

PREMATURE INTEGRATION OF THE SARS

Int'l relations expert Arnaldo Gonçalves says a process of premature integration of the SARs is ongoing

■ P4-5 MDT INTERVIEW



SEAC PAI VAN GROUP REITERATES PROTEST

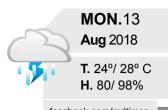
A group of residents is against the government's decision to build two temporary hazardous materials warehouses

P7



TAIWAN'S TSAI HEADS TO LATIN AMERICA

P10



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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS





a conservative Islamic cleric as his running mate.

MALAYSIA Former
Prime Minister Najib
Razak has failed to win
a court order barring the
media from discussing
the merits of corruption
charges against him
ahead of the start of
his trial on February 12.
More on p13



JAPAN Tens of thousands of protesters in Okinawa vowed to stop the planned relocation of a U.S military base, saying they want it off the southern Japanese island entirely.

More on p13

PAKISTAN Police say they have detained eight Chinese nationals who tried to enter a power plant with weapons in the eastern Punjab province.

More on backpage

Printing Bureau plans move to Pac On





LETTER TO THE EDITOR

IPM's response to Quartermain's accusations

Dear Sir,

Under article 20° of Law n.º 7/90/M, of August 6, I hereby use my lawful right to reply to the news published by Macau Daily Times, on July 31, 2018, page 3, regarding the statements made by Mr. David Quartermain, about Macao Polytechnic Institute (MPI). Consequently, I request the below statement to be published in one of the two subsequent publications of your newspaper in accordance with the law:

It is not true that David Quartermain was a "professor" at Macao Polytechnic Institute. Nor was he full-time faculty, according to the existing Personnel Charter of Macao Polytechnic Institute. It appears that, perhaps due to the specialized nature of his work, that he has not provided a clear understanding of the overall picture of teaching and scientific research work at MPI. This may have led to his ungrounded statements and complaints about MPI. In actual fact, he was an ESP Trainer at the MPI-Bell Centre of English, and as such was hired by MPI on the basis of the Contract of Management between Bell Educational Services, Cambridge, and Macao Polytechnic Institute. This means he only had responsibilities for English language training.

MPI-Bell Centre of English was established in 2003 through the Contract of Management between Bell Educational Services Ltd and Macao Polytechnic Institute. Under the provisions of this, MPI granted David Quartermain a fixed-term contract in June, 2003, which was then renewed multiple times by mutual consent.

David Quartermain informed the MPI Board of Management by letter on April 11, 2018, of his intention to resign from his job and unilaterally terminate the contract. As a result, the heading that states "End of contract, reason unknown" for David Quartermain cannot be the true story.

David Quartermain did not give a true description about the work at the Gaming Teaching and Research Centre (GTRC). After David Quartermain agreed in writing to work at GTRC in November 2016, on the basis of a new contract, the MPI Board of Management ended his appointment as the Deputy Director at MPI-Bell Centre of English and assigned him to GTRC as an ESP trainer. Due to his qualifications and

experience in English teaching, GTRC arranged for him to teach English to a class of foreign students. At the same time, he was asked to do a range of other tasks, such as revising and proofreading English manuscripts, working a total 36 hours a week. All of the other teachers at GTRC carry a full workload. In addition, The Gaming Teaching and Research Centre at Macao Polytechnic Institute has always dealt with all cases of suspected cheating according to the relevant MPI Regulations. In the 2017/2018 academic year, three cases of suspected cheating were flagged up at GTRC; two of them have been dealt with seriously - the students involved have been disciplined. The third case is in the process of appeal according to the MPI

Regulations. Therefore, there has been no cover up of students cheating. David Quartermain's complaints about cheating at GTRC cannot, therefore, be true.

The MPI-Bell Centre of English has investigated the alleged behavioral incident in Xinjiang and has concluded that no such reported incident occurred during the period in question. In October 2017, a complaint was made regarding the alleged inappropriate use of a slang term from a pop song. The Centre's management immediately met with both parties involved after receiving the complaint. Following the established procedures, a written notice was issued. All parties accepted this outcome.

> On behalf of **Macao Polytechnic Institute** LEI HEONG IOK **PRESIDENT**

Editor's Note: We publish the letter from IPM in full in accordance with the invoked legislation. However, part of the IPM's allegations were published by MDT on August 6 ("IPM planning to file lawsuit against whistleblower," page 3). Moreover, in his letter, Dr Lei Heong lok confirms that some of the facts which we exposed did occur, but he has a different version of events for each matter and declares that all issues were dealt with. Dr Lei also says "the heading that states 'End of contract, reason unknown' for David Quartermain cannot be the true story." I commend a re-reading of the text to Dr Lei, which refers to Mr Quartermain's dismissal as deputy director of MPI-Bell Center in 2016 and not to his quitting IPM in July 2018. Last, but not least, IPM failed to comment upon and clarify other issues and accusations much more important to the public, like the hiring of unqualified teachers, lack of teacher and student assessment, as well as "guangxi" over merit-based promotions. We tried to make inquires to the institute on those matters, but so far, we have received no answer. PC

K THE VET



by Dr Ruan Du Toit Bester

Basset Hound Eye Problems

THE basset hound breed is a scent dog L belonging to the hound family. There are some in Macau and most have skin conditions. Basset hounds have short legs, a dewlap and trailing ears that help them trap scents. The dewlap is the loose skin that hangs beneath the neck and forms wrinkles that usually get a yeast infection. A breed standard of basset hounds is their slightly sunken eyes with sagging lower eyelids. This characteristic makes the basset hound susceptible to numerous eye problems that include:

- Entropian or ectropian
- Primary glaucoma
- Dermoid cysts
- Ulcerative keratitis
- Nictitans gland protrusion

Entropian and Ectropian of the Eyelids Entropian, also known as "diamond eye", is a rolling inward of the eyelids. This may allow the eyelashes or hair around the eyes to rub against the cornea, causing discomfort and constant tearing. Entropian can result in eye damage and loss of vision due to scarring of the cornea. Very young basset hounds with entropian may require a procedure called 'tacking' in which the eyelids are turned out with sutures. The sutures are kept in for up to three weeks to allow the eyelids to grow away from contact with the eyeball. An adult basset hound that develops entropian will require surgery to roll the lid outward into correct placement.

Ectropian is an eversion, or turning out of

the eyelids. Eversion of the eyelid exposes the sensitive inner lining to foreign particles that can irritate or damage the eye. Irritants in the eye can also cause excessive tearing, known as epiphora. Although tears are made to flush the foreign particles when the dog blinks, the ectropian still prevents adequate dispersal of tears throughout the eye. A veterinarian may determine that surgical correction of the ectropian is necessary to prevent permanent damage to the eye.

PRIMARY GLAUCOMA

Basset hounds are predisposed to primary glaucoma. Glaucoma is an increased internal pressure of the eye due to a blockage of eye fluid. Eyeball enlargement can lead to permanent damage of the retina and loss of vision. The eye may appear bloodshot with a dilated pupil and cloudy cornea. Medications may be prescribed to temporarily alleviate pain and reduce the pressure within the eye. Most cases will eventually require hospitalization and medical treatment to prevent blindness. If one eye develops primary glaucoma, it is likely that the other eye will develop the same condition.

CONGENITAL DERMOID CYSTS

Dermoid cysts are congenital defects that occur on the eyeball and resemble skin. Dermoids do not usually grow very large but can grow hair that irritates the eye. Most dermoids do not require surgical removal unless the irritation is severe or



vision is obstructed.

ULCERATIVE KERATITIS

Also known as corneal ulcers, ulcerative keratitis may penetrate one or all layers of cornea, causing inflammation and deterioration of the cornea. Corneal ulcers can be very painful and cause sensitivity to visual stimuli and light. Treatment requires prescription pain relief and possible surgery or artificial lenses.

NICTITANS GLAND PROTRUSION

Cherry eye, or nictitans gland protrusion, is a protrusion of the gland inside the third eyelid. The third eyelid is between the eyeball and the outer eyelid. It protects and lubricates the eyeball. If the gland within the third eyelid protrudes and is exposed, it becomes irritated and inflamed, resembling a cherry. Medication may be prescribed to alleviate discomfort. Most cases of cherry eye require surgical correction.

> Hope this info helps Till next week Dr Ruan

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Julie Zhu

HE Printing Bureau will move its office to a new government building in the Pac On district, the construction of which has been practically concluded.

"Since the bureau's current facilities have been used for nearly 70 years, regardless of their appearance, both inside and outside, have all been worn out. The current space cannot meet the demand required by daily operations," said the director of the Printing Bureau, Tou Chi Man, in conversation with the Times.

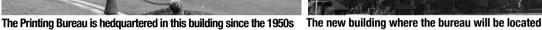
"At the same time, the facilities have also prevented the Bureau from importing more environmentally friendly and more efficient printing equipment. Therefore, the Bureau was allocated, by the Financial Services Bureau, to be part of the floors of the current under-construction government building located on land 01, in Taipa Pac On, in order to replace the Bureau's old facilities," said Tou.

Moreover, according to Tou, besides it being used as storage and office space for the Printing Bureau, the Pac On government building will also be used as storage for several other governmental departments.

"In the future, the Bureau will move all its employees and equi-

Printing Bureau to move to new building in Pac On





that the relevant works will be fi-

nished [at the] latest by the first

quarter of next year. Regarding



pment from the current office to the current office's future usage, the new facilities as to continue it will be given back to the Finanproviding a service to the public," cial Services Bureau." The Printing Bureau has four said Tou. "Regarding the moving schedule, it can only be settled after the overall refurbishment is completed. The Bureau hopes

departments and nine divisions. In 1891, the Inspector of the Treasury, Artur Tamagnini de Abreu da Mota Barbosa, proposed the foundation of the de-

partment of National Press. The

next year, the National Press of Macau was created and the first Macau National Press regulation was approved.

The Bureau came into operation on January 1, 1901.

Also in 1901, the occupational school, which was located next to the National Press, started its operations.

In 1952, the new building of the National Press was constructed on Rua dos Prazeres, following many office removals between 1901 and 1952.

The current space cannot meet the demand required by daily operations.

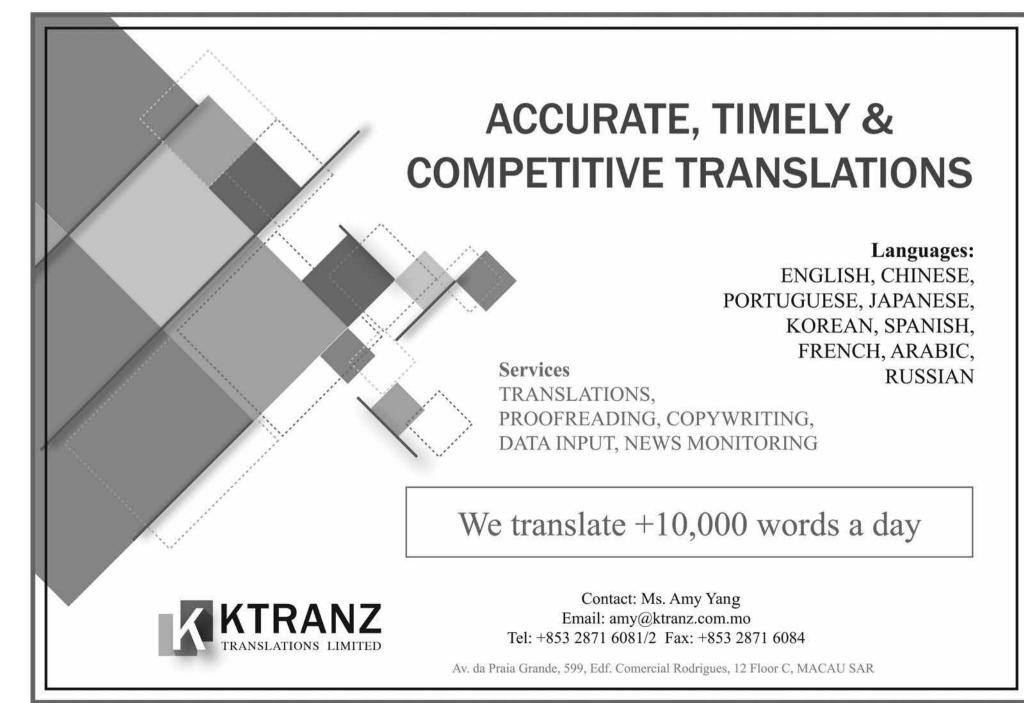
TOU CHI MAN DIRECTOR OF THE PRINTING BUREAU

In 1954, the National Press building was inaugurated, and the street Rua dos Prazeres was renamed as Rua da Imprensa Nacional.

