

PROTESTING LIFEGUARDS RESUME WORK



P2

NINETEEN HOTELS UNDER CONSTRUCTION



Nineteen hotels were under construction in the first quarter of 2018, offering 6,793 rooms

P3

WORLD PRESS PHOTO TO RETURN



The annual World Press Photo will be held again at Casa Garden from Sept 28 to October 21

P5

FRI.24
Aug 2018
 T. 26°/ 32° C
 H. 65/ 95%

facebook.com/mdtimes
 + 11,000

N° 3117 **MOP 8.00**
HKD 10.00

MacauDaily 澳門每日時報®
Times

FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Geldenhuys EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

www.rcr-macau.com

"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

AD

Join the fight against Dengue Fever

Avoid placing saucers underneath flower pots to prevent accumulation of water

MSARG Dengue Fever Prevention Working Group

Audit criticizes slow e-govt implementation

P7

WORLD BRIEFS

CAMBODIA An Australian filmmaker on trial in Cambodia on charges of endangering national security defended himself yesterday under cross-examination, declaring the evidence shows he is a journalist, not a spy or political operative.



JAPAN-KOREA An approaching typhoon has whipped up strong winds, waves and heavy rain in southern South Korea, leaving one person missing and one injured, while another typhoon headed for western Japan yesterday.

US-IRAN Republican lawmakers are calling for Iran to be expelled from the main financial system that oversees international bank transfers, as the Trump administration steadily re-imposes sanctions on the country.

More on backpage



US, China raise tariffs in new round of trade dispute

P9



Extra
 times
 weekend Guide
 INSIDE

Tourism: Over 3 million visitors in July

Visitor arrivals increased by 16.6 percent month-to-month to 3,034,297 in July 2018 and rose by 4 percent year-on-year. The Statistics and Census Service revealed yesterday that overnight visitors (1,636,904) and same-day visitors (1,397,393) grew by 1.7 percent and 6.8 percent respectively year-on-year. Visitors from mainland China increased by 7.6 percent year-on-year to 2,168,413 in July, with those travelling under the Individual Visit Scheme rising by 7 percent to 1,060,982. Mainland visitors came primarily from Guangdong province (901,872), Hunan province (108,775) and Fujian province (80,612). Visitors from South Korea (59,451), Hong Kong (545,246) and Taiwan (101,918) dropped by 19.8 percent, 2.5 percent and 1 percent respectively year-on-year.

CE away from Macau on vacation

Chief Executive Chui Sai On is away from Macau from August 22 to August 28, according to a dispatch published in the government's Official Gazette. During Chui's absence, Secretary for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong has been the Acting Chief Executive from August 22 to today. Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak will be the Acting Chief Executive from tomorrow to August 28.

Sulu Sou questions region's flood resistance capability

Lawmaker Sulu Sou wrote an inquiry to the MSAR government looking for answers about the city's disaster resistance, in particular, flooding resistance capabilities. "What did the government find out regarding the inner harbor's failure of the temporary flooding prevention project? How can the administrative authority ensure it can enhance these projects, therefore restoring the confidence of residents in the government's flooding [management]?" Sou asked. "Will the government reveal an exact timetable regarding flood prevention projects? What plan does the administrative authority have to enhance Macau peninsula's capability in terms of draining flooded fields?" Sou questioned.

Striking lifeguards resume work today, ID continues contract with company

Lynzy Valles

A group of lifeguards who have been on strike since the weekend will resume work today under conditions set out by the relevant authorities.

Yesterday, the group met with the Sports Bureau (ID), Labor Affairs Bureau (DSAL) and their employer, Surf Hong Company, in a bid to solve the controversial matter regarding unfair work treatment.

ID, who is in charge of the swimming pools in the city and acquires lifeguards from Surf Hong, said that the lifeguards' working hours are requested in employee contracts.

"We requested their working hours in the contract. Regarding whether the company violated [any labor laws], we have to wait until DSAL completes an investigation," said Christine Lam, vice president of ID.

DSAL will commence an investigation into the company's alleged unjust working treatments on Monday.

When asked whether the bureau intends to end its contract with the local company, Lam said that the four parties' priority is to resume the pools' operation normally.

Since the exploitation of these migrant workers has caused criticism, Lam was questioned on whether the government bureau would renew its contract with the company in the future, to which Lam replied, "each public tender has its requirements and we consider the company's service quality."

OPERATION HOURS OF SOME SWIMMING POOLS ALTERED

NO DATE has been set for the reopening of the Cheok Van Beach and Sun Iat Sen swimming pools, yet some public pools have changed their operation hours due to the complaints of the lifeguards who were on strike. The Taipa Central Park pool changed its schedule to open from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m., while the Hac Sa Park swimming pool is currently open between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. The Carmo outdoor



One of the lifeguards speaks to the press, accompanied by Sulu Sou (left)

"Our swimming pool management services and lifeguard services are all done through public tenders, and the public tender was done according to the law," Lam explained.

"No matter which company is bidding for the tender, we use the same standards to see their bid," she added.

Lam also notes that the service the company provides is according to the signed contract, yet no updates were given on whether or not the bureau will continue to outsource from the same company in future.

Meanwhile, DSAL pledged to analyze the pending documents to confirm further action towards both the employer and employees.

"We are waiting for complete documents [from Surf Hong] for revision and then we will analyze the situation," said a representative from the bureau, Cheong Sok Kuan.

"We are warning the company that they cannot keep documents from the workers and we are checking if there is some illegality in their procedures."

The group, who were mostly workers from mainland China, recently complained that the company they work for failed to provide copies of contracts, monthly pay slips, and that no annual leave nor days off had been given since March 15.

They also criticized the company for not paying overtime in a proper manner.

Representative of Surf Hong, Victor Wong, told the press yesterday that the company did not deprive them of their holidays and did not force them to sign an agreement to work overtime, contrary to the statements made by the 24 lifeguards.

Wong added that the workload during summer vacation is larger compared to non-peak season.

"We follow the Labor Law to calculate their holidays, weekend, annual leave and sick leave. We have also explained to them about their right for holidays. It might be some misunderstanding," Wong argued.

When questioned by the press on whether or not it was lawful to oblige some eight to nine lifeguards to stay at the swimming pools, Wong said, "we have never arranged for them to stay post-work. We have one security [guard], and a technician stay at post."

Although Wong pledged that

no lifeguards would be fired after the incident, the group lamented that the company also withheld their professional lifeguard licenses – another matter that lawmaker Sulu Sou will follow up this week.

According to the lifeguards, the company is asking them to pay RMB2,000 to get their licenses back – something the company also denied.

"The company retained [some] of the professional lifeguard licenses," stated one of the lifeguards, who recounted the unfair treatment of their employer to the press, contrary to what their employer stated.

"I will follow this case and will also help them report to labor soon," said Sou.

According to Sou, who was also in yesterday's meeting, the pool operator pledged to submit working records of the employees in the recent year, along with their pay slips before next Friday.

However, the lawmaker said that the compensation the company owes to these workers would still take more time.

"This part is quite difficult and it will take more time because they have to assess the record and make calculations for the compensation," said Sou.

"They [Surf Hong] should take these legal obligations seriously," he added.

According to a notice published by the Official Gazette, Surf Hong received over MOP12 million to operate pool lifeguard services from 2009 to 2011.

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

+ 4 Million page views
PER MONTH

Thank You!

+12,000 like us on facebook.com/mdtimes



MacauDaily 澳門每日時報

NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS

Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Daniel Beittler, Emilie Tran, Grace Yu, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Joseph Cheung, Julie Zhu, Juliet Risdon, Lynzy Valles, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Viviana Segui
DESIGNERS: Eva Bucho, Miguel Bandeira | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS: JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES: Associated Press, Bloomberg, Financial Times, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua | SECRETARY: Yang Dongxiao army@macaudailytimes.com

SEND NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION AND PRESS RELEASES TO: NEWSROOM@MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM WEBSITE: WWW.MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM.MO

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com
SECRETARY Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com
ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR Telephone: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84
Advertisement advertising@macaudailytimes.com
For subscription and general issues: general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

Chan Meng Kam appointed honorary consul for Guinea Bissau

LOCAL tycoon and former lawmaker Chan Meng Kam has been appointed as the new honorary consul for Guinea Bissau in Macau, replacing local businessman John Lo, the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the Macau Special Administrative Region announced.

According to news from the Office of the Commissioner, Ye Dabo formalized the appointment with the presentation of the Consular Certificate to the newly appointed Honorary Consul of Guinea Bissau in Macau in a ceremony held at the Office on August 20.

Ye congratulated Chan on his appointment, highlighting the importance of the role and its contribution to the steady development of the relations between China and the African country. Ye hopes that in this new role, Chan will serve as the bridge connecting Macau and Guinea Bissau in the promotion of business opportunities as well as cultural co-operation between the two sides.

The commissioner recalled



Chan Meng Kam

that the purpose of policies and measures taken, including this appointment, is to "make good use of Macau's role to boost China's relations with Portuguese-speaking countries."

As for Chan, he pledged to assume the duties of the Honorary Consul in accordance with laws and regulations, and to fulfill the hopes of both Macau and the Chinese Central government on furthering co-operation between the region and the African country.

In the report from the Office of the Commissioner, there are no reasons stated for replacing Lo with Chan for the role.

DSSOPT

Nineteen hotels currently under construction

THE Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) has released the latest information regarding the construction of residence and hotel projects in the second quarter of 2018.

In the second quarter of 2018, seven private residential projects were issued licenses. These projects involve a total of 1,004 housing units.

Nineteen hotels were under construction in the first quarter of 2018, offering 6,793 rooms. There are 29 hotel projects in the design phase, which are expected to provide an additional 5,653 rooms.

There are 89 private housing projects, including those currently under construction which have not yet undergone an inspection, and projects which have already been completed and are now under inspection, providing a total of 10,008 housing units.

In addition, there are other



212 housing projects in the design phase, with these projects estimated to provide 21,190 housing units.

At the same time, DSSOPT issued licenses for 973 light vehicle parking spaces and 291 electric car parking spaces.

Around 5,869 light vehicle parking spaces and 3,129 electric car parking spaces have been under construction, but these projects have not yet been inspected.

Some 755 light vehicle parking spaces and 262 electric car parking spots have been completed and are now being inspected. There are also 20,419 light vehicle parking spots and 5,400 electric car parking spots being designed.

Regarding light vehicle parking spaces and electric car parking spaces, 2,915 and 941 are being built, respectively, with an additional 2,331 and 693 being currently designed.

AD

16 March – 16 September | The Parisian Theatre
Tickets From | MOP 188
+853 2882 8818 cotaiticketing.com

Produced by
Agosta Artist Co.

Sponsor
Royal Palace

Collaborated with
Mingzhen Culture Harbin Ice & Snow World

VIVA MACAU JUST THE 'TIP OF THE ICEBERG'

AL commission condemns lack of control over public spending

Renato Marques

THE Legislative Assembly's (AL) Follow-up Commission on Public Finance has issued several reports addressing concerns expressed by members of the supervising body over the spending of public funds.

The AL body denounced a wide range of situations potentially damaging to public finances, perhaps in light of the government's irrecoverable loss of MOP212 million in the recent Viva Macau case.

In their annual report, members of the Commission have now revealed concerns over several other companies in which the government has invested large amounts of money without guarantees and a near-complete lack of oversight and regulation, which may result in even heavier losses.

According to the report, over the last couple of years, the government has invested a total of over MOP6 billion in 15 government-funded companies. According to signed contracts and the commission's analysis, the companies have no legal obligation to disclose project information and financial results, shielding them from public scrutiny.

The report noted that there were no rules or regulations obligating the 15 companies to refund the government any share of profits obtained in their operations.

Of the 15 companies, "Macau Investimento e Desenvolvimento, S.A." was the one singled out. The company runs the Traditional Chinese Medicine Park on Heng-qin Island. Public finance reports state that the government has so far invested MOP4 billion without any provisions for expected revenue, a fact that the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, has been unsuccessfully



trying to explain to lawmakers. The report notes that in his explanations, Leong often refers to large investments in infrastructure and equipment as reasons why the companies are not yet able to generate revenue. But the lawmakers are keen to enforce stricter rules and controls over financing mechanisms in order to prevent cases like Viva Macau from happening again, questioning the role of seemingly inefficient government-appointed company delegates.

