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Taiwan is responding to China's arms buildup by developing missiles and interceptors of its own

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS



SOUTH CHINA Sea
The U.S. sounded a warning over China's plans to introduce floating nuclear power plants on disputed islands and reefs in the South China Sea, part of an annual report assessing the nation's military strength.

INDONESIA A strong earthquake jolted the Indonesian tourist island of Lombok yesterday, causing landslides and damaging buildings, as the island tries to recover from a temblor earlier this month that killed hundreds of people. [More on p12](#)

MALAYSIA's new government has repealed a widely criticized law prohibiting "fake news," in a move hailed as a landmark moment for human rights by a group of Southeast Asian lawmakers.



PAKISTAN's cricket star-turned-politician Imran Khan was sworn in as prime minister despite protests by opposition parties, which accuse the security services of intervening on his behalf in last month's elections.

ISRAEL-PALESTINE
United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in a new report that options to protect Palestinian civilians under Israeli occupation range from establishing an armed military or police force to deploying civilian observers.

More on backpage

CARDINAL, TAIPA DISMISSED FROM AL

Legal community shocked with sackings

P3



800,000 displaced in flooding in southern Indian state

P12

Light Rapid Transit to be deliberated at the AL

Julie Zhu

THE Executive Council has finished discussion on the draft law on the Light Rapid Transit system, which will be delivered to the Legislative Assembly (AL) for deliberation.

The bill notes that the hijacking of trains, impeding operational safety, dangerous driving or handling, throwing objects at the trains, and other behaviors should be considered criminal matters.

The coordinator of the Transportation Infrastructure Office (GIT), Ho Cheong Kei, highlighted that the bill proposes to apply between five to 15 years of imprisonment to whomever engages in train hijacking or train control without approval.

The Light Rapid Transit (LRT) system to be implemented in Macau will be automated and unmanned. It will be operated by the staff of the operation control center. If the staff of the operation control center fail to perform their duties, they may be sentenced to a maximum of one-year imprisonment or a fine of up to 120 days.



Besides having regulated LRT operators' obligations, the bill also proposes to prohibit some types of behavior among passengers.

The prohibitions include the possession of explosive, flammable, toxic, radioactive or corrosive items, installation of any obstacles or obstructions to the entrance gates of stations, trains, pay zones or exits.

The bill also lists 14 prohibited actions, including the unauthorized opening or obstructing the normal operation of the train, or the platform; the destruction of stations or trains; making stations or trains dirty; making noise next to other passengers or the public, and the use of audio equipment; improperly or temporarily

obstructing passengers or the public at pay zones, entrances or exits.

According to Executive Council spokesperson Leong Heng Teng, the penalty for general illegal acts will range from MOP500 to MOP5,000, with the penalty for more serious illegal behaviors possibly reaching MOP10,000.

Previously, during the bill's public consultation period, one of the drafts suggested penalizing the act of not giving up priority seats. The proposal stirred strong controversy among the residents. Ho later explained that the completed bill had deleted this specific article, with the government believing that it is more suitable to have the LRT operation company

persuade passengers to give up priority seats to those in need.

The bill also proposes that the LRT operators must immediately notify the Transport Bureau (DSAT) regarding any accidents, and that a report should be delivered to DSAT within 72 hours.

The DSAT shall conduct investigations into accidents and the relevant reports shall be made public within one year from the date of the accident.

Regarding LRT fares, the bill proposes that fares should be determined by factors such as the balance of social and economic benefits and the fairness of the prices charged, the distance of each route, and the operating costs associated with each passenger.

"Fares are still being discussed," said Ho, further stating that "the GIT will be dismissed gradually later after the LRT operation company is established."

When asked which department will be responsible for the LRT's construction in Macau section after the GIT is dismissed, Ho did not answer.

ARTS

Woodblock print exhibition to open today

THE Macau City Visual Arts Society will hold a woodblock print exhibition "Carving White" by local artist Mel Cheong today at Roomage30.

The local artist created a series of works about Mount Fuji and started her "Carving White" exhibition tour which traveled from Yamanashi to Tokyo and Fukuoka, with her number of artworks increasing from 10 to 14.

Woodblock printing technology was spread to Japan in 8 C.E. through religious and cultural exchange, and in the 17th century it became the popular artform Ukiyo-e.

Famous artist Hokusai Katsushika created the series of "36 Views of Mount Fuji" in Edo Period, which is the main theme of Cheong's exhibition.

According to a statement, Cheong used several white spaces for the winter time images of Mount Fuji, using

handmade washi paper. "The blanks in the images [not] only broadens the imagination of the audience, but also leaves the feeling of the natural texture of washi," the statement read.

Earlier this year, Cheong was invited to Artist in Residence Yamanashi (AIRY), a program which invites artists from Japan and abroad to live in the mountainous area of Yamanashi.

There, Cheong hosted a workshop about the drawing of the Portuguese tiles (Azulejos) and shared the history and gastronomy of the city.

Supported by the community and other artists, AIRY organizes different art projects.

In May, AIRY and local curators organized an exhibition about sento culture called "Tip-Tip, Plop Plop," and invited Cheong to create a work on Mount Fuji.

"Carving White" will be held until August 28.

ASK THE VET

by Dr Ruan Du Toit Bester



ONE of the most common skin condition we see in Macau is Ringworm. It's not a worm as the name suggests, but actually a fungal infection that can affect both cats and dogs. The fungus spreads on the edges of the lesion and extends in a circle making it look like a big reddish ring. The hair inside this circle also falls out so its remarkably visible and can be many on your animals skin. The most common cause of ringworm is the infection with *Microsporum canis*, *Microsporum gypseum* or *Trichophyton mentagrophytes*.

Ringworm is highly contagious to both humans and pets and is transmitted through spores that infect the skin and hair, objects and the soil. The spores can live in the environment for a long time, waiting for another host, so complete cleaning of the pet's environment must go together with the treatment.

Ringworm has symptoms very similar to other skin conditions, so diagnosis by a veterinarian before starting any treatment is compulsory.

SYMPTOMS OF PET RINGWORM

The symptoms of pet ringworm are not speci-

fic, they indicate skin disease but do not point precisely to ringworm:

- Hair loss in circular areas mostly on the head but often on the legs, feet or tail, which is the single symptom that is specific to ringworm
- Small papules surrounding the area that has no hair
- The skin is scaly and inflamed inside these areas
- Acne on the chin
- Dandruff

DIAGNOSIS OF RINGWORM

As the visible symptoms of ringworm are difficult to differentiate from the symptoms of other conditions, once the veterinarian suspects your pet is affected by it, he will need to perform more tests.

A black light lamp, Wood's lamp, is sometimes used. The ringworm fungi are fluorescent under this light. However, this test is not 100% accurate, as some species of ringworm fungi do not glow under the lamp. Also, healthy animals can have fluorescent fungi on their coat and

not have the infection.

The most effective method is a fungal culture that your local veterinarian can easily perform.

PET RINGWORM TREATMENT OPTIONS

Ringworm is highly contagious to pets as well as to humans. Having an infected pet will involve not only treatment of the respective pet but also preventative care for all the pets in the household and thorough cleaning of the environment.

Your options include topical or oral treatment:

- Topical treatment involves clipping the hair around the lesions as close to the skin as possible. You will need to be extremely careful as the smallest injury will help the infection spread further. The most common topical solutions are miconazole cream, Lotrimin cream, 1% chlorhexidine ointment or dips in lime sulfur or antiseptics.
- Anti-fungal shampoos are recommended in order to keep the spreading of the spores under control.
- Systemic treatment involves several oral medications. A preferred oral medication for ringworm is Griseofulvin, as it is administered together with food. This medication will be accompanied by regular blood



tests, to watch for side effects (bone marrow suppression).

Itraconazole, and Ketoconazole are other options. If your pet is pregnant, you should notify your veterinarian when discussing treatment of ringworm, as some medications can interfere with pregnancy.

When having an infected pet, you should be cautious about always wearing gloves and washing your hands thoroughly after having touched the pet.

Hope this info helps
Till next week
Dr Ruan

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Legal community shocked, intrigued with AL advisers' dismissal

Paulo Coutinho

VETERAN legal advisers of the Legislative Assembly (AL) Paulo Cardinal and Paulo Taipa were dismissed by the board of the AL, headed by President Ho Iat Seng, early last week. The news broke Saturday on Plataforma Media news outlet and caused a generalized sense of incredulity and shock in the community, particularly within the legal fraternity.

"Mr Cardinal and Mr Taipa are two 'living encyclopedias' on the historical and legislative developments over the last crucial three decades," lawyer and political commentator Sergio de Almeida Correia told the Times yesterday, reflecting a common perception among peers that both advisers possess extraordinary professional qualities and are "men of character and high work ethics."

On Tuesday afternoon, Cardinal and Taipa each received a letter informing them that their contracts were not to be renewed and that their work would cease at the AL by December 31. The short and laconic letter also stresses that the board is extremely grateful for the exceptional contribution the advisers have given to the Legislative Assembly. However, neither letter stated the reasons for the terminations.

Cardinal and Taipa, both taken by surprise with the sudden and unexpected dismissal, requested a meeting with President Ho Iat Seng and Vice-President Chui Sai Cheong, which took place the next day. On the occasion, Ho talked about a "vague idea of a restructure of the legal advisers' team," six of them Portuguese nationals. For that reason, "it is time we part ways." "We [AL] go our way, you go yours," said Ho. The presidency of the AL reiterated a tremendous respect and admiration for the positive contribution to the "work of the Legislative Assembly both have given."

None in the legal community and beyond accepted this reasoning as valid.

"They invoked as a reason a certain renovation or restructuring [of the legal team]. Well, I don't know if this 'restructuring' is going to happen or not. But one thing I know for sure, Mr Cardinal and Mr Taipa should have a place in any possible restructuring that may occur," because of their qualities and vast accumulated experience, top lawyer Jorge Neto Valente told Radio Macau yesterday, from Portugal.

Paulo Cardinal, 53, came to Macau in 1990 and Paulo Taipa,



Paulo Taipa

50, arrived here in 1997 to work in the Legal Affairs Bureau (GAL, as per the Portuguese acronym).

Cardinal moved to the AL in 1992 when Anabela Ritchie, who succeeded the revered Macanese lawyer cum politician Carlos D'Assumpção, was at the helm. He holds the position of coordinator adviser and teaches in the Faculty of Law at the University of Macau.

Mr Cardinal and Mr Taipa are two 'living encyclopedias' on the historical and legislative developments.

SÉRGIO ALMEIDA CORREIA
LAWYER

Taipa followed his colleague's footsteps and joined the Legislative Assembly in 2001, when Susana Chou was presiding over the first legislature post-handover. Taipa, who is also a coordinator, taught at the UM for a period of ten years.

In total we are talking of 43 years of combined experience at the legislative branch of the government and during a period of dramatic change in Macau and its legislation.

"They were both involved in the 'localization' of crucial legislation in an historic moment of Macau's development, as well as of the localization of legal practitioners," Correia noted. "Cardinal and Taipa helped in the training of

many local legal experts, prosecutors and even judges, that you see now sitting in our courts, MP and government departments."

TRUTH OR DARE

Amélia António, lawyer and president of Casa de Portugal, told the Times that a thorough clarification is needed on the nature of the dismissals, because "what we know at this stage is little and it doesn't make sense."

"It was with great perplexity that I heard the news. When highly competent professionals [at the peak of their careers] are dispensed in the course of a restructuring or renovation of cadres, it is worrying; because the most qualified and experienced professionals are always very important in the process of integration of new legal advisers."

The president of the Casa de Portugal thinks and hopes the dismissals hold no implication for the stability of the Portuguese community, but stressed that "these kinds of situations, when poorly explained - and it may take some time for us to know what really happened - creates anxiety in people because we don't know if this is an isolated case or if it is some kind of a signal for the future. We don't know at this stage."

