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IN NAME OF THE PARTY
Officials in China are destroying crosses and burning bibles in an alarming intensification of the crackdown on creed

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SEPTEMBER TO REMEMBER

Severe typhoon may hit the city Sunday

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WORLD BRIEFS



PHILIPPINES The largest lawyers' group in the Philippines asked the country's courts yesterday to resist "creeping incursions" on their independence after the president voided an amnesty for an opposition senator and ordered his arrest. *More on p13*

CAMBODIA The leader of Cambodia's now dissolved opposition party was freed on highly restrictive bail yesterday after being jailed for a year on a treason charge, the latest government opponent to be released since Prime Minister Hun Sen's landslide election victory. *More on p12*



NORTH KOREA Tens of thousands of North Korean students rallied in Pyongyang's Kim Il Sung Square last night in the final major event of the country's 70th anniversary. *More on backpage*

RENATO MARQUES



CARDINAL, TAIPA SACKINGS

Ho Iat Seng says two legal advisers 'have better opportunities' outside AL

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CRIME

Phone scams and computer fraud on the rise

Renato Marques

A high number of phone scams and instances of computer fraud involving stolen credit card data continue to affect several Macau residents, the Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesperson said yesterday at a joint press conference held at the Public Security Police Force (PSP) facilities.

According to the PJ, just in the last couple of days, there have been reports of at least four cases of this kind, following on from reports over the last few weeks that speak to this trend.

The first two cases were related to a common phone scam that is apparently again on the rise, which, as has been previously noted, continues to find victims in local residents. A local woman (63) and a man (55) were the most recent victims of the scam.

It starts with a phone call from someone trying to impersonate one of the victim's friends in the so-called "guess who I am" method. After pretending to pass off as a known person, the scammers ask the victims to record their new number, saying that the old one is not active anymore.

The next day, another phone call would arrive from this person, saying that he is in trouble on the mainland due to a case related to prostitution. The scammer calls on their 'long-lost friend' to help with money to bail him out of jail.

One woman processed two banking transfers to an account in the mainland which totaled RMB60,000 (30,000 yuan each) on two consecutive days.

She only realized something was not right after the so-called friend called once again asking for another RMB30,000, allegedly to bail out another friend in the same situation.

In the second case, the local man was asked to transfer RMB10,000, also to a mainland account, for the same predicament. In this second case, the man

was almost immediately alerted for the scam as the actual friend he thought he was helping called him on the very same day and informed him that he had not changed his number, nor called him to ask for any money.

Concerning the cases of stolen credit card information, the first case reported was from a resident who, while on holiday in Thailand, received four messages on his phone noting a transaction allegedly made through his credit card.

One common phone scam, apparently again on the rise, continues to find victims in local residents

According to the report, three of the amounts were for USD69.99 (around MOP566). He immediately informed the bank and cancelled the credit card.

This course of action unfortunately did not occur with the second case, in which a resident only noted unlawful transactions when he received a credit card statement for a significant period of time.

The man explained to the PJ that this credit card had been acquired in 2014 and was from an account in HKD currency only, which meant he hardly used it.

In fact, according to his records, the last time he had made use of the credit card was back in 2016.

He thus only noted on May 30 this year that there were a bundle of 25 transactions related to online shopping totaling HKD4,684.

He reported the loss of such an amount to the police.



Tourist sustained injuries in Cotai theft attempt

A man from the mainland was found by a Public Security Police Force (PSP) patrol at around 1:15 a.m. yesterday morning, seated on the floor in the surroundings of a casino-hotel located at Estrada da Baía de Nossa Senhora da Esperança in Cotai.

The patrol that rescued the man was alerted to the incident after police officers spotted an injury to the head and bleeding.

The man told the police that he was a victim of attempted theft. He said that a group of at least three men had

tried to steal his bag as he exited from the casino-hotel venue.

He said that he resisted the theft and that encouraged the attackers to make use of a hard object to hit him in the head several times, causing the injuries and the consequent

bleeding.

Although the man was injured in the attack, the group of men were unsuccessful in prying the bag from the man's grip. After he started bleeding, the attackers fled the scene.

After receiving treatment at the Conde de

São Januário Hospital Center, the man told Judiciary Police (PJ) officers that the attack occurred around 12:50 a.m. while he was exiting the casino alone.

He said he was not able to identify clearly the face of the attackers, as the place of attack was

quite dark. The only information the victim could provide on the attackers was that there were at least three men and all spoke in Mandarin.

The case is still under investigation from the PJ, which is now trying to locate the attackers. RM

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A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

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AL president: legal advisers were dismissed for their own benefit

THE President of the Legislative Assembly (AL), Ho Iat Seng, has said that the dismissal of two AL legal advisers, Paulo Cardinal and Paulo Taipa, was not due to political reasons, nor due to the advisers' ethnicity, but instead to allow them to pursue other careers.

Yesterday, AL President Ho Iat Seng and Vice-President Chui Sai Cheong held a press conference at the AL building to release the work report of the sixth AL's first session.

When questioned by the media about the termination of the contracts of both Paulo Cardinal and Paulo Taipa, Ho said "there is no political factor. We [the presidency of AL] highly rate them. [...] This matter cannot be linked to politics."

In Ho's words, not renewing the work contracts of the two legal advisers is "a very normal change in human resources."

"We have many colleagues leaving and we hired many colleagues over the past years,



Ho Iat Seng addresses journalists at yesterday's press conference

[...] we have been working according to the work contract," declared Ho.

According to the AL president, currently, the AL has 24 people working on legal matters. Nine of them are legal advisors; six

are technical advisers; and nine are senior technicians.

On average, there is ratio of 0.8 legal professionals to every lawmaker.

As stated by the AL President, there will be 0.75 assisting le-

gal experts per lawmaker once Cardinal and Taipa leave the AL.

Cardinal and Taipa will cease their duties at the AL by December 31. When the two legal advisers leave their positions, only

four legal experts will remain contributing to the AL.

In response to several questions about the reasons behind the termination of the employees, Ho indicated that the two legal professionals will have better opportunities in Macau's legal market rather than spending their efforts at the AL until their retirement.

"We talked sincerely with the two legal advisers. We [think] this is a simple thing. One person has to try different things. Does one person have to perform the same single job until retirement?" Ho replied, further asking, "Does one type of people have to [do one type of job] until they are old? I believe they [Cardinal and Taipa] will have ... [career] development outside. [...] We think that in Macau's legal market, there is a shortage [of talented people]."

Ho also denied that the decision was because of their Portuguese ethnicity. "Is it because they are Portuguese? I think the media should not assume this," declared Ho, adding, "We think they will have better opportunities [rather than working for the AL]."

Ho also stated that the AL will not exclude the possibility of hiring more legal advisers in the future, but he is not aware of any schedule to do so as yet. **JZ**

Ho Iat Seng slams Sulu Sou's trash Assembly statement

PREVIOUSLY, lawmaker Sulu Sou, while attending a Legislative Assembly (AL) plenary meeting, said that the public views the political body as a "trash AL". Yesterday, the AL president commented on Sou's words.

"The AL's work can never gather the public's full agreement, but we accept all kinds of criticism. As a lawmaker, when you [Sulu] said that the AL is a 'trash AL', you are also saying that you are [trash]. Why did you try so hard to enter a trash AL? If you think you are uppity, then don't

come to this trash AL," said Ho.

Sou's statement has been forwarded to AL's House Rules Committee due to the protest made by Vong Hin Fai, who is a member of that particular committee.

Regarding whether Vong Hin Fai should avoid the discussion over Sou's statement and Vong's protest, due to his own stance, Ho Iat Seng said, "[I] can't find an article in the Rules of Procedure" to suggest that Vong should not participate in the discussion.

CHUI SAI CHEONG SUPPORTS HO FOR CE

THE VICE president of the Legislative Assembly (AL) and brother of the Chief Executive (CE), Chui Sai Cheong, said that he will support the candidacy of Ho Iat Seng for the position of CE. Cheong was speaking during the meeting held yesterday to evaluate the first year of this legislature when questioned by the media on the possibility. "I think the president [Ho] already meets all the conditions to be Chief

Executive but that's a decision that only he can take," said Cheong. Asked the same question, Ho excused himself from commenting further on the matter, noting that for the time being he is a lawmaker and president of the AL. "Regarding this matter I need to state clearly that for the time being I'm still the president of the Legislative Assembly and I do not wish to create any confusion with this," he said.

New Macau visits Canidrome site calling for speedier adoptions

Daniel Beitter

THE New Macau Association yesterday organized a visit to the site of the now-closed Macau (Yat Yuen) Canidrome in the hope of pressuring the Canidrome company to expedite the adoption process by eliminating administrative procedures.

The democrat political association is also calling for the latest information on the care provided to the former racing animals.

"The Canidrome company should provide more information about

the adoption process," Sulu Sou, lawmaker and New Macau member, told the Times. "I know that there are many people who want to adopt the greyhounds – both locally and internationally – but administrative procedures are [proving to be] a hindrance to solving the adoption problem."

Also yesterday, in his role as lawmaker, Sou submitted a letter to the government calling for it to release in full a study conducted on the possible future use of the Canidrome land plot.

Late last month, the government announced that two-thirds of the approximately 26,500-square-meter plot would be reserved for sports facilities. Twenty percent would be used for education purposes, nearly 10 percent for social services and government facilities and about 5 percent for pedestrian use. The decision stemmed from a study conducted by the New Territories Urban Planning and Engineering Consultancy Co., which examined possible uses for the land after the greyhound racing conces-

sion expired. The government contract was worth a total of MOP1.45 million.

In yesterday's letter, Sou invoked a general procedure for more information, calling on the government to release the study in full.

