administration says it re-imposed sanctions on Iran to prevent its aggression — denying it the funds it needs to finance terrorism, its missile program and forces in conflicts in Yemen and Syria.

The sanctions target U.S. dollar financial transactions, Iran's automotive sector and the purchase of commercial planes and metals, including gold. Even stronger sanctions targeting Iran's oil sector and central bank are to be re-imposed in early November. European leaders have expressed deep regret about the U.S. actions. They hit Iran at a time when its unemployment is rising, the country's currency has collapsed and demonstrators are taking to the streets to protest social issues and labor unrest.

Norm Roule, former Iran manager for the office of the Director of National Intelligence, said he thinks Tehran will muster its cyber forces in response.

"I think there is a good chance Iran will use cyber, probably not an attack that is so destructive that it would fragment its remaining relationship with Europe, but I just don't think the Iranians will think there is much cost to doing this," Rou-

le said. "And it's a good way to show their capacity to inflict economic cost against the United States."

"Iran's cyber activities against the world have been the most consequential, costly and aggressive in the history of the internet, more so than Russia. [...] The Iranians are destructive cyber operators," Roule said, adding that Iranian hackers have, at times, impersonated Israeli and Western cyber security firm websites to harvest log-in information.

The office of Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats declined to comment on the likelihood that Iran will answer the sanctions with cyber operations against the U.S. When the U.S. pulled out of the nuclear deal, the FBI issued a warning saying that hackers in Iran "could potentially use a range of computer network operations — from scanning networks for potential vulnerabilities to data-deletion attacks — against U.S.-based networks in response to the U.S. government's withdrawal" from the nuclear pact.

Accenture Security, a global consulting, managing and technology company, also warned yesterday [Macau time] that the new sanctions would "likely to push that country to

intensify state-sponsored cyber threat activities," particularly if Iran fails to keep its European counterparts committed to the nuclear pact.

“We have seen an increase in chatter related to Iranian threat activity over the past several weeks.”

PRISCILLA MORIUCHI
CYBERSECURITY EXPERT

Josh Ray, the firm's managing director for cyber defense, said it hasn't seen any evidence that Iran has launched any new cyber operations, but he said Iran has the capability to do it and has historically operated in a retaliatory manner.

"This still remains a highly capable, espionage-related type threat," Ray said. "Organizations need to take this threat seriously. They need to understand how their business could potentially be impacted."

Recorded Future's Moriuchi

anticipated that businesses most at risk were those victimized in Iranian cyberattacks between 2012 and 2014 — they include banks and financial services, government departments, critical infrastructure providers, and oil and energy.

Those cyberattacks cost nearly 50 financial institutions tens of millions of dollars. The repeated attacks disabled bank websites and kept hundreds of thousands of customers from accessing their online accounts. U.S. prosecutors indicted several Iranians, alleging they worked at the behest of the Iranian government.

One defendant allegedly targeted the computer systems of the Bowman Dam in Rye, New York. No access was gained, but prosecutors said the breach underscored the potential vulnerabilities of the nation's critical infrastructure.

In March, the Justice Department also announced charges against nine Iranians accused of working at the behest of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps to steal large quantities of academic data from hundreds of universities in the United States and abroad as well as email accounts belonging to employees of government agencies and private companies. **AP**

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what's ON



BEATLES FOR BABIES

TIME: 3pm & 5pm (August 9-10, 2018)

11am, 3pm & 5pm (August 11 & 12, 2018)

VENUE: Grand Auditorium, Macao Cultural Centre

ADMISSION: MOP180

ORGANIZER: Macao Cultural Centre

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2870 0699

MARC CHAGALL, LIGHT AND COLOUR IN SOUTHERN FRANCE

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

UNTIL: August 26, 2018

VENUE: Macao Museum of Art

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

SCULPTURE – A JOURNEY, EXHIBITION BY ANTÓNIO LEÇA

TIME: 3pm-8pm (Mondays)

12pm-8pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)

UNTIL: October 21, 2018

VENUE: A2 Gallery, Albergue SCM

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550

KAMEN RIDER EXHIBITION (MACAU)

