



LIFEGUARDS STRIKE, POOLS CLOSED

Lifeguards' complaints of poor working conditions lead to the closure of two swimming pools since the weekend

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NEW EQUIPMENT TO ENSURE WATER SUPPLY

Macao Water and the Marine and Water Bureau unveiled new equipment that aims to ensure water supply during disasters

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TOURISTS GO OFF BEATEN PATH

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Future youth center design revealed

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WORLD BRIEFS



MALAYSIA's leader said yesterday that he hoped China would sympathize with his country's fiscal problems as he met with the country's leaders after suspending multibillion-dollar construction projects financed by Chinese loans. *More on p11*

INDONESIA Multiple strong earthquakes killed at least a dozen people on the Indonesian islands of Lombok and Sumbawa as the region was trying to recover from a temblor earlier this month that killed hundreds of people. *More on p13*



INDIA Thousands of people in flood-ravaged south India waded yesterday through muck and mud to begin the immense task of cleaning their homes and businesses. *More on p12*

More on backpage

TRADE WAR

US firms to Trump: Don't raise tariffs on more Chinese goods

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Economists say IMF figures regarding Macau can be misleading



Renato Marques

A recent International Monetary Fund (IMF) report forecasts that Macau will become the richest place worldwide by 2020 in terms of per capita gross domestic product (GDP).

According to the IMF, Macau will surpass oil-rich Qatar by 2020, the country that currently leads the rankings with USD128,702 (MOP1,040,598) in terms of per capita GDP. Macau ranks second in the world, with a per capita GDP of USD122,489 (MOP 990,357), just behind the middle-eastern country.

Luxembourg and Singapore rank third and fourth respectively, while Hong Kong came in at 10th with a per capita GDP of USD64,533 (MOP 521,765).

It is forecasted that by 2020, Macau's per capita GDP is expected to grow to MOP1.15 million, surpassing Qatar's on the back of faster and more sustainable economic growth created by the gambling industry.

But what does that mean for the common citizen in Macau? Local economists interviewed by the Times say that the figure presented by the IMF can be misleading.

Economist Albano Martins said, "GDP per capita is theoretical wealth. This is really not a

correct way to address the topic as this [analysis] is only accurate in places with an even wealth distribution."

According to Martins, the results forecasted by IMF have to do solely with the fact that "the Macau's population is small and the generated GDP [in the region] is relatively high [...] Macau is one of the regions that experiences a higher inequality in the distribution of wealth, so this is in fact 'fake richness'."

Elaborating on the topic and namely on the perceived consequences of the forecast, Martins explained, "In Macau, in general terms, I expect that people who are politically more active will make use of this [report] to arrogate, which I think is acceptable. It's a tool for people to call for what they in fact do not possess and it's apparent to the large majority of the population as the large share of this wealth is distributed only in a very restricted area of the distribution scale which is of course the higher class."

In Martin's opinion, the report can be deceiving as, "In average terms I would have to say that Macau is probably one of the poorest regions of the world, with the exception for Africa, of course. But calculated in the way that it is presented [by the IMF] means that if one person earns 2 million

and another earns nothing, [in statistical terms] they both earn 1 million." He notes that the measure of per capita GDP is a normal "statistic indicator" but "it is only acceptable to use this [as a reference] in places with a more or less balanced [wealth] distribution. But when talking about regions like Macau and Hong Kong, where the distribution of wealth is highly unbalanced, this indicator does not really indicate anything. On the contrary, the use of per capita GDP will create confusion and dispute among the people who will feel that such distribution does not apply to them."

Another economist heard by the Times, José Luis Sales Marques, explained that the nature of an IMF forecast means that it may not actually come to pass that Macau overtakes Qatar on the list.

Still, Sales Marques noted that the fact that Macau appears referenced in this assessment is not new and "in first, second or third [position], it basically means the same." He recalled that the GDP per capita is a referential value that is used at international level to quantify the economic performance of a country or region.

In Sales Marques' opinion, a more important reference would be one that takes in account the

purchasing power of Macau people, "which is not the case here," he noted, recalling that what the IMF is taking into account only relates to the "international image in terms of economic performance."

Macau is one of the regions that experiences a higher inequality in the distribution of wealth, so this is in fact a fake richness.

ALBANO MARTINS

In the analyst's opinion, reports like this from the IMF do not make a significant difference to society, as "people are quite aware of the high living costs of the region and the difficulties of entering certain areas such as the real estate market, but also the high living costs in general."

In that sense, Sales Marques thinks that there is "a lot of work

to do, namely in terms of quality of living and associated services."

In his opinion, there are many aspects of daily living that "I can't say are bad, but I think - and people perceive - could be much better." Such aspects include health-related services and traffic and environmental aspects.

"There are many things that we could have taken note of, precisely because Macau is one of the most wealthy economies of the world," he said. According to him, this is basically a matter of "expectation from the population that comes from the comparison [between Macau and other regions]."

"Japan is good example and even Hong Kong, although their GDPs per capita are not as high as Macau, but, in many aspects, we can see that the quality of life is far higher."

According to the economist, one of the issues that might be contributing to this reduced quality of life is the "lack of concurrency" in the market. He said that the lack of "competition in most of the services, goods and amenities of Macau, lead the few companies in the business to practice non-competitive pricing," dramatically increasing the living costs. This affects "not just what we earn in gross terms but what we earn in relation to what we can buy."

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Architects present Tap Seac youth center design

Julie Zhu

THE Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) yesterday revealed the identity of the successful tenderer for the design of the Tap Seac Youth Center for Cultural, Recreational and Sports Activities, which will be built at the old Hotel Estoril. DSEJ also said that the mural and the style of the façade of the old hotel located at the Tap Seac Square will be kept.

Companhia de Arquitectura Design Chan Kam Limitada has been awarded the MOP48.9 million contract to design the center within 233 days.

Chu Chan Kam, general manager of the company, said that the center will include a parking lot, acting academy, auditorium, basketball court, and a rooftop pool open all year (heated during the winter).

The parking lot will have 900 parking spots, and there will be 400 to 500 seats in the auditorium. "[We] recommend retaining the façade features, [and we] hope to keep the mural and the trees," said Chu.

According to Wong Chio In, head of the Department of Education and Youth Service of DSEJ, the government does not have a timetable



The mural (pictured) will be kept. In the inset image, aspect of the new project

regarding when the center's construction will begin.

"Currently, [DSEJ] has only carried out public tender regarding the design. [...] The design company will draft the public tender details for the construction of the project. [...] The construction can be scheduled [only after] the public tender for construction is complete," said Wong.

The mural will be kept not exactly in situ, but moved slightly backwards from its current location.

Wong Sai Hong, represen-

tative of the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) said, "the IC already conducted an inspection of the mural. [...] The cost and difficulties regarding the mural's protection are still unknown. The IC will carry out another inspection and will make a plan regarding the mural."

"We will keep the entire mural [wall]. Regarding how to take the mural off and put it back, IC will have a specific team following up the case," said Wong.

According to the design com-

pany, the façade of Hotel Estoril is not in a good condition, and the design company proposed to demolish the building and rebuild it.

"The structure of the façade is not that good, and many places do not meet the requirements [for just maintenance]. We think that the size of the facade is acceptable and is worth keeping, so we hope to keep the façade, but we will demolish it first and then build new ones," said Chu.

■ The DSEJ received 11 bids for the design of the center

The government has yet to sign the contract with the company because there are still outstanding administrative procedures to be completed.

In total, the DSEJ received 11 bids for the design of the center.

The old Hotel Estoril was designed by Macau-born Portuguese architect Alfredo Victor Jorge Álvares. The mosaic standing in the facade was designed by Oseo Acconci, a builder and sculptor from Italy who moved to Macau in the 1940s.

Anima calls for volunteers

Beginning yesterday, the Macau (Yat Yuen) Canidrome opened its doors to volunteers, who will work at the site every day across two shifts. The first shift is between 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., while the latter is from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., Anima Macau informed in a statement. The animal rights organization issued a reminder that volunteers will be asked to sign a declaration accepting conditions for their safety and the greyhounds' welfare. According to the latest information provided by the parties, over 30 volunteers are looking after the greyhounds across nine kennels.

Compulsory military training for Hong Kong, Macau students

Hong Kong and Macau students will be required to attend a three-week military training program at Tsinghua University – a program that was previously only compulsory for mainland students. According to Tsinghua University's website, the three-week training last year contained two parts, including military techniques and theories, as cited by South China Morning Post. Students were taught to march, shoot live rounds and perform first aid. As of the end of last year, there were 645 students from Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan enrolled at Tsinghua University, yet the breakdown of students from each of the three regions remains unclear.

Lynzy Valles

A total of 24 lifeguards demonstrated against what they consider their employer's unfair working conditions by not showing up at work, which has caused a temporary closure of two swimming pools since the weekend.

The group organized a press conference yesterday at New Macau Association, disclosing that the company failed to provide copies of contracts, monthly pay slips, and that no annual leave nor day off was given since March 15.

According to lawmaker Sulu Sou – from whom the group has sought help – these employees were forced to work overtime and were only paid 20 percent more than their hourly wage.

According to the Labor Law, if the employees are not willing to work overtime, they should be paid 50 percent more than their hourly wage.

"In past years, the company forced them to sign a document to show that

Lifeguards upset over unjust working conditions

they want to have the overtime. The standard is calculated by 1.2," he added.

"These lifeguards [were forced] to work 13 hours to 18 hours per day and that is not acceptable," he said.

According to Sou, some eight to nine lifeguards were obliged to stay and rest in the swimming pool site after their long duty of monitoring facilities and machines.

The lifeguards initially resorted to seeking assistance from the Labor Affairs Bureau on Friday after their management did not respond to their request for dialogue.

On the same day, the management of the company was called in at the bureau, yet, according to Sou, no concrete agreement was established.



The Cheoc Van swimming pool is currently closed

Thus, these lifeguards did not show up at work on Saturday, which caused the temporary closure of the Cheok Van Beach and Sun Yat Sen swimming pools.

These employees went back to work on Sunday after the bureau informed them that they could be legally fired from the company if they fail to show up for three days.

"We spent the whole afternoon today [yesterday] in the bureau and they

submitted more information about their complaints," said Sou, noting that they held a meeting with the company's management.

According to Sou, they called on the company to converse about the past illegal and unjust treatment of workers, stressing that the company should pledge to treat their workers according to laws established by the Labor Affairs Bureau.

"We also urged the com-

pany to pledge that the actions of their employees will not result in something negative," said Sou.

"The company said they want one more week to check all the documents and respond to the lifeguards," he added.

Meanwhile, Sou criticized the Sports Bureau contract with the company, noting that if such maltreatment occurs, public swimming pools are not safe for residents.

"They accepted this company to provide services for more than ten years. I don't believe that the bureau did not know what happened inside the human resource management of the company. It's a big question," said the lawmaker.

"I find that it's not safe for public swimming pools and for the public," Sou added.