However, lawmaker Pereira Coutinho speaking to Radio Macau, was adamant in saying that there will be spillovers.

The sacking of the two most respected advisers "has to do with several legal opinions the duo had submitted to the specialized commissions" that went against the interests of the pro-establishment camp and the will of the house board. "And there will be more [cases like this]!"

Neto Valente somewhat corro-



Paulo Cardinal

borates Coutinho's words with a note of cynicism on how legal opinions are generally treated at governance levels: "It's against? So, it's rubbish."

"I don't see this as politically motivated because as of now that reason was not invoked ... but I admit that it could be interpreted as such, moreover because in the termination letter of the two advisers [the AL Board] recognizes the merits of their work," Almeida Correia told the Times.

What we know at this stage is little and it doesn't make sense.

AMÉLIA ANTÓNIO
PRESIDENT CASA DE PORTUGAL

"So, if from the standpoint of personal qualities and of professional qualities, they are untouchable, the plausible explanation is that there are reasons of a political nature, or there is a hidden agenda to the dispensing of competent individuals, in order to approve legislation in violation of the Basic Law."

Sergio de Almeida Correia named many a pressing piece of legislation to be discussed and approved during the next legislative session which ends in August next year: the new gaming law, the internal security law and the electoral reform. Paulo Taipa has been in charge of all gaming-related legislation since 2001 to date.

For Correia, "this is another disastrous decision by the Presi-

dent of the Legislative Assembly as others during the current legislature, when he displayed lack of competence for the job."

Lawyer and commentator Miguel de Senna Fernandes holds a particular opinion on the damage that the dispensing of experienced advisers such as Cardinal and Taipa may cause to the MSAR with all the projects currently under way, namely the Greater Bay Area.

"At a time when Macau is on the verge of an exceptional turning point, having in mind the practical implementation of the policies of the so-called Greater Bay Area, which is a process of integration of Macau into the area, matters of a constitutional nature will arise and have to be addressed. Replacing now, at this sensitive period, Cardinal and Taipa is a heavy loss for the interests of Macau."

The Portuguese Consul General, however, is confident that Cardinal and Taipa will continue to live and work in Macau.

"Mr Paulo Cardinal and Mr Paulo Taipa are examples of the best Portugal and the Portuguese have here contributing to the development of the Macau SAR of the People's Republic of China," Vítor Sereno told the Times.

The outgoing consul also said that he is following the case with utmost attention and commitment.

Sereno spoke to the Times on the sidelines of a farewell dinner Saturday evening hosted by the community where the case of the two Portuguese AL advisers was a prime topic of conversation and great cause for consternation.

"It is a very somber day for Macau," a participant lamented to the Times.

Mainland pigs with swine fever were not exported to Macau

Macau's pork importers have clarified that Macau's supplies do not contain imported goods from the mainland provinces affected by the swine fever outbreak that has surfaced in mainland China. Recently, in some mainland provinces, including Liaoning Province (Boyang city), Guangxi Province (Nanning city), and Heilongjiang Province, swine fever was detected in pigs that were being shipped from these places to Henan Province. Macau's two suppliers, Nam Yue and Nam Kwong, both declared that they are following the development of the incidents closely, and that none of Macau's imported mainland pig products are from the aforementioned provinces.

Car accident injured three

On Friday, a car accident took place at the Av. Do Ouidor Arriaga, injuring three pedestrians. The accident, which was recorded near the Edf. Golden Garden was caused by a truck suspected of not having given way to pedestrians crossing the zebra crossing. The truck hit three people, including a boy of approximately 5 years, who sustained injuries to his left leg and his head. All three victims sustained light injuries and were sent to the Kiang Wu Hospital for medical treatment.

Rising sea levels pose unique tsunami risk to Macau

RISING sea levels around the world will pose a greater risk of tsunamis striking Macau, a new academic paper has found, especially in the low-lying parts of the city, which are already prone to flooding.

The authors of the paper, which was published in Science Advances, came to their conclusions based on computer simulations accounting for sea level rise foreseeable over the next century. They found that higher sea levels are likely to increase both the frequency and the intensity of tsunamis and tsunami-induced flooding.

The authors found that even a conservative sea level rise of just 0.5 meters by 2060 and 1 meter by 2100 would dramatically increase tsunami-induced flooding incidences by a factor of 1.2 to 2.4 and 1.5 to 4.7 respectively.

According to the scientists, Macau would become particularly prone to such natural disasters because of its location in the South China Sea and its proximity to earthquakes generated along the Manila



Trench.

Megathrust earthquakes generated along the Manila Trench remain the major source of tsunami threats in the South China Sea. According to the authors of the paper, there is ample evidence to suggest that the megathrust is capable of producing basin-wide tsunamis. They argue that higher sea levels would allow even small tsunami waves to extend further inland.

The areas most at risk include Macau's low-lying but

densely-populated urban districts, such as the Inner Harbor area and reclaimed land plots.

However, the southern coastal areas of Coloane may also be at risk, given that they are closest to the origin point of a potential tsunami and may bear most of the initial impact, notwithstanding the fact that the once-island is home to the highest peaks in Macau.

In contrast, much of the rest of Taipa and Coloane is less at

risk than the Macau peninsula – including the Cotai Strip and other central areas – because they are protected by favorable topography features of the SAR.

The researchers ran a worst-case scenario in the simulation using current sea levels. The model showed that almost all reclaimed land in Macau would be flooded, leaving only the "original islands untouched." Flooding of up to 5 meters would be experienced in the Inner Harbor area, the northeast Macau Peninsula and the southern tip of Coloane. Even the more protected areas of the Cotai Strip and the University of Macau might face water of up to 3 meters deep.

Macau is one of the most densely-populated places on the planet, with around 21,400 people per square kilometer as of last year. More than 60 percent of Macau's land area is reclaimed land at or slightly above sea level, while the Inner Harbor area is in some places 2 meters below the average sea level today. **DB**

AD

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EDUCATION BUREAU

Views on homosexuality, pre-marital sex were misunderstood

THE acting head of the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) refuted media reports over the weekend that the city's education authority refers homosexual students to doctors and psychologists for examination. She said that the media had misunderstood her position on such matters.

First published by Portuguese newspaper Ponto Final, deputy director Leong Vai Kei was reported to have made several comments regarding homosexuality and premarital sexual intercourse, viewed by many as controversial and inappropriate.

The newspaper reported that Leong had said that students who show signs of homosexuality are referred to competent authorities for a "medical examination."

"If [a student] has evidence of this homosexuality, we refer this case to other competent authorities. If the children or the students think they are homosexual, we can transfer the case to a doctor or psychologist for a clinical examination," she said, according to Ponto Final.

In the controversial media interview, Leong was also cited as having said that students do not have the capability to assess their own sexuality

and that young women should refrain from having sexual intercourse before marriage because their future husbands might not like it.

She said that pre-marital sex was an "ethical question" for society to reconcile and on this matter the education authority follows the conservative view of Macau's majority Chinese population.

In remarks that might be construed as sexist, Leong said: "We find that men do not like having their future wife [having had] premarital sex. [...] We think this is not an appropriate act for a lady, for this lady's body as for her psychological part. This lady will face stress and this lady's parents will also have stress."

The DSEJ advocates the teaching of young men and women to avoid sexual intercourse outside of marriage, and this will come through in the bureau's recommendations on sex education, she said.

Over the weekend, the DSEJ head hit back at some media reports concerning the issue of homosexual students being referred for therapy. She claimed that the media reports were not consistent with what she had expressed, adding that language translation issues had likely been the cause of the misunderstanding.



Leong Vai Kei

According to All About Macau, Leong stressed that the psychological and medical examinations for homosexual students were only conducted in cases when the students are "in trouble with sex and need assistance."

"The authorities can assist them to refer to the professionals for help, and the relevant referral is not mandatory, and no students have been required to accept referral services in the past," she added. The DSEJ corroborated these views in a statement issued yesterday.

Secretary Tam leads tourism, sports delegation to Bay Area

Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam has led a delegation comprising officials of the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) and the Sports Bureau to visit several cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area to better understand their tourism attractions and facilities. The mission was organized by the MGTO with the aim of fostering multi-destination tourism and advancing the integration efforts within the Greater Bay area. The visit included a two-day Macau travel roadshow in Shenzhen to showcase Macau as a Creative City of Gastronomy. Secretary Tam also visited Guangzhou and Foshan to exchange perspectives on resource-sharing and collaborative development, according to a statement from the government. The other cities and districts included in the visit were Nansha (Guangzhou), Dongguan and Huizhou.

Call for submissions of works to 'Printmaking Triennial'

Applications for the "3rd Macau Printmaking Triennial", organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau, may be submitted until September 30. The exhibition aims to improve this printmaking exchange platform and encourage the combination of more cultural and artistic elements in the art of printmaking. Gold, silver and bronze prizes as well as several honourable mentions will be awarded. There are no restrictions on the printmaking types or production techniques. Works must have been produced in the last three years. The judging will be done in October and the list of selected works will be released at the beginning of November, with it being anticipated that the exhibition will be held at the end of December.

AD

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(Ref: 18060680)
3,430 sq.ft. HKD 30,000

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FOR SALE



Jubilee Court, Macau

(Ref: 18030672)
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Rate: HKD 7,263

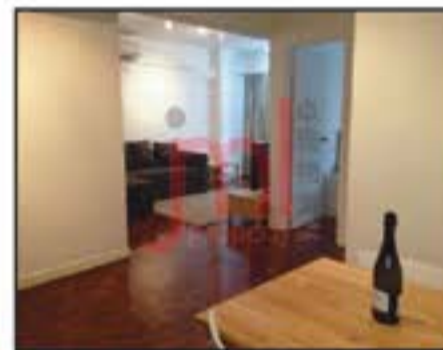
Great size four bedroom apartment in downtown Macau, across the road from Star World and next to the Landmark this apartment is well located. Two double bedrooms have built wardrobes and walk in shower rooms. The other two bedrooms share a bathroom. Plenty of bespoke storage throughout the property.



Old Macau, Unique Walk Up

(Ref: 18065557)
950 sq.ft. HKD 4.48M
Rate: HKD 4,715

Located close to St Lazarus church on the Macau peninsula this apartment has three bedrooms (one on the rooftop), it's a duplex the property has a lofty feel about it. Modernised a few years ago it needs little renovation.



Jou Fai Kuok, St Pauls Ruin's Macau

(Ref: 18055556)
627 sq.ft. HKD 3.9M
Rate: HKD 6,347

One bedroom apartment in Heritage Area of Macau. A five minute from the Ruins of St Pauls. Renovated 3 years ago. Good size master bedroom with built in wardrobes. Modern shower room with built in under counter cabinet. Well equipped kitchen. 5 shaped living / dining area with small nook for desk.



Va Nam Top Floor

(Ref: 18045550)
750 sq.ft. HKD 4.18M
Rate: HKD 5,573

This property is centrally located in Taipa and enjoys exclusive access to the corresponding rooftop area. The internal area does need some TLC which makes it a unique opportunity for investors to renovate and force appreciation. The property is currently tenanted but can be viewed with prior arrangement.



Calçada da Surpresa, 12, Ching Fai Court, Macau

(Ref: 18035547)
2,000 sq.ft. HKD 11.5M
Rate: HKD 5,750

LOFT in the centre of Macau. A unique opportunity to live in this sleek, modern property. The large open space area on the ground floor houses the open plan living and dining areas with fabulous designer kitchen located at back of the property. Viewing can be arranged by appointment.



