



REFUSE SPOTTED ON MACAU WATERS

A surging amount of refuse has been spotted floating on Macau waters lately, the Marine and Water Bureau announced

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LISBON, BEIJING STRENGTHEN TIES

Lisbon and Beijing signed a protocol for the strengthening of cooperation. Lisbon wants to be China's gateway to Europe

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HOMOSEXUAL ACTS DECRIMINALIZED



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MSARG Dengue Fever Prevention Working Group

Court acquits Chao in defamation case

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Custom Garage becomes meeting point for bike lovers

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WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA-US China is ready to retaliate if U.S. President Donald Trump goes ahead with a tariff hike on Chinese goods and is confident it can maintain "steady and healthy" economic growth, a government spokesman said yesterday. *More on p12*



CAMBODIA's one-party legislature yesterday confirmed Prime Minister Hun Sen for another five-year term, cementing his status as one of the world's longest-serving leaders.

PHILIPPINES A senator who has taken refuge in the Senate to avoid an arrest order by President Rodrigo Duterte asked the Supreme Court yesterday to declare the order illegal and called on the military to defy it.

AFGHANISTAN Twin bombings at a wrestling training center in a Shiite neighborhood of Afghanistan's capital killed at least 20 people, including two reporters, and wounded 70, Afghan officials said.

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Extra times

From penny press to Snapchat

Extra times

Weekend Guide

INSIDE

Building to host public services in NAPE

An 11-storey government building will be constructed at Avenida da Amizade, next to the Waldo Hotel. It will have a two-story underground parking lot. Construction of the building is expected to commence in the first quarter of 2019. The government office will occupy an area of 1,636 square meters, providing a total area of 13,400 square meters for the offices and parking lot. The maximum construction period for the project is 730 work days. Yesterday, the Infrastructure Development Office (GDI) received 19 bids for the construction of the project.

Five local residents evacuated from Kansai airport

Five Macau residents have been evacuated from Kansai International Airport. According to China's consulate-general in Osaka, a total of 117 Hong Kong passengers stranded at the airport had been evacuated by yesterday morning. As of 3 p.m. yesterday, the Macau Tourism Crisis Management Office (GGCT) had received 72 requests for information, mainly relating to the status of flights between Macau and Japan. However, GGCT has not received any requests for assistance. Air Macau flights between the MSAR and Osaka have been suspended since Tuesday and, according to the airline's website, they will not resume until at least September 12. According to media reports, the airport partially reopens today.

84pct support cyber security law

The Macau government has published a report on the public consultation regarding the region's cyber security law. According to the report, 84 percent of respondents support the bill. During the 45 days of public consultation, the government received a total of 716 opinions and proposals. Seventy-two percent of the opinions were in support of "real name registration." Only 62 percent of the public supported the one-year preservation of WebLogs records of translations between internet IP addresses and addresses of internal networks. So far, there has not been any disagreement expressed by the Internet sector.

BLOOMBERG



MSAR ranks 5th among mainlanders' Alipay overseas transactions

MACAU ranks fifth among mainland tourists' overseas Alipay transactions in terms of volume during the summer holidays (July 1 to August 31), according to statistics released by Alipay this week.

Hong Kong surpassed Thailand and became the market

with the largest number of mainland tourists' overseas Alipay transactions. Macau maintained the same position as last year.

In terms of per capita consumption of mainland tourists in Macau, the value was RMB1,197, corresponding to

the 30th spot on the ranking. The per capita consumption increased 108 percent year-on-year, with the number of transactions being 3.9 times that of last year.

In total, mainland tourists used Alipay overseas 2.6 times more than in the same period

of last year.

Asian countries and regions continue to be at the forefront of the number of overseas transactions.

The top countries and regions in which mainland tourists most heavily resorted to Alipay transactions are Hong Kong, Thailand, South Korea, Japan, Macau, Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, and the United States.

During the same period, the biggest increases were recorded in Russia, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Cambodia, Sweden, Norway, Greece, Canada, Malaysia and Portugal.

Due to the fact that the World Cup was held in Russia during the aforementioned period, the total number of mainland travelers using Alipay in Russia increased more than 50-fold when compared with the same period of last year.

There was a 43 percent increase in per capita consumption of mainland tourists abroad to RMB2,955 when compared to the same period of last year.

The highest average expenditure was recorded in France, with RMB11,386. South Korea and Denmark registered the second and third highest Alipay expenditure of mainland tourists.

More than half of the top 10 countries in terms of per capita consumptions were European countries.

More than 85 percent of users were born after the 1970s. **JZ**

Sound and Image Challenge to showcase 72 films

THE 9th Sound and Image Challenge is set to be held at Dom Pedro V Theatre from December 4 to 9, featuring six master classes along with the showcase of 72 short films.

According to a statement issued by the organizers, the master classes will present fiction techniques by Bartosz Kruhlik, Pascal Forney and Detsky Graffam, animation techniques by Julio Pot and Ishan Shukla, and cinematography techniques by Aditya Kapur.

The festival is devoted to short films in the categories of Fiction, Anima-



tion and Documentary.

In spite of the limitations added in this year's regulations (one film per director except for Macau directors), the 9th edition of Sound and Image Challenge recei-

ved 4,143 submissions through Festival-associated submission platforms.

There were 72 film finalists in the short film competition, with 34 fiction films, 25 animation

films and 13 documentaries.

Excluding the 11 Macau finalists, the majority of finalists were from Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Malaysia, Portugal, Russia, Spain and the U.S.

The shortlisted films were sent to the Grand Jury and will become the Festival winners for 2018.

This year, the festival panel will feature 13 film professionals, or past winners and nominated directors.

The Fiction jury includes Andra Tévy (France), Marie Fages

(France), Salem Salavati (Iran), Lanka Bandaranayake (Sri Lanka) and Bartosz Kruhlik (Poland), Cristiano Pereira (Switzerland) and Pascal Forney (Switzerland).

The Animation jury is made up of Julio Pot (Chile), Ishan Shukla (India) and Ben O'Connor (Ireland). Aditya Kapur (India), Simon Panay (France) and Noé Reutenauer (Belgium) are the jurors for the Documentary category.

Meanwhile, the music video competition, Volume, which aims to promote Macau's original music to worldwide filmmakers to compete in Macau closed with 666 entries.

Eleven video clips were shortlisted, an increase of five from last year.

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Jason Chao cleared of defamation charge

Renato Marques

POLITICAL activist and former director of online publication Macau Concealers, Jason Chao, had his arguments vindicated in court yesterday in the case against Macau Concealers by University of Macau professor Wang Jianwei.

Wang filed a lawsuit against Chao and his publication for defamation, after a Macau Concealers report named Wang as the target of investigations and claims of sexual harassment from students at the University. The claims go back to 2014, when allegations of sexual harassment involving several senior faculty members of the University, including Wang, became public.

Yesterday afternoon, the court finally pronounced the defendant as not guilty, acquitting both Macau Concealers and Chao.

According to Chao, who held a press conference via Facebook from the United Kingdom where he is currently studying, the judge ruled in favor of him due to lack of evidence in the allegations of the prosecution, whose case was based solely on Wang's allegations and testimony.



In the words of Chao, there was a "technical fault on the side of the public prosecution" which was attempting to accuse Chao of abuse of power of running a media organization to defame Wang Jianwei.

In Chao's opinion, the court noting the lack of legislation for prosecuting Macau Concealers under the Press Law as an "online publication" was just a "way for the court not to offend other people" by furthering an investigation that could reveal further more case details, which according to Chao,

the university and other authorities were seeking to keep as private as possible.

"This was not the essential factor that resulted in the outcome of not guilty," Chao noted, expressing his thoughts that it was a way of taking a "soft approach to the problem" instead.

The defendant also noted that the prosecution had tried to base their case on the argument that, according to them, Macau Concealers was publishing the story as "Revenge for Bill Chou [the politi-

cal science teacher who was allegedly sacked from UM for being involved in political activism activities], that was the reason given for the prosecution."

According to Chao, the lack of legislation cannot be a decisive factor as: "A legal case could still be [undertaken] and I would still be acquitted. That was not the case. This was just a way to divert attention from the substantial facts and allegations on the prosecution file," noting that the media company is formally registered in the Government Information Bureau (GCS) and that, "on other occasions [previously] the GCS was questioned as to who was responsible for the publication."

Chao reiterated the possibility that any person, even without being part of the media, could be prosecuted for information published online, saying, "If you publish [information] online, you can be held accountable. This is very simple and applies to anyone. Our status in terms of registration is not that relevant for this case."

When questioned by the Times on the sentence, Chao said: "We have always pleaded

not guilty so this is the outcome we had fought for," noting nevertheless that several decisions from Macau courts in the last few years had made the outcome of the case unpredictable, saying, "it is hard to say that it went how I would expect."

The importance of being acquitted aside, Chao hopes that this case can be a milestone, in light of recent incidents involving influential people and companies trying to seek compensation or prosecute the press as a scare tactic employed against the media.

"I hope this case can serve as an example for people in Macau not to try to hide sexual abuse or harassment cases. As well as for being tentative to suppress freedom of expression or press freedom.

"I think [this outcome] is important in defending freedom of expression [in Macau]," Chao added. "Recently, we have seen several defamation charges against the media. I hope with this case we can convey a clear message to these people, that such a plan to restrain freedom of press would not prevail and that journalists [...] are working to find the truth."

ENVIRONMENT

Increasing refuse spotted in Macau waters

THE Marine and Water Bureau released a statement yesterday, informing the public about the surging amount of refuse which has been spotted floating on Macau waters lately.

"Recently, at the Fai Chi Kei Patane North Bay area and Inner Harbor, a rather large quantity of floating refuse has surfa-

ced. According to the statement, the Marine and Water Bureau has already stepped up its cleaning efforts to keep the water environment clean," the statement reads.

"In addition, there [is] also refuse at the shore around the Inner Harbor. This refuse has to be cleaned when the tide conditions are ready so that

boats can come closer to clean the refuse. Thus, it will take a rather long time to conduct the cleaning," the Marine authority says.

The bureau stated that it will continue cleaning and explained that there will be other refuse carried onto Macau waters even after the bureau's cleaning.

The marine authority called on the public to report the discovery of refuse floating on the water.

"The Marine and Water Bureau is calling the marine industry and the residents to together protect Macau's environment and hygiene, and to say no to littering," the statement reads.



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UM pays homage to Ma Man Kei, Lo Pak Sam



The University of Macau (UM) named one of its residential colleges "Ma Man Kei and Lo Pak Sam College" and held an appreciation plaque unveiling ceremony for the college yesterday. The initiative was a show of gratitude for Pak Sam Memorial Limited's 2015 donation of MOP30 million in support of UM's residential colleges. In his speech, Lam Kam Seng, chair of the UM University Council, said that Ma Man Kei was respected by everyone and was an exemplary model, adding that he was already very supportive of the university's development when serving as the University Council chair of UM's predecessor, the University of East Asia, between 1984 and 1988. Ma's wife, Lo Pak Sam, "was dedicated to charitable causes for women, children, and education, and made various contributions to education development in Macau," Lam said.

DSEJ suggests regarding computer games as normal

The head of the Continuing Education Department of the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ), Kong Ngai, has suggested that local parents do not regard computer games as prejudicial to their child's education. Yesterday, while attending a Forum Macau talk show, Kong explained that communication devices and internet games are necessary tools in this century, which happens to be the century of science and technology. He recommended parents to understand, try to comprehend the games their children play, and to schedule timetables for their children to play games.

