



CASINO SHARES MELTDOWN CONTINUES
Gaming stocks plunged again on the back of growing concerns over the softening Chinese economy

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RESIDENTS' GAMBLING PARTICIPATION RATE DECLINES

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22,000 TAIWANESE APPLY FOR MAINLAND RESIDENCE PERMITS
More than 22,000 Taiwanese applied for residence permits in the Chinese mainland in ten days

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WORLD BRIEFS

SINGAPORE A disc jockey is challenging a law that bans sex between men, a holdover from British colonial days that conservatives insist on keeping but authorities have promised not to enforce. *More on p12*

PHILIPPINES At least 14 people, mostly elderly villagers, died when the brakes of an overloaded passenger van failed while traveling on a winding road, sending it down a ravine in a mountain province in the northern Philippines.



JAPAN Signs of undersea volcanic eruptions were detected at Iwo Jima, the site of one of the bloodiest battles in World War II, meteorological and defense officials said yesterday.

AFGHANISTAN The Taliban are ready for a second round of talks with the U.S., possibly this month, which is likely to focus on prisoner exchanges, confidence building measures, and ways to move from back-door meetings to formal negotiations. *More on p13*



ALGERIA Heads have been rolling in the Algerian army, the North African nation's most respected institution, and in other security services, with generals in top posts fired — without explanation — at a rate never before seen.

More on backpage

SUPER TYPHOON

People on stock run as Mangkhut closes in

P2-3



Major Russia war games with China begin

P11

Mainland wants closer anti-graft cooperation

Yang Xiaodu, a member of the political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and head of the National Supervisory, has expressed his desire to enhance the cooperation between the Chinese mainland and Macau in fighting corruption, thereby promoting healthy development of the economy and society across both regions. Yang made the remarks during a meeting with André Cheong, chief of Macau's Commission Against Corruption. Speaking highly of the mainland's achievements in fighting corruption, Cheong expressed his hope that exchange and cooperation to jointly fight corruption would become stronger and that integrity would prevail.

Lawmaker calls for better non-tertiary education

Lawmaker Si Ka Lon has suggested that Macau should improve its non-tertiary education. In his written inquiry to the government, Si pointed out that only 62 percent of the city's primary school courses were conducted with intense pace. Furthermore, he remarked that 36 percent of primary and secondary schools have open courses, and that in only 36 percent of primary and secondary school courses students will raise questions. Si declared that Macau's "teaching methods lack diversity and innovation, and that this shortage is related to the professional training courses provided by the government to the teaching staff."

Industrial accident causes one death

A 23-year-old mainland worker has died in an industrial accident, while a second 35-year-old mainland worker has sustained injuries to both of his arms. The accident took place on Sunday morning at a construction site on R. dos Pescadores. The Labor Affairs Bureau has already issued an order to suspend operations to the contractor, and further required the construction site to deliver an investigative report on the accident.

TYPHOON

Barijat passes with whimper, Mangkhut expected to thunder

Renato Marques

AFTER the passage of typhoon Barijat yesterday, which caused no damage or significant disruption to the city's daily activities, the region is already preparing for another storm — typhoon Mangkhut — one that has already been classified as a super typhoon and is currently heading toward the South China coast.

According to several weather observatories reports, including the Macau Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) and the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO), the storm has a large circulation with intense winds and will pose a considerable threat to the coast of

Guangdong.

According to the experts, the super typhoon will enter the South China Sea this Saturday and move quickly towards the coast of Guangdong. Although there are still uncertainties about its trajectory, it is expected that Mangkhut will bring adverse weather to the regions of Macau, Hong Kong and the coastal cities of southern China. Presently, the forecasts available predict that the effects of the typhoon will reach their peak in Macau on Sunday, bringing thunders-torms and heavy rain as well as very rough sea conditions.

As it often occurs during these weather conditions, it is expected

that the sea level will be elevated and flooding of a certain degree is expected in the low-lying areas of several districts of Macau.

According to a report from weather website AccuWeather, Mangkhut is expected to bring the threat of flooding, rainfall and strong winds from the Philippines and Taiwan into China early next week.

The strengthening cyclone passed by Guam on Monday evening, bringing peak wind gusts of 130 km/h to the island before it reached its current super typhoon status.

"Even further strengthening is expected with Mangkhut as it moves westward toward land," said AccuWeather Se-

nior Meteorologist Adam Douy, adding, "If sustained wind speeds of 220 km/h are reached, Mangkhut will not only be a super typhoon, but also equivalent to a Category 5 hurricane in the Atlantic and eastern Pacific."

Weather specialists are closely following the effects of Mangkhut in the northern Philippines region of Luzon as well as in Batanes, the Babuyan Islands, and the southern areas of Taiwan.

On this topic, Philippines disaster agency Executive Director Ricardo Jalad said, "residents in coastal areas must be evacuated by Thursday [today], when heavy rains are expected."

According to the same official, quoted by

Bloomberg, "water level in three dams in northern Luzon are already high and may have to be released as the storm moves westward."

If it keeps to the forecasted trajectory, the weather experts note that the typhoon "may weaken slightly; however, it is expected to at the very least remain a very powerful typhoon."

The Social Welfare Bureau president, Vong Yim Mui, speaking on the sidelines on the opening ceremony of the "Hato Education Sponsorship Fund," said that Macau is prepared for the upcoming typhoon and that all 16 shelters running under the Bureau's supervision "are already prepared and ready to enter into ope-

'Hato effect' revealed in typhoon passage

ALTHOUGH typhoon Barijat passed fairly peacefully, the weather phenomenon has shed light on a so-called "Hato effect" with many residents rushing to bakery shops and supermarkets to stock up on essential goods such as bread and bottled water.

In several shops yesterday, supplies of bottled water from the most popular brands were sold-out and others were becoming more scarce as the afternoon turned to evening.

In consequence, the Consumer Council yesterday issued a statement noting that the Council and the Economic Bureau has met with local wholesalers and retailers of groceries and bottled water to understand the current inventory.

The meeting was explained as a tentative move to ensure the continuous supply of water and other vital products. The Consumer Council also encouraged the population to report any unscrupulous acts of retailers, in particular the phenomena of



Water bottle supplies running thin at a supermarket on the peninsula

suddenly raising prices, known as "price gouging."

As normal, schools in the territory had their lower level classes of kindergarten and primary education suspended yesterday afternoon due to the hoisting of typhoon signal 3.

Otherwise Barijat caused no

major disruption to other aspects such as transportation, with the Macau International Airport Co. Ltd. (CAM) registering the cancellation of only four departing and arriving flights, namely the Xiamen Airlines flights to Jinjiang and Fuzhou on the mainland, sche-

duled for yesterday afternoon.

Meanwhile, ferry services to and from the neighboring regions of Hong Kong, Guangzhou (Nansha), Shekou and Shenzhen Airport continued as per normal all day, according to TurboJET and Cotai Water Jet operators. **RM**

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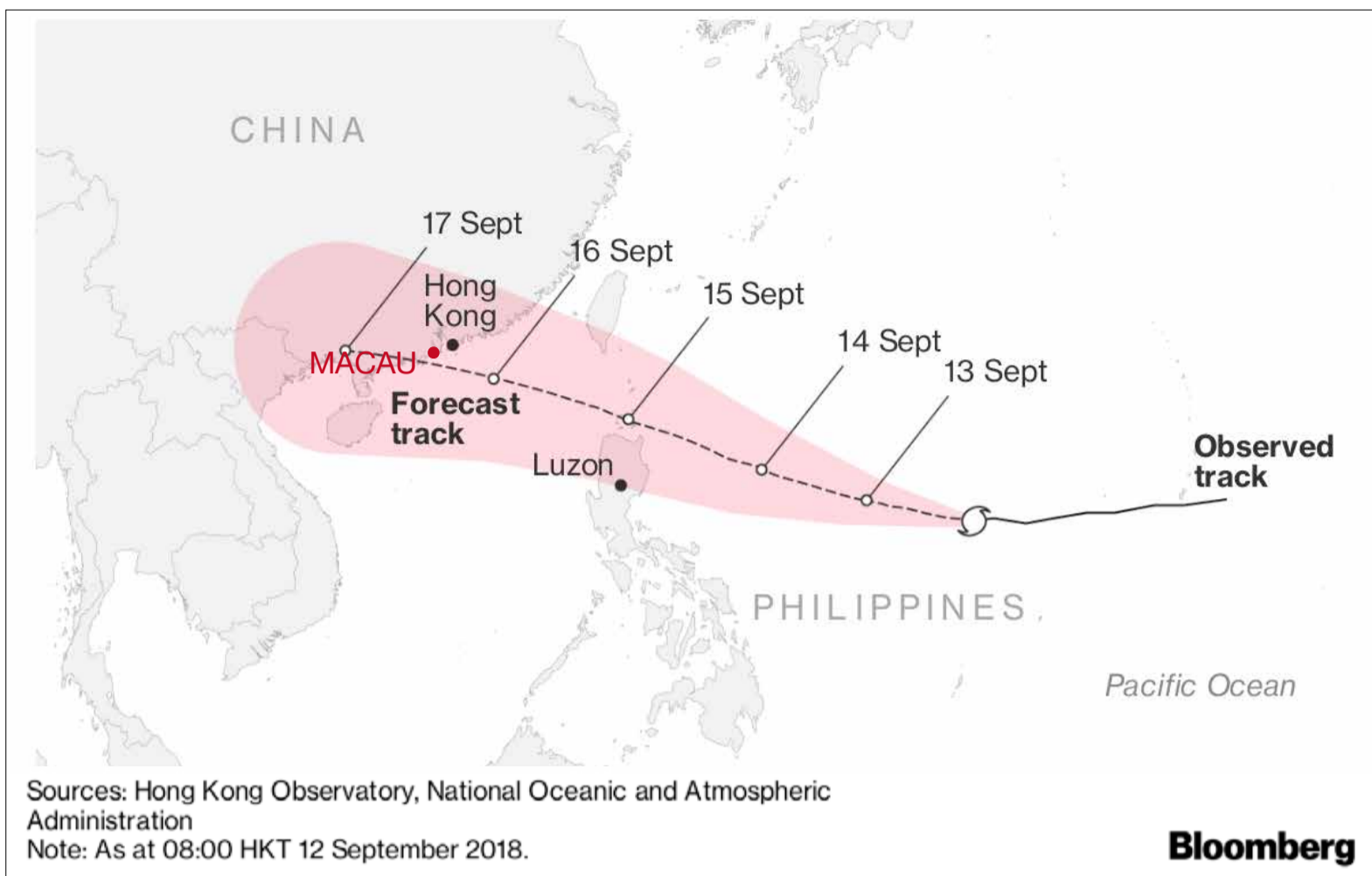
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Fireworks rescheduled to avoid 'unstable weather conditions'

