



### PACKAGE TOUR VISITORS DECREASE

Visitors to Macau on package tours increased 14pct month-to-month to 771,000 in July, yet down 3.3pct year-on-year

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### 'ONGOING HUMAN RIGHTS CRISIS'

US lawmakers urged Washington to apply sanctions to address the "ongoing human rights crisis" in Xinjiang

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## MDT EXCLUSIVE

# Viva Macau sabotaged by Canadian investors

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## Airbus joins probe of Capital Airlines landing, missing wheels

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### WORLD BRIEFS

**MALAYSIA** The Philippine government has asked Filipinos in Malaysia to brace for a possible crackdown on illegal immigration in the Southeast Asian country, where it estimates about 400,000 Filipinos live illegally.

**MYANMAR** has deliberately obstructed aid deliveries to civilians in war-torn Kachin and northern Shan states, actions that may amount to war crimes, a human rights group said yesterday. [More on p12](#)



**INDIA** About 1,000 people protested near India's Parliament yesterday demanding the immediate release of five prominent rights activists who were arrested for alleged Maoist links in a countrywide crackdown this week.

**IRAN** continues to comply with the nuclear deal reached in 2015 with major powers even after the withdrawal of the United States, the United Nations' atomic watchdog said yesterday in a confidential report.

More on backpage

**Extra**

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THESE TRUTHS

**Extra times**

Weekend Edition

INSIDE



## 18th Macau Food Festival to kick off on November 9

The 18th Macau Food Festival will be held from November 9 until November 25. The 17-day food festival will, this year, adopt new payment methods. Local residents will be able to use Quick Pass, while mainland visitors can use other popular mainland payment methods, including WeChat Pay. Previously, visitors had to use cash coupons in order to pay for food. This year, the food festival will again feature gastronomy from other countries, which will be mixed in with aspects of the Greater Bay Area. More than 100 local food brands have been invited to participate in this year's food festival.

## Plans to reclaim water plant suspended

The Marine and Water Bureau has revealed plans to reclaim the water plant construction site were suspended. In a reply to lawmaker Lam Lon Wai's written inquiry, the marine authority said that the suspension is taking place because the government has to take care of other important livelihood projects first. With this consideration, the government decided to temporarily suspend the plan. According to the Marine authority, in 2017, the city's average daily household water consumption was 157 liters, lower than the average in Hong Kong, Guangzhou, Taipei, Tokyo and Seoul.

## IACM wants to expand location options for crematoria

The president of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM), José Tavares, has said that the department would not exclude the possibility of amending the city's law in order to expand the selection of locations for crematoria. In its reply to lawmaker Sulu Sou's inquiry (submitted in July) regarding the city's selection of crematoria locations, José Tavares noted that IACM has continued to discuss locations with the Land, Public Works and Transport (DSSOPT). "Building crematoria is an important aspect of [Macau's] overall immune system. It is necessary. The government and residents should discuss the topic objectively," José Tavares said. When asked whether the government would introduce promession, José Tavares said that it would begin to consider environmentally friendly burial technologies once they become mature and dependable.

# Airbus to aid in probe of plane that landed with missing wheels

**AIRBUS** SE said it will help Chinese authorities investigate an incident in Shenzhen this week, when the crew of an A320 commercial jet requested an emergency landing after reporting trouble in the left engine and landing gear. It was later discovered that the two nose wheels were missing.

Capital Airlines flight JD5759 from Beijing, with 166 aboard, encountered severe wind shear while attempting to land in Macau on August 28, according to the operator. Suspecting damage to the landing gear, the pilots initiated emergency procedures and landed at Shenzhen's Bao'an airport 42 minutes later.

Five passengers were hospitalized after evacuation, according to a statement by the Civil Aviation Administration of China, who are investigating the incident.

"Airbus will actively cooperate with CAAC and the airline to provide all necessary assistance and support," a Beijing-based spokeswoman for the European plane manufacturer said yesterday.

### AN ALL-AIRBUS FLEET

**CAPITAL AIRLINES**, controlled by Chinese conglomerate HNA Group Co., operates an all-Airbus fleet of 78 aircraft, and offers both domestic and long-haul international services to Europe, North America and Asia Pacific. It launched the first direct service between Beijing and Lisbon in July last year, according to the company's website.



Meanwhile, local authorities are also conducting an investigation into the incident, as the front tires and broken parts of the plane were found during a pavement inspection.

Pun Wa Kin, director of Flight Standards and Licensing of the Civil Aviation Authority, said that gathering of evidence is currently underway. "We are conducting a simple analysis while gathering evidence," he said, as cited in TDM.

"[The pilot] did request to come back to the Macau International Airport. But they might have made some decisions when handling the issue. This is normal. This is because the company and the flight crew

will decide which airport or which place is the best for landing," the official added.

According to Pun, that decision will be one of the factors they will investigate, adding that they do not rule out factors including weather, mechanical parts and man-made factors.

Airline passengers travelling back to Macau from Shenzhen on ferries and interviewed upon arrival described the last hour of the troubled flight. One of them said that she saw fire from the left hand side of the aircraft, and that the plane bumped upon landing twice before lifting off again. Another said that passengers were only informed about what was happening after they had landed in Shenzhen.

In an interview given to Canal Macau, Captain Vicente Serafim, CEO of Macau

Jet International, said, "a catastrophe almost happened in Macau." He also said that pilots had techniques to land planes with faulty landing gear and that is why the plane landed safely in Shenzhen, commending the pilot for his handling of the situation.

The Macau University of Science and Technology had already issued a statement expressing that it was "very concerned" as several of its new students were aboard the flight. The university extended its registration period for these students.

The emergency landing of the Chinese budget carrier occurred within three days of another of its A320 aircrafts making a sudden emergency descent. This aircraft lost cabin pressure on Sunday and landed in Kunming.

**THIS** month 20 residents reported to the Judiciary Police (PJ) that their credit cards had allegedly been stolen.

More recently, three residents reported to the PJ that they received credit card transaction information stating that their credit cards had been used to purchase mobile applications.

Each transaction was around USD10. Multiple transactions had been made on a daily basis, involving a total

### CRIME

## Twenty locals reported stolen credit card information

sum of more than USD300.

According to the PJ records, other residents have also made similar reports to the police. All victims said that their credit cards were used to purchase mobile applications or airplane tickets.

In total, 20 victims reported a loss of USD16,000. The PJ later discovered that all of them had visited a foreign tourism website with an address starting with the letter K. The victims entered their credit card details into the website.

Currently, the PJ suspects that the website has vulnerabilities which caused the victims' credit card details to be leaked, but is still investigating the case. The police also called on residents to be mindful about protecting their personal data

online and to choose reputable online shopping sites.

The PJ further highlights that individuals who suspect that fraud has occurred should immediately report the matter to the police regardless of the amount lost.

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Daniel Beittler

**F**AILED airline Viva Macau went bankrupt mainly because it was sabotaged by new investors, a former executive at the company has claimed in an exclusive telephone interview with the Times.

Joseph Said, a senior manager of Viva Macau, has accused private equity fund MKW Capital of mismanaging the airline and driving it to bankruptcy. He claims that a Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) investigation into Viva Macau may be “political” and “not targeting the right people.”

The CCAC is investigating Viva Macau at the request of the Industrial Development and Marketing Fund (FIDC) in relation to a MOP212 million loan to the now-defunct airline. The anti-corruption authority is interested in determining whether there were any illegal transfers of assets from Viva Macau to external companies or individuals prior to its 2010 bankruptcy.

Meanwhile, the Macau government is continuing to press charges against Viva Macau's main creditor and the guarantor of the FDIC loan, Hong Kong-based Eagle Airways. The total debt of Viva Macau amounts to some MOP1.14 billion, but only a small fraction of that has been recovered through liquidation of the firm's remaining assets.

Said joined Viva Macau in 2006 and was responsible for the company's Australian and South Pacific routes, which he described as the most profitable leg of the company, accounting for as much as 90 percent of the company's revenue at one point.

According to Said, the airline was in a healthy financial position at the time of the 2008 and 2009 loans from the FIDC, which amounted to a combined MOP212 million.

“From what I can tell, the loan to Viva Macau was done in good faith – [with the aim for it] to become the airline of Macau,” he told the Times. “That airline had a future; a massive future.”

“Where did the 200 million [patacas] go? That's a lot for an airline. With the money provided by the government, we could have operated that airline for

# Former exec says Viva Macau sabotaged by investors



Joseph Said

two years with zero income,” he said, adding that “the problems occurred higher up at the company and were to do with mismanagement.”

Private equity investment firm MKW Capital, led by principals Reginald MacDonald, Kevin McKenzie and James Wolf, acquired a majority stake in the airline in 2007.

Joseph Said said that MacDonald established seven auxiliary companies in Macau to provide different services to the airline prior to its bankruptcy, ranging from recruitment to advertising.

Viva Macau was directed to hire the services of the auxiliary companies, which “charged a fixed fee without negotiation to Viva Macau.”

The seven alleged auxiliary companies include online travel agency Macau.com, recruitment agency MacauHR.com and magazine publisher Destination Macau, which, according to Said, were the sole suppliers of the various marketing needs of the airline. These companies were recipients of investment from MKW Capital.

Said claims that it was during the tenure of MacDonald “that the problems started.” In April 2009, an influential person in Macau – whom Said would not identify – advised the airline executive to retire from Viva Macau. “About a year later the company went down,” he said.

The Times attempted to contact MacDonald, McKenzie and Wolf last week by various means, but none of the three answered messages. Meanwhile, the CCAC did not respond to an enquiry about whether or not the MKW principals were being sought in connection with the investigation.

Andrew Pyne, the brains

behind the airline and its chief executive officer from conception until the 2007 MKW Capital buyout, also agreed to speak to the Times about the airline's demise. He claims the company had always faced an uphill battle on account of “structural issues that made it difficult for Viva to make money.”

Pyne said that Viva Macau was only allowed to operate as a sub-franchisee of Air Macau and only on the routes the latter had no interest in. According to the airline's founder, not only did Air Macau retain the exclusive rights to fly to most popular destinations (such as China, Taiwan, Singapore and Phuket), it also had the ability to confiscate any routes it desired from Viva Macau.