Lawmakers pledge to continue focusing on labor and social welfare

Julie Zhu

LAWMAKERS Leong Sun Iok, Lei Cheng I, Lam Lon Wai and Lei Chan U summed up their work during the first session of the 6th Legislative Assembly (AL) in a press conference yesterday.

The four lawmakers said they had found many problems with the work of the AL, including the fact that the revision of Macau's legal system was not keeping up with the pace of development within both society and the economy.

Overall, the four lawmakers claimed that they would continue pressing the government for improvements on the city's disaster prevention strategies, public resources management, concessions, human resources policies, labor law, housing and transportation.

The lawmakers pointed



out that Macau lacks a long-term mechanism in regards to talented human resources, and that Macau lacks efficiency in legislation.

"Typhoon Hato caused serious damage to Macau. The review report mentions that Macau needs to improve its infrastructure, mechanisms, regulations and laws, and needs to establish a culture of safety. Although relevant works have been gradually carried out, improvements to flood resistance and disaster prevention infrastructure, which residents care [about] the most, are being

carried out slowly," said Lei. "In order to improve the city's protection functions and adaptability, continuous supervision and promotion by lawmakers is required."

In regards to public money, Lei criticized public departments for their lack of transparency laws regarding specific funds and enterprises formed with public capital.

In terms of urban development and land resources, Lei stated that overall and detailed urban planning had not been released yet. "[The government] did not effec-

tively implement its obligations towards land management," she said, adding that, "public services and concession mechanisms are not perfect, and the public often have to pay for unfair and unreasonable concessions."

Additionally, Leong called on the government to allow the city's employees to enjoy the benefits of economic development.

Leong said that the government had been delaying the amendment of the labor law, with this delay preventing labor protections from improving at the same pace as economic development.

"Much of the welfare granted by the social security system and many subsidies have not been adjusted in two years. Difficulties in housing and transportation have not been resolved for a long time, which has dragged down the happiness of the residents," said Leong.

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Macau Custom Garage - a meeting point for bike enthusiasts

Renato Marques

THE Macau Custom Garage (MCG) is a motorcycle garage created in 1997 when the owner of the project Sérgio Lacerda, was looking for the opportunity to race motorcycles in Macau.

"I wanted to race and I needed a place to build my own bike. So I found a shop, a place I could afford, rented it and started doing it," Lacerda told the Times.

Eventually, garages of this type (located in several places across the Peninsula and Tai-pa over the years) have become meeting-points where friends gather to chat, have a beer and eventually fix something on their bikes. "There are people that come here often and they have no intentions of even changing one single part on their bikes and that's not a problem," Lacerda said with a smile. Run by a group of friends who share a love for bikes and customizing them, the MCG has



been located in the Barra area near Ponte 5A since April 2017, continuing the very same spirit of its creation 20 years ago; to be a meeting-point for "nice people that like bikes."

Besides the normal repair work, found in any other workshop, one of the specialties of MCG is motorcycle transformation.

As Lacerda explained, "People have old and ugly motorcycles and they don't want to

buy a new one. Many of them are also attracted [to] the idea of having something different [from all the others on the road] and want something unique."

"Our job is to understand what the owner likes and try to develop a project around it that is 'doable,' sometimes people have 'wacky' ideas that are technically possible to do or that aren't allowed in streets," he noted.

Over the past 20 years, according to Lacerda, the MCG have built around 25 of these custom motorcycles, but there are limits imposed by the garage itself: "I don't want to do more than two per year. This is a work that requires a lot of time, thinking, planning, testing, re-thinking and a lot of attention to detail. We don't work with deadlines also."

Usually three people in the garage, including the owner, work on the bikes, but there are parts that are outsourced, like graphics painting and particularly difficult welding jobs due to the nature of the materials involved.

As Lacerda explained, most customers are aged between 30 to 40 years old and most of the bikes transformed are "small bikes," usually in the range of 125cc to 250cc engines.


From the approximately 25 custom jobs the garage has done, Lacerda said he particularly liked about 10, especially those in which the outcome is completely different from the original.

As for the hardest project, he admitted it was a "big bike," an Intruder 1400 chopper that took seven years to complete.

Another of the projects that Lacerda said he liked was of a small 90cc engine two-stroke engine motorcycle; "it was a very old motorcycle that previously had belonged to the Post Office Services. It was sold in an auction by the government and eventually ended up here. What we tried to do in this case was to restore it to its original outlook even before [...] being transformed for the use of the Post Office service."

Lacerda explained that in the final process, all motorcycles have to pass through a special inspection by the Transport Bureau in order to guarantee that they are compliant with the laws and safety rules to ride on the public roads and streets but he said that this has not been too much hassle: "If we just keep it tidy, and follow the rules, there is no problem."

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Migrants endorse faith and meritocracy as factors to mobility, study shows

A study conducted in the region shows that Filipino migrant workers' meritocracy and faith in God are important factors that are causal for higher socio-economic mobility.

Labor migration is one of the strategies used to acquire a higher socio-economic mobility, and data from the Philippine Statistics Authority indicates that there are some 2.2 million Filipinos working overseas in a bid to improve their financial status.

These workers are usually dubbed as "unsung heroes" back home, as they are willing to be disconnected from their families to make a living outside the country.

They have opted to leave home, which implies that their income from jobs in the Philippines are insufficient to support and provide for their families.

In a paper titled "Working for a better future: Social mobility beliefs and expectation of Filipino migrant workers in Macau," 246 Filipino migrants answered questions on their socio-economic status, mobility causal conceptions and goal attainment strategies.

The study, whose respondents were primarily low-skilled workers, suggests that these workers expect that their work abroad will result in upward social mobility after a period of time.

They also expect further financial improvement after 10 years.

There are studies that show that the increased income flow to families of these migrant



workers does not have an impact on overall the poverty gap, yet other research suggests that there have been observable improvements in the lives of these families.

Although meritocracy was not the most highly endorsed causal factor for upward mobility, the study suggested that these workers endorsed both meritocracy and faith in God as important causal factors for mobility.

This implies that there are a significant number of migrant workers in the city who hold a strong stance on religious belief.

"Causal conceptions that faith in God and social networks help towards upward social mobility represent primary

control beliefs that involve a compensatory strategy on their part," the study, which scholars from the University of Macau and University of the Philippines Diliman, conducted.

"Both social-oriented coping and belief in God are important factors in how Filipino migrant workers deal with stress, [...] suggesting that the factors are salient in the minds of Filipino migrant workers," it added.

It stated that even if there are uncertainties as to whether working in a foreign country actually leads to improved socio-economic status for the families of these migrant workers, they still envision a better future for their families back home.

"As our results suggest, the expectation of a better future is

related to whether they already see improvements in their family's current social status," the research suggested.

"The migrant workers' belief that meritocracy leads to socio-economic mobility tends to be associated with goal engagement strategies such as being persistent in working towards their goals, which was associated with higher social mobility expectations," it noted.

Both social-oriented coping and belief in God are important factors in how Filipino migrant workers deal with stress.

STUDY

These workers' high expectations for their families' future socio-economic status are "driven by their belief in the importance of their own efforts and abilities, and their tendency to persevere and to persist in their work."

Further, the paper concluded that there is a need to "contextualize such models within the cultural systems of individuals and point to the possibility of other meaningful pathways to seeing a better future for their families." LV

Broad money supply rebounds in July

The broad money supply rebounded in July, with a stable share denominated in patacas, while both residents' deposits and loans were up from a month earlier, according to the latest data from the Monetary Authority of Macau.

The currency in circulation dropped 0.7 percent month-to-month whereas demand deposits rose 2.2 percent. The shares denominated in MOP, HKD, RMB and USD were 31.9 percent, 52.2 percent, 4.5 percent and 9.5 percent respectively.

Resident deposits grew 2 percent from the preceding month to MOP600.9 billion, whereas non-resident deposits fell 5.5 percent to MOP240.6 billion. On the other hand, public sector deposits with the banking sector increased 8 percent to MOP214.9 billion.

As a result, total deposits in the banking sector grew 1.3 percent from a month earlier to MOP1,056.4 billion. The shares of MOP, HKD, RMB and USD in total deposits were 20.2 percent, 51.2 percent, 4.5 percent and 20.9 percent respectively.

Meanwhile, domestic loans to the private sector grew 0.6 percent from a month ago to MOP481.5 billion, while external loans also rose 0.6 percent to MOP506.1 billion. The shares of MOP, HKD, RMB and USD in total loans were 16 percent, 50.4 percent, 3.2 percent and 27.2 percent respectively.

At the end of July, the loan-to-deposit ratio for the resident sector dropped from 60.7 percent at end-June to 59 percent. Meanwhile, the ratio for both the resident and non-resident sectors fell from 94.1 percent to 93.5 percent. The one-month and three-month current assets-to-liabilities ratios stayed at relatively high levels of 51.7 percent and 54.9 percent, respectively.

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SANDS CHINA'S RESTAURANTS INCLUDED IN CTRIP GOURMET LIST



Ctrip's independent brand, the Ctrip Gourmet List, has honored 17 Sands Resorts Macao restaurants by including them in its most recent 2018 ranking report.

The Golden Peacock Indian restaurant at The Venetian Macao received Ctrip

One Star status, while 16 others earned Ctrip Select rankings, the gaming operator said in a statement.

They included Portofino, North and Bambu at The Venetian Macao; The Parisian Macao's Brasserie, Lotus Palace and Le Buffet; Sands

Cotai Central's Southern Kitchen and Urumqi Ballroom; and Sands Macao's Copa Steakhouse, 888 Buffet and Golden Court.

Sheraton Grand Macao Hotel, Cotai Central's Bene and Xin, The St. Regis Macao, Cotai Central's The St. Regis Bar, Four Seasons Hotel Macao, and Cotai Strip's Zi Yat Heen and Belcação were also included in the list.

The Ctrip Gourmet List evaluates restaurants in three categories: "Ctrip Stars," which is focused on fine dining restaurants; "Ctrip Select," which looks at high quality, affordable eateries; and "Ctrip Flavour," which features less well-known locations serving authentic regional food.

MGM ORGANIZES SEMINAR ON FOOD SAFETY



MGM organized the "MGM SME Supporting Program - Food Safety and ISO Management System Seminar" yesterday, with some 200 participants, including SMEs, food and beverage vendors and industry practitioners, young entrepreneurs, government represen-

tatives and members from various SME associations.

According to a statement issued by the gaming operator, the seminar helped local SMEs better understand food safety and the ISO management system standards.

At the event, Macau's food

safety regulations and cases of food and beverage manufacturing sites with foodborne diseases were shared, which helped the participants understand the various food safety standards and hygiene requirements.

A detailed introduction to the ISO 22000 Food Safety Management System and the ISO implementation and certification process were also presented.

Vice president of the Macau Chamber of Commerce Chui Yuk Lum said, "This seminar can promote overall food safety standards in Macau, bringing about new business opportunities for SMEs and [showing] Macau as an international tourism destination with safe and high quality gourmet [enterprises]."

REAL ESTATE MATTERS

Your financial perspectives matter

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



SAM LEE

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Having the right or wrong perspective can have a major influence on the quality of your life. When it comes financial success having the right perspective and framing things in a positive way can be crucial. Below are three mental hacks or shifts in perspective that can help you think, analyze and plan towards your financial goals;

Ask yourself the right questions

One of the best tips on perspective changes I have ever learned came from the book Rich Dad Poor Dad by Robert Kiyosaki. In his amazingly simple yet brilliant book, he teaches that having a 'growth mindset' is crucial when it comes to making money. When encountering an opportunity, investment or product that you simply don't have the funds to pay for, instead of resigning to "I can't afford it" ask yourself instead "How can I afford

it?". By simply asking yourself this question your brain subconsciously begins to work and starts seeking solutions in your favor.