THE fireworks displays by the French and Portuguese teams in the Macao International Fireworks Display Contest will be rescheduled to a later date, according to a statement released by the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO).

“According to the weather forecast of Macao Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau, Macau will be under the influence of unstable weather conditions this weekend. Therefore, the fireworks displays (by French and Portuguese teams) originally scheduled on the third night, this Saturday (September 15) by the Macao International Fireworks Display Contest, as well as the Fireworks Carnival on the same night, will be rescheduled to another date. Residents’ and visitors’ kind attention and understanding for the above change are appreciated,” the statement reads.

The updated schedule of fireworks displays will be announced by MGTO at a later time and uploaded on MGTO’s website.

Yesterday, the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) also announced that the bureau will remove potentially dangerous festive lighting from Senado Square.

“The festive lighting was originally planned to be lit up from mid-September to early October. However, as the typhoon is approaching Macau, it is expected that the bad weather might damage the lighting,” IACM statement reads.

ration as soon as the government decides.”

According to Vong, the Bureau has some 190 staff ready and

trained to face the primary needs of residents in case of a serious typhoon that would require residents to

take shelter. As a precautionary measure, the government has ordered the removal of the decora-

tion materials for the celebration of the mid-autumn festival as well as postponing, until an undisclosed date, the

performance display of the teams of France and Portugal in the Macao International Fireworks Contest.

Secretary Wong convenes Civil Protection

THE Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, held a meeting yesterday to discuss the response mechanism in place to address typhoon Barijat and especially in response to the upcoming super typhoon Mangkhut, the Government Information Bureau said in a statement.

The meeting, at which 29 representatives of the structure of the Civil Protection were present, as well as a representative of the garrison of the People’s Liberation Army, discussed current information on the storms, as well as the latest

forecast for the super typhoon, with Wong noting that efforts relating to the disclosure of accurate information should be prioritized in order to “address quickly ... the [spreading] of rumors.”

On another topic, the Secretary noted the need to ensure the access of the population to basic needs such as water, electricity and communication, calling on the members of the Civil Protection to be alert and able to provide a prompt response, especially in cases where the evacuation of people from low-lying areas is required.



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News at hand



“THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’”

GAMING

Macau casino stock meltdown continues

Daniel Beitler

MACAU casino stocks plunged again yesterday on the back of growing concerns that the softening Chinese economy is dampening the allure of the city's high-roller baccarat tables. After the second straight day of losses, Macau gambling shares are down double-digits compared to the week-start. The index for Macau casino operators is down 11 percent so far this week.

In Hong Kong trading yesterday, MGM China fell by 7.42 percent, while Wynn Macau and Sands China were down by 3.28 percent and 3.72 percent respectively, adding to losses accumulated earlier in the week.

The biggest losers this week were MGM China (-17.4 percent) and SJM Holdings (-12.7 percent), while Wynn Macau and Sands China held out above their rivals.

In the case of the former, Wynn Macau had already seen a steady decline in its share price since June, due in part to a troubling year of scandals



and investor infighting, while Sands China may have escaped the brunt of the impact due to its recent focus on developing the mass-market segment over VIP.

Galaxy, Wynn Macau, Sands China and MGM China were all sitting at 52-week lows at yesterday's close.

The casino stock crash comes just a few weeks before China's October Golden Week, traditionally one of the most lucrative

weeks in the gaming calendar.

Jonathan Galligan, brokerage CLSA's head of Asia gaming research, told the Financial Times yesterday that the bearish movement was driven by concerns over the Chinese economy, rather than any performance shift in local gaming operators.

It is a view shared by many gaming analysts, who this week slashed their forecasts for Macau revenue growth next year

- in some cases by more than half. The consensus view is that gross gaming revenue next year could amount to just 4 percent, compared with the double-digit growth anticipated for this year.

UBS, Deutsche Bank and Sanford C. Bernstein all indicated that structural changes to Macau's largest customer market, mainland China, would likely hit the gambling enclave hard. They worry that trade tensions between China and the U.S. will hurt Chinese consumer spending and deter punters from visiting Macau.

U.S. casino parent companies were also down slightly yesterday. Las Vegas Sands and Wynn Resorts were both down about 1

percent, whereas the less-exposed MGM Resorts held flat.

On Sunday, the heads of some of the U.S.'s leading financial institutions, including Blackstone, Citigroup, Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan and Morgan Stanley, are expected to convene at a short-notice roundtable and meeting with China's vice president, Wang Qishan, to discuss the ongoing Sino-US trade war.

China and the U.S. have locked horns over trade disputes that have resulted in several rounds of tariffs on their respective exports. Neither side has shown signs of retreating and analysts fear the situation will worsen over the coming months.

BIG SIX SHARE PRICE CHANGE SINCE WEEK-START

Company	Change
MGM China Holdings	-17.4%
SJM Holdings Ltd	-12.7%
Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd	-10.8%
Melco Int'l Development Ltd	-10.7%
Wynn Macau Ltd	-9.5%
Sands China Ltd	-7.6%

Sanya tourism chief wants int'l airports in Hainan, MSAR

CHINA'S tourism city Sanya, Hainan is looking for a deeper cooperation with Macau in regards to tourism.

On Tuesday, Sanya's tourism development committee held a campaign in Macau to promote tourism in Sanya.

Pang Yongda, Head of the promotional department of the Sanya Tourism Development Commission (the Commission),

expressed his hope that by working together, both Macau and Sanya would be able to turn their own airports into international transportation hubs.

According to Pang, since May 1 this year, when Sanya launched a visa-free policy targeting nationals of 59 countries, more than 100,000 overseas tourists have traveled to Sanya under the policy.

In the middle of July,

a direct flight between Sanya and Macau was inaugurated. According to Pang, the flight not only provides a convenient mode of transportation between the two places, but also enhances economic and trade cooperation, human and cultural communication, and tourism communication between Macau and Sanya.

The flight is also said to pose an advantage in

terms of transportation for international tourists, who will visit Sanya and Macau under visa-free policies.

Yu Dandan, director of the Commission tourism sales center, revealed that since the launch of the Sanya-Macau flight, the number of Macau tourists in Sanya has increased.

Through this promotional campaign in Macau, Sanya hopes to attract



more Macau residents and to increase the flight seat occupancy rate.

The Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) has already received an invitation from Sanya to attend a tourism event in November. MGTO hopes

to promote Macau's events and tourism industry while attending the event.

Hainan United Airlines Travel Group also said that the company will explore further and better tourism products aimed at Macau's market.

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Macau residents' gambling participation rate decreases

FEWER Macau residents are taking to gambling, according to the latest responsible gambling work report published jointly by the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ), Social Affairs Bureau (IAS) and the University of Macau (UM).

Macau residents' gambling participation rate decreased from 67.9 percent in 2003 to 51.5 percent in 2016, the latest year for which data was collected, according to a study that surveyed 2,000 local people. Extrapolated, that means that, as of 2016, more than half of the population wagered at least one bet during the course of the year.

Since the government launched the responsible gambling promotional campaign back in 2009, Macau residents' participation rate in casino gambling has decreased from 20.7 percent in 2010 to 10.4 percent in 2016.

A survey conducted by UM in 2016 showed that 51 among the 2,000 people surveyed had a gambling disorder. UM estimated, based on the aforementioned number, that there could be as



DICJ Director Paulo Martins Chan speaking at the responsible gambling event yesterday

many as 14,102 Macau residents with gambling disorders.

In addition, the city's gaming operators provided statistics of gambling disorder assistance phone requests to the DICJ. According to them, in 2017, gaming operators received 41 requests concerning gambling disorders. Moreover, there were 11 face-to-face gambling disorder assistance requests. Phone call assistance requests have been increasing since 2015.

Other assistance requests were made through WeChat and email, among other methods.

In 2017, gaming operators transferred six gambling disorder cases to specialized treatment organizations.

In the whole year of 2017, IAS's 24-hour hotline and online gambling guidance services offered assistance in 1,206 and 1,480 occurrences, respectively.

Also in 2017, 157 people registered in the IAS's central registra-

tion system of gambling disorder. In 2016 and 2015, 141 and 147 people had registered. In 2017, 376 people were banned from entering casinos.