In 1985, the Macau National Press was renamed the Macau Official Press.

In 1999, the Macau Official Press was renamed the Macau Printing Bureau.

AD



Renato Marques

POLITICAL science and international relations expert Arnaldo Gonçalves, who is a visiting professor at the Macau Polytechnic Institute, has been conducting research into the relations between Portugal and China and has authored eight books in the areas of political thought, law, political science and international relations.

Recently, Gonçalves participated in the 25th World Congress of Political Science held in Brisbane, Australia, where he presented a paper titled "Hong Kong and Macao Special Administrative Regions (SARs): China's Southern Frontier?" Interviewed by the Times, Gonçalves touched on issues such as the premature integration of the SARs into the Chinese province of Guangdong before the treaties were signed during the handover of both territories.

Macau Daily Times (MDT) – You believe a premature integration of the SARs in the Chinese province of Guangdong has been occurring. Can you explain to us your perspective on the topic that you took to the International Political Science Association (IPSA) World



ARNALDO GONÇALVES
POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SCHOLAR

'The Greater Bay Area is an old



Congress in more detail? Arnaldo Gonçalves (AG)

- What we have been seeing in the last 20 years is that, even though there are no changes to the law and the statute of the SARs, the same does not happen regarding the environment. There is a very high [degree of] pressure on the State Council and the Office for Hong Kong (HK) and Macau [of the State Council] to not just follow the policies [in] general terms but also to address the concrete policies and this has created a situation that I consider bizarre because there are two Chief Executives (CE) in the SARs, with each one of them having several secretaries in charge of sectorial policies and we start to understand that there are messages passed [from the Central government directly] to each of the sectorial policies, like a parallel government. This situation is particularly visible in the limitations to the actions of the CEs, not just on the major topics, but also regarding the daily interventions, creating a situation that leads to the constant use of "slogans" in a Maoist style.

My communication is on the fact that from the official point-of-view, the borders of China [are] in the Border Gate and on the border that separates [Hong Kong] from Shenzhen. Due to the basic laws and the joint declarations, in fact, what we have seen in the last 20 years [is] the displacement of such borders to the coastal borders of Hong Kong and Macau, blurring the borders of control of people and goods that existed between Hong

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project with a new name'

Kong and Shenzhen and Macau and Zhuhai to the point [that] they [have almost] vanished.

MDT - What is the relation of this border movement with regional integration projects such as the Greater Bay Area?

AG - The [Greater Bay Area] policy is clearly to seduce businessmen to join the Guangdong strategy of projecting the province's importance [in the context of China and worldwide]. Since the companies held by these tycoons are completely entangled with economic interests in the Guangdong province in a way that sometimes it is even hard to differentiate them, what it does is to mobilize them for such strategies and all initiatives that can happen in relation to that.

"[On] paper", the change of Hong Kong and Macau to statutes close to the other provinces of China would happen in 2047 and 2049, respectively, but in reality this is accelerating in a vertiginous way. This period of 50 years is being shortened also due to the fact that, as I mentioned, the business community of Macau and Hong Kong are deeply rooted in the Guangdong province. They travel a lot to such cities to check on their businesses and that is one of the reasons why they often praise the policy of the Greater Bay Area. This policy is in fact, an old project with a new name, which means the "absorption" of the Special Administrative Regions by Guangdong province.

MDT-WilltheHongKong-Zhuhai-Macau (HKZM) Bridge be a catalyst for that process? What are the consequences?

AG - The Bridge will constitute a psychological factor to accelerate this territorial integration, physically, economically and in my perspective, politically [too]. The great challenge that I think will be in place for the observers will be to see how this political

transition will occur in terms of the leadership of the two SARs. I think Macau residents need to prepare themselves [for] the fact that sooner or later the Chief Executive will stop coming directly from the [local] community and will be someone appointed by Beijing, from the Chinese community, from the Chinese diaspora that settled in the SARs, who is of course [someone] that fulfills the criteria of the seven years [to be a

supporter or very close to the [Chinese] Communist Party. That's the position of Xi Jinping, contrary to the [position of] Deng Xiaoping that had a clear separation between the State and the party. Xi says China is the State and the State is the Party, without any separations. This was very clear starting from the end of Xi's first mandate and the start of the second one. Xi assumed himself as the 'Paramount Leader' of China or how Chinese say, the 'Core Leader' and [...] assumed a posture that is in all similar to the Maoist tradition. Sooner or later, we are going to see the road links connecting all the new landfills to the Peninsula and the Islands [Taipa and Coloane] but also to the other islands that are under [the jurisdiction of] China. I think maybe in 20 years (or maybe less), all this will be connected and will not have

permanent resident] and be a

any separation anymore.

MDT - Is local society opposed to this premature absorption?

AG - There is no opposition in Macau; we don't even know what [that is]. And, in fact, as I see it, the [possible] strategy of such opposition has not been well disclosed. I can say that the opposition in Macau [to Beijing's ideas] has been frozen in time due to the political battles of the 1990's, after the events at Tiananmen [Square].

The ideology, the values and the goals are the same as the ones back in the 1990's and not similar to the goals or the aims that exist in 2017 or

The political message of [for example] "New Macau" [New Macau Association] easily became obsolete and only with the "new blood" of Sulu Sou and Jason Chao [has it] had some update, but even in this case, this happened by imitating Hong Kong and not something generated locally.

This is why Macau does not face any problems [of opposition to the government], contrary to what happens in Hong Kong, and the current CE and all the upcoming ones just need to obey loyally ... the guidelines that come from Beijing and annually go to Beijing to pay homage to the leaders and ensure things work fine in this mechanical way.

Sooner or later the chief executive will stop coming directly from the [local] community.

MDT - Why do you think there is not an opposition like that in Hong Kong?

AG – Firstly, it is because Macau always had little political conscientiousness and then it's just like the "Belt and Road" initiative. What's the real possibility of Macau, a place of a little over 30 square kilometers of area and of a little over 600,000 people of participating from a project of such nature? There isn't one! Where are the service companies, the marketing, the information and new technologies? There

is no business structure that allows Macau to add anything to this project. It just doesn't exist! In Hong Kong, yes, there are some. Hong Kong can be considered a Congress and Exhibition Center, [whereas] Macau doesn't have the capacity to stand alone with this. I think that it is a bit "naïve" to use [...] such wording in the official speeches and to classify Macau as a Conference [and Exhibition] Center.

MDT – Do you anticipate any changes at that level in economic terms?

AG - I can't see [or perceive] any changes [to] the economic model of Macau. Macau will always be led by the gaming sector and all the other sectors are secondary and small addups. Our only differentiating factor that Macau possesses and that the CEs [current and former one] have been addressing, either by their initiative or by order of China or both, is the connection of Macau to the Portuguese-speaking countries, which is something that Hong Kong cannot do. Another area in which Macau could develop would be in terms of heritage; there isn't a realistic or courageous policy for the heritage protection. There are trade-offs happening and this happens because the people that have interests in the real estate business are inside the Legislative Assembly (AL) and the policies need the AL's approval. They will never accept policies that will go against their interests. This is really a shame.

MDT - What are some of the concrete measures that could be taken?

AG - In all big cities, the area of the historical center is not open to traffic and it's solely dedicated to pedestrians. This opens the historical center to the city to the population so they can make a proper use of it. In Macau, this was never possible and the historical center is crushed by the buildings and it's crushed by the thousands of people that visit it in very poor conditions, without any space or any tranquility to visit these places. They are like mobs that invade the city escorted by tour guides that "drag them" through places where they don't possess any mood or peace of mind to enjoy whatever they are visiting. We could have a real policy for these visits, a modern thing, but for that we need to have political courage and determination from the government, as well as [the] capacity to state that to the interests that surround real estate. Unfortunately, that does not happen.

LISBON TO HOST THE 26TH IPSA WORLD **CONGRESS IN 2020**

THE INTERNATIONAL Political Science Association (IPSA) has announced that the city of Lisbon, Portugal, has been selected to host the 26th IPSA World Congress of Political Science. The event will be held at Universidade Nova de Lisboa from July 25 to 30, 2020. The scientific asso-

ciation expects to draw a huge participation from its over 3,500 members around the world, in a city that the committee described as a "top tourist destination known for its art, culture and cuisine." Arnaldo Gonçalves told the Times that he will represent Macau in this congress.







Lynzy Valles

OME 200 Indonesians gathered yesterday to celebrate Indonesia's 72nd year since the Proclamation of Independence, offering a series of colorful and lively performances.

Annually celebrated every August 17, the commemoration is normally celebrated with different events that aim to promote unity in diversity.

In Macau, the one-day commemoration featured performances from different migrant groups, including migrants from the Philippines, Vietnam and Timor Leste.

The vibrant celebration kicked off with an Indonesian traditional singing performance followed by a interpretive dance folk from Myanmar.

Organized by the migrant association, Peduli Indonesian Migrant Workers Concern Group, the event featured a performance offered by their compatriots from Hong Kong – who performed one of Indonesia's famous dances, Reog Ponorogo.

The Reog Ponorogo dance comes from East Java, where it is accompanied by gamelan instruments.

Historically, Reog was used to gather the masses and worked as a communication channel for the rulers.

"It is a very big festival today," said Jusjus Romlah, president

"This is a celebration of Asian cultural dance, and a celebration of our Independence Day. We invited friends from Hong Kong to join this event," she ad-

According to the association, the group was expecting around 200 to 300 of its compatriots to celebrate their Independence Day.

Series of performances featured on Indonesia's **Independence Day**





Peduli also marked its ninth year in the region yesterday. George Young, an adviser of

This is a celebration of Asian cultural dance, and a celebration of our independence day.

> JUSJUS ROMLAH PRESIDENT OF PEDULI

the association, said that the festival is also one of the ways to strengthen the bond of the community in the region.

"We have a lot of activities, but this is the biggest," said Young. Representatives from the Indonesian Consulate General in Hong Kong also came to the city to offer consular services, particularly registration for next year's election in Indonesia.

General elections will be held in the country in April next year, when for the first time, the president and members of the assembly will be elected on the same day.

The community is encouraged to become registered voters in a bid to minimize the queue for upcoming registrations.

"Most of our compatriots have their day off on Sundays so this is also an opportunity for the consulate to come and promote next year's elections," said Young.

Meanwhile, Peduli president noted that high agency fees still remain a concern amongst the group.

According to Romlah, Indonesian associations are doing their best to assist each other in seeking for jobs in order to avoid incurring expensive placement fees.

"We have a group chat where we can help them to be referred to employers we know [...] need domestic employees. We help each other find work, in this way, we will not have to undergo high agency fees," she added.

Protestors in Cotai call for better working conditions

For the second time this month, hundreds of protestors have gathered in Cotai to demand better working conditions at casino operator Melco Resorts & Entertainment. Organized by the New Macau Gaming Workers Rights Association, Saturday's protest gathered around 3,000 people, according to organizers, while police estimate the number to be 850. The protestors once again demanded 14 months of salary and that anti-tobacco laws be strictly enforced inside casinos. Previously, they had also called for what they described as "full pensions" for croupiers. Local media said that the authorities had mobilized around 100 agents to take part in the protest and that there was no record of any improper conduct. The New Macau Gaming Workers Rights Association said earlier this month that if their demands are not met, they will raise the issue with the government.

Slight population increase

The total population of Macau was 658,900 as at end-June 2018, with an increase of 2,200 quarter-toquarter. The female population (349,600) accounted for 53.1 percent of the total. According to data released by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), in the first half of 2018, 2,855 live births were recorded, down by 301 year-on-year. In the same period, there were 2,135 cases of marriage registration, up by 108 year-on-year. In the second quarter of the year, Chinese immigrants (774) decreased by 233 quarterto-quarter. Individuals granted the right of abode (315) and nonresident workers at end-period (181,499) increased by 42 and 154 respectively.

Casino employee arrested for clandestine photography

A male casino accounting professional has been arrested for activities related to clandestine photography. The local resident, aged in his 20s, was working for a casino located in the NAPE area when he was caught red-handed by one of his co-workers, who then transferred him to the police authority. The police authority found more than 2,000 photos of women's legs and photographs taken under skirts. Most of the pictures were taken in his company's staffonly access zone, with only a few being taken on the streets. According to the suspect, the photos were just for his personal collection and he has not shared them online.