Gaining by subtracting

We live in an age saturated with information, opinions and advertisements. From my experience, too much information can actually prevent us from taking meaningful action. Instead of focusing too much on perpetually 'adding' knowledge, what if you turned it around and trained your mind to look at what isn't being said or done as much as what is being said or done? True creativity and insights comes from this void. You can apply this concept to financial investments by simply asking where not to invest rather than where to invest. By subtracting harmful information first, you can decrease the chances of incurring a large loss and cutting your investing career short

while leaving you in the end with the few positive options that make sense.

Have long term perspective

When it comes to success in real estate it is important to maintain a long-term perspective. This doesn't mean that you need to forego short-term investment strategies, but you do need to adopt strategies that will keep you in the game longer while 'subtracting' potentially dangerous investments as we mentioned earlier. To cultivate a long term perspective, you should start with your desired goal in mind and eliminate smaller and riskier opportunities that appear along the way by focusing instead on the ones that have potential to grow and build a strong foundation of returns. Take Steven Covey's advice from The Seven Habits by beginning with the end in mind then focus on how to turn it into a reality.

GAMING

Dan Gilbert is said to be looking to cash out of casinos

QUICKEN Loans Inc. founder Dan Gilbert is looking to exit the casino business, including properties in Cleveland, Cincinnati and Detroit, according to people familiar with his plans.

Deutsche Bank and Credit Suisse are representing Gilbert's casino company in the sale process, and Caesars Entertainment Corp. is among the possible bidders that have expressed interest in some properties, said the people, who asked not to be identified because the discussions are private. Representatives for both banks and Caesars declined to comment.

"It is Jack Entertainment's long-standing policy to not comment on rumors or speculation," the company said in a statement Wednesday.

Gilbert, a billionaire who also owns the Cleveland Cavaliers basketball team, began eyeing gambling as part of a strategy to revive struggling downtowns in older U.S. cities. He backed a 2009 ballot measure to legalize casinos in Ohio and opened his first property in the historic Higbee's department store building in downtown Cleveland three years later.

Jack Entertainment, based in Detroit, has interests in six casinos and racetracks, including Jack casinos in Ohio and the Greektown Casino-Hotel in Detroit, which Gilbert acquired in 2013. The properties may be sold separately. He's worth an estimated USD7.8 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

The gambling industry is in the midst of an acquisition wave, thanks in part to the emergence of casino-based real estate investment trusts that allow bidders to pay higher prices for properties. The U.S. Supreme Court's lega-



Dan Gilbert

lization of sports wagering in May has added to their potential growth prospects.

Caesars completed the acquisition of two Indiana racetrack-casinos for \$1.7 billion in July. MGM Growth Properties LLC, an affiliate of MGM Resorts International, paid \$1.06 billion for another such property, the Hard Rock Rocksinio Northfield Park, near Cleveland, the same month.

Still, the business is competitive. Gilbert's properties only ranked third and fourth in terms of gambling revenue this year among Ohio's four stand-alone casinos, even though the Jack Entertainment properties are located in the center of the state's two largest cities. Bloomberg

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Beijing



Lisbon

Lisbon and Beijing focus on strengthening economic relations

LISBON and Beijing signed a protocol for the strengthening of bilateral relations. Beijing wants Portuguese investment. Lisbon wants to be China's gateway to Europe.

Strengthening economic relations in general, investing in the industry, commerce, and tourism areas and new business opportunities was the purpose of the Beijing-Lisbon Cooperation Forum, which was held this Wednesday afternoon in a hotel in the Portuguese capital. This was an initiative of the Cabinet of Investment Promotion in Beijing (GPIP) and the Portuguese Division of the People's Daily.

At the occasion, the deputy director of GPIP highlighted some of the most important partnerships already developed, such as the one that brings together the Chinese electric company

Three Gorges with the Portuguese EDP and the presence of the Fosun fund in the capital of BCP Millennium and the insurance company Fidelidade. He also noted that there are still many other business opportunities and called for the mobilization of Portuguese investors in projects in the area of the Chinese capital.

With a population of 22 million people (roughly the double of Portugal's population) Beijing has at this time a gross domestic product per head of 17,000 Euros and acts as "the center of innovation" and "leader in the consumer market in China," explained Zhang Hua.

Beijing has served "as a gateway for entry and expansion" to major international brands in the Chinese market, with more than 4,000 companies based in the city today, 56 of which are among the 500 largest in the world.

He also stressed the importance of the most prestigious universities of the country being located in Beijing and a whole array of infrastructures that allow for a "high quality of life for foreign investors." And for these there are plenty of investment opportunities, from "service industries," where the Chinese capital is playing a pioneering role, to the cutting-edge technology sector. Zang Hua pointed out that Beijing-based companies have advantageous incentives, particularly those in the areas of new technologies, information technologies, education, tourism and financial services. The objective is to enable the establishment of important companies in the area of the Chinese capital, namely in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei triangle.

The city of Huairou was shown as an example of the way China

is investing in the future, here Artificial Intelligence, Smart devices, new generation technology, power supply alternatives and Health Investigation investment are privileged.

In addition to these sectors, the head of the GPIP listed important future events such as the World Horticultural Exhibition in 2019 and the Winter Olympic Games in 2022, as investment opportunities open to Portuguese companies in areas such as infrastructures, hotels and leisure spaces.

But Portugal is not only a target for Beijing's strategy to raise foreign investment, it is also seen as a "link" with Europe in the framework of the New Silk Road, the "Uma Faixa uma Rota" Initiative project launched in 2013 by President Xi Jinping.

The importance of Portugal and its relation with China was hi-

ghlighted in a subsequent intervention by Rui Coelho, head of a body similar to GPIP, Invest Lisboa (a partnership of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry with the municipality of Lisbon to promote the Portuguese capital). For Rui Coelho, Lisbon has all the conditions to be "the base of Chinese companies" to be present "in Europe and the Atlantic" - to be China's "platform of trade and investment for Europe."

As a sign of the importance of the Lisbon-Beijing relation and of the common strategy for the strengthening of this bilateral relationship, protocols were signed at the end of the Forum. The protocols signed are between the Chinese entity and Invest Lisboa and between GPIP and the Mandarin-written news portal about Portugal, Haiwainet. Other representatives of the GPIP and the Portuguese side also intervened. **MDT/Plataforma**

EasyJet targets more long-haul feeder ties after Singapore deal

Benjamin Katz, Guy Johnson

EASYJET Plc Chief Executive Officer Johan Lundgren is in talks for further deals allowing passengers to connect with flights operated by long-haul carriers after announcing an accord with Singapore Airlines Ltd.

Europe's second-biggest discount carrier aims to seal more tie-ups before the year's end, Lundgren said in an interview in London. Potential allies include more Asian operators as well as airlines from other global regions,



he said yesterday.

Discount airlines are embracing flight connections

to add destinations and boost sales after previously discouraging transfers

as too costly and complex. The Worldwide by EasyJet offer, launched last

year with Norwegian Air Shuttle ASA and Canada's WestJet Ltd., is available only where there's typically a minimum 2 1/2 hour time gap, and flights won't be held if a passenger's first plane is late.

Lundgren spoke after announcing a partnership that will allow customers to connect to Singapore Air's long-haul flights at Milan Malpensa airport, and to services operated by the Asian giant's Scoot discount arm at Berlin Tegel. The deal takes the number of partners in Worldwide to 10.

"It's an exciting prospect," said Lundgren, who said the tie-up with Singapore has taken the project to a new level by bringing in the first full-service carrier The business model is "risk free," he told

Bloomberg Television, delivering the benefits of seamless travel without EasyJet having to join a global alliance.

Luton, England-based EasyJet has established Milan as a focus for the operation, with the existing Norwegian deal linking with services to Los Angeles and Italian operator Neos serving the Caribbean, East Africa, Indian Ocean destinations and East Asia. Passengers still need to collect their own luggage off the baggage carousel and hand the bags in for transfer.

Discount rival Ryanair Holdings Plc has worked on similar initiatives with Norwegian, IAG SA's Aer Lingus and Spain's Air Europa, but is still rolling out the service. **Bloomberg**

Todd Pitman, Esther Htusan
& Dake Kang, Gucheng

SIX YEARS IN CAPTIVITY

Trafficked Myanmar woman faced

THEY were the first photos Marip Lu had ever taken of her son, and it broke her heart to think they might be the last.

The little boy was standing in their living room in rural China with his tiny chest puffed out, brown eyes beaming as he watched cartoons on TV. She wanted to remember him this way — smiling, playful, innocent.

Just three years old, he had no idea his mother was facing a heart-wrenching choice that would change their lives: stay with him and the family holding her hostage, or leave him behind and be free.

Six years earlier, Marip Lu had been drugged, kidnapped and trafficked to this place far from her native Myanmar. She had been beaten and abused, forced to “marry” a mentally disabled man, and repeatedly raped, she said.

Now the people organizing her rescue had warned it was too dangerous to take her son. But how could she go without him?

“What if he never has someone to call ‘mama?’” Marip Lu kept asking herself, as the clock ticked down to her escape. “What will they do to him if I’m no longer there?”

THE LION'S DEN

As a girl growing up in northern Myanmar, Marip Lu had spent most of her youth in school, in church, and farming her family's rice fields. But in June 2011, fighting erupted between the army and rebels from an ethnic minority called the Kachin. Marip Lu's family, who are Kachin, fled to the home of relatives in Laiza, on the Chinese frontier.

The move brought new dangers — from human traffickers who are increasingly luring teenage girls with the false promise of jobs. Once inside China, the girls are kidnapped, then sold to men looking for “brides” for between USD5,000 and \$10,000, according to the Kachin women's association, Myu Shayi.

Nobody knows how many have been trafficked, because most are never heard from again or too ashamed to report the crime. However, the U.S. State Department said in its latest report that numbers from Myanmar are rising, and Myu Shayi says the average number of known victims from rebel-held Kachin state — a tiny sliver of Myanmar — has jumped from about 35 annually to 50 last year. Myanmar's government has reported over 1,100 cases in the country since 2010.

Human Rights Watch's Heather Barr, who interviewed 37 victims this year, said those figures “are only the tip of the iceberg.”

The phenomenon is a direct consequence of China's one-child policy, which grossly skewed the nation's gender balance for decades before the government ended the practice two years ago. Chinese men, though, still outnumber

women by more than 30 million, fueling a huge demand for foreign brides that has sucked in countless girls from neighboring Vietnam, Laos and North Korea.

Although Chinese authorities have broken up trafficking rings, rights advocates say anti-trafficking enforcement is weak, and the practice continues.

The Associated Press pieced together Marip Lu's story through interviews with her, several family members and the women's group that orchestrated her rescue. Some details were corroborated by 195 photographs on her cell phone. In an effort to ensure Marip Lu's safety, AP is not using her full name.

The AP also traveled to the village of Gucheng, in Henan province, to interview the couple Marip Lu accuses of buying her — Li Qinggong and his wife, Xu Ying. Both denied all allegations of abuse, but neither was able to explain how Marip Lu had ended up in their faraway village, or how she allegedly met and “married” their mentally disabled son, Li Mingming. When the AP visited their home, Li Mingming was only able to mumble incoherently; his foot was chained to a bed, a practice sometimes employed by families in rural China to keep mentally disabled relatives from wandering away.

Still, Li Qinggong insisted that “we did not abduct her or buy her. ... It's not true.”

Xu claimed they treated Marip Lu like a daughter, and tearfully accused her of neglecting her son and abandoning them. But she acknowledged knowing Marip Lu wanted to leave and said without explanation that “in some families, they run away after several months — some don't even last a single month.”