According to the city's law, any individual can apply to the DICJ director to ban themselves from entering some or all casinos. The same application can be made by their qualified relatives. Such a ban lasts two years at most.

In 2017, 316 individuals made the applications themselves, while 60 applications were made by relatives. In 2015 and in 2016, 355 and 351 people respectively, had approval issued by the DICJ director to be separated from casinos.

In 2017, the city's social service organizations spent a total of MOP27 million in events related to responsible gambling. IAS alone fully sponsored a gambling disorder prevention project, having invested MOP23 million into the project.

The total expenditure has been increasing over the past three years. In 2015, the total expenditure was MOP18 million. The next year, the expenditure climbed to MOP23 million. **JZ**

DICJ has not received the 13 hotel's casino license application

The Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ) has not received a gaming license application from any concessionaire on the behalf of the 13 Hotel. DICJ Director Paulo Martins Chan disclosed the information yesterday, on the sidelines of the Responsible Gambling Promotion 2018 Kick-off Ceremony at the University of Macau. "I must reaffirm that any casino applications must be made through the concessionaires. We have not received an application from the concerned hotel," said Chan. Regarding the possibility of a casino operation in Coloane, the DICJ director commented, "this has to be complemented with overall urban planning. We will refer to the urban planning department's opinion [regarding Coloane's future plan]. Temporarily, we have not received any application regarding building casinos in Coloane," said Chan.

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22,000 Taiwanese apply for mainland residence permits in 10 days

MORE than 22,000 Taiwan residents have applied for residence permits in the Chinese mainland as of September 10, An Fengshan, spokesperson for the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council, said yesterday.

A new regulation came into effect on Sept. 1 that allows residents of Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan to apply for residence permits in the Chinese mainland.

According to the regulation, holders of the residence permit will be able to use it to register vehicles, apply for driver's licenses, take professional qualification exams, purchase tickets online and check-in at hotels.

A total of 2,111 Macau and Hong Kong residents have applied for mainland residential permits in Zhuhai, according to the Zhuhai

Police authority, of which the first batch of 752 residential permits have already been issued.

According to the authority, as of Saturday afternoon, the city of Zhuhai had received 2,111 applications from SAR residents for the mainland residential permit.

The regulation can provide more convenience to people from Taiwan in terms of their study, work and daily life in the mainland, An said, noting that the number of people applying for the permit shows that this regulation brings benefits and is well received by Taiwan compatriots including business people, young entrepreneurs, teachers and students.

This regulation is among the efforts to ensure that people from Taiwan can share the mainland's development opportunities and enjoy the same treatment as main-

land residents when they live in the mainland, An said.

Applying for the permit is voluntary, not a requirement, An said.

An also criticized the Democratic Progressive Party administration for deliberately defaming and obstructing the new policy.

In terms of economic exchanges across the Taiwan Strait, An said over 10,000 young Taiwanese have taken internships, found jobs or started businesses in the mainland's entrepreneurship bases and pilot sites by the end of June.

So far, the mainland has set up 76 such entrepreneurship bases and pilot sites where young people from Taiwan can enjoy preferential policies to find jobs or start businesses.

The film and television industry also saw an increase in cross-strait exchanges and cooperation, An said. **MDT/Xinhua**

TUI ends consideration of Sou's appeal over AL mandate suspension



Sulu Sou pictured at the Legislative Assembly

THE Court of Final Appeal (TUI) has made public its decision to terminate the consideration of an appeal submitted by lawmaker Sulu Sou regarding the legal grounds of his mandate suspension by the Legislative Assembly (AL).

The justification of the court states that the appeal was "dismissed as unnecessary" according to the Article 84 (e) of the Code of Administrative Litigation and Article 229 (e) of the Code of Civil Procedure, since a favorable decision on such an appeal would result in the return of the lawmaker to his seat in the AL, which has already happened.

Since the mandate of

Sou was already reestablished, the court decided that it was useless to continue to analyze the appeal.

Sou's Lawyer, Jorge Menezes, told the Times he agrees with the justifications of the Court, although noted that the intentions behind the appeal go "further than the interest of Sou alone." Menezes added that what was on the line was public interest and "to know in fact what are the powers of the AL and its relation with the judicial powers."

The lawyer said that there is still a possibility to appeal the decision but he has not yet discussed this with his client. **RM**

Sands launches sponsorship fund for Hato victims

SANDS China officially established a Hato Education Sponsorship Fund yesterday, benefitting six children and young adults who lost a parent to Typhoon Hato.

The gaming operator will provide a total of MOP6 million to the beneficiaries, with MOP1 million allocated to each recipient.

The financial assistance covers areas including tuition fees up to tertiary studies, extracurricular activities, school supplies and study materials.

Up to 40 percent of the fund may be used for edu-

cational purposes. The fund under this purpose is capped at MOP30,000 per financial year.

The fund will be valid until the beneficiaries reach 30 years of age.

"After understanding the dire situation of children and young adults whose families suffered severe losses, we began developing a plan to help. This education fund will provide crucial support for their studies," said Sands China Ltd. president Dr. Wilfred Wong.

The new fund was established in cooperation with Fidelidade - Insurance Company Limited

(Life), who will pay the educational fees directly to the institutions.

The company has pledged to donate a total of MOP65 million towards typhoon disaster relief in Macau.

Approximately MOP15 million of that has already been presented to the University of Saint Joseph to assist in repairing its storm-damaged campus. Another MOP2 million helped to repair the Macau Holy House of Mercy's elderly home, which had suffered damage, including major structural damage to its roof.

ART

Wu Li's works showcased in exhibition

THE exhibition "Beyond the Scenery: Exhibition Commemorating the 300th Anniversary of the Passing of Wu Li" features a total of 84 pieces, and sets of calligraphy and paintings by renowned Qing dynasty painter Wu Li from different times in his life, and works from some of his mentors and friends.

Showcased at the Macao Museum of Art, this is the first large-scale solo exhibition of Wu Li, with early half of the exhibits being presented to the public for the first time.

The album comprises of

eight leaves in total, depicting landscapes, figures, horses and carriages, processions and courtyards.

The Cultural Affairs Bureau informed in a statement that the exhibition also features Wu Li's masterpieces, such as "Collection of the Palace Museum 'Figures and Stories'," the fifth leaf of which describes the ancient story of Qu Yuan, a famous poet from the state of Chu during the Warring States Period, composing the poem Li Sao on the riverbank of the Miluo River.

In addition, another

piece "Collection of the Shanghai Museum 'Guqin gathering by the Fengxi River'," a long scroll painted in moist brushstrokes, is also being showcased.

During the reign of Emperor Kangxi, Wu Li came to Macau with Philippus Couplet (1624-1692), a Belgian Jesuit, to receive religious training at St. Paul's College, where he occasionally recorded his life in the postscripts of his paintings and the poetry collection Sanba Ji (Poems from St. Paul's).

The exhibition will be on show until November 11 at the Macao Museum of Art.

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China stocks near four-year low as buyers lack punch

CHINA'S policy makers care stuck with the most bearish equity market in years as their attempts to lift sentiment fail to gain traction.

The Shanghai Composite Index closed yesterday within just half a point of its lowest level since 2014, ignoring an article in the Securities Daily expressing support for the market and suggesting value investors should start buying. The benchmark fell 0.3 percent to 2,656.11.

Many measures this year have spurred temporary rebounds, but they've failed to really instill confidence in one of the world's worst-performing markets. Just three weeks ago, state-backed funds purchased stocks in a move that helped trigger a two-day bounce after the benchmark first dipped below its 2016 closing low.

"It takes more than cheap valuations to trigger a reversal in the market," said Ken Chen, an analyst with KGI Securities Co. in Shanghai. "The selloff looks far from over in the medium term. The real bottom for A shares will only emerge when we see a firm rebound in the economy and China completes its deleveraging drive to resolve financial risks."

Hong Kong's equity markets aren't doing much better - the city's benchmark Hang Seng Index fell into a bear market yesterday and was down 0.6 percent for the day.

China's recent steps pale in comparison to policies and restrictions the government imposed after the 2015 bubble burst, though those backfired as investors considered the moves too heavy-handed. This year's rout is now nearing USD2 trillion, which would be the nation's biggest wipeout of wealth in any calendar year since the global financial crisis, Bloomberg data show.

Stocks have come under pressure from the government's push to cut leverage in the financial system, which triggered higher default rates and tighter liquidity. They faced further challenges as the yuan weakened and a trade dispute blew up with the U.S., outweighing the valuation argument to buy.

Concern that China's economy will slow is once again dominating sentiment, just as it did when the Shanghai Composite closed at the 2,655.661 level in January 2016. It may take more than low multiples for the market to bottom this time round. **Bloomberg**

Crypto's crash just surpassed dot-com levels as losses reach 80 percent

The Higher They Rise...
Crypto rout has been faster, deeper than the dot-com bust



Michael Patterson

THE Great Crypto Crash of 2018 looks more and more like one for the record books.

As virtual currencies plumbed new depths yesterday, the MVIS CryptoCompare Digital Assets 10 Index extended its collapse from a January high to 80 percent. The tumble has now surpassed the Nasdaq Composite Index's 78 percent peak-to-trough decline after the dot-com bubble burst in 2000.

Like their predecessors during the internet stock boom almost two decades ago, cryptocurrency investors who bet big on a seemingly revolutionary technology are suffering a painful reality check.

The virtual-currency mania of 2017 - fueled by hopes that Bitcoin would become "digital gold" and

that blockchain-powered tokens would reshape industries from finance to food - has quickly given way to concerns about excessive hype, security flaws, market manipulation, tighter regulation and slower-than-anticipated adoption by Wall Street.

