



CLOTHES WITH CANCER CAUSING CHEMICALS
No probe is planned in Macau after it was found that school uniforms in HK contained cancer causing chemicals

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PETITION FOR GUIA CIRCUIT LISTING
A request was submitted to the Cultural Affairs Bureau to have the Guia Circuit listed on UNESCO's World Heritage List

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THIRD STRONG QUAKE SHAKES LOMBOK

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DEBATE WITH LAWMAKERS

CE says **no timetable** for Land Law revision

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WORLD BRIEFS

PHILIPPINES A foreign militant was behind a powerful van blast that targeted a big public gathering in the southern Philippines but failed after the vehicle stalled and instead killed the suspect and 10 others, an official said yesterday.
More on p12



THAILAND A former Buddhist monk infamous for a jet-set lifestyle was sentenced yesterday to more than 100 years in prison in connection with funds he fraudulently raised from followers.

MYANMAR yesterday rejected an attempt by international courts to consider the country's culpability for the exodus of 700,000 minority Rohingya Muslims to Bangladesh.

KOREA The rival Koreas will meet Monday for high-level talks meant to prepare for a summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in, South Korea said, the third such meetings between the leaders in recent months.
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Allegations of poor facilities to house greyhounds dismissed

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Extra times
weekend Guide
INSIDE

editorial

Paulo Coutinho



INVOKING (DEMOCRACY) IN VAIN

TUESDAY'S Legislative Assembly (AL) plenary session was an unprecedented and rather peculiar debate on democracy, Macau style. The "reflection" was prompted by a gang of nine lawmakers who rounded on Sulu Sou on the grounds that he was "mischievous" and "abusive" and "disrespectful" of the House Rules among other offenses. All concerning his heated yet legitimate intervention last week proposing changes to legislation before the vote by the plenum.

José Pereira Coutinho, in a seminal letter to President Ho Iat Seng, complained about errant decisions by Ho himself regarding the House Rules and vehemently criticized his peers for the inappropriate gang-like attack against Sou.

Seven out of the nine were appointed to the assembly by the Chief Executive - the very executive they are mandated and paid to scrutinize. The other two were "indirectly-elected" by the most obscure vote of the AL elections, representing business interests.

Nothing would stop them from calling democracy into the "debate" in attacking Sou, who was elected by universal suffrage.

They called him "absolutist" and "arrogant." In the course of this orchestrated rant against the ever-resistant lawmaker, they said "he wasn't deserving" of being part of the "democratic party" [sic, from translations]. They may not know the House Rules - a "minor" thing for a member of the AL - but the gang of nine sure know nothing about Macau's political system. There are no parties! But, hey, that is just a detail, right?!

My favorite nemesis (of Sulu) is Ma Chi Seng. Both born of the same generation, there is a whole galaxy of thought and action between them. While young Ma sounds like his grandfather, and is backwards in form and substance, Sou sounds like a proper young adult wanting to change the world.

Ma on democracy: "It is impossible to put democracy into practice just with slogans that ignore juridical facts." To the appointed lawmaker I would say: it is impossible to put democracy into practice while we have appointed lawmakers that serve none other but the interests of the Chief Executive.

Summing it up - and this one is precious - one Kou Hoi In said that "the core of democracy is respecting others." No, Mr Kou, that is the essence of civility. The core of democracy is "one person one vote" and the respect for the rule of the majority while giving room to minorities. A subtle note: we do not have that in Macau. There is no democracy in Macau and according to you, the oligarchs and the other cronies, there never will be.

Unlike Sou and the other outstanding advocates of full democracy, like Pereira Coutinho, none of the nine lawmakers have ever said or done anything to improve the electoral system toward a democratic AL, as is postulated in the Basic Law.

So, do us all a favor and do not invoke the name of democracy in vain. It is blasphemy.



IACM representatives and Albano Martins (right)



The facilities where the greyhounds are currently housed

ANIMAL RIGHTS

IACM, Anima dismiss allegations of poor Canidrome facilities

Lynzy Valles

THE Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) and Anima Macau have dismissed allegations regarding the kennels' facilities and hygiene, stressing that the parties have been offering the best they can to the retired canines.

It has been two weeks since the partnership between the animal rights group and the Canidrome started.

As the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) announced it had received a complaint about the ongoing process of looking after the retired greyhounds at the defunct racetrack kennel, Anima explained that the organization is slowly making changes to the management of the kennels.

"Anima has nothing to do with the complaint and at this stage, Anima is only checking on the situation of the greyhounds and will only take care of the greyhounds who will not be able to find adopters," said Anima president Albano Martins.

He said the kennels are still in need of further improvement, but noted the changes that had been made over the past two weeks.

During a press visit to the Macau (Yat Yuen) Canidrome yesterday, IACM and Anima presented its oldest greyhounds and those who had been neutered or had undergone dental procedures.

According to Martins, these old greyhounds will not be adopted and will be under Anima's care. The ol-

dest greyhound is 13 years old.

Some 40 greyhounds suffer from health conditions including skin disease and arthritis. All 532 of the retired canines suffer from either light or serious periodontal disease.

Those who were in a more serious condition underwent surgery, while 12 have already been sterilized.

Currently, there are over 30 volunteers looking after the greyhounds across nine kennels.

We are doing the best we can with the limitations we have. We are not hiding anything.

ALBANO MARTINS

"We are teaching [them] how to manage a kennel according [to] what they do and teaching them the best way to teach kennel management," said Martins, adding that the group had already changed the canines' meal times.

According to the animal rights activist, there are currently two handlers and two cleaners for each kennel.

"For sure the conditions are not the best, [it has only been] 15 days

and we [still] have to improve. That is Anima's job. [...] We are doing the best we can with the limitations we have. We are not hiding anything. Now we only have to improve, and this takes time," he said.

Regarding the controversial requirement that all 533 greyhounds should be neutered within 60 days, the animal rights activist said that it may be one of the ways of preventing the greyhounds from being used for breeding when adopted.

He also implied that the parties are focusing on the greyhounds' periodontal diseases instead.

"I understood that that was a way for the government to force Yat Yuen to make sure that the greyhounds are desexed because we do not want these dogs to go to other countries and be used [for breeding]," he said.

Meanwhile, IACM's Administrative Committee member Ung Sau Hong stressed that the sterilization of greyhounds will depend on the health condition of the dog.

"We are not regulating that the dogs must be sterilized in 60 days, but we are regulating that the dogs have to be sterilized before they are adopted," she said.

Furthermore, Anima said that it is studying the feasibility of sending greyhounds to a compound in Hong Kong.

Martins said that negotiations with a company he did not reveal are underway.

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AL PLENARY

'No timetable to review the Land Law for the time being,' CE clarifies

Renato Marques

THE Chief Executive (CE), Chui Sai On, was at the Legislative Assembly (AL) to attend the penultimate session of the legislative year, answering the questions of 30 lawmakers on topics related to the policy address of the year.

Land, housing and projects related to the "Greater Bay Area" initiative dominated the attention of the majority of the lawmakers once again.

Hot topics of the day included the Land Law and the consequences of enforcement regarding the reclamation of land plots where concessions have expired, as well as issues relating to government land deals (such as the Iec Long Firecracker Factory in Taipa or the Alto de Coloane) which have been targeted by the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC).

Ella Lei, Sulu Sou, Mak Soi Kun and Zheng Anting were among the lawmakers who questioned the CE on the topic, receiving similar replies.

When answering Sou and Lei, Chui said, "After the reports [from the CCAC] and after listening to the opinion of the Public Prosecutions Office, we have initiated the process [for] recovering the land plots. [...] If the other parties do not agree, they can resort to the courts to contest [the government action]."

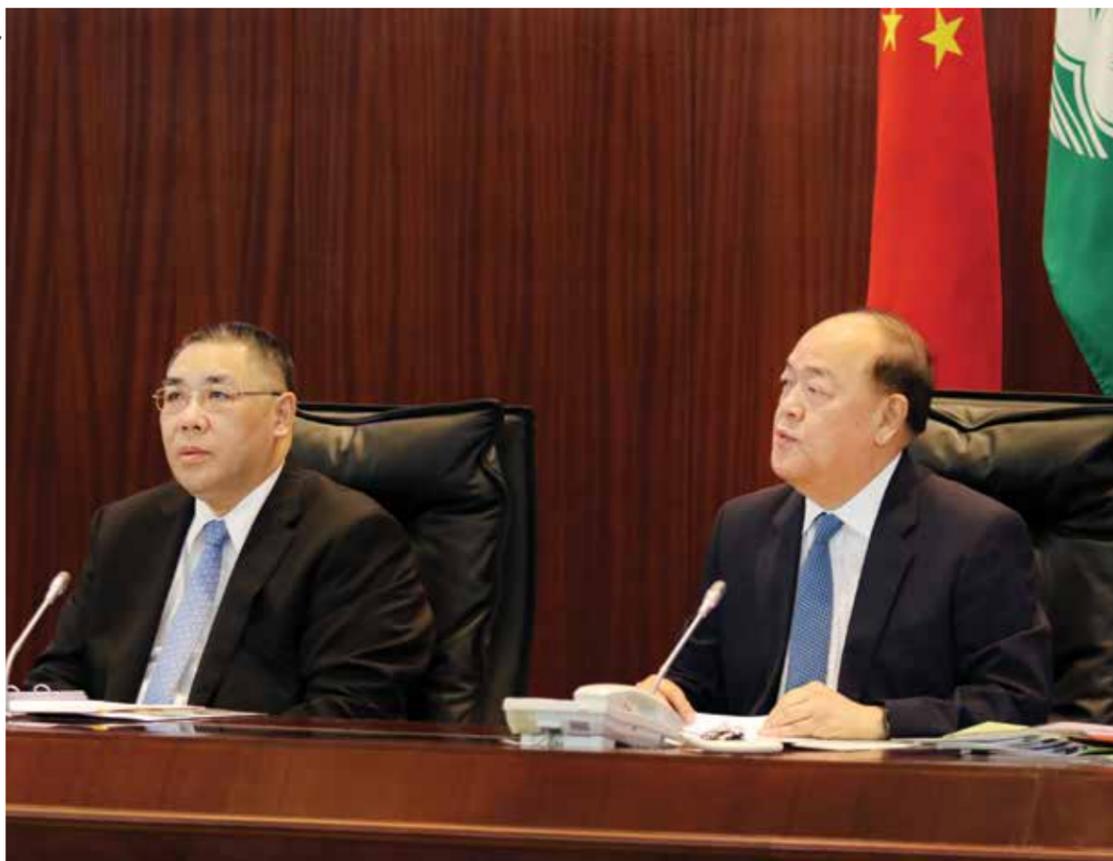
In his reply to Sou, the CE added, "We have been solving many problems related [to] the lands in this mandate, and always under the rule of law."

Chui noted that this also occurs in cases in which the government has not yet taken possession of land plots. "Procedures that are still running," he said, reaffirming the government's continuation of such processes and that, "if needed, we will follow with the legal procedures [in the courts]."

When addressing doubts over possible government preparations for a review of the Land Law and questions from Zheng and Mak, the CE clarified, "There is no timetable to review the land law for the time being."