"When the government [spends] more than 1 million patacas [on a project], then the public deserves to know what the product was," he insisted with the Times. Like many people, he said, "I can't give an opinion on that [the government's decision] as I don't have enou-



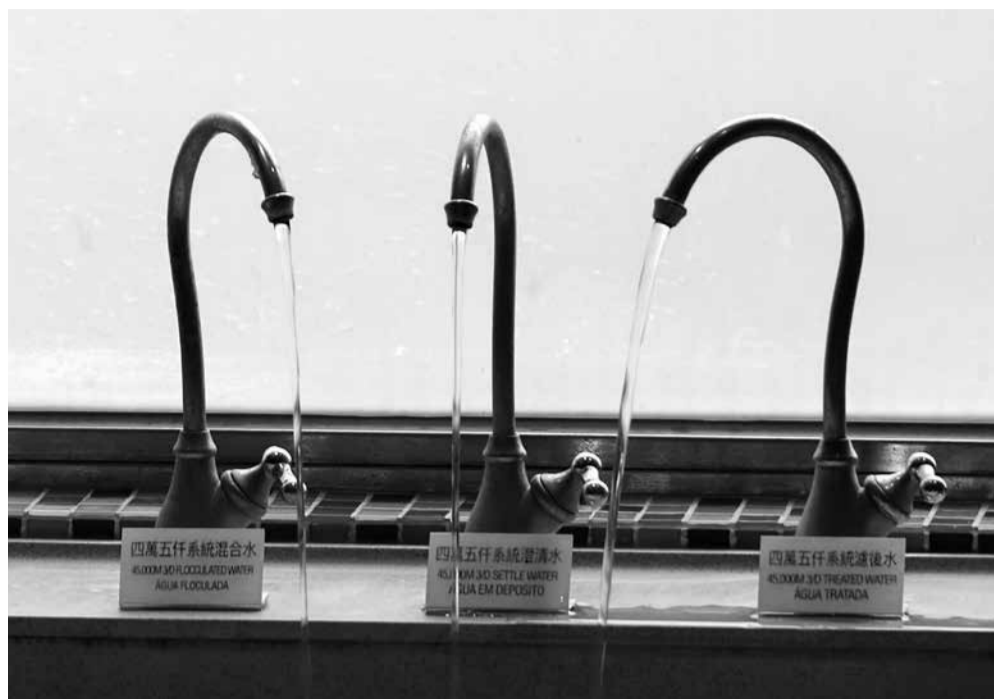
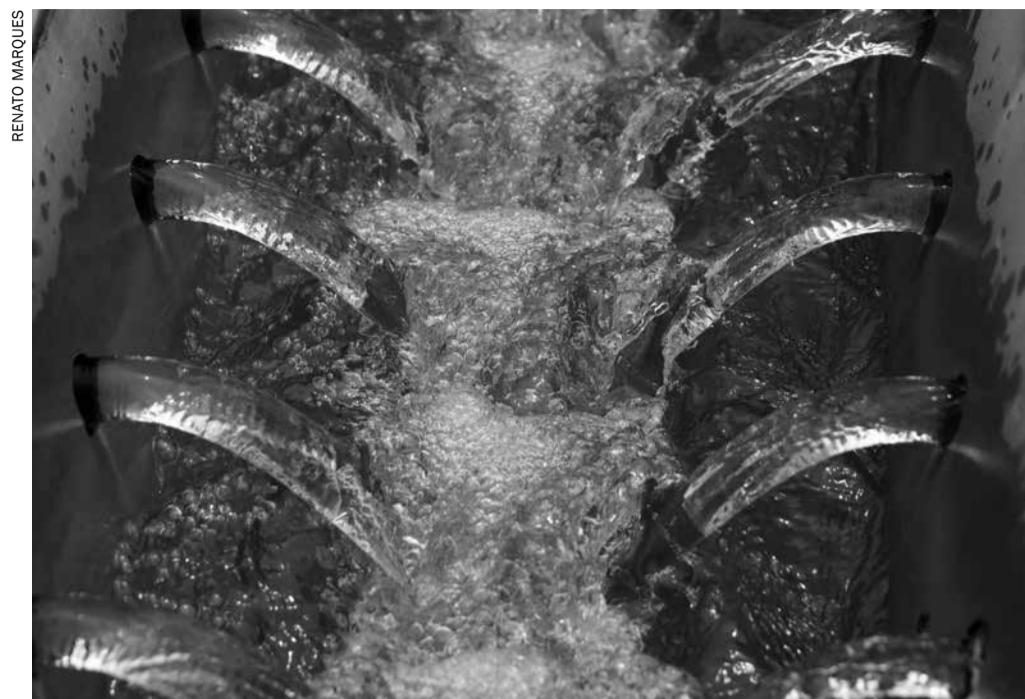
An aspect of the Canidrome before its closure

gh information on what the study said."

Sou also said that it would have been better for the authorities to conduct a public consultation on the future uses of the former greyhound racing site as "it is a large area and af-

fects many residents, especially those in the northern district."

The Canidrome closed its doors on July 20 this year after its concession expired. It had operated in Macau for more than half a century.



ENVIRONMENT

First 255 buildings participate in water quality initiative

THE government, through the Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA) and in collaboration with the Macao Water Company (SAAM), is promoting a new program that aims to promote the improvement of the quality of water consumed by residents through the regular inspection and sanitation of private buildings' supply systems, DSAMA informed in a statement.

The initiative has already had some 255 buildings agree to participate. They will benefit from a water quality certification, which aims to "encourage the good management and maintenance of water supply systems in buildings," the bureau stated.

The purpose of the program is to encourage building owners and management companies to comply with the "Guidebook on Maintenance of Water Supply for Buildings," created by the Bureau

with the support of the SAAM.

During the launch ceremony held last week, the director of DSAMA, Susana Wong, noted that there are currently over 1,300 high-rise buildings where the water reserve and supply tanks should be cleaned "at least every six months," and inspection and analysis of the water stored in them should also be performed regularly.

The director explained that the "guidebook" already exists and has been followed by public housing and other public buildings, and is now aimed at the government, with its extension and application to private and commercial buildings.

Wong also expressed satisfaction over the fact that from the very beginning, the program could count on interest and participation from around 20 percent of Macau's high-rise buildings, and expressed the hope that the others

would follow.

The program's launch ceremony also served as a commendation opportunity for the 18 building management companies that promised to participate in the initiative.

Today, [people] are willing to pay a little more to have better water quality and health.

OSCAR CHU
MACAO WATER COMPANY

The building water quality certification is comprised of two different levels: "basic level" certification is conferred to buildings that clean their

water tanks at least once every six months, while "high level" certifications will include a water analysis to certify the quality of water running in the building taps. If the water analysis results are good, the building attains a "high level" certification.

Oscar Chu, deputy director of SAAM, said on the sidelines of the event that this is the right time for the implementation of this program as the population is becoming more in tune with health issues.

"We tried to promote this a few years ago. At that time, the response was not spectacular, but DSAMA has made a lot of effort in recent years and it has campaigned for people to perform maintenance on building supply systems," Chu said to Radio Macau. "Today, there are more people aware of these issues. They are willing to pay a little more to have better water quality and health.

It's all about timing. The right timing is now," he concluded.

Paul Tse, chairman of the Macao Property Management Association, admitted to Radio Macau that joining the program may lead, in some cases, to an increase in condominium expenses, but noted that the difference would not be significant. "Water quality testing is something that all buildings must do. And we're only talking about a few thousand patacas to do the lab tests. I think this is a cost that the residents of the buildings will be willing to share," he said.

Water quality analyses will last a year. They will test water samples from both the tanks installed on the ground floor, as well as those on the top of the building, and will analyze parameters such as turbidity, residual chlorine, lead and coliforms.

For Chu, the last of the four parameters is the "most critical" for attaining the certification as, "[there] cannot be any traces [of coliforms] in the water."

According to DSAMA, results from the laboratory tests will be disclosed on the bureau's website starting January next year. **RM**

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Severe typhoon may strike Macau this weekend

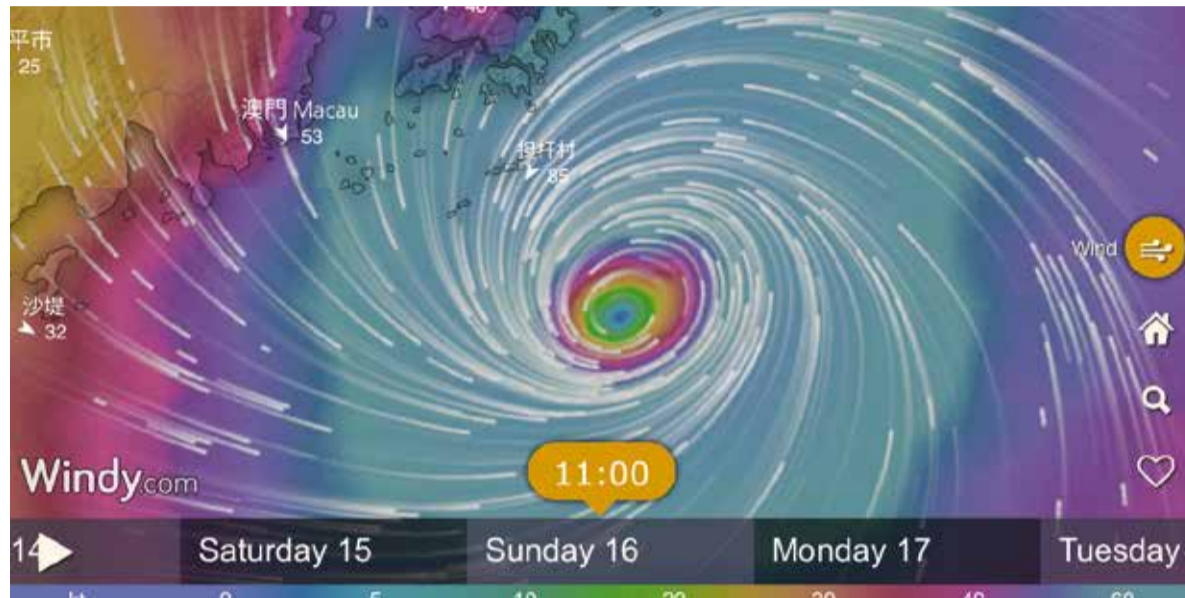
Lynzy Valles

A tropical depression located to the south of Taiwan will likely affect Macau midweek, while a stronger storm that could develop into a severe typhoon is brewing further east.

The smaller, more immediate storm entered the South China Sea yesterday and is gradually intensifying. In response, the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) raised Typhoon Signal No. 1 this morning.

The tropical depression is headed towards Hanoi, Vietnam, where it will become a low-pressure area by Friday, and weaken further. The Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) predicts that slight flooding will occur in the Inner Harbor area this morning due to an astronomical tide.

Meanwhile, Typhoon Mangkhut – predicted to be Taiwan's strongest typhoon this year - may approach Macau by the end of the week. Currently a tropical cyclone over the Luzon Strait, the storm is



Weather monitoring app Windy.com shows that Typhoon Mangkhut may make landfall in or near to Macau on Sunday evening

expected to move across the northern part of the South China Sea in the next few days.

Weather forecasting app Windy.com suggests that the powerful typhoon may make landfall in or close to Macau on Sunday evening, while strong winds may be expected earlier in the day.

Typhoon Mangkhut is tracking westward over the West Pacific and heading towards Hong Kong with wind speeds of 148 km/h and gusting to 185 km/hr.

The Hong Kong Observatory predicts that the tropical depression will record a maximum sustained wind at 55 km/h and expects to

classify the typhoon as a low-pressure area by Friday.

“The tropical cyclone over the Luzon Strait will move across the northern part of the South China Sea in the next couple of days, bringing unsettled weather to the coastal areas of Guangdong,” the observatory predicted, as cited in

Coconuts Hong Kong.

“An anticyclone aloft will bring fine weather to southeastern China on Friday. Typhoon Mangkhut near Guam will move westwards in the next few days across the western North Pacific, and intensify further. It will affect the south China coast over the weekend and pose a threat to the region,” it added.