TIME: 1pm-8pm daily (last entrance 7:30pm)

UNTIL: August 26, 2018

VENUE: 2/F Exhibition Hall, Broadway Macau

ADMISSION: MOP128, MOP180 (Tickets are available at Kong Seng Ticketing Service www.macaoticket.com)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2855 5555

DISCOVER MACAU: MUSEUM OF TAIPA AND COLOANE HISTORY

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (last admission at 5:30pm; closed on Mondays)

ADDRESS: Rua Correia da Silva, Taipa

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

Offbeat

HAWAII JUDGE EVICTS OAHU NUDISTS FROM RENTAL HOUSE

A Hawaii judge has ordered the eviction of the tenants of an Oahu rental home that advertised naked parties and gained the ire of neighbors.

The judge sided with the property manager, citing lease violations, multiple disturbances and running a business out of the Nuanu home, Hawaii News Now reported last week.

Neighbors have complained of the so-called Freedom House's loud parties, like naked yoga, and a fire that consumed a car. Neighbor David Brown said he frequently reported the parties to police.

An attorney for property manager Sakuma Realty said the home operated as an illegal business, which advertised online. The renters have denied that allegation.

"It's just a website that I decided that I could have to have people come together," tenant Brent Thomas said.

Tenant Amy Highmoor said the property manager and neighbors are retaliating because of their alternative lifestyle and her complaints about the home's condition.

"I'm a naturalist. This is my religion and I have a right to be nude," Highmoor said. "I am not offensive."

Lawyers for both sides will work out a moving date for the tenants.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:20	Miscellaneous
17:35	Portuguese Documentary
18:10	Maternity
19:05	Portugal Fashion
19:35	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	Non-daily Portuguese News
21:20	Tech Tree
21:30	You, Me & the Apocalypse
22:20	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Macao Documentary
00:20	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:05	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

06- 09 Aug

DORAEMON THE MOVIE: NOBITA'S TREASURE ISLAND

ROOM 1

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

Director: Kazuaki Imai

Starring: Wasabi Mizuta, Megumi Ohara, Yumi Kakazu

Language: Cantonese (Chinese)

Duration: 109min



INCREDIBLES 2

ROOM 1

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



CHRISTOPHER ROBIN

ROOM 3

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

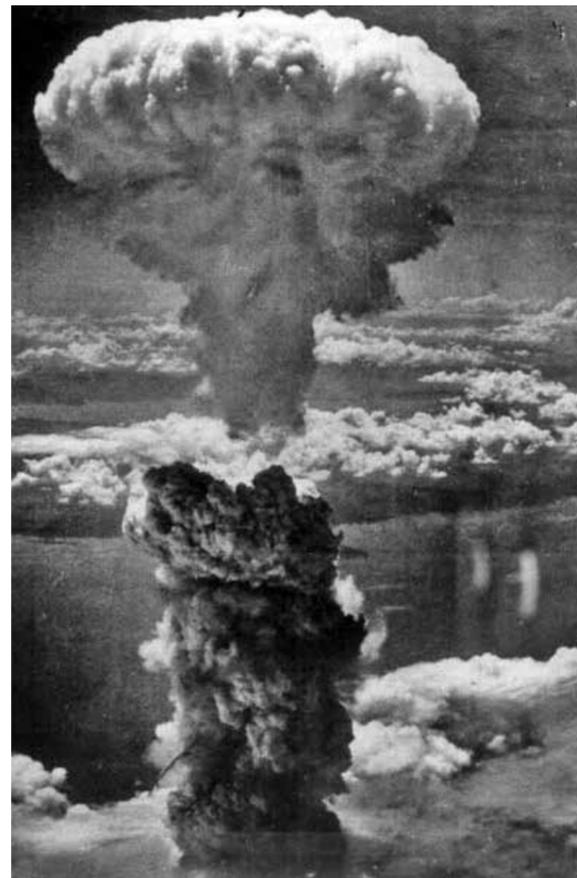
Director: Marc Forster

Starring: Ewan McGregor, Hayley Atwell, Bronte Carmichael

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 147min

this day in history



1945 ATOM BOMB HITS NAGASAKI

American forces have dropped an atomic bomb on Nagasaki - the second such attack on Japan in three days.