Workers place flood barriers



CIVIL PROTECTION

Preventive measures to ensure water supply during disasters

Renato Marques

THE Macao Water Supply Company (SAAM) and the Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA) yesterday gave an overview to the media of the works jointly undertaken by the Bureau and SAAM to ensure that the problems caused by Typhoon Hato will not be repeated.

In August last year, heavy flooding in the Ilha Verde Water treatment plant and subsequent damage to the equipment caused the city's water supply to be suspended for several days.

To prevent this from reoccurring, Jacky Lei, senior operations manager of Macao Water, said that new equipment had been installed in the facilities such as watertight doors in all main operation rooms of the Ilha Verde Water treatment plant.

In total, Lei said that the company had installed around 50 watertight doors to seal the machine rooms and main facilities on the ground floor from flooding.

Removable "flood barriers" were installed at other entrances to less critical facilities, to block flooding of a certain level, according to Lei. "The barriers will be installed as soon as there is a storm sur-

ge warning that water might rise over 1.6 meters over the pavement level," said Lei, who stated that the barriers can be "added-on" in separate pieces up to a maximum height of 2.60 meters.

The barriers will be installed as soon as there is a storm surge warning that water might rise over 1.6m.

JACKY LEI

To prevent damage to the water piping system, namely the pumps that circulate water throughout the city, three new high capacity water pumps were installed in the pumps room. According to Lei, these pumps "have the capacity to pump out all water that might come in the pumps room in approximately one hour."

In addition, Lei added that

replacement parts for all the machinery have been stocked for emergency situations.

In case of a water supply emergency, the company has also acquired four water tanks

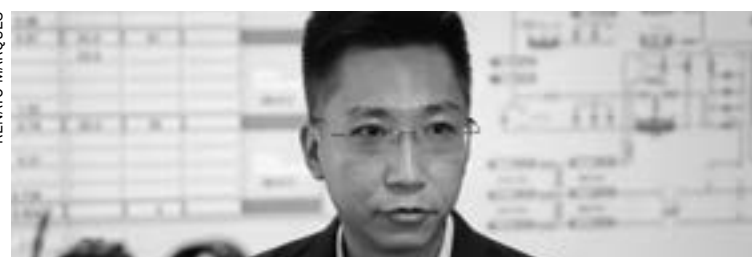
Gov't plans to build at least one more water storage tank

THE Water Technology Division head of DSAMA, Lee Yat To, said that the government is aiming to build an undisclosed number of water storage tanks in high-rise locations in Macau.

According to Lee, the construction of at least one of these water storage and supply tanks is currently being planned. Once built, it will add to the existing four, two of which are located on the Macau peninsula and another two in Taipa Island.

"We want to build at least one, but the location is not yet decided," Lee said. "One of the locations being considered is in Coloane and there is another location also under consideration in Taipa. The choice of the [final] location has to take into consideration several factors such as the proximity of several main pipelines," Lee added.

RENATO MARQUES



Lee Yat To

Questioned about the government's wishes, Lee said, "We wish to [be able to] build one in Taipa and another in Coloane, but this takes a lot of factors into consideration and depends on the needs and also on the feasibility of the locations." "The best solution would be to have several distributed in several locations of Macau," he added.

For the time being, the government proposes to advance with at least one tank, for which a feasibility study will be undertaken this year.

to be used as Temporary Water Supply Stations in specific areas of the region for a limited time.

The tanks have a capacity of one cubic meter of water each and can provide a continuous water supply for about one hour. In case of need, these tanks will be refilled by truck.

At the same event, the Water Technology Division head of DSAMA, Lee Yat To, added that the works, "have the purpose of reinforcing the preventive measures against disasters aiming to guarantee the regular operation of this water treatment plant."

On the sidelines of the event, Lee Yat To told the Times, "major works were performed here at the Ilha Verde water treatment plant but not in isolation. We also installed similar flood barriers in other facilities, for instance at central [main] reservoir [located at Rua dos Pescadores]."

Lee also informed that the works on the construction of the fourth water supply pipeline linking mainland China and Macau are proceeding at a good pace and are expected to conclude in 2019.

"At the moment I can say that the works on the mainland have a completion rate of 47.5 percent and that works on that the Macau segment are about 40 percent complete."

The new pipeline will connect Hengqin Island to Macau and is expected to enter into operation in 2019.

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Hato, a year after: MGM joins efforts in healing the community



On August 23, 2017, Macau was struck by Typhoon Hato, the strongest typhoon in 53 years. A shared pledge of MOP30 million has been endowed to rebuild Macau following the typhoon by MGM China Holdings Limited, MGM Resorts International, and Ms. Pansy Ho.

Ms. Pansy Ho said, "A majority of Macau has been impacted by this typhoon, but it has brought about the united spirit of Macau residents with their swift action and selfless effort to help each other. A year has passed, the city is now back to normal despite the destruction still being vivid. With our ethos of 'Creating a Better Macau,'

we will continue to contribute towards the sustainable recovery of the city."

During the week of Typhoon Hato, the Golden Lion Volunteer Team, who joined forces with União Geral das Associações dos Moradores de Macau (UGAMM) and Macau Federation of Trade Unions, helped distribute meal boxes and water to senior citizens. The Volunteer Team set out to visit nearly 120 senior citizens in the city's worst affected area and chat with them in a show of care and compassion. A goodie-bag containing food, a flashlight, duct tape and typhoon preparedness tips was also prepa-

red for each senior citizen. The volunteers also continued their efforts to clear debris in Coloane, restoring the natural beauty of Macau.

Aside from caring for the community, MGM has pledged to support employees in need and help them recover from the devastation of Hato. The company has allocated funds and launched the Employee Assistance Recovery Support Plan for its employees and families. The Support Program covered the damage to household facilities, furniture and appliances as well as damage to employees' cars and motorcycles.



CARING FOR THE ELDERLY

As the bus used for transporting the residents of the Betanina Elderly Home to hospital for regular medical checkups and other outdoor activities had been seriously damaged, MGM made a donation to Caritas Macau for the purchase of a new rehabilitation bus and stair climbers as well as the repair to the vehicles of «Good Take Express».

Pun Chi Ming, Secretary General of Caritas Macau said, "In January 2017, we launched the stair climbers as a mobility solution for people living in buildings without lifts and who have great difficulty in getting in and out of their flats. However, after Typhoon Hato, we were left with only one stair climber and it became extremely difficult for patients that need kidney dialysis. The situation has greatly improved since MGM donated 4 stair climbers to us."

Other donations by MGM included the cost of restoration for the Rehabilitation Center for the Blind; purchase of diagnostic equipment and setting up an audiometer testing room for the Macau Deaf Association; purchase of rehab buses for the Fuhong Society of Macau; repair to the exterior and interior of Sao Jose Ka Ho School; and donations to Macau Special Olympics' social enterprise, Sociedade de Ngai Chun Se Lda, to purchase cleaning equipment.

DONATIONS FOR MEDICAL CARE

The Chinese Pharmacy of Tung Sin Tong has been providing free medical care and services, healing the Macau community from one generation to another. A special donation for the purchase of Chinese herbal medicine and equipment for the Chinese Pharmacy was made by MGM after it suffered severe losses and damage in the aftermath of Typhoon Hato.

In addition, MGM donated to the Clinics of Macao Federation of Trade Unions to help replace damaged infrastructure for their dental services, laboratory, physical therapy room and injection room.



STRESS, DISASTER MANAGEMENT TRAINING

MGM is working to support the future disaster response capabilities of the community. Last September, MGM sponsored staff from Caritas Macau to participate in disaster management training in Nepal to upskill members of our community in disaster resilience.

In May this year, MGM also sponsored and supported the "Certificate Course on Critical Incident Stress Management - Group Crisis Intervention" organized by the Sheng Kung Hui Macau Social Services Coordination Office. Through this sponsorship, MGM hopes to enhance the local social service sector in dealing with trauma after a crisis, and strengthen the community's preparedness to respond to a disaster.





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DSEJ says sexual cases are related to younger students

IN the past academic year (2017/2018), 22 sex-related cases involving underage students were recorded, according to DSEJ head, Leong Vai Kei. The number represents one case more than in the academic year of 2016/2017.

Leong pointed out that these cases do not necessarily involve sexual encounters, and that they often include fighting between underage couples.

According to Leong, in previous years, sex-related cases or even cases of sexual abuse normally originated from making friends online. For that reason, the DSEJ has conducted an extensive education campaign about such situations, with the

relevant number of cases decreasing considerably in the aftermath.

In the cases recorded recently, the relevant parties are mostly familiar with each other. Furthermore, the age of the involved students has also been decreasing, which indicates that sex-related cases are happening among younger students, according to Leong, who also noted that most of these cases took place at the students' home.

The deputy head of the city's education authority pointed out that less than half of Macau's students received sexual education from school, and that more than half of the students collected information from the internet.

Zhuhai train station and Macau LRT connection project outsourced

THE Infrastructure Development Office (GDI) announced the public tender results for four new boundary control points which will connect Macau to mainland China.

The four projects are: the Canal do Patos comprehensive remediation project plan draft; Qingmao boundary control point (Guangdong-Macau channel) passenger terminal building; the building's connecting terminal, foundation works and underground walls; and supervision of the Qingmao boundary control point passenger terminal building project.

The projects were outsourced with a price tag of MOP70.87 million, MOP490 million, MOP8.64 million and MOP11.12 million respectively.

Supervision of the Qingmao port project was outsourced to the University of Macau for MOP11.12 million.

All four projects are, in fact, part of the construction of the new border gate between Zhuhai and Macau, known as Qingmao port.

The Qingmao port will be loca-



The Gongbei Border Gate

ted 800 meters southeast of the Gongbei Border Gate and it is to become an independent electronic border gate, with an estimated 200,000 daily crossings.

The Qingmao port will mainly consist of e-channels for passport control, with no vehicle checkpoints available.

The area will span 28,000 square ki-

lometers, with a small part located in Macau involving the Canal de Patos.

On top of the Canal de Patos, a 400 meter long closed corridor will be built, connecting Zhuhai train station to Macau's Light Rapid Transit.

Earlier, the government had expected Qingmao's port to start operating in 2019. **JZ**

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VENEZUELA

One of the greatest currency devaluations in history launched

VENEZUELAN President Nicolas Maduro carried out one of the greatest currency devaluations in history over the weekend - a 95 percent plunge that will test the capacity of an already beleaguered population to stomach even more pain.

One likely outcome is that inflation, which already was forecast to reach 1 million percent this year, will get fresh fuel from the measures. A massive exodus of Venezuelans fleeing the crisis to neighboring countries will likely increase and with it, tensions and restrictions like the ones seen over the past few days.

The official rate for the currency will go from about 285,000 per dollar to 6 million, a shock that officials tried to partly offset by raising the minimum wage 3,500 percent to the equivalent of just USD30 a month. While Maduro boasted in Friday night's announcement that the International Monetary Fund wasn't involved in the policies, aspects of the moves bore a resemblance to a classic orthodox



Nurses holds a sign with a fake Venezuelan's bills, representing how low their salaries have been devalued by inflation

economic adjustment, albeit with some confusing twists.