Over the last couple of years, the government has invested over MOP6 billion in 15 government-funded companies

Leong replied to the Commission, saying that "in the future,

the definition of the guidelines [will be studied] as well as requirements to be fulfilled by the delegates from the government and official representatives from the companies," acknowledging that at the moment, there are no such rules.

Other companies of concern include the Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Centre and Macau International Airport Co. Ltd., among others.

In fact, Viva Macau is just the tip of the iceberg, according to the report, as it refers to other

companies that the government has invested several millions in and have already opened bankruptcy proceedings. The government holds an 88 percent share in real estate company "Tai Lei Loi – Sociedade de Fomento Predial, Lda.," for example, which filed for bankruptcy in 2016 and had their assets reduced to only MOP109 million, according to the latest information. But government reports show the government injected over MOP417 million into the company and registered a loss of MOP308 million, almost 50 percent more than the reported Viva Macau bankruptcy losses.

Lawmakers are now urging the government to enforce new rules which include the regulations of several neighboring regions, namely mainland China, where, over the last few years, documents such as Measures for the Administration of the Collection of Proceed from State-owned Capital of Central Enterprises, Interim Measures for the Administration of Central State-owned Capital Operation Budgets, and Interim Measures for the Management of Central State-owned Capital Operation Budgetary Expenditures have been published, among others.

PIDDA execution rates continue to concern

A topic that continues to plague the Legislative Assembly's (AL) Follow-up Commission on Public Finance is the Public Investment Plan (PIDDA) execution rates for most government departments and bureaus.

The Commission highlighted several public services that have been registering very low execution rates in its latest report. At the top, the Housing Bureau registered an execution rate of just 0.7 percent, followed by the Macau Government Tourism Office with 6.5 percent, and the Cultural Affairs Bureau, which spent only 13.8 percent of their original budget.

According to the lawmakers, this report analyzed public ser-

vices that registered execution rates lower than 40 percent only, and they are yet to include the Sports Bureau (15.7 percent), University of Macau (38.7 percent) and Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (39.6 percent).

When addressing the many questions on the topic, government representatives continued to iterate the same answers, noting that there are different reasons for the low execution rates, the most frequent of which being "very general budgeting with poor forecast of outcomes," as well as "insufficient or inadequate laws and regulations that force projects to be put on hold due to lack of regulation, training, equipment or interde-

partmental collaboration."

In some cases, delays to budgeted works or excessive approval times for the acquisition of materials, services or equipment were also suggested as possible causes.

These reasons led to the commission's suggestion that budget forecasts should be delivered to "professionals" in order to avoid these "budgeting failures."

Secretary Leong expressed hope that new bills on the "regime on expenditures with works and acquisition of goods and services," for which the public consultation was expected to happen in the second trimester of this year, will address this and enter into force as soon as possible.

AD



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

As everyone knows, the APDCGM was founded two years ago to promote the Macau Guia Circuit. It is with great pride that this Association is publicly paying a fair homage to the Portuguese Consul General in Macau. It is with great honor that this Association is associated with this diplomatic figure of Portugal, to whom it wishes to publicly express its gratitude for the support provided since the founding of this Association as its first Honorary President. This Association hopes to continue with his support.

The Board
APDCGM

New Sunshine Cleaning Services Ltd.

Cleaning Specialists

FREE ESTIMATES

- Residential
- Move In / Out
- One-Time Cleanings
- Window Cleaning
- Office / Home General Cleaning
- Pest Control-Home / Offices
- Marble Crystallization
- Office / Home Carpet Cleaning
- Restaurant / Kitchen Cleaning
- Industrial Garbage Removal
- Grease Trap Pumping
- Portable Chemical Toilet
- Hiring & Daily Cleaning

Call: 2883 3008

Member of General Association of Macao Cleaning Service Industry

Int'l warrant arrest filed against illegal turtle poacher

THAILAND authorities have issued an international arrest warrant against Manivannan Murugesan for smuggling endangered turtles to Macau, amongst other places.

Murugesan is currently in custody of India's Madhya Pradesh special task force (STF) wildlife unit and has been in jail for smuggling endangered red-crowned roofed turtles from Morena, a city in India.

The task force had already approached the enforcement directorate headquarters in Mumbai, seeking to open a money-laundering case against Murugesan and four others.

According to the Times of India, Interpol has been approached to take Murugesan on transit remand from the central jail in Sagar where he is currently

detained.

A native of Singapore, his illegal trade is spread across Thailand, Malaysia, Macau, Hong Kong, China and Madagascar.

Murugesan was arrested by Thai authorities in 2012, but escaped during his trial and has since been on the run.

The man's alleged role in the smuggling surfaced with the arrest of a businessman for stealing a red-crowned roofed turtle from a breeding center in Morena district.

The accused reportedly supplies fish feed to a crocodile center that helps breed and rehabilitate crocodiles, gharials and endangered turtles.

The 50-year-old allegedly smuggled hundreds of red-crowned roofed turtles over the last 10 years, although he has only admitted to 50 instances.

World Press Photo returns to Macau next month

THE annual World Press Photo (WPP) is returning to Macau once again this year. It will be held at Casa Garden between September 28 and October 21.

The exhibition, which displays the winning pieces from various photography and multimedia categories, selected de Casa de Portugal (CPM) as its Macau-based partner back in 2008.

As with last year, this year's exhibition will not be held in Hong Kong. This means Hong Kong residents interested in seeing the exhibition will be more likely to come to Macau.

Organizer Diana Soeiro from CPM, estimates that around one-quarter of the 4,000 or so visitors expected for this year will come from Hong Kong.

Casa Garden has a partnership with the WPP to continue bringing the annual exhibition to Macau until 2020.

Organizers from the local association told the Times that the exhibit normally costs around MOP150,000 to host each year and is partly sponsored by the Macao Foundation. This year, Soeiro disclosed that the costs have risen to almost MOP200,000.

Lars Boering, managing director of the World Press Photo Foundation, said that "the best visual journalism is not of something; it is about some-



PAULO BARBOSA

thing. It should matter to the people to whom it speaks."

"Today the World Press Photo Foundation continues to play the role it began in 1955 because the juries in our contests nominate the best photographers and producers. The great work

■ The costs of bringing the exhibition to Macau have risen to almost MOP200,000

in this 2018 edition of our contests helps us fulfill our purpose: connecting the world to the stories that matter."

The World Press Photo Foundation was founded in 1955 when a group of Dutch photographers organized a contest to expose their work to an international audience. Since then the contest has grown into one of the world's most prestigious photography competition. But the emphasis is still on bringing international works to all people.

"It's important to have this exhibition [in the MSAR] because we want to show [photographs] from all nationalities to the different nationalities living in Macau," Soeiro told the Times.

AD



FRANCE MACAU
Chamber of Commerce
法國澳門工商會

FMCC champions **Breakfast Meetings** in town with key speakers sharing their views on current business affairs. Our monthly events take place every last Wednesday of the month at Sofitel Macau at Ponte 16. **Open to all!**



Wednesday, 29/8/2018

Are you seeing the results of training?

Speaker: **Mr Tom Abbott**, Founder of SOCO/ Sales Training Pte Ltd, Singapore

FMCC Breakfast Meeting

Introduction: Little focus, poor retention, low impact and wasted capital are results of training done wrong. 40% of employees that do not receive adequate training end up leaving the company within a year. Doing training right is paramount to an organisation's health. **Tom Abbott** tells us how to plan and implement a holistic training system to reduce costs and optimise results.

Date: Wednesday, August 29, 2018

Time: 9:00 - 10:30am (Reception: 8:45am)

Venue: Sofitel Macau at Ponte 16

Promenade Meeting Room (6th floor)

RSVP before 2 pm on August 27th
info@francemacau.com or Tel: 8798 9699

- 2018 FMCC members join free-of-charge*
- 2018 CANCHAM members join free-of-charge*
- Guests and non-members @ MOP188*
- Pass France holders @ MOP158*

www.francemacau.com

* Breakfast included



ROSÉ REVOLUTION 2018

powered by
Flying Winemaker

LET'S GO PINK THIS SEPTEMBER

Asia's favorite Rosé festival returns to MGM MACAU! Sample a variety of world-class pastel wines, each exuding its own subtle, sophisticated taste. This rosy-hued evening is the perfect note to end your summer on.

MGM MACAU – VISTA

September 15
4–8pm

For enquiries, please call (853) 8802 3833



TICKETS ON SALE NOW



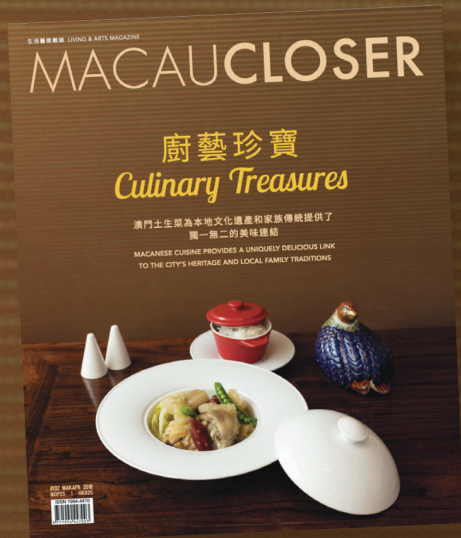
MACAUCLOSER

生活藝術雜誌 LIVING & ARTS MAGAZINE



歡迎訂閱

Follow us on Instagram



SAN JIAO LING

公关传播 | PR & Marketing

新商机 始握手 New Business Opportunities are Just a Handshake Away

www.sanjaoling.com

Follow our DB media channel
www.deltabridges.com



MACAU RUGBY CLUB
澳門橄欖球會

MACAU BATS RUGBY CLUB

澳門蝙蝠欖球會

FOR BOYS AND GIRLS AGED 5-15 適合男生和女孩5-15歲



New players welcome. Saturdays 10am, Taipa Stadium.
新玩家歡迎。星期六上午10點,澳門運動場

Email: macaubats@gmail.com Macau Bats Rugby

The Roadhouse MACAU

BLUES, BIKES, ROCK AND BOOZE

BEST LIVE MUSIC IN MACAU!