“What finally killed Viva was the terms of the Air Macau franchise, which was very restrictive,” said Pyne. “Under the sub-franchise granted by Air Macau, they could kick us off a profitable route if they wanted.”

“The way [for the government] to help Viva was to loosen the franchise, rather than the handout [loan],” he added. “Even at the time it seemed to be a very off, misguided policy.”

When asked whether he knew what happened the MOP212 million loan to Viva Macau, Pyne said, “I have no idea where the money went... I assume that the loans were used to cover the losses of the company. There was no element of corruption during my time at the company – everything was above board.”

Pyne had initially partnered with William Ho, the late brother of Macau's former Chief Executive Edmund Ho, and another investor, Ngan In Leng. After his father's death, William Ho's son Kevin Ho inherited the executive director position at the company, but kept his distance from the day-to-day operations.

**■ Viva Macau was directed to hire the services of certain companies, which ‘charged a fixed fee without negotiation’**

Speaking to the Times yesterday, Kevin Ho said that he could not provide an accurate account of what happened in the airline's final years. “I was not involved in the company at all – I just inherited the position of executive director from my late father [William Ho],” he said, adding that he couldn't recall the specific details.

After the MKW buyout, Pyne initially retained a small stake in the company and a position on the board, but he says that since no board meetings were ever held he eventually decided to sell his remaining shares.

Another airline executive, Con Korfiatis, who was previously the company's chief operating officer and chief financial officer, took over as CEO from 2007 to 2009, leaving before Viva Macau entered its final days. Korfiatis could not be reached for comment.

In 2011, MKW Capital claimed that the Macau SAR government had unjustifiably shut down the airline. In 2014, the firm pressed for as much as USD200 million in equity loss caused by the sudden shutdown. Macau's Civil Aviation Authority has replied that Viva Macau was grounded for failing to keep up with payments for fuel, aircraft leases and government bailout loans.



MICE

# Recruitment of bilingual translators and receptionists prioritized

**T**HE 2018 Portuguese Speaking Countries Products and Services Exhibition (2018 PLPEX) will prioritize the recruitment of translators and receptionists of those bilingual in Chinese and Portuguese registered on the “Economic and Trade Co-operation and Human Resources Portal between China and Portuguese-Speaking Countries. According to a statement issued yesterday by the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute, they will be directly involved in promoting the development of a platform for mainland China and Portuguese-speaking Countries in both online and offline connections.

PLPEX, to be held from October 18 to 20 at The Venetian Macao, made its debut in 2015 as an exhibition within the 20th Macao International Trade and Investment Fair

(20th MIF). According to the statement, this year’s edition of the event will independent, although it will be held concurrently with the 23rd Macao International Trade and Investment Fair (23rd MIF). It is expected to attract enterprises from mainland China and eight Portuguese-speaking Countries (Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, Sao Tome and Principe, and East Timor), together with local agents of Portuguese-speaking Countries’ food products and professional service providers registered on the Portal. The aim of the event is to offer opportunities for exhibition, negotiation to any enterprises wishing to participate in economic and trade co-operation between Mainland China and Portuguese-speaking Countries.



# Package-tour visitors edged down 3.3pct in July

**V**ISITORS to Macau on package tours increased 14 percent month-to-month to 771,000 in July, yet down 3.3 percent year-on-year, the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) announced yesterday.

The month-to-month increase was attributable to the summer holidays. In the first seven months of 2018, visitors on package tours totaled 5.04 million, up 10.7 percent year-on-year.

In July, package tour visitors from mainland China (611,000) decreased 7.5 percent year-on-

year, while those from South Korea (49,000) and Taiwan (63,000) surged 30.6 percent and 59.4 percent respectively.

There were 116 hotels and guesthouses operating at the end of July, an increase of nine year-on-year. The number of guest rooms grew by 8 percent year-on-year to 39,000, of which 5-star hotel rooms went up 11.1 percent to 24,000, accounting for 61.9 percent of the total.

The number of guests of hotels and guesthouses in July rose 1.1 percent year-on-year to 1.23

million. The average length of stay of guests went up 0.1 nights year-on-year to 1.5 nights. The average occupancy rate of hotels and guesthouses stood at 89.9 percent, down slightly by 0.9 percentage points year-on-year.

In the first seven months of 2018, guests of hotels and guesthouses totaled 8.1 million, up 6.8 percent year-on-year. The average occupancy rate of hotels and guesthouses rose 3.2 percentage points to 88.7 percent. **MDT/Xinhua**

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**T**HE chief executive of the Hong Kong Jockey Club says that horseracing on the tropical Chinese island of Hainan will not be a reality in the near term. Speaking to South China Morning Post, Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges said that such ventures can take up to seven years to become credible operations.

He said that it is a lengthy process to get a horseracing site operational, and it includes concept and feasibility studies, the development of a sustainable model, the training of horses and staff, and recruitment of jockeys.

"It's easy to build but costly to operate," Engelbrecht-Bresges told the SCMP. "Such a development will take a significant period of time."

According to the SCMP, after Chinese President Xi Jinping stated his intention earlier this year to turn the island of Hainan into a free-trade port, speculation became rife among entrepreneurs who established companies with some variant of horseracing in their name.

Engelbrecht-Bresges said that the Central Government has not yet consulted the Hong Kong Jockey Club regarding the development of horseracing in Hainan, nor have any entities on the is-

# Horseracing in Hainan not likely soon says HK Jockey Club chief



land, which is technically part of the mainland. The Jockey Club has previously supported mainland activities of this nature, including the equestrian events of the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

"We have not had any discussion with Hainan or anybody that is thinking

about investing. We are not a commercial organization so we are not looking at partnerships in Hainan to develop [horseracing] on a commercial basis," he said.

The statements come as the Hong Kong Jockey Club inaugurates its HKD3.7 billion Conghua Racecou-

se near Guangzhou. The horse racing company says its focus for the near-term is supporting the Central Government's Greater Bay Area project to link the two special administrative regions to nine other cities in the vicinity of the Pearl River estuary.

## 48 suspected illegal workers found in July

Yesterday, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) reported July's illegal worker statistics, according to a statement released by the PSP. In July, the PSP together with the Labour Affairs Bureau and other governmental departments, inspected 438 locations (compared to 314 in June) for illegal workers. Construction sites, private residential buildings, commercial offices and industrial offices were among the locations inspected. In total, 48 suspected illegal workers were found, compared to 68 in June. During the same period last year, the PSP and other governmental departments inspected 445 locations and found 71 suspected illegal workers.

## China eases process for issuing, renewing passports

The State Immigration Administration (SIA) announced several measures this week to simplify the process of issuing passports and travel documents to Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan residents. From September 1, citizens will be able to apply for or renew passports and travel documents to Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan from anywhere, regardless of where their household registration is, the SIA said in the statement. Processing times will be reduced to seven working days, according to the statement. Tourists traveling to Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan in groups can also apply for travel permissions from places other than their household registration locality. Since being founded in April, the SIA has launched several policies to facilitate cross-border travel, such as shortening waiting times for citizens crossing the border and offering visa-free access to tourists of 59 countries into Hainan Province.

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# Workers in selected industries see rise in earnings

**T**HE Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) has released the results of a survey on manpower needs and wages for the second quarter of 2018, covering the sectors of wholesale and retail trade, transport, storage and communications, security activities, and public sewage and refuse disposal. Most of the sectors surveyed registered growth in employee earnings.

At the end of the second quarter of 2018, the wholesale and retail trade sector had 61,288 persons engaged, up by 2.2 percent year-on-year, with 37,886 working in retail. In June 2018, the average earnings (excluding bonuses) of full-time employees in the sector rose by 2.5 percent year-on-year to MOP13,370.

Meanwhile, there were 11,251 persons engaged in the transport, storage and communications sector, down by 2.5 percent year-on-year. The average earnings of full-time employees increased by 3.9 percent year-on-year to



MOP21,260.

Security activities employed 11,513 persons, up by 7 percent year-on-year, while their average earnings fell 1.2 percent in June year-on-year to MOP12,810.

There were 862 persons employed in the public sewage and refuse disposal sector, down by 0.5 percent year-on-year, while their average earnings increased by 1.5 percent annually to MOP18,420.

The vacancy rate in the retail trade rose by 1.4 percentage points year-on-year to 7.7 per-

cent, while the turnover rate fell by 1.5 percentage points to 4.8 percent, suggesting an increase in demand for manpower in the sector, according to DSEC. Meanwhile, the vacancy rate (6.4 percent) and the turnover rate (5 percent) in transport, storage and communications dropped by 0.4 and 0.2 percentage points respectively year-on-year, and the recruitment rate (7.9 percent) rose by 2.9 percentage points, indicating that some of the vacancies were filled.

In terms of recruitment pre-

requisites, most vacancies in public sewage and refuse disposal (88 percent), transport, storage and communications (45.3 percent) and wholesale and retail trade (41.1 percent) required junior secondary level education or lower.

As for language skills, 80.1 percent and 49.3 percent of the vacancies in the retail trade required knowledge of Mandarin and English respectively, while the corresponding proportions in security activities were 41.3 percent and 66.3 percent respectively.

## Petition calling for reducing plastic usage submitted

Yesterday, five residents delivered a petition to the government headquarters urging the government to determine a solution for plastic waste. The petition was signed by 4,700 people. One of the creators, surnamed Lao, commented that there is a serious problem in Macau concerning single-use plastics, and that the majority of plastic waste is not recyclable. "We do not need this much plastic in our lives," said Lao. Currently, Macau shops are still not charging for plastic bags. Lao hopes that the government can speed up the legislative process towards reducing the use of plastic.

## Rickshaw union denies misappropriation

The Macao Pedicab Drivers Union claimed that it has not misappropriated government subsidies. Earlier this week, a group of pedicab drivers complained about the union having misappropriated subsidies granted by the government. Subsidies, consisting of an amount ranging between MOP60,000 and MOP70,000, was received by the union on a monthly basis for distribution to drivers. The subsidy was given to the union as part of a pedicab promotional project conducted by both the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) and the union. The union denied misappropriating the subsidies and said that it has already reported the case to the police. According to the union, MGTO stopped the promotional project last July.

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### REAL ESTATE MATTERS Investing or speculating?