Seac Pai Van group reiterates protest against hazardous materials depots

area gathered in a public assembly held at the neighborhood's Lok Kuan Building yesterday, to again protest against the government's decision to build two temporary hazardous materials warehouses in the surrounding Concordia Industrial Park.

The gathering was joined by a couple dozen residents and had the support of several Legislative Assembly (AL) lawmakers, namely José Pereira Coutinho, Ng Kuok Cheong, Sulu Sou and Au Kam San.

In the assembly, the residents continued to crifacilities in a location that is, in their opinion, too close to residential areas and, because of that, potentially harmful for the population.

The residents also reemphasized that, besides the short distance to several housing developments, the facilities will be next door to other public spaces, such as the bicycle path of the Flor de Lotus area, the Golf Course, the Karting track and the Seac Pai Van Park, which houses the Panda Pavilion and is a place highly frequented and visited by fami-

recalled that such a project makes even less sense, as the government has been announcing plans such as a tourism school to be located in the area, recalling that any incident with the facilities can have serious consequences.

With the on-going petition and the public assemblies, the residents hope to gather more support from the population of Macau to force the government to change the selected location for the facilities.

Last week, Pereira Coutinho addressed the topic in the questions ded by Chief Executive (CE) Chui Sai On.

Replying to the questions of the lawmaker, the CE said, "to build a safe city is our goal," adding, "in the future, through analysis and studies, we will find a final place at the artificial island of Macau and another at the Ilha Verde area."

The CE reminded also, "this is a project that has limitations, there are very few places that can respect the standards defined for [the storage and management of] such products," noting that the choice of loca-

Agroup of residents ticize the government's lies and school groups. and answers session of tion at the Concordia Information of the Seac Pai Van decision to build such Some of the residents the AL, which was attendustrial Park had essentiated the AL, which was attendustrial Park had essentiated the AL. tially to do with the fact that, generally, these products arrive to Macau via the Flor de Lotus (Cotai) border, avoiding unnecessary storage and transportation across the city.

> At this opportunity, the CE also reaffirmed that the relevant departments needed to clarify to the public all the information in detail, noting that "soon, the Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak will present this project on the location together with the Fire Services, explaining how will we manage and guarantee safety." RM



Gambling apps surpass CryptoKitties as blockchain money makers

Olga Kharif

It turns out that gambling, not buying digital kittens, is one of the most popular applications on the blockchain - the distributed ledger technology that has been touted as the solution for everything from world hunger to money transfers.

Over a recent 24-hour period, the Fomo3D app attracted more than five times the number of users than CryptoKitties, the game involving breeding cats that famously clogged up the Ethereum network last year. The gambling app, in which contestants try to fleece others via a fictional coin offering, is also lucrative. Players sent more than USD40 million on the distributed application since the first version was launched in July, according to the game's lead designer.

Fomo3D is hardly the only blockchain-based gambling app. Of the top 10 distributed apps by money received, gambling as a category is only second to exchanges, according to DappRadar, which tracks applications that run on blockchain. Gambling-related token sales also continue to gather steam: Dragon Coin and another ICO raised nearly \$1 billion, while a total of 21 other projects have garnered another \$300 million through initial coin offerings, according to Autonomous Research.

"You gamble some Ethereum, and it's possible to get more," Dragos Dunica, co-founder of app tracking service DappRadar, said in a phone interview. "At this point in Ethereum, most of the people are looking for profit, to get something back."

Ether, the cryptocurrency used on most of the networks, has slumped 74 percent since its January peak, while bigger rival



Bitcoin is down by nearly 70 percent from its record high in December.

Many of the gambling efforts originate from questionable and anonymous teams. A former Macau-based gangster known as Broken Tooth has been linked to Dragon Coin. Fomo3D, whose developers' identities aren't disclosed, has been accused of being a ponzi scheme, though the venture's head designer, who goes by Justo, said in an email the app is "ridiculously honest" because it's governed by software. Once set up, the software, which directs payouts, can't be modified, he said. Most blockchain gambling outfits aren't licensed or legal.

Even so, the distributed apps, which are governed by a software-based so-called smart contract sitting on a blockchain, continue to pull in users. Non-blockchain-based, legal site PokerStars - the most popular online venue for poker - attracted around 8,600 people on an average day over the last week, according to traffic tracker PokerScout.com. More than 10,000 people were playing Fomo3D on a recent day in late

July, according to DappRadar.

That gambling is becoming red hot on the blockchain-based web - often called Internet 2.0 for its potential to tie tokens to various new functionality - shouldn't come as a surprise. Gambling was among the first sectors to make it big on the original World Wide Web. The \$40 billion-plus market for online gambling is already growing at the compound average rate of 11 percent a year, according to Transparency

■ The blockchain also opens up potentially new - often shocking - ways to gamble. Prediction markets app Augur lets people bet on deaths of public figures

Market Research.

While many players in places like China and India, where gambling is illegal or heavily restricted, already use online gambling sites, they fear discovery. Blockchain-based sites could offer them more privacy, by only letting players access their identity information - while keeping it hidden from governments.

"It makes internet gambling a more friendly place," Sunaxi Sangole, an analyst at Transparency, said in a phone interview.

Transparency is another attraction blockchain holds for gamblers. The technology can potentially help sites and apps prove that their games are fair. All transactions are recorded on the blockchain, and software governs how funds are distributed to winners.

"The whole point was to give people a tool to play games knowing that the results won't be tampered with," Anton Ivanov co-founder of Dice2.win, which lets players roll a dice or flip coins, said in a phone interview. "The house can't run with the money, and being as transparent as possible."

New companies such as Unikrn, using blockchain for some functionality, also hope to muscle in on new opportunities made available by the U.S. Supreme Court's decision earlier this year that legalized sports betting.

"We address a younger customer base, a customer base that wants to get things done much quicker," said Rahul Sood, chief executive officer of Seattle-based Unikrn. "More than anything, it's going to expand the market. Esports betting is still pretty nascent." The company, whose investors include Dallas Mavericks' owner Mark Cuban and actor Ashton Kutcher, has already partnered with MGM Resorts International to run weekly esports tournaments inside the MGM Grand Hotel & Casino.

The blockchain also opens up potentially new - often shocking - ways to gamble. Prediction markets app Augur, for instance, lets people bet on deaths of public figures.

Whether some of the unlicensed outfits will be shut down by regulators remains to be seen.

"The background of the projects raising massive gambling ICO checks does not bode well for government acceptance and regulatory approval of such activity," Lex Sokolin of Autonomous Research, said in an email.

Various types of online gambling are only allowed in a handful of states. Most casinos don't accept Bitcoin, and "most regulators aren't prepared to deal with it on a reporting level," said Matt Kaufman, an analyst at researcher Eilers & Krejcik Gaming.

"The fact they are not accepting deposits certainly makes them a lower risk of being targeted," Kaufman said. "The regulators are more likely to pursue bad actors where they can expect a result." **Bloomberg**

TWO more Chinese drug developers are seeking initial public offerings in Hong Kong, adding to the growing wave of biotech firms taking advantage of the

city's new listing rules.
Suzhou Kintor Pharmaceuticals Inc. and Frontier Biotechnologies are planning Hong Kong stock offerings that could each raise about USD300 million, according to people with knowledge of the matter. The companies could list as soon as this year, the people said, asking not to be identified because the information is private.

Frontier, Kintor are said to join Hong Kong biotech listing wave



Ascletis Pharma Inc. was the first biotech firm to list in Hong Kong af-

ter the stock exchange introduced new rules that allowed IPOs from unprofitable companies from the sector. Cancer-treatment developer Innovent Biologics Inc. and U.S.-based Stealth BioTherapeutics Inc. are among the biotech firms that have filed listing applications since the rule change.

Shares of Acaletic and

Shares of Ascletis and Chinese drugmaker Bei-Gene Ltd., which completed a secondary listing in the city this week, are both trading below their offer prices.

Listing preparations for Frontier and Kintor are at an early stage, and details of the potential offerings could change, the people said. A Hong Kong-based external representative for Kintor said she couldn't immediately comment, while Frontier didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

Kintor focuses on treatments for cancer and cardiovascular diseases. The company recently hired Eugene Huang, a former Jefferies Financial Group Inc. research analyst, as its chief financial officer. In June, it delisted from China's National Equities Exchange and Quotations, an over-the-counter market known as the New Third Board.

Nanjing-based Frontier, whose backers include Huaxin Century Investment Group and Shenzhen Capital Group, is a clinical-stage drug developer that focuses on HIV treatments. **Bloomberg**

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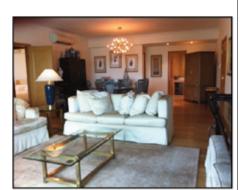
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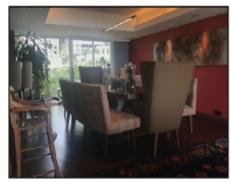


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Taiwan's Tsai travels in face of diplomatic onslaught

TAIWANESE President Tsai Ing-wen departed yesterday for Latin America, traveling to a region she's already visited three times in two years. She doesn't have many other options.

As Tsai crosses the halfway mark of her first four-year term, an eight-day swing through Paraguay and Belize is a reflection of how Taiwan's diplomatic isolation has worsened in the midst of a suffocating Chinese pressure campaign. Just 18 countries mostly clustered in Latin America, the South Pacific and Caribbean — still maintain formal ties with the self-ruling island, down from 22 when Tsai entered office in 2016.

Along with luring away Taiwan's allies, China, which considers the island its territory, has frozen contacts with Taipei and sought to constrict its contact with international organizations. It's also bringing increasing economic pressure and most recently has browbeat international airlines and businesses into referring to Taiwan as part of China, a move condemned by Taipei and its ally, the United States.

Still, maintaining even a reduced pool of diplomatic allies is important to maintaining Taiwan's image of itself as a sovereign democracy, and affords its leadership with the occasion to assert their presence abroad.



Tsai will also be transiting in Los Angeles and Houston, providing opportunities to meet with overseas Taiwanese civic leaders and American officials.

Although Tsai leads Taiwan's Democratic Progressive Party, which favors declaring formal independence from China, she has pursued a moderate China policy since taking office. But that hasn't appeased Beijing, which has demanded that Tsai explicitly acknowledge an informal 1992 agreement that recognizes Taiwan as a part of China.

As a result, Beijing has "gradually rolled out punitive measures across the entire spectrum of activity and interactions," said Jonathan Sullivan, director of China Programs at the University of Nottingham. "Going after allies is high profile and rich in symbolism."

Faced with Beijing's diplomatic onslaught, Tsai has prioritized cementing its ties with remaining

allies and backers like the United States and Japan, with which it maintains close relations in the absence of formal diplomatic

At the same time, she's facing a dip in her domestic poll numbers, possibly, Sullivan said, due to a combination of Chinese pressure in the international arena and disappointment in her reform agenda at home.

On her trip this week, Tsai will attend the inauguration of Paraguayan President-elect Mario Abdo Benitez and address the National Assembly in Belize.

China has traditionally moved carefully in Latin America, which it sees as falling under the U.S. sphere of influence, but has scored wins by flipping Panama and the Dominican Republic in the last 14 months at Taiwan's expense, said Zhu Songling, a professor at the Institute of Taiwan Studies at Beijing Union Univer-

The Dominican Republic ditched Taiwan in May after it refused to match a multi-billiondollar aid package offered by China. Flavio Dario Espinal, an adviser to the Dominican presidential office, told reporters in May that "socioeconomics reality now force us to change course" and embrace China, its USD2 billiona-year trading partner.

"The Chinese government has long respected the strategic thinking of the U.S. and we have shown restraint in the Americas," Zhu said. "But these countries feel it's in their national interest to flip to China, whose economic clout and attractiveness is on a whole different level compared to Taiwan's."

Tsai is increasingly coming under fire from her political base for her moderate approach to China, which has not ameliorated Chinese pressure.

"Tsai has been criticized in Taiwan for being over-cautious," Sullivan said. "It is a tricky line to steer, but it is becoming increasingly evident that Beijing has decided not to work with the DPP administration and is doing everything it can to undermine it in the short and longer term." MDT/AP

Victor Li bets big on Hong Kong's frothy property market

Shawna Kwan

YCOON Victor Li **⊥** made his first land purchase in Hong Kong since taking the reins of CK Asset Holdings Ltd. from his billionaire father Li Ka-shing, splashing out on a development site above a subway station.