When replying to Mak's questions, the CE said, "Macau is a territory ruled by the rule of law and to resort to

REYNATO MARQUES



Chui Sai On (left) and Ho Iat Seng

the courts to solve disputes is the base of the rule of law. This is the only way to solve these problems." He added that regarding the Sin Fong Garden situation, the government had already concluded proceedings and had authorized the demolition and reconstruction of the building. "But there are two cases [before the] courts regarding the surveys done to the building. So, it's not convenient to advance with the new construction at this stage," Chui said, leaving the promise, "once these [court cases] are resolved, the government will proceed with and support the reconstruction."

The government will not abandon the plan to build the LRT Peninsula line.

CHUI SAI ON

The CE clarified the continuation of the Light Rail Transit (LRT) project. Upon questioning by lawmaker Agnes Lam, the CE replied, saying, "[the] LRT is a very important structure for Macau. The government will not

abandon the plan to build the LRT Peninsula line. We are going to give priority to the works to connect Taipa [line] to the Peninsula and then, in

the future, [to the line that connects Barra to the [Outer Harbor] Ferry terminal, continuing afterwards with the expansion of the rails to all

Canidrome will be used for education and sports, CE reaffirms

YESTERDAY at the Legislative Assembly (AL), when replying to questions from lawmaker Ma Chi Seng, Chief Executive (CE) Chui Sai On confirmed information that had been revealed by Sports Bureau vice president Allen Lau several weeks ago. The government will not grant the land plot of the former Canidrome, including the Lin Fong Sports Center, to parties for any commercial or gaming activities.

"I can assure that we will not authorize [the land] for any commercial things or gaming use," Chui said, adding, "this land will be applied for school usage and sports facilities and not for commercial purposes. The study was already concluded and a report already delivered to the Secretary [for Transport and Public Works] Raimundo do Rosário and soon will reach the Urban Planning Committee



for further discussion."

According to Chui, approximately "20 to 30 percent [of the area] will be granted to schools in order to improve the environment and conditions of some school [institutions] located nearby."

As for the remaining 70 to 80 percent, Chui said, "We will continue to use it for sports purposes. [...]"

Macau."

On the same topic, Chui reaffirmed his trust that the Taipa line will still begin operation in 2019. Lam also questioned the government's decision not to abide by the ruling of the Court of Final Appeal, which ruled that the tender for the construction of an LRT system depot 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 CE did not provide a comment.

Although lawmakers had raised many similar questions on the "Greater Bay Area" in April, when the CE last participated in a plenary session, the answers remained the same, with the CE putting replies "on hold" until, as he said, "Central government releases the development plans for the area." Nevertheless, Chui advised that the government "will create a new public department in charge of managing all the topics related [to] the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau bay area."

We are going to use the underground spaces to build some facilities like a tank for water retention, included in the flooding prevention plan." He noted that the sports facilities in the venue would continue to be open for residents' use, as "it is very difficult to find another land plot in the northern district with such size and characteristics."

T1 signal hoisted, floods expected at Inner Harbor

The Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) hoisted typhoon signal no.1 yesterday and the warning is expected to remain in place for a while. According to SMG, floods could occur during the mornings at the Inner Harbor until August 13. An SMG representative told Radio Macau that the chance of issuing a higher signal in the next few days was slim.

Scholar asks for national security office

Luo Weijian, professor at the Faculty of Law of the University of Macau (UM), deems it urgent for Macau to establish a specific department to manage matters of national security. In Luo's opinion, the lack of a specific department responsible for national security is a vulnerability that should be rectified urgently. Furthermore, he believes that Macau faces infiltration from all kinds of external forces, which could threaten national security. He emphasized that a department is urgently needed and that it is reasonable to propose that Macau should have such an organization.

A proposed bill suggests that the Macau law regulating casino workers' entry to casinos while off-duty should include an entry ban for all gaming operators' employees.

On Wednesday, government representatives, including the director of the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ), Paulo Martins Chan, met with the First Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL) to discuss the bill.

The bill proposes that employees of gaming concessioners and sub-concessioners should be prevented from entering casinos during their spare time, as criminals had been taking advantage of casino employees addicted to gambling.

The employees banned would include dealers, public relations workers, cashiers and security guards, among all others.

"The government [had initially] informed that it had no intention of including public relations workers, and restaurant, cleaning, and security staff in the interdiction. However, following the public consultation, the government recognized that these types of workers can also be easily influenced and be-

All casino employees to be banned from casinos while off-duty



me addicted to gambling," explained lawmaker Ho Ion Sang.

The ban means approximately 100,000 people will not be allowed to enter casinos in their spare time. Between 20,000 and 30,000 people are directly employed by ca-

sinos, while the rest include junket promoters.

A few lawmakers pointed out that providers of outsourced casino services were excluded by the law, which means that some cleaning, security and catering staff can still enter casinos without restrictions.

Chan noted that the idea of protecting casino workers is shared by the government and deputies.

■ Around 100,000 people will not be allowed to enter casinos in their spare time

"Regarding the gaming policies to avoid gambling addiction, everything was peaceful among the deputies and government. However, there were some technical difficulties related to a few details and related to certain areas where entry should be forbidden. Nevertheless, these issues are easily solved," said Chan.

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Property prices rise 1.7 percent

THE overall residential property price index for the three-month period between April-June 2018 increased by 1.7 percent over the previous period (March-May 2018) to 269.4, according to the latest data from the Statistics and Census Service. The indexes for the Macau Peninsula (271.8) and Taipa and Coloane (258.2) rose by 1.9 percent and 0.5 percent respectively.

The index for existing residential units (290.2) grew by 1.8 percent from the previous period, with the indexes for those in the Macau Peninsula (287.0) and Taipa and Coloane (305.3) rising by 2 percent and 1 percent respectively. Meanwhile, the index for pre-sale residential

units (278.9) increased by 1.7 percent over the previous period.

Analyzed by year of building completion, the indexes for residential units built 5 years ago or less and those built more than 20 years ago went up by 2.7 percent and 1.5 percent respectively, whereas the index for residential units completed between 6 and 10 years ago dropped by 0.4 percent.

Analyzed by quarter, the overall residential property price index in the second quarter of 2018 (269.4) grew by 6.3 percent compared to the last quarter (253.4). The indexes for existing residential units and pre-sale residential units rose by 8.4 percent and 3.3 percent respectively.

No plans yet for testing school uniforms in Macau

THE Consumer Council in Hong Kong has recently found that the uniforms of two secondary schools contain cancer-causing chemicals from dyes.

The uniforms contained more than eight times the safe level of 4-amino azobenzene, a chemical that was banned in Europe and Japan some years ago, yet is still permitted in mainland China.

At least two of about 40 suppliers in the city had sold uniforms containing the toxic chemical to the schools.

Both suppliers have since said that they have stopped selling the uniforms, adding that the toxic material came from mainland China, which has only banned dyes containing more than 20mg per kilogram of 4-amino azobenzene, according to reports.

The consumer watchdog in Hong Kong said that these dyes can release carcinogenic substances called aromatic amines, which were found in the waist belt of a school dress and in the trimmings of a blouse. In a press release, the council said that the finding was "most unsettling and unsatisfactory."

BLOOMBERG



These uniforms were tested for their durability after washing, the pH level of the material, and the presence of toxic substances such as fluorescent brighteners and formaldehyde.

Meanwhile, the council also found eight uniforms that contained traces of formaldehyde, a cancer-causing industrial chemical. However, the amounts were lower than the maximum amount allowed under China's regulations.

The Times inquired with Macau's Consumer Council as to whether it

checks local uniforms in the region, however, it noted that there are no planned tests currently.

"The Consumer Council is concerned about the report, however, we do not have any planned tests for the relevant items," the Council's representative replied.

"For consumers' safety, the Council has published periodic or random "Consumer Alerts" to remind consumers that new clothes must be washed thoroughly before putting them on. LV

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EDUCATION

UM organizes global leadership development program

The fifth module of the Global Leadership Development Program, co-organized by the University of Macau (UM) Asia-Pacific Academy of Economics and Management (APAEM) and the Faculty of Business Administration (FBA), was held recently in Kyushu and Nagasaki, Japan. With assistance from the Kyushu Economic Forum and Kyushu Association of Independent Entrepreneurs (AIE Kyushu), the module attracted more than 60 senior executives from various industries in mainland China, Macau and Japan.

The opening ceremony took place at Nagasaki International University and was chaired by Professor Shigemi Furuta, program director of APAEM. The three-day module, comprising seven seminars and a group presentation, was focused on the current development of integrated resorts in Japan and explored Macau's experience and practices in this area, with the aim of nurturing globally competitive and socially responsible senior executives in the industry.



The core theme of this module was "Strategy, Growth and Responsible Gaming in Kyushu Inte-

The event was focused on the current development of integrated resorts in Japan and explored Macau's experience in this field

grated Resort." Participants were also invited to visit Huis Ten Bosch, a potential site for a new integrated resort project in Japan.

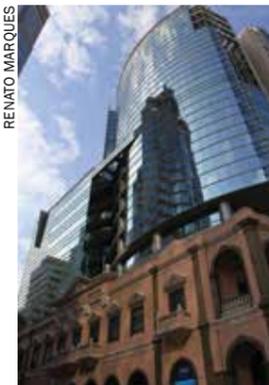
Every year, APAEM organizes a variety of executive development programs. The previous four modules were focused on hospitality and MICE events (meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions), and were held in Macau, Hong Kong, Guangzhou, Singapore and Seoul. The academy plans to hold its sixth module in Macau from November 29 to December 3, with the theme "Contextual Mindset in Integrated Resorts".

BNU posts profit of MOP310.8 million in first half

MACAU'S Banco Nacional Ultramarino (BNU) posted a profit of MOP310.8 million (EUR33.13 million) in the first half of 2018, down 3.15 percent from the amount recorded in the same period of 2017, according to official information.

The balance sheet published this week in the Official Gazette reports that BNU, one of the two issuing banks of Macau, recorded revenues of MOP846.34 million and costs of MOP535.51 million in the period under review.

BNU was the largest international contributor to the consolidated net income of Portuguese state-owned bank Caixa Geral de Depósitos (CGD) in the first half of the year with 30.5 million euros, according to the unaudited report released at



RENATO MARQUES

the end of July in Lisbon.

The branch of the Bank of China, the other issuing bank of Macau, had a positive result of MOP311.228 billion (331.76 million euros) in the same period.