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What is the difference between an investor and a speculator? Is there a difference? Fundamentally speaking, they are quite similar. They both allocate and deploy capital with the aim of maximizing a return on investment. But from a strategic standpoint, the two are at opposite ends of the spectrum, and have drastically different relationships with the concept of 'risk'. We'll explore some of these differences in this article.

#### INVESTING

Generally speaking, investing is the act of allocating money or resources into a business-related venture with the expectation of achieving profit at a future date. An investor is someone who can spot opportunities around him, add value to it and then reap the positive returns at a future date. An example is a man who upon spot-

ting an empty field sees potential in it, purchases it and then turns it into a productive farm or industry. An investor's main concern is forced appreciation of the asset, conservative financing and long-term gains. The key idea to take away from investing is that it's a strategy based on low risk purchases accompanied by added value transformations.

#### SPECULATING

Although every investor speculates from time to time, having a real estate investment strategy purely based on speculation can be highly risky. In real estate, speculation is usually the strategy of buying a property with the purpose of reselling it later at a higher price. The speculator isn't as concerned in adding value or tapping into a property's potential as much as relying on the market to deliver returns, and carries little to no

level of personal control. This dependence on the appreciation of the general market whether it's at a local or international level is inherently risky because as we know, the market can be fickle of temperament.

#### INVESTING AND SPECULATING IN REAL ESTATE

It is true that the speculator can make more money than the investor, especially over the short term. However, adopting an investor's mindset will help you stay in the game longer and ensure that your investments are grounded on added value instead of market fluctuations. In short, instead of purchasing houses and apartments with the hopes that the market will shoot up, the investor takes a longer-term perspective and focuses on building a strong portfolio based on cash flow and added value.

## Argentina asks early release of IMF funds to calm markets

**P**RESIDENT Mauricio Macri asked the International Monetary Fund on Wednesday for an early release of funds from a USD50 billion deal with the IMF to ease concerns that Argentina will not be able to meet its debt obligations for 2019.

Macri said in a televised address that Argentina has agreed with the IMF "to advance all necessary funds to guarantee compliance with next year's financial program."

Macri said that in the past week there have been "expressions of a lack of trust in the markets" about Argentina. He said the decision seeks to dispel any uncertainty, but he did not specify the amount or when the funds will be released.

Argentina was forced to strike a deal with the IMF earlier this year after a sharp depreciation of its currency and a run on the peso. The three year stand-by financing deal is aimed at strengthening the South American country's weak economy and helping it fight inflation, which at 30 percent per year, is one of the highest in the world.

The Argentine currency fell again Wednesday to close at



A man with a sign reading in Spanish "Stop Macri" stands outside an exchange office in Buenos Aires

an all-time low of 34.2 pesos per U.S. dollar.

The IMF said in a statement that it will "revise the government's economic plan with a focus on better insulating Argentina from the recent shifts in global financial markets, including through stronger monetary and fiscal policies and a deepening of efforts to support the most vulnerable in society."

Most Argentines have bad memories of the IMF and blame the international lending institution for encouraging policies that led to the country's worst economic crisis

in 2001. The crisis 17 years ago resulted in one of every five Argentines being unemployed, millions sliding into poverty and some reporting going hungry.

The international lender has admitted that it had made a string of mistakes that contributed to Argentina's economic implosion. A 2004 report by the IMF's internal audit unit concluded it failed to provide enough oversight, overestimated growth and the success of economic reforms, while it continued to lend Argentina money when its debt burden had turned unsustainable. AP



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Lisa Du, Corinne Gretler and Maiko Takahashi

# Nestle wants your DNA to develop personalized nutrition trend

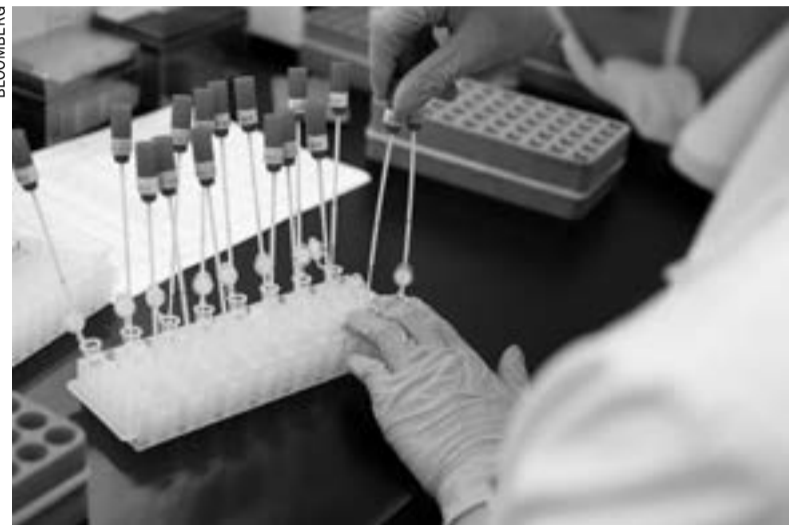
**T**HE company that brought you milk chocolate, Maggi instant noodles and Rocky Road ice cream is worried about your health.

Nestle SA, the world's largest food company, has joined the trend for personalized nutrition with a blend of artificial intelligence, DNA testing and the modern obsession with Instagramming food. The program, begun in aging Japan, could provide the Swiss company with a wealth of data about customers' wellness and diet as it pivots toward consumers who are seeking to improve their health and longevity.

In Japan, some 100,000 users of the "Nestle Wellness Ambassador" program send pictures of their food via the popular Line app that then recommends lifestyle changes and specially formulated supplements. The program can cost USD600 a year for capsules that make nutrient-rich teas, smoothies and other products such as vitamin-fortified snacks. A home kit to provide samples for blood and DNA testing helps identify susceptibility to common ailments like high cholesterol or diabetes.

"Most of the personalized approach is driven by smaller companies, that's why it was fairly limited," said Ray Fujii, a partner at L.E.K. Consulting in Japan. "Nestle is taking a further step. They're trying to figure out the algorithm between the test results and the genetic information and what they recommend as a solution. If they could do it, it's a very big step."

Nestle's program is part of a change in direction for the 152-year-old company, which sold off its U.S. candy unit this year amid falling demand for sugary treats. Nestle has made a spate of investments targeted at healthier options including vegetarian meal maker Sweet Earth Foods and meal-delivery service Freshly. The company bought



Canadian dietary supplements maker Atrium Innovations in March for \$2.3 billion, its biggest medical-nutrition purchase in more than a decade.

"Health problems associated with food and nutrition have become a big issue," said Kozo Takaoka, head of the company's business in Japan, in an interview in Tokyo. "Nestle must address that on a global basis and make it our mission for the 21st century." He said the wellness segment could eventually account for half of Nestle's sales in Japan.

The investments come with the burgeoning interest in so-called nutraceuticals - food-derived ingredients that are processed and packaged as medicine or wellness aids - among consumers that are increasingly skeptical about mass products. Nestle employs more than a hundred scientists in areas including cell biology, gastrointestinal medicine and genomics at the Nestle Institute of Health Sciences and has been developing tools to analyze and measure people's nutrient levels.

"Decades in the future, all companies will probably have

to be doing it," said Jon Cox, an analyst at Kepler Cheuvreux. "The industry has probably had a setback as consumers also want natural and less processed products while adding supplements is seen as artificial or creating Frankenstein food."

Some nutritionists are skeptical that tailored diet plans based around supplements are useful and that they may have more of a psychological effect than a medical one.

"Nestle's program is designed to personalize diets in ways unlikely to be necessary," said Marion Nestle, a nutrition professor at New York University who isn't linked to the KitKat maker. "If we think something will make us healthier, we are likely to feel healthier."

One of the early adopters among the food companies was Campbell Soup Co., which invested \$32 million in 2016 in San Francisco-based startup Habit, which uses DNA and blood profiles to make diet recommendations, as well as offering nutritional coaching and tailored meal-kits.

Big Food is tapping expertise in AI and genetics to navigate a



sea change in the way consumers make choices, which has upended businesses from transportation to television.

"In the 21st century, innovation is using the internet and AI to solve problems that our customers didn't realize they had, or problems they had given up on," said Takaoka, who is famous in Japan for making the KitKat chocolate wafer an iconic local snack by adding green tea and other flavors.

He said big consumer companies can no longer rely on the power of their brands to woo a generation that grew up with e-commerce. "They just search for things, they don't pick the brand," he said. "When people talk about brand marketing, I'm just thinking 'what's that?'"

Hitomi Kasuda, a 47-year-old freelance writer, says drinking Nestle's kale smoothie and other health drinks as much as four times a week helps her feel better about not eating enough vegetables. She gave up using the chat function on the app, but said she's keen to get the DNA test.

"There's probably a lot of things I don't realize about my health

that I can discover in a blood and genetics test," said Kasuda, who lives south of Tokyo in Yokohama. "Even if I feel healthy, I'd like to know more about the quality of my health."

In his 2016 book "Nutrition for a Better Life," former Nestle chief Peter Brabeck-Letmathe proposed that personalized diet and health programs were the future of nutrition. "Using a capsule similar to a Nespresso, people will be able to take individual nutrient cocktails or prepare their food via 3-D printers according to electronically recorded health recommendations," he wrote.

Two years later, Japanese subscribers in the wellness program now drink nutrient-fortified teas dispensed in capsules using a product similar to Nespresso, Nestle's trademark coffee machine.

"We're getting consumer buy-in because we live in a hedonistic, me-first kind of world," said Peter Jones, a nutritional scientist at the University of Manitoba in Canada. "This is going to be the manifestation of the future. The one-size-fits-all platform is a thing of the past." **Bloomberg**

## corporate bits

### MGM ORGANIZES ANNUAL SUMMER PROGRAM FOR LOCAL YOUTH



This August, MGM once again organized the Golden Lion Summer Camp and A Day with MGM summer program for local youth, where young

people can learn new skills and become acquainted with real-life work experience.

Over the years, both programs have offered more

than 1,000 local young people meaningful summer pastimes across the school holidays, the gaming operator said in a statement.

As part of the program of the Golden Lion Summer Camp, MGM took 90 students from 24 local high schools to Yuen Long Po Leung Kuk Tai Tong Holiday Camp in Hong Kong to join mentors for the action-packed camp set amongst nature in Yuen Long.