Crypto bulls dismiss negative comparisons to the dot-com era by pointing to the Nasdaq Composite's recovery to fresh highs 15 years later, and to the internet's enormous impact on society. They also note that Bitcoin has rebounded from past crashes of similar magnitude.

But even if the optimists prove right and cryptocurrencies eventually transform the world, this year's selloff has underscored that progress is unlikely to be smooth.

Yesterday's losses were led by Ether, the second-largest virtual currency. It fell 5.2 percent to

USD172.41 at 6:21 a.m. in New York, extending this month's retreat to 39 percent. Bitcoin was little changed, while the MVIS CryptoCompare Digital Assets index fell 2.9 percent. The value of all virtual currencies tracked by CoinMarketCap.com sank to \$187 billion, a 10-month low.

One silver lining of the crypto slump is that ramifications for the global economy are likely to be minimal. While the market has lost more than \$640 billion of value since peaking in January, that's a far cry from the trillions erased from Nasdaq Composite stocks during the dot-com bust.

The crypto industry's links with the traditional financial system also remain weak. That's been a disappointment for bulls, but it's good news for everyone else at a time when digital assets are tumbling. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

WYNN'S SPA RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS SPACHINA AWARD



SpaChina magazine recently hosted the SpaChina Awards 2018, gathering together China's leading spa and wellness professionals as well as highly respected judges from the industry. The Spa at Wynn Palace, which is also the largest spa in Macau,

received the highly coveted "Best Hotel Spa of the Year" award from SpaChina this year.

The 4,497-square-meter Spa at Wynn Palace features 22 ultra-chic and comfortable treatment rooms including eight private suites.

Each private VIP treatment suite features its own relaxation area, bathtub, experience shower and steam room.

The SpaChina Awards, launched in 2010 to promote the development of China's spa industry, has become one of the industry's most anticipated annual awards event. The panel of judges for the SpaChina Awards consists of highly respected spa and wellness experts.

Jennifer Simms, executive director of Spa Operations for Wynn Macau and Wynn Palace Cotai said of the award: "We are honored to receive this prestigious award [...] which] recognizes the exceptional service delivered by our team and is an affirmation of the unparalleled customer experience that our guests enjoy while they are with us."

MUST ORGANIZES 43 STUDENT INTERNSHIPS IN GUANGDONG



The Macao University of Science and Technology (MUST) Entrepreneurship and Employment Development Center organized 43 students to go to Zhuhai and

Guangzhou for internships this summer.

The purpose was to let students accumulate practical experience, understand city planning of Guangdong,

Hong Kong and Macau, according to a statement issued by MUST.

Among the 43 students, 29 participated in an internship program sponsored by the Hengqin New District Management Committee. Twelve students participated in the "100-enterprise" internship program sponsored by Guangzhou Nansha District Youth Federation, while the 2 remaining students participated in a program sponsored by the Guangzhou Human Resources and Social Security Bureau.

Internships covered the fields of government departments, large central enterprises, and foreign and private enterprises engaged in finance, information technology, tourism, and manufacturing.

Tehran looks warily to Beijing for help as sanctions resume

Jon Gambrell, Tehran

IT'S hard not to see China wherever you look in Iran.

From Chinese goods flooding markets to its business people eager for deals as Western business interests flee, Iran likely will further embrace Beijing as an alternative market for its crude oil and financial transactions amid uncertainty over the nuclear deal.

That doesn't mean China offers a safe haven to Iran without conditions. Beijing will try to extract the maximum benefit, analysts say, and there is growing concern that China may take advantage of Iran.

Iran "has had to rely on China to offset the Western-induced isolation, predominantly championed by the United States," said Arianne Tabatabai, an associate political scientist at the RAND Corp. who recently co-authored a book exploring Iran's ties with China and Russia. "I think that what we're going to see is the return of a quasi-monopoly of key sectors of the Iranian economy by the Chinese."

Trade and ties between China and Iran date back over 2,000 years to the ancient Silk Road caravan routes that brought the textile to Europe. Modern relations began under then-ruler Mohammad Reza Shah in 1971 after the Americans acknowledged Beijing's Communist government. The 1979 Islamic Revolution that overthrew the shah caused ties to cool until the mid-1980s.

For China, Iran for years served as a crucial gas pump for its rapid economic growth. Up until 2012, Iran was China's third-largest source of crude oil



imports, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Then came sanctions over Iran's nuclear program, sparked by the West's fears that Tehran's enrichment and stockpiling of uranium could allow it to build nuclear weapons. Iran has denied wanting atomic bombs.

The U.S. under President Barack Obama and European nations pressured China and other Asian countries to cut back on their purchases of Iranian crude, leading to the 2015 nuclear deal. Under it, Iran agreed to limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for Western sanctions being lifted.

Now with President Donald Trump's decision to pull Ame-

rica from the accord, Iranians likely see China as one of the few avenues now open to them.

"China is a vast economy and has enough middle-sized companies that don't have a lot of exposure to the U.S. that Iran is going to be able to continue large quantities of trade there, assuming the Chinese government lets that happen and wants that to happen," said Peter Harrell, a fellow at the Washington-based Center for a New American Security and a former U.S. diplomat who worked on Iranian sanctions issues with Beijing.

The Chinese have stressed they want the nuclear deal to continue and support any talks toward that end.

"China has been carrying out open, transparent and normal business cooperation with Iran in the economic, trade and energy sectors. Such cooperation is reasonable, legitimate and lawful," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said in August. "It contravenes no U.N. Security Council resolutions or international obligations China has pledged into, undermines the interests of no one, and thus deserves to be respected and maintained."

He added, in an apparent dig at the Trump administration: "China always believes that reckless imposition of sanctions or threatening to use them will not help solve the issues." China already faces a billion-dollar tariff fight with Washington itself.

First among China's wants likely is Iran's energy supplies as other U.S. allies cut off their purchases by a November deadline. Nearly a quarter of all of Iran's oil exports went to China in 2017, according to the Energy Information Administration, making it the Islamic Republic's biggest single market. While oil imports from Iran have dropped some 20 percent between May and August, "China will keep any reductions to a minimal level," the Eurasia Group said yesterday.

After French oil major Total SA pulled out of a USD5 billion, 20-year agreement to develop the Iran's massive South Pars offshore natural gas field, growing rumors circulated that China would take over the concession.

Meanwhile, India may face growing pressure to pull out of Iran's Chahbahar port on the Gulf of Oman after pled-

ging \$500 million to improve it, allowing China to expand its own presence there. China already has invested in Pakistan's Gwadar port, some 80 kilometers away. Both provide a link to Afghanistan and other landlocked central Asian nations.

"China is really going to be the major savior of Iran because even though other countries say they're not going to comply with U.S. sanctions — India for example — when push comes to shove, they can't afford to risk their relationship with the United States," Tabatabai said.

But already, there are rumblings of concern among the Iranian public.

Trade and ties between China and Iran date back over 2,000 years to the ancient Silk Road caravan routes that brought the material to Europe

At Tehran's Grand Bazaar, most acknowledge Chinese goods are substandard to the ones sold by Western firms and remember how they flooded the market when nuclear sanctions bit into the country in 2006. Fishermen along Iran's southern coast already complain about Chinese firms gaining access to their fishing grounds.

Analysts expect Beijing also will ring major discounts from Tehran for buying whatever crude it otherwise can't sell after the November deadline.

China "will want to articulate the moral high ground" by mentioning the U.S. backed out of the nuclear deal, but business will come first, Harrell said. China remains both Iran's top import and export market.

"One thing I'm sure China is doing with the sanctions is leaning on Iran to get oil price concessions," Harrell said.

The one thing China, the world's top oil importer, does not want to see happen is any military action driving up the price of crude oil.

When Iranian President Hassan Rouhani made veiled threats about Iran's ability to close off the Strait of Hormuz, the Chinese immediately reached out to the Iranian government to express concern.

"If Iran does something stupid that sends global crude oil prices from \$73 to \$100 a barrel, China is actually the biggest loser by the move by far," Harrell said. "They have a very strong interest in stability, particularly in the Middle East." AP

China puts off licenses for US companies amid tariff battle

AMID a worsening tariff battle, China is putting off accepting license applications from American companies in financial services and other industries until Washington makes progress toward a settlement, a business group says.

The disclosure earlier this week is the first public confirmation of U.S. companies' fears that their operations in China or access to its markets might be disrupted by the battle over Beijing's technology policy. China is running out of American imports for penalties in response to President Donald Trump's tariff hikes, which has prompted worries regulators might target operations of U.S. companies.

The license delay applies to industries Beijing has promised to open to foreign competitors, according to Jacob Parker, vice president for China operations of the U.S.-China Business Council. The group represents some 200 Ame-

rican companies that do business with China.

In meetings over the past three weeks, Cabinet-level officials told USCBC representatives they are putting off accepting applications "until the trajectory of the U.S.-China relationship improves and stabilizes," Parker said.

Chinese authorities have promised to increase foreign access to areas including banking, securities, insurance and asset management.

"There seem to be domestic political pressures that are working against the perception of U.S. companies receiving benefits" during the dispute, Parker said.

As for what improvement might entail, Parker said Chinese officials want an end to Trump's tariff hikes and a negotiated settlement. He declined to identify the officials but, in a sign Beijing wants foreign companies to help lobby Washington, said the meetings represented "unprecedented access" for his group. AP

Vladimir Isachenkov
and Sergei Grits, Chita

FROM THE COLD

Russia launches biggest ever war games involving China

HUNDREDS of thousands of Russian troops swept across Siberia yesterday [Macau time] in the nation's largest ever war games also joined by China — a powerful show of burgeoning military ties between Moscow and Beijing amid their tensions with the U.S.