The price wasn't disclosed but Knight Frank LLP estimated the value at HKD36.1 billion (USD4.6 billion). It was CK's first victory in a public land tender in two years.

Thursday's deal shows the firm isn't giving up on Hong Kong property after the younger Li took the helm in May, according to Nicole Wong, regional head of property research at CLSA Ltd. That's despite CK running down its land

bank for years. The purchase comes as runaway prices for residential and commercial properties stoke bubble fears in one of the world's least affordable cities.

"Their current land bank will run out in 2020," said Wong. "It's decision time for them as whether they want to stay, and they decided to stay."

The move contrasts with CK selling assets like The Center, the city's most expensive office tower, and pushing money into properties abroad, such as UBS Group AG.'s headquarters in London.

The site atop MTR Corp.'s Wong Chuk Hang subway station will feature residential units and a shopping mall. It attracted bids from Hong



Kong developers including Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd., Henderson Land Development Co., and Chinachem Group Ltd., according to the South China Morning Post. The only mainland firm to show up, China Overseas Land & Investment Ltd., was a member of a consortium.

That limited mainland interest contrasted with strong demand in the past.

"Mainland Chinese developers have purchased a lot of land plots in Hong Kong for the past two years," said Thomas Lam, a senior director at Knight Frank. "They won't pay high prices for land anymore until they get cash from the sale of flats in the next two years." Bloomberg

German student who researched rights lawyers expeled

AGerman man has learned the hard way that practicing journalism in China, even for a class project, could lead to serious trouble.

David Missal, 24, was pursuing a master's degree in journalism and communication at prestigious Tsinghua University in Beijing. He was due to return to Germany yesterday after immigration authorities told him his student visa was canceled and he had a week to leave China.

Missal said he thinks that's because he reported on the plight of jailed human rights lawyers in a journalism class. Missal said a Tsinghua representative this year warned him twice against pursuing the politically sensitive subject, but he went ahead anyway because he wanted to "get to learn Chinese society and politics."

"In a way, the last two months I did get to learn more Chinese society and politics," Missal said, referring to his own case.

China detained 300 people nationwide on July 9, 2015, as part of its biggest crackdown on human rights lawyers and activists. Several received lengthy sentences for subversion of state power while a few still await senten-

That action against Missal underscores China's extreme sensitivity to foreign attention to the crackdown, word of which has rarely appeared in China's entirely state controlled media and on the heavily policed Chinese internet.

Missal said his work was never published beyond his personal blog and YouTube, which he thinks was seen by less than 100 people.

Tsinghua's propaganda office said it could not immediately comment and had to look into the case. AP



Sam McNeil, Yanan Wang

newspaper of the ruling Communist Party said Saturday that no religion is above the law in China, urging officials to stay firm while dealing with a rare protest over the planned demolition of a massive mosque in the northwest.

The Global Times said that local officials in the town of Weizhou in Ningxia, a region that's home to many ethnic minority Hui Muslims, must act against what it described as an illegal expansion of a religious building.

Thousands of Hui people gathered at the towering Grand Mosque on Thursday and Friday to prevent authorities from demolishing the structure, residents contacted by The Associated Press said. It was a rare, public pushback to the party's efforts to rewrite how religions are practiced in the country.

"People are in a lot of pain," said Ma Sengming, a 72-year-old man who was at the protest from Thursday morning until Friday afternoon. "Many people were crying. We can't understand why this is happening."

Ma said the group shouted "Protect faith in China!" and "Love the country, love the faith!"

The protest comes as faith groups that were largely tolerated in the past have seen their freedoms shrink as the government seeks to "Sinicize" religions by making the faithful prioritize allegiance to the officially atheist Communist Party. Islamic crescents and domes have been stripped from mosques, Christian churches have been shut down and Bibles seized, and Tibetan children have been moved from Buddhist temples to schools.

Such efforts were clearly behind the planned demolition of the mosque in Weizhou, where dozens of men, women and children milled about on the mosque steps, on plastic chairs and in the large dirt parking lot early Saturday before dawn prayers. Above them hung long banners from the second story of the mosque that read in Chinese: "Stick to directives of Sinicized religion."

The mosque, an imposing white building lit at night with gold, green and yellow, dwarfs the sur-

Religion must obey Chinese law, paper says of mosque protest



The Grand Mosque in Weizhou, northwestern China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region

rounding dim warren of brick and concrete homes. Its architecture of four minarets and nine domes tipped with crescent moons would be at home anywhere in the Islamic world, save for the large red and yellow Chinese flags fluttering from the ramparts and the wide central staircase.

Authorities were clearly nervous about the unrest. Early Saturday morning, men in plainclothes, including one who identified himself as police, prevented AP reporters from conducting interviews at the mosque and chased them away.

Later Saturday, police stopped the reporters at a checkpoint in the direction of the mosque and detained them for more than an hour before ordering them to turn around, and tailing them with two cars to ensure they did not change course.

The residents of Weizhou were alarmed by news that the gover-

nment was planning to demolish the mosque despite initially appearing to approve its construction, which was completed just last year.

The authorities now planned to take down eight out of the nine domes topping the mosque on the grounds that the structure was built larger than permitted, said Ma Zhiguo, a resident in his late 70s. But community members were standing their ground, he added.

"How could we allow them to tear down a mosque that is still in good condition?" he said, adding that the mosque conducts prayers attended by about 30,000 Muslims and was built using believers' personal funds.

Officials in the county and city propaganda offices said they were not aware of the situation. Other local authorities could not immediately be reached for comment.

But the Global Times newspaper said in an editorial Saturday that the authorities had to send a message to all religious groups that none of them are above the

"Demolishing the mosque is sure to earn the ire of local religious followers. However, if the local government does not react to the illegal act, it will fuel the idea that religions are superior over China's laws," the paper said.

In May, the county disciplinary inspection commission published a notice saying that Weizhou authorities had failed to properly inspect what it said was illegal expansion in the construction of the Grand Mosque. As a result of lax supervision, the notice said, four mosques in the county had received a total of 1.07 million yuan (USD156,148) in foreign donations. It did not specify whether the Grand Mos-

que was among the four.

Ma Sengming said protesters remained at the mosque through the night from Thursday to Friday and were twice visited by a local official who encouraged them to go home. Ma said the official did not make any specific promises, but tried to assure the protesters that the government would work with them on the matter.

More than 100 police officers surrounded the mosque, but did not attempt to stop the protest, according to Ma.

Public demonstrations are rare in China, where the government is often quick to quash any hint of dissent. Under President Xi Jinping, the Communist Party is cracking down on religious expression and attacking what it calls radical ideas among the country's more than 20 million Muslims.

In the far west region of Xinjiang, following sporadic violent attacks by radical Muslim separatists, hundreds of thousands of members of the Uighur and Kazakh Muslim minorities have been arbitrarily detained in indoctrination camps where they are forced to denounce Islam and profess loyalty to the party.

Compared to those ethnic groups, the Hui are culturally much closer to China's Han majority, similar in appearance and speaking a variation of the mainstream Mandarin language.

But recently, reports said authorities have shut down Hui religious schools and Arabic classes and barred children from participating in Muslim activities.

James Leibold, a scholar of Chinese ethnic policies at Melbourne's La Trobe University, said the proposed demolition of the Weizhou mosque appeared to be an effort to assimilate ethnic minorities.

"The ultimate agenda is to erode minority identity and create a sense of belonging and connection to Chinese identity and Chinese culture," Leibold said. AP

Beijing may be holding 1 million Uighurs in camps, UN experts say

CHINA may be holding as many as one million members of its Muslim Uighur minority in "re-education" camps in its western region of Xinjiang, according to United Nations human rights experts.

Speaking in Geneva on Aug. 10 during the opening

session of a two-day review into China's policies, Gay McDougall, a member of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, cited "credible reports" that China had turned the western region into "something resembling a

massive internment camp, shrouded in secrecy," according to reports by Associated Press.

Earlier, Yu Jianhua, China's ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, pointed to economic progress and improved living standards in the region.

Xinjiang, a Chinese region the size of Alaska, has become one of the world's most heavily policed places. Bloomberg reported in January on government experiments with facial recognition systems that alert authorities when targeted people venture more

than 300 meters beyond designated "safe areas."

Local governments have also ordered residents to install satellite-tracking systems in their cars, while people must submit to facial scans to enter markets, buy fuel or visit places such as the capital Urumqi's main bus terminal.

China's President Xi Jinping said the country should "strike first" against Islamist extremism after deadly attacks involving Uighurs in 2013 and 2014. as well as reports of some fighting in Syria.

Asked about the reeducation camps in a regular briefing on July 27, China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said: "The Chinese government fully respects people's religious freedom, and we guarantee that in accordance with law. All ethnic groups and the people in all regions in China enjoy full freedom of religious belief." **Bloomberg**



Taliban's political stature rises with talks in Uzbekistan

TN a rare diplomatic foray and β the strongest sign yet of increasing Taliban political clout in the region, the head of the insurgents' political office led a delegation to Uzbekistan to meet senior Foreign Ministry officials there, Uzbek and Taliban officials said.

Taliban political chief Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanikzai represented the insurgents in the four-day talks that ended on Friday and included meetings with Uzbekistan's Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov as well as the country's special representative to Afghanistan Ismatilla Irgashev. The meetings follow an offer made by Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev in March to broker peace in Afghanistan.

Suhail Shaheen, spokesman for the Taliban's political office in Oatar, said in a statement to The Associated Press on Saturday that discussions covered everything from withdrawal of international troops from Afghanistan to peace prospects and possible Uzbekfunded development projects that could include railway lines and electricity.

AD 🖿



In this June file photo, Taliban fighters gather with residents to celebrate a threeday cease fire marking the Islamic holiday of Eid al-Fitr

Shaheen said Uzbek officials discussed their security concerns surrounding the development projects. "The Taliban also exchanged views with the Uzbek officials about the withdrawal of the foreign troops and reconciliation in Afghanistan," he said in the statement.

Uzbek's Foreign Affairs Ministry website offered a terse announcement on the visit, saving "the sides exchanged views on prospects of the peace process in Afghanistan. "

Still, the meetings are significant, coming as the Taliban are ramping up pressure on Afghan security forces with relentless and deadly attacks. Washington has held preliminary talks with the insurgents in an attempt to find a negotiated end to Afghanistan's protracted

The Taliban have gained increasing attention from Russia as well as Uzbekistan, which view the insurgency as a bulwark against the spread of the Islamic State group in Afghanistan. The United States has accused Moscow of giving weapons to the Taliban.

Still, Andrew Wilder, vice president of Asia programs at the U.S. Institute of Peace said Washington would welcome a "constructive" Russian role in finding a way toward a peace pact in Afghanis-

"What wouldn't be helpful would be if the Uzbek efforts to facilitate lines of communication with the Taliban are not closely coordinated with the Afghan government," he said. "High profile talks by foreign governments with the Taliban that exclude the Afghan government risk providing too much legitimacy to the Taliban without getting much in return," Wilder said.

Yesterday, Ehsanullah Taheri, the spokesman of Afghanistan's High Peace Council, a wide-encompassing body tasked with finding a path to peace with the government's armed opponents, said Uzbek officials had the Afghan government's approval for the meeting.

"Afghan government welcomes any effort regarding the Afghan peace process, especially those attempts which can lead us to an Afghan-owned and Afghan-led peace process," said Taheri.

Still, there was no indication from either side that progress toward substantive talks between the Taliban and the government was made.

For Uzbekistan, the IS presence is particularly worrisome as hundreds of its fighters are former members of the radical Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, a declared terrorist group considered the architect of some of the more horrific attacks carried out by IS in Afghanistan.

Last year, there were reports that the son of Tahir Yuldashev, the powerful Uzbek leader of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, who was killed in a U.S. missile strike in Pakistan in 2009, was leading efforts to help expand IS influence in Afghanistan.

Last week, Afghan security forces reportedly rescued scores of Afghan Uzbeks who had declared their allegiance to IS when they came under attack by Taliban fighters in northern Afghanistan, not far from the border with Uzbekistan. The rescued Uzbek warriors subsequently declared they would join the peace process.

Most of those rescued were Afghan Uzbeks loyal to Afghanistan's Vice President Rashid Dostum who wet over and joined IS after Dostum fell out with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and fled to Turkey in May last year to live in self-imposed exile there.