/THEROADHOUSEMACAU/ 2875 2945 BROADWAY, GALAXY MACAU 12PM - 4AM (SAT & SUN) 4PM - 4AM (MON-FRI) HAPPY HOUR: 5PM - 8PM

Commission of Audit slams gov't over slow and ineffective e-government work

Renato Marques

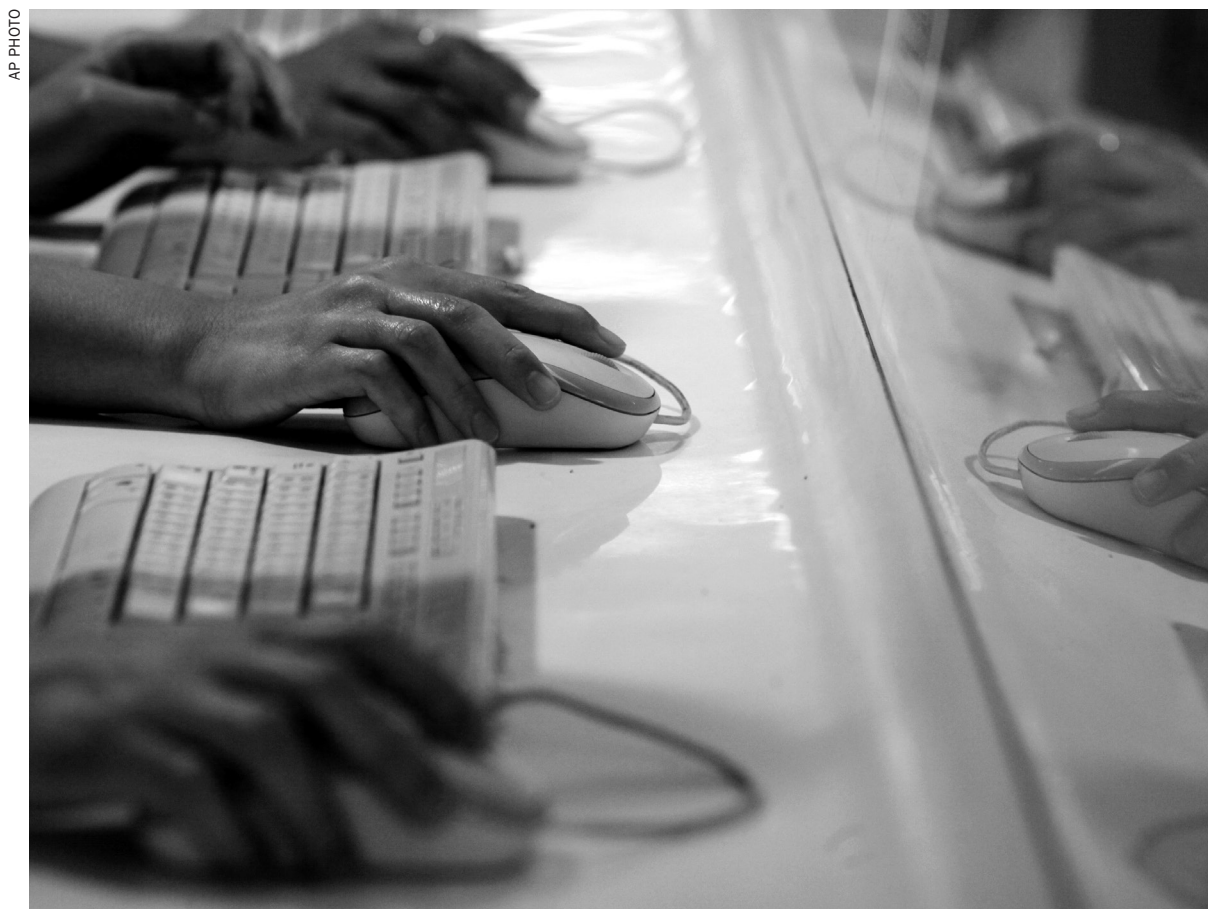
THE Commission of Audit (CA) has issued a report addressing government work, namely at the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau (SAFP). This is regarding delays, slow progress and inefficient measures in the development of strategies to enforce the creation of the "e-government," that is, a government project to digitalize and simplify procedures related to public administration.

The report issued yesterday highlights several problems, such as the investment of huge amounts of public funds in projects that are taking too long to conclude or technologies and procedures that are already outdated.

According to analysis by the CA, the SAFP has injected over MOP237 million into the development of a group of projects that aim to facilitate administrative procedures through electronic services. However, between 2001 and 2016 the conclusion rate for such projects was just 64 percent, which means that from a total of 61 planned projects, only 39 were, in fact, concluded.

The Audit report also recalls that of those projects not concluded, there are at least 16 that have been proposed for over 10 years already, causing backlash against the slow procedures and inefficient measures towards established government goals.

The SAFP tried to refute such conclusions from the CA, initially claiming that all developments prior to 2011 were not under the direct responsibility of the bureau, and that they started to develop projects only after the restructuring of the bureau. However, the CA noted that modernization work had always been a statutory obligation of the bureau, ever since the organizational rules of the public administration department were implemented back in 1994.



AP PHOTO

In its report, the CA notes that for several years the SAFP and the interdepartmental taskforce coordinated the development of the e-administration under the direct leadership of the SAFP director. To date, it has only conducted a series of preparatory works and preliminary studies, having established several trial projects that were kept in operation for several years without a proper evaluation of efficiency or possible outcomes. One of the many works considered ineffective by the audit is the development of a human resources management platform. Until December 31 2016, only 22 of the 97 public services were using that system. The figure corresponds to 22.68 percent of the services, "showing clearly that such goal was not achieved" according to the Audit report.

Another example noted is a group of 18 forms used by the SAFP staff, which were to become digital in a measure annou-

nced back in 2006. But over 10 years later only one form (related to the "Notification of Absence from Work and Annual Leave") was possible to comple-

There are at least 16 non-concluded projects that have been proposed for over 10 years already

te electronically.

The case is said to be further aggravated by the fact that such forms are for "internal use" and that are not subjected to the many constraints regarding data collection and transfer from citizens, something which led the CA to find the situation

"extremely inefficient."

The CA also provides several recommendations for the SAFP in the report, such as: "Draft concrete plans and implement the lines of government action, with the main objective of achieving the general objective of administrative modernization," as well as: "Identify the key issues such as specific objectives and the best conditions and limits for each case or situation."

Regarding the system, the CA noted that SAFP must: "Ensure, in addition to meeting the specific needs of public services, also enable them to create additional functionalities" that should also be "simple and intuitive so that it can be used throughout the Administration in the long term."

As a last remark, the audit report suggests: "When projects are established, verification that you possess all the necessary conditions for their implementation, such as technical

conditions, the provision of technical assistance; and also ensure the existence of legal instruments to support them and establish a reasonable period of execution."

The SAFP replied to the disclosure of the report in a statement, acknowledging the importance of the report and adding, as has become habitual in these situations, that it will proceed diligently to correct the flaws detected.

In addition to the acknowledgement and compromise, the SAFP added that works at the end of 2016 had a conclusion rate of around 64 percent and by the end of 2018, the overall project execution rate will reach 80 percent, due to recent works developed after the audit.

In the same statement, the bureau also notes that in 2019, the government is planning to undertake a general review of the Macau SAR Electronic Governance General Plan 2015-2019, adding conditions to continue to strengthen the co-ordination.

The SAFP also noted that it will further the co-ordination works from phase one of the "smart city" construction project and the use of Mega data which began in 2017 in collaboration with the Alibaba Group, and that it will complete the creation of the computing center cloud and reorganization of official data by June 2019. The SAFP also noted that this technology would then be gradually used in many projects from different fields, in particular tourism, talent training, traffic management, health care services, integrated urban management and the provision of integrated urban services.

With the conclusion of this project, the SAFP stated that the conclusion rate of the works would rise then to 86 percent of the total, becoming "progressively more visible."

A general evaluation will also be carried out next year, according to SAFP's reply.

GAMING

Up to 17 percent growth for August GGR forecasted

AUGUST gaming forecasts project a daily average revenue of USD100.8 to USD103.2 million from now until the end of the month, with leading analysts expecting that gross gaming revenue (GGR) will in-

crease between USD3.22 and USD3.27 billion this month.

Consultancy firms forecast the GGR will increase 15 to 17 percent, compared to August 2017.

Sanford C. Bernstein forecasts that the GGR may

get up to a little more than USD104 million (daily average), according to the company's latest week ending.

Another broker, Nomura, predicts a slightly lower GGR, yet expects an improvement over

the last year, as cited in a report issued by Calvin Ayre.

The Japanese broker noted that this month's gaming revenue would be USD3.22 billion, adding that GGR growth for July and August shou-

ld be comparable to the trailing six-year median, which was around 3 percent.

Nomura pointed out that its forecast is less optimistic than the 19 percent offered by another consultant.

Although these forecasts are still subject to vitality in VIP gaming revenue, the broker expects VIP gaming revenue to be 3 to 4 percent higher than last month, while the city's mass-market revenue may increase 5 to 7 percent.

REAL ESTATE MATTERS

The 'what, how and who' of real estate investing

Sam Lee is a marketing manager and property consultant at JML Property. JML was established in 1994 and offers Investment Property & Homes. It specializes in managing properties for owners and investors, and providing attractive and comfortable homes for tenants.



SAM LEE

www.JMLProperty.com info@JMLProperty.com

Many people first come into contact with real estate investing when they purchase their own homes, but fail to take the extra step of purchasing an investment property, assuming that achieving financial freedom is an impossible challenge. Purchasing real estate as an investment doesn't have to be more complex than purchasing a home for yourself, but you do have shift your focus away from the emotions of buying a home to objective factors such as the numbers, location and the end user of the property. A great place to start are the 'What, How and Who' questions of real estate investing.

WHAT YOU BUY

When it comes to investing in real estate, you need extreme clarity on your requirements. Location is often touted as the most important thing, but it only constitutes one area of the investment criteria. There are other important things to consider such as the available tenant pool, development potential and te-

nure (freehold or leasehold) of the property. In short, you should have a non-negotiable criterion that filters your choices of investments, leaving only the best opportunities.

HOW YOU BUY

The second component of starting successfully is knowing the 'how' of your investments. This covers everything from understanding the terms of a deal to the more technical aspects such as the interest rates, pricing, occupancy and costs. After knowing what you want, you now need to know on how to negotiate and push for the best deals towards acquiring that property. You must develop the ability to recognize a good deal when you see one and know 'how' to set the terms in your favor. A bad property with good terms might still be a deal, and a good property purchased with the wrong terms could be a recipe for disaster.

WHO YOU KNOW

Many people have the idea

that real estate investing can be done alone, but this is simply not true. Networking with the right people is essential to having success in property investing. This can include knowing which bank to borrow from to which property agents to work with. It is important to surround yourself with people who want to help you succeed in order for them to succeed with you. Focus on building a network group with people who have specific knowledge in fields that you might not be highly familiar with such as accountancy, financing or interior design. It's not an exaggeration to say that your network determines your net worth. Social capital is key.

Are you interested in growing your wealth with Real Estate?

If the answer is 'yes' you may be interested to learn more at the property & investment seminar coming up in September. Spaces are limited and more information is available from Info@JML-Property.Com

Alibaba's revenue leaps 61 percent as new businesses bear fruit



ALIBABA Group Holding Ltd. reported its fastest pace of growth in more than four years, as the e-commerce giant's investments in arenas from cloud computing to entertainment carved out new avenues of income.

Revenue at China's biggest e-commerce company climbed 61 percent to 80.9 billion yuan (USD11.8 billion) in the three months ended June, matching the average of analysts' estimates. Net income slid 41 percent to 8.7 billion yuan, topping the 7.6 billion yuan projected after taking into account an increase in the valuation of affiliate Ant Financial, which boosted the expense of shares awarded to employees.

Alibaba's ramping up spending in new arenas as it reduces its reliance on an online retail business facing increased competition from

JD.com Inc. and Pinduoduo Inc. as well as a broader economic slowdown. It's been busy expanding its Hema supermarket chain, acquiring food delivery network Ele.me and video streaming site Youku. But that spending is hurting margins: adjusted earnings per share came in at 8.04 yuan, short of the 8.19 yuan estimate.

Much of Alibaba's cash is flowing into China's \$1.3 trillion food retail and services industry, where it's trying to hold its own against delivery giant and super-app Meituan Dianping. Alibaba said yesterday that Ele.me has raised more than \$3 billion in a new financing round led by SoftBank Group Corp. Alibaba now intends to merge Ele.me with Koubei, another unit focused on connecting restaurants to the internet.

"We remain confident

on the company's revenue growth given its diversified product offerings," Mae Huang, an analyst at SWS Research Co. said in a report. "Despite the short-term costs incurred by the company, we believe Alibaba is building a stronger ecosystem."

Shares of Alibaba were up about 4 percent in pre-market trade, after ending largely unchanged in New York ahead of the results. The stock had gained 3 percent this year compared with a 1.4 percent gain for the NYSE Composite Index.