Maduro's new strategy for managing the economy is a desperate response after years of disastrous policies that undercut growth, sent prices soaring and turned what had once been one of Latin America's wealthiest countries into a dysfunctional nation that's spawned a refugee crisis. Pressure is mounting on

him to right the ship as calls for his overthrow grow six years after he took over for the late Hugo Chavez. Earlier this month, Maduro started a fresh crackdown on his opponents after a failed attempt to assassinate him using an aerial drone.

The devaluation comes at the same time the governments is redenominating the currency by lopping off five zeros and in-

roducing new bills and a name change. So instead of the new minimum wage being 1.8 million strong bolivars, it will be 1,800 sovereign bolivars.

To make things more complicated, the new bolivar's value will be linked to a crypto currency - believed to be the first time a government has ever employed the technique. The so-called Petro is backed by crude oil and is valued by the government at \$60, or 3,600 sovereign bolivars. The Petro will fluctuate and be used to set prices for goods.

In some ways, the devaluation is a mere formality. For years now, most people and companies have been unable to access dollars at government-set rates and have been purchasing them in the black market. As a result, the prices on many goods across the country are already based on that exchange rate.

"They had to do this because they ran out of money," Moises Naim, a fellow at the Carnegie Endowment and a former minister in Venezuela, said from

Washington. He pointed out that oil production - pretty much the country's sole industry at this point - has plummeted in recent years amid a shortage of equipment and technical expertise, foreign reserves have plummeted and allies such as China and Russia are providing less support.

Amid the cash crunch, Maduro has halted most payments on Venezuela's foreign debt and is now \$6.1 billion in the hole with bondholders, cutting off most sources of new financing.

The symbolism of announcing the drastic measures on a Friday night wasn't lost on many Venezuelans. In 1983, President Luis Herrera Campins devalued the bolivar for the first time in 22 years after oil prices crashed. The day became to be known locally as "Black Friday."

When in 1989 Venezuela raised gasoline costs, lifted foreign-exchange controls and let the currency plunge, prices soared 21 percent in one month alone, leading to riots known as the "Caracazo" that killed hundreds and eventually paved the way for Chavez's rise to power.

The opposition, a fragmented group of parties whose leaders are either in hiding or in jail, called for protests against the measures today. Several labor unions also called for a 24-hour national strike. **Bloomberg**

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'Made in Cambodia' may become new fashion label with tariffs hitting China

Uliana Pavlova

THE next designer handbag you buy is less likely to bear a "made in China" label. Fashion companies, eager to diversify their supply chains, were already expanding into production sites in Southeast Asia as alternatives to China. Then the trade war happened.

Now, with tariffs on products such as Chinese handbags set to rise, nations like Cambodia and Vietnam are looking more attractive than ever for consumer-goods makers such as Steven Madden Ltd. and Tapestry Inc.'s Coach. And while the Trump administration has slapped duties on goods from many of its largest trading partners this year, it's allowed some Cambodian products to continue duty-free access to the U.S. market.

"The shift has been under way," said Steve Lamar, executive vice president of American Apparel & Footwear Association. The talk of tariffs has created "a lot of anxiety" and companies are gauging how fast they can make more changes to their sourcing, he said.

A study released in July by the U.S. Fashion Industry Association showed that, while all of the companies participating in the survey sourced goods from China, 67 percent expected to decrease the value or volume of production in the country over the next two years. U.S. trade protectionism was listed as the number one challenge for the industry.

Steven Madden Chief Executive Officer Edward Rosenfeld said on the company's most recent earnings call that it has been shifting production of its handbags

to Cambodia from China. The maker of shoes and accessories sees 15 percent of its handbags coming from Cambodia this year, with this percentage doubling in 2019.

"That gives us frankly about a three-year head start on most of our peers, because many folks are just now trying to make that move," Rosenfeld said on the July 31 conference call. "Our head of handbag sourcing is actually over there right now, working on a plan to ramp that up."

■ Cambodia footwear exports rose 25 percent in 2017, while garment exports increased 8 percent in the same period

Tapestry, the luxury company behind Coach and Kate Spade handbags, has adopted a similar strategy, boosting its Vietnamese production and leaving less than 5 percent of its sourcing from China. Vera Bradley, meanwhile, mentioned last December it is looking at sending manufacturing operations to Cambodia and Vietnam from China.

"Cambodia does offer pretty good investment incentives like tax holidays," said Matt van Roomsalen, country manager for Cambodia at Emerging Markets Consulting, an investment advisory firm focused on Southeast Asia. "As long as the tariff exemptions persist, companies



will be more incentivized to invest production capacity in Cambodia."

The moves to shift production have had an impact in China: Hong Kong-based Stella International Holdings Ltd. - which develops and manufactures footwear for brands like Prada SpA and Guess? Inc. - has seen its stock drop to its lowest point since 2009 as China and the U.S. ratchet up the trade rhetoric.

Cambodia footwear exports rose 25 percent in 2017, while garment exports increased 8 percent in the same period, according to an annual report by the National Bank of Cambodia, which attributed the growth in part to increased demand from the U.S.

Vietnam, meanwhile, has enjoyed a foreign investor-led economic boom for years, attracting billion-dollar investments from the likes of Samsung Electronics Co. and Intel Corp. It is transforming from mainly an exporter of agricultural commodities, such as rice and coffee, to a Southeast Asian manufacturing hub.

"The country enjoys relatively low inflation, a stable currency, and political stability - all of which helps to attract foreign investment," said Adam Sitkoff, executive director of the American Chamber of Commerce in Hanoi. "The opportunities are clear - Vietnam is a country of 95 million people traveling pretty quickly on the path from bicycles to motorbikes to BMWs."

Even before China and the U.S. escalated trade tensions, Cambodia enjoyed duty-free privileges for products such as handbags, suitcases and wallets, part of a U.S. program to help boost development in low-income countries. This designation has so far been maintained by the Trump administration.

In addition to the tariff threat, wages have risen steadily in China, while Cambodia remains one of the lowest-cost countries when it comes to labor. According to estimates provided by Oxford Economics, labor cost in Cambodia is a quarter of China's.

Lamar, of the American Apparel & Footwear Association, does

recommend caution, however.

"The reality, unfortunately, is that shifting out of China is not easy," he said.

One reason is that cheap labor does not necessarily equal effective production. Cambodia's productivity rates are low compared to China, making it a challenge to manufacture more elaborate products. In a survey by the Hong Kong Development Council, which promotes trade and investment for the territory, factory managers suggested that the average labor productivity of Cambodian workers was about 50 to 60 percent that of Chinese workers.

Another reason is that Cambodia's infrastructure is well behind China's. The nation's infrastructure ranked 106 out of 137, behind neighbors Vietnam and Laos, in the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report. This can cause difficulties in getting merchandise out of the country, Lamar said.

Then there's politics. The U.S. government recently said that Cambodian elections in July, in which the ruling party won all 125 seats in the National Assembly, were "flawed."

As a result, the U.S. and Europe could review their trade policies and "potentially stop giving tariff preference to Cambodia's garment industry," said Tommy Wu, senior economist at Oxford Economics. Such a move would be a blow for the nation, where garments make up 64 percent of total exports.

"Setting more output in Cambodia should be taken with caution until the political dust settles," said Sophal Ear, associate professor of diplomacy and world affairs at Occidental College in Los Angeles. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

WYNN UNVEILS NEW MOONCAKE GIFT BOXES IN TIME FOR MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL



Wynn Macau has unveiled three designed mooncake gift boxes that feature flowers and butterflies in time for the upcoming Mid-Autumn Festival, with each pattern representing a symbol of happiness

according to the casino operator.

The Wynn mooncake gift box series feature three different and the very vibrant, themed colors of Wynn Palace - Sunset Orange, Peaco-

ck Blue and Wynn Gold.

Each gift box is intricately designed with captivating colors and resembles an exquisite jewelry box. On the cover of each box, one will discover a myriad of patterns featuring blooming flowers and butterflies, in a nod to the bountiful harvest of the autumn season.

Customers may choose from the Sunset Orange gift box featuring four of the four-yolk white lotus seed paste mooncakes; the Peacock Blue gift box of four classic double-yolk white lotus seed paste mooncakes; or the Wynn Golden Gift Box featuring six egg yolk white lotus seed paste mini mooncakes. The gift boxes are available at Wynn Macau and Wynn Palace from September 3 until September 23.

SANDS CHINA SUPPORTING OLD DISTRICT REVITALIZATION EFFORTS



Sands China Ltd. is supporting the Old District Revitalization Series - Rua de Cinco de Outubro, according to a statement from the company, taking place now until

November 11 in the old district area of Macau.

Organized by the Macau Association for Promoting Community Economic Development, the initiative

launched with a kick-off ceremony August 18, and features two events: the Old District Photo Event and a Shopping Carnival.

The aim of the revitalization project is to help SMEs and the community in the old district area attract more customers and tourists, thereby encouraging a speedier recovery and revitalization of the district. More than 50 local SMEs are participating in the initiative.

"Sands China is very pleased to be supporting the Old District Revitalization Series," said Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China according to a company statement. "We hope this initiative will speed the recovery of SMEs in the old district and will hasten the revitalization of the area."



TRADE WAR

US firms to Trump: Don't raise tariffs on more Chinese goods

Paul Wiseman, Washington

FISHERMEN off the Alaskan coast. A Florida maker of boat trailers. A building materials distributor in Tennessee.

Those and hundreds of other American businesses are delivering the same plea to President Donald Trump as he considers imposing tariffs on nearly 40 percent of imported Chinese goods:

Don't do it.

The Trump administration will hold six days of hearings starting today [Macau time] in Washington on the next barrage in an escalating trade war between the world's two largest economies: Trump's proposed

tariffs of 10 percent to 25 percent on USD200 billion in Chinese goods that could kick in as early as next month.

Once in effect, the tariffs would immediately inflate the prices that American companies would have to pay for Chinese components they need to build their products. Those companies would have to decide whether to pass those costs on to their customers or absorb the higher prices themselves.

The first shots have already been fired: In July, Trump slapped 25 percent tariffs on \$34 billion in Chinese imports. Taxes on an additional \$16 billion are set to kick in this week. China is counterpunching with tariffs of its own.

But the 200 billion in additional Chinese goods that the Trump administration is considering taxing would mark a significant escalation in its trade fight with Beijing.

Washington and Beijing are clashing over U.S. allegations that China uses predatory tactics to try to overtake American technological dominance: Those tactics, the administration argues, include cyber-theft and pressure for U.S. companies to hand over trade secrets in return for access to the Chinese market.

So far, the U.S. tariffs have targeted imported Chinese industrial products — not the electronics, toys and food that ordinary Americans might buy at a mall or order online. But adding \$200 billion to the target list would expose to hefty taxes many more of the \$506 billion in goods that China shipped to the United States last year, including many consumer products. The list includes 6,031 Chinese imports — an eclectic compilation that ranges from buttons to burglar alarms to motorboats.