The bomb was dropped by parachute from an American B29 Bomber at 1102 local time.

It exploded about 1,625 ft (500m) above the ground and is believed to have completely destroyed the city, which is situated on the western side of the Japanese island of Kyushu.

In a statement issued from Guam, General Carl A Spatz, Commander of the US Strategic Air Forces in the Pacific, said: "The second use of the atomic bomb occurred at noon, August 9, at Nagasaki.

"Crew members report good results. No further details will be available until the mission returns."

American airmen flying many miles from Nagasaki have said smoke from fires in the city was rising 50,000ft (15,240m).

Nagasaki is one of Japan's most important ports providing vital access to and from Shanghai.

Three days ago a similar device was dropped on the city of Hiroshima on Japan's largest island, Honshu.

The extent of the damage caused to Hiroshima is not yet known but Japanese broadcasts indicate that "enormous devastation" has been done.

No reaction to the Nagasaki attack has yet been given by Japan but pressure is growing on the country to surrender. Yesterday the USSR joined forces with the allies and declared war on Japan.

The Americans have also warned the Japanese people that further attacks of a similar nature will be made unless they petition their emperor to surrender.

More than three million leaflets were dropped over the country today from American aeroplanes warning the Japanese people that more atomic weapons would be used "again and again" to destroy the country unless they ended the war forthwith.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

About 30% of Nagasaki, including almost all the industrial district was destroyed by the bomb and nearly 74,000 were killed and a similar number injured.

The bomb, nick-named "Fat Man" in a reference to Winston Churchill, measured just under 3.5m (11ft 4in) in length, had the power of 22 kilotons of TNT and weighed 4,050kg (9,000lbs).

The attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki were the first time atomic bombs had been used in warfare.

Residents of both cities are still suffering the physical and mental consequences of radiation to this day.

On 14 August Japan surrendered to the Allies.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 There are days when you feel totally blocked. Like you just can't do anything. This is not one of those days. Today you flex your muscles and loosen your tongue and stretch your imagination.

Taurus April 20-May 20 re you playing out an old wound with this new person? Are you still not sure you can trust another human being with your feelings? Think about it, anyway. Maybe there's a better way.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You give a whole new meaning to the term 'fresh idea.' Your idea is so fresh it's as if it never even heard of a refrigerator. Your idea is so fresh it's like the refrigerator was never even invented.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Yep, your internal touchstone - the place you touch when you want to see how things are going, how you are feeling and whether or not the path you've chosen is the right one.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 There are very few problems that come across your kitchen table that you can't solve. No more OJ? Run to the store. All out of eggs? Call up whoever's on their way over for breakfast.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 What, you say? It's ridiculous to say you care and then never pick up the phone or write an email or send an old-fashioned postcard? But don't forget that other folks just aren't as good at communicating as you are.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Life has you moving faster than a speeding bullet lately, hasn't it? You've barely had time to catch your breath between leaping tall buildings and making quick wardrobe changes in telephone booths.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 The speed limit helps keep the roads safe - go too fast and the consequences may be dire. In life, too, there is an unwritten speed limit - and you're coming close to exceeding it.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Go for it! You've been working really hard lately, and you've accomplished a whole heck of a lot. You've more than earned a morning off. Call in late and enjoy a leisurely breakfast.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Whether you're a novelist or second in command in charge of deciding what text goes with what greeting-card design, you're used to working with words. Ditto if you're a soccer coach or store manager.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 If you started something a while back, it's now well on its way. Whether you've been gardening or raising puppy dogs, or both, you've got results. The daisies are blooming. The litter is growing.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Don't think too long or too hard, unless it's a really gigantic thing that involves a lot of people other than yourself. Even so, now is the time for doing. Later, it will be time for reviewing.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Rows for CHINA (Beijing, Harbin, etc.) and WORLD (Moscow, Frankfurt, etc.).