According to reports, the typhoon is forecast to reach the East China Sea/North-West Pacific and will likely position itself over the waters, halfway from the northern tip of the Philippines and Taipei by Saturday.

Several flights to and from Guam, in the storm's current path, were already cancelled in anticipation.

Meanwhile, with two tropical storms approaching the southern coast of China, SMG advises for the public to pay attention to tropical storm information. It said “as there are two tropical cyclones approaching the coast of Guangdong this week, [the] public are advised to pay attention to our latest tropical cyclone information.”

According to Executive Order 61/2018, a “severe typhoon” occurs when the maximum sustainable wind speed near the tropical storm center is between 150 km/h to 184 km/h, and a “super typhoon” occurs at a wind speed of 185 km/h or greater.

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Language barriers make non-locals more vulnerable to scams

THE Macau government should increase awareness of crime prevention among non-local workers, particularly with regard to southeast Asian non-local workers, Ao Ieong Kuong Kau, Vice-President of the Macau United Citizens Association, has suggested, since language barriers make this group of people more vulnerable to crime and scams.

On Sunday, the association conducted a promotional campaign of crime prevention among Southeast Asians.

Currently, more than 60,000 non-local workers from southeastern Asian countries live in Macau, 20,000 of whom work as domestic helpers.

In Ao Ieong's opinion, it is rather difficult for this group of people to receive



BLOOMBERG

information concerning crime prevention, labor rights, and civil protection due to their language and cultural backgrounds, as well as their working schedules.

"Fraud groups use Mandarin most of the time. Workers such as the Vietnamese do not speak Man-

darin, therefore they often believe that [criminals] are [from] the immigration department asking them to provide documents or asking them to settle a payment," said Ao Ieong.

"The Judiciary Police and the Public Security Police Force frequently conduct crime prevention promo-

tional campaigns within the communities. The main reason they [Southeast Asian workers] are easily defrauded is related to their language, culture [...] and their work. Quite regularly, their working schedules do not allow them to receive this information easily, leading them to naturally fall victim [to] fraud," said Ao Ieong.

Another member of the association, Hoi Long Tong, expressed that there is an increasing trend of Southeast Asian workers committing crimes in Macau due to cultural differences and disparities between the legal system in their home and in Macau.

However, Hoi Long remarked that Southeast Asians' contribution to Macau's economy and social development is worth complimenting. **JZ**

ID will not rule out heavier punishment for lifeguard employer

THE Sports Bureau (ID) will not rule out imposing a heavier punishment upon Surf Hong Company, the employer of 24 lifeguards who have been involved in employment disputes with the company, if the company continues breaching its contract obligations.

The lifeguards accused the company of not paying appropriate overtime, failing to provide copies of contracts, failing to provide monthly pay slips, and failing to give annual leave or days off.

According to ID President Pun Weng Kun, ID's legal consultant team is carrying out procedures to enforce punishments against the contractor.

The ID is considering punishing the contractor in such a manner that the severity would scale according to the number of lifeguards that Surf Hong Company has failed to provide at swimming pools.

The pools, which were previously closed due to a shortage of lifeguards, have not reopened to the public yet.

Pun said that the ID is looking forward to the pool's reopening as much as residents.

Pun further stated that the ID has also been a victim of the employment dispute, and they are upset that the company has failed to fulfill its contractual obligations.

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HNA said to seek buyer for container lessor Seaco

HNA Group Co. is seeking a buyer for its container-leasing business Seaco, people familiar with the matter said, marking the latest attempt by the Chinese conglomerate to reduce its debt pile.

HNA is working with an adviser on the potential sale, which could fetch about USD1 billion, according to the people. The conglomerate decided to sell Seaco as part of its strategy to divest assets unrelated to its core aviation business, one of the people said, asking not to be identified because the information is private.

Seaco, which is controlled by HNA's Shenzhen-listed Bohai Capital Holding Co. unit, may draw interest from other global rivals in the container leasing industry, the people said. No final decisions have been made, and there's no certainty the deliberations will lead to a sale of Seaco, according to the people.

Seaco should see strong bids, and those potentially interested could include Triton International Ltd., Textainer Group Holdings Ltd. or Chinese box manufacturer China International Marine Containers (Group) Co., said Rahul Kapoor, a Singapore-based transportation and logistics analyst with Bloomberg Intelligence.

"The container box leasing sector is doing quite well, given box demand remains strong amid robust growth in global container trades," Kapoor said. "Shipping lines'



focus on leasing container boxes will keep the outlook solid for the foreseeable future."

HNA has managed to reduce one of the country's biggest debt piles by selling off dozens of assets from hotels to stakes in aircraft leasing companies. It has been holding talks with Cerberus about the sale of its airport luggage handler Swissport Group and plans to exit its entire holding in Deutsche Bank AG, people familiar with the matter have said.

Seaco offers dry freight, refrigerated, specialized and tank containers, according to its website. HNA Group and private equity firm Bravia Capital completed the \$1.05 billion purchase of the company, formerly known as GE Seaco, in 2011 from owners including

General Electric Co. In 2015, HNA acquired control of rival container lessor Cronos Ltd. and combined its business with Seaco.

A representative for HNA declined to comment. Bravia didn't immediately respond to an email seeking comment. A London-based representative for Seaco didn't immediately respond to an email seeking comment outside regular U.K. business hours.

HNA's total debt fell 9.5 percent to 541.6 billion yuan (\$79 billion) at the end of June, down more than \$8 billion from a record set at the end of last year, according to figures derived from a half-year report. It's the first time the number has fallen, based on public data compiled by Bloomberg stretching back to 2005. **Bloomberg**

Crypto wipeout deepens as Ether leads declines

THE cryptocurrency bear market plumbed a fresh 10-month low, led by a tumble in Bitcoin's biggest rival. Ether slumped 9.5 percent from its level at 5 p.m. New York time on Friday, according to Bloomberg composite pricing. Bitcoin lost 2.5 percent, while the market capitalization of digital assets tracked by CoinMarketCap.com shrank to USD197 billion, down about \$640 billion from its January peak. Cryptocurrencies have declined for five of the past six weeks amid concern that a broader adoption of digital assets will take longer than some had anticipated. That worry was underscored over the weekend after the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission temporarily suspended trading in two securities linked to cryptocurrencies and Ethereum co-founder Vitalik Buterin told Bloomberg that the days of explosive growth in the blockchain industry have likely come and gone. Ether has tumbled faster than Bitcoin in recent months on concern that blockchain-related firms are cashing out of the second-biggest cryptocurrency.

AD



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Heesu Lee

US wish for zero oil imports from Iran granted by S. Korea

SOUTH Korea has become the first of Iran's top-three oil customers to fulfill a hard-line U.S. demand that buyers cut imports to zero.

The Asian nation didn't import any crude from Iran last month, compared with 194,000 barrels a day in July, tanker-tracking and shipping data compiled by Bloomberg show. While bigger consumers China and India have curbed buying from the OPEC producer, South Korea's gone one step further by halting purchases before the U.S. imposes sanctions on the Islamic republic on Nov. 4.

Donald Trump's administration made the demand over Iranian oil after the U.S. president in May withdrew from a 2015 deal that lifted many sanctions on the Middle East nation in exchange for restrictions on the country's nuclear program. South Korea heeding that call may signal America's clout over the North Asian nation.

Trapped in a decades-long war in the Korean peninsula, the South's government has relied on the U.S. to pressure the North's leader, Kim Jong Un, to abandon its nuclear program. Political ties to America mean it can't ignore Trump's order for allies to adopt a tough policy on Iran, according to the Korea Energy Economics Institute.

"Maintaining relations with the U.S. is of the utmost importance to South Korea," Kim Jae-kyung, a research fellow at the institute said. "South Korea's national security depends on its



military alliance with America, which is prompting it to proactively reduce imports before the governments have completed negotiations."

The South Korean government's official stance over Iranian sanctions is that it's continuing talks with the U.S. in a bid to seek a waiver. While the Trump administration has softened its stance slightly, going from zero tolerance on purchases to saying it will consider exemptions, they are yet to be granted and buyers still face the risk of being cut off from the

American financial system after the November deadline.

"We will consider waivers where appropriate," U.S. Secretary of State Michael Pompeo said at a press briefing in New Delhi on Thursday. But "it is our expectation that the purchases of Iranian crude oil will go to zero from every country or sanctions will be imposed," he said.

Brent crude, the benchmark for more than half the world's oil, climbed as much as 62 cents to USD77.45 a barrel on the ICE Futures Europe exchange

by 7:06 a.m. in London. Prices are up more than 40 percent over the past 12 months.

While the relationship between Trump and Kim was fraught in the initial phase of the U.S. president's rule, diplomatic relations have since warmed, culminating in a historic summit between the two in Singapore in June.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in said Trump deserves "great credit" for bringing the North to talks. Earlier this month, Kim told visiting South Korean envoys he was ready

to accept "stronger measures" to restrict his nuclear program and wanted a declaration with the U.S. to formally end the Korean War.

It's not the first time Trump has leaned on South Korea. He berated the Asian nation for a trade surplus in 2017, and named it in a currency watch list the year before. A South Korean government official responded that the country will look into whether there's room to increase energy purchases from America, and a few months later the energy minister said it wants to include the U.S. in its import portfolio.

While in New Delhi last week, Pompeo added that he would be "happy to see if it's American products that are able to" fill in the gap of lost supply from Iran. But a switch may not be simple for refiners because the quality of all U.S. output isn't similar to oil from the Persian Gulf state.

"South Korea will comply with the U.S. sanctions on Iran for the multitude of reasons - national security, trade to name a few," said WengInn Chin, a senior oil market analyst at industry consultant FGE in Singapore. "Companies will not want to risk any actions by the U.S. for breaching the sanctions. South Korean refiners will have to replace the volumes." **Bloomberg**

Ghana on hook for billion-dollar China deal if bauxite plan stalls

GHANA will have to use alternative sources to pay back China's Sinohydro Corp. for USD2 billion in infrastructure if the revenue from an earmarked bauxite project is insufficient to meet installments.

Sinohydro agreed to a deal with the West Afri-

can nation in May to build bridges, roads, hospitals and housing as part of the government of President Nana Akufo-Addo's plans to lift economic growth. In return, Ghana undertook to repay the Beijing-based company with the proceeds of refined bauxite sales from a plant that is

due to be commissioned and completed within three years.

While the construction of the projects will start right away, payments are deferred for the three years and will be made in equal installments over the deal's remaining 12-year period, according to a

copy of the agreement that was signed on May 16.

Where receipts from the refined bauxite are not sufficient for the installments "the government of Ghana shall use other sources for the repayment," the parties said in the agreement.

Ghana is banking on

using its untapped bauxite resources to pay for new infrastructure as the country sees out the final year of an almost \$1 billion debt-bailout arrangement with the International Monetary Fund. The country's public liabilities measured 63.8 percent of gross domestic product at the end of May, compared with 67.3 percent the year before.