The balance sheet for the first half, also published on Wednesday in the 2nd Series of the Official Gazette, reported that the bank posted revenues of MOP961.145 billion and incurred costs of MOP649.917 billion. **MDT/Macauhub**

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HERITAGE

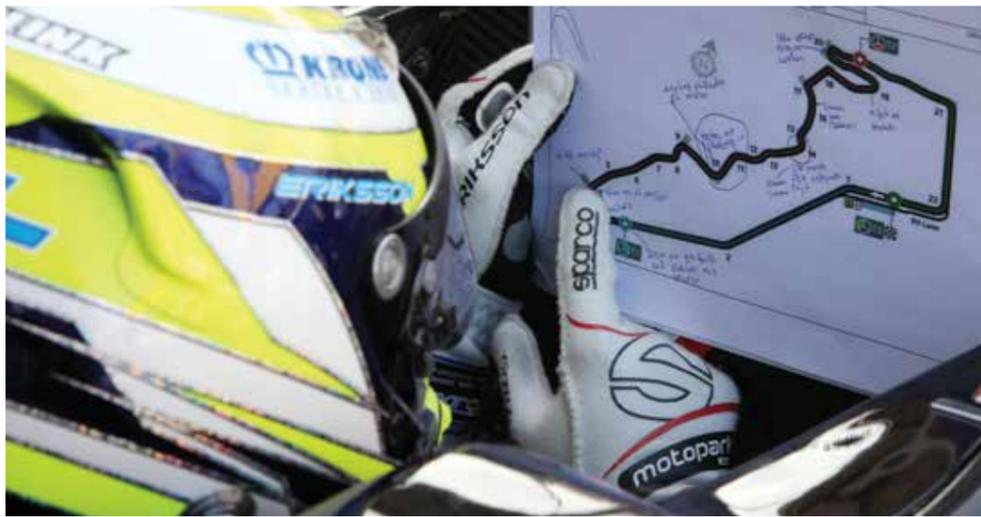
IC asked to petition for Guia Circuit listing

JOSÉ Estorninho, President of the Association for the Promotion and Development of the Guia Circuit of Macau, has submitted a request to the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) to have the racetrack listed on UNESCO's World Heritage List.

Estorninho is hopeful that the IC will agree with the proposal to have the Guia Circuit listed and will petition the United Nations body to grant the approval. He told the Times yesterday that "they [the IC] seem to be aware of the situation as well" and "the reception to my [letter] was very positive."

In the letter, addressed to the President of the IC, Estorninho wrote that the Guia Circuit ought to be listed as a heritage site because it is the oldest of its kind in Asia, having existed for 65 years.

"The reason [we are proposing this] is because every-



one knows this is part of the historical and cultural background to Macau. In this case, why do we have to wait for UNESCO to come to us?"

"The circuit covers almost one-third of Macau," added Estorninho. "Apart from the racetrack - which is a monument itself - we have many more places included on the track which are already

regarded as national heritage."

Asked if Estorninho's plans have anything to do with speculation that the Guia Circuit might need to be altered in order to meet new International Automobile Federation regulations, the association president admitted, "we want to avoid changing the track accor-

ding to the new regulations." "Nobody knows exactly what will happen in the future," he added, "and so we want to protect the track as it is [today]."

The Guia Circuit covers much of the Historical Center of Macau, which is already listed on UNESCO's World Heritage List by its own right.



Portugal-China Chamber of Commerce delegation visits Forum Macau

Representatives from the Macau Delegation of the Portugal-China Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CCILC), led by president Leong Wa Kun, recently visited the office of the Permanent Secretariat of the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Forum Macau) and were received by Secretary-General Xu Yingzhen, deputy secretary-general Rodrigo Brum and Deputy Secretary-General Glória Batalha Ung. Xu said she was willing to further strengthen co-operation with the Chamber in future, to pursue the same common goal together. Meanwhile, she hoped that Macau would be well-prepared for development opportunities in the Greater Bay Area, taking advantage of the role as a platform. In this regard, the Permanent Secretariat will push for promotion and co-operation with various enterprises. Leong said that "the Chamber will continue to recruit Chinese enterprises' members, allowing both Chinese and Portuguese enterprises to exchange ideas and promote multilateral co-operation through the platform offered by the Chamber, in a bid to further push for economic and trade co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries."

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SAM LEE

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Even with the abundance of freestanding information on the internet and in the libraries, we recognize that having a mentor who has been there and done it is the best way to transfer knowledge and learn. Students have personal tutors, athletes have coaches and employees have managers. The mentor's personal experiences, immediate feedback and the genuine relationship that is built between the mentor and mentee are invaluable aspects of a mentorship structure that cannot be found even in the best books or educational videos.

But when it comes to real estate investing and building your personal wealth, not many people go through the effort of finding a mentor. Instead they base some of their most important financial decisions on hearsay from friends and family or on general platitudes such as "You must have a high salary to get good financing". A good mentor would tell you - not necessarily. A mentor can also share his knowledge with you and guide you

toward sustained profitability and away from financial pitfalls. So, how do you find one?

PROVIDE VALUE

Nothing is for free, and you shouldn't expect great mentors to line up for the opportunity to share the knowledge they've spent years accumulating with you just because you asked. A great way to find a mentor is to offer value to them by introducing them to people, sending them great information or offering to do some work for them for free to help save them time. Value reciprocation is always a great way to start a relationship.

WORK FOR A MENTOR

This is similar to the first method, but a step further. Perhaps the most iconic model of a mentorship is the apprenticeship model used by tradesmen and artisans of all varieties, where the apprentice works directly under the master for little or no pay while accumulating knowledge and experience over a period of years. The apprentice

eventually becomes a master and takes on an apprentice himself. If you have a passion for real estate investing, finding a mentor in the industry and joining his or her team is a great option to take your skills to the next level.

PAY FOR A MENTOR

Good mentors know the value of their time and knowledge, and do not give out their attention freely. They are busy investing in their own properties and continuing their own education. In fact, you would not want a mentor who is too giving of his time and attention.

Some mentors offer paid mentorships, both as a compensation for their time but also as a test to see how much 'skin in the game' the student is willing to put. If they mentor somebody for free, chances are they won't value the information as much as not take any action anyway. It goes without saying that before signing up for a paid mentorship, you should do your own due diligence on the mentor and the program.

RETAIL

Ikea's sofas and spoons in demand as first India store opens

IKEA spent 12 years studying India and visited 1,000 homes in major cities to see how its people lived. Today, as a few dozen early shoppers walked through the doors as the emporium opened in Hyderabad, the acid test began of whether the furniture giant understands what Indian consumers want.

"I have no plans to blow a lot of money today, maybe just buy some kitchenware, but this is going to be a destination for me," said Rajani Venugopal, a businesswoman who waited about an hour and managed to be the first person in the doors.

Some 380 million Indians, a population bigger than the entire U.S., will join the middle class in the seven years through 2022. Ikea's 400,000-square-foot Hyderabad store is the first step in the retailer's plans for India, with more outlets scheduled to debut in Mumbai, Bengaluru



ru and the New Delhi area soon after. By 2025, the company hopes to have 25 stores in the country.

"Ikea has an opportunity to pioneer modern retailing in the home improvement sector," said Ankur Bisen, head of retail and consumer division at Technopak Advisors Pvt., an Indian consulting firm based near New Delhi.

India's 1.3 billion people spend about USD30 billion a year on furniture and household items like bed linens and cookware, but 95 percent of those

items are sold by small shops that offer custom-built products, according to Technopak.

What started as a trickle of shoppers at 10 a.m., when the store opened, had turned into a steady stream about an hour later. Ikea expects as many as 6 million visitors annually at the store in the Hyderabad suburb known as Hitec City, a town full of new apartment towers where multinationals like Amazon.com, Dell Inc. and Deloitte have offices. Bloomberg



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Scott Sonner, Carson City

Nevada nears new sexual harassment policies at casinos

NEVADA'S chief gambling regulator said Wednesday she's been encouraged by the input she's received from casino executives and workers as the state's Gaming Control Board considers rules addressing sexual harassment in the workplace.

Board Chairwoman Becky Harris said she's reviewing a revised draft of the proposed regulations and expects to circulate them for public comment "soon."

The drafting of regulations for harassment in the industry for the first time was spurred by the sexual misconduct scandal surrounding former casino owner Steve Wynn. He has denied the allegations against him.

Members of the union representing thousands of casino workers told the board in May the final regulations should address sexual harassment by guests and high-rollers as well as employees.

"We have — I think — an improved method for how sexual harassment claims might be reported to the board should those regu-

lations be enacted," Harris said after the panel's regular monthly meeting Wednesday in Carson City.

"I don't have exact timing with regard to when the updated sexual harassment regulations will be circulated. I have a new draft and need to read it," she said.

The regulatory changes as written would apply to all licensees. The largest casino operators have previously said they meet many of the proposed criteria, which employment attorneys say are standard for most large corporations.

The move to adopt the regulations comes after the Wall Street Journal reported in January that several women said Wynn harassed or assaulted them and that one case led to a \$7.5 million settlement. He resigned Feb. 6 as chairman and CEO of Wynn Re-

sorts.

Wynn has filed a defamation lawsuit against The Associated Press for its reporting on a separate allegation made to police.

Regulators in Nevada and Massachusetts are now investigating the allegations leveled against Wynn.

Harris said the Nevada regulatory board is in the "final stages" of its probe and remains on schedule to complete it within the next two months. But she would not comment on details, including the number of interviews conducted or documents reviewed.

"It is confidential," she said.

Wynn Resorts on Monday disclosed it has finished an internal investigation into the allegations. The company said it will share the findings with gambling regulators.



Board Chairwoman Becky Harris

Harris said she's been pleased with the high interest the industry has shown in participating in the effort to implement sexual harassment regulations in the workplace. She said they plan at least one more workshop to gather input in southern Nevada and one in nor-

thern Nevada.

"We have some very supportive licensees who want to make sure that however the board chooses to handle this matter that it is done in a thoughtful, fair way," Harris said. "The licensees have really stepped up." **AP**

Investors turn against Hong Kong stocks in market rout

CHINESE investors have gone off Hong Kong stocks again. After turning net buyers in July, mainland traders have been selling the city's stocks this month, returning to an April-June trend, when they dumped HKD24 billion (USD3 billion) of shares over a record three consecutive months. The reversal came as the Hong Kong benchmark declined every day last week, but investors continued to pull out Monday through Wednesday, when the Hang Seng Index rose 2.5 percent. The gauge added 0.9 percent yesterday.

"Southbound flow to

Hong Kong has been positive since 2016, but the tide started to turn in April," said Tang Jianzhuo, a Shenzhen-based portfolio manager at E Fund Management Co. "Some mainland capital was forced to pull out due to deleveraging pressure on the mainland, while some chose to sell due to trade concerns and weaker expectations for the economy."

Net sales last week amounted to about HKD7.5 billion, the third biggest weekly total on record, according to Bloomberg calculations based on daily trading data. Another HKD4.5 billion was sold this week.

It's a far cry from January, when the Hang Seng Index soared to a record high and investors piled in via trading links with Shanghai and Shenzhen.

Mainland investors have spent about HKD86 billion buying Hong Kong stocks this year, averaging out at about HKD601 million in net purchases a day. That's down about 60 percent from 2017.

The waning inflows have exacerbated the Hang Seng Index's declines this year, Tang said. Stocks in Hong Kong and the mainland have fallen hard this year amid deteriorating trade relations with the U.S., a

weaker yuan and signs of slower economy in China, where a deleveraging campaign has hampered growth.

"We think the southbound outflow is also related to profit-taking by mainland investors," Tang said. "After two years of good performance in Hong Kong, many southbound funds have earned sizable profits."

Mainland investors have lowered their stakes in 15 out of 50 Hang Seng Index members this year.

While Chinese investors' holdings in Hang Seng Index members is near a seven-month low, their ex-

posure to Hang Seng Composite Small Cap Index members remains close to the highest in at least a year.