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Feds; 5- Engine; 10- Greek peak; 14- Rich supply; 15- Chew the scenery; 16- Slay; 17- Jason's ship; 18- Dirty looks; 19- ___ sow, so shall...; 20- Scientific recording of earthquakes; 23- Nine-digit ID; 24- Jewish month; 25- In and of ___; 29- Woman doing Indian exercises; 31- Skill; 32- Spanish aunt; 33- Largeness of the skull; 37- Teri of "Tootsie"; 40- Not in; 41- Kitchen add-on?; 42- Woman who rides horses; 47- Arab instrument; 48- Bandleader Kyser; 49- Assisting; 53- Irish tongue; 55- Darkness; 57- Bleat of a sheep; 58- Impresario; 61- Distinctive quality; 64- Utah's ___ Mountains; 65- Toward sunrise; 66- French summers; 67- Dole out; 68- Hook's helper; 69- Take a breather; 70- Sierra ___; 71- Nicholas II was the last Russian one; DOWN: 1- Like expressionless eyes; 2- To a greater extent; 3- Border; 4- Revivalists; 5- Tuneful; 6- Last Greek letter; 7- It's human; 8- Other, in Oaxaca; 9- Breathe; 10- Green-lights; 11- Bro's sibling; 12- Devious; 13- Pub choice; 21- "Give that ___ cigar!"; 22- Web address starter; 26- Coup d'___; 27- Light air; 28- Actress Dunaway; 30- Nagy of Hungary; 31- Entr'___; 34- Actor Calhoun; 35- Yes, to Yves; 36- Pay attention to; 37- An earth sci.; 38- Water color; 39- Kind of awakening; 43- Pelt; 44- Pertaining to the sense of touch; 45- Give an account; 46- Greek goddess of victory; 50- Construction pieces; 51- Sickness at the stomach; 52- Device for holding up a stocking; 54- Minimal; 55- ___ Park, NJ; 56- Writer Sinclair; 59- Make angry; 60- Tree house; 61- ___ Lingus (Irish carrier); 62- Western Indian; 63- Hi-___;



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Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
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ATHLETICS

Former world hurdles champion Bett killed in car crash at 28

NICHOLAS Bett, a Kenyan runner who won the 2015 world championship title in the 400-meter hurdles, was killed in an early-morning car crash yesterday in the country's famed high-altitude training region, police and his coach said. He was 28.

Bett had only just returned home this week from the African championships in Nigeria.

Nandi county police commander Patrick Wambani said Bett was killed in the crash on the road between Eldoret and Kapsabet, two of Kenya's best-known distance-running training towns in the Rift Valley region. He was born and lived in the region.

Bett was driving alone, Wambani said.

Bett's SUV hit bumps in a road and rolled, landing on its roof in a ditch, his coach, Vincent Mumo, told The Associated Press. Mumo said the accident happened at about 6 a.m.

"I'm out of words," Mumo said. "We thank god for his life."

Mumo said Bett's twin brother, Aron Koech, who is also an athlete, was "beyond grief."

Bett was also the father of 2-year-old twin boys.

His gold in the 400 hurdles at the 2015 world championships in Beijing was a breakthrough victory for Kenya, normally a powerhouse only in middle- and long-distance events.

The triumph from Lane 8 was a big surprise as he became the first Kenyan to win a major title in the event. It signaled that Kenya was ready to challenge in the shorter distances, too.

It was also a significant personal achievement for Bett, who was carrying a foot injury and ran through the pain.



Since 2014, the injury had become a permanent part of his career and he learned to deal with it.

His victory in Beijing was especially popular in Kenya, where Bett was known as a humble athlete from a simple, rural background, like many of Kenya's distance-running champions.

The difference was Bett wasn't a natural. Instead, he had to persevere to be successful in a punishing event and one that isn't popular in

Kenya.