The deal between Ghana and Sinohydro is being finalized as African leaders and the government of

President Xi Jinping met earlier this month to promote trade between China and the continent that totaled \$170 billion in 2017. While Beijing-backed investment has provided African governments with much-needed infrastructure, it has also generated complaints about China's preference for loans.

Lawmakers in Ghana are expected to debate the Sinohydro agreement later this month for parliamentary approval. **MDT/Bloomberg**

corporate bits

CEM TO HOST 6TH SOLAR & CAPACITANCE MODEL CAR RACES



Companhia de Electricidade de Macau (CEM) will host the sixth edition of the Solar & Capacitance Model Car Races on Sunday, September 23, once again inviting local students to explore how renewable energy can contribute to a sustainable, clean environment.

This year, for the first time, the races will take place at one of the participating secondary schools,

the St. Joseph Diocesan College 5, with the objective of bringing the event to town and encouraging more direct interaction and participation from students and the public.

According to CEM, this year the number of enrolled schools and teams has surpassed the previous five editions, with a record 600 students from 25 schools and 108 teams participating in the event.

Sixty-six teams will join the "Solar Model Car Race" for F4 to F6 students, while 42 teams will join the "Capacitance Model Car Race" for F1 to F3 students.

The winning teams will be awarded with cash prizes and trophies. Meanwhile, CEM will sponsor the top three in each race to compete in the "HK TREE 2018" to be held in November 2018.

ALIBABA

Jack Ma to step down as chairman in September 2019

Joe McDonald, Beijing

JACK Ma, who founded e-commerce giant Alibaba Group and helped launch China's online retailing boom, announced yesterday that he will step down as the company's chairman next September.

In a letter released by Alibaba, Ma said he will be succeeded by CEO Daniel Zhang, an 11-year veteran of the company. Ma handed over the CEO post to Zhang in 2013 as part of what he said was a long-planned succession.

Ma, a former English teacher, founded Alibaba in 1999 in an apartment in the eastern city of Hangzhou to connect Chinese exporters with foreign retailers. It expanded into consumer retailing, becoming the world's biggest e-commerce company by total value of goods sold, as well as online finance, cloud computing and other services.

Ma, who turned 54 on yesterday, became one of China's most famous entrepreneurs and one of the world's richest. The Hurun Report, which follows China's wealthy, estimates his net worth at USD37 billion.

Alibaba's \$25 billion initial public stock offering on Wall Street in 2014 is the biggest to date by a Chinese company.

Alibaba said Ma will remain a member of the Alibaba Partnership, a group of 36 people with the right to nominate a majority of its board of directors. That arrangement limits shareholder control, but Ma has defended it as a way to keep Alibaba focused



CEO Daniel Zhang, an 11-year veteran of the company, will succeed Ma

on long-term development.

"This transition demonstrates that Alibaba has stepped up to the next level of corporate governance from a company that relies on individuals, to one built on systems of organizational excellence and a culture of talent development," said Ma's letter.

Ma said he wants to "return to education" but gave no details.

Alibaba is part of a group of companies including games and social media giant Tencent Holding Ltd., search engine Baidu.com Inc. and e-commerce rival JD.com that have revolutionized shopping, entertainment and consumer services in China.

E-commerce sales in China rose 32.2 percent last year to 7.2 trillion yuan (\$1.1 trillion), accounting for 20 percent of total retail spending.

Alibaba was founded at a time when few Chinese used the internet. As internet use spread, the company expanded into retailing and services. Few Chinese used credit cards, so Alibaba created its own online payments system, Alipay.

Zhang, Ma's planned successor, joined Alibaba in 2007 after working at Shanda Entertainment, an online games company. Zhang served as president of Alibaba's consumer-focused Tmall.com business unit.

Ma, known in Chinese as Ma Yun, appears regularly on television. At an annual Alibaba employee festival in Hanzhou, he has sung pop songs in costumes that included blonde wigs and leather jackets. He pokes fun at his own appearance, saying his oversized head and angular features make him look like the alien

in director Steven Spielberg's movie "E.T. The Extraterrestrial."

Alibaba raised \$5 million from investors including Goldman Sachs and \$20 million from Japan's Softbank in 1999.

Ma will remain a member of the Alibaba Partnership, a group of 36 people with the right to nominate a majority of its board of directors

The next year, Alibaba faced its biggest threat when eBay acquired EachNet, which had 80 percent of China's small retail e-commerce market.

Ma fought back by launching Taobao, an eBay-style consumer-to-consumer site. By 2006, Ma had won; eBay gave up and turned over its China operation to a local partner.

In 2005, Yahoo Inc. paid \$1 billion for 40 percent of Alibaba and turned over control of Yahoo China. Alibaba bought back half of Yahoo's stake for \$7.1 billion in 2011 and the U.S. company made billions more

from the 2014 IPO.

Ma's success was tempered by complaints Alibaba allowed counterfeiters to thrive on its sales platforms.

The U.S. Commerce Department cited Alibaba.com and Taobao on its annual list of "notorious markets" from 2008 to 2011. Both were later removed but complaints from makers of luxury goods and other brand owners intensified.

The luxury company Kering, owner of brands including Gucci and Saint Laurent, accused Alibaba in a 2015 lawsuit of facilitating counterfeit sales. The two sides settled the dispute last year with an agreement to cooperate in combating trafficking in fakes.

Also in 2015, a Chinese Cabinet agency accused Alibaba of profiting from misleading advertising and failing to deal effectively with fraud. In a reflection of the importance of Alibaba's success to communist leaders, the agency said its report was written in mid-2014 but the release was delayed to avoid disrupting the IPO.

Alipay became a freestanding company, Ant Financial, in 2014. Alibaba also has expanded into entertainment, set up its own film studio and invested in logistics and delivery services.

Alibaba reported profit last year of \$9.8 billion. It said the total value of goods sold across all of its platforms rose 28 percent over 2016 to 4.8 trillion yuan (\$768 billion).

In 2011, Alibaba faced complaints it had transferred control over Alipay to a company controlled by Ma without immediately informing shareholders including Yahoo and Softbank.

Alibaba said the move was required to comply with Chinese regulations, but some financial analysts said the company was paid too little. The dispute was later resolved by Alibaba, Yahoo and Softbank. **AP**

TRADE WAR

Beijing promises retaliation if US imposes more tariffs

CHINA yesterday promised retaliation if U.S. President Donald Trump escalates their tariff battle, raising the risk Beijing might target operations of American companies as it runs out of imports for penalties.

The threat came after Trump said Friday he was considering extending penalties to an additional USD267 billion of Chinese products in their battle over Beijing's technology policy. That would be on top of \$50 billion of goods already hit by 25 percent

duties and another \$200 billion on which Washington is poised to raise tariffs.

"If the United States insists on imposing another round of tariffs on Chinese products, China will definitely take countermeasures to safeguard its legitimate rights and interests," foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said.

Geng gave no details, but the government said in June it would impose unspecified "comprehensive measures" if neces-

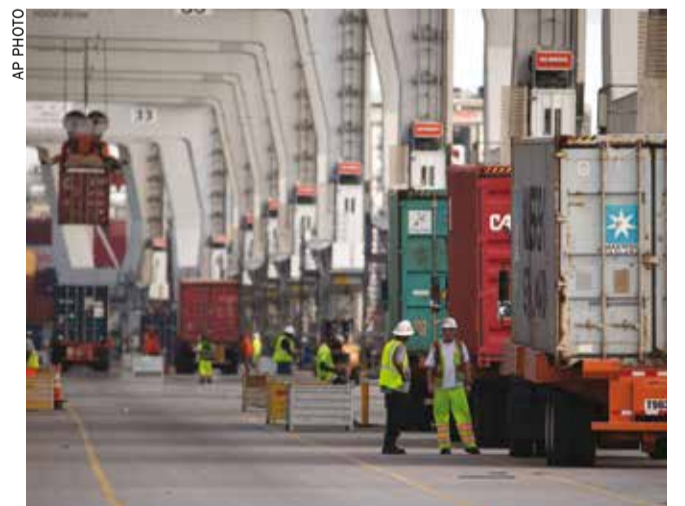
sary. That left American companies on edge about whether Beijing might use its control over the heavily regulated economy to disrupt their operations by withholding licenses or launching tax, anti-monopoly or other investigations.

China matched Washington's first round of tariff hikes on \$50 billion of its goods, but their lopsided trade balance means Beijing is running out of imports for retaliation. The United States imported \$3 of Chinese goods last year

for every \$1 of American goods bought by China.

Chinese leaders agreed in May to narrow that trade gap by purchasing more American soybeans and other products. But they reject Trump's demand to roll back official industry plans such as "Made in China 2025," which calls for state-led creation of global champions in robotics, artificial intelligence and other technologies.

Washington, Europe and other trading partners argue those plans viola-



te Beijing's market-opening pledges. American officials worry they might erode U.S. industrial dominance. But Communist leaders see them as China's path to prosperity and global influence.

China's exports to the

United States have been unexpectedly resilient, rising by double digits in July and August despite the U.S. tariff hikes. That might add to Washington's frustration and prompt more import controls. **AP**



RELIGION

Group says officials destroying crosses, burning bibles

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

CHINA'S government is ratcheting up a crackdown on Christian congregations in Beijing and several provinces, destroying crosses, burning bibles, shutting churches and ordering followers to sign papers renouncing their faith, according to pastors and a group that monitors religion in China.

The campaign corresponds with a drive to "Sinicize" religion by demanding loyalty to the officially atheist Communist Party and eliminating any challenge to its power over people's lives.

Bob Fu of the U.S.-based group China Aid said over the weekend that the closure of churches in central Henan province and a prominent house church in Beijing in recent weeks represents a "significant escalation" of the crackdown.

"The international community should be alarmed and outraged for this blatant violation of freedom of religion and belief," he wrote in an email.

Under President Xi Jinping, China's most powerful leader since Mao Zedong, religious believers are seeing their freedoms shrink dramatically even as the country undergoes a religious revival. Experts and activists say that as he consolidates his power, Xi is waging the most severe

systematic suppression of Christianity in the country since religious freedom was written into the Chinese constitution in 1982.

Fu also provided video footage of what appeared to be piles of burning bibles and forms stating that the signatories had renounced their Christian faith. He said that marked the first time since Mao's radical 1966-1976 Cultural Revolution that Christians had been compelled to make such declarations, under pain of expulsion from school and the loss of welfare benefits.

A Christian pastor in the Henan city of Nanyang said crosses, bibles and furniture were burned during a raid on his church on Sept. 5.

The pastor, who asked not to be identified by name to avoid repercussions from authorities, said several people entered the church just as it opened its doors at 5 a.m. and began removing items.

He said the church had been in discussions with local authorities who demanded it "reform" itself, but no agreement had been reached or official documents released.