Manhattan D unit, High Floor

(Ref: 18075558)
2,305 sq.ft. HKD 17.98M
Rate: HKD 7,800

Fabulous family apartment on a high floor in the Manhattan, located in central Taipa. Four bedrooms: three doubles & one single, separate shower room and en-suite bathroom off the master room. Kids outdoor climbing frame, large terrace for with BBQ pits, indoor private dining room for twenty, and a state of the art gym (better than many local hotels). Two car parks are available for sale separately



Violet Court, Hellene Gardens, Coloane

(Ref: 18035546)
2,530 sq.ft. HKD 20M
Rate: HKD 7,905

Its unusual to find such a beautifully designed apartment in Macau especially with stunning views over Hac Sa beach. The interior renovation has been thoughtfully designed by the owners cousin a well known architect in Portugal. The quality of this apartment is second to none and a real show piece.



Choi Long Meng Chui, Taipa

(Ref: 18045555)
3,398 sq.ft. HKD 21M
Rate: HKD 6,180

Fabulous apartment with stunning open views across to Macau. Originally four bedrooms converted to three bedrooms with three bathrooms, two en suite. The open plan dining area at the back of the property has another balcony with a view of the original University of Macau. Two parking spaces (one covered and the other open).

Office: (853) 2835 2699

Email: Info@JMLProperty.com

Contact Property Consultants Today.

Juliet Risdon (English Speaker)

+853 6680 9804 / Juliet@JMLproperty.com

Portuguese Consul makes positive evaluation of term in farewell

A farewell dinner was organized last Saturday evening to express the best wishes of many Portuguese-based associations in Macau to Consul General Vitor Sereno, who is finishing his term as Consul General of Portugal in Macau and Hong Kong.

At the dinner, which was attended by over 200 people, Sereno gave an evaluation of the work done and above all expressed his well wishes for the times to come, noting how important it is to maintain the unity achieved among all the institutions.

"It is a day of great satisfaction because I think we have been able to unite the associations and bring



together the Portuguese around an ideal – to be united, to be one," Sereno said while expressing hopes that the next Consul General, Paulo Cunha Alves, would continue with the same work and move forward with the unity already built on.

"I think there we have a strategy that cannot turn back. And knowing Paulo [Alves] as I do, [I can say that] this [strategy of] opening of doors, proximity, consensus-seeking but also of firm convictions when we need them, is a strategy

that has no turn-back," Sereno said, in a TDM Radio report.

Discussing the work done and results achieved, Sereno highlighted the positive side, although he noted that such work is never completed and that there is always something to do next and to improve upon.

In discussing such challenges, Sereno recalled the difficulties the Consulate encountered in having a steady staff team, recalling the departure of a total of 17 employees over the last five years due to the low salaries paid by the Portuguese State, a long-lasting problem that several Consul Generals of Portugal in Macau have tried to address in the past, but struggled to be resolved. **RM**



Pools closed due to lifeguard shortage

Two swimming pools in Macau have been closed as of last Saturday on account of a lack of lifeguards to ensure safety standards. The Cheok Van Beach and Sun Iat Sen swimming pools are closed until further notice, without a date set for reopening. According to public broadcaster TDM, the Sports Bureau, which is responsible for overseeing such facilities, reported that the company hired to manage the pools had not recruited enough lifeguards. TDM said that the shortage might be linked to a strike by company staff. Citing the Labour Affairs Bureau, the broadcaster said that complaints had been received from workers regarding overwork and late pay.

Hac Sa Beach passes water quality tests

The Marine and Water Bureau has been notified by the Laboratory of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau that the latest test result of water samples taken from the sea at Hac Sa Beach proved negative for Vibrio cholerae. The Bureau also noted that other parameters of water quality were within the required standards. Accordingly, the Marine and Water Bureau will lower the red flag and remove the notices at the beach that advised beach-goers to avoid entering the sea. According to the Bureau, the related departments will continue to monitor the situation and provide the public with the latest information.

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Greek bailout ends, but Europe's debt problems grind on

David Mchugh, Frankfurt

GREECE officially completes its bailout program today, after eight years of cutbacks enforced in return for massive loans and following an economic collapse on the scale of the Great Depression.

The exit is a welcome milestone. But it offers little assurance that the 19-country euro currency union has left behind its problems with debt. The huge debt pile in Greece and an even bigger one in Italy will remain a lurking financial threat to Europe that could take a generation to defuse.

Europe's debt problems have repeatedly raised fears over the past decade of a break-up in the euro, a worst-case scenario that would cause severe economic damage in the region and shake world financial markets and trade.

In Greece, successive governments had borrowed heavily for three decades to fund generous spending on pensions and jobs given to political supporters, while tolerating widespread tax evasion and covering up budget shortfalls. All that blew up mightily in October 2009, when Greece admitted its budget deficit was much bigger than previously reported. Shocked investors no longer would risk loaning Greece money at affordable rates, forcing the government to turn to rescue loans from the other eurozone countries and the International Monetary Fund.

The loans came with tough conditions: closing deficits, which led to aggressive tax increases and spending cuts; and a raft of reforms aimed at improving tax collection and the business climate in general. The economy, hit hard by spending cuts, shrank by a quarter.

All told, Greece now owes total debt of 322 billion euros



AP PHOTO
People stand in front of the Greek Parliament building as vehicles drive past

(USD366 billion), or over 180 percent of annual economic output. Of that, 256.6 billion euros is owed to eurozone creditors and 32.1 billion to the International Monetary Fund. In 2012, about 107 billion euros in debt was lopped off by inflicting losses on private bondholders.

Today is the day the third and last bailout program expires, meaning no more money is available. Greece will remain subject to quarterly visits by technical experts to make sure it is meeting agreed targets for public finances until the last bailout loan is repaid, in 2060.

The other eurozone countries gave Greece enough cash to cover 22 months of financing needs and significantly eased its debt repayment terms. Greece needs to pass the quarterly reviews to activate that debt relief. But Greece will get no new reform requirements.

Some experts say that the best way to help Greece would be for eurozone countries to write off a part of the loans altogether. But governments have balked at that. The bailouts were unpopular, particularly in Germany, and loan forgiveness would be a tough sell for leaders such German

Chancellor Angela Merkel.

The IMF and prominent economists say that if part of Greece's loans are not written off, its debt loan will eventually start to rise out of control again. Greece is meant to run exceptionally large budget surpluses before interest payments — so-called primary surpluses of 3.5 percent of GDP through 2023, and 2.2 percent thereafter. The IMF says very few countries historically have been able to do that.

■ All told, Greece now owes total debt of USD366 billion, or over 180 percent of annual economic output

It says countries often quickly undo cuts, as people get fed up over lost services. Spending on state health care in Greece, for instance, has been squeezed to one of the lowest levels in the eurozone, with the poorest 20 per-

cent of Greeks saying they spend 44 percent of household income on out-of-pocket medical expenses and many reporting they have simply done without medical care.

George Pagoulatos, a professor at the Athens University of Economics and Business, says that in the end the country's creditors may have to lower their expectations for how much Greece can save. He thinks lower surpluses plus better economic growth from the pro-business reforms could be the key to make debt sustainable.

"It doesn't mean that tax evasion has been eradicated or that governments will no longer do favors for their supporters," Pagoulatos said. But the degree of reform should not be underestimated. The changes over eight years "have been very significant and they must have an impact on productivity."

Italy's slow growth since joining the euro has meant that the eurozone's third-largest member has failed to work down the huge debt burden it carried into the currency union when it joined as a founding member in 1999. It remains at an elevated 133.4 percent of GDP, the second highest

after Greece. Officials associated with the coalition between the populist 5 Star Movement party and the anti-immigration League have made comments about leaving the euro and criticized the European Union's rules limiting debt and deficits. That has raised fears of a new debt crisis.

Eurozone officials have set up ways to protect the currency union in a crisis. One is to have the European Central Bank offer to buy bonds of countries with excessive borrowing costs. But that requires signing up for a plan to reduce the public deficit, and that appears to be the last thing the current government would do. The most drastic alternative would be for Italy to leave the euro.

Guntram Wolff, director of the Bruegel research institute in Brussels, says Italy's debt situation is different from Greece's, in that most Italian bonds are in the hands of Italians. That means the governments' debt payments stay at home to support spending and investment by Italians. "In Italy, the debt problem is essentially an internal question," he said.

Italy's progress will be decided by a mix of three factors: rising interest rates, economic growth, and the political willingness to making savings in public finances over a number of years, that is, to forgo spending on things like schools and pensions in order to pay debt. The recent political turmoil has unnerved investors, who raised the cost for Italy to borrow on bond markets.

"Whether Italy will be able to do this politically and economically, that is the 2 trillion euro question," said Wolff, referring to the size of Italy's public debt. He believes politicians' determination to keep public finances in check is eroding. "So I would say the picture looks grimmer than it did six months ago."

Ultimately Wolff thinks that the disruption from leaving the euro would be so great that the government would change course. The losses "would be so massive, people would say, no, no let's not do that." AP

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Hato, a year after: MGM supports local SMEs sustainable development

After Typhoon Hato struck Macau last year, MGM immediately initiated a SME Relief Program, not only to help local businesses get back on track, but also to address the mid- and long-term needs of SMEs. Such as the recently launched "MGM Leo's Macau Travel Tips" program which aims to support growth and sustainable development in the community.

Mr. Grant Bowie, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director of MGM China Holdings Limited, said, "In the past year, we have been visiting the affected SMEs, listening to what their needs are and offering support to help them get back on their feet and recover from the resulting damage. We expedited payment processing, renovated shops, installed water gates and cloud data backup services for them. But the most important thing is that we can help them attract more visitors, increase the flow of people to their shops and encourage the development of local SMEs."

After the visits to local SMEs, MGM recognized that they have been adversely affected by the loss of important data and billing records due to water damage to either computers or paper files. In view of this, MGM has offered to sponsor the use of CTM's cloud data backup service to over 70 local SME which is not only a way to ensure data security, but also enhances their productivity and competitiveness which can eventually contribute to Macau's progression toward a smart city.

As one of the company's long-term support initiatives, MGM recently announced the launch of "MGM Leo's Macau Travel Tips" program. MGM hopes to attract more visitors to experience the authentic side of Macau, and promote specialty shops in the old districts, as well as key events organized by local commercial and industrial associations, including the Hong Kong Night Market. Promotion will be made to visitors with a dedicated website and touring maps, and thus increase the flow of people in the old districts and advance the development of local SMEs.

MGM also brought its consulting celebrity chef of Coast at MGM COTAL, Graham Elliot, to visit some traditional shops, creative lifes-

tyle shops and restaurants run by young entrepreneurs in the old Macau neighborhoods of Rua dos Ervanários and Rua de Cinco de Outubro. Chef Elliot exchanged his views with the owners on how to integrate creativity with gastronomy, adding uniqueness to the culinary landscape of Macau.

HAIL TO CHEF ELLIOT

Wai Kei Seafood, operated by the second generation Wong Wai Kei and has been working with MGM since 2007, had been seriously affected by Typhoon Hato as the shop, its goods, and transportation vehicles were greatly damaged. However, the biggest issue for them is the loss of documents and data. After the visit, MGM installed water gates for them and also introduced the cloud data backup service to them. The service can prevent loss of data, and is also more efficient as they are able to handle bills and customer data without geographical and time constraints.

"We were very surprised to have the chance to meet with Chef Elliot, and see him pick the seafood by himself and make new dishes with our seafood," said Wong, who also thanks MGM for its suggestions and opinions. "MGM not only helped us overcome many difficulties and optimize our management methods, but also used its resources to help us develop our business."

A HELPING HAND

Located in the heart of the Inner harbor district, Wa Fai Him Iek has also been adversely affected by Typhoon Hato. MGM installed a water gate for them in order to improve their disaster-response capabilities. Later, MGM also included them in "MGM Leo's Macau Travel Tips," which aims to drive in-store traffic, as well as promote traditional Macau stores to visitors.