He may have been born in the Rift Valley, the heartland of Kenyan running, but he was initially a volleyball player before turning to track and field. He won the high jump at the national junior trials in 2010 and also tried the 110-meter hurdles before finally settling on the 400 hurdles.

Even then, it didn't come easy. He wasn't the best hurdler and recalled missing "about five hurdles" in the world championship semifi-

nals before sneaking through to the final as one of the fastest losers.

He won the final in a Kenyan national record of 47.79 seconds.

"I was more shocked to run a time I never thought I would make in my life," he said in an interview for his IAAF profile in 2016. "From there, my life changed. I have been able to do things for my family like building [a] house, buying a tractor."

Julius Yego, who produced

another major surprise at the same world championships to win the javelin gold for Kenya, wrote on Facebook: "Dark morning, horrifying news! Can't believe it's real but go rest with the angels Nicholas Bett!"

"I'm shocked beyond words!" Yego added. "My roommate in Beijing when we won gold together and it was just the other day we were in Nigeria."

Bett also won bronze medals at the African championships in 2014 in the 400 hurdles and 4x400-meter relay.

"Bett earned the country great honors in his outstanding victories," Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta wrote on his official Twitter page. "My deepest sympathies and heartfelt condolences to his family, relatives and friends."

The IAAF said it was "deeply saddened and shocked" by Bett's death. Athletics Kenya said it sent condolences to Bett's family and would help organize the funeral.

"We are really mourning the loss," Athletics Kenya president Jackson Tuwei said. "He has done a lot for this country [...] he is still a young boy and we will really miss him."

Bett's twin brother was part of the Kenyan 4x400 team that won gold at last week's African championships in Asaba, Nigeria.

Bett didn't run on that team. He did make the final of the 400 hurdles at the championships but didn't win a medal. **AP**

FOOTBALL

No special treatment for Usain Bolt coach says

CENTRAL Coast Mariners coach Mick Mulvey says Usain Bolt will be treated as any other player when he joins the Australian A-League club this month on an "indefinite" trial.

Mulvey will make the final decision over whether Bolt is offered a contract as the Jamaican sprinting great pursues his long-held dream of playing professional football.

Mulvey told the Australian Associated Press yesterday the eight-time Olympic champion would start from scratch at the Mariners as he hasn't viewed video from Bolt's

previous trials in Germany, South Africa or Norway.

The Mariners coach said it is not out of the ordinary for potential signings to be asked to train with the club for several weeks before being offered a deal.

"It just happens to be that this is Usain Bolt," he said. "I've spoken to him. His attitude towards this was deadly serious."

"If it was up to him he'd be coming in without any hoopla but that's impossible for a person of his stature. I'm really happy and really looking forward to having him train with the

club."

Mulvey said he will judge Bolt purely on his performance during his trial period.

"I've had three dozen guys coming in for trials. I haven't had time to go and watch [video of] every player that's come in for training," he said. "I'm sure when he arrives he'll give a good account for himself and we'll see what happens from there. If it works, he will be offered a contract."

Mariners chief executive Shaun Mielekamp said he had contacted the clubs for which Bolt had trialed and received positive fee-

dback on his ability.

"We've heard that every time he's been training with them he's made dramatic improvements while he was there," Mielekamp said. "We will be looking for dramatic improvements."

"It's hard to tell a lot of the time through the lens of a camera, both good and bad, so getting him on the ground and getting him with the boots on will be the most telling part."

Mielekamp said it was possible Bolt could play for Central Coast in pre-season matches ahead of the start in October of Australia's A-League. **AP**



Usain Bolt

opinion

Made in Macao

Jenny Lao-Phillips



OUR DRAGON CULTURE

For thousands of years, the dragon has been the symbol of the Chinese. We consider ourselves the descendants of the dragons. Although we all know that the dragon is just a mythical creature, somehow, all the different tribes in the ancient world that later became China, ended up having a dragon in their culture, despite living separately. We cannot be sure how this creature was created. Maybe there really were dragons in the ancient world that our ancestors had seen. But the oldest legend I found was that the idea of the dragon was created as something to be worshiped.