Chinese law requires religious believers to worship only in congregations registered with the authorities, but many millions belong to so-called underground or house churches that defy go-

vernment restrictions.

A local official reached by phone at the Nanyang city government disputed the account, saying officials respected religious freedom. The man declined to give his name, as is common with Chinese bureaucrats, while a person answering phones at the local religious affairs bureau said they were "not clear" about the matter.

The international community should be alarmed and outraged for this blatant violation of freedom of religion and belief.

BOB FU
CHINA AID

In Beijing, the Zion church was shut on Sunday by around 60 government workers who arrived at 4:30 p.m. accompanied by buses, police cars and fire trucks, the church's pastor, Ezra Jin Mingri, said yesterday. Zion is known as the largest house church in Beijing, with six branches.

The officials declared the gatherings illegal and sealed off church properties, Jin said, after already freezing the pastor's personal assets in an apparent attempt to force him to comply with their demands.

"Churches will continue to develop. Blocking the sites will only intensify conflicts," Jin told The Associated Press by phone.

A notice posted Sunday on the website of the Chaoyang district government in Beijing said the Zion Church had been closed because it failed to register with the government.

All of China's officially recognized religions appear to have been affected by the crackdown. In the most extreme example, an estimated 1 million Uighurs and other members of Muslim minority groups in the country's northwest have been arbitrarily detained in indoctrination camps where they are forced to denounce Islam and profess loyalty to the Communist Party.

The government says it is taking necessary measures to eliminate extremism, but denies setting up the camps.

China has an estimated 38 million Protestants, and experts have predicted that the country will have the world's largest Christian population in a few decades. **AP**

opinion

THE US OPIOID CRISIS, FENTANYL AND CHINA

The Editors, Bloomberg View

America's opioid crisis has shifted. As Congress and the White House have dawdled, the overdose death toll has continued its steady climb — reaching more than 49,000 in 2017, an increase of nearly 7,000 over the previous year, itself a record-breaker. But the primary agent of death is no longer ordinary prescription painkillers. It's illicit fentanyl, often mixed with heroin or some other street drug.

This change calls for an equally drastic shift in the effort to prevent opioid deaths. Tighter controls on prescriptions for oxycodone and hydrocodone are no longer enough to limit supply. The U.S. needs a comprehensive and multi-targeted strategy to restrict the importation of illicit fentanyl, and a broader, better-funded push to reduce its demand.

Since 2011, fatal overdoses from drugstore opioids alone have remained relatively stable, but those involving fentanyl have shot through the roof. The far more lethal drug played a part in 60 percent of opioid deaths in 2017, according to the National Center on Health Statistics, up from 11 percent five years ago.

Fentanyl, created in 1960 as a treatment for cancer pain, has become popular on the black market in part because it's synthetic. There's no need to plant and protect acres and acres of poppies; fentanyl can be cooked up in a lab. And because it is so potent — a smattering of grains packs a deadly dose — it can be mailed around the world in tiny, concealable packages. Drug labs in China fulfill online orders from American users, or from traffickers in the U.S. and Mexico who add the fentanyl to heroin and other drugs to boost their effect, or press it into phony prescription-opioid pills.

A coordinated response to the crisis needs to start with China, which, according to U.S. law enforcement, is the source of almost all illicit fentanyl. Poorly monitored and regulated chemical laboratories there sell fentanyl or its precursors to U.S. users and dealers, or to Mexican drug suppliers who in turn market it in the U.S.

The Obama administration had begun to enlist the Chinese government's help in policing producers, including by persuading China to add many analogues of fentanyl to its list of controlled chemical substances. President Donald Trump has preferred to accuse and threaten, which doesn't encourage cooperation. What's needed is a steady and purposeful diplomatic push, along with expert support for fortifying China's capacity to inspect and regulate its thousands of drug labs.

From China, the pipeline flows mainly through the mail to users and dealers. Congress recently provided Customs and Border Protection with more chemical-detection equipment to screen packages. But given the volume of mail, scanning all of them isn't possible. The task would be easier if Congress passed pending legislation to require the U.S. Postal Service to obtain basic identifying information from senders — including the name and address of sender and a description of package contents — as private parcel services do.

Even so, a significant amount of the drug is likely to escape detection. Strenuous efforts will continue to be needed to crack down on the market within the United States. The Justice Department made progress recently by working with Dutch authorities to shut down two major sites on the dark web where deals were made, usually in virtual currencies.

Fentanyl is also sold on the ordinary internet, and Scott Gottlieb, commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, is right to demand that internet companies work harder to remove the illegal listings. The FDA, for its part, could help limit supply by restricting off-label prescribing of legal fentanyl to patients who don't need, and may be harmed by, such a powerful painkiller.

The demand side must be confronted as well. More than 2 million Americans have opioid-use or heroin-use disorders, and few can be expected to quit without help. They need to be brought into treatment at every opportunity, most obviously when they enter hospitals, emergency rooms or prisons. And this treatment should include methadone, buprenorphine and other opioid-based medications, which along with behavioral therapy have proved effective in overcoming addiction.

Up to now, the Trump administration has ignored the need for medication-assisted therapy. Congress is considering bills that would expand its use somewhat — for instance, by getting Medicaid and Medicare to fund it more generously — but lawmakers aren't making this the priority it ought to be. Consider that, today, only 5 percent of U.S. doctors have had the training required to prescribe buprenorphine; far more doctors, as well as nurse practitioners and other health-care providers, should have the authority.

Fentanyl and other opioids are killing more than 130 people a day. The crisis demands a thorough, well-coordinated national response. What the White House and Congress have come up with so far falls short.



Kem Sokha shows off his ballot before voting in local elections in Chak Angre Leu on the outskirts of Phnom Penh last year

CAMBODIA

Ex-opposition leader freed awaiting treason trial

Sopheng Cheang, Phnom Penh

The leader of Cambodia's now dissolved opposition party was freed on highly restrictive bail yesterday after being jailed for a year on a treason charge, the latest government opponent to be released since Prime Minister Hun Sen's landslide election victory.

The Phnom Penh Municipal Court said in a statement that Kem Sokha was granted bail due to health reasons, but stressed that the case against him would proceed.

The court's release order is so restrictive that it amounts to a form of house arrest. The 65-year-old politician may travel

only a few blocks from his house; he may not meet former leaders of his party, nor its supporters, nor take part in any rallies; and he is not allowed to meet foreigners, especially those connected with the case against him.

Kem Sokha was taken in the predawn hours from a prison in eastern Cambodia to his Phnom Penh home, where hundreds of supporters gathered later in the morning.

His release came as Hun Sen begins another five-year term as prime minister after his ruling party's victory in a July election which was widely seen as unfair and unfair because the only credible challenger, Kem Sokha's Cambodia National Rescue Par-

ty, was dissolved by the courts and unable to contest the polls.

Hun Sen, who has held power for more than three decades, has a history of cracking down hard on his foes when he is challenged, then easing up when those he finds a threat have been politically neutered. Hun Sen has denied that recent pardons and releases are due to international pressure, which increased after the controversial election.

The government cracked down on the opposition last year as the ruling party's prospects for the general election were looking shaky. The opposition had made a strong showing in 2017 local elections, building on its surprisingly strong challenge in the

2013 general election.

Kem Sokha was arrested last September on the basis of years-old videos showing him at a seminar where he spoke about receiving advice from U.S. pro-democracy groups. His party denied the treason allegation, calling it politically motivated.

The arrest came after a months-long campaign to discredit him over an alleged sex scandal, which involved secretly taped phone conversations mysteriously posted on the internet.

Cambodia's Supreme Court dissolved the Cambodia National Rescue Party last November, saying it was plotting with U.S. assistance to overthrow the government. There was little evi-

dence to support the ruling, which was seen as a key part of the campaign to ensure Hun Sen's re-election.

Kem Sokha's lawyer, Chan Chen, told reporters that his client could not come out of his house to meet them and his supporters, and had not yet decided if he would seek medical treatment outside Cambodia. His release order indicates that he would need court approval for any travel abroad.

At a bail hearing in March, Kem Sokha's lawyers said he suffers from high blood pressure and diabetes, and had fallen sick in prison.

Chan Chen added that Kem Sokha would continue to be monitored by the government.

"While it's a step forward that he's out of detention, he should never have been arrested in the first place," said Phil Robertson, deputy director for Asia of New York-based Human Rights Watch. "There's been no justice served here, just the temporary release of an opposition political leader that prosecutors could undo at any time."

"We're still a long way from a meaningful restoration of democracy and respect for human rights in Cambodia," he said.

Sam Rainsy, the co-founder of the Cambodia National Rescue Party, said yesterday on his Facebook page that Kem Sokha's release should be followed by more moves by Hun Sen to restore democratic politics to Cambodia.

In addition to Kem Sokha's arrest and the Cambodia National Rescue Party's dissolution, 118 senior party leaders were barred from politics and more than 5,000 party members holding local elected posts were forced out of their jobs.

Sam Rainsy said those measures should be reversed, with the local officials restored to their jobs. He also demanded that the opposition party should be legalized again and that new elections be held, monitored by the international community.

Sam Rainsy, Kem Sokha's predecessor as opposition leader, has been in self-imposed exile to avoid serving prison time on a criminal libel conviction that is widely seen as politically motivated. **AP**

SINGAPORE

Court recovers USD11m linked to 1MDB Malaysia Fund

A Singaporean court has ordered the return of 15.3 million Singapore dollars (USD11.1 million) linked to the indebted 1MDB Malaysian state investment fund.

Law firm Tan Rajah & Cheah said yesterday that the misappropriated funds were being trans-

ferred to a special 1MDB recovery bank account in the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur.

It did not say how many individuals were involved. "Efforts to recover other unlawfully misappropriated assets are ongoing," the firm said in a statement seen by The Associa-

ted Press.

Citing an unnamed source, Malaysia's National News Agency Bernama reported in July that the government had appointed the Singapore firm to act against 53 individuals and companies to recover funds belonging to 1MDB.

The news agency said

fugitive businessman Low Taek Jho, known just as Jho Low, was among the defendants. The U.S. Justice Department alleges Low was a key figure in the theft and international laundering of \$4.5 billion from Malaysia's 1MDB investment fund by associates of former Malaysian

Prime Minister Najib Razak.

Najib has pleaded not guilty to seven charges of criminal breach of trust, abuse of power and money laundering in a case related to the alleged multibillion-dollar looting of the 1MDB fund that led to his stunning electoral de-

feat four months ago.

All the charges against him involve the transfer of 42 million ringgit (\$10.1 million) into his bank accounts from SRC International, a former unit of the 1MDB fund that international investigators say was looted of billions by Najib's associates. **AP**



Supporters of opposition Senator Antonio Trillanes IV tear papers to condemn a proclamation by President Rodrigo Duterte

PHILIPPINES

Lawyers alarmed by Duterte moves to jail senator

Jim Gomez, Manila

THE largest lawyers' group in the Philippines asked the country's courts yesterday to resist "creeping incursions" on their independence and warned of judicial chaos after the president voided an amnesty for an opposition senator and ordered his arrest.