"Thanks MGM for extending a helping hand to us so that we can reopen our store in the shortest possible time," said the owner, Wong Sek Hou, "We are very grateful for being included in the route and we hope more tourists can come here and try Macau's traditional food."



Stocks jump as hopes rise for progress on China trade talks

AP PHOTO



Marley Jay, New York

STOCKS rose late in the day Friday as investors welcomed signs of progress in resolving the trade dispute between the U.S. and China. The Wall Street Journal reported that the countries hope to have a resolution by November.

Industrial, health care and basic materials companies made some of the biggest gains. The report came a day after China said it will send an envoy to Washington for the first talks between the countries since early June.

Marina Severinovsky, an investment strategist at Schroders, said stocks could jump if the U.S. and China make real progress toward a trade agreement. But stocks in emerging markets might make even bigger gains.

"The rally that could come, if there is a better outcome, would be in emerging markets," she said. "China has suffered pretty greatly [...] the U.S. has held up pretty well."

The late gains came in spite of weak results for several chipmakers. Electric car maker Tesla took its biggest drop in two years on reports of a wider government investigation into the company and concerns about CEO Elon Musk's health.

The S&P 500 index rose 9.44 points, or 0.3 percent, at 2,850.13. The Dow Jones Industrial Average added 110.59 points, or 0.4 percent, to 25,669.32. The Nasdaq composite edged up 9.81 points, or 0.1 percent, to 7,816.33. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks gained 7.19 points, or 0.4 percent, to 1,692.95.

The Wall Street Journal cited officials in both the U.S. and China as it said negotiators want to end the trade war before U.S. President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping meet at multilateral events in November.

Industrial companies made some of the biggest gains after agricultural equipment maker

Deere posted stronger than expected sales. Its stock rose 2.4 percent to \$140.59.

Construction equipment maker Caterpillar rose 2.3 percent to \$139.34 and engine maker Paccar added 2.3 percent to \$67.16.

Chipmakers fell after two companies gave weaker forecasts for the third quarter. Nvidia said it no longer expects much revenue from products used in mining digital currencies, and its stock fell 4.9 percent to \$244.82. Applied Materials slumped 7.7 percent to \$43.77.

China has suffered pretty greatly [...] the U.S. has held up pretty well.

MARINA SEVERINOVSKY
INVESTMENT STRATEGIST

While big names like Netflix, Facebook and Amazon slipped, Apple led technology companies slightly higher overall. Apple stock rose 2 percent to \$217.58.

Nordstrom jumped 13.2 percent to \$59.18 after raising its annual profit and sales forecasts and posting better earnings and sales than analysts expected. It's been a mostly difficult week for department stores as Macy's and J.C. Penney both plunged after issuing their quarterly reports.

The S&P 500 finished this week with a solid gain of 0.6 percent, but it took a difficult path to get there. Stocks fell early this week due to worries about Turkey's currency crisis, and later investors fretted about China's economic growth.

The recovery started Thursday as investors hoped the upcoming talks between the U.S. and China will help end the impasse that has resulted in higher tariffs from both countries.

The Hang Seng index in Hong Kong has fallen 13 percent since

early June as the dispute has dragged on, and other emerging market indexes have also taken a hit. The S&P 500 has risen over that time.

Tesla was hit with a series of reports that concerned shareholders. The Wall Street Journal reported that the Securities and Exchange Commission started investigating the electric car maker last year to determine if it made false statements about production of its Model 3 sedan.

The SEC is also reportedly looking into CEO Elon Musk's comment on Twitter about possibly taking the company private.

Tesla stock rose from about \$345 a share to about \$380 following Musk's tweet last week, which said Tesla could go private for \$420 a share. On Friday it dropped 8.9 percent to \$305.50.

Musk also gave an emotional interview to the New York Times, published Friday, about the stress he's experienced as the company tries to ramp up production. He said this year has been "excruciating" and described working up 120 hours a week, raising concerns about his health.

Bond prices rose. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.86 percent from 2.87 percent.

U.S. crude picked up 0.7 percent to \$65.91 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, the standard for international oil prices, added 0.6 percent to \$71.83 per barrel in London.

Wholesale gasoline dipped 0.3 percent to \$1.98 a gallon. Heating oil inched up 0.1 percent to \$2.10 a gallon. Natural gas rose 1.3 percent to \$2.95 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Gold was little changed at \$1,184.20 an ounce. Silver fell 0.6 percent to \$14.63 an ounce. Copper added 0.5 percent to \$2.63 a pound.

The dollar dipped to 110.60 yen from 110.88 yen. The euro rose to \$1.1443 from \$1.1365.

The German DAX lost 0.2 percent and France's CAC 40 fell 0.1 percent. The FTSE 100 in Britain was little changed.

Japan's Nikkei 225 index added 0.4 percent and Hong Kong's Hang Seng gained 0.4 percent. In South Korea, the Kospi gained 0.3 percent. **AP**

Beijing tells its finance firms to boost infrastructure support

CHINA'S financial watchdog ordered the nation's banks and insurance companies to increase support for infrastructure development as economic growth slows and concerns rise about the trade standoff with the U.S.

Credit support should be boosted for infrastructure projects that have sound operations and an ade-

quate capital base on condition local governments' implicit debts don't increase, the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission said in a statement late Saturday.

Fixed-asset investment in the world's largest developing economy rose by the least in two decades in the first seven months of 2018, while growth in infrastruc-

ture spending slowed to a quarter of the pace of a year earlier.

The regulator told banks and insurers to further "unclog" the transmission mechanism of monetary policy, and to give more support to small-and-micro-sized businesses, agriculture and export-oriented companies, according to the statement. **Bloomberg**



Ralph Jennings, Taipei

Taiwan improves missiles to counter PRC military expansion

TAIWAN is responding to China's arms buildup by developing missiles and interceptors of its own that could reduce Beijing's military advantage over the self-ruled island, defense experts say.

Since President Tsai Ing-wen took office in 2016, Taiwan has deployed one set of missiles, perfected another and sped production of a third, the analysts say, in the latest sign of how it's handling a Chinese military threat that is raising the chances of an armed confrontation.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has taken a hard line against advocates of independence for Taiwan and has sent warships, bombers and fighter planes on training missions circling the democratic island in a show of strength.

While Beijing has an increasingly overwhelming military advantage, Taiwan's missile systems advance its odds of holding off China in asymmetrical warfare, said Alexander Huang, strategic studies professor at Tamkang University in Taiwan. The term refers to effective resistance of an enemy with targeted firepower rather than overwhelming force.

"Taiwan with limited resources can only invest in the area that would create some kind of asymmetrical advantage, which would dissuade the Chinese from taking actions," Huang said. "President Tsai has committed more or at least expressed willingness to invest more in the asymmetrical capability."

The two sides have been separately ruled since the Chinese civil war of the 1940s, and China still claims sovereignty over Taiwan. Beijing has not ruled out using force to unify the sides, a threat it has highlighted amid Tsai's continuing rejection of its demand that both interact as parts of a



Two men speak under the Taiwan-made "Tien-Kung III" surface to air missile

single Chinese nation.

Hsiung Feng IIE missiles built in Taiwan have been deployed to hit military bases in China up to 1,500 kilometers away, said David An, senior research fellow with the policy incubator Global Taiwan Institute in Washington, D.C.

Those missiles also underwent a "substantial upgrade" last year to increase their effectiveness against ships, An said.

Meanwhile, Taiwan has stepped up production of its indigenous Wan Chien air-to-ground cruise missiles by about 100, An added.

Backing up those improvements, the locally developed Tien Kung system can now intercept Chinese missiles at ranges of up to 200 kilometers, An said. PAVE PAW, a U.S. long-range early warning radar system located in Taiwan's high central mountain range, would track incoming

missiles or aircraft.

Taiwanese Defense Ministry spokesman Chen Chung-chi declined to confirm deployment of the Hsiung Feng IIE missiles after the military news website Kanwa Defense Review posted photos indicating they were situated about 50 kilometers west of the capital, Taipei, near the island's major international airport. Kanwa did not answer requests for comment.

China's Defense Ministry did not immediately respond to requests for comments on Taiwan's missile program.

"They are looking more at building their land-based military capabilities," said Collin Koh, maritime security research fellow at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore.

To pressure Tsai into meeting its demands, the communist leadership has flown military aircraft

near the island a dozen times and passed China's only functioning aircraft carrier through the 160-kilometer ocean strait separating them.

China has a powerful arsenal of missiles targeting Taiwan and raised its military budget by 8.1 percent this year, compared to Taiwan's increase of about 2 percent in 2017-2018. China is building warships at a world-setting pace, while also developing stealth fighters and bomb-delivering vehicles that travel at up to six times the speed of sound.

Taiwan with limited resources can only invest in the area that would create some kind of asymmetrical advantage.

ALEXANDER HUANG
SCHOLAR AT TAMKANG UNIVERSITY

Military experts call the deployment of the Hsiung Feng IIE missiles likely. "It has been successfully developed," said Andrew Yang, a former Taiwanese defense minister and current secretary general of the Chinese Council of Advanced Policy Studies think tank. "They've test fired many times and called it successful."

China and Taiwan have never

fought a full-scale war, though in the late 1950s, China shelled outlying islands controlled by Taiwan without taking them. Former Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou eased tensions during his 2008-2016 term by allowing talks with China on Beijing's terms, but frictions have resumed under Tsai.

Success in an asymmetric war would hinge on Taiwan's budget, the ability of its hardware and China's attack strategy, military analysts say.

Taiwan's current crop of missiles can probably hit ships and sink transport vessels, An said. Taiwan should also focus on resisting an amphibious landing, which China's People's Liberation Army Navy "has not demonstrated the ability to do without significant cost," he said.

Taiwan still lags in submarines and stealth aircraft, An said. It looks to the United States for much of its air force fleet and hopes Washington will license it diesel-electric submarine technology.

China routinely denounces defense cooperation between Taiwan and the U.S., but has been unable to prevent what limited arms sales and exchanges have occurred. Last Monday, President Donald Trump signed the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act, which among its clauses calls for a "comprehensive assessment of Taiwan's military forces" with an eye toward helping them.

"Taiwan's greatest promise is the hope that the United States and its allies could decide to assist Taiwan if and when Taiwan is under threat," An said. **AP**

Malaysian leader tours Alibaba, meets Jack Ma on China visit

MALAYSIA'S leader courted Chinese e-commerce investment in his country on Saturday, the start of his first trip to China since his stunning electoral victory three months ago.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's visit to the world's second-largest economy is being watched for signs on the fate of multibillion-dollar Beijing-backed projects he's said he wants to cancel.

On Saturday, Mahathir toured the campus of Chinese online shopping giant Alibaba Group in the eastern city of Hangzhou, met

with the company's founder, Jack Ma, and told the company's executives that Malaysia wants to explore ways to collaborate further with Alibaba, according to Malaysian state news agency Bernama.

He also visited Geely, which owns Geely Auto, one of China's biggest independent automakers. It owns 49.9 percent of Proton, a Malaysian automaker. On Sunday he will visit a Chinese drone company and meet with Malaysian businesspeople in Beijing.

Mahathir, a vocal critic of Beijing-backed investment in his country,

has tested Malaysia's ties with China by suspending multibillion-dollar Chinese-backed infrastructure projects.

He's expected to attempt to renegotiate the terms of the projects during his meetings with Chinese officials. He will hold talks with Chinese leaders including Premier Li Keqiang and President Xi Jinping on Monday.

Days before heading to Beijing, Mahathir said Malaysia doesn't need a Chinese-backed \$20 billion East Coast Rail Link and two energy pipelines worth \$2.3 billion. The projects

have been suspended pending renegotiation.

Malaysia's new government has called for drastic cuts to the projects' ballooning cost, which it estimates at more than \$22 billion. Some of that money has already been paid and could be difficult to recoup.

China said Tuesday that Malaysia should handle any problems it has with the Chinese projects through talks.