Coincidentally, the rescue of Afghan Uzbeks from the battle with the Taliban came just days after Dostum returned to Afghanistan and reconciled with Ghani's go-



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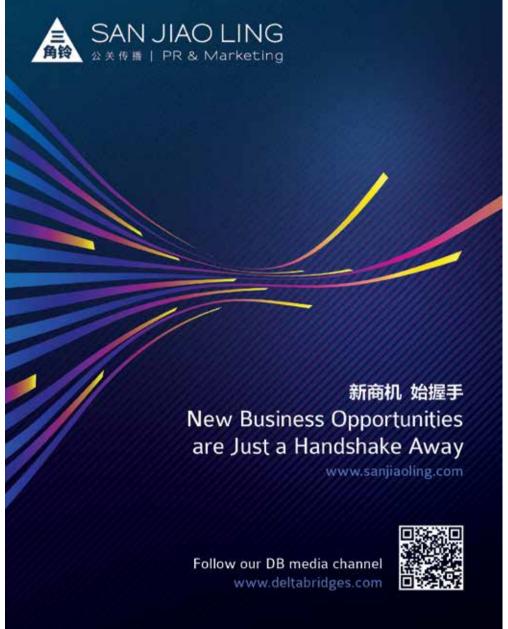
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Tens of thousands rally for removal of US base off Okinawa

Mari Yamaquchi, Tokyo

ENS of thousands of protesters in Okinawa vowed to stop the planned relocation of a U.S military base, saying they want it off the southern Japanese island entirely.

Opponents of the relocation say the plan to move U.S. Marine Corps Air Station Futenma from a crowded neighborhood to a less populated coastal site would not only be an environmental debacle but also ignore local wishes to remove the base.

About 70,000 people gathered Saturday at a park in the state capital of Naha under pouring rain ahead of an approaching typhoon and observed a moment of silence for Okinawa's governor, Takeshi Onaga, who died Wednesday of cancer.

Onaga, elected in 2014, had spearheaded opposition to the relocation and criticized the central government for ignoring the voices of Okinawans. He had filed lawsuits against the central government and said he planned to revoke a



landfill permit issued by his predecessor that is needed for construction of the new

Deputy Gov. Kiichiro Jahana, representing Onaga at Saturday's rally, said he will follow through with the revocation process as instructed by the governor and succeed his "strong determination and passion."

Okinawans are trying to block the government plan to start dumping soil into Henoko Bay within days to make a landfill for the new site of the Futenma base.

Environmental groups say construction at the bay risks corals and endangered du-

The protesters held up signs saying "Henoko new base, NO!" and "Okinawans will not give up," as they chanted slogans. They also adopted a resolution demanding the central government to immediately scrap the relocation plan.

Japan's government says the current plan is the only solution, but many Okinawans want the base off the island. About half of the

50,000 American troops in Japan are stationed on Oki-

Onaga had said Tokyo's postwar defense posture under the Japan-U.S. security alliance was built on Okinawa's sacrifice.

The dispute over the Futenma relocation reflects centuries-old tensions between Okinawa and the Japanese mainland, which annexed the islands, formerly the independent kingdom of the Ryukus, in 1878. Okinawa was Japan's only home battleground in the final days of World War II, and the island remained under U.S. rule for 20 years longer than the rest of Ja-

Okinawa is still forced to sacrifice for the interest of the mainland, Onaga's son Takeharu, an Okinawa assemblyman, told the rally.

"The [relocation issue] is pushed to Okinawa because nobody on the mainland wants it," he said, urging the rest of the country to also think about the issue. "Let us keep fighting so we can achieve my father's unfinished goal and give him good news." AP

VIETNAM'S DONG FEELS THE RIPPLES OF THE YUAN ROUT

Shuli Ren, Bloomberg

Think the latest yuan rout is over? Tell that to Vietnam. The slide in China's currency paused this week after jawboning by the central bank, which told commercial lenders it has the tools to stabilize the market and urged them to avoid "herd behavior," Bloomberg News reported last week. But the ripples of the yuan's 4.7 percent drop this vear may be just starting to spread to the country's neighbors

The Vietnamese dong has been moving steadily closer to the edge of its 3 percent daily trading band against the dollar over the past two weeks, as traders bet on faster depreciation.

State Bank of Vietnam guided the official rate 1.1 percent lower this year, causing a 2.7 percent fall in the market rate. Like the yuan, the dong is loosely pegged to the

Currency traders are speculating on further declines, having seen how Vietnam has reacted in the past when the yuan has slumped. On Aug. 12, 2015, one day after China jolted global markets with a sudden yuan devaluation, Vietnam widened the dong's trading band. The currency ended the year with 3 percent depreciation in the official exchange rate, and a 5.1 percent drop in the market rate.

The retreat in the dong's market rate this year is little more than half the slump in the currency of its bigger neighbor, suggesting further depreciation is possible - particularly if the yuan resumes its decline.

It's unclear how serious China is about stemming the yuan's slide. Instead of deploying its USD3 trillion of foreign-exchange reserves to sell the dollar, Beijing has largely been using onshore currency swaps to stabilize the spot rate. That's a less effective tool because traders can simply place bearish bets offshore instead.

Vietnamese traders may also be skeptical of China's rhetoric. On July 3, People's Bank of China Governor Yi Gang said the country would "keep the yuan exchange rate basically stable at a reasonable and balanced level." The currency fell more than 2.5 percent in the ensuing month. The yuan is the worst performer of 12 major Asian currencies against the dollar in the past month.

State Bank of Vietnam may be forced to yield. In just one week in July, it sold more than \$2 billion to banks to meet demand for the dollar, the Saigon Times reported. It's unclear how much the central bank has shelled out since to prop up the dong. At this rate, it will quickly erode the \$12 billion of foreign reserves painstakingly built up last year.

Vietnam is more reluctant to countenance depreciation this time around. Unlike in 2015. inflation is now a problem, with the consumer price index blowing past the central bank's 4 percent target rate for two months in a row.

Vietnam is Southeast Asia's most open economy on some measures, with imports accounting for almost 100 percent of GDP. As a result, it's more vulnerable to price pressures. A 1 percentage point fall in the dong could lead to a 0.25 percentage point increase in headline inflation, HSBC Holdings Plc estimates.

Two years ago, it took a dovish Federal Reserve to release the pressure on the yuan. Vietnam can't count on that now, with the U.S. central bank determined not to overheat an already strong economy.

If the market pressure persists, Vietnam will be forced into grudging rate increases, like its Southeast Asian peers Indonesia and the Philippines.

It had better hope the PBOC means what

FORMER Malay-sian Prime Minister Najib Razak failed Friday to win a court order barring the media from discussing the merits of corruption charges against him ahead of the start of his trial on Feb. 12.

Najib has pleaded not guilty to seven charges of criminal breach of trust, abuse of power and money laundering in a case related to the multibillionalleged dollar looting of the 1MDB state investment fund that led to his stunning electoral defeat three months

After hearing lengthy arguments from both prosecutors and defense lawyers, High Court Judge Mohamad Nazlan Mohamad Ghazali ruled that a gag on the media would be a "major incursion" on freedom of speech and expression.

He said there are existing laws on contempt and defamation, and the risk of preju-

Ex-PM fails in media gag bid ahead of graft trial

dice is "quite remote" since Malaysia doesn't have a jury system. "A gag order does not promote the law as an instrument of justice,' the judge said, and set trial dates spanning two months from Feb.

Najib's lawyers said they will appeal the judge's decision because public sentiment wanting Najib to be convicted had led to many articles inferring his guilt, which could deny him a fair trial.

Najib, 65, has accused Malaysia's new government of seeking political vengeance and vowed to clear his name in his trial. He didn't speak to the media Friday but wrote on Facebook a day earlier that he was confident of winning



the trial.

"Through a fair trial, I am confident I can defend myself. I am confident I will be found not guilty of all the charges," he said.

All of the charges against him involve the transfer of 42 million ringgit (USD10.3 million) into his bank accounts from SRC International, a former unit of the 1MDB fund that international investigators say was

looted of billions by Najib's associates.

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

Najib set up 1MDB when he took power in 2009 for the stated purpose of promo-

ting economic development, but the fund amassed billions in debts and is being investigated in the U.S. and several other countries for alleged cross-border embezzlement and money laundering.

Public anger led to the defeat of Najib's long-ruling coalition in May 9 elections and ushered in the first change of power since Malaysia gained independence from Britain in 1957. The new government reopened investigations stifled under Najib's rule and barred him and his wife from leaving country. Police the seized jewelry and valuables valued at more than 1.1 billion ringgit (\$270.2 million) from properties linked to Najib. AP

OBITUARY

V.S. Naipaul, Nobel Prize-winning author, dies at 85

Sylvia Hui, London

V.S. Naipaul, the Trinidadborn Nobel laureate whose precise and lyrical writing in such novels as "A Bend in the River" and "A House for Mr. Biswas" and brittle, misanthropic personality made him one of the world's most admired and contentious writers, died at his London home, his family said. He was 85.

His wife, Nadira Naipaul, said he was "a giant in all that he achieved and he died surrounded by those he loved having lived a life which was full of wonderful creativity and endeavor."

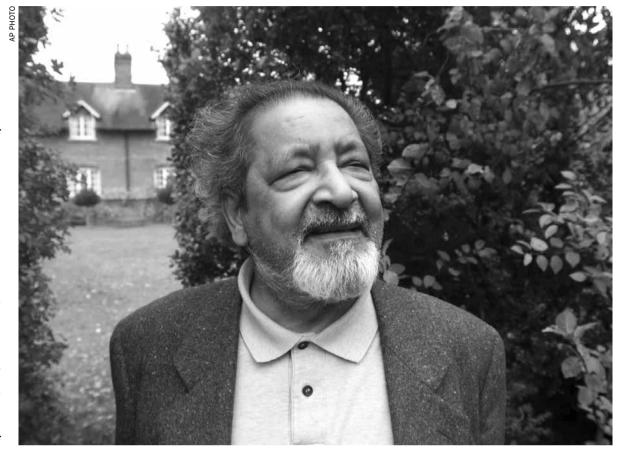
His friend and fellow author Paul Theroux said that Naipaul had been in poor health prior to his death on Saturday, but had taken pride in having his work recognized. "He will go down as one of the greatest writers of our time," Theroux told The Associated Press during a telephone interview, citing his mastery of writing about families and colonialism. "He also never wrote falsely. He was a scourge of anyone who used a cliché or an un-thought out sentence. He was very scrupulous about his writing, very severe, too."

Naipaul's fiction and nonfiction reflected his personal journey from Trinidad to London and various stops in developing countries. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2001 "for having united perceptive narrative and incorruptible scrutiny in works that compel us to see the presence of suppressed histories."

In an extraordinary career spanning half a century, Naipaul traveled as a self-described "barefoot colonial" from his rural childhood to upper class England, and was hailed as one of the greatest writers of the 20th century. From "A Bend in the River" to "The Enigma of Arrival" to "Finding the Centre," Naipaul's books explored colonialism and decolonization, exile and the struggles of the everyman in the developing world.

He was critical of colonialism, but set himself apart from any social movements. He saw himself as a realist, cured of illusions, his outlook defined by the famous opening words of "A Bend in the River" that became the title of a biography by Patrick French: "The world is what it is"

He was equally skeptical of religion and politics, of idealism of any kind, whether revolutionary uprisings or of quests for paradise such as Sir Walter Raleigh's search for the non-existent El Dorado.



"If you come from the New World, as I in large measure do, you see all the absurd fantasies people have taken there and the troubles they have wrought as a result," Naipaul told The Associated Press in 2000. "We were not given a proper history of the New World itself. This was not out of wickedness. It was out of ignorance, out of indifference, out of the feelings that the history of this very small island was not important. These aspects one had to learn and writing took me there. One didn't begin with knowledge. One wrote oneself into knowledge."

Naipaul prided himself on his candor, but he had a long history of offensive remarks. Among his widely quoted comments: He called India a "slave society," quipped that Africa has no future, and explained that Indian women wear a colored dot on their foreheads to say "my head is empty." He laughed off the 1989 fatwa by Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini against Salman Rushdie as "an extreme form of literary criticism."

The critic Terry Eagleton once said of Naipaul: "Great art, dreadful politics." Caribbean Nobel Laureate Derek Walcott complained that the author's prose was tainted by his "repulsion towards Negroes." C. L. R. James, a fellow Trinidadian writer, put it differently: Naipaul's views, he wrote, simply reflected "what the whites want to say but dare not."

Vidiadhar Surajprasad Naipaul

— Vidia to those who knew him

— was born on Aug. 17, 1932 in
Trinidad, a descendant of impo-

verished Indians shipped to the West Indies as bonded laborers.