Through the many stories I have read about the dragon in my curiosity to find out why we are descendants of the dragon, one legend was that one of the oldest tribes in the land of the Chinese, thousands of years ago, needed to have something to pray to, the very basic need of a religion. So they imagined a creature which had parts of different animals, and credited it with all kinds of goodness. Then the dragon was born, a god-like creature that was all merciful and strong, that could control the weather and protect the people. So, in some sense, the dragon was a god to our early ancestors.

Later on, many stories of how the dragon stopped floods and saved the people, or brought rain to lands where people were suffering from droughts, were spread in different tribes. Legend also has it that one of the early kings of China, Huangdi (Yellow Emperor), around the time of 2588 BC was brought up to heaven riding a dragon and became the Heavenly Emperor, though it is not clear if the Yellow Emperor even was a real king in our history or just a legendary figure.

But from actual history, since the first dynasty, the Xia Dynasty, the first king Yu the Great had used the dragon as the king's symbol. This was carried on for almost 4000 years until the last emperor of China. Clearly, dynasties rise and fall throughout history, but the symbol of the dragon remained. Until now, the dragon is still in the center of our culture. Of course, unlike early emperors who believed themselves to be incarnations of dragons, as descendants of the dragon, the Chinese believe that we are descendants of the spirit of the dragon, not descendants in blood. So, what is the spirit of the dragon that is so rooted into our culture?

There are three main spirits of the dragon that are supposedly also our ethnic spirit. Firstly, the spirit of "solidarity and synergy". It is believed that it was the symbol of dragon that was carried on from emperor to emperor, whether legendary or historical, that created a continuation of the Chinese spirit. Also, the dragon, made up of parts of different animals, also symbolizes greatness through synergy.

Secondly is the spirit of "exceeding and innovation". As we know that the dragon is not real, it shows the creativity of our ancestors who imagined this creature into being, a being that can live on land, in the sea, and in the sky. The creation and the changes to the dragon over the years represents the Chinese spirit of continuous innovation, and pushing ourselves to exceed reality.

Finally, the spirit of faith in success, which is supposedly the center of our Chinese spirit. The dragon of our ancestors' creation was invincible in his goodness in saving people. By believing in the dragon, our ancestors always win against any difficult phenomenon like flood and drought. So, the Chinese dragon spirit is to believe that we will always succeed.

So, as descendants of the dragon, we inherited the spirit through a symbol that was rooted from the creation of our ancestors thousands of years ago.

THE BOYS RESCUED FROM CAVE, ONCE STATELESS, GET THAI CITIZENSHIP

Three young football players who were trapped with other team members for almost three weeks in a cave in northern Thailand have been granted Thai citizenship, along with their 25-year-old coach.

All four had been stateless, and their lack of citizenship deprived them of some basic benefits and rights, including the ability to travel outside of Chiang Rai, the northern province where they live.

The area is home to ethnic minorities with roots in neighboring Myanmar.

The boys and coach were among 13 people who were trapped in the cave until their rescue by scuba divers.

The head coach of the Wild Boars team said they received official Thai ID cards yesterday, along with another team member who had not been in the cave but also applied for citizenship.

TRUMP CAMPAIGN

Manafort lawyer attacks star witness' affair, 'many lies'

THE questioning of Paul Manafort's protegee was confrontational and personal: Manafort's lawyer hammered Rick Gates about his own crimes, an extramarital affair and a guilty plea with prosecutors that may spare him severe punishment.

Gates, who faced a bruising cross-examination, returns to the witness stand today [Macau time] for additional questioning from a Manafort lawyer who accused the government's star witness of being immersed in "so many lies" that he can't even remember them all and who demanded to know how a jury could possibly trust him.

Lawyers for Manafort, the former Trump campaign chairman, are determined to impugn the credibility of Gates. Defense attorney Kevin Downing began his cross-examination of Gates, Manafort's longtime deputy and fellow Trump campaign aide, by confronting him on his own lies to special counsel Robert Mueller's investigators, getting him to admit to an affair and pressing him about hundreds of thousands of dollars he admitted to embezzling from his former boss.