MGM also welcomed nearly 90 local high school students to experience working with MGM team members as part of the gaming operator's A Day with MGM program.

With the vision to "Create a Better Tomorrow Today," MGM launches its signature Community Care Campaign every summer for the community at large.

### GEG HOSTS FAMILY TOUR AT BACK-OF-HOUSE AREAS



Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) recently organized the Galaxy Macau Family

Tour 2018 with the theme "Welcome to Heart of House - Your Second Home." The

tour introduced Galaxy Macau's back-of-house areas to the families of team members.

In July and August, GEG organized four tours consisting of 20 different departments and their families, amounting to more than 200 participants in total, the gaming operator said in a statement.

During the visits, guests were shown some of the self-service systems in the back-of-house areas, and also visited the floral shop, the wardrobe department, staff canteens, the staff clinic, and the team member services center.

According to GEG, the Family Tour was organized to deepen the understanding of the workplace and improve communication between team members and their families.

# China rejects US lawmakers' sanctions call over Muslim camps

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

CHINA said yesterday that U.S. lawmakers were wasting taxpayer money by urging President Donald Trump's administration to impose sanctions on Chinese officials allegedly tied to the mass internment of ethnic minority Muslims in camps in the far west.

The lawmakers sent a letter to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin urging the government to apply sanctions to address the "ongoing human rights crisis" in the region of Xinjiang, in the latest sign that the detentions are raising concerns among Western leaders and governments.

Muslim ethnic minorities in Xinjiang are being detained and tortured and face "egregious restrictions on religious practice and culture" and other abuses, said the letter, which was signed by Florida Sen. Marco Rubio and New Jersey Rep. Chris Smith and 15 others. It was provided to the media on Wednesday.

The letter singles out Xinjiang's top official, Chen Quanguo, accused by many of turning the region into a police surveillance state and implementing a system of internment camps, also known as "re-education centers," where members of the Uighur and other Muslim minorities are locked up for months without trial.

"The detention of as many as a million or more Uighurs and other predominantly Muslim ethnic minorities in 'political reeducation' center or camps requires a tough, targeted, and global response," the letter said.

Former detainees who spoke to The Associated Press described the internment camps as facilities policed by armed guards where Muslims were forced to disavow their reli-



A child reacts as security personnel march by in a show of force in Kashgar

gious beliefs, criticize themselves and their loved ones and give thanks to the ruling Communist Party. Beatings and deaths have been reported despite authorities' tight control on information from the region.

The detention program has swept up people, including relatives of American citizens, on ostensible offenses ranging from accessing foreign websites to contacting overseas relatives. Other aspects of the security crackdown the AP has detailed include all-encompassing digital surveillance, mass deployment of police and severe regulations against religious customs and dress.

Yesterday in Beijing, the Foreign Ministry said Chinese citizens enjoy freedom of religion according to the law and that the American lawmakers should not "threaten to impose sanctions at every turn on other countries."

"I would like to advise the individual U.S. lawmakers

to focus on and perform their duties well because they are spending taxpayer money," spokeswoman Hua Chunying told reporters. "They should certainly serve the Americans properly instead of poking their noses in other countries' affairs and pretending to be a judge of human rights."

■ The letter singles out Xinjiang's top official, Chen Quanguo, accused by many of turning the region into a police surveillance state

China denies such internment camps exist but says criminals involved in minor offenses are sent to "vocational education and employment training centers" to help with their rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

"The argument that 'a million Uighurs are detained in re-education centers' is completely untrue," Chinese representative Hu Lianhe said earlier this month in responding to questions raised by the U.N.'s Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in Geneva.

China insists tough measures are needed as part of a "People's War on Terror" to purge separatist and religious extremist elements from Xinjiang, a vast region with more than 10 million Muslims. Deadly ethnic riots in its capital in 2009 killed hundreds and sporadic violence occurred in subsequent years. But reports of violence are increasingly rare and the existence of an effective or-

ganized resistance to Chinese rule is widely doubted.

China's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the letter.

Rubio and Smith had raised the possibility of imposing sanctions on Chinese officials under the 2016 Global Magnitsky Act in April, asking the U.S. ambassador to Beijing, Terry Branstad, to visit the region and collect information on Xinjiang officials responsible for the mass detention policy.

The Global Magnitsky Act allows the U.S. government to place travel and financial restrictions on individuals anywhere in the world given credible proof of their role in human rights violations or corruption. For the first time in December, U.S. authorities designated 52 people under the act, including a Myanmar general allegedly involved in the deadly crackdown on Rohingya Muslims and a Chinese police official who oversaw the Beijing detention center that held Cao Shunli, a human rights activist who died in custody.

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Laura Stone said later in April that the U.S. was deeply concerned about the detentions and could take action under the Magnitsky act.

Along with Chen, other Chinese officials named in the letter include Hu, the Chinese delegate to the U.N. human rights meeting, who is an official with the Communist Party's United Front Work Department; Xinjiang Deputy Party Secretary Shohret Zakir; and the head of Xinjiang's Politics and Law Commission Zhu Hailun.

The letter also mentions two companies that could be sanctioned under a separate executive order, Hikvision and Dahua Technology, both of which make video surveillance technology used extensively throughout Xinjiang track residents and restrict their movements.

The letter was signed by a bipartisan group of senators and congressmen, including Ted Cruz and Sherrod Brown. AP

CHINA urged the Trump administration to back away from imposing new tariffs on another USD200 billion tranche of its goods, as the end of a formal comment period on the measures nears.

The U.S. should "take note of the calling from businesses and consumers in both countries, the fact that both countries are linked closely

## Beijing urges US to make 'right decision' as USD200b tariffs near

in the supply chain and the fundamental interest of the two peoples to make the right decision," Ministry of Commerce spokesman Gao Feng said at a regular briefing in Beijing yes-

terday. Over 90 percent of businesses consulted on the tariffs oppose them, Gao said.

President Donald Trump has imposed additional tariffs on \$50 billion of Chinese im-

ports and identified another \$200 billion in goods targeted for duties of as much as 25 percent, ranging from chemicals and seafood to vacuums and bicycles. Those duties could

take effect after a comment period ends Sept. 6. Such an escalation of the trade conflict could shave as much as 0.3 percentage point off China's output growth next year.

Gao repeated Beijing's line that U.S. "bullying" won't work, and that the nation is confident of stable and sound trade this year. On Wednesday, Trump accused China of undermining U.S. efforts to pressure North Korea into giving up its nuclear weapons, indicating his trade war with Beijing is starting to exacerbate geopolitical tensions. Bloomberg

## Gov't says no plans to deploy troops to Afghanistan

CHINA yesterday denied reports that it plans to deploy troops to Afghanistan, saying the neighbors are engaged merely in "normal military and security cooperation." Defense Ministry spokesman Col. Wu Qian said reports in Hong Kong's South China Morning Post newspaper and elsewhere that hundreds of People's Liberation Army soldiers are to man a base in eastern Afghanistan are "simply not true."



China's defense ministry spokesman Wu Qian

China shares a narrow border with Afghanistan in the remote Wakhan corridor region and is wary of the country's violence and chronic instability overflowing into its restless Xinjiang region. However, Wu said China, like other nations, is helping Afghanistan increase its defense capabilities, particularly in the area of counterterrorism.

Afghanistan's ambassador to China, Janan Mosazai, said this week that Beijing is helping Afghanistan set up a mountain brigade to bolster counterterrorism operations, but that no Chinese troops would be stationed in the country. "While the Afghan government appreciates this Chinese assistance and our two militaries are working in close coordination on utilizing this assistance, there will be no Chinese military personnel of any kind in-

involved in this process on Afghan soil," Mosazai said.

China has sought to increase its presence in Afghanistan, including in dialogue with the Taliban, after 17 years of Western involvement that has left the country still at war.

Along with Pakistan, Iran and Russia, it is gaining a growing influence even as the United States spends billions of dollars covering much of the \$6.5 billion spent annually to support the Afghan National Security Forces, which are struggling to contain an energized Taliban.

Despite the denials of Chinese military activity in the area, unconfirmed reports have shown what appear to be Chinese military vehicles operating in the Wakhan corridor, which lies in the shadow of the Hindu Kush mountains with Tajikistan to the north and Pakistan to the south. AP

## Private fund chief arrested after USD2.6b goes missing

SHANGHAI Fuxing Group's chairman was arrested overseas and escorted back to China on suspicion of manipulating stocks and other economic crimes, according to Shanghai's police department.

Zhu Yidong, 36, returned to China on Wednesday, the police said in a statement on their official social media account. He had disappeared to unknown countries after Fuxing missed an estimated 18 billion yuan (USD2.6 billion) of payments to clients through private equity products from affiliated firms and itself, according to state broadcaster China Central Television.

The case highlights the determination of Chinese authorities to stamp out financial wrongdoing, as they seek to cut risk from the economy and tamp down behavior that could unsettle markets. Last week Yang Zhihui, the chairman

of casino operator Landing International Development Ltd., was arrested in Cambodia in relation to a corruption investigation, Caixin reported. Securities regulators have levied billions of yuan in fines for market manipulation over the past year.

Authorities will check Fuxing's private fund assets and investor list to defuse risks, the Shanghai police said, without providing further details.

Fuxing and Li Weiwei, the controlling shareholder of a separate Beijing-based asset management company, used 25 institutional accounts and 436 individual accounts to manipulate the price of Dalian Insulator Group Co., more than doubling the company's share price between June 2016 and March 2017, according to a July statement from the China Securities Regulatory Commission. Bloomberg

ADVERTORIAL

# AUTUMN ARRIVALS

From back-to-school apparel and accessories to the most fashion-forward items hot off the catwalks, don't miss all that Sands Shoppes has to offer this season.

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BACKPACK BY CATH KIDSTON

BOYS JACKET BY ARMANI JUNIOR

BOYS TRAINERS BY ZARA

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The Fall Winter collections are finally here so indulge at your favourite brands to ensure you're on trend for autumn, whether you are all for animal prints, set on stripes, or looking to shimmer in silver this season.

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FW18 LOOK BY SAINT LAURENT

FW18 LOOK BY ALEXANDER MCQUEEN

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## MALAYSIA

# 1MDB probe moves overseas as 60 percent of evidence compiled

Anisah Shukry

**M**ALAYSIAN investigators have completed 60 percent of their probe into troubled state fund 1MDB after reopening the case about three months ago.