Moscow said the weeklong Vostok (East) 2018 maneuvers will span vast expanses of Siberia and the Far East, the Arctic and the Pacific Oceans and involve nearly 300,000 Russian troops — nearly one-third of the country's 1-million-strong military. They will feature more than 1,000 aircraft, about 36,000 tanks and other military vehicles and 80 warships.

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu has described the drills as even bigger than the country's largest Cold War-era exercise called Zapad 1981 that put NATO allies on edge.

A retired Russian general said that the giant war games come as a warning to the U.S. against ramping up pressure on Russia.

"The maneuvers are aimed at deterring the aggressive intentions of the U.S. and NATO," Ret. Gen. Leonid Ivashov said. He was quoted by the Interfax news agency as saying that the drills are "also a response to the U.S. sanctions."

China is sending about 3,200 troops, 900 combat vehicles and 30 aircraft to join the drills at a Siberian firing range, a significant deployment that reflects its shift toward a full-fledged military alliance with Russia. Mongolia also has sent a military contingent.

Asked if the U.S. is worried about a possible military alliance

between Russia and China, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis told Pentagon reporters that, "I think that nations act out of their interests. I see little in the long term that aligns Russia and China."

As the maneuvers kicked off, Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Russia to attend an economic forum in Vladivostok. President Vladimir Putin treated Xi to pancakes with caviar and shots of vodka in a show of their warm rapport.

Moscow and Beijing have forged what they described as a "strategic partnership," expressing their shared opposition to the "unipolar" world, the term they use to describe perceived U.S. global domination. However, the military drills they had until now were far smaller in scale, reflecting China's caution about alliances.

Some experts pointed out that the U.S. helped spawn closer Russia-China military ties by labeling them strategic competitors.

"They feel they need to embrace to deal with the increasingly high pressure and containment from the U.S.," said Yue Gang, a military expert and retired Chinese army colonel.

He noted that China feels that the Washington's hostile attitude and actions, such as deploying the THAAD missile defense system in South Korea, relieve it of any need to take U.S.



views into consideration when deepening strategic trust with Moscow.

"The war games have laid a foundation for China and Russia to enhance cooperation on international arena and will lift the combat proficiency of both sides," he said.

The Chinese media touted the Chinese involvement in the maneuvers as the country's largest-ever dispatch of forces abroad for war games.

Some noted that the People's Liberation Army, which hasn't fought a war since the attempted invasion of Vietnam in 1979, is keen to learn from Russia's experience in the Syrian campaign, where it tested its latest weapons and tactics.

From China's perspective, the

emerging military alliance with Russia sends a strong signal to the U.S. and its ally Japan as Beijing moves to defend its interests in the South China Sea, which China claims virtually in its entirety, as well as Taiwan and the Senkaku and Diaoyu islands controlled by Japan but claimed by Beijing.

Hong Kong-based commentator Song Zhongping said China is anxious to acquire more experience in large-scale operations that might become a factor in a conflict with the U.S. and others over territorial claims in Asia.

"Russia has very strong real combat abilities and the participation of the PLA in such a large-scale military exercise that is specially tailored for an anti-invasion war indicates China's

intention to learn more valuable combat practices and lift its ability for joint combat," Song said.

For Russia, the increasingly robust alliance with China is particularly important amid the growing tensions with the U.S. and its allies and a looming threat of more biting U.S. sanctions.

"The scale and the scenario of those drills are in line with the current military-political situation," said Ivashov, the retired Russian general. "They demonstrate the seriousness of our intentions."

The U.S. and its NATO allies are closely eyeing the exercises for what they reveal about military cooperation between Russia and China and their mounting military might.

"We're obviously aware of it, we're watching it closely," said Army Col. Rob Manning, a Pentagon spokesman. "We're aware of Russia's right to sovereignty and to exercise in order to ensure their readiness."

NATO Spokeswoman Oana Lungescu said that the training "fits into a pattern we have seen over some time: a more assertive Russia, significantly increasing its defense budget and its military presence."

She also noted that "China has growing military capabilities and is playing an increasingly significant global role," adding that "it's important for NATO to engage with China." AP

Chinese, Asian leaders fault US, say open trade best growth option

A top Chinese official and leaders of several Southeast Asian countries said yesterday that moves by the U.S. to limit trade and protect American businesses pose a grave threat to the world economy.

Uncertainty and destabilizing factors threaten to undermine growth, Chinese Vice Premier Hu Chunhua said at a World Economic Forum meeting in Hanoi, convened as Washington and Beijing have imposed penalty tariffs on tens of billions of dollars' worth of each other's products in an escalating trade conflict.

Hu, like the others, did not mention President Donald Trump by name but

said some countries' "protectionist and unilateral measures are gravely undermining the rules-based multilateral trading regime, posing a most serious hazard for the world's economy."

The consensus of speakers at the gathering in Vietnam's capital, focused on how Southeast Asia will cope with the so-called "Fourth Industrial Revolution" — a shift to automation and artificial intelligence that threaten models for growth based on low-cost export manufacturing — was that opening markets further is the only option for future growth.

"History teaches us that self-isolation leads nowhere," Hu said. "Openness and cooperation are the only correct choice."

Business and trade require a degree of certainty, said Indonesia's finance minister, Sri Mulyani Indrawati.

Countries in Asia used to rely on the U.S. to lead, she said, but they have no choice but to work together now that the U.S. is no longer taking the same role. "Why don't we become the adult in the room," she said. "The world is just too big and too important to depend on only one country."

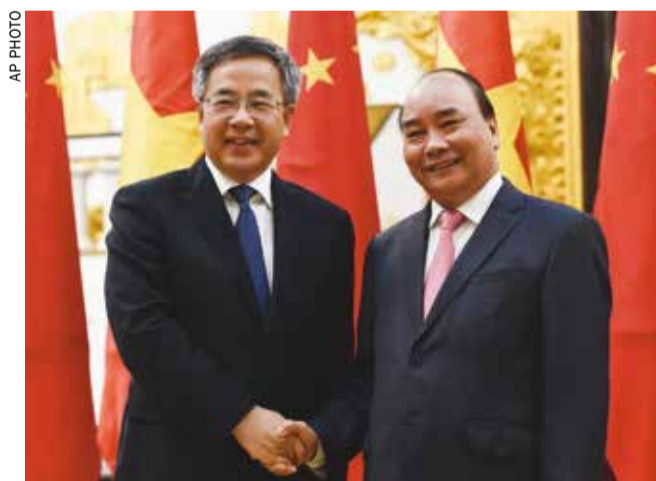
Vietnam's economy has boomed as companies like Honda and Samsung have set up big production bases, making the country

a major exporter but also leaving it vulnerable to trade friction.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo drew laughs by likening trade wars to "infinity wars" in a reference to this year's movie "Avengers: Infinity War," based on Marvel's comics. "We must prevent the trade wars from becoming the infinity war," Widodo said.

Singapore's prime minister, Lee Hsien Loong, likewise said the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations would work to keep markets and investment open and protect the "rules based" trading system.

In big, fast-growing economies like Vietnam and



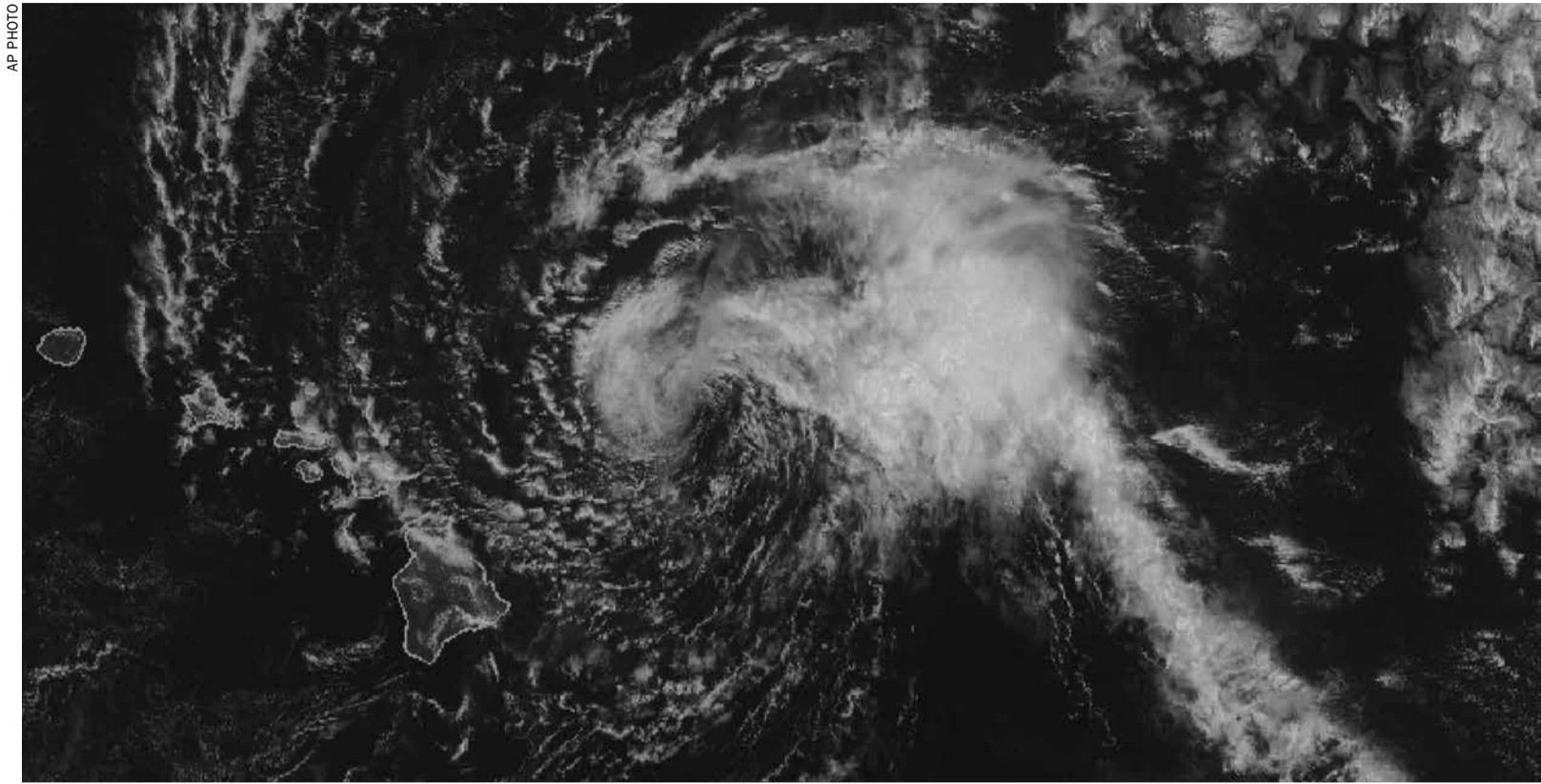
Chinese Vice Premier Hu Chunhua (left) greets Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc in Hanoi