The Integrated Bar of the Philippines expressed alarm over the "audacity to publicly arrest and incarcerate" Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV for offenses that were canceled by a 2011 amnesty approved by President Rodrigo Duterte's predecessor and Congress.

Trillanes, who is Duterte's fiercest critic in Congress, has taken refuge in the Senate for nearly a week to avoid arrest after the president voided the amnesty for having joined unsuccessful coup attempts as a former navy officer. Duterte also asked the Department of Justice and the military to revive criminal proceedings against him, which Trillanes and some legal experts said violates the constitution.

Duterte has been highly sensitive to criticism, especially over his anti-drug crackdown that has left thousands of mostly poor drug

suspects dead since he took office in mid-2016. Trillanes has also accused the president of large-scale corruption and involvement in illegal drugs, which Duterte has denied.

■ The Integrated Bar of the Philippines expressed alarm over the 'audacity to publicly arrest and incarcerate' Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV

Duterte said he was voiding Trillanes' amnesty because the senator had failed to file a formal amnesty request and acknowledge guilt for involvement in the failed coup attempts. Trillanes has shown news reports and defense department documents to deny Duterte's claims and asked the Supreme Court to declare Duterte's moves illegal.

Despite the legal questions, the Department of Justice has asked two courts to issue warran-

ts for the senator's arrest and resume criminal proceedings against him.

The lawyers' group said the move against Trillanes "runs roughshod over the constitutional guarantee against double jeopardy," or holding a person to answer twice for the same offense. It said the judiciary could be subjected to an "anomalous situation" in which one court could uphold the amnesty and another rule to void it.

"The chaos that may result" from the government moves against Trillanes "undermines our systems that make the orderly administration of justice possible," the group said in a statement.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque asked the lawyers' group to "stop too much talk" and bring the issues to a court and not the media.

Although Duterte could order the military to arrest Trillanes to have him face a military court of inquiry into his past coup involvement, the president has said he decided to wait for civilian courts to rule whether the senator can be arrested to face trial. Trillanes, however, has declined to believe him and refused to leave the Senate, where he has held daily news conferences.

Duterte has also accused Trillanes, without offering evidence, of plotting with other opposition politicians, inclu-

ding the Liberal Party and leftist groups, to oust him by next month. Trillanes and opposition groups have dis-

missed the claim as a lie and asked him to focus instead on addressing poverty, inflation, rice shortages, a decline in the value of the peso currency and traffic jams.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana told reporters that communist guerrillas have had plans to oust Duterte, but that he is not aware "if other groups would ride on it. We do not know." AP

AD

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US vice president Mike Pence

USA | WHITE HOUSE ANONYMOUS

Pence confident no one on his staff wrote NY Times column

Darlene Superville, Washington

VICE President Mike Pence says he's "100 percent confident" that no one on his staff was involved with the anonymous New York Times column criticizing President Donald Trump's leadership.

"I know them. I know their character," Pence said in a taped interview aired yesterday [Macau time] by CBS' "Face the Nation."

Some pundits had speculated that Pence could be the "senior administration official" who wrote the opinion piece because it included language Pence has been known to use, like the unusual word "lodesstar." The op-ed writer claimed to be part of a "resistance" movement within the Trump administration that was working quietly behind the scenes to thwart the president's most dangerous impulses.

More than two dozen high-ranking administration officials have denied writing the column. Pence said his staff had nothing to do with it.

"Let me be very clear. I'm 100 percent confident that no one on the vice president's staff was involved in this anonymous editorial. I know my people," Pence said on "Face the Nation." "They get up every day and are dedicated, just as much as I am, to advancing the president's agenda and supporting everything [...] President Trump is doing for the people of this country."

Asked whether he had asked his staff about the op-ed, Pence said, "I don't have to ask them because I know them. I know their character. I know their dedication and I am absolutely confident that no one on the vice president's staff had anything to do with this."

He restated that he thinks the essay writer should do the "honorable thing and resign."

Publication of the op-ed followed the release of stunning details from an upcoming book by Watergate reporter Bob Woodward in which current and former aides referred to Trump as an "idiot" and "liar" and depicted him as prone to rash policy decisions that some aides either work to stall or derail entirely.

Both releases are said to have infuriated Trump, who unleashed a string of attacks on Woodward's credibility and dismissed the celebrated author's book as a "work of fiction." Some of the officials featured in the book's anecdotes about the president, including Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and White House chief of staff John Kelly, issued statements denying the comments attributed to them by Woodward.

Woodward has said he stands by his reporting. The book, "Fear: Trump in the White House," is scheduled to be formally released tomorrow [Macau time], all but ensuring that the debate over Trump's leadership ability and style will extend into a second straight week.

Trump, meanwhile, has denounced the Times opinion piece as "gutless" and its publication as a "disgrace" bordering on treason.

What I see is a tough leader, a demanding leader, someone who gets all the options on the table.

MIKE PENCE

Republican Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, a Trump ally, has said the president would be justified in using lie detectors to ferret out the anonymous writer. The president has yet to say whether he'd go that far, but Pence says he'd be willing to submit to such an examination.

"I would agree to take it in a heartbeat and would submit to any review the administration wanted to do," he said in a taped "Fox News Sunday" interview.

Both Pence and Kellyanne Conway, a counselor to Trump, pushed back during separate television appearances on the portrayals of Trump as anything but a thoughtful leader. Both also said they had no idea who wrote the piece; Trump has said he can name up to five people who could have written it.

"What I see is a tough leader, a demanding leader, someone who gets all the options on the table," Pence said on Fox News. "But he makes the decisions, and that's why we've made the progress we've made."

Trump has said the Justice Department should investigate and unmask the anonymous author. He cited national security concerns as grounds for what would amount to an extraordinary criminal probe should Attorney General Jeff Sessions decide to pursue one.

Neither Pence nor Conway answered directly when asked if Sessions should treat Trump's comments as an order. The Justice Department is supposed to make investigative decisions free of political pressure from the White House and the president.

Sen. Mark Warner of Virginia, the top Democrat on the Senate intelligence committee, disagreed that the opinion piece amounted to a national security threat and attributed Trump's musing about a Justice Department investigation "to a president who's lashing out." **AP**

SWEDEN

Country faces weeks of uncertainty after close election

SWEDEN woke yesterday to the prospect of weeks of political uncertainty after the country's two rival blocs failed to secure a clear governing majority in elections that saw a boost for a far-right party amid growing discontent with large-scale immigration.

With most of the ballots counted, the governing center-left bloc had a razor-thin edge over the center-right opposition Alliance, with roughly 40 percent each.

Sunday's election saw the Sweden Democrats, an anti-immigrant party with roots in a neo-Nazi movement, win about 18 percent, up from the 13 percent it gained four years earlier.

The party, which has worked to moderate its image in past years, gained on a backlash against the challenges of integrating hundreds of thousands of immigrants that arrived in the Scandinavian nation over the past years.

Prime Minister Stefan Lofven, who brought the Social Democrats to power in 2014, said he intended to remain in the job. The center-left party emerged with the greatest share of the vote — 28.4 percent as the count neared completion — yet looking at holding fewer parliament seats than four years ago.

The leader of the Moderates party that came in second, Ulf Kristersson, has already called on Lofven to resign and claimed the right to form Sweden's next government.

The center-right, four-party Alliance has said it would meet today [Macau time] to discuss how to move forward and demand that

Lofven, head of the minority, two-party governing coalition, resign.

Final election returns were expected later in the week. The preliminary results made it unlikely any party would secure a majority of 175 seats in the 349-seat Riksdag, Sweden's parliament.

With the prospect of weeks or months of coalition talks before the next government is formed, Swedish tabloid Expressen headlined its front page yesterday: "Chaos."

Both the left-leaning bloc led by the Social Democrats and the center-right bloc in which the Moderates is the largest of four parties have said they would refuse to consider the Sweden Democrats as a coalition partner.

Lofven told his supporters the election presented "a situation that all responsible parties must deal with," adding that "a party with roots in Nazism" would "never ever offer anything responsible, but hatred."

"We have a moral responsibility. We must gather all forces for good. We won't mourn, we will organize ourselves," he said.

Sweden — home to the Nobel prizes and militarily neutral for the better part of two centuries — has been known for its comparatively open doors to migrants and refugees. Sunday's general election was the first since Sweden, which a population of 10 million, took in a record 163,000 refugees in 2015 — the highest per capita of any European country.

Turnout in the election was reported at 84.4 percent, up from 83 percent in 2014. **AP**



Supporters attend the Social Democratic Party's election night party in Stockholm

what's ON



OPEN FUTURE

TIME: 2pm-7pm (closed on Sundays)

UNTIL: September 22, 2108

VENUE: Creative Macau Gallery, Macao Cultural Centre

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 3282

3RD LANTERN FESTIVAL

TIME: All day

VENUE: Promenade outside of One Central Macau and Wynn Macau

UNTIL: October 15, 2018

ADMISSION: Free

ORGANIZERS: One Central Macau and Wynn Macau

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8896 0779

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

TIME: 12pm-8pm

UNTIL: October 5, 2018

VENUE: Taipa Village Art Space

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2857 6118

TREASURE OF SACRED ART OF ST. JOSEPH'S SEMINARY

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

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

MANDARIN'S HOUSE

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

ADDRESS: No. 10, Travessa de António da Silva

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8820

Offbeat

MIDSUMMER NIGHTMARE. IRAN DETAINS ARTISTS OVER SHAKESPEARE PERFORMANCE

Iranian authorities have detained two artists over a theatre production of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Cultural official Shahram Karami told the official IRNA news agency yesterday that Iran's judiciary had ordered the detention of the play's director, Maryam Kazemi, and the manager of the theater that hosted it, Saeed Assadi.

Karami said both were taken into custody Sunday evening, after the broadcast of a video trailer about the work. He said it had caused a "misunderstanding," but did not elaborate, adding that a court had accepted to release the two on some USD24,000 bail each.

A clip on social media showed female actors dancing with men as part of the trailer, an illegal act under the Islamic Republic's strict rules that forbid gender mixing and women dancing in public.

The play was on stage for seven nights before the detentions. The comic fantasy tracks the intertwined fates of four lovers and is one of Shakespeare's most popular plays, put on by theater groups and schools around the world.

The police forces and hardliners who dominate Iran's judiciary reject western culture in Iran.

In July, Iran detained Maedeh Hojabri, a teenage girl who posted dance videos online.

In 2014 authorities sentenced six young men and women to suspended prison terms after they appeared in a video dancing to Pharrell Williams' song "Happy."