Founder Jack Ma is also making an expensive foray into the \$4 trillion retail sector. Alibaba acquired a department store chain with 29 stores and 17 shopping malls last year and also bought a slice of China's largest hypermarket chain. It's been shelling out on content to stay abreast of Tencent Holdings Ltd. and Baidu Inc. in the video-streaming business. Heavy investments in datacenters for its cloud computing arm helped almost double revenue in that division to 4.7 billion yuan. Bloomberg



C&C LAWYERS & NOTARIES

Since 1996



合伙人 PARTNERS:

官樂怡 Rui José da Cunha • 山度士 Álvaro Rodrigues • 馬天龍 Nuno Sardinha da Mata • 趙魯 Zhao Lu ••

聯營律師 ASSOCIATES:

馬傑安 João N. Marques
高文軒 Adelino Correia
羅善齡 Zelina Rodrigues
白秀蘭 Susana Batalha
杜慧盈 Rita da Costa Andorinho
馬潔冰 Maria João Marques
陶義德 António Isóo de Azeredo
白穎怡 Iclia Berenguel
冼玲鳳 Mariana Afonso Esteves
薛明恩 Maria Antónia Giestas
飛嘉華 Carlos dos Santos Ferreira

實習律師 TRAINEE LAWYERS:

孟民諾 Carlos Maurício
羅成軒 José J. Rodrigues
陳祖恩 Joana Chan
顏曉蓉 Teresa Xiaorong Yan
康靜雅 Viviana Hong
梁淑嵐 Ana Leon
黃瀚賢 Frederico Vong
張偉鴻 Cheong Wai Hong

黃保毅 Wong Pou Ngai
杜力信 Nelson de Azevedo
宋哲言 João Gonçalves Assunção
羅桃 Elina Luo Tao
巴慧雅 Vera Bastos
莫永誠 Rui Velez de Moura
安東尼 António Manuel dos Santos
歐祖研 Joana Coimbra de Almeida
歐文傑 Miguel Evaristo
王洋玲 Wong leong Leng

WWW.CCADVOG.COM
TEL: (853) 2837 2642 / 2837 2623

• 私人公證員 Notary Public • 中國委託公證人 China Appointed Attesting Officer



Joe McDonald, Beijing

US, China raise tariffs in new round of trade dispute

THE United States and China went ahead with tariff hikes on billions of dollars of each other's automobiles, factory machinery and other goods yesterday in an escalation of a battle over Beijing's technology policy that companies worry will chill global economic growth.

The increases came as envoys met in Washington for their first high-level talks in two months. They gave no sign of progress toward a settlement of U.S. complaints that Beijing steals technology and its industry development plans violate Chinese free-trade commitments.

The 25 percent duties, previously announced, apply to USD16 billion of goods from each side including automobiles and metal scrap from the United States and Chinese-made factory machinery and electronic components.

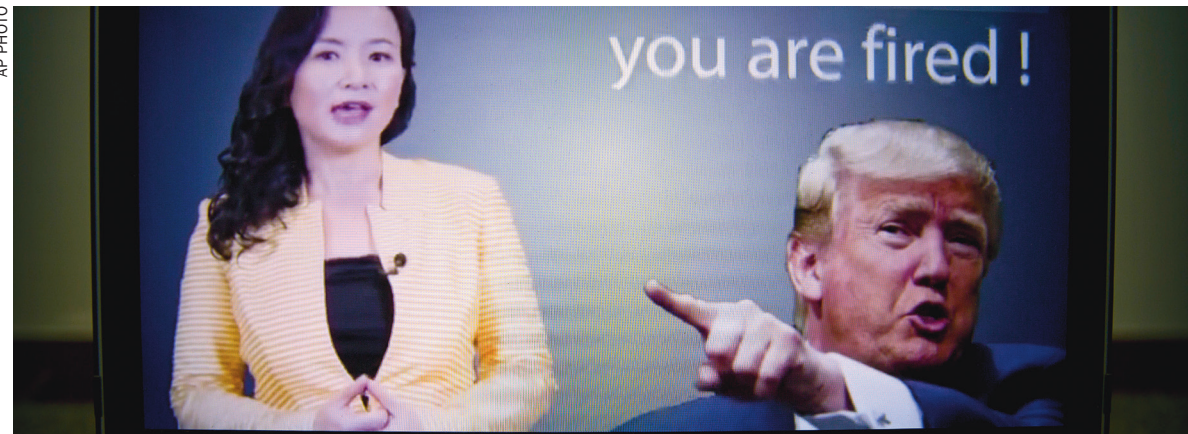
In the first round of tariff hikes, U.S. President Donald Trump imposed 25 percent duties on \$34 billion of Chinese imports on July 6. Beijing responded with similar penalties on the same amount of American goods.

The Chinese government criticized Thursday's U.S. increase as a violation of World Trade Organization rules and said it would file a legal challenge.

A foreign ministry spokesman, Lu Kang, declined to give details of the Washington talks.

"We hope the U.S. side will get along with us to strive for a good result from the talks with a reason-

AP PHOTO



An online video about U.S.-China trade tensions produced by China's state television appears to have been removed

able and practical attitude," Lu said.

Beijing has rejected U.S. demands to scale back plans for state-led technology development that its trading partners say violate its market-opening commitments. American officials worry they might erode the United States' industrial leadership.

With no settlement in sight, economists warn the conflict could spread and knock up to 0.5 percentage points off global economic growth through 2020.

The pressure on Chinese export industries that support millions of jobs adds to challenges for Communist leaders who are trying to shore up slowing economic growth.

Factory output, consumer spending and other indicators were weaker than expected in July. Beijing has responded by pumping money into financial markets and announcing plans for higher spending on public works construction.

Chinese leaders have promised to help struggling exporters and ordered banks to lend more freely to them. But they have avoided full-scale economic stimulus that would set back efforts to rein in surging debt and nurture self-sustaining growth supported by consumer spending.

Forecasters say the impact of U.S. tariffs on China's economy is small and manageable for now. Credit Suisse said this month

that if Trump goes ahead with all threatened U.S. increases, the "worst case" outlook would cut China's economic growth by 0.2 percentage points this year and 1.3 percent in 2019.

The International Monetary Fund's growth forecast for China this year is 6.5 percent, down from last year's 6.8 percent and more than double the U.S. forecast of 2.9 percent.

Ahead of the Washington talks, Chinese state TV mocked Trump with a sarcastic video posted on the YouTube and other social media pages of its international arm, China Global Television Network.

"You are great," says a presenter on the nearly three-minute

English-language clip, reading a letter that pays a satirical tribute to Trump.

"On behalf of doctors, thank you for pointing out the need to wean off American goods like bourbon and bacon," the presenter says, referring to products on which China imposed retaliatory tariffs. The video appeared to have been removed yesterday from CGTN's social media accounts.

Trump has proposed another possible round of tariff hikes involving 25 percent increases on an additional \$200 billion of Chinese goods. Beijing issued a \$60 billion list of American products for retaliation if Washington goes ahead with that.

That smaller target list reflects the fact that Beijing is running out of American goods for retaliation due to their lopsided trade balance.

China's imports from the United States last year totaled about \$130 billion. That leaves about \$20 billion for penalties after tariffs already imposed or planned on a total of \$110 billion.

Chinese authorities have said they will take "comprehensive measures," which companies worry could mean targeting operations of American businesses in China for disruption. **AP**

After grim 2016, Turkish tourism makes a comeback

Christopher Torchia, Istanbul

TOURISTS have returned in droves to Turkey, helped this summer by the sharp fall in the value of the Turkish lira following economic uncertainty and a rift with the United States.

The evidence is abundant. A British firm, for example, managed to book 200 people — up from 15 last year — for a swim between Turkey's European and Asian shores. And many Turks have traveled to hometowns and resorts this week, an Islamic holiday.

Turkey's plunging currency and the dispute with the United States have, for sure, fed fears of economic hardship. The tourism sector, though, battered by mass casualties in bombings and an attempted coup in 2016, is again a bright spot — and source of vital foreign currency — for the troubled economy.

Nearly 19 million people — 16 million of them

foreigners and the rest Turks living abroad — visited Turkey in the first six months of this year, a 29 percent increase over the same period in 2017, according to the government. Tourism revenue rose by a similar percentage to more than \$11 billion.

This week, Turkey's culture and tourism minister tweeted photos of his visit to coastal Antalya.

"We had the chance to chat with foreign visitors who have chosen our heavenly country," said the minister, Mehmet Nuri Ersoy.

There was always a lot to seduce the tourist in Turkey: sun and sand, archaeological treasures, cuisine, shopping. Now violence and political turmoil have ebbed, and the lira, which hit record lows against the U.S. dollar, is giving foreigners more value for their money.

SwimTrek, has signed up its maximum of 200 swimmers for the 4.5-kilometer (2.8-mile) Hellespont race

in Turkey's Dardanelles strait on Aug. 30. Hundreds of others are expected to participate.

Swimmers view the race as a "bucket list" event and currency considerations aren't "necessarily" at the top of their thoughts, said Georgie Oliver, marketing manager at SwimTrek.

A calmer security backdrop is enticing the tourists back and it's a boon for Turkey.

Summer is the high tourist season, and many hotels on the Aegean and Mediterranean seas are reporting full occupancy, thanks partly to Turks vacationing during Eid al-Adha, or "Feast of Sacrifice."

Even if Turks are unnerved by their currency crisis, many bookings were paid long ago, when the lira was stronger. Some chose to take a local holiday rather than spend more abroad.

Zaytung, a satirical website in Turkey, posted a piece lampooning the masses of city-dwellers who flock to the coastal resort

town of Bodrum at this time of year.

It quipped that people seeking to shed urban stress in Bodrum will only end up bumping into each other in the street "as they are used to," wait for at least one hour for a table at restaurants, fight for sunbeds and pretend to have fun while taking selfies before returning to the city in droves at the weekend.

And Hurriyet, a Turkish newspaper, posted photos of former French president Nicolas Sarkozy and his wife, singer Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, on a pleasure boat in the Bodrum area.

Another prominent visitor to Turkey was Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, who took time out during an official trip in July to tour Istanbul's Topkapi Palace, once home to Ottoman sultans.

All this positive news coming from the tourism sector contrasts sharply with the state of the wider economy.

AP PHOTO



Turkey's president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, says the economy is under attack, a reference to U.S. economic penalties, including tariffs, imposed during a dispute over an American pastor facing terror-related charges in Turkey. Many economists attribute Turkey's problems to excessive reliance on loans for fast growth, and say interest rates should be increased to get inflation under control.

The Turkish government has introduced charter flight subsidies and credit guarantee funds to help

tourism, and is starting to tap into the Chinese market. Mideast residents are also visiting; some rushed to luxury goods stores for bargains after the lira freefall this month.

The biggest number of foreigners have come from Russia, reflecting better ties since Turkey shot down a Russian military aircraft near the Turkish-Syrian border in 2015. Germans are also arriving in bigger numbers after tension over human rights in Turkey, where Erdogan has amassed more power as president. **AP**



AP PHOTO

ABBOT XUECHENG

Police probe sexual misconduct claims against monk

CHINESE police have opened an investigation into sexual misconduct allegations against one of the country's best-known Buddhist monks whose case has highlighted the growth of the #Me-Too movement in China.

A statement issued by the State Religious Affairs Administration yesterday said police were investigating claims of sexual assault by Xuecheng. It said he also faces censure from the official government-backed Buddhist Association on suspicion of "violating Buddhist precepts."

Xuecheng has denied the claims but earlier this month resigned as head of

the Buddhist Association. Fellow monks accused him of harassing and demanding sexual favors from nuns at his monastery in the outskirts of northwestern Beijing, as well as embezzling funds. Their accusations, including testimony from alleged victims, were posted online, prompting a public outcry and unusual coverage by state media.

A small but increasing number of academics, civil society activists and one of China's best-known television hosts have been called out for inappropriate sexual behavior.

In addition to heading the Buddhist Association, Xuecheng was an influen-

tial political adviser to the central government. His monastery, Longquan, is popular with educated Chinese, including many who give up high-paying jobs to devote their lives to religious study.

China has roughly 250 million Buddhists whose religion has suffered varying degrees of repression under the officially atheist Communist government. That number is likely growing fast as some young Chinese turn increasingly spiritual and retreat to temples and monasteries.

Not all is so Zen-like, however. Some leading monks have been criticized for embracing China's

rampant commercialism, among them Shi Yongxin, abbot of the Shaolin Temple famed for its fighting monks.

Shi was accused by subordinates in 2015 of keeping mistresses and embezzling monastery funds while he jet-setted around the world seeking sponsorship and real estate deals for the 1,500-year-old cradle of kung fu.

The religious affairs bureau statement said Xuecheng's temple is also under investigation for putting up buildings without construction permits. Authorities are also looking into the issue of "the whereabouts of a large amount of funds," it said. **AP**

Beijing denies visa for BuzzFeed writer in likely retaliation

CHINA has refused to renew the journalist visa for an American correspondent for BuzzFeed News in what appears to be punishment for her reporting on topics considered sensitive by the authorities.