JO-ANN Stores, which sells fabric and crafting supplies, says it imports about 500 items on the tariff list, including fleece, yarn and cotton fabric. Ed Weinstein, JO-ANN's vice president of tax and public affairs, said he doesn't understand how

supplies for knitters and crafters became caught up in a trade dispute over high-tech policy.

"Our products are very simple," Weinstein told The Associated Press. "I would never have expected to see fabric and craft components on the tariff list."

■ The Trump administration will hold six days of hearings starting today in Washington

In their filings to the Trump administration, companies that import from China complain that the tariffs will force them to raise prices, pay higher costs, try to find alternative suppliers or lose business to foreign rivals that don't have to pay a penalty on components and machinery they import from China.

"If you look at the filings, a lot of them are mom-and-pop businesses saying, 'Please don't do this to us,'" said Bryan Riley, director of the Free Trade Initiative at the conservative National Taxpayers Union.

Consider:

— Seattle's Groundfish Forum, a trade group for the operators of 19 fishing trawlers off Alaska.

It warns that the tariffs will hit flatfish caught off the U.S. coast that are sent to China for processing before being shipped back to the United States. Trump's proposed 10 percent tariff on those fish would leave the "sustainably harvested fish caught by U.S. fishermen at a competitive disadvantage," the group says in a filing with the administration's Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.

— Magic Tilt Trailers, a company in Clearwater, Florida, that makes boat trailers. It says it has to buy Chinese tires and parts on Trump's target list; there are few alternatives.

"The tariffs will have little to no impact on the sourcing options of members in the trailer manufacturing community," the company wrote. "We will just be getting a 10 percent tax, payable to the general treasury."

— Building Plastics Inc., a Memphis-based building materials distributor. It buys 400- to 800-pound slabs of Chinese quartz and sells them to fabricators that turn them into countertops and other items for homes and offices. The company says it's tried and failed to find alternative sources of the mineral.

"We did not want to go to China, but we were forced to go to China," said Mike Perkowski, a product manager for the company.

Perkowski said the tariffs could prove "catastrophic."

"There's a possibility we could be priced out of the market," he said in an interview. "We're definitely going to have to pass along the tariffs... We've been educating our customer base that tariffs are coming. There will definitely be a price increase."

Can the U.S. and China avoid a \$200 billion tariff collision? Hopes rose last week on news that China will send an envoy to Washington this month to discuss a way out of the standoff.

But many trade analysts aren't very optimistic. A solution would likely require China to widen its market to foreign companies, reduce subsidies to domestic industries and rethink industrial policies that are considered vital to helping Chinese companies become leaders in such advanced fields as electric cars and robotics and thereby strengthening China's economy.

"China is not going to become a functioning market economy as we would like to see it in the next two months or even in the next two years," said Bradford Ward, a former U.S. trade official and now at the law firm King & Spalding. "People need to prepare for and plan for the long haul. This is not going to be resolved quickly."

The tit-for-tat tariffs between the U.S. and China, Riley said, "could become the new normal." **AP**

BAN WILL KEEP PRC OUT OF ASIAN GAMES WEIGHTLIFTING

A **DOPING** ban will keep China out of weightlifting at the Asian Games. China and eight other countries, including Asian Games participant Kazakhstan, were suspended last October for 12 months. Weightlifting has been under pressure from the IOC to eliminate endemic doping or be banned from the Olympics.

An Olympic Council of Asia spokesman said there was no notice from the International Weightlifting

Federation that the ban on China and Kazakhstan had been lifted, meaning the sanction was upheld. Three Chinese were stripped of gold medals last year following retests of samples from the 2008 and the 2012 Olympics.

Countries with at least three doping offenses from those Olympics were suspended.

Weightlifting opened yesterday.

China won seven gold medals in the Asian Games four years ago in South Korea.

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

MALAYSIA'S leader said yesterday that he hoped China would sympathize with his country's fiscal problems as he met with the country's leaders after suspending multibillion-dollar construction projects financed by Chinese loans.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said at a news briefing with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang that he was seeking support from China's leaders over Malaysia's situation as it deals with a mass of debt and other economic problems created under previous administrations.

"We hope also to get China to understand the problems we face ... and I hope that China, and I believe that China will look sympathetically toward the problems that we have to resolve and perhaps help us to resolve some of our internal fiscal problems," Mahathir said.

Mahathir is a vocal critic of large-scale investment in his country backed by loans from Beijing and has tested Malaysia's ties with China by suspending Chinese-financed infrastructure projects.

He's expected to attempt to renegotiate the terms of those contracts during his meetings with Chinese officials, including President Xi Jinping.

Days before heading to Beijing, Mahathir said Malaysia wanted to cancel a Chinese-backed USD20 billion East Coast Rail Link and two energy pipelines worth \$2.3 billion.

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 has said the projects bring mutual benefits to the two sides and any disputes should be dealt with by the commercial



Malaysia's Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad (right) and Premier Li Keqiang review an honor guard in Beijing

Malaysia hopes China will sympathize with its fiscal woes

parties involved.

The projects are key components in Xi's signature "Belt and Road" initiative to construct ports, railways and other trade-related infrastructure across Asia, mostly built by Chinese contractors and financed by loans from Chinese state banks.

Belt and Road projects in Thailand, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and other countries have run into complaints that they are too costly, give too little work to local companies and possibly fuel corruption.

The cancellation of projects in Malaysia would create huge losses for the Chinese partners involved, said Jia Duqiang, a researcher at the Chinese Academy of Social Science's Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies.

"Mahathir is worried about Malaysia's ability to proceed with

the projects, but there are also political factors because the projects had been decided by the former government," Jia said.

Despite that, Mahathir's government appears open to further Chinese investment, such as in high-tech industries, e-commerce

■ ■
We have to resolve and perhaps [Beijing would] help us to resolve some of our internal fiscal problems.

MAHATHIR

and vehicle production, Jia said.

Mahathir courted Chinese e-commerce investment in his country at the start of his visit on Saturday.

Making his first trip to China since his stunning electoral victory three months ago, Mahathir toured the campus of Chinese online shopping giant Alibaba Group in the eastern city of Hangzhou. There he met with the company's founder, Jack Ma, and stressed his hopes for further collaboration.

He also visited Geely, one of China's biggest independent automakers. The company owns 49.9 percent of Proton, a Malaysian automaker.

Along with their economic frictions, China and Malaysia are parties to the dispute over waters and islands in the South China Sea.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Saifuddin Abdullah said last week that Malaysia's new government would adopt a firmer stand in tackling the decades-old territorial row amid China's aggressive expansion in the area.

Mahathir has said warships should be removed from the South China Sea.

Saifuddin said that Mahathir was "sending a signal that we want to be more firm, more serious" in handling the maritime dispute.

A 2002 declaration of conduct by claimants has "no fangs," and China's continued militarization of the area could escalate regional tensions, Saifuddin told Parliament.

Mahathir's predecessors rarely criticized China, Malaysia's top trading partner. **AP**

THE yuan strengthened for a third day in a row, rising to its highest in just over a week, as the People's Bank of China raised its daily reference rate on the back of a weakening dollar.

The Chinese currency rose 0.51 percent to 6.8514 per dollar, its strongest since Aug. 10, as of 4:38 p.m. in Shanghai. The PBOC strengthened its fixing, which restricts the yuan's moves by 2 percent on either side, by the most since Aug. 2. It was stronger than the average forecast of traders and analysts for an eighth day.

The yuan's recent advance has trimmed its slump since mid-June to around 6.6 percent,

Yuan jumps to strongest in a week

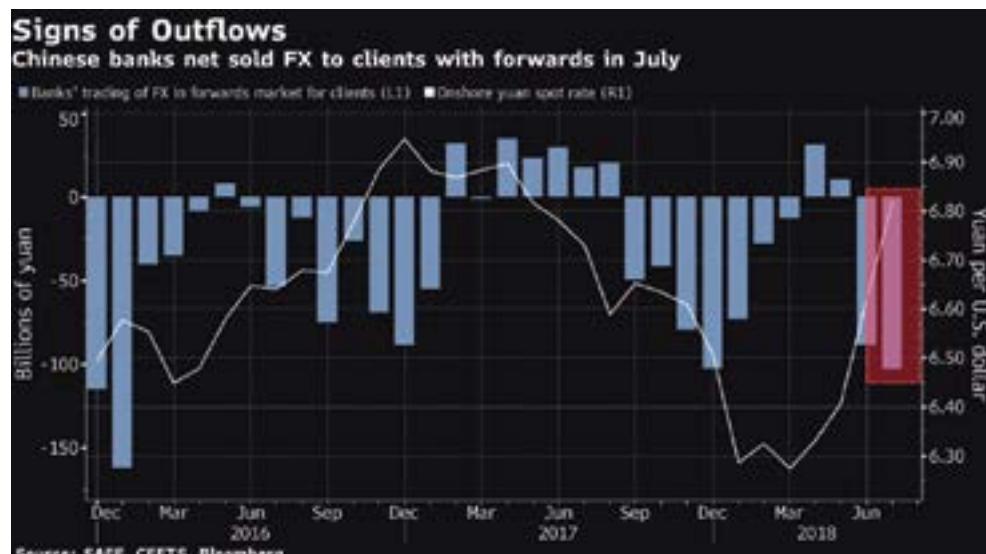
amid speculation that policy makers sought to limit outflows and as offshore liquidity tightened. The moves come as China plans to send a delegation to the U.S. later this month, stoking hopes of a revival of trade negotiations that stalled in June.

Chinese banks sold the most foreign-exchange to their clients since January 2016 on a net basis in the forwards market in July, reflecting weaker onshore demand for the yuan, according to official data released on Friday. The lenders also sold more overseas

currencies to customers than they bought from them in the spot market for the first time since March, the data showed.

"The market has become more cautious - investors know if they keep pushing the yuan weaker, more currency management measures from the PBOC will be triggered," said Tommy Xie, economist at Oversea-Chinese Banking Corp. in Singapore. "I don't think there will be significant fund flight as officials are already taking preemptive measures to prevent that."

The offshore yuan ed-



ged 0.08 percent lower to 6.8421 per dollar yesterday. The current-

cy jumped 1.23 percent last Thursday, its biggest gain since January 2017.

It followed that with a 0.38 percent advance on Friday. **Bloomberg**



Reuters journalist Wa Lone gives a "thumbs up" as he is escorted by police upon arrival to his trial

MYANMAR

Verdict scheduled for next week in reporters' trial

Aung Naing Soe, Yangon

A judge in Myanmar said he will issue a verdict next Monday in the trial of two Reuters journalists accused of possessing secret state information, a case that has become a key test of media freedom in the former military dictatorship.

Closing arguments were heard yesterday in the trial of Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, who are charged with illegal possession of official documents and face possible jail terms of up to 14 years under a law dating back to British colonial rule, when the country was called Burma.

The defendants say they were framed by police, and did not solicit or knowingly possess any secret documents.