The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission has compiled almost all local evidence, and is now collecting information from outside the country with cooperation from the foreign authorities, including U.S. and Singapore, Deputy Chief Commissioner Azam Baki told reporters near Kuala Lumpur.

"Give us time to get statements from overseas," he said. "We're left with about 40 percent, which is all the evidence we need from the foreign countries. It involves many countries."

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad is pushing for a quick resolution to investigations into the multibillion-dollar scandal surrounding 1MDB as he seeks to recover USD4.5 billion potentially lost through the fund. Gathering evidence across borders may prove to be the bigger challenge as authorities seek to trace the complex globe-spanning transactions that have spawned investigations in at least 10 countries.

The court has laid several charges of corruption, abuse of power and money laundering against former premier Najib Razak, with all of them linked to 42 million ringgit (\$10.2 million) of domestic transactions.

Malaysia has requested Interpol to issue a Red Notice against Jho Low,

who has been painted as a central figure in the 1MDB case, and his father. Low has hired former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie and one of President Donald Trump's go-to law firms, Kasowitz Benson Torres, to defend his interests in a U.S. Justice Department investigation.

The whereabouts of Low and his father aren't publicly known, although the Malaysian police said that he firstly took refuge in Macau and now he is believed to be in mainland China.

Separately, the anti-graft agency is looking into possible 1MDB links in a \$12 million case involving a research division under the Prime Minister's Department, with nine individuals already detained as part of the probe. **MDT/Bloomberg**

## INDIA

# Currency decree did little to root out 'black money'



**N**EARLY all of the currency removed from circulation in a surprise 2016 attempt to root out illegal hoards of cash came back into the financial system, India's reserve bank has announced, indicating the move did little to slow the underground economy.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's currency decree, which was designed to destroy the value of billions of dollars in untaxed cash stockpiles, caused an economic slowdown and months of financial chaos for tens of millions of people.

Modi announced in a November 2016 TV address that all 500-rupee and 1,000-rupee notes, then worth about USD7.50 and \$15, would be withdrawn immediately from circulation. The banned notes could be deposited into bank accounts but the government also said it would investigate deposits over

250,000 rupees, or about \$3,700. The government eventually released new currency notes worth 500 and 2,000 rupees.

In theory, the decree meant corrupt politicians and businesspeople would suddenly find themselves sitting on billions of dollars in worthless currency, known here as "black money."

"A few people are spreading corruption for their own benefit," Modi said in the surprise nighttime speech announcement of the order. "There is a time when you realize that you have to bring some change in society, and this is our time."

But even as the decree caused turmoil for those in India who have always depended on cash — the poor and middle class, and millions of small traders — the rich found ways around the currency switch. In the months after the decree, businesspeople said that

even large amounts of banned currency notes could be traded on the black market, though middlemen charged heavy fees.

The reserve bank report said in its Wednesday report that 99.3 percent of the \$217 billion in notes withdrawn from circulation had come back into the economy. Some officials had originally predicted that number could be as low as 60 percent.

"Frankly, I think demonetization was a mistake," said Gurcharan Das, a writer and the former head of Procter & Gamble in India. He said that while it did broaden the country's tax base, it was a nightmare for the immense, cash-dependent informal economy.

"You can't overnight change that in a country which is poor and illiterate. Therefore, for me it's not only an economic failure but a moral failure as well," Das said. **AP**

Victoria Milko, Yangon

## MYANMAR

# Rights group sees blocked aid to Kachin as war crime

**M**YANMAR has deliberately obstructed aid deliveries to civilians in war-torn Kachin and northern Shan states, actions that may amount to war crimes, a human rights group said yesterday.

Re-ignited fighting between Myanmar's military and an armed Kachin rebel group has killed thousands of civilians and displaced over 100,000 since 2011. The Kachin Independence Army is one of several ethnic rebel groups the military has been battling since Myanmar's independence from Britain 70 years ago.

Thousands of people have been forced to leave their homes since a new

offensive began in April that has renewed concerns Myanmar's army is creating a humanitarian crisis in Kachin similar to the one caused by its violence against Rohingya Muslims in the western state of Rakhine.

Human rights group Fortify Rights said civilians displaced by the Kachin violence have suffered "increased food insecurity, avoidable health-related deaths, poor living conditions, and protection concerns" due to the lack of essential aid.

"Consecutive governments and the military

have willfully obstructed local and international aid groups, denying Kachin civilians access to aid," Fortify Rights chief executive Matthew Smith said in a statement accompanying the group's report. "This may amount to a war crime, giving even more reason for the U.N. Security Council to refer Myanmar to the International Criminal Court."

"There is no food for people on the border," said Zau Raw, who is displaced in an area controlled by the rebels. He told the human rights group that he witnessed Myanmar

soldiers take money from aid trucks and then block their deliveries. "They block everything. All trucks that are trying to cross into KIA-controlled areas are blocked."

Fortify Rights said Myanmar authorities should allow access for local and international aid groups to deliver relief.

The United States in mid-August intensified its sanctions against Myanmar, blacklisting four commanders and two units of security forces for their alleged role in violent campaigns against ethnic minorities including



David Bauk (center) a specialist from Fortify Rights, talks to journalists

Rohingya Muslims and the Kachin, who are largely Christian.

A U.N. investigating team reported earlier this week that Myanmar's top generals should face prosecution for crimes against

humanity and war crimes in Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan states. The investigators said Myanmar authorities "frequently and arbitrarily denied" humanitarian aid to civilians in Kachin. **AP**

Karlis Salna

# As Bali awaits financial elite, a volcano is still rumbling

**J**EROME Powell's upcoming Asia visit will test the Federal Reserve chief's appetite for risk on a far different scale to the U.S. economy.

As Indonesia prepares to host the International Monetary Fund and World Bank Group annual meeting on the island of Bali in October, authorities are planning for all sorts of potential natural disasters from earthquakes to tsunamis, after a tremor killed 500 people in a nearby island this month. Officials also have a contingency plan in the event that a rumbling volcano erupts again.

"We as the committee and the government are ready with an evacuation plan," Indonesia's IMF-World Bank Annual Meeting task-force chief Peter Jacobs said in an interview in Jakarta. "We even have the ships, the navy ships around Bali ready."

Safety concerns are proving paramount as Powell and financial world leaders prepare to gather with more than 15,000 people on the resort island of Bali. As far as the meeting's agenda goes, the ongoing trade war between the U.S. and China is looming as the key issue. However, Jacobs said that Indonesia plans to also use the meetings to highlight infrastructure financing and showcase

Bali's potential as an investment destination.

The island currently has its challenges. The Mount Agung volcano began rumbling about a year ago, with the eruptions that followed prompting mass evacuations. It forced Bali's international airport to close for several days in November, and an eruption in June also caused hundreds of flights to be canceled.

Indonesia, an archipelago of more than 17,000 islands, has the world's largest number of historically active volcanoes. The country is located on the so-called Pacific Ring of Fire, an arc of volcanoes and geological fault lines surrounding the Pacific Basin.

Bali's neighboring island of Lombok was hit by a series of earthquakes this month, displacing hundreds of thousand of people and leaving more than 500 dead. The tourist haven remains a scene of destruction and aftershocks have been occurring since.

The authorities are prepared

XINHUA



"in case anything happens," Jacobs said. "We have the contingency plans in place."

Indonesia, as host nation of the IMF-World Bank meeting, wants financial technology and the digital economy included on the agenda, as part of a framework to be known as the Bali Initiative. President Joko Widodo will deliver a speech on the digital economy.

"We are also pushing or supporting the issue of the international monetary system as we are seeing the trade war and there will be monetary policy co-ordinations that will need to be strengthened," Jacobs said. "These will be also the central issues discussed in the IMFC," he said, referring to the International Monetary and Financial Committee.

Powell has been invited to speak at an international banking seminar, jointly hosted by the Group of Thirty and Bank Indonesia, on the sidelines of the IMF and World Bank meeting, although the line-up is yet to be confirmed. European Central Bank President Mario Draghi, People's Bank of China Governor Yi Gang and the Bank of Japan's Haruhiko Kuroda are also expected on the same panel, according to a program provided by Bank Indonesia. **Bloomberg**

AD



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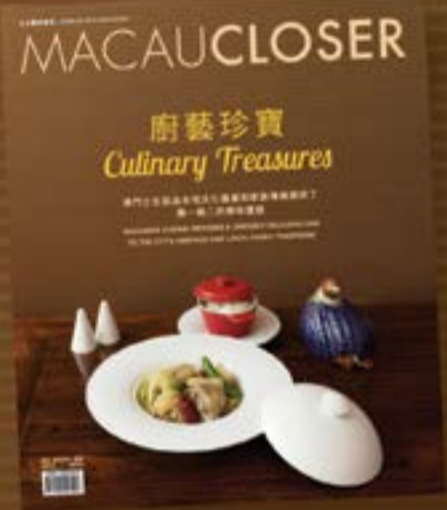
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Frank Jordans, Chemnitz

GERMANY

# Saxony governor goes to city shaken by protests

**T**HE governor of Germany's eastern state of Saxony traveled yesterday to the city where anger over the suspected killing of a man by migrants sparked violent protests.

Police were preparing for further demonstrations during the visit to Chemnitz by Governor Michael Kretschmer, an ally of German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

At least 18 people were injured Monday when far-right protesters, mobilized from surrounding areas and further afield, clashed with counter-protesters in the city center. The demonstration followed calls on social media to honor a 35-year-old German citizen stabbed to death Sunday in an altercation between two groups.

Authorities denied online rumors that the victim had been protecting a woman from harassment, saying there was no evidence this had been the case.

Still, the public display of anger and footage showing neo-Nazis hurling abuse and bottles at counter-protesters as police struggled to keep the groups apart raised fresh concerns about the threat posed by far-right extremists in Germany.

Saxony has long been a hotbed of anti-migrant sentiment and is home to the group Patriotic Europeans against the Islamization of the West, or PEGIDA, as well as a stronghold of the far-right Alternative for Germany party, which received almost a quarter of the vote in the state last year.