Megha Rajagopalan tweeted yesterday [Macau time] that the foreign ministry declined to issue her a new visa in May. She said the ministry indicated it was a procedural issue and that it was unclear why.

Asked about Rajagopalan's case, the ministry responded with a statement Wednesday saying only that it handled such matters "according to laws and regulations."

During her six years in China, Rajagopalan had reported extensively on human rights abuses and the plight of China's Uighur Muslim minority, among other subjects.

China's government sometimes delays or refuses to issue or renew visas for journalists if it is displeased with their reporting, their media outlets, or both.

Those include a reporter for the Al Jazeera television network who was forced to leave the country in 2012 when her visa expired, and a correspondent for France's L'Obs magazine who had to leave in 2015.

Rajagopalan has taken up a new position with BuzzFeed reporting on technology and human rights, based in the Middle East.

In a statement, the Foreign Correspondents' Club of China said it found Rajagopalan's treatment "extremely regrettable and unacceptable for a government that repeatedly insists it welcomes foreign media to cover the country."

"We are attempting to get clarity from the Foreign Ministry on its reasoning for effectively ejecting a credentialed foreign journalist from China," the club said. **AP**

Hawaiian Airlines to suspend service to China in October

HAWAIIAN Airlines will suspend its only route to China after four years of offering the service.

The airline announced the nonstop service between Honolulu and Beijing will end in October, citing low demand, the Honolulu Star-Advertiser reported.

The service, which launched in 2014, flew three

days a week between the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport and the Beijing Capital International Airport.

"These decisions are never easy and this one is especially difficult because we believe in China's future as a robust market for the Hawaiian vacation experience and we will continue to market one-stop options to Honolulu from

cities throughout China on our airline partners," said Peter Ingram, the airline's president and CEO.

The company hoped that the number of visitors from China would increase, but growth has been slow, airline spokeswoman Ann Botticelli said.

"When we inaugurated service in April 2014, we were optimistic that

China would be an ever-increasing source of visitors to Hawaii," Botticelli said. "The market has been slower to mature than we anticipated."

The airline made the initial attempt to begin to service to China in 2005, but the U.S. Department of Transportation rejected its application for the route. The airline then passed on

the next two openings for China service in 2007 and 2009.

The airline plans to maintain connections with China in the hopes that service could relaunch.

"Over the past four years, we made significant investments in China, and our team has done an outstanding job positioning our company for future success,"

Botticelli said. "We will continue to build brand and destination awareness among Chinese travelers so that we will be ready to seize on this opportunity at the right time."

The 278-seat Airbus A330-200 aircraft that flew the service will be redeployed on a route consistent with the company's expansion plans, the airline said. **AP**



Two-day memorial ends for Chinese victims of Thai boat tragedy

A two-day memorial observance in Thailand for a group of 47 Chinese visitors who died when their tour boat sank in bad weather concluded yesterday with a candlelight ceremony.

The day's mass merit-making included a prayer session led by a Buddhist monk, meditation and shared vegetarian meals.

Two tour boats sank off Thailand's southern resort island of Phuket on July 5. Tourists from one boat were rescued, while the sinking of the double-decker Phoenix left 47 Chinese tourists dead.

The accident was one of Thailand's worst tourism-related disasters in recent years.

Phuket officials said five people have been charged so far with responsibility for the tra-

gedy, including the owner and two operators of the Phoenix.

They have been accused of negligence causing death, which carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison. Officials said several other people are also under investigation, including some at the company that built the boat.

Phuket Gov. Norraphat Plodthong said the island is implementing stricter regulations and improving safety measures for boat operations, including better docking procedures and an improved radio communications system.

Visitors to Thailand from China totaled more than 9.8 million people in 2017, constituting the largest share by country of a record 35.38 million foreign tourists in all. **AP**

TIBET

Activist's appeal of jail sentence

CHINA has turned down a Tibetan language rights activist's appeal of his five-year prison sentence on the charge of inciting separatism, monitoring groups said YESTERDAY.

Tashi Wangchuk was detained in 2016 and sentenced in May based on a New York Times documentary in which he talked about the erosion of his culture and language in the tightly secured region.

The International Tibet Network said his appeal was turned down on Aug. 13.

"China's rejection of Tashi Wangchuk's appeal is a travesty of justice and shows a disdain for the international concern that the case has raised," the network's Tenzin Jigdal said. Activists "vow to continue pushing for his immediate and unconditional release," he said.

With time served, Tashi Wan-

gchuk should be released in 2021, although Chinese political prisoners are frequently subject to additional restrictions, including house arrest, after being released.

Tashi Wangchuk's case highlights the authoritarian government's extreme sensitivity to issues involving ethnic minorities — especially Tibetans and Uighur Muslims from the northwestern region of Xinjiang — as well as the risks Chinese citizens run when criticizing government policies to foreign media.

The United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in Geneva discussed his case earlier this month, during which the Chinese representative denied he had been arrested for his comments on protecting minority languages. **AP**

ADVERTORIAL

SUMMER EXCITEMENTS

The excitement never stops at Sands Shoppes and this summer sees new stores and fresh promotions to ensure visitors keep on coming back for more. Head down to Sands Shoppes to enjoy the latest and greatest offerings.

TOD'S

Italian luxury label Tod's has unveiled an elegant new boutique in Shoppes at Four Seasons, complete with the luxury brand's latest apparel and accessories collections. Quality craftsmanship combines with classic yet contemporary style. Shop before 31 August to enjoy a complimentary gift with any purchase.

Shop 2833, Level 2, Shoppes at Four Seasons



SHOP AND DRIVE A RANGE ROVER AWAY

Don't miss the chance to shop and drive a Range Rover away with Sands Shoppes' latest lucky draw. From now to 3 November simply spend MOP500 at Shoppes at Venetian, Shoppes at Four Seasons, Shoppes at Cotai Central and Shoppes at Parisian to redeem one lucky draw entry. Prizes include a Range Rover Velar R-Dynamic dream car and Parisian Rewards Dollars, with total prizes worth more than MOP2,900,000.



* Terms & Conditions Apply

DRIVE YOURSELF

When you spend more than MOP250 at Sands Shoppes, you can enjoy five hours of free parking at Shoppes at Venetian, Shoppes at Parisian or Shoppes at Cotai Central this summer. Spend any amount at Sands Shoppes can enjoy three hours of free parking at Shoppes at Parisian or Shoppes at Cotai Central. Offer valid through 17 September.

FOLLOW US ON facebook.com/SandsShoppesMacao | weibo/shoppescotai

澳門金沙購物城邦

Sands
SHOPPES MACAO

SHOPPES AT VENETIAN | SHOPPES AT FOUR SEASONS | SHOPPES AT COTAI CENTRAL | SHOPPES AT PARISIAN

NORTH KOREA

Government speeds construction spree ahead of anniversary

AP PHOTO



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un visits a construction site during a visit to the city of Samjiyon, a remote northern city near the Chinese border



Chinese tourists take in the sight from a viewing platform overlooking the caldera of Mount Paektu near Samjiyon in North Korea

Eric Talmadge, Samjiyon

THOUSANDS of North Korean “soldier-builders” in olive green uniforms and bright red hardhats are doing everything from digging ditches to putting up walls on multistory apartment blocks and government buildings in this northern city near the Chinese border.

Samjiyon is one of the main focuses of a massive nationwide construction campaign ahead of North Korea’s 70th anniversary in what leader Kim Jong Un has described as a symbolic battle against anyone who would oppose his country.

The Sept. 9 anniversary is shaping up to be the biggest event since Kim assumed power in late 2011. Along with huge rallies in Pyongyang on the day itself and the revival of North Korea’s trademark mass games at the stadium, Kim has deployed soldiers and ordinary citizens alike to erect buildings, improve roads and work on other infrastructure on a scale unseen in recent years.

The construction spree is intended to improve living conditions in keeping with one of Kim’s first promises to the nation, that he would bolster the economy so they would no longer need to “tighten their belts.”

But it is also a demonstration of the power of his regime in the face of U.S.-backed international sanctions intended to squeeze his economy and force him to abandon his nuclear weapons.

Kim made that political message clear during a visit to Samjiyon with his wife last week, when he was quoted by state media as saying “the hostile forces’ persistent sanctions and obstructive moves” have come as a serious setback, but added the North Korean people have risen to the challenge and are “making a history of legendary miracles despite the most difficult conditions.”

Kim said that by “showily” building up Samjiyon, the nation is in effect fighting a symbolic battle against those who would try to stifle its “socialist civilization.”

Samjiyon lies at the foot of Mount Paektu, which is closely linked to the Kim family and is considered the spiritual center of the North Korean revolution.

Steamrollers and other heavy equipment are rare, so roadwork is particularly labor-intensive. Work crews spreading out nearly 20 kilometers from the city limits fill potholes with shovelfuls of dirt and flatten surfaces with wooden tools.

The work has transformed Samjiyon from a relatively sleepy provincial center surrounded by potato farms into a buzzing hub of activity the likes of which would be hard to find anywhere else. The government says it is to be the model for future development projects nationwide. The Associated Press was allowed to view the city on the same day Kim visited, but was not allowed to shoot photos.

One important aspect of the building boom is that much of the work is being done outside of Pyongyang. Under three generations of Kim leadership, the capital has gotten the bulk of funding and is far more developed than the rest of the country, creating a glaring — and potentially destabilizing — gap between the capital and the provinces.

Along with Samjiyon, major construction projects are underway in several other cities — including 20-story high-rise apartments in the eastern port city of Chongjin and extensive infrastructure and tourism-related facilities in Wonsan, another port on the country’s eastern coast. Under Kim, Wonsan has gotten a new airport that officials hope will attract international visitors in the near fu-

ture. More than a dozen resort hotels are being built near its coastline.

The construction campaign is all the more ambitious considering it comes at a sensitive time for Kim, who has held a series of summits over the past several months with China, South Korea and the United States in an attempt to undermine support for sanctions and establish his position on the global stage as the head of a nuclear power.

His diplomatic gambit appears to be working in many ways.

Chinese businesspeople and tourists are once again flowing over the borders — several large tourist groups were in Samjiyon last week — and South Korean officials are seriously considering ways to help the North improve its roads and railways. But doubts are growing over whether Kim has any real intention to meet Washington’s main demand and unilaterally abandon the nuclear weapons he worked so hard to develop over the past five years.

That rift with Washington could significantly complicate Kim’s rapprochement with his neighbors and stifle his efforts to woo the trade and investment he needs to fund his development projects. A crucial indicator of where Kim stands

will come soon after the Sept. 9 anniversary when he is scheduled to hold another summit with South Korean President Moon Jae-in, this time in Pyongyang.

Moon, who has been playing a middleman role between Pyongyang and Washington, is under a great deal of pressure to broker progress toward denuclearization. Without tangible progress, he will be hard-pressed to justify going against Washington’s “maximum pressure” policy and easing sanctions any further.

In any event, it appears Kim is ready to forge ahead. Though many improvements will be completed by Sept. 9, it is clear from the construction in Samjiyon that his plans go much further into the future than that. Dozens of buildings are still in the skeletal stages and will likely require several more months to finish.

In the meantime, scenes of Kim giving his on-the-spot guidance to senior officials feverishly taking down his every word in their notebooks has dominated the TV news in the North each day since his visit to Samjiyon.

Denuclearization, however, is rarely mentioned in news broadcasts. AP

Yuri Kageyama, Tokyo

INTERVIEW

Japan official says Trump misunderstands trade

PRESIDENT Donald Trump's tariff policies reflect a serious misunderstanding of the importance of free trade and Japanese companies' contributions to the U.S. economy, Japan's trade minister said yesterday.

Hiroshige Seko, the minister of economy, trade and industry, warned in an exclusive interview with The Associated Press that Tokyo might take action if the U.S. fulfills threats to levy a 25 percent tariff on Japanese auto imports. He gave no details but didn't rule out retaliatory tariffs.