Onshore investors are keeping a close watch on two areas to decide whether to keep selling: Chinese economic growth indicators and trade talks between China and the U.S., said Wang Menghai, Shanghai-based money manager at Fullgoal Fund Management.

"If the trade solutions or economic growth turn out to be better than expected, funds would flow to Hong Kong," Wang said.

"If the trade tensions escalate, or there are bad signs for the economy, investors

may not have much motivation to buy Hong Kong stocks in the near-term."

Wang said he is avoiding sectors closely related to the trade tension between China and the U.S. and allocating to companies with abundant free cash flow, as they are more resilient during volatile times. He also favors companies with low gearing, given deleveraging measures being taken on the mainland.

The weaker yuan is an overhang for investors. The yuan is the weakest currency in Asia over the past three months, falling around 7 percent against the dollar. **MDT/Bloomberg**

corporate bits

MGM TEAM MEMBERS GRADUATE DIPLOMA PROGRAM



Seven MGM team members enrolled in the MGM High School Diploma Program successfully completed their courses and received diplomas from Escola Secundária Luso-Chinesa de Luís Gonzaga Gomes (ESLC) last

month.

The company partnered with ESLC under the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) to provide complimentary education for local team members completing their high school di-

plomas.

A feature of the MGM High School Diploma Program is that classes take place at the company, with re-arranged rosters to better accommodate team members' study.

This encourages participants to complete the courses necessary to earn qualifications that are essential to career advancement, the gaming operator noted in a statement.

Upon completion of the program, graduates will be presented with junior high and high school diploma certificates recognized by DSEJ.

Graeme Croft, MGM's Vice President of Table Games, said, "Our Company supports our team members 100 percent. We always encourage them to further their education."

BENE ELEVATES BRUNCH OFFERINGS



Sheraton Grand Macao Hotel's Bene Italian Restaurant will elevate its Sunday brunch by adding free-flowing beverages (including prosecco, cocktails and beer), new artisanal pass-around dishes, and an interactive kid's cor-

ner, the hotel has announced in a statement.

The new Great Big Bene Sunday Brunch will feature cold antipasti, salads, Italian premium cheeses and cold cuts, along with a range of carpaccio, pizzas and

freshly baked treats such as egg tartlets and panini, as well as Eggs Benedict with sautéed mushrooms, Parma ham, black truffle and parmigiana hollandaise.

An array of fresh imported lobsters, crab legs, prawns on ice, and freshly-shucked seasonal oysters are also on offer.

A live carving station with tempting charcoal-grilled and slow-roasted meats including Australian skirt steak, New Zealand lamb chops and marinated chicken can also be seen at Sunday brunch.

At the "Sweet Escape" area, guests can indulge in a dessert spread featuring traditional Italian sweets such as tiramisu, panna cotta, limoncello and ricotta cake, pistachio crostata, as well as a selection of ice creams.

BLOOMBERG

TRADE WAR

Trump's planned duties on Chinese art panned by dealers, museums

Mark Niquette & Katya Kazakina

THE art world is growing anxious about President Donald Trump's trade war with China.

The administration's list of USD200 billion in goods targeted for duties includes paintings, sculptures, collages, ceramics and historical collectibles, along with antiques older than 100 years.

Critics of the tariff plan say it will discourage private collectors and dealers from acquiring Chinese art and cultural items, and because museums rely on donations, they and the viewing public will suffer. They also question the effectiveness of trying to spur U.S. production or change China's trade behavior by targeting art.

"If everything is slapped with a 25 percent tariff, it's actually going to do a disservice to people here in the U.S.," said Daniel Chen, director of Chambers Fine Art gallery in New York. "Who are they trying to punish?"

Chen is among more than a dozen individuals and groups filing comments posted on Regulations.gov opposing the tariffs. A hearing is also set for Aug. 20-23 in Washington for companies and groups to weigh in on the proposed duties on more than 6,000 product categories from chemicals to pneumatic tires and circuit boards. The inclusion of

art and antiques shows how the escalating trade war affects sectors not typically associated with trade disputes.

CHINA TARIFFS

The U.S. imposed duties on \$34 billion in Chinese products on July 6 and tariffs on an additional \$16 billion in goods will take effect on Aug. 23, in response to allegations of intellectual property theft and other unfair trade practices. The administration has identified a further \$200 billion in goods for duties and is reviewing whether to increase the rate to 25 percent from 10 percent initially proposed. China has announced further retaliation.

China is the No. 2 art market in the world, accounting for 21 percent of sales by value, behind the U.S. at 42 percent, according to the Art Market 2018 report from Art Basel and UBS. Sales in the global art market reached \$63.7 billion in 2017, up 12 percent from 2016, the report said.

Imports originating from China last year included \$107.2 million for century-old antiques and \$66.6 million for paintings, drawings and pastels by hand, according to U.S. Census data.

CHINESE BUYERS

Not everyone in the art world is concerned. Tad Smith, chief executive officer of Sotheby's, said on an Aug. 6 post-earnings conference call that while the

auction house prefers a stable, growing trade environment, the duty would affect only about 0.1 percent of all its Chinese works of art sold in New York.

"The real buying of Chinese art is in China," said Larry Warsh, a New York entrepreneur who's been collecting Chinese contemporary art for more than 15 years.

Still, some dealers and museum directors worry about the ripple effect of the tariff.

Chambers Fine Art in Chelsea represents 25 living Chinese artists, including Ai Weiwei, an international star whose Beijing studio was demolished by Chinese authorities last week. The gallery promotes Chinese artists in the U.S. by staging five annual exhibitions, as well as through collaborating with museums and selling art at fairs, Chen said.

NO GO

Some projects will never happen if the works become 25 percent more expensive due to the tariffs, he said. He cited an upcoming exhibition of Chinese artist Shang Yang, whose works have sold for as much as \$4.9 million at auctions in China. The 75-year-old Beijing-based artist will make his U.S. debut next month.

"Something like this will never be able to happen if there's a 25 percent tariff," Chen said.

The super-wealthy might be able to pay more, but mid-range and smaller collectors will

be hurt - as will dealers, who typically can't sell their acquisitions quickly, said Peter Tompa, executive director of the Global Heritage Alliance. The nonprofit advocates for the interests of collectors, museums and the trade in archaeological and ethnological objects.

Some [art] projects will never happen if the works become 25pct more expensive due to the tariffs

"People have the idea that most people who collect art are really rich," said Kate Fitz Gibbon, executive director of the Committee for Cultural Policy, a New Mexico-based nonprofit. "Actually, most people who collect art are just passionate."

Institutions such as the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts are affected in two ways, said Director Alex Nyerges. The tariff would limit museum purchases of Chinese works with its acquisitions endowment, and with fewer pieces of art coming into the U.S., donations also would decline - and 90 percent of its collection has come

from gifts, he said.

While the impact of the tariff on China's trade behavior and the deficit will be minuscule if anything at all, it will hurt the art market trade and ability of museums to serve their educational role, Nyerges said.

"If we don't have the great works of art to show and tell the story, in this case of the history of Chinese art, then we can't do our jobs," he said. "So the real losers end up being the American taxpayers on a tariff that is absolutely senseless."

Beijing already has a memorandum of understanding restricting the U.S. import of ancient Chinese art, and the proposed duties will only help the Chinese government's efforts to monopolize the trade, said James Lally, whose Manhattan gallery specializes in works from the country. Importing art and antiques from other nations also will be more expensive because the duty applies to products made in China, he said.

"The only parties to benefit from this policy will be Chinese, Japanese, Singaporean and European collectors who do not have to overcome this hurdle," Maribeth Graybill, curator of Asian art at the Portland Art Museum in Oregon, said in her written comments posted online. "And, as our president likes to say, 'They will be laughing at us.'" **Bloomberg**

VACCINE SCANDAL

Authorities freeze stock of top executive arrested in crackdown

CHINA stepped up its crackdown of the pharmaceutical company at the center of a vaccine scandal, freezing shares of the drugmaker's chairwoman following her arrest.

Changsheng Bio-technology Co. said in a statement yesterday that the public security bureau of Changchun, the city where the embattled company is based, has frozen the 18.1 percent stake held by Chairwoman Gao Junfang. She is the company's largest shareholder. A 0.68 percent stake held by another shareholder, Zhang Yongkui, has also been frozen. The order is in place for one year.

Gao and Zhang are among 18 Changsheng employees

who have been arrested after a State Council investigation found last month that the company violated vaccine standards since as far back as 2014, using expired materials and marking false production dates.

The revelations that Changsheng and another drugmaker sold low-quality vaccines for infants has created a wave of outrage among Chinese consumers, with protesters picketing government offices and worried parents traveling to Hong Kong for foreign-made vaccines. President Xi Jinping described the situation as "shocking" and China's top governing body has vowed to punish those involved. **Bloomberg**

BLOOMBERG



US scrutinizes HNA group over building near Trump Tower

Gillian Tan

CHINA'S HNA Group Co. said it's been questioned by a U.S. government panel over its ownership of a building in Manhattan near Trump Tower.

The scrutiny from the Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S., which assesses deals posing potential national-security risks, involved some "unique facts and circumstances" regarding the location of the building, a representative for the Chinese conglomerate said in a statement. Those issues didn't exist when HNA bought the 850 Third Avenue property in New York, it said.

The 21-story building houses one of only two police precincts that are within a mile of Trump Tower, the president's base when he's in New York. HNA said it's

taking steps to address concerns voiced by the committee.

The scrutiny comes amid rising tensions between the U.S. and China, which is said to have decided to help HNA pull itself out of recent liquidity challenges. The Chinese conglomerate, which has sold more than USD17 billion in assets to lower its massive debts, has dangled the Manhattan building as one of several properties it is considering unloading.

Amid an escalating trade war with the world's second-largest economy, President Donald Trump's administration has stepped up its meddling in inbound investments involving China, resulting in the scuttling of some high-profile deals such as Broadcom Ltd.'s \$117 billion attempt to buy Qualcomm Inc. CFIUS's powers may also be expanded under a bill that

Congress is expected to pass in August.

The Chinese conglomerate has also been caught in the crossfire. In late April, it abandoned plans to buy SkyBridge Capital from former White House Communications Director Anthony Scaramucci. The group has also faced heightened attention across its holdings worldwide, partly because of questions about its ownership. HNA agreed to buy the 850 Third Avenue building before Trump was elected.

Separately, the New York Post earlier reported that Trump's administration is poised to seize a majority stake in the building. Responding to the article, HNA said "there is no seizure or forced sale of 850 Third Avenue underway or pending, and it is grossly inaccurate and misleading to suggest otherwise." **Bloomberg**

BLOOMBERG



CHINESE tennis player Peng Shuai has been banned for six months for breaching the sport's anti-corruption program by attempting to change her Wimbledon doubles partner through coercion last year after the sign-in deadline.

The Tennis Integrity Unit announced the sanc-

Tennis player Peng Shuai banned six months

tion yesterday [Macau time], with three months of the ban suspended. Peng also was fined USD10,000, with \$5,000 suspended. Peng's former coach, Bertrand Perret of France, also was banned for three months.