At one point, the couple got into a screaming match as they discussed whether to talk to AP. Li Qinggong hurled his phone at his wife. “You're asking for trouble,” he told her. “Why don't you go die?”

“These are all family affairs,” Li Qinggong later said, explaining his reticence. “It's sad to talk about family affairs, and we don't bring it up.”

THE LURING JOB

When Marip Lu heard about a job at a barbecue restaurant in Yingjiang, a half-hour's drive away from Laiza, she had every reason to believe it was real. The offer came from a woman who had lived next to her family for years and attended their church.

After Marip Lu told her parents the news, her mother, Tangbau Hkawn, begged her not to go.

“You're too young,” she said. “You've never traveled out of Myanmar. You've never been anywhere alone.”

“Don't worry mama,” replied Marip Lu, who was just 17 at the time.



In this March 21 photo, Marip Lu sits in her family's shelter in a refugee camp in northern Kachin State, Myanmar

When she entered China surreptitiously in September 2011, there were no border guards, no checkpoints. They walked across a shallow creek in broad daylight.

In Yingjiang, after eating a bowl of noodles for breakfast at a local restaurant, Marip Lu began to feel dizzy.

Soon, her vision blurred. Then everything went black.

When Marip Lu regained consciousness, she was slumped on the back of a red motorcycle racing down a highway, a chubby Chinese man holding onto her with one hand.

Rubbing her eyes, she saw rivers and flower parks flashing by. Then things she'd only seen in movies: twinkling skyscrapers with vast crowds walking between them like ants.

When she reached for the phone in her purse, she noticed it was missing along with her Myanmar identification card and the handful of Myanmar kyat — worth only a few U.S. dollars — that she'd brought.

Suddenly, she understood. She'd been tricked, then drugged. And now, she was being trafficked.

Marip Lu began to scream, but she was too weak to resist.

She was handed over to an older man who pulled her aboard a public bus. The night turned into day, then night again, and she was forced into a car that drove into a small village with no paved roads. The car stopped in front of a bland, two-story home made of cement, where a middle-aged couple greeted her excitedly with huge smiles as if she were a long-lost relative.

Li Qinggong, who had dark hair and bushy eyebrows, spoke rapi-

dly and loudly. His wife, who had high cheekbones and a wide face, sat with him, alongside a thickset younger man in his 30s — their son.

The woman offered sunflower seeds, and later, dinner. But Marip Lu was nauseous and frightened. The last thing she wanted to do was eat. She could even not communicate with her captors, who only spoke Chinese.

“Please, dear God,” she prayed, closing her eyes. “Please don't let anything bad happen to me.”

LONELINESS

In the darkness on the bed that first night, Marip Lu felt like a caged animal.

The couple, through hand gestures, had made it clear she was to sleep in the same room as Li Mingming. He had ripped off her clothes, and when she had tried to run they had pushed her back inside and slammed the door shut.

Li Mingming began heaving his naked body against hers, she said, grunting as she recoiled in disgust.

But then, unexpectedly, he stopped. For some reason, he had not raped her, and in the days that followed, she began to understand why: he was mentally disabled in some way.

Sometimes he would mumble or talk to himself, or scream unexpectedly. Sometimes he would stare blankly at the television, his eyes just inches away.

For months, Marip Lu said, her captors never left her alone. The windows upstairs were blocked by dirty white bars. Whenever the couple left, they locked the iron front door — from the outside.

One winter's night, four weeks

into her captivity, Marip Lu said, the couple burst into her bedroom, dragged her into the kitchen and tore off her clothes.

As she lay curled in a ball on the hard marble floor, they kicked and slapped and cursed her. Li Qinggong then poured buckets of ice water over her shivering body.

When the mother sat down, Marip Lu crawled forward and wrapped her arms around her legs.

“Please don't do this!” she begged in Kachin — a language only she understood. “Oh God! What did I do wrong?”

The next night, the couple barged in again as she slept, according to Marip Lu. This time, they forced her into their bedroom. As Xu sat in a chair barking instructions, Li Qinggong pushed Marip Lu onto the bed and raped her repeatedly, she said. The couple later insisted she had never been raped.

When Marip Lu retreated, shaking with fear, she found her “husband” hiding in their room under a blanket like a child. It was the same thing he did when his parents fought.

As the weeks turned into months, then years, she began following a grim routine. During the day, they made her wash clothes, clean the house and cook — and beat her if she did not. At night, the couple would often drag their “daughter” into their room — or their son's — and rape her as she cried, she said.

They called her Baobei — “baby.” One day, Marip Lu looked into the mirror at several bright red imprints on her cheeks where she had been slapped. It was hard to recognize the girl looking back.

She wanted more than anything to escape, but there was nowhere

heart-wrenching choice on son

to run. The sheer vastness of China, combined with the fact that she could not speak Chinese, had created the perfect prison. And even if she could get out, she had no money and no way to contact home.

The hardest part was the loneliness.

Marip Lu wanted to tell someone what was happening, but there was nobody to talk to. The first time she tried to wave down a neighbor, she said, Xu yanked her away by the wrist and cursed them both. Even those who entered their house tried to avoid making eye contact.

The neighbors may not have suspected anything was wrong. Foreign brides are not uncommon in rural China, and many women come voluntarily. Marriages are also sometimes seen as transactional events in a country where the traditional practice of paying dowries still exists.

Two years after her arrival, Marip Lu seemed to fall ill. She began throwing up each morning, and for the first time, Xu took her to a clinic.

She was five weeks pregnant.

Xu was overjoyed. But Marip Lu felt numb. The new life inside her belly was the product of the hell in which she existed.

The rape and the beatings came to a halt. Then, on Sept. 23, 2013, Marip Lu gave birth to a healthy boy. She called him Erzi, which means son.

The first time she looked into his eyes, she was overwhelmed by something she had not felt in a long time: love.

She melted when she saw his pouting lips smile involuntarily as he slept. Even his cries were soothing.

Although Marip Lu insists Li Qinggong is the father, she said the couple referred to the boy as their "grandson," proudly telling everyone in their village he belonged to their son and their "daughter-in-law." In conversations with the AP, Li Qinggong never replied to the question of whether he was the father.

When the beatings and the rape resumed months later, Marip Lu felt different. The baby was a profound source of comfort; she no longer felt alone.

The day her son turned one, Xu took her and the boy to a photo studio for a souvenir of the moment. The glossy image they received was embossed with a tiny smiley face and a digital slogan written in English: "Happy Day."

CELL SURPRISE

Marip Lu had all but given up on ever returning home when she spotted something strange in the trash: an old, beat-up cell phone.

It was missing a SIM card. But she knew how to get one: by skimming cash from the money the couple gave her to buy food.



Li Mingming, whose foot is chained to a bed, a practice sometimes employed by families in rural China to keep mentally disabled relatives from wandering away

It took several weeks. When she inserted the card, she was shocked. It worked.

Immediately, she tried to dial friends or family in Myanmar. But nothing went through.

She began calling numbers at random in Yunnan, a province that borders Myanmar. The idea was simple: try to reach anyone who spoke Kachin.

For weeks she dialed in secret, again and again, number after number. Until one day a woman answered in Kachin — a language she had not spoken or heard in years.

"Who are you? What do you want?"

Marip Lu said she was working in China and had lost contact with her family back home.

"I'm desperate to speak to them," she said. "Can you help?"

Miraculously, the woman lived in Yingjiang, the same place Marip Lu had been kidnapped from four years before. Even more stunning: one of the woman's relatives was planning to make her first trip to Myanmar — to Laiza for a wedding.

Marip Lu passed on her brother-in-law's address, and when the woman crossed the border she knocked on his door.

Numbers were exchanged. And several days later, Marip Lu made a call she thought she'd never be able to make again.

"Marip Lu?" her mother asked.

"Yes, mama. Yes," she said, and wept into the phone.

WECHAT HELP

In Laiza, Myu Shayi, the women's association affiliated with the rebel administration, immediately took up the case.

"I want you to be patient," a case worker named Ja Ring told Marip Lu by phone. "We will get you out as soon we can."

For months, the two stayed in touch, agreeing that only Marip Lu would call. Then Xu discovered the phone.

"Who are you calling? You have no friends here," she screamed, her face red with anger as she snatched it away. "You should not be talking to anyone. Your family is here."

The loss turned out to be a blessing. With money she got to celebrate her son's second birthday in 2015, and more skimmed cash, Marip Lu secretly purchased a low-cost, Chinese-built smartphone.

Another woman from Myu Shayi told her to install the popular Chinese messaging app WeChat. The woman, Hkawn Shawng, then asked her to send a message by clicking on an icon that looked like a balloon.

When Marip Lu pressed "send," a digital map appeared on Hkawn Shawng's phone with a red flag on it. For the first time, it indicated precisely where she was — a house about 2,700 kilometers from Laiza.

Following protocol, Hkawn Shawng wrote a letter to Chinese authorities requesting a rescue.

Then they waited, for months.

Marip Lu was outside her home with her son when a pair of police cars suddenly pulled up months later, red and blue lights flashing. One of the officers turned and asked: "Are you Marip Lu? Is that your name?"

"Yes, yes, yes," she said, barely able to contain herself.

When the officers said they were taking her down to the police station, Li Qinggong tried to intervene.

"We take good care of her in this house. She's happy," he said, smiling meekly. "Just look around, do you see any problem here?"

Marip Lu, frozen, dared not say a word. But when the police took her away, she told them everything.

"Someone sold me to this Chinese family," she said. "I'm terrified of these people."

The officers recorded her testimony solemnly. Then they took her photograph.

"Do you want to go home?" one asked.

"Of course," Marip Lu pleaded. "Very much."

But hours later, inexplicably, they called the Chinese family to come pick her up. They said they

would come back to get her when they received orders from their bosses after the Chinese New Year holiday.

"Don't be afraid," one of them said. And "don't be in a hurry ... Don't you know there is war in Myanmar? Aren't you worried about that?"

The next day, Marip Lu called Hkawn Shawng in tears.

"Why didn't they send me home?" she said, her voice trembling. "When are you going to rescue me? Am I going to die here?"

"You must stay strong," Hkawn Shawng replied. "Keep praying to God ... we will get you out."

A few weeks later, Hkawn Shawng received a letter from the police. It claimed Marip Lu had told them she did not want to return.

It was unclear what had happened, but Hkawn Shawng speculated police had either been bought off, or didn't care. Police in Gucheng declined to speak to AP about the case when contacted by phone.

There was a Plan B. Myu Shayi had surreptitious networks of its own in China that rescue trafficked girls. Hkawn Shawng would send a driver, but Marip Lu would have to get as far away from her house as she could first, to ensure their vehicle was not traced or followed.

"And my son?" Marip Lu asked. Hkawn Shawng said she could only be rescued alone. The boy was a Chinese citizen, and spirited him out of the country would be interpreted by Chinese authorities as one thing only: kidnapping.

By now, the couple was so confident Marip Lu would not — or could not — leave, they let her drive their three-wheeled vehicle to the market alone. And when they discovered her new white phone, they shrugged, and let her keep it.

THE ESCAPE

On Wednesday, May 3, 2017, Marip Lu walked her son home from school at 11 a.m., holding his hand just as she always did.

Once there, she packed a small pink bag with two changes of clothes, a little bit of money, and several laminated photos of her son.

He stood beside her, pulling at her leg.

"Mama! Mama!" he said. "I'm hungry."

Marip Lu told him to go to the kitchen and wait for lunch, but the boy said he did not want to go alone.

"Go on," she said. "Be a good boy. Mama needs to finish washing the clothes."