There have been regular attacks against migrants over the years in Saxony, especially



since the influx of more than a million refugees to Germany in 2015 and 2016. While the share of foreigners in Saxony remains below the national average, concern among the population about migrants committing crimes is particularly high.

Chemnitz prosecutors said a 22-year-old Iraqi and a 23-year-old Syrian were arrested on suspicion of manslaughter in connection with Sunday's killing.

Adding to pressure on Kretschmer, who faces state elections next year, opposition parties have called for an investigation into alleged collusion between police and far-right extremists after the arrest warrants for the two suspects were leaked on social media.

The incident comes days after a man at a far-right protest was filmed harassing journalists. Police subsequently held the reporters for 45 minutes — ostensibly

to check their identities — preventing them from covering the demonstration. It later emerged that the protester was a civilian employee of Saxony's criminal police department.

Green party lawmaker Claudia Roth told news agency dpa that "organized far-right extremists" appeared to be using public anger over the killing for their ends. Footage showing numerous protesters performing the stiff-armed Nazi salute was evi-

dence of their extremist ideology, she said.

Public displays of the salute, the Nazi swastika and other means of glorifying Adolf Hitler's National Socialist regime are forbidden in Germany and can result in fines or prison sentences.

Authorities in Saxony requested the help of federal police to prevent further outbursts of violence in the coming days, including during a planned far-right protest outside a town hall meeting Kretschmer planned to hold with citizens today [Macau time].

In a separate incident, police said yesterday that a 20-year-old Syrian man was attacked in the northern city of Wismar by three German-speaking men shouting anti-migrant slurs and had to be hospitalized for his injuries.

Rostock police said the incident late Wednesday was being investigated as a hate crime.

The Syrian in Wismar was on his way home alone when he was attacked. Two of the suspects punched him in the face and the third hit him with a chain on the shoulder and ribs area, knocking him to the ground before they fled.

He was released after treatment for a fractured nose and bruises to his face and upper body.

The co-leader of Alternative for Germany, which came third in last year's national elections, said he understood the public anger over the killing.

Alexander Gauland told daily Welt in an interview published Wednesday that "when such a killing occurs, it's normal for people to snap." AP

# US leaker Chelsea Manning to be barred from Australia

Rod McGuirk, Canberra

**CONVICTED** classified document leaker Chelsea Manning will not be allowed to enter Australia for a speaking tour scheduled to start Sunday, her event organizer said yesterday.

Think Inc. said it had received on Wednesday a notice of intention from the government to deny Manning entry. The group is calling on her supporters to lobby new Immigration Minister David Coleman to allow her into Australia. While she can appeal, past precedent suggests the decision has already been made.

Think Inc. said it had given the government more than 10 letters of support from individuals and organizations who support Manning's entry to Australia.

"Ms. Manning offers formidable ideas and an insightful perspective which we are hoping to bring to the forefront of Australian dialogue," Think Inc. Director Suzi Jamil said in a statement.

Manning was an intelligence analyst for the U.S. Army when she leaked military and diplomatic documents to the anti-secrecy website WikiLeaks. She served seven years of a 35-year sentence before then-President Barack Obama granted her clemency in 2017.

The transgender activist who recently lost a long-shot bid for a U.S. Senate seat in Maryland is scheduled to speak at the Sydney Opera House on Sunday and has subsequent events in Australia and New Zealand.

The Department of

Home Affairs said while it does not comment on individual cases, all non-citizens entering Australia must meet character requirements set out in the Migration Act. The reasons a person might fail the character test include a criminal record or a determination they might a risk to the community, according to the department.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the decision was for Coleman, who was sworn in as immigration minister on Tuesday.

A foreign affairs spokeswoman for the opposition Labor party, Penny Wong, said the government should be transparent about the reason if Manning is denied entry.

Amnesty International accused the government of trying to silence Manning. "By refusing her entry, the

Australian government would send a chilling message that freedom of speech is not valued by our government," Amnesty International national director Claire Mallinson said in a statement.

Lawyer Greg Barns, who has represented Wikileaks founder Julian Assange, said people with criminal records have been allowed into Australia in the past. He said no one would seriously suggest Manning was a risk to the Australian community.

Immigration in New Zealand expects to make a decision by Friday on whether to grant her a "special direction" visa. She doesn't qualify for entry otherwise because she has a criminal conviction within the last 10 years for which she had a sentence exceeding 1 year, accor-



ding to the country's visa rules.

New Zealand's center-right National Party opposition is urging the government to decline her visa request. If the decision goes against Manning, she can have it reviewed by the immigra-

tion minister.

She is due to speak in the Australian city of Melbourne on Sept. 7, the New Zealand city of Auckland on Sept. 8, the New Zealand capital Wellington on Sept. 9 and the Australian city of Brisbane on Sept. 11. AP

**TV canal macau**

**FRIDAY**

- 13:00 TDM News (Repeated)
- 13:30 News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
- 15:00 Portuguese Soap Opera
- 17:45 Miscellaneous
- 19:05 Hato Documentary (Repeated)
- 19:35 Destinos.pt
- 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: Saint Laurent
- 02:25 Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
- 03:10 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
- 18:05 Miscellaneous
- 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
- 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**

**HONG KONG'S CO-WORKING SURGE SEES A LANDMARK LEASING DEAL**



One of Hong Kong's biggest co-working leasing deals has added to an explosion in the number and size of such agreements.

Start-up Campfire Collaborative Spaces leased three floors of the Harbourfront Landmark building in western Kowloon from private equity firm Pamfleet Real Estate Fund LP, according to Colliers International Group Inc., which brokered the transaction.

Record co-working deals in Hong Kong in 2018 show their growing role in the office market amid the rise of companies such as WeWork Cos., the U.S. firm reported to have claimed a valuation of \$35 billion. Co-working companies accounted for 10 percent of new lettings on Hong Kong Island last year, according to Jones Lang LaSalle Inc.

"For the next six to 12 months, we will continue to see co-working operators expanding in the market," said Denis Ma, head of Hong Kong research at JLL. "A lot of operators are trying to gain market share because it's very much a new sector."

**cinema**

**CINETEATRO**

30 AUG - 05 SEP



**HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 3: A MONSTER VACATION**  
ROOM 1  
4:45pm  
Director: Genndy Tartakovsky  
Starring: Adam Sandler, Andy Samberg, Selena Gomez  
Language: English (Chinese)  
Duration: 97min

**ALONG WITH THE GODS: THE LAST 49 DAYS**  
ROOM 1  
2:15, 18:30, 9:15pm  
Director: Kim Yong-hwa  
Starring: HA Jung-woo, JU Ji-hoon, KIM Hyang-gi  
Language: Korean (Chinese & English)

**DORAEMON THE MOVIE: NOBITA'S TREASURE ISLAND**  
ROOM 2  
4:45pm  
Director: Kazuaki Imai  
Starring: Wasabi Mizuta, Megumi Ohara, Yumi Kakazu  
Language: Cantonese (Chinese)  
Duration: 109min



**KILLING FOR THE PROSECUTION**  
ROOM 2  
2:30, 7:15, 9:30pm  
Director: Masato Harada  
Starring: Takuya Kimura, Kazunari Ninomiya  
Language: Japanese (Chinese & English)  
Duration: 123min

**L STORM**  
ROOM 3  
2:30, 9:30pm  
Director: David Lam  
Starring: Louis Koo, Julian Cheung, Kelvin Cheng  
Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)  
Duration: 90min



**HINDI MEDIUM**  
ROOM 3  
4:30, 7:00pm  
Director: Saket Chaudhary  
Starring: Irrfan Khan, Saba Qamar  
Language: Indian Dialect (Chinese & English)  
Duration: 132min

**this day in history**



**1957 MALAYA CELEBRATES INDEPENDENCE**

The Federation of Malaya is now independent. The handover of power from Britain took place at midnight.

Thousands of young members of the Malay, Chinese and Indian parties, which form the government, stood in darkness for two minutes at midnight to mark the official handover.

As the new flag of independence was raised they called "Merdeka" (freedom) seven times.

Tunku Abdul Rahman, the prime minister-elect, who led the negotiations with the British for handover of power, was hailed as the Father of Independence.

Malaya will stay in the Commonwealth - and, as midnight approached, prime ministers of the member countries sent messages recorded in five continents.

The British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan said he hoped 31 August would long be remembered as a great and happy day in the continuing development of Malaya and the Commonwealth of Nations.

In his speech delivered at midnight, Tunku Abdul Rahman said it was the greatest moment in the life of the Malayan people. A new star had risen in the eastern sky - a star of freedom for yet another Asian people.

The new prime minister was educated at two British schools and graduated from Cambridge in 1925. Soon after World War II he went back to Britain to study law.

On his return to Malaya in 1949 he found a country eager for independence but also struggling with communist extremism.

He founded the Alliance Party in 1952 which brought together the ethnic Malay, Chinese and Indians. The party won the 1955 general election with an overwhelming majority.

The Tunku became Chief Minister and ended the state of emergency - introduced after a wave of attacks carried out by mainly Chinese communists on mine-owners and plantations - and granted an amnesty to communist terrorists.

Last year he led the negotiations with the British which paved the way for independence.

The new Malayan head of state, Tuanku Abdul Rahman, will be officially installed on 2 September. He was chosen from among the rulers of Malay's nine hereditary states.

He will hold the post of head of state for five years when his successor will be elected.

The installation ceremony will be witnessed by the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester who are flying in to represent the Queen.

Courtesy BBC News

**IN CONTEXT**

Following Malaya's independence, Tunku Abdul Rahman introduced reforms that spread power among the sultans and rajas who had ruled over fiefdoms on the Malay peninsula for hundreds of years.

But non-Malays were disappointed that political power remained largely in Malay hands.

In 1963 Malaya joined with Sabah, Sarawak and Singapore under a new name, the Federation of Malaysia. Rivalry between the Tunku and Lee Kuan Yew, Prime Minister of Singapore, saw Singapore leave the federation in 1965.

Since Singapore's population was predominantly Chinese, its departure tipped the balance back in favor of Malays and increased tension between the two communities.

In 1969 there were riots in Kuala Lumpur and 2,000 mainly Chinese protesters were killed.

A state of emergency was declared and a year later Abdul Rahman retired from office.