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Portuguese Soap Opera
15:50	Cartoons
16:15	Portuguese Comedy
18:30	TDM Sports (Repeated)
19:35	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	TDM Interview
21:50	Documentary
22:25	Portuguese Serie - Liberty 21
23:15	TDM News
23:50	UEFA Nations League 2018/2019 Highlights
00:45	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:40	RTPi Live

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



2001 US ROCKED BY DAY OF TERROR

The United States is in a state of shock after a day of attacks which have left thousands dead and New York's World Trade Center destroyed.

The Pentagon was also severely damaged by one of the three civilian airliners which hijackers turned into flying bombs. A fourth plane crashed in a field near Pittsburgh.

A state of emergency has been declared in Washington D.C. and the US has closed its airspace and its borders with Mexico and Canada.

American forces are on one of their highest states of alert and the Pentagon has deployed a naval battle group off the country's east coast to bolster air defences.

American Airlines Flight 11 was hijacked at 0825 Eastern Daylight Time (1225 GMT) and 18 minutes later crashed into the north tower of the World Trade Center.

United Airlines Flight 175 - which had been hijacked within minutes of the first plane - was flown into the south tower at 0903 EDT (1303 GMT) causing another devastating explosion.

The second crash was captured live on news cameras trained on the burning north tower.

At 0940 EDT (1340 GMT) a third hijacked airliner - American Airlines Flight 77 - was flown into the side of the Pentagon in Washington.

An hour after the Boeing 767 slammed into the south tower of the World Trade Center the 110-storey building collapsed.

The north tower followed minutes later, compounding the destruction and loss of life.

Witnesses reported seeing people jumping from the towers just before they collapsed.

President Bush was reading to pupils at a Florida school when his chief of staff whispered news of the attacks to him.

He was flown to the US Strategic Command Centre at Nebraska - where the country's nuclear weapons are controlled - but is now on his way back to Washington.

He is expected to address the nation later this evening. New York mayor Rudy Giuliani said the final number of dead may be "more than any of us can bear".

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The final number of people killed in the suicide attacks on 11 September was about 3,000.

It took almost nine months to clear the millions of tons of rubble at "Ground Zero" where the World Trade Center had stood.

The biggest criminal investigation in history quickly identified the hijackers, and linked them to al-Qaeda - the Islamic militant group set up by Osama Bin Laden.

President Bush declared a worldwide war on terror, and on 8 October the United States and Britain hit targets in Afghanistan, where Bin Laden was believed to be hiding.

The regime in Afghanistan fell quickly in the face of American military might, but Osama Bin Laden remained at large for years.

President Bush extended his global campaign against terror to Iraq in March 2003, when a coalition dominated by US and UK forces invaded.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Your reaction may be instantaneous, but do you really want to broadcast it as-is? Take a deep breath (or two) and let your feelings evolve. Try bouncing them off someone close.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
You should be deeply aware of your own feelings right now. You can express them in intriguing, revealing and amazing ways. You're also quite well tuned into others, so get out there and mix it up!

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
Fill your day with good vibes, friends and activities - you love outings, social events and even errands for the time being. It gets better, too - wherever you go, everyone loves you.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
You've got so much to do, but so little time - it's a good thing all that powerful energy is coming directly to you, starting right now. You love the hustle and bustle, and so does someone special!

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
You are sure to dream up an amazing last-minute date idea! Tap into the creative power you're famous for and make the evening sweeter and brighter. Your karma looks better and better.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
The activity factor is really high - keeping all the details straight could be quite a challenge, even for you! Later today, though, you should get some serious assistance and amazing social energy.

Libra
Sep.23-Oct. 22
It's the perfect day to meet someone new - or maybe to start a new tradition with your favorite people. better still, try to find a way to combine the two? Social gatherings are definitely favored now.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
Hold on - something (or someone) decidedly different is coming your way. It could be a piece of hot gossip or some excellent advice, or it could be your new crush. Your patience is sure to be rewarded.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Life looks really busy right now, but try not to get too distracted - social business deserves all your focus, and taking the time to concentrate on romantic issues could yield the greatest gift of all.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Someone - maybe, but not necessarily you - is avoiding a big issue, dodging a question or just generally refusing to deal. Your efforts to drag it all out in the open should be rewarded by some lovely forward motion.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Romantic communication is strongly favored today, so follow up with that one crush or the friend who has been hinting they want to set you up. For tonight, plan to just settle in, calm down and think deep thoughts.

Pisces
Feb.19-Mar. 20
Get it together today - you're more frazzled than festive for now. Exercise or take time out to just space out, recharge that romantic energy, and you should be hot stuff by later tonight.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

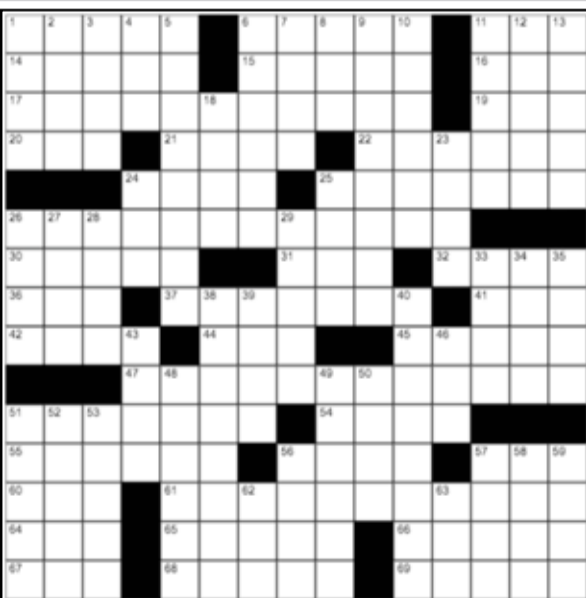
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	19	26	cloudy
Harbin	12	25	clear
Tianjin	20	28	cloudy/overcast
Urumqi	13	23	clear
Xi'an	19	30	cloudy/clear
Lhasa	9	23	shower/drizzle
Chengdu	17	21	shower
Chongqing	19	21	drizzle
Kunming	16	24	shower
Nanjing	20	28	cloudy
Shanghai	24	28	overcast/drizzle
Wuhan	16	29	cloudy
Hangzhou	20	26	overcast/shower
Taipei	24	30	drizzle
Guangzhou	24	32	cloudy
Hong Kong	26	32	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	13	23	drizzle
Frankfurt	13	25	overcast/cloudy
Paris	14	26	cloudy/clear
London	13	22	overcast/drizzle
New York	17	29	moderate rain

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1-Sacred song; 6- Japanese beer brand; 11- Appomattox figure; 14-Up ___ (trapped); 15- Golf gimme; 16- The Altar; 17- Revoke; 19- ___ King Cole; 20- Barley bristle; 21- I cannot tell ___; 22- Widen; 24- ___ well...; 25-Public sale; 26- Capital of Utah; 30- Rock and Roll Hall of Fame architect; 31-Apr. addressee; 32- Broccoli ___ (leafy vegetable); 36- Excavate; 37- Censure; 41- Mauna ___; 42- Mild cheese; 44- Future fish; 45- Collect; 47- Article of underwear; 51- Teachings; 54- A single time; 55- Midday nap; 56- Dorothy's dog; 57- Wander about; 60- ___ Lingus (Irish carrier); 61- Occupancy; 64-Acapulco aunt; 65- Carol start; 66- Silly; 67- ___-disant (self-styled); 68- More current; 69- Gave a hoot;

DOWN: 1- Tailless rodent; 2- Pack away; 3- Make ___ for it; 4- Author Deighton; 5- Like chrome, nickel, or steel; 6- In danger; 7- Ditto; 8- Therapists' org.; 9- Religion of India; 10- Charge with a crime; 11- Polynesian porch; 12- Muse of poetry; 13- Devoured; 18- First name in scat; 23- Interstellar dist.; 24- Corroded; 25- Land unit; 26- Pro or con; 27- In the middle of; 28- Annika Sorenstam's org.; 29- Down source; 33- Wings; 34-Cap'n's underling; 35- Sunrise direction; 38- Artillery; 39- Denials; 40- Addictive substance; 43- Rumples; 46- Marseille Mrs.; 48- Idea; 49- Peanut; 50- Dissenter; 51- Atty.-to-be exams; 52- Refrain in a children's song; 53- Caravansary; 56- Domesticated; 57- Growl; 58- Teen spots?; 59- Colored; 62- In what way; 63- Santa ___;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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HKD 4,715sq ft
Three Bedroom Apartment
Ref: 18065557

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

Manhattan D unit, High Floor
Taipa
2,305 sq ft / HKD 17.98M
HKD 7,800sq ft
Four Bedrooms Apartment
Ref: 18075558

Lakeview, Macau
Macau
3 Bedrooms Apartment Front Balcony
HKD 30,000 / 3,430 sq ft
Ref: 18060680

Violet Court, Helene Gardens
Coloane
2,530sq ft / HKD 20M
HKD 7,905sq ft
Beautifully Designed Apartment
Ref: 18035546

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FOOTBALL | UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE

Mbappe, Giroud score as France makes successful return home

Samuel Petrequin, Paris

FRANCE 2, THE NETHERLANDS 1

ANY lingering doubts that Kylian Mbappe is French soccer's most valuable jewel were erased yesterday as the teenage striker celebrated the world champions' return home with a superb display — and a goal — in a 2-1 win over the Netherlands.

Back to its home ground at the Stade de France for the first time since winning the World Cup in July, France was treated to an ecstatic welcome by nearly 80,000 fans, and 19-year-old Mbappe was the best player in the UEFA Nations League game.

The PSG striker, who grew up in the Paris suburbs, exposed Dutch defenders from the start with his fast pace and control. He almost put France ahead in the first minute, broke the deadlock in the 14th and created havoc near and inside the Dutch box throughout the game with the trademark dribbles that helped him become one of the stars of the World Cup in Russia.

Mbappe, who was the first teenager to score in a World Cup final since Pele in 1958, netted his ninth goal for France.

Ryan Babel scored a second-half equalizer as France struggled physically in the closing stages, but Olivier Giroud gave France a deserved win with 15 minutes left with a stunning left-foot volley that ended a 10-match personal goal drought. It was Giroud's 32nd international goal, a tally that makes



him France's outright fourth highest-scoring player ahead of Zinedine Zidane.

The celebration party started well before kickoff with video footage depicting fans celebrating across the country on July 15 when France defeated Croatia 4-2 in the World Cup final. The highlights of France's campaign were then played on big screens, with every French goal igniting big roars in the stands.

The party continued after the match with a sound and light show consisting of the France players introduced one-by-one

before a lap of honor with the World Cup trophy.

"The win was the most important thing in order to make this a beautiful party," France coach Didier Deschamps said. "I'm very happy for Olivier Giroud. Strikers go through periods when they don't score as many goals. He's useful to our play and he scored a lovely goal that gave us the win this evening."