"Japanese automakers are a major contributor to the American economy," Seko said in the interview at his ministry office in Tokyo. "If the Japanese auto industry is weakened, it will not be able to invest in the U.S."

Seko also expressed worries about the escalating trade dispute between the U.S. and China, and said such moves threatened the entire global economy. Both sides imposed additional tariffs on billions of dollars of each other's automobiles, factory machinery and other goods.

"This works as absolutely no plus for the world economy, and Japanese companies are shipping parts to China to finish them as products there that are exported to the U.S., and the effects are already being felt," he said. "Ultimately, it will hurt the U.S. and Chinese economies."

Seko said he empathized with Trump's "feelings" of worry over the ballooning U.S. trade deficit. But he said Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and other Japanese officials have been patiently trying to persuade Trump that Japanese do not products pose a security threat to the U.S.

The annual U.S. trade deficit with Japan totaled more than



Japan's Trade Minister Hiroshige Seko speaks during an exclusive interview with The Associated Press in Tokyo yesterday

USD68 billion last year. The U.S. deficit with China was nearly \$376 billion.

Trump should not blame Japan, Seko said, because the U.S. deficit with Japan today reflects years of effort by Japan to create thousands of jobs in the U.S., many of them lucrative in the auto industry, and become a major investor in the U.S.

Seko said tariffs imposed on Japanese exports of steel and aluminum, which have already kicked in, are expected to have a minimal impact on Japan because its steel mills specialize in high-end products difficult to replace that have been exempted from the tariff hikes.

Auto tariffs are another matter, said Seko, who appeared relaxed in his spacious office filled with

books, exotic-looking vases, a Pikachu doll and a photo of him handing over a huge trophy to a sumo wrestler.

The auto industry helps drive Japan's economy, with exports of vehicles and parts to the U.S. accounting for 1 percent of its GDP.

Toyota Motor Corp. estimates the auto tariffs would add an average \$6,000 to the cost of each car exported to the U.S. from Japan. At current levels, that amounts to \$4.2 billion a year.

American automakers such as General Motors Co. and Ford Motor Co. are among companies protesting that the tariffs would harm the U.S. industry.

Seko said Japan has changed its ways since the height of the "Japan-bashing" days of the 1980s.

Japanese companies make 3.8

million cars annually in the United States, more than double the number of vehicles shipped there from Japan, according to the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association.

"Things are totally different," he said.

Seko said that during a recent trip to the U.S., which included Detroit, he met many people who agreed with his views.

Some trade experts note the setup of global production has changed so much over the years that a Trump-style "zero sum" approach to looking at trade may be misleading: The Apple iPhone, for instance, might be made in China, but it's an American product using parts from other nations, including Japan.

For that reason, a growing de-

ficit might just reflect a booming U.S. economy. Tariffs will merely raise prices for American consumers, Seko said.

The U.S. pushback against imports has left Japan in the position of championing free trade.

"We have to keep trying to explain our message," Seko said. "We have been working to open our markets to avoid such misunderstandings, especially in the bilateral trade with the U.S."

Japan recently signed a wide-spanning trade deal with Europe that had been under discussion for years. It has helped lead talks on a regional trade pact, the Trans-Pacific Partnership, while Trump withdrew the U.S. soon after taking office.

Japan is also leading a move toward a regional economic partnership that groups Southeast Asian nations, China, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand and India with Japan.

Seko, 55, was graduated from Tokyo's prestigious Waseda University and earned a master's degree at Boston University. He worked for the phone company, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp., before becoming a member of the upper house of parliament in 1998.

Like many Japanese lawmakers, Seko has politics in the blood: His grandfather and an uncle were prominent Japanese politicians. His wife is also a politician — although from the opposition party.

"At home, I'm the opposition," he laughed. **AP**

AUSTRALIA

Authorities ban Huawei from 5G network over security concerns

CHINESE-OWNED telecommunications giant Huawei has been blocked from rolling out Australia's 5G network due to security concerns.

The government said yesterday that the involvement of a company "likely to be subject to extrajudicial directions from a foreign government" presented too much risk.

Several governments have been scrutinizing Huawei over its links to the Chinese government. The private Chinese company started by a former People's Liberation Army major in 1987 suffered a setback in the U.S. market

in 2012 when a congressional report said it was a security risk and warned phone companies not to buy its equipment.

Huawei has said it would never hand over Australian customer data to Chinese spy agencies, but the government's statement said no combination of security controls sufficiently mitigated the risk.

Acting Home Affairs Minister Scott Morrison said the government was committed to protecting 5G networks.

The decision also affects ZTE Corp, a Chinese maker of mobile devices.

Shenzhen-based Huawei,

the world's largest telecommunications equipment supplier, had been banned from bidding for contracts for Australia's broadband network in 2011.

5G networks will start commercial services in Australia next year.

Huawei Australia tweeted that the decision was "extremely disappointing." Huawei Australia Chairman John Lord had said in June that rejecting one of the world's leading 5G suppliers could impact Australia's economic growth and productivity for generations.

In Beijing, Foreign Mi-

nistry spokesman Lu Kang expressed "serious concerns" about the decision and accused the Australian government of "making up excuses to create hurdles deliberately and taking discriminative measures in this regard."

"We urge the Australian government to discard ideological biases and create a level-playing field for Chinese companies' operations in Australia," Lu told reporters at a daily briefing.

The U.S. House Intelligence Committee previously found that Huawei and ZTE, which is partly



state-owned, were tied to the Chinese government and that both companies failed to provide responsive and detailed answers about those relationships and about their U.S. operations.

Huawei denied being financed to undertake research and development for the Chinese military, but the committee said it had received inter-

national Huawei documents showing the company provided special network services to an entity alleged to be an elite cyber-warfare unit within the People's Liberation Army.

Lord, of Huawei Australia, at the time urged Australia not to be swayed by the U.S. report, which he said was about protectionism rather than security. **AP**

Zeke Miller, Catherine Lucey & Jonathan Lemire, Washington

PRESIDENT Donald Trump dug in to his denials of wrongdoing as his White House struggled to manage the fallout from allegations that he orchestrated a campaign cover-up to buy the silence of two women who say they had affairs with him.

Before dawn yesterday, Trump tweeted: "NO COLLUSION - RIGGED WITCH HUNT!" — a reference to special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election. And he accused his former lawyer Michael Cohen of "making up stories" to get a "great deal" from prosecutors.

The president, in a Fox & Friends interview that aired yesterday and was taped the day before, downplayed his involvement with Cohen, who worked for him for a decade, saying he was just a "part-time attorney" who had many other clients. He also suggested that Cohen's legal trouble stemmed from his other businesses, including involvement with the New York City taxi cab industry, and that he decided to offer "lies" about Trump to reduce his own legal exposure.

He then delivered a stunning broadside against suspects turning state's evidence and acting

as a witness for the prosecution, a staple of the criminal justice system.

"It's called flipping and it almost should be illegal," Trump said. "In all fairness to him, most people are going to do that."

Cohen pleaded guilty earlier this week to eight charges, including campaign finance violations that he said he carried out in coordination with Trump. Behind closed doors, Trump expressed worry and frustration that a man intimately familiar with his political, personal and business dealings for more than a decade had turned on him.

Yet his White House signaled no clear strategy for managing the fallout. At a White House briefing, press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders insisted at least seven times that Trump had done nothing wrong and was not the subject of criminal charges. She referred substantive questions to the president's personal counsel Rudy Giuliani, who was at a golf course in Scotland. Outside allies of the White House said they had received little guidance on how to respond to the events in their appearances on cable news. And it was not clear the West Wing was assembling any kind of coordinated response.

In the interview, Trump argued, incorrectly, that the hush-money payouts weren't "even a cam-

US

Trump denies wrongdoing,



Donald Trump

campaign violation" because he subsequently reimbursed Cohen for the payments personally instead of with campaign funds. Federal law restricts how much individuals can donate to a campaign, bars corporations from making direct contributions and requires

the disclosure of transactions.

Cohen had said he secretly used shell companies to make payments used to silence former Playboy model Karen McDougal and adult-film actress Stormy Daniels for the purpose of influencing the 2016 election.

Trump has insisted that he only found out about the payments after they were made, despite the release of a September 2016 taped conversation in which Trump and Cohen can be heard discussing a deal to pay McDougal for her story of a 2006 affair she says

AD

"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

+50m pageviews per year
www.macaudailytimes.com.mo



Times App

News At Hand



advertising@macaudailytimes.com



CENTRO MEDICO PEDDER

◆ 仁德醫療中心 ◆



We bring high quality of medical service to Macau

General Surgery : Dr. Fok Manson, Dr. Lai Cheuck Seen Edward, Dr. Lau Wing Kee Peter, Dr. Kwong Man, Dr. Nie Fu Zhong, Dr. U Chong San, Dr. Lei Chin Chong

Breast Surgery : Dr. Leong Iat Lun

Urology : Dr. Lo Kwong Yin Richard, Dr. Zhao Yun Qiao

Paediatric Surgery : Dr. Yeung Chung Kwong

Paediatrics : Dr. Zhang Zhiqin

Obstetrics & Gynaecology : Dr. Fong Kuan Io

Plastic & Aesthetic Surgery : Dr. Lam U Lin

Orthopaedic Surgery & Sports Medicine : Dr. Lam Kun Kuan

ENT : Dr. Cheng Zheng Ang

Cardiology : Dr. Wong Kwok Yiu Chris, Dr. Jin Chun, Dr. Leong Man Kin

Gastroentero-Hepatology : Dr. Zhan De Juan

General Medicine : Dr. Ng Kam Hong, Dr. Lam Weng Chio

Dietitian : Chan Lai U Joey

Avenida da Praia Grande No 599, Edifício Comercial Rodrigues 14 e 15 Andar, em Macau
T. 2832 2298 / 2832 2229 Website: www.peddermacau.com
Opening Hours: Mon - Fri 10:00 - 19:00 Sat 10:00 - 14:00 Sun & PH closed

says Cohen is making up stories



Lawyer Michael Cohen

she had with Trump.

The White House denied the president had lied, with Sanders calling the assertion "ridiculous." Yet she offered no explanation for Trump's shifting accounts.

As Trump vented his frustration, White House aides sought to project a sense of calm. Used to the ever-present shadow of federal investigations, numbed West Wing staffers absorbed near-simultaneous announcements Tuesday of the Cohen plea

deal and the conviction of former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort on financial charges.

Manafort faces trial on separate charges in September in the District of Columbia that include acting as a foreign agent.

That Cohen was in trouble was no surprise — federal prosecutors raided his offices months ago — but Trump and his allies were caught off-guard when he also pleaded guilty to campaign finance crimes, which, for the first time, took the swirling criminal

probes directly to the president.

Both cases resulted, at least in part, from the work of special counsel Robert Mueller, who is investigating Russia's attempts to sway voters in the 2016 election.

Cohen's lawyer, Lanny Davis, said Wednesday that Cohen has information "that would be of interest" to the special counsel.

"There are subjects that Michael Cohen could address that would be of interest to the special counsel," Davis said in a series of television interviews.

Trump, in turn, praised Manafort as "a brave man!" raising speculation the former campaign operative could become the recipient of a pardon. Trump told Fox that he had "great respect" for Manafort. He contended the prosecution was an overreach by the Justice Department and he revived his criticism of the leadership of Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

Manafort, Trump says had tremendous pressure on him and, unlike Cohen, he refused to 'break.' Sanders said the matter of a pardon for Manafort had not been discussed.

Trump expressed worry and frustration that a man intimately familiar had turned on him

Among Trump allies, the back-to-back blows were a harbinger of dark days to come for the president. Democrats are eagerly anticipating gaining subpoena power over the White House — and many are openly discussing the possibility of impeaching Trump — should they retake control of the House in November's mid-term elections.

"I don't know how you can impeach somebody who's done a great job," Trump said to Fox. He continued: "If I ever got impeached, I think the market would crash. I think everybody

would be very poor.

"Because without this thinking," said Trump as he pointed to his head, "you would see, you would see numbers that you wouldn't believe in reverse."

And even Trump loyalists acknowledged the judicial proceedings were a blow to the GOP's chances of retaining the majority this year.