As the boy walked away, he turned back several times, his sad eyes pleading for her to follow. But as soon as he was out of sight, Marip Lu ran down to the garage, where she cranked up the family's motorcycle.

Xu was in another room at the

time, with her elderly mother.

Marip Lu's eyes welled with tears.

She dared not say bye to her son, or hug him one last time. She knew that if she did, she would never be able to leave.

Half an hour later, she reached a nearby town. She abandoned the motorcycle in an alley, and messaged her GPS location to a driver sent by Myu Shayi who was supposed to pick her up.

Hours later, she saw a van with a man standing outside it in a white shirt.

"Hurry up! Hurry up! Hurry up!"

Marip Lu began to run.

"Quick! Get in!"

Once inside, Marip Lu took the SIM card out of her phone, rolled down the window and threw it into the wind.

Over the next several days, Marip Lu took 45 photos out the window as they traveled toward the Myanmar border: of bridges and skyscrapers and a Ferris wheel along the endless highways.

Eventually, the van cut through fields of tall sugarcane, then suddenly turned onto a dirt road.

It was Myanmar. Marip Lu was home.

COMING HOME

When her family saw her for the first time, there were tears, hugs, and disbelief. It was as if their daughter had returned from the dead.

But they knew the innocent girl who left Myanmar six years earlier would never come back.

"She talks at night when she sleeps now," her mother, Tangbau Hkawn, says forlornly. "Sometimes she screams. Sometimes she shouts things like 'don't touch me!'"

When the Associated Press interviewed Marip Lu in a rebel-controlled part of northern Myanmar's Kachin state, a year after her escape, she could not hide her hatred for the family she said held her for so long.

"I want them to know what it feels like," she says through gritted teeth. "They destroyed my life."

In June, though, Marip Lu was overcome by the desire to contact her son. To do so, she had to muster the courage to call Li Qinggong.

At first, nobody answered, but then a familiar voice called back.

Li Qinggong refused to let her speak to the boy, she said, and asked if she had told the AP what happened in their home. Later, she sent several photos of herself because "I wanted [my son] to know he has a mother somewhere."

It's unclear if the boy ever saw them. Neither Li Qinggong nor Xu answered repeated calls to their mobile phones from AP.

More than anything else, Marip Lu says she wants to get her son back.

But Hkawn Shawng, the woman who helped engineer her rescue, says that is all but impossible. Her organization has spearheaded the return more than 200 women to Myanmar since 2011.

All those with children were forced to leave them behind. **AP**



TRADE WAR

Trump poised to tax an additional USD200b in Chinese imports

Paul Wiseman
& Anne D'innocenzio, Washington

THE Trump administration may be about to slap tariffs of up to 25 percent on an additional USD200 billion in Chinese goods, escalating a confrontation between the world's two biggest economies and likely squeezing U.S. companies that import everything from handbags to bicycle tires.

The administration could decide to begin taxing the imports — equal to nearly 40 percent of all the goods China sold the United States last year — after a public comment period ends today [Macau time].

China said it is ready to impose retaliatory tariffs on \$60 billion worth of U.S. goods if that happens.

“China will have to take necessary countermeasures if the U.S. side ignores the opposition of the overwhelming majority of its enterprises and adopts new tariff measures,” Commerce Ministry spokesman Gao Feng said Thursday.

The U.S. has already imposed tariffs on \$50 billion in Chinese products, and Beijing has punched back with tariffs on \$50 billion in American goods. These U.S. goods include soybeans and beef — a direct shot at supporters of President Donald Trump in the

U.S. farm belt.

Trump initiated the trade war to punish Beijing for what it says are China's predatory tactics to try to supplant U.S. technological supremacy. Those tactics, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative has alleged, include stealing trade secrets through computer hacking and forcing U.S. companies to hand over technology in exchange for access to the Chinese market.

In the early rounds of the hostilities, the administration targeted Chinese industrial imports to try to spare American consumers from higher import costs. But if Trump adds the \$200 billion in Chinese products to the target list,

American consumers would likely feel the pinch directly. And China has vowed to hit \$60 billion in U.S. products in retaliation.

Many American companies that rely on targeted Chinese imports are bracing for the next round of tariffs to hit, with some wondering whether they can absorb the higher costs or instead will need to pass them along to their customers — or find alternative suppliers outside China.

“An escalation of the tariff war could start to sever or disrupt supply chains, bringing about diminished production efficiency, higher costs and lost competitiveness — ultimately leading to a lower potential growth rate for

both countries,” analysts at S&P Global Ratings wrote yesterday [Macau time].

China said it is ready to impose retaliatory tariffs on USD60 billion worth of US goods if that happens

They say a full-blown trade war by 2021 could shrink America's annual economic output by an average of one-third of a percentage point and China's by two-tenths of a percentage point from 2019 through 2021. The trade war could inflict further damage if it rattles financial markets, thereby hurting business confidence and potentially discouraging investment.

Sherill Mosee, founder of MinkeeBlue, a Philadelphia company that makes travel and work bags, said that her 4-year-old business will probably have to suspend operations if the tariffs hit and the administration starts taxing imported Chinese luggage and handbags.

MinkeeBlue relies on inexpensive imports to be able to sell for less than \$200 an all-purpose bag for working women that holds shoes and a lunch bag. Mosee said she won't be able to either absorb higher import costs or pass them on to her customers. Finding a supplier outside China likely would take months, she said.

“I'm scared; I am overwhelmed,” Mosee said. “I'm just beginning to grow my business. I finally feel good about the direction of the business, and now this is happening.” AP

ELECTRIC CARS

Tesla wannabe asking investors to pay for potential

INVESTOR excitement for China's electric-car business gets a reality check next week.

NIO Inc. will become the first major electric-car maker to have a U.S. initial public offering since Tesla Inc. in 2010, and its stock is set to start trading Sept. 12. The Tencent Holdings Ltd.-backed company seeks a valuation of USD6.4 billion to \$8.5 billion - even though it's delivered fewer than 2,000 vehicles ever.

Shanghai-based NIO wants to grab the pole position in the race to be China's homegrown answer to Tesla, competing with dozens of do-

mestic automakers to capitalize on rising demand in the world's largest market. Yet that battle also attracts the same type of intense scrutiny that Elon Musk's company faces, as many of the fledgling companies need to convince investors they have the manufacturing capacity to deliver on their promises.

“The bull case for NIO is that it has the potential to be China's EV champion,” said Robin Zhu, an analyst at Sanford C. Bernstein & Co. in Hong Kong. “The bear case is that the business burns cash at an alarming rate and hasn't demonstrated

transformative demand levels.”

Tesla's still-diminutive presence in China - fewer than 12,000 of its vehicles were registered this year through July, according to LMC Automotive - creates an opening for local startups. The Chinese government's quest to lead the world in EVs has created favorable policies and lured investors - at least five local electric-car makers attracted \$1 billion or more in backing with minimal production.

In addition, there are several established electric-car makers in China with years of experience

in manufacturing. Those companies - including BYD Co. and Beijing Electric Vehicle Co., which is preparing for an IPO in China - typically focus on cheaper, less flashy vehicles that don't directly compete with the likes of Tesla.

NIO represents a different breed, targeting wealthier buyers through a focus on connectivity and performance. After breaking speed records with its EP9 race car, NIO is ramping up production of the ES8 SUV, its first commercial product, at a partner's plant in the eastern city of Hefei.

NIO founder William Li

pledged to deliver 10,000 vehicles to customers by year's end. One skeptic, He Xiaopeng, the chairman of rival Xpeng Motors Technology Ltd., said in a social-media posting in July that's a goal no Chinese EV startup, including his own, can reach.

One early NIO backer, JD.com Inc. billionaire founder Liu Qiangdong, took 10 seconds to decide to invest, said Liu's wife, Zhang Zetian. Liu made the decision immediately after NIO's founder made a presentation at Liu's home, Zhang said at an event in December.

“He is so creative,” Liu

said in a January interview with Bloomberg. “I am sure he will get a very successful IPO and make a perfect car for consumers.”

Like many peers, NIO hasn't secured an EV manufacturing license from regulators, so it tapped Anhui Jianghuai Automobile Group to build its cars. That allowed NIO to start manufacturing while working to build a facility in Shanghai, but it also means many production-related hurdles are beyond its control. Anhui Jianghuai works with other carmakers and also has its own ambitions. **Bloomberg**

INDIA

Supreme Court decriminalizes homosexual acts in landmark verdict

Ashok Sharma, New Delhi

INDIA'S Supreme Court yesterday struck down a colonial-era law that made gay sex punishable by up to 10 years in prison, a landmark victory for gay rights that one judge said would "pave the way for a better future."

The 1861 law, a relic of Victorian England that hung on long after the end of British colonialism, was a weapon used to discriminate against India's gay community, the judges ruled in a unanimous decision.

"Constitutional morality cannot be martyred at the altar of social morality," Chief Justice Dipak Misra said, reading the verdict. "Social morality cannot be used to violate the fundamental rights of even a single individual."

As the news spread, the streets outside the courthouse erupted in cheers as opponents of the law danced and waved flags.

"We feel as equal citizens now," said activist Shashi Bhushan. "What happens in our bedroom is left to us."

In its ruling, the court said sexual orientation was a "biological phenomenon" and that discrimination on that basis violated fundamental rights.

"We cannot change history but can pave a way for a better future," said Justice D.Y. Chandrachud.

The law known as Section 377 held that intercourse between members of the same sex was



Supporters and members of the LGBT community celebrate after the country's top court struck down a colonial-era law

against the order of nature. The five petitioners who challenged the law said it was discriminatory and led to gays living in fear of harassment and persecution.

Jessica Stern, the executive director of the New York-based rights group OutRight Action International, said the original law had reverberated far beyond India, including in countries where gay people still struggle for acceptance.

"The sodomy law that became the model everywhere, from Uganda to Singapore to the U.K. itself, premiered in India, becoming the confusing and dehumanizing standard replicated around the world," she said in a statement, saying "today's historic outcome will reverberate across India and the world."

The court's ruling struck down the law's sections on consensual gay sex, but let stand segments that deal with such issues as bestiality.

Homosexuality has a tangled history in India, and some of Hinduism's most ancient texts are accepting of gay sex. But same-sex couples have also been harassed for centuries in many Indian communities, whether Hindu, Muslim or Christian.

Transgendered people known as "hijras," for example, have long been a common sight in India. But their treatment — both shunned as impure, and embraced for the belief that they can bring powerful blessings — reflects the complexities of gay life here.

Homosexuality has gained a de-

gree of acceptance in deeply conservative India over the past decade, particularly in big cities. India now has openly gay celebrities, and some high-profile Bollywood films have dealt with gay issues. But many gay people still face isolation and persecution, and the court's ruling will do little to change life on the ground for millions of people.

Yesterday, a leader of a prominent hard-line Hindu group noted that while it doesn't see homosexuality as a crime, it believes gay marriage is not "compatible with nature."

Arun Kumar, a spokesman for the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, the parent organization of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, said Indian society "traditionally does

not recognize" gay relationships, the Press Trust of India news agency reported.

“The 1861 law [...] was a weapon used to discriminate against India's gay community.”

SUPREME COURT RULING

A New Delhi High Court in 2009 declared Section 377 unconstitutional, but that decision was overturned in a ruling by three Supreme Court justices in 2013 on the grounds that amending or repealing the law should be left to Parliament. But lawmakers failed to take action and in July the government told the Supreme Court to give a ruling in the case.

Sukhdeep Singh, a gay rights activist and editor of Gaylaxy Magazine, said the community still had a lot of distance to go "to be legally with your partner."