"The evidence before the court is clear: Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo are two honest reporters who did not commit a crime," the Reuters news agency said in a statement yesterday. "Imprisoning them for even one more day would be unlawful retribution for their truthful and important journalism. We look forward to the court's acquittal, which will be an important step towards demonstrating Myanmar's commitment to rule of law, freedom of the press, and democracy."

The two reporters had been working on a story about a massacre of Muslim Rohin-

gya men by security forces in a village in Rakhine state during a counterinsurgency operation that critics say involved massive human rights violations and was responsible for driving 700,000 people into neighboring Bangladesh. The government denies any widespread abuses but continues to

■ The two reporters had been working on a story about a massacre of Muslim Rohingya men by security forces in a village in Rakhine state

restrict access to the area.

"They just did their jobs for their people and their country," Khin Maung Zaw, a lawyer for the journalists, told reporters covering the trial. "I believe they are innocent. And I told the judge, 'The scale of justice should be tempered with mercy,' which is the Golden Rule of Burmese jurisprudence," he said.

In remarks shouted to reporters on their way into the courtroom, the two defendants expressed their belief they would be acquitted.

"As for me, next week, I am expecting to see the rule of law in our country and freedom of the press," said Kyaw Soe Oo, 28.

Wa Lone, 31, said: "The accusations from the complainant's side are nonsense and they don't understand the duty of journalists. So I strongly believe that I will be meeting my little daughter soon."

Wa Lone's wife, Pan Ei Mon, delivered the couple's first child in Yangon on Aug. 10, but Wa Lone has not yet seen his daughter.

When Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy won a general election in 2015 after more than 50 years of military rule, hopes were high that the victory would usher in a new era of media freedom.

But since then a series of arrests of journalists has sent a chill through newsrooms. Earlier this year the media group Reporters Without Borders moved Myanmar down six places to number 137 in its annual World Press Freedom Index.

Earlier this month, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called on Myanmar to immediately release the two Reuters journalists.

Pompeo said in a tweet he raised U.S. concerns about the two reporters "detained in Burma for doing their job" during a meeting with Myanmar Foreign Minister Kyaw Tin on the sidelines of a regional gathering in Singapore. **AP**

INDIA

Massive cleanup begins as rains diminish in Kerala

Aijaz Rahi, Alappuzha

THOUSANDS of people in flood-ravaged south India waded yesterday through muck and mud to begin the immense task of cleaning their homes and businesses.

Rains have been diminishing in parts of Kerala state, where floods and landslides have killed more than 200 people in less than two weeks and about 800,000 more have been forced into thousands of relief camps.

Abdul Samad, a 56-year-old fish seller, scooped water and garbage from his devastated concrete home in the town of Pandalam.

"When the flood waters came, we were not anticipating a calamity of this kind," he said. "But minute by minute the water level began to rise."

The family had no time to save anything they owned, and fled as water poured over the wall and into the home.

Samad, who made a living pedaling through the area selling fish, has no idea now what he'll do for work. Among the many things he lost in the floodwaters: his bicycle.

Torrential rains began Aug. 8 in Kerala in the midst of the annual monsoon season, eventually leaving much of the state partially submerged.

The Indian military also opened an air base yesterday to commercial flights to help bring in relief goods and fly out residents.

The first flight landed yesterday morning at the naval air station in the city of Kochi, where the commercial airport has been closed for nearly a week. The Air India flight came from Bangalore in the nearby state of Karnataka, Suresh Prabhu, the minister of civil aviation, said on Twitter.

Other air bases in the region should open to commercial traffic soon, he said.

Thousands of people are taking shelter in small camps in the coastal town of Alappuzha. Many are in schools, but at least one is on the grounds of a mosque where Christians, Hindus and Muslims have all found food and a place to sleep.

The town itself, which is on slightly higher ground, escaped the worst of the flooding, but the situation is far more grim just a few kilometers away.

"The water came almost up to my head," said Ullas, a 48-year-old man who uses only one name, who fled his village for the safety of the town.

He has no idea when he'll be able to come back. "We don't know," he said, as he helped distribute food in one relief center. "It could take a month."

With rains decreasing, the water has started receding in parts of Kerala but thousands of people remain cut off and in need of help.

Thousands of people have been saved by the state's fishermen, many of whom headed into the floodwaters to help. On Monday, the state's top official, Pinarayi Vijayan, announced the government would pay those fishermen about \$50 for each day they helped and also pay for repairs for boats damaged during rescues.

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

Relief supplies and donations have poured into Kerala from across India. Officials have put initial storm damage estimates at nearly \$3 billion. **AP**



A doctor attends to a man who has left his house in a flood affected area to take shelter

Eric Talmadge, Mount Paektu

FOREIGN tourists looking to go off the beaten path in North Korea can now camp out on the country's biggest volcano.

Hoping to open up a side of North Korea rarely seen by outsiders, a New Zealander who has extensive experience climbing the mountains of North and South Korea is leading the first group of foreign tourists allowed to trek off road and camp out under the stars on Mount Paektu, a huge volcano that straddles the border that separates China and North Korea.

In 946 AD, Paektu was the site of one of the largest eruptions in history. It is considered one of the most beautiful natural sites in North Korea and is still active, though there haven't been any big eruptions in recent years.

It's revered in the North for its links to the ruling Kim family and is considered the spiritual home of the Korean revolution. Trips to the mountain are popular with North Koreans who visit with their schools, work units or other social groups on excursions that are part indoctrination and part recreation. It's also popular with Chinese tourists and smaller foreign tour groups who can stay in nearby hotels and drive right up to its crater to see the blue waters of Lake Chon in Paektu's caldera.

But Roger Shepherd, founder of Hike Korea, which is based in the South, managed to convince North Korean government officials to let him take his guests off the beaten path for the first time.

The area around the mountain features several reconstructed "secret campsites" said to have been used by national founder Kim Il Sung and his guerrillas in the fight against the Japanese colonial rulers before 1945 — a possible reason why the idea of allowing a foreign camping excursion clicked with the local au-



Sinead of Australia (right) chats with Paula of Australia (left) and Tarjei Naess Skrede of Norway during a hike arranged by Roger Shepherd of Hike Korea on Mount Paektu

NORTH KOREA

Tourists go off beaten path on sacred volcano

thorities. But Shepherd's group has for the most part managed to avoid the typical mini-bus and propaganda lecture experience that often awaits foreign tourists here.

On Saturday, the group climbed the mountain from near its base, walked to the lake from the rim and then hiked out across a volcanic plateau to pitch their tents for the first of five nights they were to spend on the hike.

Under leader Kim Jong Un, North Korea has placed a high priority on developing its tourism industry as a source of much-needed foreign currency and as an industry that can

be fairly closely controlled and monitored.

It is currently carrying out massive infrastructure projects in several locations, including at Samjiyon, the largest city near Mount Paektu, and in the eastern port city of Wonsan and the adjacent Mount Kumgang area, which was open to South Korean tourists until around 2008, when a South Korean housewife was shot for wandering into a restricted area.

Any big expansion in the numbers of foreign tourists will require an easing of international sanctions in place to push Kim to abandon his

nuclear weapons program.

Shepherd's trekking group was made up of two Australian women and two Norwegian men. Tourists from the United States are blocked from coming to North Korea by a travel ban imposed by President Donald Trump in response to the death of American college student Otto Warmbier, who died shortly after his release from North Korean custody for allegedly trying to steal a propaganda banner.

By the time Warmbier was released, he was in a vegetative state. What happened to Warmbier while he was in custody remains unclear.

Incidents involving tourists are rare, however, and Shepherd said his intention is to get beyond politics during the hike.

He said that after the first day, the trekkers had already begun to forge bonds with their North Korean guides.

"I hope that it's because mountains and nature does that," he said. "Out here it's very apolitical. There's no need for the nonsense out here. We're all trying to do the same thing. Work together as a team, pitch tents, eat together walk together. In my experience, that's a good way for these guys to see the real people of this country." AP

Quake swarm jolts Indonesian islands, killing at least 12

Rosidin Sembahulun, Sembalun

MULTIPLE strong earthquakes killed at least a dozen people on the Indonesian islands of Lombok and Sumbawa as the region was trying to recover from a temblor earlier this month that killed hundreds of people.

A shallow magnitude 6.9 quake that hit about 10 p.m. was one of several powerful earthquakes Sunday in the northeast of Lombok that also caused landslides. The nighttime quake was followed by strong aftershocks.

At least 10 people on Lombok and neighboring Sumbawa island were killed by collapsing buildings or heart attacks, National Disaster Mitigation Agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said yesterday. Two people died earlier Sunday on Lombok during a magnitude 6.3 quake.

More than 1,800 houses were damaged, at least half of them severely, he said.

The swarm of quakes caused panic in Sembalun subdistrict on Lombok in the shadow of Mount Rinjani, but many people

were already staying in tents following the deadly jolt in early August and its hundreds of aftershocks. On Sumbawa, a neighborhood was engulfed by a fire that started in a collapsed house.

"People panicked and scattered," Nugroho said. "Some people are hysterical because they feel earthquake aftershocks that are harder than before. They heard a roar that probably came from landslides in the hills and Mount Rinjani."

Dwikorita Karnawatim, who heads Indonesia's Meteorology and Geophy-

sics Agency, said buildings that haven't collapsed so far have suffered repeated stress, and authorities have urged people to avoid both the mountain's slopes and weakened buildings.

Sunday night's tremor occurred on a different fault and was not an aftershock of the magnitude 7.0 quake on Aug. 5 that killed 460 people, damaged tens of thousands of homes and displaced several hundred thousand people.

The quake lasting five to 10 seconds also was felt in the neighboring island



A man inspects destroyed homes following yesterday's earthquake on Lombok island

of Bali and as far away as East Java and Makassar in Sulawesi.

Quakes earlier Sunday caused landslides on Rinjani, an active volcano. Video shot by the Indonesian Red Cross showed huge clouds of dust billowing from the mountain's slopes.

Rinjani has been closed

to visitors following a July earthquake that killed 16 people, triggered landslides and stranded hundreds of tourists on the mountain.

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

TURKEY

Shots fired at gate of US Embassy; no one hurt

Zeynep Bilginsoy, Istanbul

SHOTS were fired from a moving car at the U.S. Embassy in Turkey before dawn yesterday, an attack that came during heightened tensions between the two NATO allies.

There were no casualties and no claim of responsibility for the fleeting attack, in which three of the six bullets that were fired hit the embassy gate and a reinforced window.

"We can confirm a security incident took place at the U.S. Embassy early this morning. We have no reports of any injuries and we are investigating the details" embassy spokesman David Gainer said. He thanked Turkish police for their "rapid response."

Turkey's interior minister said police and intelligence units were searching for the car and suspects, stressing their motive would be established only after they are apprehended.

Suleyman Soyulu speculated, however: "Is it a provocation following recent events or is it a common crime or is it an attempt to provoke by dressing it up as a petty crime?"

Turkish officials, who are locked in a trade and diplomatic dispute with the United States, condemned the shooting in Ankara.