Although the French players struggled in the final 20 minutes of their 0-0 draw in Germany on Thursday, Deschamps named an unchanged team,

with 10 of the 11 players who began the World Cup final on the field. Skipper Hugo Lloris, who is out injured, was the only one missing, replaced by Paris Saint-Germain keeper Alphonse Areola.

Frenkie de Jong, the 21-year-old creative Ajax midfielder, made his full debut for the Netherlands as coach Ronald Koeman deployed a 4-3-3 formation for his team's start in the new UEFA competition.

France dominated the first half and almost took the lead in the first minute when Mbappe

fired a right-footed shot, which was saved by Netherlands' keeper Jasper Cillessen.

Mbappe had another effort from close range stopped by Cillessen a few minutes later as the Dutch struggled to keep hold of the ball. Mbappe scored in the 14th after Blaise Matuidi made the most of a poor clearance from Georginio Wijnaldum near the area and sent in a precise cross which Mbappe converted with a tap in.

Deschamps' players were happy to leave the ball possession to their rivals after they broke the deadlock. France's midfield looked as solid as usual, with Paul Pogba and N'Golo Kante quick to recover the ball and to launch counterattacks, while France's back four enjoyed a quiet night.

Mbappe pushed for more goals after the interval with long-range shots and bursts of speed. His strike partners Giroud and Antoine Griezmann had a more subdued performance but both contributed well to the defensive effort.

Against the run of play, Wijnaldum had a good chance to level in the 66th when he got past Samuel Umtiti but he fluffed his shot wide from close range. The Dutch took their chance in the next minute at the conclusion of a quick move that caught the French napping. Kenny Tete played a one-two and crossed the ball for Babel, who beat Areola at the right post.

Les Bleus pushed hard to get back in the lead and Giroud, who had missed a couple of chances earlier, was rewarded for his hard work in the 75th.

Giroud was picked out by substitute Benjamin Mendy and unleashed a perfectly timed shot.

"We reacted well after a poor spell, even though we felt a bit tired," Matuidi said. "Olivier Giroud's goal did us a lot of good, he always works hard and we're all behind him." **AP**

FOOTBALL

China appoints Hiddink in hope of Olympic success

CHINA'S soccer federation announced yesterday it has appointed Dutch coach Guus Hiddink to lead the country's under-21 team to the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo.

The 71-year-old, who took the senior Netherlands and South Korean teams to the World Cup semi-finals in 1998 and 2002 respectively, joins senior national team coach Marcello Lippi on the payroll of the Chinese Football Association (CFA).

Hiddink, who has coached Real Madrid and Chelsea as well as Russia, Turkey and Australia, has

a tough job on his hands to take China to the Olympics despite his experience in Asia.

The country has never qualified for the tournament with its sole appearance coming in 2008 when Beijing hosted the games. Hiddink, who had been linked with the national team jobs in Colombia and the Netherlands, is under no illusions about the size of the task.

"There is still a lot of work to do," Hiddink said in an interview with Dutch media after watching the team perform in a recent friendly tournament.

"To be honest, there were only four or five players in China who I thought: 'Yes, they are usable.' The rest came physically, tactically, conditionally and technically pretty short."

To take China to Tokyo would rank alongside many achievements in Hiddink's long career.

With Japan hosting, there are only three spots available for Asian teams at the 2020 Olympic Games and those places come through the Asia U23 Championship in January 2020. Qualification for that tournament takes place next March. **AP**



Dutch coach Guus Hiddink

opinion

Our Desk

Julie Zhu



FOLLOWERS' DISEASE

Being a follower, as opposed to a leader, Macau is in need of some kind of new medical treatment which the world's geniuses have not yet invented.

Macau's disease, resulting from being a follower, does not seem to bother me, nor does it spur me to help myself to get rid of it. It's not like having a cold, which I know prompts me to immediately wear a mask in order not to pass the germs to other people. Macau's follower's disease even leads me to poison other people, strangers and friends alike.

Here are some of the symptoms.

Macau does what is right or what is wrong according to exact sciences. Macau does whatever those people, who happen to be ahead of us, are currently doing; it does not matter whether those 'leaders' are right or wrong. At the end of the day, Macau just follows.

In the past, societies ahead of Macau accused men of having diseases because they loved other men and accused women of loving other women. Nowadays, with that past long gone in most of these societies, there are still parts of Macau and even Hong Kong throwing rocks at people because they love someone who shares their gender.

These days, if a yellow duck becomes popular, or if a song or a person reaches high levels of popularity in a community that is ahead of Macau, Macau just follows. Let's bring the duck, the song, or that person to Macau.

Naturally, this is not wrong, nor sinful, as long as what Macau follows stands for something good. What I am trying to say is that followers must have a lot of luck to ensure each thing they follow will bring them something that is right and not wrong.

I consider that many years ago, Chinese communities in Macau were still chewing food with their mouth open, a gesture now considered to be extremely ill-mannered. These people were labeled by other communities simply because they would eat with their mouths open.

Many years have now gone by, and the Macau Chinese communities are past these moments when they were depicted as inelegant.

With this, I am not trying to discuss the topic of "Eating with Mouth Open". By giving this example, it shows how a community does what its contemporary "heroes" do.

How Macau deals with most of its own business comes down to acknowledging how Macau's idols conduct themselves.

It does not necessarily need to be related to policies, as many times Macau, creates its policies based on its own internal situation.

However, in circumstances where people do not need to face cameras and they can finally comment upon things with their own opinions, it is clear how much Macau is nothing but a true follower.

Once again, let me clarify that there is nothing wrong with being a follower, although it is just not fun. But, after all, who cares if Macau is fun or not?

THE BUZZ IN FIRST KEY SPEECH, NEW UN HUMAN RIGHTS CHIEF AIRS CONCERNS

The new U.N. human rights chief warned Monday about abuses worldwide, citing among others the Trump administration's "unconscionable" separations of migrant families and urging the European Union to create a dedicated search and rescue operation for migrants in the Mediterranean sea.

Michelle Bachelet made her first address to the Human Rights Council as it opened a three-week session yesterday. The former Chilean president, once a political detainee herself, became U.N. High

Commissioner for Human Rights this month.

Bachelet denounced a lack of "redress" for migrant families who were separated by U.S. authorities after being detained in a now-discontinued practice of separating children from their families.

She encouraged the European Union to ensure access to asylum and rights protections, and faulted the government of member country Italy in particular for "political posturing" with its policy of denying entry to NGO rescue ships.

Moonves becomes latest powerful exec felled in #MeToo era

David Bauder, New York

THE #MeToo movement fighting sexual misconduct had already claimed one of Hollywood's top movie moguls in Harvey Weinstein. Now it has done the same for Leslie Moonves, one of the television industry's most powerful executives.

The CBS Corp. announced its chairman's exit yesterday [Macau time], hours after The New Yorker magazine posted a story with a second round of ugly accusations against Moonves. A total of 12 women have alleged mistreatment, including forced oral sex, groping and retaliation if they resisted him. Moonves denied the charges in a pair of statements, although he said he had consensual relations with three of the women.

CBS said USD20 million will be donated to one or more organizations that support #MeToo and workplace equality for women. That sum will be deducted from any severance due Moonves, a figure that won't be determined until an outside investigation led by a pair of law firms is finished.

The network's chief operating officer, Joseph Ianniello, will take over Moonves' duties as president and CEO until its board of directors can find a permanent replacement, CBS said.

It has been nearly a year since Pulitzer Prize-winning articles by The New York Times and the New Yorker exposed a pattern of misconduct by Weinstein, who now faces sex crime charges in New York.

Matt Lauer, Charlie Rose and Kevin Spacey are among other figures that lost jobs after men and women came forward with their own stories, often on social media with the hashtag MeToo, about sexually inappropriate behavior by powerful men.

Moonves ruled first the programming, then the full network and other corporate entities such as Showtime for two decades. CBS has consistently been the most-watched network on television, even as changes transformed the industry, first with cable networks investing in shows and then streaming services like Netflix. He's been paid handsomely for his



Leslie Moonves: the "appalling accusations" are untrue

success, earning just under \$70 million in both 2017 and 2016.

Yet accusations emerged against the affable, raspy-voiced former actor last month, when six women accused him of misconduct similar to what came out yesterday. CBS announced an internal probe yet Moonves, who was also involved in a separate power struggle that threatened his future control of the company, remained in charge. In recent days, however, reports leaked that the CBS board and Moonves, 68, were discussing an exit plan. Reports that it could include a multi-million dollar payout provoked some online anger.

The latest allegations were not addressed in CBS' announcement of Moonves' exit.

One of the accusers who came forth in the New Yorker's article on Sunday, Phyllis Golden-Gottlieb, also filed a complaint with the Los Angeles police last year, but no charges were filed because the statute of limitations had expired. She said Moonves, while an executive at the Lorimar production studio in the late 1980s, pushed her head into his lap and forced her to perform oral sex.

At another time, she said an angry Moonves pushed her hard against a wall. When she resisted later advances, she began to be frozen out at the company, she said.

"He absolutely ruined my

career," she told The New Yorker.

Another woman, Jessica Pallington, said Moonves forced her to perform oral sex on her first day working as his assistant at Warner Bros. productions. Other women told the magazine of unwanted touching or advances.

■ CBS will donate USD20m to one or more organizations that support #MeToo and workplace equality for women

In a statement to the magazine, Moonves said the "appalling accusations" are untrue, but he acknowledged consensual relations with three of the women before he started working at CBS. Moonves was married at the time; he divorced his first wife and married CBS on-air personality Julie Chen in 2004.

"I have never used my position to hinder the advancement or careers of women," he said. **AP**

Station	Air quality	Icon
Roadside	40-60 Moderate	☹️
High Density Residential Area	40-60 Moderate	☹️
Ambient	60-80 Moderate	☹️

SOURCE: D5IMG

WORLD BRIEFS

AFGHANISTAN Taliban insurgents launched separate attacks on Afghan security forces in the country's north, killing at least 52, provincial officials said yesterday.



IRAQ A sense of calm has returned to Iraq's southern city of Basra after a week of violent protests over unemployment and poor public services that left at least 15 people dead and threatened stability in the oil-rich region.

GREECE Regional authorities are threatening to shut a migrant camp on the Aegean Sea island of Lesbos unless the government takes quick action to improve conditions there.



LIBYA Security forces loyal to Libya's U.N.-backed government yesterday stormed the headquarters of the country's national oil company in the capital Tripoli shortly after gunmen invaded the building, shooting randomly, setting off explosions and taking hostages.

SWEDEN was looking at weeks of uncertainty and complex coalition talks after the country's two rival blocs failed to secure a clear governing majority in elections. However, both have vowed not to work with the Sweden Democrats, an anti-immigrant party with roots in a neo-Nazi movement.

More on p14



FRANCE Petanque players in Paris who helped in the apprehension of a knife-wielding man have been lauded yesterday for their bravery as French authorities opened a murder investigation into the attacks that saw seven people injured.