Indonesia, 3-D printing and digital-based businesses like ride-sharing company Grab are expanding quickly and creating new jobs to replace old ones lost as robots replace workers on factory floors.

In smaller, less developed countries like Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar that are still struggling to catch up with their

neighbors, the spread of relatively basic technologies such as cellphones is helping drive huge changes, said Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi. She noted that in just five years, the cost of a cellphone in Myanmar had plunged to just USD1.50 from \$1,500.

It's not just leapfrogging but a "quantum leap," she said. AP



HAWAII

Tropical storm drops light rain as it nears Maui, Big Island

TROPICAL Storm Olivia began dropping light rain yesterday [Macau time] on Maui and the Big Island as it approached the state and prompted warnings for residents to store drinking water and prepare for possible power outages.

The storm could dump as much as 20 inches of rain on some parts of the islands, said meteorologist Matthew Foster of the Cen-

tral Pacific Hurricane Center.

Olivia was a couple hundred miles east of Maui and packing winds of 95 kph. Maui and Oahu counties appeared most likely to experience the worst impacts, Foster said.

Officials were worried about landslides in west Maui because brush fires during Hurricane Lane three weeks ago wiped out vegetation, Maui County spokes-

man Rod Antone said.

The owner of the only hardware store in the small town of Hana on the east side of Maui said he was determined to stay open as long as possible to help people prepare.

"If people need to get tarps or screws or anything for their home. I think it's important for us to try to stay open as much as possible, without jeopardizing

the well-being of our staff," said Neil Hasegawa, owner of Hasegawa General Store.

The storm was expected to affect Hana starting later yesterday, and residents were bracing for Hana, with a population of 1,200 people, to take the brunt of the storm, Hasegawa said.

Those who prepared for Hurricane Lane have largely left those preparations in place for Olivia,

he said.

"I think they're even taking it more seriously than Lane," Hasegawa said. "You can see the track going [...] it's like barreling down on this eastern end."

Hana is a popular day-trip destination for travelers staying in Maui's resort towns. But Hasegawa urged people who don't need to be in Hana to stay away because they could become trapped and take up limited shelter space.

David Roth, facilities manager for Travaasa Hana resort, said workers were doing normal storm preparations. He declined to provide specifics.

He also wouldn't say whether the resort was full, but he noted there had been several cancellations.

There was light rain over the property yesterday.

"We're used to stormy weather on the east side of Maui," Roth said.

Maui Mayor Alan Arakawa urged residents to store drinking water and warned that they should plan for power outages, landslides, high surf, fallen trees and flooded roads.

Scott Zaffram, a senior response official with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, said emergency teams and supplies were ready on Maui.

The National Guard has mobilized personnel and trucks to the east side of Maui, said Herman Andaya, administrator of the county's emergency management agency.

Maui schools will be closed Wednesday and non-essential county workers will be on administrative leave, Arakawa said. **AP**

SINGAPORE

DJ mounts challenge of colonial-era anti-gay law

A Singaporean disc jockey is challenging a law that bans sex between men, a holdover from British colonial days that conservatives insist on keeping but authorities have promised not to enforce.

The case brought this week by Johnson Ong, whose stage name is DJ Big Kid, is the first against the anti-gay law since an appeal by three people was thrown out by the Supreme Court in 2014.

The law, known as Section 377A, states that acts of "gross indecency" between men are punishable with a jail term of up to two years.

Homosexuality is quietly tolerated in Singapore. However, discrimination remains rife, although it is often subtle and masked under the need to protect a pro-family Asian culture.



Thousands gathered at a park last year for the annual Pink Dot gay pride event in Singapore

Singapore's leaders have said they will not enforce Section 377A, but have been reluctant to remove it from the books for fear of angering conservatives.

This uncomfortable balance was rattled last

Thursday, when India's Supreme Court struck down a British colonial-era law that made intercourse between members of the same sex punishable.

The judges held that sexual orientation was a

"biological phenomenon" and that discrimination on that basis violated fundamental rights.

Ong said yesterday that the Singapore law has weighed on his relationship with his family.

"Though they love me and treat my partner with respect, they do not accept my homosexuality, so our relationship is constantly strained, and I am not able to completely share my life, struggles or successes with them," Ong said in an interview.

"I am considered a criminal in the eyes of the law and that is an emotional and psychological burden that I carry around as I go through life that no heterosexual Singaporean has to."

Ong will be represented by lawyer Eugene Thuraisingam, who filed the case on Monday. Thuraisingam said he aims to prove the law violates human dignity.

He said he will also present expert evidence that shows "sexual orientation is unchangeable or suppressible at unacceptable

personal cost." A pre-trial conference has been set for Sept. 25.

Singapore's leaders have long emphasized that its prosperity — it is one of the world's richest nations in terms of per capita income — depends on social, racial and religious cohesion.

Minister for Law and Home Affairs K. Shanmugam said most Singaporeans want to keep Section 377A, but a "growing minority" wishes to have it repealed.

"The government is in the middle," Shanmugam said.

An online petition to keep the law, launched on Saturday, has gathered over 95,000 signatures. A petition for the law's repeal, backed by a range of activist groups, has around a third of those signatories. **AP**

AFGHANISTAN

Taliban say they're ready for second round of talks with US

AP PHOTO



Alice Wells, the U.S.'s top diplomat for South Asia

Kathy Gannon, Islamabad

THE Taliban are ready for a second round of talks with the U.S., possibly this month, which is likely to focus on prisoner exchanges, confidence building measures, and ways to move from back-door meetings to formal negotiations, said Taliban officials in separate interviews in recent days.

Speaking on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to speak to the media, Taliban officials recounted details of a meeting held in July with Alice Wells, Washington's top envoy to the region.

One of the officials said the meeting ended with a plan to meet again in September. The U.S. has refused to confirm or deny that meeting.

Both the U.S. and Afghan governments have insisted that talks on Afghanistan's future would be Afghan-led, while direct talks between Washington and the Taliban — which the insurgents have long demanded — are said to be a stepping stone toward Afghan-to-Afghan talks. The Taliban have sought direct talks to settle U.S. concerns about the Taliban's participation in Afghanistan's future as well as the presence of NATO and the U.S. forces in the country.

The official, who spoke to The Associated Press from Qatar, where the Taliban maintain a political office, said they are waiting on Washington for a second meeting date.

During the July meeting, the Taliban asked for recognition of their political office in the Qatar capital of Doha as well as an end

to restrictions against its top leaders before the start of the formal negotiations, they said.

The Taliban repeated their longstanding demand for the release of its prisoners in jails in Afghanistan, claiming as many as 2,000 are being held.

Washington has long been demanding the release of prisoners held by the Taliban inclu-

ding American Kevin King and Australian Timothy Weeks, two professors at the American University in Kabul who were kidnapped in August 2016 as they returned to their compound.

In a statement posted on its official website, the Taliban last month took the unusual step of withdrawing security promises to the International Committee

of the Red Cross, saying the ICRC had failed to help prisoners in Afghanistan's Pul-e-Charkhi jail who were on a hunger strike to protest prison conditions.

The Taliban statement was unusual in that it was a rare time that the insurgent group threatened punitive action for alleged behavior that was not Taliban-specific, but rather a general con-

demnation for a job it said was being poorly done.

The same statement warned all international organizations operating in Afghanistan to "understand that if they indulge in trivial or other irrelevant activities instead of focusing on the main needs of the oppressed people, the Islamic Emirate will treat them in a similar fashion as the decision taken against the Red Cross."

Meanwhile, Taliban officials said talks between the U.S. and Taliban are at a preliminary stage, still sorting out the simplest of details such as an agenda of formal talks, where those talks might be conducted and who would participate.

Still, Taliban officials said the July meeting covered a gambit of issues ranging from a U.S. request for a two-month cease fire to allow for peaceful parliamentary elections scheduled for next month in Kabul, to a visit by Taliban officials to prisoners in government custody. No agreement was reached on either.