Presidential spokesman Ibrahim Kalin tweeted that it was "an attempt to create chaos."

A top official in Turkey's ruling Justice and Development Party said the attack was a "clear provocation" and that foreign diplomatic missions are guests of the country.

"The utmost sensitivity will be shown to ensure their security," said the party spokesman, Omer Celik. "Turkey is a safe country."

The U.S. Embassy was scheduled to close at midday Monday until the end of the week for the Islamic holiday of Eid al-Adha, according to its website.

Tensions between the U.S.

and Turkey are high, partly because of the case of Andrew Brunson, an American pastor who is being prosecuted in Turkey for alleged espionage and terrorism-related offenses that he denies.

U.S. President Donald Trump has called for his immediate release.

Turkey has long criticized the United States for not agreeing to hand over Fethullah Gulen, a Muslim cleric accused by Turkish authorities of engineering an attempted coup in 2016. Gulen denies those allegations, and Washington has urged Turkey to present convincing evidence for any extradition proceeding to go forward.

The United States recently imposed economic penalties on Turkey, including tariffs on Turkish steel and aluminum, that contributed to a slide in the value of the Turkish lira. Turkey's economy is already vulnerable because of heavy foreign currency borrowing that fueled high growth for years.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, whose government imposed its own tit-for-tat tariffs on some American goods, alluded to the dispute with the U.S. in a pre-recorded holiday message.

"There is no difference between the direct attacks on our call to prayer and our flag and the attack on our economy,"

said Erdogan, a pious Muslim who has drawn on religious and nationalist references in comments about the standoff.

He said defiantly, "Those who think they can make Turkey give in with the foreign exchange rate will soon see they are wrong." The lira has lost 38 percent of its value against the U.S. dollar since the beginning of the year.

■ The lira has lost 38 percent of its value against the USD since the start of the year

U.S. diplomatic offices have been targeted in the past in Turkey, where various armed groups are active.

At least one suspect was wounded in a shooting outside the U.S. consulate in Istanbul in 2015. In 2013, a suicide bomber killed a Turkish guard and himself after detonating an explosive device outside the embassy in Ankara. In 2008, three assailants and three Turkish police officers died in a shootout outside the Istanbul post. **AP**

AFGHANISTAN

Gov't forces free 149 hostages taken by Taliban in ambush

Amir Shah, Kabul

AFGHAN forces launched a lightning operation in northern Kunduz province yesterday, rescuing 149 people, including women and children, abducted by the Taliban just hours earlier, officials said.

By mid-afternoon, fighting was still underway in the area to free 21 remaining hostages, officials added.

The operation was a boost for Afghan forces, which have struggled to contain a resurgent Taliban on battlefields across the country.

Yesterday morning, the Taliban ambushed a convoy of three buses travelling on a road in the Khan Abad district, and forced everyone to come with them, according to Nasrat Rahimi, deputy

spokesman for the Interior Ministry.

Rahimi said that after Afghan security forces freed 149, the insurgents were still holding 21 hostages from the buses. He added at least seven Taliban fighters have been killed in the fighting so far.

The ambush came despite Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's announcement of a conditional cease-fire with the Taliban during the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha this week.

The Taliban have stepped up their assaults in recent months, seizing entire districts across Afghanistan and regularly carrying out large-scale bombings and attacks that have killed scores of people.

Esmatullah Muradi, spokesman for the provincial governor in Kunduz, also confirmed the rescue of the hostages. According

to Mohammad Yusouf Ayubi, the head of the provincial council in Kunduz, the Taliban were likely looking for government employees or members of the security forces who usually go home for the holidays.

All the passengers on the buses were from Badakhshan and Takhar provinces and were traveling to the capital, Kabul, said Abdul Rahman Aqtash, police chief in neighboring Takhar province.

Ghani's call for the truce, made during celebrations Sunday of the 99th anniversary of Afghanistan's independence, said "the cease-fire should be observed from both sides, and its continuation and duration also depend on the Taliban's stand."

On Saturday, the leader of the Afghan Taliban, Maulvi Haibatullah

Akhunzadah, said that there will be no peace in the country as long as the "foreign occupation" continues. He reiterated the group's standing position that the country's 17-year war can only be brought to an end through direct talks with the United States.

In a message released on the occasion of Eid al-Adha, and without mentioning any cease-fire, Akhunzadah said the insurgents remain committed to "Islamic goals," the sovereignty of Afghanistan and ending the war.

For his part, Ghani said he hoped extensions could also be agreed upon to make the cease-fire last until Nov. 20, which will mark the birth anniversary of the Prophet Muhammad.

The government had previously announced a cease-fire with the Taliban



In this June 16, 2018 file photo, Taliban fighters gather with residents to celebrate a three-day ceasefire marking the Islamic holiday of Eid al-Fitr

during the Eid al-Fitr holiday in June. The Taliban accepted that three-day truce but later rejected a call by the president to extend it.

Earlier this month, the Taliban launched a major assault on the eastern city of Ghazni, just 120 kilometers (75 miles) from Kabul and the capital of a province with the same name. Afghan security forces battled the militants inside the city for five days, with the U.S. carrying out airstrikes and sending advisers to help

the Afghan ground forces, until the Taliban were routed from Ghazni.

The battle for the city killed at least 100 members of the Afghan security forces and 35 civilians, according to Afghan officials. The heavy casualties underscore the challenges the government in Kabul faces since the U.S. and NATO officially ended their combat mission at the end of 2014. Since then, American forces, now in a training and advising role, have repeatedly come to the aid of Afghan forces. **AP**

Colleen Barry, Andrea Rosa

REPORT

Experts knew Genoa bridge had weakened 20 percent

ENGINEERING experts determined in February that corrosion of the metal cables supporting the Genoa highway bridge had reduced the bridge's strength by 20 percent — a finding that came months before it collapsed last week, an Italian newsmagazine reported yesterday.

Despite the findings, Espresso wrote that “neither the ministry, nor the highway company, ever considered it necessary to limit traffic, divert heavy trucks, reduce the roadway from two to one lanes or reduce the speed” of vehicles on the key artery for the northern port city.

A large section of the Morandi Bridge collapsed Aug. 14 during a heavy downpour, killing 43 people and forcing the evacuation of more than 600 people living in apartment buildings beneath another section of the bridge. Prosecutors are focusing their investigation into the cause of the bridge's collapse on possible faulty maintenance or design flaws but have not identified any targets.

After workers heard creaking noises coming from the part of the bridge that was still standing, firefighters suspended an operation to allow evacuated residents to retrieve their belongings from apartments under the bridge.

The Italian news agency ANSA

reported that officials have ruled out that the sound could be caused by wind, and that more checks are underway.

Firefighters on the ground confirmed the reports but declined to be identified as they were not authorized to speak to the media. Work continued to clear the tons of bridge debris that cascaded onto a dry riverbed below.

In its report, Espresso cited the minutes of a meeting of the Genoa public works superintendent, which included Roberto Ferrazza, an architect named to head a government commission looking into the disaster, and Antonio Brencich, an engineer who has been outspoken about the bridge's flaws.

Former Transport Minister Graziano Delrio told a news conference yesterday that “no one ever signalled the necessity of limiting traffic” on the bridge.

Espresso reporter Fabrizio Gatti told SKY TG24 that a reduction of 20 percent strength would not be significant in a modern bridge, but on a structure with the



known defects of the Morandi Bridge it should have merited swifter, more decisive action.

“Everyone was well aware of the situation on that bridge,” Gatti said.

Bidding on a 20-million-euro (\$22.8-million) contract to reinforce two of the major supports for the bridge, including one that collapsed, was scheduled to close next month.

The Italian government, meanwhile, appeared divided on how to proceed in relation to

Autostrade per l'Italia, the company that operated the section of highway that collapsed.

Transport and Infrastructure Minister Danilo Toninelli was quoted by the Milan daily Corriere della Sera as saying that he supported the nationalization of Italy's toll highways like the including the bridge.

“Think of all the revenues that would return to the government through tolls, to use not to donate to shareholders' dividends but to reinforce the quality of service

and security on our roadways,” Toninelli was quoted as saying.

But Deputy Premier Matteo Salvini, who is also Italy's interior minister, told reporters he remains in favour of public-private cooperation in infrastructure.

Premier Giuseppe Conte says procedures have begun to revoke Autostrade per l'Italia's concession to operate some 3,000 kilometers of Italian highways, about half of the total highways operated by private companies.

Italy's main union confederation estimates it would cost Italy between 15 billion and 18 billion euros (USD17.1 billion to \$20.6 billion) to revoke the highway rights.

The company that owns Autostrade, Atlantia, lost 9.5 percent in its shares to 17.50 euros in trading Monday, after a late opening due to volatility. It shed 22 percent last Thursday, the first trading day after the government announced its intentions, before returning to positive gains on Friday. **AP**

AD

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what's ON



SCULPTURE – A JOURNEY, EXHIBITION BY ANTONIO 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

CATALOGUE EXHIBITION IN CELEBRATION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF MACAU MUSEUM

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

UNTIL: August 30, 2018

VENUE: Kun Iam Ecumenical Centre

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 1516

TREASURE OF SACRED ART OF ST. JOSEPH'S SEMINARY

TIME: 10am-5pm daily (closed on Wednesdays, open on public holidays)

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

MANDARIN'S HOUSE

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (last admission at 5:30pm; closed on Wednesdays, open on public holidays)

ADDRESS: No. 10, Travessa de António da Silva

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8820

Offbeat

BABY BOOM AT ARIZONA HOSPITAL WITH 16 PREGNANT NURSES



A baby boom is brewing at a suburban Arizona hospital where 16 intensive care nurses recently discovered they are all pregnant.

The nurses at Banner Desert Medical Center in Mesa outside Phoenix joked last week they thought there was something in the water when it became clear they were all expecting babies between October and January.

Nurse Rochelle Sherman, nearly eight months along, said: "I don't think we realized just how many of us were pregnant until we started a Facebook group."

Nurse Jolene Garrow joked, "We all formulated this plan to have the holidays off!"

Garrow said that as their pregnancies have progressed, the patients have begun noticing that most of the nurses around them are expecting. One patient insisted on touching her belly the night before, she said.

Garrow added that their non-pregnant colleagues have been great at helping with patients they should not be exposed to because of conditions or treatments that are potentially dangerous for expectant women, such as tuberculosis or shingles or chemotherapy because of the radiation.

But Ashley Adkins worried that the other nurses are getting tired of their pregnancy-focused conversations.

"They just roll their eyes!" she laughed. "More baby talk!"

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Portuguese Soap Opera
15:50	Cartoons
16:15	NOS League: Sporting x Setubal (Repeated)
18:45	Micellaneous
19:35	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	Documentary
21:45	Portuguese Manufacturing
22:20	Portuguese Serie - Liberty 21
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Miscellaneous
00:25	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:10	RTPi Live
03:00	Champions League: Benfica x PAOK (Live)
05:05	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



1973 'BLOODY SUNDAY' INQUEST ACCUSES ARMY

The coroner presiding over the "Bloody Sunday" inquest has accused the British army of "sheer unadulterated murder".