The foreign ministry in Beijing defended China's projects in Malaysia, saying such deals have brought tangible benefits



Jack Ma (left) and Zhejiang Geely Holdings Chairman Li Shufu attend at meeting between Mahathir Mohamad and Che Jun, the Communist Party chief of Zhejiang Province

to the two countries.

"Any problems arising in the cooperation should be handled properly through friendly negotiation," the ministry said in a statement.

The projects are part of Xi's Belt and Road initiative to build ports, railways and other trade-related infrastructure across Asia,

often built by Chinese contractors and financed by loans from Chinese state banks.

Belt and Road projects in Thailand, Sri Lanka and other countries have run into complaints they are too costly, give too little work to local companies or might facilitate embezzlement and other graft. **AP**

INDIA

800,000 displaced as floods submerge Kerala

Aijaz Rahi, Trivandrum

SOME 800,000 people have been displaced and over 350 have died in the worst flooding in a century in southern India's Kerala state, officials said yesterday, as rescuers searched for people stranded in the worst-affected areas.

The downpours that started Aug. 8 have triggered floods and landslides and caused homes and bridges to collapse across Kerala, a picturesque state known for its quiet tropical backwaters and beautiful beaches.

Thousands of rescuers were continuing efforts to reach out to stranded people and get relief supplies to isolated areas by hundreds of boats and nearly two dozen helicopters, said P.H. Kurian, a top disaster management official in Kerala. He said weather conditions had improved considerably and expected the nearly 10,000 people still stranded to be rescued by Monday.

An estimated 800,000 people have taken shelter in some 4,000 relief camps across Kerala, Kurian said. Weather officials have predicted more rains across the state through today.

In several villages in the suburbs of Chengannur, one of the worst-affected areas, carcasses of dead cattle were seen floating in muddy waters as water began receding. However, vast rice fields continued to be marooned and many vehicles were submer-



ged. In some villages, floodwaters up to 3 meters high had entered homes.

Officials have called it the worst flooding in Kerala in a century, with rainfall in some areas well over double that of a typical monsoon season.

At least two trains carrying about 1.5 million liters of water moved to the flooded areas from the neighboring states of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra yesterday, Indian railway official Milind Deouskar said, according to the Press Trust of India news agency.

Officials estimate that more than 10,000 kilometers of roads have been damaged. One of the state's major airports, in the city of Kochi, was closed this past Tuesday due to the flooding. It is scheduled to remain closed until Aug. 26.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inspected the flooded landscape from a helicopter on Saturday and met with the state's top officials, promising more than USD70 million in aid. While the central government has dispatched multiple military units to Kerala, state officials are pleading for additional help. Officials have put initial storm damage estimates at nearly \$3 billion.

At least 250 people have died in the flooding in a little over a week, with 31 others missing, according to Kurian. More than 1,000 people have died in flooding in seven Indian states since the start of the monsoon season, including over 350 in Kerala. **AP**

INDONESIA

Strong quake jolts Lombok again

A strong earthquake jolted the Indonesian island of Lombok on Sunday, causing landslides on Mount Rinjani and damaging buildings, as it tries to recover from a temblor earlier this month that killed 460 people.

The U.S. Geological Survey measured the quake, which was centered in the northeast of the tourist island, at magnitude 6.3 and a depth of 7 kilometers. It was felt on the neighboring island of Bali and was preceded a few minutes earlier by a magnitude 5.4 quake, also in Lombok's northeast.

An Associated Press reporter on Lombok said the tremor caused landslides on the slopes of Rinjani and panic in villages. Video shot by the Indonesian Red Cross showed huge clouds of dust billowing from the mountain's slopes.

A magnitude 7.0 quake on Aug. 5 killed 460 people, damaged tens of thousands of homes and displaced several hundred thousand people on Lombok.

Mount Rinjani has been closed to visitors following a July earthquake that killed 16 people, triggered landslides and stranded hundreds of tourists on the mountain, an active volcano.

Indonesia, a sprawling archipelago that straddles the Pacific "Ring of Fire," is prone to earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

AD

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Kim Tong-Hyung, Seoul

LEE Soo-nam was 8 the last time he saw his older brother. Sixty-eight years ago this month the boy watched, bewildered, as his 18-year-old brother left their home in Seoul to escape invading North Korean soldiers who were conscripting young men just weeks after invading South Korea to start the Korean War.

An hour later his brother, Ri Jong Song, was snatched up by North Korean soldiers near a bridge across Seoul's Han River. Lee always assumed Ri died during the three-year war that killed and injured millions before a cease-fire in 1953, but his mother prayed daily for her lost son's return, only giving up a few years before her death in 1975.

But Ri survived the war, living in North Korea. The brothers, now 76 and 86, will be among hundreds of Koreans who will participate, starting Monday, in a week of temporary reunions of divided families. Many have had no contact with each other since the war cemented the division of the peninsula into the North and South.

The elderly relatives gathering at North Korea's scenic Diamond Mountain resort know that, given the fickle nature of ties between the rival Koreas, this could be the last time they see each other before they die.

"I'm nervous. I'm still unsure whether this is a dream or reality. I just want to thank him for staying alive all these years," Lee said in an interview in his home in Seoul, not far from where he last saw his brother.

Since the end of the war, both Koreas have banned ordinary citizens from visiting relatives on the other side of the border or contacting them without permission. Nearly 20,000 people have participated in 20 rounds of face-to-face reunions since 2000. No one has had a second chance to see their relatives.

This week's reunions come after a three-year hiatus during which North Korea tested three nuclear weapons and multiple missiles that demonstrated the potential of striking the continental United States.

At past meetings, elderly relatives — some relying on wheelchairs or walking sticks — have wept, hugged and caressed each other in a rush of emotions. According to Seoul's Unification Ministry, which handles inter-Korean affairs, more than 500 separated South Koreans and their family members will cross the border for two separate rounds of reunions between Aug. 20 and 26.

At Diamond Mountain, Lee expects to meet Ri and his 79-year-old North Korean wife and 50-year-old son. Lee will bring more than a dozen family photos, including a black-and-white picture of Ri in a buzz-cut when he was 16 or 17.

"That's how I remember him,"

AP PHOTO



Lee Soo-nam, 76, shows photos of his brother Ri Jong Song in North Korea during an interview at his home in Seoul

'Dream or reality?' Koreans to meet after decades apart

Lee said. "I lost a brother and my parents lost a child, but my brother lost his parents, siblings, friends and an entire hometown, and he probably spent his whole life longing for all of those things. It's heartbreaking to think about."

The difference in the siblings' family names is a product of the Korean Peninsula's division — each country uses different English transliteration rules, so Lee in the South is spelled Ri in the North.

Many of the South Korean participants in the reunions will be war refugees who were born in North Korea.

Kim Kwang-ho, 79, was among some 14,000 refugees who were ferried to South Korea by the American freighter SS Meredith Victory in December 1950 in one of the world's largest humanitarian operations. Also on the ship were the parents of South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who described the evacuation as a "voyage of freedom and human rights" in a speech in Washington last year.

At the reunions, Kim expects to meet his 78-year-old brother, Kim Kwang Il, and his sister-in-law. Kim has vivid memories of what he described as a beautiful hometown in northern North Korea, where he plowed rice and corn fields with cattle, picked peaches and apricots from trees and spent hours swimming in brooks.

He gets emotional when talking about the mother he left behind, who used to cry over the death of his brother during the war.

"I have clear memories of even-

ts that happened," Kim said. "But somehow I can't remember the faces of my mother and brother."

Behind the raw emotions, the meetings are tightly coordinated events where participants are closely watched by North Korean officials and dozens of South Korean journalists.

“My brother lost his parents, siblings, friends and an entire hometown, and he probably spent his whole life longing for all of those things.”

LEE SOO-NAM

As in previous reunions, South Korea's Red Cross, which organizes the events with its North Korean counterpart, has issued a guidebook telling South Koreans what to do and what not to do.

"Political comments such as criticism of the North's leadership and the state of its economy could put your (North Korean) family members into a difficult situation," the green book says. "If a North Korean family member sings a propaganda song or

makes a political comment, restrain them appropriately by naturally changing the subject of the conversation."

Lee knows he won't be able to talk much about what happened when his brother was taken in August 1950. Instead, he plans to share childhood memories, such as when Ri took his younger brothers on a hike on nearby Mount Nam to look at foxes living near an old fortress wall.

South Koreans also can't give their North Korean relatives luxury items because of international sanctions imposed on the North over its nuclear and missile programs, with past cash gifts banned this year to reflect the sanctions, according to a South Korean Red Cross official who didn't want to be identified, citing office rules.

The reunions are occurring during a flurry of diplomatic contacts. In recent months, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has met Moon twice and held a summit with President Donald Trump in Singapore, where they issued a vague goal of a nuclear-free peninsula, without describing how and when it would occur.

Moon, who plans to meet Kim again in September in Pyongyang, North Korea's capital, says progress in inter-Korean reconciliation will be a crucial part of international efforts to resolve the nuclear standoff with the North. The Koreas have held military talks and are fielding combined teams at this month's Asian Games in Indonesia in a gesture of goodwill.

Still, South Korea has failed to

persuade the North to accept its long-standing proposal for more frequent reunions with more participants. North Korea has also ignored the South's suggestion of hometown visits and letter exchanges.

The limited number of reunions cannot meet the demands of divided family members, who are now mostly in their 80s and 90s, South Korean officials say. More than 75,000 of the 132,000 South Koreans who have applied to participate in reunions have died, according to government figures.

Analysts say North Korea sees the reunions as an important bargaining chip with the South, and doesn't want them expanded because they give its people better awareness of the outside world. While South Korea uses a computerized lottery to pick participants for the reunions, North Korea is believed to choose based on loyalty to its authoritarian leadership.

"When we meet this time, that will be the end for me," said Yoon Heung-kyu, a 91-year-old Korean War veteran from the South and a staunch anti-communist campaigner in his youth who will be meeting his North Korean brother-in-law and grandnephew.

"North Korea guards against exposing its people to the free South because of fear of a regime collapse. It just allows 100 or so participants every several years to save face internationally," he said. "These aren't really family reunions; if they were, we would be meeting in our hometowns, not at Diamond Mountain." AP



AP PHOTO

Annan's legacy of fighting for equality and rights lives on

Edith M. Lederer, United Nations

KOFI Annan left the United Nations far more committed than it had been to combating poverty, promoting equality and fighting for human rights — and until his death Saturday he was speaking out strongly for nations working together to solve problems and worried about the rise of nationalism.

As secretary-general of the United Nations from 1997 to 2006, Annan saw as his greatest achievements the programs and policies he put in place to reduce inequality within and between countries, to combat infectious diseases and to promote human rights and protect civilians from war crimes including genocide.

He launched the U.N. Millennium Development Goals at a summit of world leaders in 2000 to cut extreme poverty by half, promote equality for wo-

men, ensure every child has a primary school education, reduce maternal and child mortality, and halt the spread of AIDS — all by 2015.

Those goals — only a few of which were fully achieved — were succeeded by an expanded list of U.N. Sustainable Development Goals for 2030 that adds issues such as climate action, affordable and clean energy, and promoting peace and justice. The updated list is a major focus of the U.N.'s current agenda.

As U.N. peacekeeping chief just before becoming secretary-general, Annan shared blame for the failure of U.N. troops he deployed to prevent the genocides in Rwanda in 1994 and in the Bosnian town of Srebrenica in July 1995.

When he became U.N. chief, Annan launched a doctrine of “humanitarian intervention” to prevent governments and leaders

from massacring their own people. At a summit in 2005, over objections from some countries, 191 nations endorsed what has become known as the “responsibility to protect” civilians and head off the world's worst crimes, from ethnic cleansing to genocide. This doctrine is frequently cited — but to the dismay of U.N. officials, not often implemented.