Taliban officials said the details of the July meeting were shared with the Taliban leadership council representative Nooruddin Turabi, who traveled to Qatar for the briefing. It wasn't clear from where Turabi travelled but the leadership council is believed to be headquartered in Pakistan, even as Islamabad denies providing the insurgents with safe havens.

During the Taliban rule that ended in 2001 with the U.S.-led invasion Turabi served as justice minister as well as the much-feared Minister of Protection of Virtue and Suppression of Vice. **AP**

Afghan official: Death toll in suicide bombing rises to 68

THE death toll in a suicide bombing among a group of people protesting a local police commander in eastern Afghanistan has risen to 68, up from 32, provincial officials said yesterday.

Attahullah Khogyani, spokesman for the provincial governor, said 165 others were wounded in the attack a day earlier.

The bombing happened when a group from the district of Achin came to Momandara district to block the main highway between the capital Jalalabad and the Torkham border with Pakistan.

The Taliban denied any involvement. No other group immediately claimed responsibility, but both Taliban insurgents and the Islamic State group are active in eastern Afghanistan, especially in Nangarhar province.

A local affiliate of the Islamic State group has emerged in recent years and carried out brazen and increasingly deadly attacks, most often targeting civilians and the country's minority Shiite Muslims, who it views as apostates. The Taliban and the Islamic State affiliate are enemies and have attacked each other's forces.

Both the Taliban and IS carry out near-daily attacks in Afghanistan targeting security forces and government officials.

Tuesday's attack was marked by one of the highest death tolls in attacks in Afghanistan



Men carry a dead body to a civilian vehicle in Momandara district of Nangarhar province, Afghanistan

this year. In January, a Taliban-claimed suicide bombing in the capital Kabul killed at least 103.

Afghan president Ashraf Ghani strongly condemned the suicide attack against the demonstrators in Nangarhar. In a statement, he said "attacks on civilian facilities, mosques, women, children, are all crimes against humanity."

In western Herat province, Taliban insurgents attacked a police checkpoint, killing

six police, said Abdul Ahad Walizada, spokesman for the provincial police chief.

Walizada said another officer was wounded in the Tuesday night attack in Pashtun Zargun district. He added that 10 insurgents were killed and six others wounded during a gun battle with a reinforcement unit.

The Taliban have not commented on the attack but Walizada said Taliban are active in the district and often target security checkpoints.



Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban delivers his speech at the European Parliament in Strasbourg

EU

Lawmakers move against Hungary over rule of law

Lorne Cook
& Pablo Gorondi, Brussels

EUROPEAN Union lawmakers voted yesterday to launch action against the Hungarian government of Prime Minister Viktor Orban for allegedly undermining the bloc's democratic values and rule of law. Hungary called the vote fraudulent and vowed to challenge it.

The lawmakers voted 448-197 in favor of a report recommending the launch of a so-called Article 7 procedure, which could lead to the suspension of Hungary's European Union voting rights.

It is the first time in EU history that the European Parliament had initiated and approved such

a motion, which needed a two-thirds majority to pass and was approved by 69.4 percent of the lawmakers.

For years, Orban had been able to deflect much of the international condemnation thrown his way. Critics say that Hungary's electoral system is disproportionate; media freedoms and judicial independence are dwindling; asylum-seekers and refugees are mistreated and there are limits placed on non-governmental organizations.

Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto, echoing Orban's longtime position, called the yesterday's vote "petty revenge" against Hungary for its tough anti-migration policies.

He also claimed that the vote

involved "massive fraud" since abstentions weren't counted into the final tally, which made it easier to reach the needed majority.

There were 48 abstentions, so the 448 in favor exceeded the two-thirds needed only because it was based on 645 votes. If the abstentions were counted into the final tally, there would have been a total 693 votes, so the 448 in favor wouldn't have reached two-thirds.

Szjijarto said Hungary was considering legal options to appeal the result because of the way the vote was tallied.

But Judith Sargentini, who presented the report prepared by the European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties,

Justice and Home Affairs, welcomed the outcome.

"Viktor Orban's government has been leading the charge against European values by silencing independent media, replacing critical judges, and putting academia on a leash," Sargentini said. "The Hungarian people deserve better. They deserve freedom of speech, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice and equality, all of which are enshrined in the European treaties."

"This is a historic result for Hungarian citizens and for European citizens everywhere, that the European Parliament has voted by a large majority to stand up for the values we all hold dear," Sargentini said.

The move saw some members of the European People's Party bloc — of which Orban's Fidesz movement is a member — vote against their ally in Budapest.

Even EPP leader Manfred Weber, who earlier was supportive of Orban and is seeking to become the European Commission president next year, said he had voted for triggering Article 7.

"I have always been in favor of building bridges and I want to continue to do so, but yesterday [Tuesday] I didn't see any readiness from the Hungarian PM to make a move towards his EU partners and address our concerns," Manfred tweeted.

While Weber had called on Orban to show a willingness to compromise on some of the most high-profile issues — like an agreement being delayed by the Hungarian government for the Central European University, founded by George Soros, Orban's ideological opponent, to remain in Budapest and recent laws criminalizing the work of civic groups working with asylum-seekers and refugees —

Orban remained steadfast that his policies wouldn't change.

"I have nothing to compromise about since the questions they objected to were decided by the Hungarian people," Orban said Tuesday in Strasbourg, France, after the debate in the European Parliament on the report on Hungary. "There is nothing to talk about."

■ It is the first time in EU history that the European Parliament had initiated and approved such a motion

Orban, who was re-elected in April to his third consecutive term in office, fourth overall also said Tuesday that he expected lawmakers to approve the motion with the support of some EPP lawmakers.

"The order has arrived from Berlin and they will vote accordingly," Orban said, in reference to German Chancellor Angela Merkel, whose governing Christian Democratic Union is the largest party in the EPP.

Orban has insisted that all of the criticism against his government is based on Hungary's tough anti-immigration policies, which include fences built in 2015 on Hungary's southern borders with Serbian and Croatia to divert the flow of migrants and very restrictive asylum rules. He has also expressed his desire to remain within the EPP, which he said was "deeply divided" on the issue of migration. **AP**

USA

Woodward book goes on sale as ex-Trump aides push back

A new White House tell-all from journalist Bob Woodward, the election season's most-talked-about political book, officially went on sale yesterday [Macau time] as several former aides of President Donald Trump sought to distance themselves from the depiction of a chaotic West Wing.

Former White House staff secretary Rob Porter and onetime economic adviser Gary Cohn both pushed back against "Fear," which portrays a White House mired in dysfunction, with aides disparaging the Republican president and working to prevent him from making disastrous

decisions.

While neither former staffer directly denied details in the book, Porter said in a statement that the book offers a "selective and often misleading portrait." And Cohn told Axios that the "book does not accurately portray my experience at the White House."

Speaking to reporters in the White House, Trump praised his former aides' supportive statements and again labeled the book "fiction."

Woodward, a longtime Washington Post reporter, has staunchly defended his work in an extensive media tour.

The book reached stores on Tuesday and has been No. 1 on Amazon since details first began emerging a week ago. Publisher Simon & Schuster announced that 1 million copies will be printed, though even Amazon, the nation's biggest book retailer, couldn't keep up with demand. Amazon said that Woodward's book was out of stock and would be available to ship in one to three weeks.

Among the revelations in the book: Cohn once removed a document from the president's desk that would have ended a trade deal with South Korea.

Porter said that sug-

gesting materials from Trump's desk were "stolen" to prevent the president from taking action "misunderstands how the White House document review process works." Porter, who exited the White House after allegations of domestic violence became public, says he was tasked with ensuring that "pros and cons were evaluated" on policy proposals and other decisions. He said that doesn't make a person "part of a 'resistance.'"

Cohn did not detail his complaints with the book, telling Axios: "I am proud of my service in the Trump Administration,



and I continue to support the President and his economic agenda."

Both Cohn and Porter feature prominently in the book as key aides trying to slow down what they believed were ill-considered presidential decisions. A number of top officials have denied comments attributed to them in the book. Also criticizing the

book Tuesday was former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who said on Twitter that "a number of the statements attributed to me and from others to me in the Woodward book are incorrect." He added: "I would have been happy to correct them if Mr. Woodward or any member of his staff would have called me." **AP**

International court says it's 'undeterred' by US threats

AFGHAN rights workers warned yesterday [Macau time] that a blistering U.S. attack on the International Criminal Court investigating war crimes allegations will strengthen a climate of impunity in Afghanistan, prolong the war and embolden those committing acts of violence.

In a speech Monday, U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton said Washington would not cooperate with The Hague-based court and threatened it with sanctions, saying it put U.S. sovereignty and national security at risk.

The CIA and U.S. forces have been accused of committing war crimes in Afghanistan.

"It's very unfortunate because delivering justice to victims will help to facilitate the peace process in Afghanistan," said Sima Samar, head of Afghanistan's Human Rights Commission. "Justice is not a luxury. It is a basic human right."

In The Hague, the ICC said it



Dr. Sima Samar, chairperson of Afghanistan's Independent Human Rights Commission

will continue to do its work "undeterred," despite Bolton's condemnation.

The court said in a statement that it was established by a treaty supported by 123 countries. It says it prosecuted cases only when those countries failed to do so or did not do so "genuinely." Afghanistan is a signatory.

During a three-month period that ended in January, the court received a staggering 1.7 million allegations of war crimes from Afghanistan, although some of those accusations involved entire villages.