In the late 1980s he re-emerged into public life to criticise the authoritarian leadership of Mahathir Mohamad.



**YOUR STARS**

**Aries**

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

A fog of drama has settled on your life today, and whether or not your actions are the cause is irrelevant. The problem is that this haziness could be making trivial issues look like real problems.

**Taurus**

April 20-May 20

What's on your mind right now? Good or bad, it's time to talk all about it. Find a few friends to tell your problems to today. They might not be able to solve them - or even help you figure out how to solve them.

**Gemini**

May 21-Jun. 21

Be clear with all of your communication today to avoid any type of misunderstanding. People are working off of a lot of assumptions, and you need to make sure that - at least as far as you're concerned

**Cancer**

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Interesting and positive energy will be circling all around you today, and these good vibes will put you in a good frame of mind to deal with some surprising news from a friend.

**Leo**

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

When you're making a tough decision, use equal parts good old-fashioned research and good old-fashioned instinct. Facts and feelings are an unbeatable combination that will steer you right every time.

**Virgo**

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Mapping the course of your day will be difficult - everything will be changing constantly, and you won't be able to count on other people to keep their commitments (although any flakiness will not be their fault).

**Libra**

Sep.23-Oct. 22

The little fires that erupt throughout your day will offer you some great opportunities to show what you're really made of. It has been a long time since you've been tested to this extent.

**Scorpio**

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

A blast from the past has some big plans in store for you. This person just might offer the missing links between you and several opportunities - including greater wealth and a hotter romance.

**Sagittarius**

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

If a partner in your life or business just doesn't seem able to get revved up and get active today, try to encourage this person to pick up the pace. It might be tempting to let him or her rest while you burn rubber.

**Capricorn**

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

You don't have to be a poet, songwriter or novelist to know how to be creative with your words. Creative writing is a gift everyone has - and everyone should develop.

**Aquarius**

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Just in case, try to curb all spending unless it is absolutely necessary. Today is not a good day for a shopping trip, no matter how essential the items on your list might be.

**Pisces**

Feb.19-Mar. 20

Right now, the people around you have more power over your life than you may realize. So it's important to value others and listen to what they say. Outside opinions are not something you need to cherish.

**THE BORN LOSER** by Chip Sansom



**SUDOKU**

**Easy**



**Easy+**



**Medium**



**Hard**



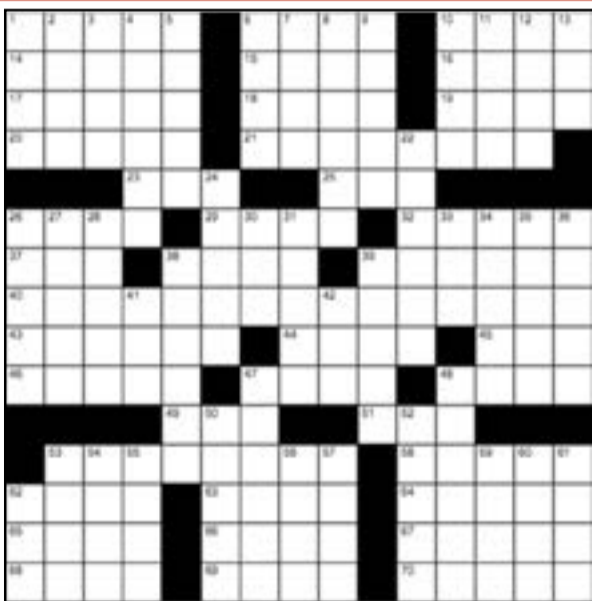
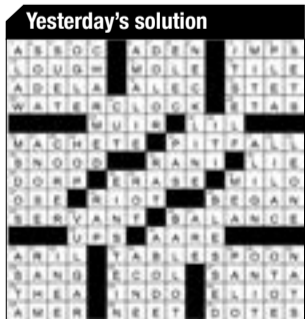
**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	20	29	cloudy
Harbin	16	25	thundershower
Tianjin	23	30	overcast/cloudy
Urumqi	13	21	cloudy/clear
Xi'an	25	35	cloudy/clear
Lhasa	11	21	moderate rain/drizzle
Chengdu	24	33	shower/clear
Chongqing	28	38	clear
Kunming	17	26	cloudy
Nanjing	26	31	clear
Shanghai	27	32	cloudy
Wuhan	26	33	clear
Hangzhou	26	33	clear/cloudy
Taipei	24	30	cloudy/overcast
Guangzhou	25	32	cloudy
Hong Kong	29	30	shower/cloudy
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	14	25	cloudy/drizzle
Frankfurt	11	20	cloudy/overcast
Paris	13	21	cloudy/overcast
London	13	18	cloudy/clear
New York	24	34	moderate rain/drizzle

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS:** 1- Anticipate; 6- French friends; 10- Actress Catherine \_\_\_Jones; 14- Intervening, in law; 15- Clublike weapon; 16- Understanding words; 17- Lend \_\_\_ (listen); 18- Teen follower; 19- Scottish refusals; 20- Belle or Bart; 21- China rose; 23- Texas tea; 25- Toward the stern; 26- Cat call; 29- Catch; 32- Prepares for publication or release; 37- Horace's "\_\_\_ Poetica"; 38- Makes lace; 39- Head cases?; 40- In spite of; 43- Standards of perfection; 44- Home to billions; 45- "Fancy that!"; 46- Ages; 47- "My Heart Will Go On" singer; 48- Throw; 49- Figure skater Midori; 51- "Hold On Tight" group; 53- Pertaining to tactics; 58- Devour; 62- Falafel holder; 63- End in \_\_\_ (draw); 64- \_\_\_ of Two Cities; 65- Pitcher Hershiser; 66- Curtain holders; 67- Went after; 68- Rind; 69- Smell \_\_\_; 70- Ages between 13 and 19;

**DOWN:** 1- Latin lesson word; 2- Proceeded; 3- Between ports; 4- Consecutively; 5- Country singer Gibbs; 6- Eastern nanny; 7- Biblical gift bearers; 8- Swelling reducer; 9- Letter cross-line; 10- Bluish white metallic element; 11- Biblical twin; 12- Driving aids; 13- Loser to DDE; 22- Breastbones; 24- Atty.-to-be exams; 26- Craze; 27- Eat away at; 28- Bony prefix; 30- To the \_\_\_ degree; 31- Very, to Verdi; 33- Pop; 34- English architect Jones; 35- Prongs; 36- Wise ones; 38- Semihard light yellow cheese; 39- The \_\_\_ Mutiny; 41- Pale; 42- General on Chinese menus; 47- Physician; 48- Perfectly; 50- Jewelled crown worn by women; 52- Slightest; 53- Grow weary; 54- To \_\_\_ (perfectly); 55- Give a ring; 56- Verdi heroine; 57- For fear that; 59- London gallery; 60- \_\_\_ Bator; 61- Teachers' favorites; 62- Soft drink;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

- Emergency calls 999
- Fire department 28 572 222
- PJ (Open line) 993
- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- Customs 28 559 944
- S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
- Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
- Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
- IACM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
- Airport 59 888 88
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
- Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
- Telephone - Report 1000
- Electricity - Report 28 339 922
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<p><b>The Buckingham</b> Taipa <b>Two double bedroom</b> <b>Fully Furnished</b> HKD 18,000 / 700 sq ft Ref: 18060681</p>	<p><b>Office - Dynasty Plaza</b> Macau <b>Park-Side Work Space</b> <b>Spacious Commercial Space</b> HKD 72,000 / 3,500 sq ft Ref: 18070685</p>	<p><b>Lakeview, Macau</b> Macau <b>3 Bedrooms Apartment</b> <b>Front Balcony</b> HKD 30,000 / 3,430 sq ft Ref: 18060680</p>	<p><b>Manhattan D unit, High Floor</b> Taipa <b>4 Bedrooms Apartment</b> <b>Fully Furnished</b> HKD 29,800 / 2,305 sq ft Ref: 18070684</p>

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FOOTBALL

# Ronaldo's Juventus drawn with Man United in Champions League

**C**RISTIANO Ronaldo is going back to Manchester United and Paul Pogba will return to Juventus after the teams were drawn together in a Champions League group along with Valencia and Young Boys today [Macau time].

After winning four titles at Real Madrid, and one with United, Ronaldo aims to end Juventus' 23-year wait for a third European title.

Three-time defending champion Madrid will play Roma, CSKA Moscow and Viktoria Plzen.

Barcelona heads a tough group with Tottenham, PSV Eindhoven and Inter Milan, while three former European champions Bayern Munich, Benfica, Ajax are to-

gether with AEK Athens.

Liverpool, the runner-up last season, was the toughest third-seeded team and landed with Paris Saint-Germain, Napoli, and Red Star Belgrade.

English champion Manchester City got a favorable group with Shakhtar Donetsk, Lyon and Hoffenheim.

Atletico Madrid, whose Metropolitan stadium hosts the final on June 1, is grouped with Borussia Dortmund, Monaco and Club Brugge.

Lokomotiv Moscow, seeded in the top pot, will play Porto, Schalke and Galatasaray.

The 32 teams will share a record 1.95 billion euros (USD2.28 billion) in prize money from UEFA.

Games kick off on September 18. **AP**



Juventus' Cristiano Ronaldo

## Luka Modric wins UEFA vote as best player in Europe

Croatia captain Luka Modric has been voted the best player in Europe last season, edging former Real Madrid teammate Cristiano Ronaldo and Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah for the UEFA award.

Modric helped Madrid win a third straight Champions League

title, and fourth in five seasons, before leading his country to the World Cup final. Croatia lost 4-2 against France.

Voting was by Champions League coaches and invited journalists across Europe.

Madrid swept the overall election for best player in last season's

Champions League after goalkeeper Keylor Navas, defender Sergio Ramos, midfielder Modric and forward Ronaldo won the individual positional prizes. Ronaldo has since joined Juventus.

The best women's player award was won by Pernille Harder of Denmark and Wolfsburg.



Luka Modric

ASIAN GAMES

# Combined Koreas basketball team to play for gold

John Pye, Jakarta, Indonesia

**A**combined Korea team reinforced by WNBA center Park Ji-su has reached the women's basketball final at the Asian Games after an 89-66 win over Taiwan. The team, featuring three North Koreans and nine players from the South, will take on China for the gold medal after overturning their two-point overtime loss to Taiwan in the group stage. China beat Japan 86-74 in the second of the semifinals.