The TIU said Peng "used coercion and offered the possibility of financial reward in return for her main draw partner agreeing to withdraw from the ladies doubles event at Wimbledon 2017."

Peng ended up not competing in the tournament after the offer was refused.

The suspension will be effective immediately, with Peng eligible to play again on Nov. 8 as long as no other violations are

committed. The Chinese player was ranked No. 1 in doubles in 2014 and reached a career-high singles ranking of 14th in 2011.

The 32-year-old Peng was the top-ranked doubles player in the world in

February 2014 and is now 20th in doubles and 80th in singles. She has two career singles titles and reached the 2014 U.S. Open semifinal. Peng has 21 doubles titles, teaming with Taiwan's Hsieh Su-wei to win Grand Slam crowns at Wimbledon in 2013 and the French Open in 2014.



Interior Undersecretary Eduardo Ano (left) talks with National Police Chief Gen. Oscar Albayalde

PHILIPPINES

Official says foreign militant behind van explosion

Jim Gomez, Manila

A foreign militant was behind a powerful van blast that targeted a big public gathering in the southern Philippines but failed after the vehicle stalled and instead killed the suspect and 10 others, an official said yesterday.

Interior Undersecretary Eduardo Ano said there is no conclusive evidence the Islamic State group plotted the suicide bombing. The extremist group, however, could benefit by claiming responsibility to project strength and gain new

recruits, he said.

The Islamic State group has claimed credit for the attack, saying the attacker was a Moroccan. However, it erroneously cited a much higher military death toll in the July 31 blast.

All information and forensic data showed the suspected bomber was a foreigner, said Ano, a former military chief who now oversees the national police, which is investigating the explosion in the outskirts of Lamitan city in Basilan province.

"He was targeting an event

that gathered about 3,000 people but something went wrong with his van," Ano told The Associated Press, referring to a scheduled program by schools to promote nutrition in Lamitan, which was near the scene of the bombing outside an army militia outpost.

The suspected militant asked villagers to push his white van after it stalled but they became suspicious after seeing unusual wires protruding from plastic gallon tanks in the vehicle, which blew up and killed him, a soldier,

five militiamen and four civilians, Ano said.

Government forces had been alerted in Basilan prior to the bombing because of intelligence reports that militants, including Indonesians, would try to carry out bombings, Ano said.

The blast wounded eight other people, including army scout rangers, who were approaching to investigate the van and the driver. The explosion tore a crater on the road and damaged the militia outpost in Lamitan in one of the worst militant attacks in

the country this year.

Officials have praised the military and militia personnel who perished or were wounded in the blast as heroes, saying the attack could have inflicted a much larger toll. Regional military commander Lt. Gen. Arnel Dela Vega said the security personnel who died "may not have seen the end of war but their gallantry will remain in our hearts forever."

■ The Islamic State group has claimed credit for the attack, saying the attacker was a Moroccan

The bombing renewed terrorism fears but metropolitan Manila police Chief Superintendent Guillermo Lorenzo Eleazar said it would be difficult for the militants to carry out such attacks in the capital and other urban centers due to the heavy presence of law enforcers.

The Philippine government condemned the attack, calling it a "war crime."

The country's south remains under martial law, which President Rodrigo Duterte declared last year to deal with a five-month siege by Islamic State group-linked militants of southern Marawi city. The disastrous siege left more than 1,200 people dead, mostly militants, displaced hundreds of thousands of villagers and sparked fears that the Islamic State group was gaining a foothold in Southeast Asia amid battle defeats in Syria and Iraq. **AP**

KOREAS

Rivals to meet to prepare for leaders' summit

THE rival Koreas will meet Monday for high-level talks meant to prepare for a summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in, South Korea said, the third such meetings between the leaders in recent months.

The announcement yesterday by the South's Unification Ministry, which handles inter-Korean issues for Seoul, comes amid attempts by Washington and Pyongyang to follow through on nuclear disarmament vows made at a summit in June between President Donald Trump and Kim.

Pyongyang has also stepped up its calls for a formal end to the Korean War, which some analysts believe is meant to be the first

step in the North's effort to eventually see all 28,500 U.S. troops leave the Korean Peninsula. Washington is pushing for the North to begin giving up its nuclear program.

A South Korean official at the Unification Ministry, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of office rules, said the two Koreas will also discuss ways to push through tension-reducing agreements made during an earlier summit between Kim and South Korean President Moon. Among the agreements was holding another inter-Korean summit in the fall in Pyongyang.

The rival Koreas may try to seek a breakthrough amid what experts see as little progress on nuclear

disarmaments between Pyongyang and Washington despite the Singapore summit in June and U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's several visits to North Korea.

Pyongyang insisted that the U.S. should reciprocate to the North's suspension of missile launches and nuclear tests and other goodwill gestures such as the return of remains of American troops killed in the Korean War. The United States has dismissed calls to ease sanctions until the North delivers on its commitments to fully denuclearize.

The inter-Korean meeting on Monday will be held at Tongilgak, a North Korean-controlled building in the border village of Panmun-

jom. It wasn't clear who would attend the talks, but such meetings have typically been handled in the past by South Korea's unification minister and his counterpart in the North. It also wasn't clear when another summit might happen, but if the April 27 summit agreements are followed through, the leaders will likely meet in Pyongyang in the next couple of months.

In the meantime, both Koreas are seeking an early end of the Korean War. South Korea's presidential spokesman said last month that Seoul wants an early declaration of the end of the 1950-53 war sooner than later. The Korean Peninsula is still technically in a state of war because the fighting ended with a cease-



Minister Cho Myoung-gyon (center) speaks to the media before leaving for the border village of Panmunjom last June

fire, not a peace treaty.

Earlier yesterday, North Korea's Rodong Sinmun said in a commentary that ending the Korean War is "the first process for ensuring peace and security not only in the Korean peninsula but also in the region and the world."

Seoul said it accepted the North's proposal after

Pyongyang first suggested a meeting Monday to discuss another summit.

Kim and Moon met in April at a highly publicized summit that saw the leaders hold hands and walk together across the border, and then again in a more informal summit in May, just weeks before Kim met Trump in Singapore. **AP**

Andi Jatmiko, Tanjung

INDONESIA

Third strong earthquake shakes Lombok as death toll tops 300

THE Indonesian island of Lombok was shaken by a third big earthquake in little more than a week yesterday as the official death toll from the most powerful of the quakes topped 300.

The strong aftershock, measured at magnitude 5.9 by the U.S. Geological Survey, caused panic, damage to buildings, landslides and injuries. It was centered in the northwest of the island and didn't have the potential to cause a tsunami, Indonesia's geological agency said.

Videos showed rubble strewn across streets and clouds of dust enveloping buildings. In northern Lombok, some people leaped from their vehicles on a traffic-jammed road while an elderly woman standing in the back of a pickup truck wailed "God is Great." An Associated Press reporter in the provincial capital, Mataram, saw people injured by the quake and a hospital moving patients outside.

The aftershock caused more "trauma," said national disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho.

Wiranto, Indonesia's top security minister, told reporters the death toll from Sunday's magnitude 7.0 quake had ri-



sen to 319. The announcement came after an inter-agency meeting was called to resolve wildly different figures from various government offices.

"We are taking action as fast as we can to handle this disaster," he said.

Nguroho said in statement that the death toll will continue

to rise because rescue workers are still finding victims in the ruins of collapsed buildings and some people who are already buried are not yet included in the official toll.

Grieving relatives were burying their dead and medics tended to people whose broken limbs hadn't yet been treated

in the days since the quake. The Red Cross said it was focusing relief efforts on an estimated 20,000 people yet to get any assistance.

In Kopang Daya village in the hard-hit Tanjung district of north Lombok, a distraught family was burying their 13-year-old daughter who was struck by a collapsing wall and then trampled when Sunday's quake caused a stampede at her Islamic boarding school.

Villagers and relatives prayed outside a tent where the girl's body lay covered in a white cloth.

"She was praying when the earthquake happened," said her uncle Tarna, who gave a single name. "She was trying to get out, but she got hit by a wall and fell down. Children were running out from the building in panic and she was stepped on by her friends."

Nearly 68,000 homes were damaged or destroyed in Sunday's quake and 270,000 people are homeless or otherwise

displaced, according to the disaster agency's latest update.

"People are always saying they need water and tarps," said Indonesian Red Cross spokesman Arifin Hadi. He said the agency has sent 20 water trucks to five remote areas, including one village of about 1,200 households.

In Kopang Daya, injured villagers got their first proper treatment yesterday after medics arrived with a portable X-ray machine and other supplies. They tended to an elderly woman with an injured face and hips who had been knocked over by her grandson as they scrambled from their house.

"Her son managed to get out from the house when the earthquake hit but the grandmother and grandson were left behind," said a relative, Nani Wijayanti. "The grandson tried to help the grandmother to get out but he pushed too hard."

A July 29 quake on Lombok killed 16 people. **AP**

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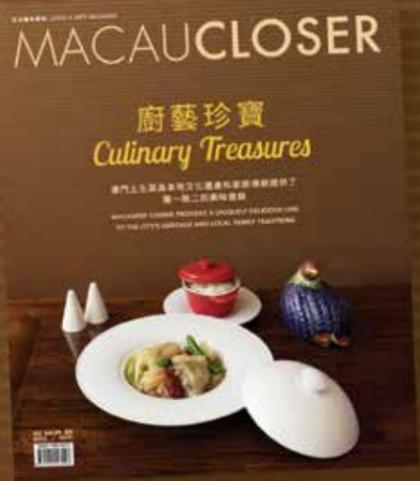
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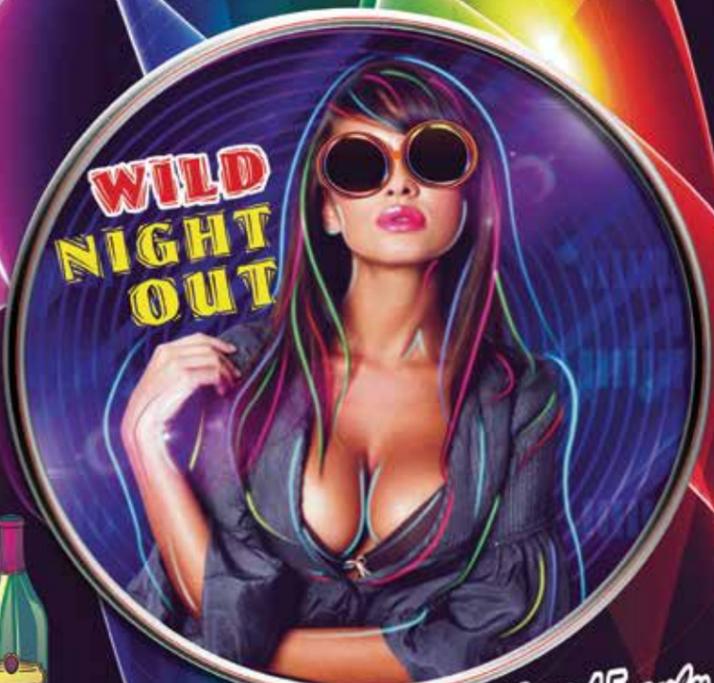
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Steve Peoples & Bill Barrow,
Washington

THERE'S a border crisis in Pennsylvania. The radical left is surging in New Jersey. And Nancy Pelosi is a threat to New York.