"They have survived the Russia thing, but no one knows what's next," said former campaign aide Barry Bennett.

Debate swirled inside and outside the White House about next steps and how damaging the legal fallout was for the president.

Allies of the president stressed an untested legal theory that a sitting president cannot be indicted — only impeached.

Former White House communications director Anthony Scaramucci argued that "at the end of the day it will be up to the House and the Senate to decide on the president's presidency."

Former George W. Bush press secretary Ari Fleischer stressed that the revelations may be sordid but do not meet the constitutional bar of "high crimes and misdemeanors."

"Having an affair and lying about it with a porn star and a Playboy bunny is not impeachable," Fleischer said, "it's Donald Trump." AP

BUNNY NIGHTS
EVERY WEDNESDAY

D2 CLUB
www.d2club-macau.com

Macau Fisherman's Wharf, Edf. New Orleans III
澳門漁人碼頭新奧爾良館 III
Tel: (853) 2872 3777

WELCOME TO Playmate's club
花心公子俱樂部

WILD NIGHT OUT

Come and buy a Standard drink Mop45 only
You can see a European Striptease Show

Attention
No admission under 18

Business Hours: 8:00pm-4:00am
Address: Basement, Hotel Guia, Macau Tel: 28532081 www.macauplaymatesclub.com

TV canal macau



FRIDAY

| | |
|-------|--|
| 13:00 | TDM News (Repeated) |
| 13:30 | News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast |
| 15:00 | Portuguese Soap Opera |
| 18:15 | Miscellaneous |
| 19:00 | Hato Documentary (Repeated) |
| 19:35 | Portuguese Serie |
| 20:30 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report |
| 21:15 | Portuguese Mini Serie (100% Portuguese) |
| 22:25 | Portuguese Serie - Liberty 21 |
| 23:15 | TDM News |
| 23:50 | Movie |
| 02:05 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated) |
| 02:50 | RTPi Live |

SATURDAY

| | |
|-------|--|
| 10:30 | Zig Zag |
| 11:35 | Miscellaneous |
| 12:30 | Miscellaneous |
| 13:00 | TDM News (Repeated) |
| 13:30 | News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast (PT) |
| 14:30 | Miscellaneous |
| 18:10 | Macau Festivities Documentary |
| 19:05 | Lusa Music Box |
| 20:30 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report (PT) |
| 21:15 | Grimm Sr. 4 |
| 22:45 | Miscellaneous |
| 23:15 | TDM News |
| 23:50 | 2 FIMM - UNICEF Concert |
| 00:45 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated) |
| 01:30 | RTPi Live |

SUNDAY

| | |
|-------|--|
| 10:25 | Kids Serie |
| 11:00 | Sunday Mass (Live) |
| 12:00 | Miscellaneous |
| 13:00 | TDM News (Repeated) |
| 13:30 | News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast |
| 15:30 | Mozambique Jazz Festival |
| 17:25 | Got Talent Portugal |
| 19:40 | Portuguese Serie |
| 20:30 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report |
| 21:15 | Documentary |
| 23:15 | TDM News |
| 23:55 | Miscellaneous |
| 00:35 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated) |
| 01:20 | RTPi Live |

Offbeat

GRAFFITI PAINTED ON HOME AND LAWN OF 'TOP CHEF'

Police are investigating after political and religious symbols were painted on "Top Chef" producer and restaurateur Tom Colicchio's home and lawn on Long Island.

Colicchio and his wife, Lori Silverbush, tweeted they discovered the graffiti earlier this week.

Police say "TRUMP" was written in red paint on the mailbox. "Cuomo=Death to America" with a hammer and sickle was painted on the street and grass. "Cynthia Nixon, Go Home, Silverbush and Padma" and a star were painted in white.

Nixon is challenging New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo in the Democratic primary. Padma Lakshmi is host of "Top Chef." Colicchio tweeted he believes the incident was in response to his displaying a sign supporting the Democrat who is running for Congress against Republican Rep. Lee Zeldin.

Zeldin criticized the incident on Facebook.



Tom Colicchio

cinema



CINETEATRO

23 Aug - 29 Aug



HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 3: A MONSTER VACATION

ROOM 1

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

Director: Genndy Tartakovsky

Starring: Adam Sandler, Andy Samberg, Selena Gomez

Language: Cantonese (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

9:15pm

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 SPY WHO DUMPED ME

ROOM 2

2:30, 7:15, 9:30pm

Director: Susanna Fogel

Starring: Mila Kunis, Kate McKinnon, Justin Theroux

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 117min

L STORM

ROOM 3

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

Director: David Lam

Starring: Louis Koo, Julian Cheung, Kevin Cheng

Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 90min



THE DARKEST MINDS

ROOM 3

7:30pm

Director: Jennifer Yuh Nelson

Starring: Amandla Stenberg, Mandy Moore, Harris Dickinson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 104min

this day in history

1993 MICHAEL JACKSON
ACCUSED OF CHILD ABUSE

Police in Los Angeles are investigating allegations of child abuse made against singer Michael Jackson.

They have refused to give details but it has emerged that two of Mr Jackson's homes were searched at the weekend following allegations of child abuse.

It is reported that the father of one boy befriended by Mr Jackson has alleged the singer seduced the child and performed sex acts with him.

Detectives are said to have interviewed the boy and other youngsters who visited Mr Jackson's Neverland ranch in Santa Barbara.

They include 12-year old actor Macaulay Culkin, star of the Home Alone films.

The singer who is currently on tour in Thailand is aware of the allegations and issued a statement through his lawyer, Harold Weitzman.

"I am confident the police department will conduct a fair and thorough investigation and that the result will demonstrate that there was no wrong doing on my part," Mr Weitzman read.

The singer's security adviser, Anthony Pellicano, has said the allegation is part of a \$20m extortion plot.

Around 30 such blackmail attempts were made against Mr Jackson each year, Mr Pellicano added.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Michael Jackson vehemently denied the accusations - made by the father of 13-year old Jordie Chandler - and he was never charged.

A civil case was settled out of court in early 1994 when he paid Jordie Chandler a reported \$20m (£14m).

Three years later Jordie Chandler's account of the relationship was detailed in a book by a journalist, Victor M Gutierrez.

The book was said to be based on a diary the boy had kept at the time and included details of alleged sexual encounters between the pair.

In 1996 Jordie Chandler's father, Evan, started a claim for around \$60m (£38.5m) from the singer claiming Michael Jackson had breached an agreement never to discuss the case.

In 1999 a court ruled in Michael Jackson's favour and threw out the lawsuit.

Then in November 2003, he was arrested and charged with child abuse after British journalist Martin Bashir had made a documentary in which Jackson admitted sharing his bed with children.

Dubbed the trial of the century, it lasted four months and ended in June 2005 when Michael Jackson was cleared of all charges.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Every once in a while, it's okay to be entertained by the soap opera lives of others.

Taurus April 20-May 20 You're always wide open to new, innovative ways of thinking - and this is very wise.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 This long day begins with a lot of contradictory information - you won't be sure whom to believe or what path to take for quite a while.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 When you need a break, you really need a break. So listen to your body and emotions as this day progresses.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 A lot of possibilities are dangled in front of you today, mostly in the social realm. Everyone from shopkeepers to waitresses has a warm smile for you - so give them your best smile right back.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You have way more power in tense situations than you think you do - so use it! There's no good reason for you to be doubting your potency right now, so why are you?

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 When you succeed like this, you build up your confidence - and your reputation. Today you should enjoy watching how all of your carefully laid plans make major things happen, just like clockwork.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 As the old saying goes, the more things change, the more they stay the same. Today you start to understand that idea in a whole new way, when someone's return to the scene is distinctly underwhelming.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 It's important to keep your mind and body limber today - because something cool might arrive on the scene, and you'll want to be able to jump right onto that bandwagon!

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You've done a lot in your life that you deserve to be proud of, and learned some invaluable lessons. But today you encounter someone or something unusual that puts you in a situation you've never experienced before.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 The truth is, there are always obstacles of some shape or size in your way - you just can't always see them. For a while now, there have been some things slowing down your progress.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 The mall is a wonderful place, but it's filled with as much garbage as treasures. Your junk detector isn't doing so well right now, so you might want to stay away from scheduling any shopping trips.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

Table listing weather conditions for various Chinese cities like Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

WORLD

Table listing weather conditions for world cities like Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Years in old Rome; 5- Put into law; 10- Boris Godunov, for one; 14- Incline; 15- Where Hercules slew the lion; 16- Sicilian smoker; 17- Trap for catching lobsters; 19- Jog; 20- Harbor towns; 21- Harangue; 23- Money put aside for the future; 26- Detained; 27- Ordained persons; 28- Rio Grande city; 29- Skylit lobbies; 30- Render genderless; 31- Civil War initials; 34- Trent of the Senate; 35- Shifted; 36- Pinchy crustacean; 37- Faulkner's '___ Lay Dying'; 38- Commonplace; 39- Willow provision; 40- Device for holding up a stocking; 42- Of the top; 43- Shake; 45- Altar boy; 46- Facade; 47- Young haddock; 48- Slaughter in Cooperstown; 49- Pleasant in sound; 54- Lopsided victory; 55- Berlin's 'Blue ___'; 56- Attack a fly; 57- Soviet news agency; 58- Transmits; 59- Back part of the foot;

DOWN: 1- 100%; 2- Classical beginning; 3- Arrest; 4- Enliven; 5- Vigor; 6- Drat!; 7- Fuse units; 8- Corp. bigwig; 9- Ragged; 10- Foursome; 11- Government by the military; 12- Battery terminal; 13- Like most movies; 18- Pacific kingdom; 22- Holly genus; 23- Milan's La ___; 24- Choir members; 25- Spinning; 26- Swiss city on the Rhine; 28- Actor Burton; 30- Gift recipient; 32- Begin's co-Nobel; 33- White poplar; 35- Bed; 36- Immature; 38- Highland hillside; 39- Soup utensil; 41- Bikini tryouts; 42- Beyond; 43- Deflect; 44- Columbus's birthplace; 45- Felt sore; 47- Whirl; 50- Luau instrument; 51- Be in the hole; 52- Abu Dhabi's fed.; 53- Letters on a Cardinal's cap;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



AD

FOR SALE www.JMLProperty.com
FOR RENT More info, please contact us Info@JMLproperty.Com (853) 2835 2699 Office

Choi Long Meng Chui Taipa 3,398 sq ft / HKD 21M HKD 6,180sq ft
Three Bedroom Apartment Ref: 18045555
The Buckingham Taipa Two double bedroom Fully Furnished HKD 18,000 / 700 sq ft Ref: 18060681

Old Macau, Unique Walk Up Macau 950 sq ft / HKD4.48M 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 Ref: 18075558
Lakeview, Macau Macau 3 Bedrooms Apartment Front Balcony HKD 30,000 / 3,430 sq ft Ref: 18060680

Violet Court, Helene Gardens Coloane 2,530sq ft / HKD 20M HKD 7,905sq ft
Beautifully Designed Apartment Ref: 18035546
Manhattan D unit, High Floor Taipa 4 Bedrooms Apartment Fully Furnished HKD 29,800 / 2,305 sq ft Ref: 18070684

JML property since 1994 卓雅物業



ACCURATE, TIMELY & COMPETITIVE TRANSLATIONS

Services

TRANSLATIONS,
PROOFREADING, COPYWRITING,
DATA INPUT, NEWS MONITORING

Languages:

ENGLISH, CHINESE,
PORTUGUESE, JAPANESE,
KOREAN, SPANISH,
FRENCH, ARABIC,
RUSSIAN

We translate +10,000 words a day

Contact: Ms. Amy Yang
Email: amy@ktranz.com.mo
Tel: +853 2871 6081/2 Fax: +853 2871 6084

Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edf. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR

Ciaran Fahey, Berlin

FOOTBALL

Bundesliga resumes with Bayern dominance set to continue

DESPITE a change of coach, Bayern Munich and the rest of the Bundesliga expect the outcome to be the same.

With the league resuming today, the Bavarian powerhouse looks set to extend its Bundesliga record run to seven straight titles.