"This will obviously open the doors for a lot of more things, more civil rights. And we'll fight for our rights, definitely. This is the first battle that has been won and there are many more battles that we are going to fight," he said. **AP**

JAPAN

Big quake hits Hokkaido, leaving 9 dead, 30 missing

A powerful earthquake yesterday on Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido triggered dozens of landslides that crushed houses under torrents of dirt, rocks and timber, prompting frantic efforts to unearth any survivors.

At least nine people were killed, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said. Officials said at least 366 were injured, five of them seriously, and about 30 people were unaccounted for after the magnitude 6.7 earthquake jolted residents from their beds at 3:08 a.m.

Nearly 3 million households were left without power by the quake — the latest in an exhausting run of natural disasters for Japan.

It paralyzed normal business on the island, as



Landslide following a strong earthquake in Atsuma town, Hokkaido, northern Japan

blackouts cut off water to homes, immobilized trains and airports, causing hundreds of flight cancellations, and shut down phone systems.

In the town of Atsuma, where entire hillsides collapsed, rescuers used small backhoes and shovels to search for survivors under the tons of earth

that tumbled down steep mountainsides, burying houses and farm buildings below. The area's deep green hills were marred by reddish-brown gashes where the soil tore loose under the violent tremors.

Twenty-eight people remained unaccounted for in the town, Atsuma Mayor Shoichiro Miyasaka told

public broadcaster NHK.

"We will carry on searching for them," he said.

Miyasaka said the town had emergency meals for up to 2,000 people and that more than 500 had sought refuge in its emergency shelters.

The landslides ripped through some homes and buried others. Some residents described awakening to find their next-door neighbors gone.

"The entire thing just collapsed," said one. "It's unbelievable."

The island's only nuclear power plant, which was offline for routine safety checks, temporarily switched to a backup generator to keep its spent fuel cool. Nuclear regulators said there was no sign of abnormal radiation — a concern after a massive quake and

tsunami in March 2011 that hit northeast Japan destroyed both external and backup power to the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant, causing meltdowns.

Japan's Meteorological Agency said the quake's epicenter was 40 kilometers (24 miles) deep. But it still wreaked havoc across much of the relatively sparsely inhabited island.

Many roads were closed and some were impassable. NHK showed workers rushing to clean up shattered glass and reinstall ceiling panels that had fallen in the region's biggest airport at Chitose.

Japan is used to dealing with disasters, but the last few months have brought a string of calamities. The quake came on the heels of a typhoon that lifted heavy

trucks off their wheels and triggered major flooding in western Japan, leaving the main airport near Osaka and Kobe closed after a tanker rammed a bridge connecting the facility to the mainland. The summer also brought devastating floods and landslides from torrential rains in Hiroshima and deadly hot temperatures across the country.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said that up to 25,000 troops and other personnel would be dispatched to Hokkaido to help with rescue operations.

As Japan's northern frontier and a major farming region with rugged mountain ranges and vast forests, Hokkaido is an area accustomed to coping with long winters, isolation and other hardships. **AP**

USA

Trump fumes over NYT op-ed; top officials swiftly deny role



Sheriffs listen as President Donald Trump responds to a reporter's question during an event in the East Room of the White House in Washington

Zeke Miller, Catherine Lucey & Jonathan Lemire, Washington

PUSHING back against explosive reports his own administration is conspiring against him, President Donald Trump lashed out against the anonymous senior official who wrote an opinion piece in The New York Times claiming to be part of a “resistance” working “from within” to thwart the commander-in-chief’s most dangerous impulses.

Washington was consumed by a wild guessing game as to the identity of the author and swift denials of involvement in the op-ed came yesterday from top administration officials, including the office of Vice President Mike Pence, and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

Trump himself was furious, tweeting yesterday that “The Deep State and the Left, and their vehicle, the Fake News Media, are going Crazy - & they don’t know what to do.”

Yesterday [Macau time], Trump tweeted a demand that if “the GUTLESS anonymous person does indeed exist, the Times must, for National Security purposes, turn him/her over to government at once!” White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders called on the “coward” who wrote the piece to “do the right thing and resign.”

White House officials did not immediately respond to Trump’s call for the writer to be turned over to the government or the

unsupported national security ground of his demand.

To some, the ultimatum appeared to play into the very concerns about the president’s impulses raised by the essay’s author. Trump has demanded that aides identify the leaker, according to two people familiar with the matter, though it was not yet clear how they might go about doing so. The two were not authorized to speak publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

In a “House of Cards”-style plot twist in an already over-the-top administration, Trump allies and political insiders scrambled to unmask the writer.

The author, claiming to be part of the “resistance” to Trump “working diligently from within” his administration, said, “Many Trump appointees have vowed to do what we can to preserve our democratic institutions while thwarting Mr. Trump’s more misguided impulses until he is out of office.”

“It may be cold comfort in this chaotic era, but Americans should know that there are adults in the room,” the author continued. “We fully recognize what is happening. And we are trying to do what’s right even when Donald Trump won’t.”

Trump raged about the piece in the White House, calling around to confidants to vent about the disloyalty of the author and fuming that the so-called “Deep State” within the federal government had conspired against him, according to a person familiar with the president’s views

but not authorized to discuss them publicly.

The text of the op-ed was pulled apart for clues: The writer is identified as an “administration official”; does that mean a person who works outside the White House? The references to Russia and the late Sen. John McCain — do they suggest someone working in national security? Does the writing style sound like someone who worked at a think tank? In a tweet, the Times used the pronoun “he” to refer to the writer; does that rule out all women?

The newspaper later said the tweet referring to “he” had been “drafted by someone who is not aware of the author’s identity, including the gender, so the use of ‘he’ was an error.”

The Beltway guessing game seeped into the White House, as current and former staffers alike traded calls and texts trying to figure out who could have written the piece, some turning to reporters and asking them for clues. And some of the most senior members of the Trump administration were forced to deny they were the author of the attack on their boss.

Hotly debated on Twitter was the author’s use of the word “lodestar,” which pops up frequently in speeches by Pence. Could the anonymous figure be someone in Pence’s orbit? Others argued that the word “lodestar” could have been included to throw people off.

In a rare step, Pence’s communications director Jarrod

Agen tweeted early yesterday that “The Vice President puts his name on his Op-Eds. The @nytimes should be ashamed and so should the person who wrote the false, illogical, and gutless op-ed. Our office is above such amateur acts.”

[If] the GUTLESS anonymous person does indeed exist, the Times must, for National Security purposes, turn him/her over to government at once!

TRUMP TWEET

Pompeo, who was in India, denied writing the anonymous opinion piece, saying, “It’s not mine.” He accused the media of trying to undermine the Trump administration and said he found that “incredibly disturbing.”

Trump, appearing at an unrelated event at the White House, lashed out at the Times for publishing the op-ed.

“They don’t like Donald Trump and I don’t like them,” he said of the newspaper. The op-ed pages

of the newspaper are managed separately from its news department.

Trump followed up with a tweet that touted his administration’s accomplishments and, in an oblique reference to the op-ed, fumed that “The Deep State and the Left, and their vehicle, the Fake News Media, are going Crazy - & they don’t know what to do.” His other morning tweets — one on North Korea, the other on the economy — seemed to be an effort to change the subject.

In a blistering statement, the press secretary yesterday accused the author of choosing to “deceive” the president by remaining in the administration and putting himself or herself “ahead of the will of the American people. The coward should do the right thing and resign.”

Sanders also called on the Times to “issue an apology” for publishing the piece, calling it a “pathetic, reckless, and selfish op-ed.”

Showing her trademark ability to attract attention, former administration official Omarosa Manigault Newman tweeted that clues about the writer’s identity were in her recently released tell-all book, offering a page number: 330. The reality star writes on that page: “many in this silent army are in his party, his administration, and even in his own family.”

The anonymous author wrote in the Times that where Trump has had successes, they have come “despite — not because of — the president’s leadership style, which is impetuous, adversarial, petty and ineffective.”

The assertions in the column were largely in line with complaints about Trump’s behavior that have repeatedly been raised by various administration officials, often speaking on condition of anonymity. And they were published a day after the release of details from an explosive new book by longtime journalist Bob Woodward that laid bare concerns among the highest echelon of Trump aides about the president’s judgment.


The writer of the Times op-ed said Trump aides are aware of the president’s faults and “many of the senior officials in his own administration are working diligently from within to frustrate parts of his agenda and his worst inclinations. I would know. I am one of them.”

The writer also alleged “there were early whispers within the cabinet of invoking the 25th Amendment” because of the “instability” witnessed in the president. The 25th Amendment allows the vice president to take over if the commander in chief is “unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office.” It requires that the vice president and a majority of the Cabinet back relieving the president.



The writer added: “This isn’t the work of the so-called deep state. It’s the work of the steady state.” **AP**

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FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
18:25	Destinies
19:35	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	Portuguese Mini Serie (100% Portuguese)
22:10	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
01:20	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
02:05	RTPi Live

SATURDAY

10:30	Comedy
11:35	Miscellaneous
12:30	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast (PT)
15:00	Miscellaneous
18:35	Miscellaneous
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (PT)
21:15	Grimm Sr. 4
22:45	Miscellaneous
23:15	TDM News
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:05	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
15:00	Miscellaneous
17:40	Got Talent Portugal
19:20	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-daily Portuguese News
22:00	Documentary
23:00	TDM News
23:55	Miscellaneous
00:25	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:05	RTPi Live

Offbeat

SEVERELY WEAKENED DENMARK LOSES 3-0 TO SLOVAKIA

Denmark, fielding a severely weakened team containing footballers from the third tier of the national league and futsal players because of a pay dispute involving its top performers, was beaten 3-0 by Slovakia in a friendly yesterday [Macau time].



Slovakia strolled to victory against a Danish side lacking star names like Christian Eriksen and Kasper Schmeichel.

Organizers dropped ticket prices to 1 euro (USD1.16) because of the depleted visiting team.

Slovakia, which included leading players like Napoli midfielder Marek Hamsik and former Liverpool defender Martin Skrtel, said before the game that its squad had been harmed by the Danish dispute and asked European football's governing body UEFA to deal with the case, and confer "adequate consequences".

"It was tough to get motivated for a game like that," Hamsik said.

The home side went ahead when forward Adam Nemeč beat Denmark goalkeeper Christoffer Haagh, who is a futsal player, with a header in the 11th minute.

Albert Rusnak made it 2-0 in the 37th minute before substitute Adam Fogt put through his own net with 11 minutes left.

Negotiations collapsed between the Danish footballers' union and the national federation (DBU) over a new collective bargaining agreement regarding commercial rights, and players from the original squad were sent back to their club teams on Monday.

cinema



CINETEATRO

06 SEP - 12 SEP



KIN

ROOM 1

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

Director: Jonathan Baker & Josh Baker

Starring: Myles Truitt, Jack Reynor, Dennis Quaid

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 102min

ALONG WITH THE GODS:

THE LAST 49 DAYS

ROOM 1

7:00pm

Director: Kim Yong-hwa

Starring: Shailene Woodley, Sam Claflin, Jeffrey Thomas

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 96min



ADRIFT

ROOM 2

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

Director: Baltasar Kormákur

Starring: Dona Adwera, Peter Andre, Richie Campbell

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 85min



KILING FOR THE PROSECUTION

ROOM 2

7:30pm

Director: Masato Harada

Starring: Takuya Kimura, Kazunari Ninomiya

Language: Japanese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 123min

ADIEU

ROOM 3

2:30, 7:30pm

Director: Kenneth Lau

Starring: Louis Cheung, Jason Chan, Michelle Wai

Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)

L STORM

ROOM 3

4:30, 9:30pm

Director: David Lam

Starring: Louis Koo, Julian Cheung, Kevin Cheng

Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 90min

this day in history



Joshua Gqozo

1992 TROOPS KILL 24 AT ANC RALLY

At least 24 people have been killed and 150 injured when soldiers fired on an African National Congress demonstration on the border of Ciskei in South Africa.