Republican candidates in the nation's premier midterm battlegrounds have embraced a central message in their fight to maintain the House majority this fall — and it has little to do with the surging economy or the sweeping tax cuts that the GOP celebrated as a once-in-a-generation achievement just eight months ago.

Instead, as Republicans enter the final month of the primary season, they're looking ahead to a general-election strategy of embracing anxiety as a tool to motivate voters. That was clear this week as the GOP's closing message in an Ohio special election questioned Democrat Danny O'Connor's connection to Pelosi, the House Democratic leader and preferred super villain for Republicans.

"We wish it got the pitch forks out and it doesn't," GOP ad maker Will Ritter said of the Republican tax cuts.

Some Republican strategists are frustrated the party isn't focused on the tax law or the broader health of the economy in the run-up to Election Day. Others concede that in the Trump era, there's no better motivator than fear of the other side, particularly the prospect of Pelosi returning to the speaker's chair.

The plan had some success in Ohio: The race was too close to call yesterday [Macau time] as Republican Troy Balderson maintained a razor-thin advantage over O'Connor, staving off an embarrassing GOP debate for now. Going forward, the debate over highlighting the tax law will help determine whether Republicans will maintain control of Capitol Hill after November.

While Republicans are reluctant to engage on tax cuts, it's a fight Democrats — and their voters — want.

"The tax cuts were for the top [...] income earners," said George Stringer, a 58-year-old Democrat who lives in Detroit. "The rich keep getting richer, the poor keep getting poorer."

In Ohio, which hosted the season's final special election, O'Connor railed against the tax cuts as a giveaway to the rich that threatened Medicare and Social Security. While his Republican opponent may prevail, the 31-year-old Democrat trailed by less than 1 percentage point in a district that's been in Republican hands since before he was born. On the defensive, Balderson appeared in a late ad sitting next to his ailing mother and promising that he wouldn't dismantle the social safety net.

It's somewhat similar to the problems Democrats faced in 2010, when they controlled the White House and Congress and managed to pass the most significant

AP PHOTO



Troy Balderson, Republican candidate for Ohio's 12th Congressional District

US | PRIMARIES

Instead of tax cuts, GOP candidates motivate with anxiety

health care legislation since the creation of Medicare and Medicaid. They celebrated with President Barack Obama in the Rose Garden, only to run from it in the midterm elections that became a disaster for the party.

President Donald Trump, plagued by scandal and wed to his Twitter account, sits atop the struggle.

Republican pollster Frank Luntz said Trump energizes the Republican base, but that his broadsides and distractions will also alienate the swing voters who tip battleground House districts.

"This is political malpractice," he said. "You can't find me a time in modern times when the economy was this strong and the governing party was headed toward a potential political disaster like this."

Republicans are also reluctant to embrace their tax cuts because the benefits don't change the household budget for many Americans. The party predicts that will change next year when families file their first tax returns under the new law. But as electoral strategy, that's akin to Democrats in 2010 insisting voters would like the health care law once they understood it.

The tax debate comes amid new evidence of a Democratic surge in early elections across America.

Michigan Democrats will feature the state's first all-female

statewide ticket this November following Tuesday's primary elections. Democrat Rashida Tlaib also won a race to run unopposed for the Detroit-area House seat vacated by John Conyers, making her poised to become the first Muslim woman in Congress. In Kansas, 38-year-old attorney Sharice Davids won her congressional primary and became the state's first Native American and gay nominee for Congress.

■ In the Trump era, there's no better motivator than fear of the other side

Both Davids and Tlaib campaigned aggressively against the Republican tax cuts.

Beyond avoiding the tax law, there has been a consistent theme for Republicans across House battlegrounds: casting the Democrat as too liberal.

A National Republican Congressional Committee ad in Ohio tied Democratic candidate O'Connor to Pelosi and "the liberal resistance movement."

A super PAC backed by House Speaker Paul Ryan charged that it was O'Connor who would cut Social Security and Medicare by USD800 billion; fact checkers

have questioned the accuracy of the attack.

In central Kentucky, GOP Rep. Andy Barr is reminding voters that Amy McGrath, a former fighter pilot, voted for President Barack Obama and opposes Trump's proposed border wall. In suburban Pennsylvania, vulnerable Republican Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick has warned of "a border in crisis" and demanded a surge of immigration enforcement agents. And in New Jersey, Republican Rep. Leonard Lance featured an ad in which Democrat opponent Tom Malinowski calls himself a "lifelong progressive Democrat" over and over. Lance also warns of his "dangerous policies" like abolishing U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Anthony Brindisi, Democratic nominee in an upstate New York district, is the target of an ad from Rep. Claudia Tenney claiming that Pelosi is "bankrolling" Brindisi "because he'll support their radical immigration agenda."

Brindisi blasted the Tenney ad as dishonest, repeating his general support for border security and opposition to Pelosi continuing as Democratic leader. "I'd think after almost two years of being in Congress, the first advertisement that my opponent would run would be something about her accomplishments," Brindisi said.

He's running his own tax ad, localizing the law by highlighting Tenney's campaign support from the cable giant Charter, whose New York subsidiary, Spectrum, has raised rates and spent hundreds of millions on stock buybacks after getting a tax windfall. "I want to point out to the voters that when we talk about the swamp, this is the worst kind of example," Brindisi told The Associated Press.

Republicans aren't apologizing for their tax votes, even if it's not at the forefront of their campaigns.

Rep. Mimi Walters, a vulnerable Republican in southern California, said in a recent interview that she plans to use it in her paid advertising this fall. But her ads so far this year have focused on other topics.

"In the beginning [...] there was a lot of pushback. That's just natural. You're making a big change, and people weren't sure," said Walters, who represents one of 25 districts nationally that sent a Republican to the House in 2016 but opted for Hillary Clinton over Trump in the presidential race.

"Now that people have started to see the benefits [...] people come up and thank me," Walters said, adding that she's "results oriented" and pointing to economic growth figures that she says prove "we made the right decision." AP

TV canal macau



FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

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

Offbeat

COLLEGE REPRINTING UP TO 9.2K DIPLOMAS TO FIX TYPO

A Colorado university is offering to reprint up to 9,200 diplomas after the outgoing editor of the school newspaper found a big typo.

Alec Williams was checking to make sure his name was spelled correctly on his Colorado Mesa University diploma when he noticed it said "Coard of Trustees" instead of "Board of Trustees" in Old English font.

Williams told The Daily Sentinel he laughed, but then got frustrated because he had USD30,000 in student loans and a diploma with a typo.

CMU President Tim Foster says the university is sending corrected diplomas to 2018 graduates and will offer them to graduates as far back as 2012.

They cost \$5 each, so the university could spend nearly \$46,000.

Foster says CMU designs its diplomas "so this mistake is all ours."

cinema



CINETEATRO

10 AUG - 15 AUG

ALONG WITH THE GODS:
THE LAST 49 DAYS

ROOM 1

2:30, 7:00, 9:30pm

Director: Kim Yong-hwa

Starring: HA Jung-woo, JU Ji-hoon, KIM Hyang-gi

Language: Korean (Chinese & English)



THOMAS & FRIENDS

BIG WORLD! BIG ADVENTURES! THE MOVIE

ROOM 1

7:00pm

Director: David Stoten

Starring: Dona Adwera, Peter Andre, Richie Campbell

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 85min



THE MEG

ROOM 2

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

Director: Jon Turteltaub

Starring: Jason Statham, Bingbing Li, Rainn Wilson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 113min



HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 3: A MONSTER VACATION

ROOM 2

4:45pm

Director: Genndy Tartakovsky

Starring: Adam Sandler, Andy Samberg, Selena Gomez

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 97min



CHRISTOPHER ROBIN

ROOM 3

2:30, 9:30pm

Director: Marc Forster

Starring: Ewan McGregor, Hayley Atwell, Bronte Carmichael

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 147min

DORAEMON THE MOVIE:
NOBITA'S TREASURE ISLAND

ROOM 3

4:30pm

Director: Kazuaki Imai

Starring: Wasabi Mizuta, Megumi Ohara, Yumi Kakazu

Language: Cantonese (Chinese)

Duration: 109min

INCREDIBLES 2

ROOM 3

7:15pm

Director: Brad Bird

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

Language: Cantonese (Chinese)

Duration: 118min

this day in history



1990 MAGELLAN STARTS MAPPING VENUS

The Magellan spacecraft has arrived at the planet Venus after an epic 15-month journey from Earth.

The craft arrived just after 1730 BST (1630 GMT). Soon after, controllers at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California instructed it to fire its solid-rocket motor for 83 seconds to slow it down into a long, looping orbit around Venus.

They then faced an agonising 30-minute wait while the craft went out of communication behind the planet.

Only when it emerged from the shadow of Venus was it clear that the manoeuvre - one of the most critical of the mission - had been successful.

The craft will spend several years making a pass over the planet every eight Earth months - just one day on Venus.

The result will be a detailed map of the planet described by Nasa as a "hell-hole". Scientists hope it will help answer the question of how our nearest neighbour, and the planet most like Earth, ended up uninhabitable.

Previous probes sent to Venus have revealed an environment as unlike that on Earth as it is possible to imagine.

The atmosphere on Venus is almost entirely made up of carbon dioxide. The yellowish clouds which shroud the planet's surface are partly sulphuric acid, and temperatures at the surface are hot enough to melt lead.

"In some ways Venus is very Earthlike, in others it is totally bizarre," said Jim Garvin, of Nasa. "We want to find out why."

Magellan can see surface details as small as 300 ft (91.5 meters) in diameter.

One of the questions scientists will be seeking to answer is whether Venus reached its surface temperatures of 480 degrees C as a result of global warming.

The findings could give an insight into how the greenhouse effect might develop on Earth.

Magellan was built on a shoestring budget and is made up of a combination of materials from other space projects. The radio dish comes from Voyager, and the central control system from the Galileo project.

The recycling of equipment from one project to the next is a growing trend in space exploration in an era of ever-tighter budgets.

Nasa has gone seriously over budget overhauling the space shuttles since the Challenger disaster in 1986. Magellan itself is Nasa's first attempt to explore deep space for 11 years.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Magellan spent four years mapping Venus, producing a detailed radar map of 99% of the planet. It found evidence of volcanic activity over about 85% of its surface.

One of the puzzles it raised for scientists was the fact that the highlands of the planet appeared abnormally bright, while lower elevations appeared dark.

Scientists now believe this is because the mountains on Venus are covered in condensed melted metal.

The metal, probably lead, is vaporised at lower levels by the incredibly high temperatures, then cools as it rises.

The metal then settles like frost on the planet's peaks to form a thin, highly reflective layer.

Magellan operated for four years before plunging to the surface of Venus in October 1994.

In a planned manoeuvre, scientists instructed the satellite to descend slowly into the atmosphere, where it eventually burnt up, sending data back to Earth as it did so.

The Magellan probe was one of Nasa's most successful interplanetary missions.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You can finally put whatever has been bothering you lately on the back burner...

Taurus April 20-May 20 Look down at your plate before you go back to the buffet for a second helping. Do you still have perfectly good food in front of you?