His father was an aspiring, selftaught novelist whose ambitions were killed by lack of opportunity; the son was determined to leave his homeland as soon as he could. In later years, he would repeatedly reject his birthplace as little more than a plantation.

"I was born there, yes," he said of Trinidad to an interviewer in 1983. "I thought it was a great mistake."

He will go down as one of the greatest writers of our time.

PAUL THEROUX

In 1950, Naipaul was awarded one of a few available government scholarships to study in England, and he left his family to begin his studies in English literature at University College, Oxford.

There he met his first wife, Patricia Hale, whom he married in 1955 without telling his family.

After graduation, Naipaul suffered a period of poverty and unemployment: he was asthmatic, starving and depending on his wife for income. Despite his Oxford education, he found himself surrounded by a hostile, xenophobic London.

"These people want to break my spirit [...] They want me to know my place," he wrote bitterly to his wife. Naipaul eventually landed a radio job working for BBC World Service, where he discussed West Indian literature and found his footing as a writer. His breakthrough came in 1957 with his first published novel "The Mystic Masseur," a humorous book about the lives of powerless people in a Trinidad ghetto.

Naipaul caught the eye of book reviewers, and in 1959 he won the Somerset Maugham Award with the story collection "Miguel Street." In 1961, Naipaul published the celebrated "A House for Mr. Biswas." That novel, about how one man's life was restricted by the limits of colonial society, was a tribute to Naipaul's father.

"If he had been born in another culture, not a colonial agricultural society, his talent would have given him a reasonable chance somewhere and he would have flourished," Naipaul told the AP in 2000. "Part of his pathos was that he was born in the wrong place."

In the years that followed, Naipaul was to travel for extensive periods to pen journalistic essays and travel books. He flew three times to India, his ancestral home, to write about its culture and politics. He spent time in Buenos Aires, Argentina to write about its former First Lady Eva Peron, and went to Iran, Pakistan and Indonesia for books about Islam.

Years before the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, Naipaul devoted attention to Islamic radicalism in books including "Among the Believers" and "Beyond Belief."

In its Nobel citation, the Swedish Academy called him "a literary circumnavigator, only ever really at home in himself."

Naipaul's nonfiction often provoked much anger, and many were offended by his views about Islam and India — Rushdie, for example, thought Naipaul was promoting Hindu nationalism.

Rushdie tweeted late Saturday night: "We disagreed all our lives, about politics, about literature, and I feel as sad as if I just lost a beloved older brother. RIP Vidia."

Naipaul also continued to publish award-winning novels. "The Mimic Men" won the W.H. Smith Award in 1967, and in 1971 "In a Free State," a meditation on colonialism in Africa, was awarded the Booker Prize.

Africa also provided the setting for his 1979 novel "A Bend in the River." His life of travel and transitions was reflected in the 1987 novel "The Enigma of Arrival," which some considered his masterpiece.

Naipaul received a knighthood in 1990, and in 2001 was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature.

As his literary stature grew, so did his reputation as a difficult, irascible personality. Naipaul was a private man and did not have many friends, but his personal life entered the public domain when Theroux, whose relationship with Naipaul had soured, published a stinging memoir about Naipaul in 1998.

"Sir Vidia's Shadow" described Naipaul as a racist, sexist miser who threw terrifying tantrums and beat up women.

Naipaul ignored Theroux's book, but he did authorize a candid biography that confirmed some of Theroux's claims. The biography, published in 2008, devoted chapters to how Naipaul met and callously treated his mistress, an Anglo-Argentine woman who was married and about a decade younger than he was. It recalled Naipaul's confession to The New Yorker that he bought sex and was a "great prostitute man," and recorded Naipaul's frank and disturbing comments on how that destroyed his wife, Hale, who died of breast cancer in 1996.

"It could be said that I had killed her," he told biographer Patrick French. "I feel a little bit that way."

Two months after Hale died, Naipaul married his second wife, Pakistani newspaper columnist Nadira Khannum Alvi. He spent much of his time living quietly in an isolated cottage in Wiltshire, in the English countryside.

Theroux, who later reconciled with Naipaul, had visited with him recently.

"We had some very ups and downs over the years, but there was great satisfaction in reconnecting," he said. "It took him a long time to make his mark, but when he did, it happened in a big way." **AP**

MacauDaily my Helph R *



HE theft of an empty plane by an airline worker who performed dangerous loops before crashing into a remote island in Puget Sound illustrated what aviation experts have long known: One of the biggest potential perils for commercial air travel is airline or airport employees causing mayhem.

"The greatest threat we have to aviation is the insider threat," said Erroll Southers, a former FBI agent and transportation security expert. "Here we have an employee who was vetted to the level to have access to the aircraft and had a skill set proficient enough to take off with that plane."

Video showed the Horizon Air Q400, a turboprop plane that seats 76 people, doing large loops and other dangerous maneuvers as the sun set on Puget Sound. The flight lasted about 75 minutes, and ended when he crashed into the small island after being chased by military jets. The two F-15C aircraft scrambled from Portland didn't fire the plane, authorities said.

Southers said the man could have caused mass destruction.

"If he had the skill set to do loops with a plane like this, he certainly had the capacity to fly it into a building and kill people on the grou-

Airplane theft shows potential dangers from airline workers

nd," he said.

A U.S. official briefed on the matter told The Associated Press the man was Richard Russell. The official wasn't authorized to discuss the matter and spoke on the condition of anonymity. He is presumed to have died in the crash.

Officials said he was a 3.5year Horizon employee and had clearance to be among aircraft, but that to their knowledge, he wasn't a licensed pilot. He took the empty plane from a maintenance area.

It's unclear how Russell attained the skills to do loops in the aircraft, authorities said. Ground service agents direct aircraft for takeoff and gate approach and de-ice planes, as well as handle baggage.

Gary Beck, CEO of Horizon Air, said it wasn't clear how the man knew to start the engine, which requires a series of switches and levers. At a news conference, officials from Alaska Airlines and Horizon Air said that they are working with authorities.



Alaska Airlines planes sit on the tarmac at Sea-Tac **International Airport**

Smoke rises from the site on Ketron Island in Washington state where an Horizon Air turboprop plane crashed

"Last night's event is going to push us to learn what we can from this tragedy so that we can ensure this does not happen again at Alaska Air Group or at any other airline," said Brad Tilden, CEO of Alaska Airlines. Investigators expect they will be able to recover both the cockpit voice recorder and the event data recorder from the plane.

Russell could be heard on audio recordings talking to air traffic

controllers, who tried to convince him to land the airplane. "There is a runway just off to your right side in about a mile," the controller says, referring to an airfield at Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

"Oh man. Those guys will rough me up if I try and land there," Russell responded, later adding "This is probably jail time for life,

Later Russell said: "I've got a lot of people that care about me. It's

going to disappoint them to hear that I did this [...] Just a broken guy, got a few screws loose, I guess."

Russell's family said in a statement that they are stunned and heartbroken. They referenced the recordings and said and that it's clear Russell, who went by the nickname "Beebo," didn't intend to harm anyone and "he was right in saying that there are so many people who loved him." AP

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what's ON



Line Friends World Tour Macau 2018 TIME: 10am-8pm (Sunday to Thursday) 10am to 9pm (Friday to Saturday)

UNTIL: September 2, 2018 VENUE: Studio 8, Studio City

ADMISSION: MOP160 (standard ticket); MOP120 (Macao residents), available at Kong Seng Ticketing

Service / www.macauticket.com

ENQUIRIES: (853) 6569 3203 / 2855 5555

Monkey King

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

VENUE: Sands Cotai Theatre

ADMISSION: MOP380, MOP480, MOP680,

MOP980, MOP1280

COTAI TICKETING: (853) 2882 8818 Kong Seng Ticketing: (853) 2855 5555

CATALOGUE EXHIBITION IN CELEBRATION OF THE 20th Anniversary of Macao Museum

TIME: 10am-6pm (closed on Fridays)

UNITIL: August 30, 2018

VENUE: Kun Iam Ecumenical Centre

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 1516

TREASURE OF SACRED ART OF ST. JOSEPH'S

SEMINARY

TIME: 10am-5pm daily (closed on Wednesdays,

open on public holidays)

VENUE: St. Joseph's Seminary and Church, Rua do

Seminário ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

Offbeat

NASA PROBE TAKES OFF FOR **CLOSEST-EVER JOURNEY TO THE SUN**

NASA successfully launched a spacecraft toward the sun on Sunday, hoping to increase scientific understanding of how our star works.

The Parker Solar Probe's departure promises to set a plethora of records, including speediest spacecraft, highest velocity while leaving Earth and closest solar approach. It will also mark the first robotic visit to a uniquely hostile environment: the unstable atmosphere of a giant ball of perpetual nuclear fusion.

The probe lifted off at 3:31 a.m. Eastern time from Cape Canaveral, Florida, aboard a United Launch Alliance Delta IV rocket sporting a rare third stage, giving it extra oomph to boost the payload into an interplanetary trajectory. The launch speed of 43,000 miles per hour (69,000 kilometers per hour) was expected to be the fastest of any previous launch because of the pace required to set a course directly to the sun.

The probe failed to launch in its original Saturday slot after missing a 45-minute window, NASA said.

"We always say that luck has absolutely nothing to do with this business, but I will take all that I can get," ULA Chief Executive Officer Tory Bruno said in an interview Friday. The alliance is a joint venture of Boeing Co. and Lockheed Martin Corp.

With a gravity boost from the sun, the Parker will attain a top speed of 430,000 mph - about 120 miles a second at its closest approach of only 3.8 million miles, becoming the fastest human-made object to hurtle through the solar

The probe will investigate two key questions about solar physics: How does the solar wind start and attain speeds of as much as 1.8 million mph? And why is the sun's surface, at 10,000 degrees Fahrenheit (5,500 Celsius), just a tiny fraction of the million-plus degree corona?

IV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Portuguese Soap Opera
16:15	Portuguese Comedy
17:35	Miscellaneous
18:10	Miscellaneous
18:50	Miscellaneous
19:35	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	Vidago Palace
22:25	Miscellaneous
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Miscellaneous
00:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:15	RTPi Live

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

Director: Genndy Tartakovsky

Starring: Adam Sandler, Andy Samberg, Selena Gomez

Duration: 97min

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN

гоом 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

коом 3 4:30pm

Director: Kazuaki Imai

Starring: Wasabi Mizuta, Megumi Ohara, Yumi Kakazu

Language: Cantonese (Chinese)

Duration: 109min

INCREDIBLES 2 коом 3

7:15pm **Director: Brad Bird**

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

Language: Cantonese (Chinese)

Duration: 118min



1966 CHINA ANNOUNCES CULTURAL REVOLUTION

China has announced plans for a "new leap forward" after the first meeting in four years of the Communist Party's Central

The blueprint unveiled by the committee shows Peking's determination to spread the words of leader Mao Zedong and purge all those "who have followed the path of capitalism".

According to news broadcast on Radio Peking, the committee wholeheartedly endorsed Chairman Mao's purge and "rectification" programme described as the "great proletarian cultural revolution".

The radio report said the committee had strongly reaffirmed the nation's "hard line" at home and abroad.

It also called on people for renewed efforts to fulfil economic goals.

Chairman Mao attempted to stimulate agricultural and industrial production during the first Great Leap Forward in 1958.

By reorganising small collectives into great communes he hoped to release workers for industry with the aim of driving up steel production.

But the plan backfired - grain output declined leading to the country's biggest famine while industry began producing masses of unwanted, shoddy goods.

Today's report from the Central Committee confirms that conditions now exist for a "new leap forward" - four good successive harvests, progress in nuclear technology and the "invigorating revolutionary atmosphere" prevailing in the country".

According to Chinese News Agency reports, Chairman Mao received a tumultuous reception three days ago when he visited supporters in Peking and called on them to carry the great proletarian cultural revolution through to the end.

Editorials in the People's Daily and Red Flag newspapers subsequently called on the nation's revolutionary masses to expose the "bourgeois rightists" who were marching "on the capitalist road".

The recent dismissal of Pen Cheng, the Mayor of Peking, who ranked sixth in the party's Politburo, can now been seen as a warning to leaders of equally high rank, such as, Premier Chou En-lai, who has been associated in the past with more moderate policies.

The Central Party says anti-socialist right-wingers should receive "severe punishment" - but they should also be given a chance to repent and begin a new life.