Canoeists competing in three dragon boat crews won the first medals for the combined Korea teams, including the first gold, and there are high expectations the basketball team will de-

liver another gold medal.

The South Koreans are defending champions and have been bolstered by players from the North. Park Ji-su joined the group after completing her season with the Las Vegas Aces in the WNBA and made her first court appearance in the second quarter. She finished with 10 points and 11 rebounds.

North Korean Ro Suk Yong, captain Lim Yung-hui and Park Hye-jin all had 17 points.

"This is a result that everyone achieved by playing together with one goal and one spirit," Ro was quoted as saying by Yonhap, the South Korean news agency.

"Their support gives me lots of energy," Ro said of the supporters who

waved the "unification" flag and chanted for the Koreans during the game. "As we stay united, we went to the final. It makes me emotional."

The canoe medals — a gold and two bronze — have been awarded to Korea, as the joint teams in rowing, canoeing and basketball have been named at the games.

After the women's crew won the 500-meter title in the dragon boats, the folk song Arirang played instead of the official national anthem for North Korea or South Korea and the "unification" flag, which features the outline of the Korean peninsula in blue on a white background, was raised during the medal ceremony.

The medals are awarded to Korea — the name

for the joint teams that are entered in rowing, canoeing and women's basketball — rather than being added to the tally of either North or South Korea.

The Koreans, still technically at war after their 1950-53 conflict ended in an armistice, have fielded 60 athletes in combined teams in the three sports along with larger contingents for their respective national squads.

In the first of 10 finals on the last day of track and field competition, Japan's Hayato Katsuki won the 50-kilometer walk in 4 hours, 3 minutes and 30 seconds. Wang Qin of China was three minutes back in second place, and South Korea's Joo Hyun-myeong took bronze. **AP**



Combined Koreas' Kim Hanbyul (right) drives past Taiwan's Chen Yuchun

opinion

**Bizcuits**

Leanda Lee



**THE ELEPHANT ON THE BRIDGE**

The Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB) has long been proposed (2002), planned (from 2004) and contracts signed (2009). It has long been in development, long been seen under construction from the air and eastern vantage points of Macau, and not long to go before the re-scheduled and again rescheduled opening. The strange thing about this highly complex bridge project is that to the general population the business case is as murky as the Delta itself.

This week's comments from Victor Lei, managing director of the International Logistics and Forwarding Association of Macau as representative figure of the logistics industry, suggests that even those who should most benefit from the mega-size sea crossing are being kept (well, "high and dry" would be an inept idiom given the circumstances) hanging.

We are informed that the functions of the bridge are three-fold: 1) "to meet the demand of passenger and freight land transport among Hong Kong, the Mainland [...] and Macao", 2) "to establish a new land transport link between the east and west banks of the Pearl River", and 3) "to enhance the economic and sustainable development of the three places."

What we have not seen and what people like Victor Lei are having problems with is bridging the gap between these motherhood statements heard for last fifteen-odd years and the explicit details of 1) what the projected demand was to justify this complex 35.6-kilometre multi-billion dollar mega-project and what the permitted utilization and carrying capacity will be, 2) the cost to the various users and how it will enhance their specific business models and individual needs - particularly given that building metaphorical bridges with Macau's logistics industry to consult on their specific requirements appears to have been unsuccessful - and 3) what is really meant by "economic" and "sustainable" and in what way will each region uniquely benefit from the infrastructure over time?

Perhaps the authorities thought they would cross that bridge when they came to it. The bridge is now there, right in front of us, and although somewhat tardy, it is time to have clarified the details as to why it is there, specifically, for whom, and what quantifiable outcomes were anticipated.

A simple case in question is the individual resident travelling between Macau and Hong Kong. There are a number of criteria we check to make these decisions that are mostly to do with resources: how much time, money, effort and habitual change will be asked of us to traverse that expanse of water? The mode and method will depend upon the time of day, point of origin and ultimate destination. Monetary cost, both to obtain the ongoing permit and for each trip, has been an ongoing question in community conversation. Then there are the hassle factors such as traffic on the bridge, and to and from the bridge. What of the frequency of services and the consistency of schedules? How will traffic impact upon these? Comfort and even fear factors play a role: trust that construction? get queasy on the Cotai Jet? can't get enough of those TurboJet hotdogs?

Has all this been considered and market research actually done, or was it as case of taking a page out of Adelson's "build it and they will come" book? Recent news about the logistics facility in Macau being put out to tender, customs agreements not finalized, and only very recent indications of toll fees suggest that operational matters were inconsequential.

Burning bridges I may be, but bridging the gap between the unfathomable business case and the actual construction of this technological feat of a bridge lies in a more authentic justification: political integration. There are no elephants on this bridge, we all know this fact. With the dearth of specificities of the bridge's use at this late stage, not many other reasons emerge that hold water.

**THE PRINCE HARRY, MEGHAN JOIN BUZZ LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA AT 'HAMILTON'**

Prince Harry sang and joked with Lin-Manuel Miranda on the stage of "Hamilton," after he and his wife Meghan joined audiences for a gala charity performance of the smash-hit musical in London's West End.

The royal couple sat in the royal circle at Victoria Palace during the performance, and afterward they joined Miranda, the show's creator, on stage with the cast.

Harry briefly sang a line by the role of his sixth great-grandfather King George III, to loud cheers and applause from the cast and audience.

Miranda added it was "fun and surreal" to have Harry there because "you don't often get a direct descendent" of the characters to watch the show. The royal couple hosted Wednesday's gala performance to raise money for Harry's charity Sentebale.

**As temperatures rise, farmers plant crops in S. Korean tunnel**



Head of NextOn Choi Jae Bin explains about his farm's crop cultivation system

Jung-Yoon Kim, Okcheon

**B**EHIND a blue wall that seals a former highway tunnel stretches a massive indoor farm bathed in rose-tinted light. Fruits and vegetables grow hydroponically — with no soil — in vertically stacked layers inside, illuminated by neon-pink LEDs instead of sunlight.

Operators of this high-tech facility in South Korea say it is the world's first indoor vertical farm built in a tunnel. It's also the largest such farm in the country and one of the biggest in the world, with a floor area of 2,300 square meters, nearly half the size of an American football field.

Indoor vertical farming is seen as a potential solution to the havoc wreaked on crops by the extreme weather linked to climate change and to shortages of land and workers in countries with aging populations.

The tunnel, about 190 kilometers south of Seoul, was built in 1970 for one of South Korea's first major highways. Once a symbol of the country's industrialization, it closed in 2002. An indoor farming company rented the tunnel from the government last year and transformed it into a "smart farm."

Instead of the chirrups of cicadas, Claude Debussy's "Clair de Lune" resonates in the tunnel in hopes of stimulating the crops' healthy growth.

"We are playing classical music because vegetables

also love listening to music like we do," said Choi Jae Bin, head of NextOn, the company that runs the vertical farm.

Sixty types of fruits and vegetables grow in optimized conditions using NextOn's own growth and harvest systems. Among them, 42 are certified as no-pesticide, no-herbicide and non-GMO products, said Dave Suh, NextOn's chief technology officer. He said the tunnel provides temperatures of 10 to 22 degrees Celsius, enabling the company to optimize growing conditions.

High-tech smart farms, used also in places like Dubai and Israel where growing conditions are challenging, can be a key to developing sustainable agriculture, experts said.

"Society is aging and urbanization is intensifying as our agricultural workforce is shrinking," said Son Jung Eek, a professor of plant science at Seoul National University. Smart farming can help address that challenge, he said, as well as make it easier to raise high-value crops that are sensitive to temperature and other conditions.

Only slightly more than 16 percent of South Korea's land was devoted to farming in 2016, according to government statistics. The rural population has fallen by almost half over the past four decades, even as the overall population has grown nearly 40 percent.

The Agriculture Ministry announced earlier this year that it will invest in smart farm development nationwide, expanding their total area to 7,000 hectares from the current 4,010 hectares.

Turning a profit can be challenging for indoor vertical farms given the high cost of construction and infrastructure. NextOn cut construction costs in half by using the abandoned tunnel and developing its own LED lights and other technologies.

The proprietary technologies reduce water and energy use and the need for workers, cutting operation costs, Suh said. Sensors in each vertical layer measure variables such as temperature, humidity, light, carbon dioxide and micro-dust levels to maintain an optimized environment for each crop.

The crops will cost less than conventionally grown organic vegetables, Suh said. The farm will begin supplying vegetables to a major food retailer and a leading bakery chain beginning in late August, NextOn said.

Next up: more tiers of crops in the remaining two-thirds of the tunnel to grow high-value fruits and medicinal herbs.

Suh said the medicinal plant market is currently dominated by a few countries and regions.

"Our goal is to achieve disruptive innovation of this market by realizing stable mass production of such premium crops," he said. **AP**

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

SOURCE: DSI/MG

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**SOUTH SUDAN** Emboldened by a new peace deal, civil war-torn South Sudan says it will resume oil production in a key region next month to make up for more than USD4 billion of revenue lost during years of fighting.

**GREECE** Authorities in western Greece have arrested two people for allegedly trying to smuggle 71 migrants out of the country on a U.S.-flagged yacht.



**GERMANY** The governor of Germany's eastern state of Saxony visited yesterday the city where anger over the suspected killing of a man by migrants sparked violent protests.

**HUNGARY-SWEDEN** Hungary's Foreign Ministry says it summoned Sweden's ambassador after the Swedish foreign minister and other officials made critical comments about Hungary, including about its strong anti-immigration policies.



**BRITAIN** Critics of London Mayor Sadiq Khan have been given permission to fly a giant balloon over London that depicts him dressed in a bikini. The balloon was a reference to a "Beach body ready" ad that Khan banned in 2016.

**ARGENTINA** President Mauricio Macri has asked the International Monetary Fund for an early release of funds from a USD50 billion deal with the IMF to ease concerns that Argentina will not be able to meet its debt obligations for 2019. *More on p8*



**BRAZIL** A leading candidate in Brazil's presidential election said police should be given license to kill criminals and those who do should receive medals not face prosecution.