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 As the stars shift and change positions, you're among the first round chosen for the team. All day long it seems that you're somehow on the right side of the line...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 New circumstances find you facing your own indifference. It's difficult to make a decision when you just don't have much invested in the outcome...

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 These days it seems as if the laws of the universe were written to benefit you, and you delight at the prospect of everything going your way.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 If you can't do it yourself, maybe you shouldn't attempt to do it at all. Support may be forthcoming, but it's on someone else's schedule.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 The stars urge you to win your victories one at a time, face-to-face and to be fully aware of your actions.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You need your alone time and that's a good thing, because solitude is on the agenda. Do what you must, because the energy you're giving off is too powerful for most.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Talking is highly overrated. Instead of describing your feelings, demonstrate them creatively.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You may feel like keeping a low profile these days, and it's no wonder - the stars heat things up to a high temperature.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You're a big fan of blunt honesty and the naked truth. If you think it, you're likely to say it without censoring it for the audience.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 What happened? You got off to such a great start, but you're suddenly feeling fatigued. Don't be surprised when your huge lead slows to a walking pace.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles categorized by difficulty: Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard. Each puzzle is a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled.

WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Side; 5- Electric fish; 8- More than one female sheep; 12- Prefix with meter; 13- Unit of weight in gemstones; 15- Trim; 16- Be in front; 17- Gladiator's venue; 18- Woe ___; 19- Light of a candle; 22- Gives birth to; 23- Feel poorly; 24- A Chaplin; 26- Hinder; 29- Add fizz; 31- Well, ___-di-dah!; 32- Exposed; 34- Wagner work; 36- Pub pints; 38- ___ Ark; 40- Goes wrong; 41- "West Side Story" song; 43- Rock; 45- Debtor's letters; 46- Extent; 48- Underground room; 50- Med. school class; 51- Bingol; 52- Bro or sis; 54- Touchy; 61- Suffix with buck; 63- Run away to get married; 64- Mrs. Dithers, in "Blondie"; 65- Noisy; 66- Crowbar; 67- Start of a counting rhyme; 68- Entr'___; 69- June honoree; 70- Flat sound;

DOWN: 1- Apply powder to oneself; 2- Zeno of ___; 3- ___ impasse; 4- Noon; 5- Countess's husband; 6- ... ___ saw Elba; 7- Singer k.d.; 8- Prefix with center; 9- Launderette; 10- Witty Bombeck; 11- Meets with; 13- Southeasternmost hill of Rome; 14- Lake in the Sierra Nevada; 20- Leg or arm; 21- Mower brand; 25- Back of the neck; 26- Cobb, e.g.; 27- Near that place; 28- Uneven, as if gnawed away; 29- Committee type; 30- Mistake; 31- Hasty escape; 33- Grab a bite; 35- Sun Devils' sch.; 37- Indication; 39- Athletic shoe; 42- Smell ___; 44- K through 12; 47- Lucy's landlady; 49- Knights' weapons; 52- Room in a casa; 53- Camaro model; 55- ___ Three Lives; 56- PBS science series; 57- Raced; 58- Denials; 59- Sea birds; 60- 24 hour periods; 62- Keats creation;

Yesterday's solution crossword grid with filled-in letters.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

AD

FOR SALE and FOR RENT advertisement for JML Property, including contact information and website.

Real estate listing for Choi Long Meng Chui, Three Bedroom Apartment in Taipa, Ref. 18045555.

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

Real estate listing for Manhattan D unit, High Floor in Taipa, Four Bedrooms Apartment, Ref. 18075558.

Real estate listing for Violet Court, Hellene Gardens in Coloane, Beautifully Designed Apartment, Ref. 18035546.

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





United States' Townley Haas swims in the men's 200m freestyle final

SWIMMING

Ruck wins 200 at Pan Pacific, Ledecy gets third

Stephen Wade, Tokyo

TAYLOR Ruck almost psyched herself out before the race even started.

Knowing she was swimming against five-time Olympic champion Katie Ledecy in the 200-meter freestyle yesterday at the Pan Pacific Championships, the Canadian had to calm herself down as she re-

died to dive into the pool.

"It's the name, I guess, because she is the fastest woman on the planet in a lot of races," Ruck said of the American great. "My coach kind of saw that, so he told me to focus on my lane and my race."

And there's another factor. Almost everyone is already thinking about the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo and using this

event as a trial run.

Ruck won the 200 in 1 minute, 54.44 seconds, just ahead of Japanese rival Rikako Ikee. Ledecy was third in 1:55.15. Ledecy won this event two years ago at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics — and the 400 and 800, too — though it probably is her weakest race. She was second in the 200 a year ago at the world championships in

Budapest.

It wasn't a lost day. Ledecy took the 800 in 8:09.13 — the fifth fastest on record — and will be the favorite in the 400 during the four-day event in Tokyo, the biggest meet of the year for most swimmers around the Pacific Rim.

"I knew it was going to be tough," Ledecy said. "It's a tough double. I've done it a number

of times, but it's always a difficult thing. I really put a lot of work into not having that happen again. But I still have two more years to go until the big show here in Tokyo."

American teammate Lilly King did her thing. The Olympic champion in Rio again won the 100 breaststroke, this time in 1:05.44. Not her best time, but she'll take it.

"I'm just trying to take it year by year, but I do feel it's a little bit of a rehearsal for the Olympics since we're in the same city," King said. "I'm just trying to get used to the culture and things like that. But the Olympics are always in the back of my mind."

King hasn't lost this race since 2015.

"It's definitely my baby," she said. "I don't know how I would take losing, so I'm just trying to keep winning."

Host nation Japan won twice. Yasuhiro Koseki took the men's 100 breaststroke, and Yui Ohashi won the women's 400 individual medley.

Australia's sole victory was in the mixed medley relay. China has sent fewer swimmers and is focusing instead on the Asian Games later this month in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Other American winners included Jordan Wilimovsky in the 1,500, Townley Haas in the 200 freestyle, and Chase Kalisz in the men's 400 individual medley. He beat out Olympic champion Kosuke Hagino and Rio bronze medalist Daiya Seto. Kalisz took silver in Rio.

The Pan Pacs are being held in the Tatsumi International Swimming Center, which will be used for water polo at the next Olympics. A new aquatic center is about 35 percent complete, located just a short walk away. **AP**

TENNIS

Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal win in Toronto

FOUR-TIME champion Novak Djokovic and top-seeded Rafael Nadal advanced to the third round of the rainy Rogers Cup yesterday [Macau time].

Djokovic, coming off his fourth Wimbledon title, beat Canadian wild-card Peter Polansky 6-3, 6-4. The Serb had seven aces and never faced a break point in the 1-hour, 25-minute match that just beat the afternoon rain.

Nadal, playing for the first time since a five-set loss to Djokovic in the Wimbledon semifinals, topped France's Benoit Paire 6-2, 6-3 at night after a series of rain delays.

A former world No. 1, Djokovic is seeded ninth

in the event he last won in 2016.

"I thought I served well in the moments when I really need it," Djokovic said. "I thought I found pretty good accuracy and angles with the first serve, and also my second serve worked pretty well. Overall, my game was so-and-so. In the moments when I probably needed to step it up, I did."

Heavy morning rain delayed the match by about an hour.

Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas set up a match against Djokovic, knocking off seventh-seeded Dominic Thiem of Austria, 6-3, 7-6 (6). Nadal will face Stan Wawrinka of Switzerland, a 1-6, 7-6 (2), 7-6 (10) win-

ner over Marton Fucsovics of Hungary.

Second-seeded Alexander Zverev of Germany, the winner last week in Washington, beat American Bradley Klahn 6-4, 6-4, and fourth-seeded Kevin Anderson of South Africa edged Russia's Evgeny Donskoy 4-6, 6-2, 7-6 (0).

Eighth-seeded John Isner, the American who won at Atlanta two weeks ago, beat France's Pierre-Hugues Herbert 7-6 (3), 6-2. Italy's Fabio Fognini, the No. 14 seed coming off a victory at Los Cabos, fell out with a 6-3, 7-5(14) loss to Canada's Denis Shapovalov.

Also, Karen Khachanov of Russia beat 12th-se-

ded Pablo Carreno Busta of Spain 6-4, 7-6 (3); Ilya Ivashka of Belarus topped American Ryan Harrison 7-6 (5), 6-4; and American Frances Tiafoe edged Canada's Milos Raonic 7-6 (4), 4-6, 6-1.

Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina withdrew because of a left wrist injury.

"Sorry to my fans in Toronto, but I have to pull out of the tournament since my left wrist needs some days of rest," Del Potro said in a tweet.

Del Potro, who had a bye in the first round after reaching the Los Cabos final last week, was set to play Robin Haase of the Netherlands. Haase instead played Mikhail Youzhny, beating the Russian 7-5, 6-2. **AP**



Rafael Nadal



FOOTBALL IS BACK!

English Premier League wasn't always a global beast

Tamer Fakahany, London

SOMERVILLE, Massachusetts, 26 May, 1989. Answerphone message, Beep:

"It's your brother-in-law, Andre, Arsenal needed to win by two clear goals at Anfield to win the league and did it with almost the last kick of the match!"

And that tinny, brief and precious Trans-Atlantic message was how I found out in post-university U.S. exile that was soon to end how my North London team had its greatest moment since 1971, when I began watching them regularly, winning the First Division title at Liverpool's very own football cathedral, the team that had dominated the English game since the late 1970s.

It's now globally known as the English Premier League, a multi-billion-dollar behemoth that is ubiquitous outside the stadiums in which it is played, paying some of the most eye-watering wages to international household names - Manchester United's World Cup Winner, Paul Pogba, Arsenal's Mesut Ozil, Chelsea's Eden Hazard, Liverpool's Mohammed Salah and Manchester City's Sergio Agüero to name but a few of its biggest stars. The new season begins today and the hype is in overdrive.

And where does this marauding cash cow get its vast mountains of money? In Great Britain, Sky Sports and telecoms group BT pay nearly 5 billion pounds (USD6.43 billion) per season to the EPL to show live games. The league's 20 teams get a hefty cut,

thus enabling huge wages for some superstars and also some extremely average players. In America, NBC has the broadcasting rights, for which it pays handsomely. A six-year contract through 2021-22 is worth about \$1 billion. Stateside, games are shown in designated bars, or, via cable, on a phone or tablet.

Time zones are a challenge: get up early in the U.S. for weekend matches, watch later at night in parts of Asia. Acceptable to have a drink at 7.30am Eastern Time at kick off? Probably not. At Noon for the early evening game across the pond? Sure.

In the last few years, I've seen Arsenal play live on a screen from afar or caught video clips of goals seconds later online in several U.S. cities, France, The Netherlands, Greece, Morocco, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Failing that, there are countless live blogs or running commentary from increasingly agitated and deranged legions on Twitter.

Rewind to the early 80s, the start of my time away from England in the U.S.

A weekly phone call home with my parents was the key source of football information, or perhaps "The New York Times" or "The Boston Globe" would deign to print half an inch of results buried deep in the Sunday Sports section.

Later in the same decade, the Columbia University library provided recent copies of the British newspaper "The Guardian" where I could devour match reports and neglect my graduate studies on languorous afternoons.