It suggests any errant party leaders should overcome their fear of becoming the objects of struggle by engaging in sincere self-criticism.

Thirty-five million copies of "The Selected Works of Mao Zedong" are to be printed within the next 18 months so his thoughts can be relayed to the masses said to be eagerly waiting to study and apply Mao's work.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Cultural Revolution heralded a dramatic purge of Mao's

He mobilised the Red Guards, bands of radical students who were ordered to destroy the four "olds" in the country, customs, habits, culture and thinking.

Colleges were shut so they could concentrate on revolution but the Red Guards began to terrorise almost anyone who stood for authority, attacking teachers and even parents, many of whom were tortured or beaten to death.

Altogether around three million people were denounced and tens of thousands died in prison.

At the same time Mao removed many of his opponents from within the party and retook absolute control of the party hier-

The revolution ended officially only with Mao's death in 1976.

YOUR STARS



Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Just when you think you've got all your ducks lined up in a row, something comes along to toss a wrench into the works. Luckily, you're in an excellent position to adapt and excel.



Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

As the path you're on starts to move more and more steeply uphill today, keep your chin up. First of all, every incline has a decline, so you'll soon have your chance to relax again.



Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

New projects have had a more confusing effect on your life than you expected, but clarity is just a matter of getting a handle on scheduling and other details. In a few days, your vision will start to become more vivid.



Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

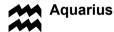
It's good that you look so fabulous in black, because you'll be asked to play judge over and over again today. To be true to your role, stay objective and ask everyone involved to stick to the facts.



Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Flexing your muscles would do you some good today, so put on some comfortable clothes and don't forget your warm up stretches! There's a strong air of possibility around you.



Jan. 20-Feb. 18

It will be extremely easy to make connections in all areas of your life today. Look closely and you'll find common elements in your job, personal life, family and the outside world.



Taurus

April 20-May 20

Accepting the way things are (instead of the way you want them to be) is wise today. Even if every little detail doesn't quite add up, your overall plan will work out



Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Something big is coming - are you ready? Preparation is a big theme today, and you'd be wise to double-check your finances. Look for opportunities in travel - do you have all your shots?



Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22 There are a whole lot of exciting

possibilities in your life right now - and a new relationship is starting to gain momentum. Just be extra careful not to let your guard down.

Scorpio



Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Right now is a great time for you to take a roll call of your people and an inventory of what you need for your home. The goal here is to create a cozier, more intimate area of your life.



Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Every once in a while you get a sudden warm feeling about your life. It's like the universe is giving you a reassuring hug right

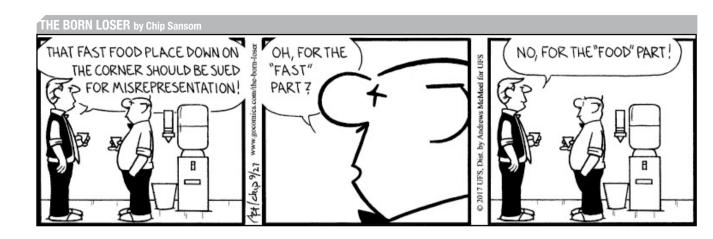


Pisces

now, reminding you that you are

Feb.19-Mar. 20

Make a date with the object of your affection and share your feelings - find something physical that symbolizes your feelings (a flower, a card, a poem) and use it to help you explain yourself.



SUDOKU

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Easy

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WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA -			
Beijing	14	33	clear/cloudy
Harbin	7	19	thundershower
Tianjin	18	33	clear
Urumqi	17	30	clear
Xi'an	13	29	cloudy
Lhasa	8	21	overcast/shower
Chengdu	17	25	overcast
Chongqing	19	23	shower/moderate rain
Kunming	14	21	drizzle
Nanjing	18	26	overcast/cloudy
Shanghai	19	24	drizzle/overcast
Wuhan	15	24	overcast/cloudy
Hangzhou	19	24	shower/overcast
Taipei	25	31	cloudy/moderate rain
Guangzhou	23	27	moderate rain
Hong Kong	27	31	shower/thundershower

WORLD

Moscow	13	24	drizzle/cloudy
Frankfurt	12	26	overcast/cloudy
Paris	11	23	cloudy/clear
London	10	20	clear
New York	15	22	overcast/cloudy

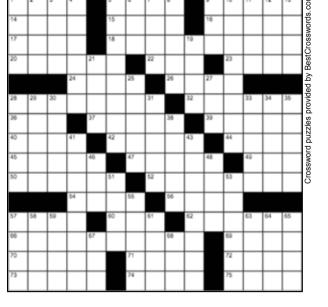
CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- San ___, Italy; 5- March time; 9- Stern; 14- Et __; 15- Bull; 16- Once ___ time...; 17- Drop; 18- Abnormal fear of drafts; 20- Consisting of flowers; 22- Canonized mlle.; 23- Teachers' favorites; 24- Hip bones; 26- Slangy assent; 28- Small telescope; 32- Examines searchingly; 36- ___ kwon do; 37-Pays to play; 39- Hillock; 40- LAX guesstimates; 42- Hindu ascetic; 44- Weird Al" Yankovic's parody of "Lola; 45- Electrician, at times; 47- European capital; 49- Meditative sect; 50- Poem of 14 lines; 52- Dire warning; 54- Potpourri; 56- "Whip It" band; 57- Fulda tributary; 60- Ring result; 62- Posterior; 66- State in the W United States; 69- Alone; 70- Hackneyed; 71- Sleep like ___; 72- Bullfight cheers; 73- Late bedtime; 74- Auld Lang ___; 75- Bolt;

DOWN: 1- Rabble; 2- Airline since 1948; 3- Venus de ___; 4- Offshore sight; 5-Sicilians, e.g.; 6- Buck's mate; 7- Goes astray; 8- Like a smokestack; 9- Come again?; 10- Ablaut; 11- Choir attire;

12- Foul mood; 13- Lukas of "Witness" 19- Quick look; 21- ___ breve; 25- Take ___ at (try); 27- Vessel built by Noah; 28-Crockpot concoctions; 29- Courtyard; 30- Hanker; 31- Passover meal; 33-Alcoholic drink; 34- Born before, senior churchman; 35- Slope; 38- Cut into small pieces; 41- Spanish Miss; 43- Not legally an adult; 46- Cath. or Prot.; 48-Overhang; 51- Bandleader Puente; 53-Many; 55- Gumbo pods; 57- Prefix with plasm; 58- Mend with rows of stitches; 59- Writer Wiesel; 61- Part of ROM; 63-Drum sound; 64- Out of the wind; 65- Fail to win; 67- Not masc.; 68- Charged atom;





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PJ (Open line) 993 **PJ** (Picket) 28 557 775

PSP 28 573 333

Customs 28 559 944 S. J. Hospital 28 313 731

Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333

Commission Against

Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300

IACM 28 387 333

Tourism 28 333 000 Airport 59 888 88

Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283

Water Supply - Report 2822 0088

Electricity - Report 28 339 922

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Football activist says political rhetoric stirs racist chants

Rob Harris, London

So much still frustrates the man at the forefront of eradicating discrimination from English soccer.

While teams are more diverse, there remains a distinct lack of black and ethnic minority coaches and executives in positions of power.

The atmosphere at matches is not as toxic as 25 years ago, when Herman Ouseley laid the foundations for the Kick It Out organization, but abuse targeting players is increasingly moving from the stands to the anonymity of the internet.

And as a member of the House of Lords, the 73-year-old Ouseley is particularly wary of how outbursts from politicians can embolden fans still out to cause offense.

"People bring their prejudices into football," Ouseley told The Associated Press, "because those prejudices are in society."

The Kick It Out chairman is concerned supporters can "take a lead" from inflammatory statements by U.S. President Donald Trump and that outbursts by British politicians are "warping people's minds." Particularly alarming to Ouseley is the fallout from former British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson making disparaging comparisons about women who wear face-covering veils.

"It won't surprise me to see in the next few weeks ... in grounds people are insulting Muslims and calling them bank robbers and post boxes," Ouseley said, referencing Johnson's comments. "That's how people pick up on things. It forms itself into a



Herman Ouseley, chairman of English soccer anti-discrimination group entitled

chant and then suddenly it's part of football."

Ouseley thought far-right groups had left the game but is now troubled by a revival.

"They are trying to infiltrate and get back into football in their own covert ways," Ouseley said. "To peddle their hate."

The Football Lads Alliance has gained attention with anti-Muslim rhetoric, emerging in a volatile atmosphere after Britain's 2016 vote to leave the European Union, a campaign stirred by concerns about immigration.

"What football then has to do is [... ensure] the chaos that exists now in politics and may well for some time doesn't actually infect football in the way that it's looking as though some people would like it to

happen," Ouseley said.

Soccer's powerful place in British society can also be harnessed to foster harmonious relations. The last three Professional Footballers' Association players of the year were all Muslim: Riyad Mahrez, N'Golo Kante and Mohamed Salah.

"It shows that football can move the dial in a way that is influential," Ouseley said, "and push the politics back and out of football."

Born in Guyana, Ouseley moved to London at the age of 11 and dedicated his professional life to making Britain a more inclusive society, challenging public institutions plagued by racism. A fan of London club Millwall, whose fans have a reputation for violence, Ouseley saw the need first-hand to turn his attentions

to soccer in 1993.

"Twenty-five years ago football was a basket case with violence outside the grounds, inside the grounds," Ouseley said. "On the pitch, black players were being abused and they were keeping their heads down because the only way to stay on the team, not have an adverse effect on your performance and also to keep your own dignity, [...] was just dealing with those problems in their own way."

People bring their prejudices into football because those prejudices are in society.

HERMAN OUSELEY

Players feel more emboldened to call out racism, while stiffer sanctions are imposed — in England at least — by criminal and soccer authorities. Part of the Premier League's global appeal, making it the richest soccer competition, is the multicultural and multiracial nature of lineups.

"Historically owners of clubs felt the black players weren't good enough to play football," Ouseley said. "That's now been proven [they can]."

But the Premier League opens with only two black managers among the 20, Chris Hughton at Brighton and Nuno Espirito Santo at Wolverhampton Wanderers. That stems from the lack of equality in boardrooms and the hiring process by clubs.

"We've got a situation now where some people feel that black coaches are not good enough," Ouseley said. "They have to stop the process of just talking to friends and their contacts and being in a cozy network."

Kick It Out reports cataloging incidents of discrimination from the grassroots to the professional game highlight the ongoing and evolving nature of the problem. In the first half of last season alone, the incidents of discriminatory abuse rose 60 percent to 282. There were 109 incidents of harassment on social media alone.

Kick It Out is unsettled by Twitter allowing offensive content as long as it doesn't threaten violence, asserting that by allowing "bigotry on their platform" the company is undermining efforts to make soccer an inclusive environment.

"We are trying to get all different mediums to recognize the responsibility they have for contributing to an environment [...] free from harassment," Ouseley said. "We've got meetings. It's got to be tackled. It's got to be tackled at the government level."

It highlights the ever-evolving nature of Ouseley's role leading Kick It Out, and the need for such an organization, which is marking its 25th anniversary.

All while Ouseley himself still has to cope with facing prejudice.

"I've got a resilience that can deal with the prejudice and stereotypes and having experienced it virtually all my life and found ways to deal with it," Ouseley said. "Very often you know something's happening that is not the right thing. You make a determination is this is not the right place to challenge it. Sometimes you make a decision, well it's not worth it, and other times you might want to take it on. It exists." **AP**

CYCLING

Former Tour champion Ullrich arrested over alleged attack

Ciaran Fahey, Berlin

FORMER Tour de France champion Jan Ullrich was arrested early Friday and is being investigated for attempted manslaughter after allegedly attacking an escort at a Frankfurt hotel.

"It seems Mr. Ullrich and an escort woman had a dispute and that he attacked her," Frankfurt police spokesperson Carina Lerch said. "She alerted the hotel staff and they called police."

Lerch said the retired German cyclist was under the influence of drugs and alcohol.

The 31-year-old woman needed medical treatment. Lerch said no further details could be given on her condition while police were investigating.

Later, a police statement said Ullrich had resisted arrest.

"As part of the police interrogation, the woman provided extensive information on the attacks of the accused. The accused so far makes use of his right to refuse to testify," the statement said.

"Currently, the accused is being investigated for attempted manslaughter and dangerous assault. The investigation has not yet been completed."

Police said Ullrich was to be released later Friday after consultation with the prosecutor's office in Frankfurt "because the conditions for detention are not met."