Annan also saw as a major achievement the expansion of the U.N.'s work into partnerships with businesses, foundations, universities and civil society.

This led, for example, to the establishment of the Global Compact in 2001 where Annan asked corporate leaders to publicly commit to 10 principles in the areas of human rights, labor, the environment and anti-corruption. More than 9,000 of the world's leading CEOs have joined the compact, which continues to attract new members, and “cor-

porate responsibility” has become a key feature of the business world.

When Annan handed the reins of the U.N. to Ban Ki-moon, he said he would keep working on African issues, human rights, global warming and governance issues, and speak out from time to time when necessary. He told one farewell party: “You can take the man out of the U.N., but you can't take the U.N. out of the man.”

Through his foundation and as a member and head of The Elders, the group of prominent former leaders founded by Nelson Mandela, Annan kept working — and speaking out.

At an editorial board meeting with The Associated Press in May 2017, he worried aloud about lost jobs and said many people worldwide had lost trust in political and corporate leaders and feared being left behind.

He said it was time for mains-

stream leaders to explain that innovation and artificial intelligence are taking away jobs and tell those who have lost jobs they are going to be retrained for the new economy that's coming.

“If we don't encourage leaders, first of all fresh people, to go into politics and we don't encourage the leaders to lead, we will create a situation which is normal,” he warned. “When leaders fail to lead, the people lead and make them follow. But you don't know where they're going to lead you to — and they might even pull you back.”

He also said U.S. President Donald Trump's go-it-alone foreign policy is weakening America, and stressed the importance of multilateralism and the perils of growing nationalism.

Only last month, Annan was tweeting about his concerns with the current state of the world.

“No nation can make itself secure by seeking supremacy over all others. We all share responsibility for each other's security, and only by working to make each other secure can we hope to achieve lasting security for ourselves,” he said in a July 3 tweet that appeared aimed at the United States.

And on July 30, he tweeted: “Whether our task is fighting poverty, stemming the spread of disease or saving innocent lives from mass murder, we have seen that we cannot succeed without the leadership of the strong and the engagement of all.”

Annan believed in quiet, behind-the-scenes diplomacy but wasn't afraid to speak out when he thought necessary. He mentored a generation of U.N. officials including current Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and outgoing U.N. human rights chief Zeid Ra'ad Al-Husseini.

The Jordanian diplomat said in a statement he once told Annan how everyone was criticizing him, and the former U.N. chief responded: “You're doing the right thing. Let them grumble.”

“In a world now filled with leaders who are anything but that, our loss, the world's loss, becomes even more painful,” Zeid said. **AP**

Brazilians attack Venezuelan immigrants in border town

RESIDENTS of the Brazilian border town of Pacaraima attacked Venezuelan immigrants on Saturday after a local storeowner was robbed, stabbed and beaten in an assault blamed on four migrants, authorities said.

Pacaraima, in the northern jungle state of Roraima, is a major border crossing with Venezuela, where economic and political turmoil has driven tens of thousands to cross

into Brazil over the past few years.

After a rally held to protest the attack against the storeowner, groups of residents roamed the town hurling rocks at the immigrants and setting fire to their belongings.

Police said the storeowner, who was beaten and robbed on Friday night, has been hospitalized and is in stable condition.

The Roraima state government estimates that more

than 50,000 Venezuelan refugees have crossed the border, occupying already existing shelters or sleeping in tents, plazas and streets. The influx was nearly equal to 10 percent of the state's population of 520,000 inhabitants.

Police said that to escape the violence, hundreds of immigrants crossed the border back into Venezuela. On a video posted by the G1 news portal a man's voice is heard shouting “Get

out. Get out. Go back to Venezuela.”

Wandenberg Ribeiro Costa, one of the organizers of Saturday's rally, told the G1 news portal “we have expelled the Venezuelans.”

Claudio Lamachia, president of the Brazilian Bar Association, said in a statement that the violence that took place in Pacaraima “exposed the humanitarian drama afflicting our neighbors ... who are trying to improve their li-

ves and survive.”

“The state of Roraima does not have the conditions to shelter all the immigrants,” he said, adding that close to 800 Venezuelans enter Roraima every day.

The crisis has prompted state authorities in recent months to try to limit services to Venezuelans and temporarily shut the border. The federal government and high courts have curtailed attempts to do

those things.

Milene de Souza, a volunteer at an evangelical church, told the Associated Press by phone that the situation is desperate.

“The world has to see what is happening here, where no one knows what to do,” she said, adding that every day she helps Venezuelan engineers, doctors, lawyers and other professionals who sleep on the streets “with their diplomas tucked under their pillows.” **AP**

Karel Janicek, Prague

INTERVIEW | JOSEF KOUDELKA

'It was a tragedy. But also miracles happened at the time'

IT'S been 50 years, but powerful images of the Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia taken by photographer Josef Koudelka still resonate among Czechs and elsewhere in the world — they've even been admired in Russia.

As the armies of the five Warsaw Pact countries invaded his country an hour before midnight on Aug. 20, 1968, Koudelka was ready. Risking his life, he took thousands of photos in the week that followed, capturing the shocking experience for his nation — and the defiance of its people.

After the negatives were smuggled out of the country, the photos that were published in the West became one of the most famed documentary series of the 20th century.

Looking back at 1968 in an interview with The Associated Press, Koudelka said he seized the once-in-a-career opportunity.

"The opportunity to take so many photos made it possible for me to do something I never thought I would be able to do," Koudelka said. "And I think that a majority of people in Czechoslovakia who knew me as a photographer didn't even think I could do anything like that."

His photos captured the mood

on the streets of Prague: the public anger, frustration and massive protests against the troops that came in with tanks to crush the Prague Spring — the brief period of liberal reforms under leader Alexander Dubcek meant to lead toward democratization of communist Czechoslovakia.

"It was a tragedy. But also miracles happened at the time," Koudelka said. "One of the biggest miracles for me was — and that has happened at major events elsewhere — that people are able to completely change overnight."

He said in reaction to the attack, the whole nation became united. "No matter who you were, only one thing mattered: We were all against them," he said.

One of his now-iconic photos shows a man holding his coat wide open in front of an armed soldier standing on a Soviet tank, while another one captures an elderly man trying to hit a tank with a cobblestone.

"My photos captured a moment

AP PHOTO



when we behaved like a nation," Koudelka said. "And that didn't happen too often in our history."

Unarmed people could not stop the armies, however, and the country was subsequently taken over by a hard-line Communist regime fully loyal to Moscow. The occupying troops stayed for over 20 years and withdrew only after the 1989 Velvet Revolution led by the late Vaclav Havel.

According to historians, 137

people were killed by Warsaw Pact soldiers in 1968 alone, and a total of over 400 died during the occupation of Czechoslovakia.

Koudelka's photos were first published by media around the globe in 1969 under the attribution "P.P." (Prague photographer) to prevent his persecution by the Communists.

He left the country in 1970 to work for the Magnum Photos agency and didn't reveal until

1984 that he was the author of the 1968 pictures.

Now 80, Koudelka is not ready to retire. He still keeps his camera busy every day.

Over his long career, he took many great photographs, including his Gypsy, Exile and Panoramas series that are in the collections of major museums, including the Centre Pompidou in Paris, the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles.

But his 1968 photos have been most known globally. This year alone, there are exhibitions of his work in Poland, Belgium and Italy, together with a retrospective, "Returning," at the Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague accompanied by the publication of his new book of the same name.

His photos been displayed around the world, including in China and Russia.

"I never believed I would be able to take the Russian tanks to Moscow," Koudelka said. 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.macaoticket.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)

UNTIL: August 30, 2018

VENUE: Kun lam 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

MACAU'S FIRECRACKER INDUSTRY - NEW WORKS BY LIO MAN CHEONG

TIME: 12pm to 8pm

UNTIL: October 5, 2018

VENUE: Taipa Village Art Space

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2857 6118

SCULPTURE - A JOURNEY, EXHIBITION BY ANTÓNIO LEÇA

TIME: 3pm-8pm (Mondays)

12pm-8pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)

UNTIL: October 21, 2018

VENUE: A2 Gallery, Albergue SCM

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550 / 2852 3205

Offbeat

GERMANY: NO PREPARATIONS MADE IN CASE OF ALIEN LANDING

The German government says it has made no preparations for the possibility that aliens might land in the European country.

In a response to questions from opposition Green Party lawmaker Dieter Janecek, the government said "there are no protocols or plans for a possible first contact with alien life."

Justifying that stance, the government added it believes "a first contact on German territory is extremely unlikely, based on today's scientific knowledge." Janecek linked the government's responses to a media article Saturday.

Separately, German news agency dpa reported Saturday the classic children's book "The Little Prince" has been translated into Klingon - the fictitious language of the eponymous space race in the science fiction franchise "Star Trek."

Dpa quoted Saarbruecken-based translator Lieven L. Litaer as saying the book, titled "ta'puq mach," will be published in October.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Portuguese Soap Opera
15:50	Cartoons
16:15	Portuguese Comedy
18:40	Micellaneous
19:35	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	Vidago Palace
22:20	Portuguese Serie - Liberty 21
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Big Interview
00:45	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:30	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

16 Aug - 22 Aug



HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 3: A MONSTER VACATION

ROOM 1

2:15, 4:00, 7:30pm

Director: Genndy Tartakovsky

Starring: Adam Sandler, Andy Samberg, Selena Gomez

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 97min

ALONG WITH THE GODS:

THE LAST 49 DAYS

ROOM 1

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

5:45pm

Director: David Stoten

Starring: Dona Adwera, Peter Andre, Richie Campbell

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 85min

DORAEMON THE MOVIE:

NOBITA'S TREASURE ISLAND

ROOM 2

2:30pm

Director: Kazuaki Imai

Starring: Wasabi Mizuta, Megumi Ohara, Yumi Kakazu

Language: Cantonese (Chinese)

Duration: 109min

THE MEG

ROOM 2

4:30, 7:30, 9:30pm

Director: Jon Turteltaub

Starring: Jason Statham, Bingbing Li, Rainn Wilson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 113min

THE DARKEST MINDS

ROOM 3

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

Director: Jennifer Yuh Nelson

Starring: Amanda Stenberg, Mandy Moore, Harris Dickinson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 104min

this day in history



1989 MARCHIONESS RIVER CRASH 'KILLS 30'

At least 30 people died when a pleasure cruiser, packed with young party-goers, and a barge collided on the River Thames.

The captain and second mate of the barge, the dredger Bowbelle, are now under arrest.

Among those still missing are the captain of the cruiser, the Marchioness, and a city banker who chartered the boat to celebrate his birthday.

There are fears the final death toll could be as high as 60.

Divers are still searching below deck where more bodies are expected to be found.

Most of those on board were young people in their 20s.

Both vessels were moving down river towards Southwark Bridge in the early hours of Sunday morning when they collided.

The Marchioness's owners said the 90-ton boat was struck a blow from the 2,000-ton dredger which forced it directly into the larger vessel's path.

They said the Bowbelle then ran over the cruiser forcing it underwater "like a bicycle being run over by a lorry".

So far the owners of the Bowbelle have made no public comment.

Police commandeered other boats to search for survivors who had been tipped into the river after the collision.

Party-goers on other cruisers witnessed the events and some tried to help.

"We were all shouting at the driver to back up to try and rescue some of the people which he did.

"We got back and some of the guys jumped into the water and pulled some of the people onto our boat," said one witness, Rob Elliott.

So far 89 people are known to have survived the crash.

Earlier today some of them left the hospitals where they had been taken after being pulled from the river.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

A total of 51 people died in the collision.

The Bowbelle's skipper, Douglas Henderson, was acquitted after a trial in 1991.

In April 1995 a jury returned verdicts of unlawful killings in inquests held for those who drowned.