The accusation came from the Londonderry City coroner, Major Hubert O'Neill, after the inquest jury returned an open verdict on the deaths.

Thirteen people died on 30 January last year when members of the Parachute Battalion opened fire on people attending a civil rights march in Derry.

Another man died later in hospital and 14 others were also shot and injured.

Major O'Neill said there had been no justification for the soldiers to open fire.

He said: "These people may have been taking part in a parade that was banned but I do not think that justifies the firing of live rounds indiscriminately."

But Mr Brian Hutton, QC, representing for the Ministry of Defence told Major O'Neill the inquest had heard only part of the evidence.

"It is not for you or the jury to express such wide-ranging views, particularly when a most eminent judge has spent 20 days hearing evidence and come to a very different conclusion," Mr Hutton said.

Catholic priests who were at the rally gave evidence to the inquest.

They said many of the dead men were unarmed and running away when they were shot.

They also claimed the troops' failure to stop firing prevented them from helping the sick and dying.

The MP for Antrim North, Reverend Ian Paisley, has said he will ask the Northern Ireland Secretary for Major O'Neill's removal.

"Mr O'Neill is not fit to be coroner for he has let his religious and political feelings dictate his decision," Mr Paisley said.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The first inquiry into the events of Bloody Sunday under Lord Widgery in 1972, which largely exonerated the soldiers, was widely criticised for being inconsistent and lacking the testimony of eyewitnesses.

Nationalists campaigned unsuccessfully for many years for a new investigation.

In 1998 on the eve of the 26th anniversary of Bloody Sunday, the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, announced an independent judicial inquiry led by the British Law Lord, Lord Saville.

The inquiry began hearing evidence in April 1998. It took statements from hundreds of witnesses including, in January 2003, the prime minister at the time Edward Heath.

It ended in November 2004 and had cost about £150 million.

The families of those who died have said they had been told by the Irish government the final report would not be released until 2007.

YOUR STARS

Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Today you'll very likely be doing all three. Even if it feels harder than it looks, it's good to put yourself out there. Don't overstrain yourself, though. Just go out there and trust your natural abilities.

Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

There's certainly not a whole lot of resistance on their part (they might even be downright into you). So make sure to let them know you're still interested, and you could see a whole lot change.

Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Have you just had the best possible idea of all time (perhaps for how to promote your family-owned and -run veterinary clinic? Does it involve talking to executives at children's television programs?

Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

So what's happening in your love life? Give it a little thought. What do you have? What do you want? While you're posing your most innermost of innermost selves these questions, you might notice something.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

There's no problem too intense, no problem too tiny, for your talents. By the end of the day you feel good. And you should! You've really flexed your problem-solving muscles!

Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

This is a good time to get started with a little maintenance work. Think of your life as a swimming pool. Sure, it looks great now, but if you don't keep track of the chlorine levels every single day.

Taurus

April 20-May 20

The folks who don't know you yet are going to be as impressed as the folks who already know you, and all that praise spells big things for your future. So put on an extra-nifty shirt and floss your teeth.

Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

You've been itching to take a trip. You've been dreaming of jungles, daydreaming of waterfalls, fantasizing about beach umbrellas, lingering over thought of tan lines and, in general.

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Considering your idea, weighing it against other ideas (yours and other people's), researching whether or not it is really a good idea, gathering more information, telling the people you need to tell.

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

If you're invited to a fancy dress ball tonight, dress fancy and go, whether or not you have a partner. (If you don't, chances are you will by the end of the fancy dress ball).

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

You love to get out there and do your thing in full view of an appreciative audience. It's especially nice when it's an audience with expertise - a group of people who know just how good you are.

Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

Are those trees blocking your view? On the plus side (and you're someone who sees the positive in nearly everything) the trees are really lovely. You feel like you're a million miles from civilization.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

1		6						
	2	3	1					7
			5	8		3		6
7	2	4						
		5	9		1	4		
				6	9	8		
2	4		1	3				
	1				5	8	6	
			7					4

Easy+

9	5			8			6	
			5	2				1
1		3					4	
		6		1				2
			6	9				
7				5	4			
	2				7			5
	9			6	5			
6	1				2		8	

Medium

9		7		2				
	4			6	9			3
	3				1	6		
		9				8		4
2		5			6			
		4	8					5
	5		4	1				2
		8			3			7

Hard

1	7		2					
	6							4
4		3		1				
			4				1	
							2	
3	5							
							7	2

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
--	-----	-----	-----------

CHINA

Beijing	26	33	thundershower/cloudy
Harbin	23	29	moderate rain
Tianjin	28	36	cloudy
Urumqi	18	28	clear
Xi'an	28	40	clear
Lhasa	12	21	moderate rain/drizzle
Chengdu	25	34	shower/clear
Chongqing	30	40	clear
Kunming	18	26	cloudy
Nanjing	26	35	clear
Shanghai	27	34	cloudy
Wuhan	28	37	clear
Hangzhou	27	36	clear/cloudy
Taipei	26	33	cloudy/overcast
Guangzhou	27	34	cloudy
Hong Kong	28	32	shower/cloudy

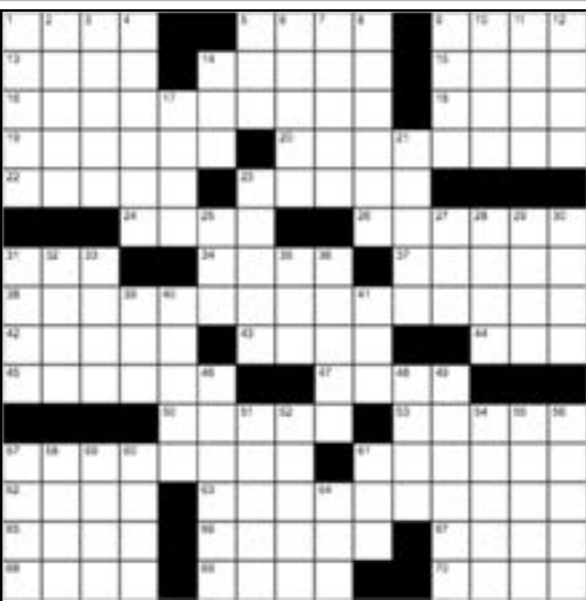
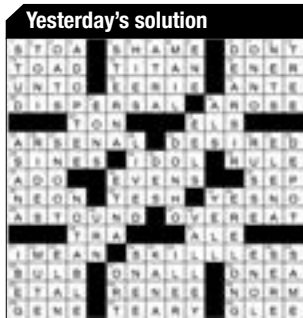
WORLD

Moscow	19	24	drizzle/moderate rain
Frankfurt	17	28	cloudy
Paris	18	27	overcast/drizzle
London	13	22	cloudy/drizzle
New York	19	28	clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Mother of Hermes; 5- Bloody conflicts; 9- Emerald City princess; 13- "Splendor in the Grass" screenwriter; 14- Chick of jazz; 15- Chamber; 16- Good-for-nothing; 18- "The Time Machine" people; 19- Keep under restraint; 20- Region bordering a seacoast; 22- List of candidates; 23- Words of denial; 24- Markka replacement; 26- Large lizard; 31- Having four sharps; 34- Small batteries; 37- Wait ___ Dark; 38- In spite of; 42- Madame de ___; 43- He ran from Iran; 44- Leaves in a bag; 45- Semihard light yellow cheese; 47- Shakespearean villain; 50- According to; 53- In search of; 57- Caribou; 61- Small pellet; 62- Injectable diazepam, in military lingo; 63- Capable of being terminated; 65- ___ all-time high; 66- Rock; 67- Mai ___; 68- Capital of Yemen; 69- Eilif Saarinen's son; 70- Waiting for the Robert ___;

DOWN: 1- Tends; 2- Slippery as ___; 3- ___ Kick Out of You; 4- Add fizz; 5- Exclamation of surprise; 6- You ___ right!; 7- Sublease; 8- Italian sausage; 9- Nabisco treat; 10- "J'accuse" author; 11- Heath; 12- In the middle of; 14- Jailbird; 17- Mon ___; 21- Started; 23- ___ Ark; 25- Urban scourge; 27- Sturm ___ Drang; 28- Squabbling; 29- Baseball team; 30- Pond organism; 31- Technical sch.; 32- Denier's words; 33- And others: Abbr.; 35- Blond shade; 36- Flight of steps; 39- Bentley of "American Beauty"; 40- Troy story; 41- I get it!; 46- Deadly fly; 48- Profit; 49- Recently; 51- Golfer Calvin; 52- Diamond flaw?; 54- Like ziti; 55- "Dallas" matriarch; 56- Actress Witherspoon; 57- Some TV's; 58- I could ___ horse!; 59- ___ instant; 60- Granny; 61- Filled pastry crust; 64- 6, on a phone;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency calls	999	Taxi	28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department	28 572 222	Water Supply - Report	2822 0088
PJ (Open line)	993	Telephone - Report	1000
PJ (Picket)	28 557 775	Electricity - Report	28 339 922
PSP	28 573 333	Macau Daily Times	28 716 081
Customs	28 559 944		
S. J. Hospital	28 313 731		
Kiang Wu Hospital	28 371 333		
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC)	28326 300		
IACM	28 387 333		
Tourism	28 333 000		
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Old Macau, Unique Walk Up
Macau
950 sq ft / HKD 4.48M
HKD 4,715sq ft
Three Bedroom Apartment
Ref: 18065557

Office - Dynasty Plaza
Macau
Park-Side Work Space
Spacious Commercial Space
HKD 72,000 / 3,500 sq ft
Ref: 18070685

Manhattan D unit, High Floor
Taipa
2,305 sq ft / HKD 17.98M
HKD 7,800sq ft
Four Bedrooms Apartment
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ASIAN GAMES

Sun Yang unfurls another win after flag flap

John Pye, Jakarta

SUN Yang won his second gold medal in as many nights at the Asian Games and this time he was rewarded with the raising of a red flag. It came much to the satisfaction of the three-time Olympic champion from China.

Sun set an Asian Games record to win the 800-meter freestyle in 7 minutes, 48.36 seconds yesterday, staying on course in his quest for gold medals in every freestyle event from the 200 to the 1,500-meters in Jakarta.

China's greatest swimmer kicked it off with an emotional victory in the 200 — he took silvers in that event in the 2010 and 2014 editions — on Sunday night, when the hoist broke during the medal ceremony and the flags crashed to the floor.



Sun Yang celebrates after winning the men's 800m freestyle final

The rivalry between China and Japan in the pool is intense, and the powerful Chinese team is leading the medal count

Sun demanded that the ceremony start over but the glitch couldn't be properly fixed and the Chinese flag had to be held up by an honor guard rather than hoisted toward the roof of the stadium.

There was no such problem on the second day of the swimming program after Sun had beaten

Shogo Takeda of Japan by nearly five seconds.

The rivalry between China and Japan in the pool is intense, and the powerful Chinese team is leading the medal count.