It was all a long way from wa-

tching Arsenal in the flesh, a sometime visceral experience in the late 70s that involved some hair-raising, anxious encounters as a youth at home and away with supporters from rival teams.

Hooliganism was the scourge of the game in Britain for a good two decades and it had a death toll, spilling blood into Europe, as did poorly built stadiums up and down the country, and policing that treated fans like animals. Woe betide anyone who threatens the image of the EPL now - violence, empty seats at games, the cameras will swing away quickly.

But controversies over in-match refereeing decisions, playground spats between managers, as well as the actual action itself? Pile them on the gravy train.

In Britain, Sky Sports and BT, which demand monthly payments to watch live matches at home or in the pub, and the rather zealous tabloid media can't get enough of saying the English Premier League is the best in the world.

But is it?

Some would doubt that when exhilarating matches between the top tier of teams are a rarity. Around a dozen teams, also paying big wages, are desperately trying to stay in "The Show," to borrow a baseball phrase from the film "Bull Durham," and keep a grip on the revenue and public garlands for the teams' multi-millionaire owners.

It's certainly the most omnipresent. But Messi, Ronaldo and Mbappe - no introduction needed - don't ply their trade there. **AP**



FOOTBALL

Chelsea signs Kovacic on loan from Madrid on deadline day

Chelsea has signed Croatia midfielder Mateo Kovacic (pictured) on loan from Real Madrid for the season. The move was completed on the final day of the Premier League's transfer window. The 24-year-old Kovacic was part of Croatia's run to the World Cup final, where it lost to France. Kovacic has been at Madrid since 2015, joining from Inter Milan. Chelsea has also sold a player - goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois - to Real Madrid. The Belgian was replaced by Kepa Arrizabalaga after Chelsea met the goalkeeper's 80 million euro buyout clause from Athletic Bilbao. Meanwhile, Wolverhampton has signed Belgium midfielder Leander Dendoncker from Anderlecht on an initial season-long loan. The 23-year-old Dendoncker's move will become permanent next year. The central midfielder has made six appearances for Belgium, the most recent of which came against England at the 2018 World Cup.



GOLF

PGA Championship starts in August heat for last time

The 100th edition of the PGA Championship began yesterday for the last time in the stifling heat of summer. Club pro Michael Block hit the opening tee shot down the middle at Bellerive Country Club. The course is playing long and soft because of rain on Tuesday and temperatures in the 90s that require PGA officials to keep water on the greens. The PGA Championship moves to the middle of May next year. Tiger Woods, defending champion Justin Thomas and Rory McIlroy are getting most of the attention from the morning side of the draw. Block is among 20 club pros who qualified for this major. He is the first club pro in six years to qualify for the U.S. Open and PGA Championship in the same year.



OLYMPICS

IOC disappointed UN won't grant North Korea sports exemption

IOC President Thomas Bach says he is disappointed the United Nations will not allow sports equipment to be sent to North Korea. The International Olympic Committee's request was rejected by the U.N. Security Council Sanctions Committee. Bach says "this makes it more difficult for the IOC to accomplish its mission to bring athletes from all over the world together to promote understanding and friendship regardless of political background or any other differences." In a statement, Bach added that "it is all the more disappointing because the exemption asked for the easing of restrictions on sporting equipment only for a very limited number of athletes." The IOC played a key role in allowing North Korea to participate in the Pyeongchang Olympics in South Korea this year.

opinion

Kapok
Eric Sautedé



NOT SO COOL AFTER ALL

We have known for some time that air-conditioning is not only bad for the environment, but also pretty dreadful for our health.

It consumes a lot of energy — far more than a fan; contributes to the “island warming” phenomenon in cities — pumping hot air from inside the houses to the street; increases air pollution; and ultimately makes a disproportionate contribution to global warming.

When it comes to airborne germs and bacteria, it acts not only as a propagator but also as a source of illnesses, especially when air con units remain dirty or worn out. If Legionnaires’ disease is one of the nastiest such illnesses, it remains luckily quite rare, contrary to colds and sore throats, that can easily become chronic ailments. In a previous job, air-cons were so badly maintained that I would regularly suffer from throat infections and voice loss after teaching only two classes in a row. But then, occupational diseases were the least of my concerns — sadly!

With record-breaking heat waves affecting the world, it seems only natural to question the all-out rush on air conditioning to cool down, even more so in our part of the world, where abusing the AC has become a way of life, so that one has to bring a jumper along to the movies, a shopping mall, hopping on a bus or sitting on a ferry.

In a recently released study by the International Energy Agency (IEA) entitled “The Future of Cooling”, we are reminded that the use of air conditioners and electric fans already accounts for 10% of overall global electricity consumption! Moreover, projections on energy demand for space-cooling indicate that without action to address energy efficiency and promote alternative methods of coping with the heat, the share of final electricity demand for cooling will more than triple by 2050 — space-cooling demand will represent 37% of the world’s overall electricity demand! In Hong Kong, the future is now as ACs already suck up 30% of the SAR’s annual energy. In Macao, as usual, ignorance is bliss, but as energy consumption has more than tripled in the past 18 years — soaring from 1,573 to 5,417 million KWh between 2000 and 2017 — we can legitimately postulate that air conditioning is the big culprit.

One recommendation highlighted in the IEA report — besides walking around naked, working at night, taking refuge in a forest and living in white-painted individual and well-ventilated houses with shades closed most of the time — is that policies to improve the efficiency of ACs could quickly curb demand and that such efficiency would bring major benefits, reducing the need to build new energy generation capacity, thus lowering investment as well as fuel and operating costs. Coupled with decarbonization, that would also translate into a massive reduction in cooling-related CO2 emissions.

In China, the challenge and opportunities are of epic proportion. China and the United States now account for more than half of the 1.6 billion AC units in use in the world, and the two taken together contribute to 55% of global cooling-related CO2 emissions. However, China is taking the lead when it comes to forecasted demand and, as reported, “in some places, such as Beijing on the 13 July 2017, more than 50% of the daily peak load [is] related to cooling.” One of the big issues has to do with coal power generation in China, but the disparity between the best available energy efficient AC units and the market average is also to be blamed — pricing is still an issue.

In Macao, this imperative to improve the overall efficiency of air conditioners was for a while factored into policy-making... but then the Environmental Protection and Energy Conservation Fund was terminated in December 2015. Why? Nobody ever cared to explain.

THE SUZUKI, MAZDA, YAMAHA ADMIT USING FAKE VEHICLE EMISSION DATA

Japanese automakers Suzuki Motor Corp., Mazda Motor Corp. and Yamaha Motor Co. have admitted using falsified emissions data to inspect their new vehicles after the government ordered the industry to review its procedures.

Japan’s transport ministry said yesterday the three automakers admitted conducting improper inspections after 23 Japanese auto and motorbike manufacturers were ordered to examine their inspection procedures in July following similar mishandlings being found at Nissan Motor

Co. and Subaru Corp. in their fuel economy data at final product quality checks.

The three companies said they certified products that tested unsuccessfully. Suzuki said nearly half of its 12,819 new car inspections involved improper inspections at its three plants. Improper inspections happened less often at the other two — 2.1 percent of 335 motorbikes inspected in the last two years at Yamaha and 3.8 percent of 1,875 vehicles inspected at Mazda over the past four years.

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

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

YEMEN An airstrike by the Saudi-led coalition fighting Shiite rebels hit a bus driving in a busy market in northern Yemen yesterday, killing least 50 people.



ISRAEL-PALESTINE Israeli warplanes struck dozens of targets in the Gaza Strip and three people were reported killed there, while Palestinian militants from the territory fired scores of rockets into Israel in a fierce burst of violence.

TURKEY’s government says it will outline a “new economic model” today as the national currency hit another record low amid concerns about the president’s policies and an ongoing dispute with the U.S.

US-RUSSIA New sanctions against Russia will be imposed later this month for illegally using a chemical weapon in an attempted assassination of a former spy and his daughter in Britain earlier this year, the United States said.



ARGENTINA’s Senate yesterday rejected a bill to legalize elective abortion, a defeat for a grassroots movement that came closer than ever to achieving the decriminalization of the procedure in the homeland of Pope Francis.

VENEZUELA’s pro-government constitutional assembly stripped two opposition lawmakers of their immunity from prosecution, accusing them of having roles in a drone attack that authorities say was an attempt to kill socialist President Nicolas Maduro.

BOLIVIA Officials in Bolivia say a valuable, nearly two-century old medallion symbolizing presidential power was stolen, then quickly recovered.

Philippines bars octogenarian Australian who it says joined rally

THE Philippine immigration bureau said yesterday it has blocked the entry of an Australian who has been blacklisted for reportedly joining a 2015 rally in violation of regulations barring foreigners from engaging in political activities in the country.

CNN



Gill Hale Boehringer, 84

Gill Hale Boehringer, 84, is the latest foreigner to face expulsion after reportedly joining local protests. Immigration officials have ordered the deportation of an Australian nun who angered the president for joining anti-government rallies.

Bureau of Immigration spokeswoman Dana Sandoval said Boehringer arrived Wednesday at Manila’s Ninoy Aquino International Airport from Guangzhou, China, but “was excluded for being blacklisted.”

Boehringer reportedly participated in a rally in November 2015 which was “in clear violation” of immigration policy prohibiting foreigners from engaging in political activities, Sandoval said.

“Inclusion in the blacklist means that the subject is a threat to public order and safety, and blacklisting minimizes that risk,” Sandoval said, adding that blacklisted foreigners could seek to be

removed from the list if they submit “sufficient proof to reverse the blacklist.”

Boehringer denied joining the rally. “I suspect that I wasn’t even in the country at that time,” he told the ABS-CBN TV network.

His lawyers will seek his removal from the blacklist so he can seek medical treatment in the country, ABS-CBN reported.

A doctor who examined Boehringer, Geneve Rivera-Reyes, said it may be risky for him to travel again due to a pulmonary illness and skin infection on both legs. She called the immigration bureau “heartless” in seeking Boehringer’s expulsion.

Sandoval said Boehringer was not detained but was turned over to airline offi-

cial after being barred entry. He was made to wait at an airport holding area to board the next available flight back to Guangzhou, she said.

Last month, the immigration bureau ordered the deportation of an Australian nun, Sister Patricia Anne Fox, who has angered President Rodrigo Duterte by joining anti-government rallies, although her lawyers called the move political persecution. Fox appealed the expulsion order and remains in the country.

Duterte’s administration also barred a critical Italian politician, Giacomo Filiberto, from entering the Philippines in April.

Duterte has been highly sensitive to criticism, especially by foreigners, who he says have no right to meddle in the country’s affairs. His anti-drug crackdown has left thousands of suspects dead and alarmed human rights groups and Western governments.

Philippine officials deny any political persecution and say foreigners will have no problem as long as they follow the law. In 2014, nine foreign journalists were blacklisted for heckling then President Benigno Aquino III, Sandoval said. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Dmitri Lovetsky



Under the river. A cargo ship floats past the famous Kalyazin Bell Tower, part of the submerged monastery of St. Nicholas, in the town of Kalyazin located on the Volga River.