The aggressive questioning was aimed at shifting blame from Manafort onto Gates, who pleaded guilty in Mueller's investigation and agreed to cooperate with investigators by testifying in the financial fraud trial.

"After all the lies you've told and the fraud you've committed, you expect this jury to believe you?" Downing asked incredulously.

Gates said he did, but the defense lawyer wasn't satisfied. He scoffed at the idea that Gates had repented for his actions, noting that prosecutors have said they won't oppose his bid for probation and getting him to acknowledge he had not repaid the money he had taken from Manafort.

After Gates described his theft as "unauthorized transactions" instead of embezzlement, Downing prodded him to use the latter term — and Gates ultimately relented, saying, "It was embezzle-



This courtroom sketch depicts Rick Gates on the witness stand as he is cross examined by defense lawyer Kevin Downing during the trial of former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort on bank fraud and tax evasion at a US federal court

ment from Mr. Manafort." Prosecutors had braced for the tough questioning by getting Gates to come clean about his own crimes. He told jurors how he disguised millions of dollars in foreign income as loans in order to lower Manafort's tax bill. Gates recounted how he and Manafort used more than a dozen offshore shell companies and bank accounts in Cyprus to funnel the money, all while concealing the accounts and the income from the IRS.

Gates testified that he and Manafort knew they were committing crimes for years

But the grilling got more intense, and personal, when Downing pressed Gates about a "secret life" he said was funded by embezzlement, including an extramarital affair that Gates himself acknowledged. Gates also said he may have submitted personal expenses for reimbursement by Trump's inaugural committee, which he helped operate.

After Gates struggled to recall precisely what he had

told Mueller's team, Downing asked if he had been confronted with "so many lies" that he can't keep his story straight.

Gates implicated himself in broad criminal conduct on the stand, an apparent strategic decision by prosecutors to take some of the steam out of defense questioning. He told jurors he embezzled from Manafort by filing false expense reports. He also said he committed credit card and mortgage fraud, falsified a letter for a colleague involved in an investment deal and made false statements in a deposition at Manafort's direction.

Prosecutors summoned Gates to give jurors the firsthand account of a co-conspirator they say helped Manafort carry out an elaborate offshore tax-evasion and bank fraud scheme. Gates testified that he and Manafort knew they were committing crimes for years, saying they had stashed money in foreign bank accounts and falsified bank loan documents.

"In Cyprus, they were documented as loans. In reality, it was basically money moving between accounts," Gates said.

Manafort and Gates were the first two people indicted in Mueller's investigation into potential ties between Russia and the Trump campaign. Gates pleaded guilty months later and agreed to cooperate in Mueller's investigation of Manafort, the only American charged by the special counsel to opt for trial instead of a guilty plea. AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	50-70 Good
High Density Residential Area	35-55 Good
Ambient	50-70 Good

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

RUSSIA An activist from Russian punk collective Pussy Riot has led a protest outside the headquarters of the state penitentiary agency to protest torture and slave labor in Russian prisons.

SAUDI ARABIA says it executed and crucified a man from Myanmar convicted of killing a woman and carrying out other crimes.



ITALY Premier Giuseppe Conte said yesterday his country is willing to consider a "more rigorous" stance toward Iran, adding that he recently asked U.S. President Donald Trump to share intelligence about Iran's alleged nuclear program that has triggered fresh U.S. sanctions.

EUROPE Budget airline Ryanair said yesterday it is cancelling 400 of over 2,400 flights on Friday due to a strike by pilots in Ireland, Sweden, Belgium and Germany at the height of the vacation travel season.



BRAZIL One of the main border crossings between Brazil and Venezuela has reopened after a legal fight that kept it shuttered for nearly a day.

PERU Authorities in Peru say at least nine people have died from food poisoning following a funeral ceremony.

VENEZUELA President Nicolas Maduro has accused two opposition legislators of having roles in the drone explosions that Venezuelan officials have called an assassination attempt against him, and at least one lawmaker is among those detained.