The march was organised to demand an end to the Ciskeian military government of Brigadier Joshua Gqozo and the re-absorption of the so-called black homeland into South Africa.

The protest - led by ANC secretary-general Cyril Ramaphosa and attended by 50,000 people - began at a stadium in King William's Town, and then headed towards the Ciskeian capital of Bisho.

Brigadier Gqozo had warned he would meet force with even greater force, and his troops and police were on standby at the border.

When the demonstrators tried to cross into Ciskei, soldiers opened fire and continued firing indiscriminately into the crowd for about five minutes.

After two volleys of machine gun fire, the troops also fired rifle grenades into the gathering, spreading fear and panic among the protestors.

It has been reported that four young men were shot in the back as they attempted to run away from the firing.

A statement from Brigadier Gqozo said that his soldiers had been fired upon first and their action was in self-defence.

But a statement from the ANC denied the claims, saying the first shots were fired by the troops.

"At no time were the lives of the Ciskeian troops in danger... No warning was issued, and no attempts were made to disperse the crowd using non-lethal means," it said.

The South African foreign minister, Pik Botha, said that the ANC knew the march would end in violence.

"They knew people would be shot - they wanted people to be shot," he said in a TV interview.

The massacre seems certain to damage the negotiating process in the development of a new multi-racial and democratic constitution for South Africa.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Ciskei was one of 10 "tribal homelands" to which all blacks were to be assigned so they could not claim to be citizens of South Africa.

They were a product of apartheid and only Pretoria recognised them as independent states.

Their removal was one of the ANC's key demands before a new democratic constitution could be created in South Africa.

Negotiations between President de Klerk and the ANC did continue after the massacre, and in April 1994 Nelson Mandela, the head of the ANC, became the first black President of South Africa.

YOUR STARS

♈ Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Take advantage of this new opportunity before anyone else sees it — there may not be room for everyone! Sure, it's a little selfish, but it's the kind of selfish that isn't a negative.

♉ Taurus
April 20-May 20
You are feeling emotionally stable in a way that feels really good — and different from how you've felt for the past few weeks or even longer. Move forward in the direction you've been meaning to go.

♊ Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
Other people are making life a little harder now — so see if you can get them to chill out. If not, you've just got to accept that today is a slow slog through difficult terrain. It gets better soon!

♋ Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Some big issue is on your radar, and there's just no way you're going to be able to let go of it. You may as well give it your best, because if you can take care of it all at once, you can get back to important stuff.

♌ Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Your sweeter, more romantic side is making someone's life a little better today, so indulge it as much as you can. Flowers, chocolate, candlelit dinners — go all out to make the night special.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Romance is in the air today, and you couldn't be happier about your situation. Even if it's in flux you can tell that the road ahead is brighter than anywhere you've been before. Take a risk!

♎ Libra
Sep.23-Oct. 22
Depression may or may not be a part of your core identity, but today's mood seems to pull you down a little. Don't give up! It's just temporary and sometimes the depths yield great insights.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
Ambition is the word of the day. You may find that you know what you want much more clearly, and that means you are better able to go for it. Things are sure to work out for you in the long run if you move now.

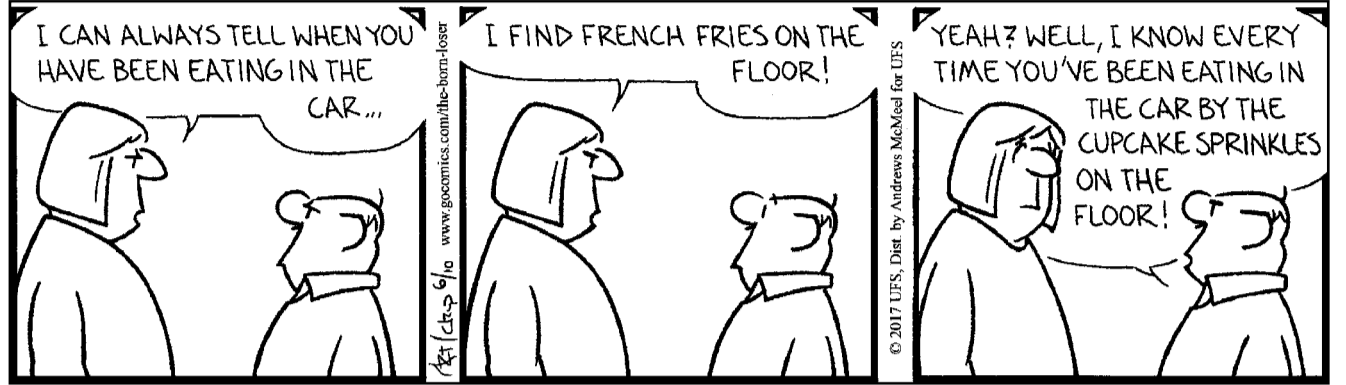
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Your direct manner is both shocking and approachable — people know just what they're getting from you. Don't hold back, and try not to let anyone off the hook if they say or do anything dumb.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Your energy feels fantastic right now, and you should be able to see this phase through to a very happy ending. In fact, it may open a door that leads to a brand new chapter of your life.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
You need an iron will to make it through the cavalcade of distractions coming your way today. If you need to get anything done, you may need to put blinders on or work from home in a quiet room.

♓ Pisces
Feb.19-Mar. 20
A coworker lends a hand today — even if it's their day off or you are actually on the hunt for a new gig. Something they say or do leads the way to something that is much better for both of you.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	20	27	cloudy
Harbin	14	19	shower
Tianjin	23	28	cloudy
Urumqi	12	24	clear
Xi'an	19	28	overcast/cloudy
Lhasa	14	25	cloudy
Chengdu	22	26	shower/clear
Chongqing	24	35	drizzle
Kunming	17	26	shower
Nanjing	23	29	cloudy/shower
Shanghai	26	33	overcast/cloudy
Wuhan	24	30	cloudy/drizzle
Hangzhou	23	35	cloudy
Taipei	25	30	overcast/drizzle
Guangzhou	26	34	shower/thundershower
Hong Kong	27	31	drizzle/moderate rain
WORLD			
Moscow	14	26	cloudy
Frankfurt	16	22	drizzle/moderate rain
Paris	16	22	drizzle
London	16	18	cloudy/clear
New York	23	33	cloudy/drizzle

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- ___ France; 6- Icicle site; 10- Simple rhyme scheme; 14- Capital city of Yemen; 15- Roasting rod; 16- PC panic button; 17- Big cats; 18- Money; 19- ___ impasse; 20- Cream cake; 22- White wine; 24- Golfer Ernie; 26- Russian sleigh; 27- Singer Etheridge; 31- Intense anger; 32- Give it ___; 33- Corn; 36- Calendar abbr.; 39- What ___ mind reader?; 40- Have ___ to pick; 41- Completely without madness; 42- Barker and Bell; 43- Stern; 44- Compare; 45- Tread the boards; 46- Incident; 48- Sharon's land; 51- ER VIP; 52- Unscathed; 54- Type of thermometer; 59- Go sky-high; 60- School orgs.; 62- Model Campbell; 63- Sicilian resort; 64- Roofing item; 65- Squeezed; 66- Chair; 67- Foul mood; 68- Exalt;

DOWN: 1- Capri, for one; 2- Secular; 3- Hydroxyl compound; 4- Comedian Carvey; 5- Least difficult; 6- PC panic button; 7- On ___ with (equal to); 8- Be a guest; 9- Put out, in the old days; 10- Charlotte ___, Virgin Islands; 11- Fabric hand-dyeing technique; 12- Appliance brand; 13- Sudden explosive noise; 21- Literary monogram; 23- Open infection, painful; 25- Brazilian dance; 27- Polite address; 28- Humorist Bombeck; 29- Hula hoops?; 30- This ___ test...; 34- Earthlink competitor; 35- Signed; 36- Mackerel shark; 37- Like a line, briefly; 38- State bird of Hawaii; 40- Tries; 41- Spanish ayes; 43- Surgery reminder; 44- Official permit; 45- Turkey's highest peak; 47- ___ favor; 48- Combined; 49- Author Alexander; 50- Admit; 52- Manipulates; 53- Mustachioed artist; 55- James of "The Godfather"; 56- Small children; 57- Out of control; 58- Full of streaks; 61- A collection of articles;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



AD

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	<p>The Buckingham Taipa Two double bedroom Fully Furnished HKD 18,000 / 700 sq ft Ref: 18060681</p>	<p>Office - Dynasty Plaza Macau Park-Side Work Space Spacious Commercial Space HKD 72,000 / 3,500 sq ft Ref: 18070685</p>	<p>Lakeview, Macau Macau 3 Bedrooms Apartment Front Balcony HKD 30,000 / 3,430 sq ft Ref: 18060680</p>	<p>Manhattan D unit, High Floor Taipa 4 Bedrooms Apartment Fully Furnished HKD 29,800 / 2,305 sq ft Ref: 18070684</p>



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ASIAN GAMES

Korean boy bands, football stars march to different beats

John Duerden, Seoul

BOY band BTS hit the top of the charts not long after Son Heung-min and his South Korean football team stepped atop the Asian Games podium.

The performers and athletes brought plenty of acclaim to the country, but it has sparked a national debate on military service.

Son Heung-min, who plays for Tottenham in the English Premier League and is the country's most recognizable sports star, helped his team win a gold medal at the Asian Games. All players on the squad were rewarded for it by getting exemptions from 21 months of military service that South Korean men must start by the time they are 28.

A total of 42 athletes won military exemption by winning gold medals in various sports in Indonesia. The government offers the same incentive for any athlete who wins a medal at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

The rules that came into effect in 1973, giving military exemptions to successful athletes or classical musicians or ballet dancers who win certain local and international events, but there is nothing for pop stars who gain international fame.

BTS fans have launched a number of online petitions to support their group but in Sou-



South Korea's players celebrate on the podium after winning the soccer men gold medal at the 18th Asian Games in Bogor, Indonesia

th Korea as a whole, opinion on the wider issue, always sensitive in a country that is still technically at war with North Korea, is mixed. A July poll on increasing exemptions for athletes found 48 percent of 500 respondents in favor with 44 percent seeing it as excessive.

Regardless, the existing guidelines proved to be such a valuable lure that Son gambled on taking a short break from his Premier League duties in order

to fly to Jakarta for the continental event. Now the 26 year-old forward can return to Europe and continue the lucrative five-year contract without the prospect of a long break for military service hanging over him.

Goalkeeper Cho Hyun-woo had already registered to start his service with army team Sangju Sangmu in December but the reprieve means that the 26 year-old can follow his dream and play overseas.

"I know that fans expect me to go to play in Europe and I will try my best to show that I am good enough," Cho said.

Being on top of your game in the international arena doesn't give pop stars a break from the military service. Just three days after the football team won at the Asian Games, BTS became just one of a select few artists to achieve a second No. 1 on the Billboard Artist 100 charts in the same year.

South Korea president Moon Jae-in congratulated the band on social media by posting: "Huge congratulations to BTS on topping the billboard 200 for the second time!"

Despite the accolades, the seven members of the group will all have to report for duty in the coming years, just as other performers from other popular bands such as Big Bang have in the past.

In July, opposition lawmaker Ha Tae-kyung questioned how the exemptions were granted.

"The general public, including young people, wonder what makes topping the Billboard chart different from winning in other international competitions?" Ha asked.