The families of victims campaigned more than 10 years for a public inquiry which began in 2000.

The report published in 2001 criticised Douglas Henderson for failing to set up a proper lookout.

Later that year the Maritime and Coastguard agency ruled Mr Henderson could keep his master's certificate.

In 2002 the first River Thames lifeboat rescue service was started in response to one of the report's recommendations.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 So when a family member suddenly announces that they're about to do something that no one who knows them would have ever expected, you may be taken a bit off guard.

Taurus April 20-May 20 You may need to raid your bank account now to take care of a pressing financial favor for a friend. This doesn't mean you don't have your own matters to tend to, of course.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Well, don't look now, but today could actually be the day you find it. Make sure you have the cash or ATM card on you and do some in-person comparison shopping.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 If it's your own secret and you don't mind the world knowing about it, go ahead. Sharing a confidence is a great way to bond with someone. If it doesn't only belong to you, better think twice before you have at it.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You'll be very glad for someone who's an unofficial parent now, not just because they love you, which is obvious, but because they'll be more than happy to help you with the thing you need the most.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 There are many metaphysical books on the market now that tout the validity of coincidence, or, more accurately, of the fact that there really is no such thing as a coincidence.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 It's definitely time to get away, and you know it. You've known it for some time now. Your sign, of course, has never been fond of doing anything alone, especially if it involves recreation.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 A loved one has just uttered a phrase you were beyond hoping you'd ever hear. You're so happy, you're beside yourself. Now that the heavens have provided the last thing on earth you'd ever have expected.

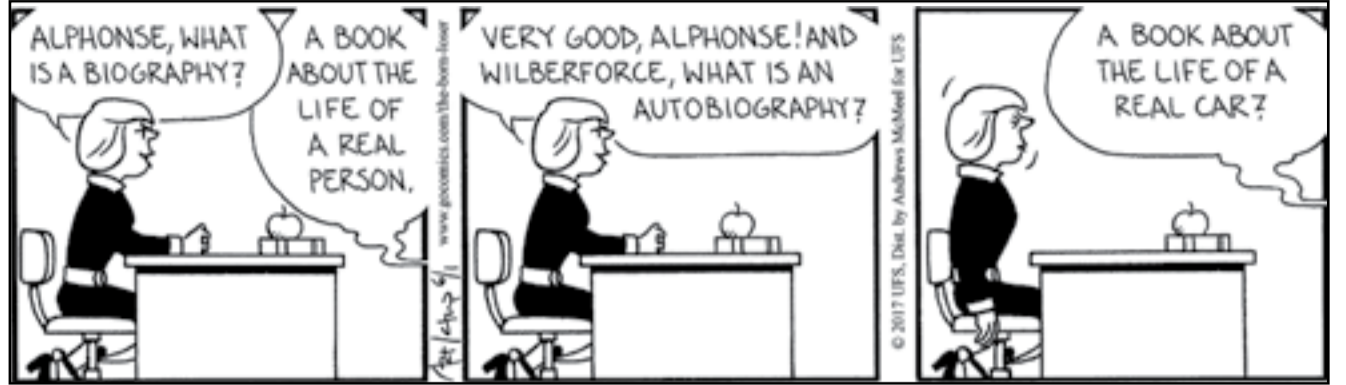
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Don't get comfortable, and don't make plans that can't be changed. The heavens aren't in the mood to carve anything in stone - and, to be honest, you aren't either, right?

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Better not even think about hiding out now, regardless of the reason, or how much you might feel like it. You're due for a lovely run of luck. This might not mean the paparazzi are on their way.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 The treat they're in for is that you're in such a wonderful mood that you can't help but make everyone around you feel just as good. Whether it's because of a professional situation that's turned out just right.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Your loved ones don't ordinarily expect you to say or do highly erratic things. You tend to put their feelings right at the top of your priority list, and you never do anything that will hurt them or make them feel unimportant.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom

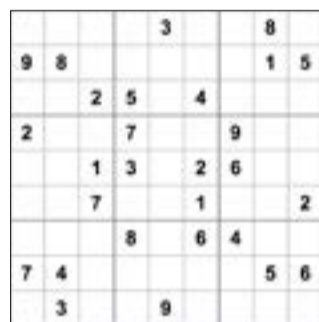


SUDOKU

Easy



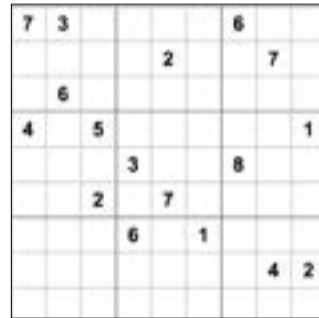
Easy+



Medium



Hard



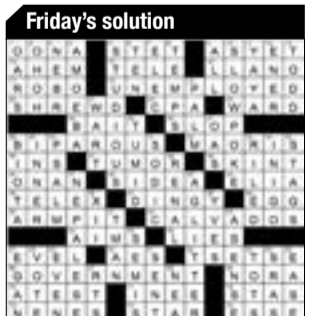
WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Rows include CHINA (Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, Urumqi, Xi'an, Lhasa, Chengdu, Chongqing, Kunming, Nanjing, Shanghai, Wuhan, Hangzhou, Taipei, Guangzhou, Hong Kong) and WORLD (Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York).

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Greek portico; 5- Disgrace; 10- "... you dare!"; 14- Tailless amphibian; 15- Saturn's largest moon; 16- Cabinet dept.; 17- Golden rule preposition; 18- Creepy; 19- Poker pot starter; 20- Breakup; 22- Got up; 23- Imperial unit of weight; 24- Overhead trains; 25- Weapons supply; 29- Wanted; 33- Trig functions; 34- Billy ... had a hit song with "White Wedding"; 36- Dominion; 37- Hoo-ha; 38- 2, 4, 6, 8, etc.; 39- Equinox mo.; 40- It's a gas; 42- New Ager John; 43- Type of question; 45- Shock with wonder; 47- Stuff oneself; 49- Song syllable; 50- Draft choice; 51- That is to say...; 54- Unskilled; 60- Future tulip; 61- ... fours (crawling); 62- Draft classification; 63- Bibliography abbr.; 64- Actress Taylor; 65- "Cheers" regular; 66- Basic unit of heredity; 67- Weeping; 68- Elation;

DOWN: 1- Macho man; 2- Author Morrison; 3- Stable staple; 4- Person with new parents; 5- Breastbones; 6- Hastens; 7- Name on a razor; 8- Letters, e.g.; 9- Compass point opposite WSW; 10- Letter opener; 11- ... account (never); 12- Profits; 13- Family portrait?; 21- Ages and ages; 22- Gore and more; 24- Slippery fish; 25- Yoga posture; 26- Travels on; 27- Snob; 28- Dwelt; 29- "Tiny Bubbles" singer; 30- Charlotte ...; 31- Actress Verdugo; 32- Bus station; 35- Paris's Pont ... Arts; 38- 2002 erupter; 41- Remarkable; 43- Scream; 44- Soon; 46- Vase; 48- Depression between hills; 51- ... to differ; 52- Silent; 53- Vivacity; 54- Dagger; 55- Japanese syllabic script; 56- Robert of "The Sopranos"; 57- Hydroxyl compound; 58- Shrivelled, without moisture; 59- Identical; 61- Table scrap;



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The combined Koreas march into Gelora Bung Karno Stadium under the "unification" flag during the opening ceremony



Fireworks explode during the opening ceremony

Hand-in-hand, Koreas grab spotlight at Asian Games opener

Niniek Karmini, Jakarta

FIRST it was the athletes parading side-by-side in matching uniforms behind the "unification" flag carried by South Korean basketballer Lim Yung-hui and North Korean footballer Ju Kyong Chol.

Then it was an image of South Korea's Prime Minister Lee Nak-yeon and North Korean Deputy Prime Minister Ri Ryong Nam hand-in-hand with their arms raised high that grabbed the spotlight at a spectacular opening ceremony for the Asian Games on Saturday night.

The two countries, still technically at war after their 1950-53 conflict ended in an armistice, have fielded 60 athletes in combi-

ned teams in three sports — including women's basketball — along with larger contingents for their respective national squads at the 18th Asian Games.

It was a virtual repeat of the joint march involving athletes from the North and South during the Winter Olympics in February in the South Korean ski resort of Pyeongchang — but without the gloves, parkas and fur hats.

The setting this time was distinctly tropical as about 42,000 people packed the Bung Karno stadium in the Indonesian capital for an elaborate show highlighting the diverse Indonesian culture.

It began with a slickly produced video portraying Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo stuck in traffic — a witty play on

one of Jakarta's major challenges in hosting the games — donning a black helmet and jumping a motorbike over a ramp to reach the stadium in time.

The motorbike shown in the video sped into the stadium and its helmeted driver disappeared into a tunnel moments before the real Jokowi appeared in the VIP area.

Much of the stadium infield was filled with a rainforest-covered volcano scene that formed the backdrop for a show based on air, earth, wind and fire themes and featuring thousands of performers representing the dozens of ethnic groups in Indonesia, a country of more than 260 million people.

It concluded Susi Susanti, the 1992 Olympic badminton gold

medalist, igniting the cauldron. Susanti was Indonesia's first Olympic champion, and she was the final torchbearer on Saturday before triggering a spectacular eruption and lava flow.

Organizing committee chairman Eric Thohir said the games would highlight Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation, as a model of harmony and emphasize the diversity of Asia. "We are all here to celebrate our diversity, to celebrate our differences, to celebrate our humanity," he told the crowd.

The other obvious theme was unity. More than 11,000 athletes from 45 countries and territories are competing across 40 sports at the games, which are being co-hosted by Jakarta

and Palembang.

Aside from the rousing applause for the Koreans, teams from Palestine, Syria, Taiwan and Indonesia received extra bursts of support from the crowd.

Tensions between the Koreas have ebbed this year with a historic meeting between their two leaders at the heavily fortified border.

Korean spectator Hwang Miri said the sight of the athletes marching together made her feel unification of the two countries was possible in her lifetime.

"Looking at all of these people working together and playing together, even walking all together in this unified uniform and the unified flag," Hwang said, "It is such an enormous feeling." **AP**

ASIAN GAMES

Sun up early for China with first gold medal



Sun Peiyuan performs

SUN Peiyuan won the first gold medal awarded at the 18th Asian Games with an acrobatic victory in wushu's changquan discipline ahead of local hope Edgar Marvelo.

The changquan competition started at 9 a.m. local time yesterday and was over within an hour, with Sun scoring 9.75 to claim a gold medal in the same city where he won the world title in 2015.

Marvelo, who was inspired to take up wushu after watching movies starring Jet Li, Jackie Chan and Bruce Lee, gave host country Indonesia a silver at 9.72 and Tsai Tse-min of Taiwan picked up bronze.

Wushu, a Chinese martial art that was introduced to the Asian Games in 1990 and translates to "long fist,"

has been something of a gold mine for China at the regional games.

"I knew if I perform well I can win the gold. So the pressure from the Indonesian athlete was mainly due to him competing in his home ground," Sun said. "I wanted to thank everybody for the support. I am glad that I didn't let you down."

Lee Ha-sung, who won the event in 2014 to give South Korea the first gold medal at Incheon, finished a distant 12th.

Three-time Olympic gold medalist Sun Yang began his quest for five swimming titles in Jakarta by posting the fastest time in the heats of 200-meter freestyle in 1 minute, 47.58 seconds. Khader Baqlah of Jordan was 0.02 seconds behind.

Sun, the Olympic cham-

pion, is aiming to upgrade the two silvers he has taken in the 200 in the previous two editions of the Asian Games.

Japan star Ryosuke Irie is aiming for a third straight Asian Games gold in the 100-meter backstroke, and began by posting the second-fastest time in the morning heats in 53.85 seconds, 0.25 behind China's Xu Jiayu.