"We're confident enough to say that we want to be German champions," said Niko Kovac, who came from Eintracht Frankfurt to replace the retiring Jupp Heynckes as Bayern coach.

Few believe Kovac's confidence is misplaced. Bayern won the title by 21 points last season and seems at times to be playing in a league of its own.

"Bayern will be champions because they have the best squad," Schalke coach Domenico Tedesco, who led his team to second place last season, told news agency dpa.

The only issues to be decided in the Bundesliga, it appears, are the teams that follow Bayern in qualifying for European competition and those at the other end of the table fighting relegation.

This will be the first season that Hamburger SV won't be battling relegation - it was finally demoted after years of close shaves last season.

Nuremberg and Fortuna Dueseldorf are back in the top division and will likely fight Freiburg, Mainz, Hannover, Eintracht Frankfurt and Wolfsburg for survival. Wolfsburg needed relegation playoffs to survive the last two seasons and is again a candidate for demotion after losing midfielder Daniel Didavi back to Stuttgart.

Borussia Dortmund, Bayer Le-

verkusen, Borussia Moenchengladbach, Leipzig and Schalke are likely to be Bayern's closest challengers.

Dortmund has a new coach, the experienced Lucien Favre, and several new signings after another offseason of rebuilding. Abdou Diallo joined from Mainz to make up for Sokratis Papastathopoulos' departure for Arsenal, and the young French defender should form a good partnership with Manuel Akanji, who will be playing his first full season.

Midfielders Thomas Delaney and Axel Witsel joined from Werder Bremen and Chinese side Tianjin Quanjian, respectively, while winger Marius Wolf should provide added spark in attack after joining from Frankfurt.

"We're facing a new start that needs time - definitely longer than one transfer period," said Favre, who does not expect to challenge for the title. "Bayern Munich is the top favorite at the moment. You have to say that."

Leverkusen finished fifth last season after struggling with consistency, which Heiko Herrlich hopes to address in his second season in charge.

Gladbach delivered a statement of intent by scoring 11 goals in the German Cup on Sunday, albeit against a fifth-tier team. French forward Alas-



sane Plea scored a hat trick in his competitive debut for the team following his arrival from Nice. Plea, who cost Gladbach a reported club-record 23 million euros (USD26.3 million), scored 16 goals and set up six more in 35 French league appearances last season.

Leipzig struggled to cope with the additional burden of European competition in its second Bundesliga season after shining with a second-place finish in its first, and this season will be about consolidation before Hoffenheim's Julian Nagelsmann

arrives to take over as coach next season.

Sporting director Ralf Rangnick will lead the team in the meantime, as he did when the club clinched promotion in 2016.

"We want to approach this season a little differently in that we will go into the competitions with two squads in which there can be changes," Rangnick told Kicker magazine. "We want to play one strong team on Thursdays (in Europe) and the other on Sundays (Bundesliga)."

Schalke has already conce-

ded it will not improve on last season's second-place finish. The Gelsenkirchen-based club is also targeting consolidation in Tedesco's second season in charge.

Defender Hamza Mendyl has arrived from French club Lille as a replacement for Thilo Kehrer, who left for Paris Saint-Germain.

Bayern gets the league underway at home against Hoffenheim, which finished third last season and will give the defending champions a stern test to start. **AP**

ASIAN GAMES

Silver lining for young and old athletes

THERE was a silver lining for seven-time Olympian Oksana Chusovitina at the Asian Games.

The 43-year-old Uzbekistan gymnast took silver in the vault, one-tenth of a point behind 16-year-old South Korean Yeo Seo-jeong.

Yeo, who was born 10 years after Chusovitina made her Olympic debut and won gold in the team event in '92 in Barcelona, won with 14.387 points.

Chusovitina, who won the vault at the 2002 Asian Games and took silver medals in the event at the 1994 and 2014 editions, is competing with the intention of qualifying for the Tokyo Olympics in 2020 - at 45.

At the other end of the spectrum, 15-year-old Shardul Vihan became



Hong Kong's Jacqueline Wing Ying Siu celebrates after winning gold medal

India's youngest medalist in shooting at the Asian Games when he took silver in the double trap final behind Shin Hyun-woo of South Korea.

Japanese teenager Rikako Ikee has been a star in the pool, and picked up her fif-

th gold medal and seventh overall of the meet to give her country a slight lead over China for swimming superiority.

With six finals remaining in swimming, Japan leads the medals table with 17 golds,

followed by China on 16.

The 18-year-old Ikee swam the butterfly leg of Japan's winning 4x100-meter medley relay, and is tied for second for the most gold medals and overall medals won by a competitor at a single Asian Games.

Palembang and its medal tally hit 100 - including 51 gold - halfway through the fifth day of competition.

That included golds in six of the day's first eight rowing finals.

The sequence of gold for China was broken by Uzbek pair Shakhboz Kholmurzaev and Shakhboz Abdujabborov, who took gold in double sculls, and the Vietnam crew of Ta Thanh Huyen, Luong Thi Thao, Ho Thi Ly and Pham Thi Thao in the lightweight women's quadruple sculls.

Four of the six wushu gold medals in the sanda discipline went to China as well, with Iran collecting the other two via Erfan Ahangarian in the 60-kilogram division and Mohsen Mohammadseifi winning the 70-kilogram class.

In the road race, Kazakhstan rider Alexey Lutsenko left it late before surging to the finish in a desperate four-way sprint to edge Fumiyuko Beppu for gold. **AP**

opinion

Kapok
Eric Sautédé



A FEW GOOD MEN

The sacking of two liberal-minded... The non-renewal of contract of two Portuguese legal advisors, Paulo Cardinal 簡天龍 and Paulo Taipa 戴保祿, who had been employed by the Legislative Assembly for 26 years and two decades respectively, is rightly causing quite a stir in Macao. Not in every circle though and clearly not for everyone for the same reason. A disclaimer: I know both personally, and I keep a friendly relationship with one.

The story was initially broken by the bilingual publication Plataforma on Saturday 18, and was immediately picked up by TDM news in both English and Portuguese. Monday, it made the headlines of the three Portuguese dailies and two English-speaking media, including the present one. All interviewed highly capable and relevant people, who conveyed the same message: one of shock and bewilderment. Some remained more "neutral", especially the lawyers whose firms are led by partners who keep a cozy relationship with the power that be, but they all praised the soon-to-be-dismissed legal advisors for their flawless abilities and eminent contributions to the healthy legal development of Macao, prior and after the handover. Thanks to Plataforma, we knew that the non-renewal was "unexpected", and that no reason, apart from a vague restructuring plan, had been given by the authority, the bureau of the Legislative Assembly. Hence the stupefaction giving rise to the suspicion of abusive sacking.

At that point though, not ONE interviewee had been of Chinese origin (leaving aside the three Macanese holding Portuguese passports). This is both sad and damaging: Sad because it shows that the press in Portuguese or English has very limited reach to the vast majority of the population. Are there no Chinese legal advisors, lawyers, legal scholars or community leaders willing to share their bafflement? What about former lawmakers who have less to lose? Damaging because it gave a particular spin to the situation: one of ethnic discrimination. Nationality took precedence over competence. Pushing discrimination towards the Portuguese to the fore risks awakening the demons of the past: prior to 1999, many jobs were reserved for Portuguese nationals and there still exists a level of resentment towards those once favored.

True, the Chinese press paid attention to the matter. On Monday, Macao Daily News, ironically made its headlines on the five-year Mainland residence permit benefitting Macao people and the opening of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao bridge. Since then, the matter has only been decently and widely covered in Chinese by All About Macau, Cheng Pou and Macau Concealers.

Cases of abusive dismissal within the legislative branch of power, although not new, are worrisome and raise several questions.

Why does the Legislative Assembly employ these legal advisors on short-term contracts, especially now that we have had a thorough reform of civil servants' contracts? Their duty is to the law, and leaving them in a precarious situation seems extremely unhealthy, their status being worth less than in the private sector where contracts become permanent upon third renewal. For such positions, employment stability is the safest way to avoid conflicts of interest. These advisors could be blamed, for example, by plutocratic lawmakers for not having spotted, willingly or not, the article of the Land Law that forbids renewal of land concessions after 25 years if plots remained undeveloped.

What also of the legitimacy and motivation of the board that took the decision? None of the four members of the board are truly elected (they all ran unopposed) and three are businesspeople: money presides? Two are at the forefront of Communist united front work, another is a direct relative of the Chief Executive and the last symbolizes the vengeful arm of the establishment against legislator Sulu Sou: politics prevail? It is no accident that Sulu Sou, Pereira Coutinho and Ng Kuok Cheong are the ones asking the board to explain itself.

THE BUZZ FOURTH OUTBREAK THIS MONTH OF AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

China yesterday reported another outbreak of African swine fever that threatens the country's crucial pork industry, but officials say they have the situation under control.

The latest cases were reported in the eastern city of Wenzhou and resulted in 430 pigs being infected, of which 340 died, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs said on its website.

That followed cases in at least three other locations this month resulting in the deaths or culling of thou-

sands of pigs. The highly contagious viral disease only affects pigs and wild boar.

The Wenzhou outbreak was first reported on Aug. 17 and confirmed on Wednesday.

Ministry teams have been dispatched to establish a quarantine zone, cull infected pigs and disinfect others. It says the outbreak has been "effectively dealt with."

China is the world's largest pork producer, breeding as many as 600 million pigs annually.

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

SOURCE: DSMG

FRANCE

Man kills mother, sister; Paris sees no apparent terror tie



A man with severe psychiatric problems killed his mother and sister and seriously injured another woman in a knife attack yesterday in a suburb of Paris.

Police shot and killed the man soon afterward. Islamic State, which has a history of opportunistic claims, swiftly claimed responsibility.

French prosecutors are not treating the attack as a terrorism case, said

Interior Minister Gerard Collomb. He noted the attacker suffered from serious mental health issues although he had also been flagged for glorifying terrorism.

Collomb said the man killed his mother at home and stabbed the others outside.

The Islamic State group, via its Amaq news agency, claimed responsibility. The agency said the attack in Trappes was motivated by calls from the IS leadership

to attack civilians in countries at war with the extremist group. Hours earlier, IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi urged followers to attack enemies everywhere.

The Islamic State group, which has lost most of the territories it once controlled in Iraq and Syria, has been known to make opportunistic claims in the past, even when there was no established link between an attacker and the extremist group. AP

WORLD BRIEFS



UGANDA A pop star-turned-lawmaker who opposes the longtime president was charged with treason in a civilian court yesterday, minutes after a military court dropped weapons charges.

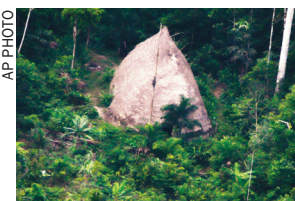
SOUTH AFRICA's government lashed out at President Donald Trump yesterday after he tweeted that his administration would be looking into farm seizures and the "large scale killing of farmers" in the country.



TURKEY Tourists have returned in droves to Turkey, helped this summer by the sharp fall in the value of the Turkish lira following economic uncertainty and a rift with the United States.

SPAIN Police have shut down what they believe to be Europe's biggest illegal turtle farm, selling endangered species worth 10,000 euros each.

BRITAIN will unilaterally accept some European Union rules and give EU financial services firms continued access to the U.K. market in order to maintain stability if the country crashes out of the bloc without a deal, the government said yesterday.



BRAZIL New aerial images give a rare glimpse of an isolated tribe in Brazil's Amazon, showing 16 people walking through jungle as well as a deforested area with a crop.

VENEZUELA In a city once called the Saudi Arabia of Venezuela for its vast oil wealth, residents of Maracaibo now line up to buy spoiled meat as refrigerators fail amid nine months of rolling power outages that recently got worse.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Niranjan Shrestha



Malta. The Statue of the Virgin Mary is taken out from Gozo Cathedral in the old Citadel in Rabat on the island of Gozo in the Maltese archipelago during the feast day of the Assumption of Mary. The streets and quaint lanes of Rabat come to life during the annual religious feast day of the Assumption of Mary.