Japan stayed close with Rikako Ikee picking up her second gold medal of the meet with victory in a games record 25.55 in the women's 50 butterfly.

There were seven swimming finals scheduled on Day 2.

In the biggest upset of the day, seven-time kabaddi champion India was edged 24-23 by South Korea — its first ever loss in the sport at the Asian Games.

Local organizers have been dealing with ticket and transport confusion, the scandal over four Japanese basketball players

sent home, and concerns over reports of excessive use of force by Indonesian police ahead of the games.

For Olympic Council of Asia President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, questions at a news conference about a catalog of concerns became an opportunity to present his positive spin.

Sheikh Ahmad praised the Indonesian government and local organizers for stepping in on short notice when Vietnam withdrew as host. It has spent three years getting facilities and logistics ready to cater for more than 11,000 athletes in 40 sports.

He said the opening ceremony on Saturday was the best ever held in the region and its success inspired a flood of interest in the

games. And that, the Kuwaiti royal said, was why the ticket system became overwhelmed and why there were problems with shuttle buses.

Sheikh Ahmad addressed the issues raised by Amnesty International about reports of Indonesian police fatally shooting dozens of petty criminals in a deliberate campaign of "unnecessary and excessive" force ahead of the games by saying local authorities were best placed to manage security.

The games were secure, he said, motioning to reporters and saying, "We don't want to lose any of you."

Host Indonesia started the day well by earning gold medals in mountain biking with Khoi-

ful Mukhib winning the men's downhill and Tiara Andini Prastika winning the women's downhill.

Japanese equestrian riders Akane Kuroki, Kazuki Sado, Masanao and Shunsuke Terui won the team dressage. And China continued to extend its lead in the medal standings with three of the four gold medals awarded on the second day of the shooting competition.

Yang Kun-pi of Taiwan equaled a world record to win the other shooting gold, scoring 48 points in the men's trap.

In other notable results among 29 finals yesterday, weightlifter Ri Song Gum won North Korea's first gold medal of the games with victory in the women's 48-kilogram division. **AP**

FOUR Japanese basketball players were kicked off their Asian Games team and sent home yesterday after delegation head Yasuhiro Yamashita said they "spent the night in a hotel with women."

Yamashita told a news conference that the four players hooked up with the women after eating and drinking in an entertainment district and were easily identified by wearing Japan-embazoned shirts.

"I met with the athletes and they deeply regret what they did," Yamashita said. "I apologize from the bottom of my heart as the head of the delegation."

The incident took place

Four Japanese players kicked out after 'night out with women'



after Japan's 82-71 win over Qatar in a group-stage game last Thursday.

Japanese Olympic officials said they learned of the incident after a newspaper published

photographs of the players out on the town.

The JOC identified the four as Takuya Hashi-

moto, Keita Imamura, Yuya Nagayoshi, and Takuma Sato, and said the players had to pay for their own flights home from Jakarta.

The JOC described the players' behavior as a "clear breach of the team's conduct code, which specifies athletes are to be role models." The eight remaining players in the Japan squad have a game against Hong Kong tomorrow.

Olympic Council of Asia president Sheikh

Ahmad al-Fahad al-Sabah said it was important for athletes to understand that they're expected to act as role models while representing their countries.

Asked to comment on what a Japanese journalist described as a prostitution scandal, Sheikh Ahmad commended the Japan Olympic Committee for acting swiftly to deal with the matter.

"Athletes should be the good symbol of their society," Sheikh Ahmad said. "To represent the country is not only to stand with the medal. It's how you behave with the other athletes, the officials, volunteers ... [and] give a good example." **AP**

opinion

Views on China

Nisha Gopalan, Bloomberg

DOORS SLAM SHUT FOR CHINA DEALS AROUND THE WORLD

Doors are slamming shut in the developed world not just to Chinese investment in technology but potentially to a wave of acquisitions with a tech element, as diverse as smart heaters and robotic lawnmowers.

President Donald Trump last week signed an update to legislation for the Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S. that broadened the inter-agency vetting committee group's scope to encompass even minority and passive investments in three areas: Critical technology, infrastructure, and businesses that handle personal data. This tightening of the rules has been happening for some time, but it's now explicit.

Just ask Jack Ma, who earlier this year had to abandon Ant Financial's bid for MoneyGram International Inc. amid CFIUS concerns that "malicious actors" could obtain data on U.S. military personnel who use the payments service. Or Broadcom Ltd., whose USD117 billion bid for Qualcomm Inc. was rejected by Trump after the committee worried that the deal, and the inevitable post-merger cost-cutting, would give China's Huawei Technologies Co. a tech leg-up.

But there's more to this CFIUS update.

In the past, "notifications to CFIUS were voluntary, at least until CFIUS came knocking," said Rod Hunter, a Washington-based trade partner at Baker & McKenzie LLP. Now, an acquirer planning to invest in anything remotely "smart" in the U.S. stands to be investigated.

Ambiguity abounds: What kinds of "personal data" are vulnerable in a world where pretty much every company must seek to monetize such information to get ahead? If all information is critical infrastructure, can any Chinese incursion come in under the radar? Would Haier Group Corp.'s purchase of General Electric Co.'s home-appliance business a couple of years ago — partly to leverage the American company's smart-home technology — get the green light now?

China's challenges aren't limited to a more protectionist U.S., or to similar stances in Australia and Canada. Europe, the favored destination of late, is getting a lot tougher.

This month, Chancellor Angela Merkel's government vetoed for the first time a possible Chinese takeover of a German company, blocking the bid for a machine-tool manufacturer, Leifeld Metal Spinning AG. Berlin is still reeling from the outcry sparked two years ago by Midea Group Co.'s purchase of Kuka AG, a robotics firm, and wants to lower the threshold at which it screens non-European Union acquisitions from the current 25 percent. Even the U.K., keen to cultivate China as Brexit looms, is proposing removing thresholds for small takeover targets, minority stakes, or even the acquisition of intellectual property.

That's not to say Beijing will have to give up all of its Made in China 2025 ambitions. As my colleague Noah Smith has written, joint ventures are still a way to acquire coveted technology. And when all else fails, China can wave its own antitrust stick. You can blame the current trade spat, but it's hard not to connect Trump's veto of Broadcom-Qualcomm with the U.S. chipmaker's failure to win Chinese approval of its pursuit of NXP Semiconductors NV this summer.

The fact remains that China doesn't have a lot of options for bringing in the technology it needs. That puts Beijing on the back foot, under pressure to play fair and open its market to the rest of the world.

China has already promised to permit investment its financial sector, after decades of complaints from Wall Street, and now is making it easier for foreign buyers to take strategic stakes in domestically listed companies in many industries. That may eventually be seen as the kind of reciprocal treatment Western governments want. For now, though, the world's doors are shutting to Chinese investments.

THE BUZZ EUROPE SEES SHARP RISE IN MEASLES: 41,000 CASES, 37 DEATHS

Global health officials called for increased vaccination efforts amid burgeoning rates of measles infection in Europe. More people in Europe contracted the potentially deadly virus in the first six months of 2018 than in all of last year, the Geneva-based World Health Organization said yesterday. The first-half total was more than seven times the cases seen in all of 2016. At least 37 people have died.

Concerns about vaccine-preventable infectious disease are intensifying as immunization rates lag in some areas, and some pa-

rents continue to cite concerns about links to side effects that have been debunked by studies. While European childhood vaccination rates increased slightly to 90 percent in 2017, large disparities remain at the local level, according to the WHO.

Zsuzsanna Jakab, the agency's regional European director, said in a statement that measles can be stopped if "everyone plays their part: to immunize their children, themselves, their patients, their populations - and also to remind others that vaccination saves lives."

A DOG'S LIFE

Fitness trackers help put fat pets on a diet

Adam Pemble, Prague

When Czech entrepreneur Robert Hasek began jogging with his dog, Darwin, the three-mile runs were making the bull terrier sick with fatigue.

Hasek was surprised, thinking his dog led a healthy lifestyle. To solve the mystery, he strapped a Fitbit to Darwin and discovered he was actually only active in his presence. Otherwise, Hasek says, "he is lying, sleeping and doing nothing. He's lazy!"

The businessman sensed an opportunity and developed one of the world's first dog fitness trackers. His product is part of a growing industry of gadgets for pets that includes GPS trackers, automatic feeders, ball throwing machines for dogs to fetch, and self-cleaning litter boxes for cats.

People in the U.S. will spend USD72.1 billion this year on pet products and care, up 3.6 percent on the year in an industry that has grown steadily since the mid-90's, according to the American Pet Products Association. Worldwide spending in 2017 was \$109 billion



dollars, according to Euromonitor International.

Hasek first sought funding on Kickstarter and then reached out to private investors. He moved to San Francisco for three months, tracked down Czech manufacturers and a customer service subcontractor.

Two years later, production and sales of the ActiJoy fitness trackers have begun, with one unit costing about \$300. On top of the GPS tracking device that a variety of pet collars already offer, it tracks the intensity of the dog's activity and comes with an internet-connected bowl that monitors food and water consumption.

It faces competition from a range of products, from the more basic fitness monitors to more advanced technologies.

The Wagz, for example, is also able to record and stream HD video from the collar. It sells for \$495 apiece.

That may be a lot for a collar, but some pet owners are willing to splurge. Among them are Millennials who put off having kids or decided against having any and have the extra income to spend, says Harrison Forbes, a dog trainer and pet products expert.

"Pet tech has been a hugely explosive part of the industry the past five or six years," he said while attending the Super-zoo industry conference on pet products in Las Vegas. Technology for pets has tended to follow innovations that were meant for humans and this is an example of that, he says. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Xinhua/Pan Yulong



Macau athlete Song Chi Kuan competes during the Men's Changquan final at the 18th Asian Games in Jakarta.

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

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

IRAN's oil minister said yesterday that France's oil giant Total SA has officially pulled out of Iran after cancelling its USD5 billion, 20-year agreement to develop the country's massive South Pars offshore natural gas field over renewed U.S. sanctions.



AFGHANISTAN Government forces launched a lightning operation in northern Kunduz province yesterday, rescuing 149 people, including women and children, abducted by the Taliban just hours earlier. More on p14

TURKEY Shots were fired from a moving car at the U.S. Embassy in Turkey before dawn yesterday, an attack that came during heightened tensions between the two NATO allies. More on p14

POLAND has used its powers as a European Union member to ban a Ukrainian human rights activist from all 26 countries in Europe's Schengen area, saying she poses a security threat.



SPAIN A man pleaded to be let into a locked police station in Barcelona before dawn yesterday, then lunged with a knife at officers inside. Police shot him dead and the attack is being investigated for any links to terror, authorities said.

MEXICO Political leaders from Mexico's main heroin-producing state are pushing the federal government to legalize opium production for pharmaceutical use in a move they hope will reduce violence and help local farmers.

VENEZUELA yesterday began to launch dramatic reforms announced by President Nicolas Maduro to rescue a downward-spiraling economy, including a new currency and a more-than-3,000 percent hike in the minimum wage.