There are seven finals on the opening night of the swimming program on Sunday, when 21 gold medals are on offer. Other finals will be held in fencing, shooting, taekwondo and wrestling.

Taiwan won the first of the gold medals in the co-host city of Palembang — on the island of Sumatra and more than 400 kilome-

ters northwest of Jakarta — with Lin Ying-shin and Lu Shao-chuan combining for a games record 494.1 points in the 10-meter air rifle mixed team final. China collected silver and India's Apurvi Chandela and Ravi Kumar took bronze.

Also in Palembang, a joint Koreas rowing team finished last in the first heat of the lightweight men's four competition behind Indonesia, Uzbekistan and Hong Kong.

South Koreans Kim Sumin and Park Tae-hyun and North Koreans Yun Chol Jin and Kim Chol Jin only started training together last month after their countries agreed to enter joint teams for three rowing events, a dragon boat crew and women's basketball. **AP**

Paulo Bento appointed as South Korea head coach

SOUTH Korea has appointed ex-Portugal manager Paulo Bento as head coach of the national team. The 49-year-old Bento is charged with leading the national team to the 2022 World Cup in Qatar and replaces Shin Tae-yong, who was not offered a new contract in July after South Korea's group-stage exit at the World Cup in Russia.



news conference Friday. "His results at Euro 2012 were very good and he is professional, charismatic, passionate and confident."

Bento, who started out in coaching with Sporting Lisbon, led Portugal to the semifinals of Euro 2012 but was fired after a disappointing 2014 World Cup and a poor start to qualification for Euro 2016.

Bento was chosen over candidates on a shortlist that was reported to include Vahid Halilhodzic, who took Algeria to the second round of the 2014 World Cup, and Quique Sanchez Flores, a Spanish coach who has had stints at La Liga clubs Atletico Madrid and Valencia as well as Watford in the English Premier League.

He became available in July when he was fired by Chinese Super League club Chongqing Lifan.

Bento's first game in charge will be a home exhibition against Costa Rica on Sept. 7. **AP**

"After reviewing his plans, we believe Bento is a coach who can develop South Korean football if we can support him for four years," Kim Pan-gon, the head of the Korea Football Association's Technical Committee, told a

FOOTBALL

Messi scores Barcelona's 6,000th league goal

BARCELONA scored its 6,000th goal in the Spanish league after another ingenious strike by Lionel Messi got its title defense off to a winning start.



Messi cleverly sent his free kick underneath Alaves' wall to open the scoring in the 64th minute of Barcelona's 3-0 win at Camp Nou Stadium on Saturday. He also closed the scoring in injury time after substitute Philippe Coutinho had added to the lead in the 83rd.

Messi's low free kick fooled Alaves' players, who jumped to intercept an expected high shot. Goalkeeper Fernando Pacheco couldn't get to the ball in time after it suddenly appeared underneath the barrier.

the goals taking the total from 5,000 to 6,000.

"Messi never fails to surprise you," Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde said.

Barcelona's first-ever league goal was scored by Manuel Parera against Racing Santander on Feb. 12, 1929.

Messi, the league's top scorer last season, had struck the crossbar with a free kick — this time over the wall — in the first half. He also hit the post from inside the area a few minutes after his opening goal.

Barcelona opened its league campaign with a win for the 10th straight season.

Messi also scored Barcelona's 5,000th league goal back in 2009, and the Argentine provided 338 of

Messi's second goal came in the second minute of injury time, an easy shot from close range after a breakaway.

Barcelona had missed chance after chance in its league debut at Camp Nou, which was far from packed

with around 52,000 fans for the 10:15 p.m. start local time.

Ousmane Dembele, who started up front with Messi and Luis Suarez, squandered a series of chances, including a one-on-one with goalkeeper Pacheco in the first half.

Valverde brought Coutinho off the bench in the second half and the Brazil playmaker added the team's second goal after a nice play that culminated with an easy strike from inside the area.

Alaves had stunned Barcelona at Camp Nou in 2016, winning 2-1. **AP**

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MACAU: THE STATE OF AFFAIRS

The city is swarmed with roadworks and many more new projects will be built in the foreseeable future. As a result, Macau has become a construction site, uglier and more crowded than before. With a few exceptions, most of the ongoing works don't bring any visible benefit. Imitative bad taste typical of the nouveau riche types prevails.

In the midst of the chaos, it is hard to see a discernible plan for the future of Macau. If there is any model being implemented, it is one that considers much more welfare of the local elites than that of the average citizen. It is a capitalist model replicated and made wicked by Chinese developers. Just look at the countless cities that sprang forth like mushrooms in China, into which millions of rural citizens were moved. These are grey cities, unpleasant and non-organic, planned sometimes from scratch by governmental committees.

Rome wasn't built in a day. But that's how the new part of Macau is being planned, without any relation to centuries of urban heritage.

The International Monetary Fund's (IMF) predictions that Macau will become "the richest place in the world" by 2020 are perceived by many here as a joke or an example of inequality. How can that be right if often we see elderly citizens and low-paid migrant workers scavenging through the garbage?

Residents may be subsidized, but face an ever-increasing cost of living. The old timers don't feel they can identify with the city under construction. Macau has, since the beginning of its history, been a small place. It has a certain scale that is not being respected. The drive behind that is perhaps property speculation. Fortunes are made when a contract is inked, a land concession results in instant millionaires.

What is there on the table for the common citizen, who lacks the "guanxi" and financial resources to accede to such profitable operations? In some cases, a modern version of enslavement. In this profit-driven environment – which has its zenith in Hong Kong – the cost of living often becomes unbearable. Regarding housing, it is well-known that families have to pay too much to live in the fashionable new tenements. They all look the same with exotic names, doormen, a pitiful gymnasium, a cinema room and bowling. The average-earning persons that end up in places like that, sometimes moved by a status aspiration, risk being indebted for life, given their bloated mortgages.

Not a long time ago, Macau was not like this. People who needed or preferred to live on the cheap had options to do so. Ten years ago, a small two-room flat in downtown Macau could cost as little as MOP3,000. But now, the system is creating many pitfalls for the younger generations, leading them to unsustainable trends.

All the above-mentioned factors are framed by a conformist mentality. People do what they are told to do. Individualism and critical thinking are often rebuffed. Instead of solving problems, the government repeatedly states that everything is alright and that the youth has reasons to smile. Meanwhile, it approves authoritarian and unnecessary laws.

With the cashflow generated by the casinos, that so much impresses the IMF, Macau had a unique opportunity to become an example of urban quality of life for the whole world. Instead, the option was to build more artificial islands where thousands will live like packed sardines.

Some people here believe that Macau could become what the IMF believes it is. They are being defrauded.

THE XI SET TO VISIT NORTH KOREA IN SEPTEMBER, REPORT SAYS

Chinese President Xi Jinping is set to visit Pyongyang next month as ties between the two countries improve amid mounting U.S.-China trade tensions, The Straits Times reported, without citing anyone. Xi has been invited by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the country's founding on Sept. 9, the paper said. The

visit would be the first by the Chinese leader to the North Korean capital since Xi took power in 2012, it said.

North Korea also asked South Korean President Moon Jae-in to visit for the celebrations during high-level talks earlier this month, Asahi Shimbun has reported, citing people familiar with inter-Korean relations.

Plane skids off rainy Manila runway, rips off engine, wheel

Jim Gomez, Manila

PASSENGERS of a plane from China that veered off a runway at Manila's airport and lost an engine and a wheel after landing hard in a rainstorm recalled Friday their brush with the terrifying mishap, with some of the 165 people on board expecting the worst.

The Boeing 737-800, carrying 157 passengers and eight crew from China's coastal city of Xiamen, managed to touch down close to midnight amid a downpour after aborting an initial attempt to land due to poor visibility, according to Philippine officials, who expressed relief that a disaster was avoided.

The airliner lost contact with the tower as it rolled off the runway into a rain-soaked field, where one of the plane's engines and wheels got ripped off before everyone onboard scrambled out through an emergency slide, the officials said.

A Filipino-American from California, Ruben Lopez Espinas, thought the plane would crash. "I surrendered myself. I said, 'Lord, I am yours if it's really my time,'" he said.

Chinese passenger Wang Xun Qun embraced her teen daughter during the tense moments before the aircraft landed. When asked to describe their experience, the two repeatedly said, "Scary, scary."

Chen Lei, who was on the plane with friends, said the plane touched down but pulled up steeply in a 90-degree angle a few seconds after it aborted the first landing. "My palm started to sweat," he said.

When it did land, the plane glided for about five seconds then the wing and the engine under it hit the ground, with Chen witnessing the unfolding danger from a window. "The luggage fell down and many equipment inside the plane started to fall. I also smelled heavy smoke," he said. Then the plane suddenly came to an abrupt stop.

Shaken by the experience and drenched by the downpour, the passengers and crew of Xiamen Air Flight 8667 were taken to an airport terminal, where they were given blankets and



food before going to a hotel, airport general manager Ed Monreal and other officials said.

"With God's blessing, all passengers and the crew were able to evacuate safely and no injuries except for about four who had some superficial scratches," Monreal said.

The plane failed to land at first apparently due to poor visibility that may have hindered the pilots' view of the runway, Director-General of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines Jim Sydiongco told reporters. The plane circled before finally landing near midnight but lost contact with the tower, Sydiongco said.

Investigators retrieved the plane's flight recorder and will get the cockpit voice recorder once the aircraft has been lifted to determine the cause of the accident, Sydiongco said.

Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Manila's main international gateway, will be closed until Saturday morning while emergency crews use a crane to try to lift the aircraft, its belly resting on the muddy ground, away from the main runway, officials said. A

smaller runway for domestic flights remained open.

TV footage showed the plane slightly tilting to the left, its left badly damaged wing touching the ground and its landing wheels not readily visible as emergency personnel examined the aircraft. One of the detached engines and landing wheels lay a few meters (yards) away.

A Xiamen Air representative, Lin Hua Gun, said the airline will send another plane to Manila to resume the flight. The Civil Aviation of China said it was sending a team to assist in the investigation.

Nearly 80 international and domestic flights have been canceled or diverted due to the closure of the airport, which lies in a densely populated residential and commercial section of metropolitan Manila.

Torrential monsoon rains enhanced by a tropical storm flooded many low-lying areas of Manila and northern provinces last weekend, displacing thousands of residents and forcing officials to shut schools and government offices. The weather has improved with sporadic downpours. **AP**

Station	Air quality
Roadside	80-100 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	50-70 Moderate
Ambient	80-100 Moderate

WORLD BRIEFS

UGANDA A pop singer and prominent critic of Uganda's government was charged with unlawful possession of firearms in a military court for his alleged role in clashes in which the longtime president's motorcade was attacked by people throwing stones.



CYPRUS An Egyptian man who hijacked a domestic EgyptAir flight in 2016 and ordered it to land in Cyprus has been extradited to his homeland after giving up a drawn-out legal fight, authorities said yesterday.

ITALY-MALTA Italy's firebrand interior minister threatened yesterday to return to Libya 177 migrants who have been aboard an Italian coast guard ship for days following another standoff with Malta.



GERMANY Hundreds of neo-Nazis waving flags with the colors of the German Reich are marching through central Berlin, protected from counter-protesters by police in riot gear.

BRITAIN says it will work with Indonesia and Malaysia to investigate reports that the wrecks sunk during World War II ships have been plundered by pirates. The shipwrecks hold the remains of hundreds of sailors and civilians and are considered war graves.

BRAZIL Residents of the Brazilian border town of Pacaraima attacked Venezuelan immigrants on Saturday after a local storeowner was robbed, stabbed and beaten in an assault blamed on four migrants, authorities said. *More on p14*

MEXICO Authorities say they have busted a major narcotics lab in the northern state of Sinaloa with about 50 tons of synthetic drugs.

SOURCE: D5MG