News agency dpa reported that the 44-year-old Ullrich had been arrested the week before in Mallorca, where he lives, after an incident on the property of his neighbor, actor Til Schweiger.

On Monday, Ullrich told German tabloid Bild of personal problems. "The separation from [my wife] Sara and distance from my children, whom I have not seen since Easter and have barely spoken to, have had a great effect on me. I have done things as a result that I very much regret," Ullrich told the mass circulation daily.

Ullrich, the only German to win the Tour de France, was dogged by doping allegations during his career and admitted to German magazine Focus in 2013 that he received blood-doping treatment from Spanish doctor Eufemiano Fuentes.

"Almost everyone took



performance-enhancing substances then. I took nothing that the others didn't also take," the 1997 Tour champion said then. Ullrich served a two-year ban for doping in 2012, five

years after he retired. AP

MacauDaily in the line of the

Rob Harris

HELSEA and Tottenham dispelled doubts about their readiness to make winning starts to the Premier League on Saturday.

A week after being swatted aside by Manchester City in the Community Shield, Chelsea beat Huddersfield 3-0 in Maurizio Sarri's first league match in charge.

France World Cup winner N'Golo Kante volleyed in the opener in the 34th minute, Jorginho netted a penalty on his Premier League debut before halftime and Pedro Rodriguez drove home the third with an angled drive after the break.

There was barely a save to make for Kepa Arrizabalaga, who became the world's most expensive goalkeeper when he joined Chelsea for 80 million euros (USD93 million) from Athletic Bilbao earlier in the week.

Chelsea was the league's biggest spenders in the summer transfer window. Tottenham was the only top-flight side to fail to make a signing but still opened with a 2-1 victory at Newcastle.

All the goals came inside the opening 18 minutes as Joselu canceled out Jan Vertonghen's opener for Tottenham before Dele Alli headed in the winner.

While Alli was on target, fellow

FOOTBALL

Chelsea, Tottenham dispel doubts with winning starts in EPL







Chelsea's Pedro (bottom) celebrates scoring Bournemouth's Joshua King (left) and Cardiff City's Bruno Ecuele Manga

England World Cup semifinalist Harry Kane endured frustration in front of goal at St. James' Park. The striker, who was the tournament's top scorer in Russia, has now failed to score a Premier League goal in August at 14 attempts.

After spending more than \$250

million on new players since gaining promotion, the newcomers only collected one point between them. Cardiff lost 2-0 at Bournemouth and Fulham fell to the same score at home to Crystal Palace.

But Wolverhampton collected a point in a thrilling 2-2 draw

with Everton. So much has changed at the central England team since it was last among the elite six years ago, with Chinese ownership investing heavily and utilizing its business relationship with Cristiano Ronaldo's agent to attract players.

Two of Jorge Mendes' clients

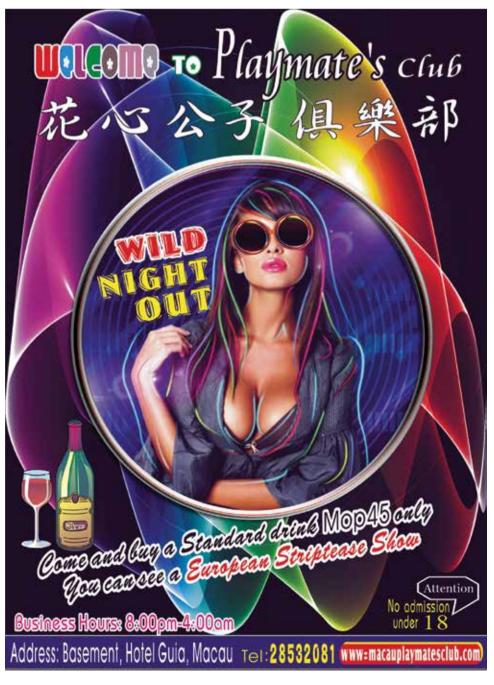
netted for Wolves as they twice came from behind: Ruben Neves and Raul Jimenez.

Neves canceled out Richarlison's debut goal for Everton directly from a free kick after Phil Jagielka was dismissed for a dangerous sliding challenge on Diogo Jota. Even with 10 men, Brazilian forward Richarlison restored Everton's lead in the second half but Neves swung in a cross that was headed in by Jimenez to restore parity.

Brighton outspent champion Manchester City but an outlay of more than \$70 million on 10 new players couldn't prevent Watford beating the south-coast side 2-0 after a double from Roberto Pereyra.

The post-Arsene Wenger era begins at the Emirates Stadium. Unai Emery takes charge of Arsenal for the first time in the Premier League against defending champion Manchester City. Liverpool, the league's biggest offseason spenders, hosts West Ham and Burnley travels to Southampton. AP

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opinion

Rear Window Severo Portela



GANG OF NINE VS SULU SOU

If the big Legislative Assembly members were only about establishing it as a space of free speech, no matter how spirited or spicy the exchanges between peers may sound in-house, should they be amplified outside through the essential work of a free press, we would take it as another ordinary Saussure day without any man biting a dog

However, the heated rounds the nine legislators (mostly Chief Executive nominated or appointees) fired upon pro-democracy Sou Ka Hou went well-beyond fair political criticism, bordered on harassment and intimidation; in a word, it was ugly. But given the apparently orchestrated blitzkrieg against the directly-elected legislator, fresh from an infamous suspension, the Legislative Assembly will regret it as the day it put up a chorus to fry the New Macau Association's Sulu Sou; and while doing the roast, the up-titled gang of nine severely denounced a particular pathos. We will select from the accusations, inconveniences, improprieties, as we see it, not least a discrepancy here or a slander there

In short, the nine Legislative Assembly members joined voices to criticize Sulu Sou on his views and means by which he challenged the re-creation of a Municipal Affairs Bureau untainted by popular representation. Albeit, the real motive to smear Sou looks likely to originate from one of the copycat AL rules and procedures that allows for a last-minute proposal to amend the final draft of a law. While Sulu was away, the Legislative Assembly voted to replace the Municipal Affairs Bureau with the Public Security Police as the authority to notify whenever residents decide to exert their Right to Freedom of Assembly (Basic Law; International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights).

Perhaps due to an understandable unease to trust the process of notification of demonstration and public assembly to the police authority that in the end may or may not give the go ahead for a political right, Sulu Sou tried to insert an amendment to upgrade the process to the political level: Chief Executive or its government. That is what and why the bell rang in the club of the gentlemen appointees.

Back to the floor, as we stated above, the roasting of Sulu Sou denounced a rather dangerous pathos not dissimilar to the one that inspired the retouching of the judiciary and legal system... the cause of so many shipwrecks.

If we care to notice the rationale that pervades the criticism which the nine meted out to pro-democracy legislator Sou Ka Hou, we find it was about democracy, yes, democracy, and parliamentary culture, yes, parliamentary.

Lao Ngai and Pang Chuan not only accused Sulu of breach of solemnity in the Nam Van Lakes House that still remembers how tolerant it was of foul-mouthed Fong (a nice gentleman, indeed) but tried also to link him rather inappropriately to putative pro-democracy pairs in the Legislative Council of a region they did not name as Hong Kong.

Veteran conservative in the local lingo, Kou Hoi In accused Sulu of abuse of the rules, theater, boastfulness, and to end strongly with a curious statement, "He uses democracy to cover up his absolutist ideas".

Ma Chi Seng, who some like Vickers contend will be the one to take over as CE as the princeling of the last of the three historical families, went further to demonstrate that what Sulu does cannot be democracy because it is not based on truth, on facts, just slogans...so does not qualify as democracy.

Finally, Kou Hoi In found that those who are arrogant and uncompromising, who abuse their power, do not respect the rules... and do not have the qualities to be a democrat (forgive us the capitals but we are quoting here) CANNOT TALK ABOUT DEMOCRACY.

P.S.: Spooky and more.

India Lawmaker dresses as Hitler TO CRITICIZE PRIME MINISTER

An Indian lawmaker has appeared in Parliament dressed like Adolf Hitler with a toothbrush moustache and wearing a khaki coat with swastika symbols on his pocket and arm. His demand: More funds for the development of his state in southern India.

Naramalli Sivaprasad also raised his hand in a Nazi salute for the media on Thursday. His appearance did not

trigger any protests from legislators. He said he wanted to send a message to Prime Minister Narendra Modi not to follow Hitler. He complained that Modi had gone back on a promise to provide extra funds for his Andhra Pradesh state. "He does not get the pulse of what people want and I want to urge him to not be like him [Hitler]," he said. Modi's government denies the charge.





WORLD BRIEFS

Station

Roadside

High

Density

Ambient

Residental

Air quality

30-50

20-40

Good

30-50

Moderate



CASPIAN SEA Leaders of the five countries along the Caspian Sea - Russia, Iran, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan - have signed a convention aimed at ending decadeslong uncertainty over exploitation of its resources.

YEMEN's Shiite rebels are backing a U.N. call for a probe into a Saudiled coalition airstrike in the country's north that killed dozens of people, including many children, in an attack that drew wide international criticism.

SYRIA An explosion in northern Syria killed at least 36 people yesterday and wounded many others, but the cause of the blast wasn't immediately known, opposition activists said.



ROMANIA Tens of thousands of Romanians flocked to an antigovernment protest from places near and far, urging the left-wing government to resign and call an early election.

BRITAIN Ten people, including two children, were injured yesterday when shots were fired after a Caribbean carnival in the northern English city of Manchester.

PORTUGAL Authorities say they have brought under control a major wildfire in the south of the country after a weeklong effort.

US Prosecutors say a father tossed his dead 7-month-old son into the water in New York City, fled the country to Thailand and later texted the child's mother that she would never see her son again.

VENEZUELA Officials have released a videotaped statement from an opposition lawmaker accused of having a role in an assassination attempt on President Nicolas Maduro.

Steve Bannon weighs in on UK burqa debate, Boris Johnson



Steve Bannon

Danica Kirka, London

REPUBLICAN strategist
Steve Bannon weighed into British politics yesterday in a wide-ranging interview in which he defended former Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson's comments about Muslim face veils and praised a controversial British far-right

The former aide to President Donald Trump said Johnson had "nothing to apologize for" and should not "bow at the altar of political correctness" after he was criticized for saying women who wear burgas look like "letterboxes" and "bank robbers."

Johnson made the comments in a newspaper column that argued against banning fullface veils, as Denmark has done.

"Excuse me, didn't he actually support the wearing of the veil?" Bannon told the Sunday Times. "His entire argument revolves around not wanting to ban the burqa, but arguing that he agrees that it's an oppressive garment and that there is no scriptural basis for it in the Quran, which is true. I think the substance got lost because of his throwaway line."

Johnson has been criticized by Muslim groups and politicians, including Prime Minister Theresa May, who urged Johnson to apologize. Johnson's representatives have said he won't apologize.

"The hysterical mainstream media can never separate the 'signal from the noise'— fortunately, the populists can," Bannon said.

Bannon has said he wants to establish a Europe-wide movement uniting populist and nationalist voters in the European elections next year. He has said he plans to spend 70 percent of his time in Europe following the November midterm election in the United States.

Johnson, a former mayor of London, is one of Britain's best-known politicians and is often cited as a potential candidate for prime minister. He quit May's Conservative government last month in a dispute over the country's departure from the European Union, accusing the prime minister of killing "the Brexit dream" with plans to continue close economic ties with the

EU after the U.K. leaves the bloc in March.

Bannon suggested that Johnson need not copy Trump to be successful.

"Boris just needs to be Boris true to his nature and his calling — and I think he has potential to be a great prime minister, not a good one," he

Bannon also praised another controversial U.K. figure -Tommy Robinson, founder of the now-defunct English Defence League. He compared Robinson to rapper Kanye West, describing him as a rising star and a "force of na-

Robinson, 35, whose real name is Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, is a self-styled commentator who has given Britain's far-right media the verve it has lacked. His YouTube channel has accumulated more than 6 million views, including videos purporting to show him fighting migrants in Italy and being attacked by masked men outside a McDonald's restaurant in London.

He was recently freed from prison after an appeals court threw out his conviction for contempt of court and ordered a retrial. The case stems from allegations that Robinson used social media to broadcast details of a trial that was subject to blanket reporting restrictions.

His supporters said he was jailed because of his far-right political beliefs.

"Tommy is not just a guy but a movement," Bannon said. "He represents the working class and channels a lot of the frustration of everyday, bluecollar Britons [...] He is a force of nature — like Kanye [West] not built to be managed." AP



Boris Johnson