"Winning the former is likely to create bigger added value. But there is no mention of popular culture on the list," Ha added, also mentioning the global success of PSY and his hit song "Gangnam Style" that broke records in 2012 for views on YouTube.

Other options have been mooted. Sookmyung Women's University professor Hong Sung-soo suggested that postponements of military service may be fairer than exemption.

"Offering a long deferment until the age of 35 or 40 and having [the athletes] complete their service after that could be a way of allowing them to serve society with the thing they are truly good at," Hong wrote in a national newspaper.

Korean Olympic Committee president Lee Kee-heung said at the end of the Asian Games that a points system, with credit accrued over time, may be preferable to the existing rule, which rewards medalists from the Olympics and champions from the Asian Games. **AP**

TENNIS

Osaka, Nishikori give Japan historic tennis day at US Open

KEI Nishikori looked around Arthur Ashe Stadium and noticed the crowd.

With Nishikori playing immediately after Naomi Osaka yesterday [Macau time], the U.S. Open became must-see viewing for Japanese tennis fans.

"It's good to have, you know, home support outside of Japan," he said. "Yeah, it's great news we're both in the semis."

Historic news, actually. Both players won — Osaka decisively, Nishikori narrowly — to give Japan a men's and women's semifinalist at the same Grand Slam tournament for the first time, according to the ATP

Tour. Nishikori rallied to beat Marin Cilic 2-6, 6-4, 7-6 (5), 4-6, 6-4 in a match that lasted 4 hours, 8 minutes. Osaka routed Lesia Tsurenko 6-1, 6-1 in just 57 minutes, the third time in her five matches in the tournament that she finished in less than an hour.

"I think she can, you know, win a title now, even a Grand Slam. So I feel, you know, big chance for her," Nishikori said.

"Also happy for myself, too, being injured last year."

That was a wrist injury that kept him off the tour from late last season until early this year. He started

to regain his form in the spring, was back up to the No. 21 seed for his return to Flushing Meadows, and awaits No. 6 Novak Djokovic today.

Meanwhile, Osaka won a Masters title at Indian Wells and with her strong run in New York, where she will next play 2017 U.S. Open runner-up Madison Keys, she has picked up more of a following from the Japanese media — though she believes there's a different reason for that.

"I think it's because of Kei," she said, holding her hands apart to show how much bigger Nishikori is in Japan, from where her family moved to New York

when she was 3. So big, in fact, that she was too nervous to talk to him until recently.

Onceshe did, the 20-year-old Osaka found they had plenty in common. Nishikori, 8 years older, was like a "really big kid" who liked to play video games and have fun like her.

"Overall, he's just really nice and positive and bubbly and stuff," Osaka said.

Only once had Japan had a man and woman reach the quarterfinals of the same major, and Shuzo Matsuoka and Kimiko Date both lost in that round at Wimbledon in 1995.

Nishikori and Osaka are looking to keep right on going. Their victories pro-



Naomi Osaka, of Japan, returns a shot to Lesia Tsurenko, of Ukraine

vided a boost to their baseball-crazed country on an otherwise downer of a day with the news that Los Angeles Angels star Shohei Ohtani had new damage in his right elbow and major surgery was being recommended.

When Nishikori became the first Asian male to reach a Grand Slam singles

final four years ago, hundreds of fans packed into a convention hall to cheer him on at a standing-room-only public viewing event in his hometown of Matsue.

Now there might be two such events in Japan this weekend.

"Hopefully, we do well this week," Nishikori said. **AP**

opinion

Kapok
Eric Sautédé



ETHICS?

Max Weber's famous 1918 lecture entitled "Politics as a vocation" is usually remembered for the very performative definition it gives of the modern state as being "a human community that (successfully) claims the monopoly of the legitimate use of physical force within a given territory." Physical force here means the capacity to maintain law and order, thus protecting the citizens who have willingly renounced the use of force to exercise justice on their own. The legitimate bit has to do with the legality as well as acceptance by society, meaning that the use of force is prescribed and henceforth limited by law, so as to make sure that the state has the means to protect its citizens while making sure that it does not abuse its power.

In the recent debate surrounding the possible passing of a Civil Protection Basic Law that would put civil protection regulations on steroids, most of the attention has focused on the extensive powers the authorities would be given to "ensure efficient dissemination of important information by the authorities" and "prevent the spread of false rumors in society" in times of crisis.

The worry is thus that the Macao government could easily become a plain and simple "police state" in which only government-sanctioned information would be allowed and any alternative source could be characterized (preventively) as dangerous for law and order.

Because it conflicts with at least two core values enshrined in the Basic Law — "freedom of speech and of the press" on the one hand and "protection of privacy" on the other — this is seen as opening the gates wide for repetitive and unsanctioned abuse of power. In simple terms, the use of force could easily become illegitimate. And here, I am sparing you the additional concern we could have regarding the "given territory" as Mr Wong Sio Chak, the Secretary for Security, appears to have a few difficulties in fixing the right physical "boundaries".

Weber's text is also enlightening when the sociologist starts exploring the source of power from which politicians derived their authority. He identifies three, as legitimizing the citizens' obedience: "tradition", "charisma" and "legality" — none existing as pure types in reality.

Traditional domination is exercised by patriarchs, what Weber also calls the "patrimonial" princes. In Macao, if you think Ho, Choi and Ma, you soon realize that we have not really left the burden of tradition.

Charismatic domination, meaning "the authority of the extraordinary and personal gift of grace", we have had little in our SAR: some for sure under Edmund Ho's first term, and for certain none in Chui's two terms put together. Yet, too charismatic a leader can easily turn into a demagogue, so maybe we should not complain after all!

In the end, what we have had mostly has been a domination by virtue of "legality", legitimized by legal statute and supposedly "functional competence based on rationally created rules". Twisted legality (elections without choice illustrates the twisted part), we have had plenty, and regarding competence, we have remained forever hopeful, even after December 2014.

Finally, the text suggests that professional politicians should cultivate two sets of ethical virtues: the ethic of conviction on the one hand and the ethic of responsibility on the other. I was recently reminded of that distinction when France's very charismatic Minister of Ecological Transition and long-time green activist Nicolas Hulot resigned abruptly at the end of August during a radio show, to denounce the lack of paradigm change in the overall perspective presiding over public policy design, the overpowering influence of the lobbies and the fact that small measures taken in the past year would be in vain if the whole mindset did not change. He did not want to be a cosmetic alibi anymore. Did he do it because his policies conflicted with his core beliefs or because he could no longer assume full responsibility for his acts as a sitting-minister?

When I see Cheong U roaming the world as a light-hearted tourist, then I ask myself: do these values even make sense in Macao?

THE RHODE ISLAND, TAIWAN SIGN DEAL
BUZZ RECOGNIZING DRIVER'S LICENSES

Rhode Island is signing a reciprocal driver's license agreement with Taiwan.

The Rhode Island Division of Motor Vehicles says a signing is planned for today [Macao time].

This is the first time the agency has signed this type of agreement.

Many other states have similar agreements with Taiwan. Among them, South Carolina, West Virginia and Pennsylvania signed reciprocity agreements in 2015, followed by Massachusetts in 2016

and Virginia and Kentucky last year.

Administrator Walter Craddock will host officials from the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Boston for a ceremony.

Under the agreement, Taiwanese immigrants living in Rhode Island can transfer their national driver's licenses to Rhode Island without having to pass written or road tests. Rhode Islanders can transfer their licenses to Taiwan without taking a test there.

NERVE AGENT

Kremlin denies accusations against Putin for Novichok attack

Nataliya Vasilyeva & Jill Lawless, Moscow

The Kremlin yesterday rejected accusations by British authorities that Russian President Vladimir Putin is ultimately responsible for poisoning a former spy in England, and said Russia is not going to investigate the suspects.

Britain's security minister yesterday called out Putin over the nerve agent attack targeting Sergei Skripal and his daughter and also warned that the U.K. would counter Russian "malign activity" with both public and covert measures.

Ben Wallace told the BBC that Putin and his government "controls, funds and directs" the military intelligence unit known as the GRU, which Britain believes used the Soviet-developed Novichok nerve agent to try to kill ex-Russian spy Skripal.

Skripal and his daughter Yulia were hospitalized for weeks in critical condition after they were exposed to Novichok in the city of Salisbury on March 4. They are now recovering in a secret location for their own protection.

Local woman Dawn Sturgess died and her boyfriend Charlie Rowley was sickened after they came across remnants of the poison in a discarded perfume bottle in June.

Britain on Wednesday announced charges in absentia against two alleged Russian agents, Alexander Petrov and Ruslan Boshirov — names that are likely aliases. The murder attempt was approved "at a senior level of the Russian state," British Prime Minister Theresa May said Wednesday.

Moscow strongly denies involvement in the attack, and Russian officials said they didn't recognize the suspects.

Speaking to reporter, Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, called the accusations leveled against Putin and the Russian government "unacceptable."



This still taken from CCTV shows Ruslan Boshirov and Alexander Petrov on Fisherton Road, Salisbury, England on March 4

"Neither the Russian leadership nor its representatives have anything to do with the events in Salisbury," he said.

Skripal and his daughter Yulia [poisoned with Novichok] are now recovering in a secret location for their own protection

Peskov also said that Russia "has no reasons" to investigate the two individuals charged on Wednesday because Britain has not asked for legal assistance in the case.

Britain has said it is not going to seek the men's extradition because Russian law does not allow for the extradition of its nationals to be tried abroad.

Russian officials have been vehemently denying the fresh accusations. Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova went on national television Wednesday evening, claiming that the security camera footage of the two suspects arriving at Gatwick Airport released by the British authorities has been doctored because it shows them at the same time in the same place. A closer look, however, shows that the men were walking in different gate corridors.

Zakharova accused Britain of "concealing the evidence," and demanded that Britain share the suspects' fingerprints and other data.

The Skripals' poisoning ignited a diplomatic confrontation in which hundreds of envoys were expelled by both Russia and Western nations. But there is limited appetite among Britain's European allies for further sanctions against Moscow.

Sergei Skripal's niece, Viktoria, called on British authorities to allow her to visit her family in Britain after her visa application was denied.

She said that she does not know the men Britain suspects of being behind the poisoning.

Skripal also said that she doubts that the former Russians spy is still alive because he has not communicated with the family since the poisoning.

Britain plans to press its case against Russia at the U.N. Security Council later yesterday. **AP**

Station	Air quality	Icon
Roadside	50-70 Moderate	Yellow smiley
High Density Residential Area	30-50 Good	Green smiley
Ambient	50-70 Moderate	Yellow smiley

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS



JAPAN A powerful earthquake yesterday on Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido triggered dozens of landslides that crushed houses under torrents of dirt, rocks and timber, prompting frantic efforts to unearth any survivors. **More on p13**



SOUTH SUDAN A military judge yesterday sentenced 10 soldiers to jail for a 2016 rampage in which a local journalist was killed and five international aid workers were gang-raped.

ISRAEL-PALESTINE The Arab League has welcomed Paraguay's decision to relocate its embassy from the contested city of Jerusalem back to Tel Aviv, saying the move serves as a model for other countries in the face of Israeli plans and U.S. pressure.



GERMANY Police in the state of Saxony said yesterday they have identified six far-right protesters who gave the stiff-armed Hitler salute or committed other violations at an anti-migrant protest last week.

FRANCE Police have moved into a makeshift migrant camp outside the northern port city of Dunkirk to clear out an estimated 500 people seeking to cross the English Channel to Britain.



US An explosive wildfire that closed down dozens of miles of a major California freeway nearly tripled in size overnight, just weeks after a nearby blaze that left neighborhoods in ruins and killed eight people, officials said yesterday.