Still, thousands of individual statements as well as those filed on behalf of multiple victims

were received by the ICC in The Hague. The statements were collected by organizations based in Europe and Afghanistan.

Bolton's speech came as an ICC judge was expected to announce a decision soon on a request from prosecutors to formally open an investigation into allegations of war crimes committed by Afghan national security forces, Taliban and Haqqani network militants as well as U.S. forces and intelligence officials in Afghanistan since May 2003.

While the Bolton speech "was shocking in many parts," Washington was not expected to embrace the investigation, said Amal Nasser, permanent representative of the International Federation of Human Rights to the ICC.

Still, "the ICC prosecutor has not hesitated before in demonstrating that it will prosecute major powers," Nasser said.

"I think what the U.S. is promoting is a sense of the 'righteousness' and being above the law," she said in an email inter-

view, noting the ICC has yet to decide whether there will be an investigation or its scope.

The 181-page prosecution request, dated November 2017, said "information available provides a reasonable basis to believe that members of United States of America armed forces and members of the Central Intelligence Agency committed acts of torture, cruel treatment, outrages upon personal dignity, rape and sexual violence against conflict-related detainees in Afghanistan and other locations, principally in the 2003-2004 period."

Washington's unequivocal rejection of the court seems likely to embolden Afghanistan's U.S.-backed government, which refused Tuesday to respond directly to Bolton's outburst, but similarly dismissed war crimes allegations against Afghan National Security Forces as well as its intelligence agency.

President Ashraf Ghani's deputy spokesman, Shahussain Murtazawi, said the Taliban, the Islamic State group affiliate and as many as 21 other anti-government groups have committed war crimes. He dismissed allegations against Afghan security forces, saying "government forces are always trying to save the people. It is the insurgents who are the killers of civilians." AP

AD

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what's ON



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UNTIL: September 30, 2018
VENUE: 1844 Macau Photography Art Space
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 6311 1390

SCULPTURE – A JOURNEY, EXHIBITION BY ANTONIO LEÇA
TIME: 3pm-8pm (Mondays)
 12pm-8pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)
UNTIL: October 21, 2018
VENUE: A2 Gallery, Albergue SCM
ADMISSION: Free
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Offbeat

A CONFIDENT ELTON JOHN KICKS OFF FAREWELL TOUR WITH FLAIR



After 90 minutes of nonstop singing and piano playing — which had the audience on their feet and desperately waiting for more — Elton John returned to the stage dramatically, and epically.

There was the sound of loud thunderstorms, dark blue, smoky lights surrounding the arena, and a grand, candle-lit chandelier on the large screen — all while music in the vein of Michael Jackson's "Thriller" played in the background.

A strong light beamed from the ceiling to John's piano as if he were Batman. After all, his performance was heroic.

The Rocket Man, who kicked off his Farewell Yellow Brick Road Tour about 60 miles from Philadelphia on Saturday, sang like a confident, electrified pro in the City of Brotherly Love on Tuesday. It was the second show on his 300-date tour set to reach five continents, stretching into 2021. He will retire from the road after the shows.

John's custom Gucci blazer was covered with pink flowers and green stems — which matched his pink shoes and green glasses with rhinestones — when he emerged to sing again, as his piano smoothly moved from one end of the stage to the center.

His performance throughout the night was so rousing that concertgoers, ranging from thirtysomethings to people about John's age (he's 71), reacted in various ways: Some recorded every moment with their cellphones like anxious teenagers, while others danced without a care, yelled every lyric and played the air-piano. Others calmly took in the energy from their seats — after all, it was a school/work night.

The nearly three-hour concert began with "Bennie and the Jets," as John pounded away at the piano and took in a long applause at the song's end. He was backed by an equally talented six-member band at the Wells Fargo Center and said Tuesday's show marked an anniversary: he first played in Philadelphia on Sept. 11, 1970.

"There's been one common denominator throughout (my musical) journey — you guys out there," he said to the fans. "You bought the singles, the albums, the 8-track, the cassette, the CD, the DVD, the merchandise, but most of all, you bought the tickets to the shows."

"You have no idea how much I love to play live," he continued. "Ten years ago, if you said I would be doing a farewell tour, I would have said you put acid in my drink."

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Portuguese Soap Opera
15:50	Cartoons
16:35	Portuguese Comedy
18:15	Portuguese Soap Opera
19:00	Macau Cultural Agenda (Repeated)
19:35	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	TDM Talk Show
21:50	Miscellaneous
22:25	Portuguese Serie - Liberty 21
23:15	TDM News
23:50	RTP Big Interview - Assunção Cristas
00:25	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:10	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

13 SEP - 19 SEP



THE PREDATOR

ROOM 1

2:30, 4:30, 7:30 9:30pm

Director: Shane Black

Starring: Boyd Holbrook, Trevante Rhodes, Jacob Tremblay

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 107min



THE EQUALIZER 2

ROOM 2

2:30, 4:45, 7:15 9:30pm

Director: Antoine Fuqua

Starring: Denzel Washington, Pedro Pascal, Ashton Sanders

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 121min



WHEN I GET HOME, MY WIFE ALWAYS PRETENDS TO BE DEAD

ROOM 3

2:30, 4:45, 7:15 9:30pm

Director: Toshio Lee

Starring: Nana Eikura, Ken Yasuda, Sumika Nono

Language: Japanese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 115min

this day in history



1993 RABIN AND ARAFAT SHAKE ON PEACE DEAL

The Prime Minister of Israel, Yitzhak Rabin, and the PLO leader, Yasser Arafat, have shaken hands before cheering crowds on the White House lawn in Washington.

The handshake - the first ever in public between the two former arch enemies - marked the signing of a Declaration of Principles for peace between the Arabs and Israelis.

Under the terms of the deal, Israel has agreed to withdraw its troops from Gaza Strip and West Bank by April 1994. Elections will be held in the territories to allow the Palestinians some form of self-government.

A deadline for a final settlement has been set for February 1999.

The deal has only been made possible by talks brokered by the Norwegians earlier in the year - and by the election of Mr Rabin's Labour government which includes the pro-peace campaigners Shimon Peres and Yossi Beilin.

President Bill Clinton introduced the two leaders to the crowd of invited guests in front of the White House. By his side, were former Presidents Jimmy Carter and George Bush who had vigorously campaigned for peace during their terms in office.

Mr Clinton said: "The peace of the brave is within our reach. Throughout the Middle East there is a great yearning for the quiet miracle of a normal life."

"We know a difficult road lies ahead. Every peace has its enemies."

The leaders did not sign the declaration themselves. Instead, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and his Palestinian counterpart did the signing.

Mr Rabin then addressed the crowd: "We who have fought against you the Palestinians, we say to you today in a loud and clear voice, enough of blood and tears, enough."

Mr Arafat said: "The difficult decision we reached together was one that required great courage."

The BBC's correspondent John Simpson said Mr Arafat had undoubtedly put his life on the line for this agreement.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Declaration of Principles paved the way for Israel's first withdrawals from occupied territory and Yasser Arafat's triumphant return to Palestinian territory in July 1994.

He was elected president of the Palestinian National Authority in 1996. Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated by a Jewish extremist wanting to prevent further Israeli withdrawals on 4 November 1995.

Binyamin Netanyahu of Likud won Israeli elections in 1996. He agreed to a withdrawal from Hebron in the West Bank but talks on further peace moves with the Palestinians stalled.

His successor Ehud Barak was equally unsuccessful and in the impasse veteran right-winger Ariel Sharon toured the al Aqsa mosque/Temple Mount complex in what was seen as a provocative move by the Palestinians.

Demonstrations soon turned into another uprising or intifada. Arafat died on November 11, 2004, in France.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Whether or not you consider yourself creative, the ideas in your mind have a way of getting out into the world and making themselves known. No one sees things quite like you do.

Taurus April 20-May 20

You are prepared for this (whether you are convinced of it or not), so look on it as an exciting opportunity. This is a big deal, and you should be proud of this next stage in your life.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21

Get more involved in the community around you even if it just means waving and smiling at your neighbors a little more often. A stronger sense of connectedness will create a calming effect on life.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22

You are a superstar in every respect today - your abilities will outshine everyone else's and you may have to fight the urge to instruct everyone on how to do what they're doing better.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22

True happiness is no real mystery - all the elements are within you, you merely have to remember them. Think back to what made you feel relaxed and worry-free, and integrate those things into how you treat others.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22

A larger-than-life personality is coming into play in your life right now - and they will be making quite a splash. Whether they're causing you to think in a new way or just challenging the status quo.

Libra Sep. 23-Oct. 22

You know what you did (or didn't do), and there's no sense in fanning the flames. Conflict makes people act in odd ways, and it's okay if you don't like it. Fortunately, it is rare in your life.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Recent accomplishments have enabled you to put your feet up and relax for a while, and it's been wonderful having less stress and pressure in your life.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21

The trouble is that this relaxation is awfully seductive - and if you stay in this phase too long, you will miss out on some amazing new experiences. So call upon every ounce of your self-discipline today.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Today will be full of signs and affirmations that you are on the right path - despite what other people may say. Even if you feel unsure about the next steps, it's all part of the process.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Over the past few weeks you've been noticing some magnetism between two strong forces - is an introduction in order, or do they already know about each other? This could apply in a romantic or business context.

Pisces Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Simple pleasures hold the greatest satisfaction for you today, so keep close to home and enjoy some quiet time. One great idea might be to have some friends over for a meal.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

MIN MAX CONDITION

CHINA

Table with 4 columns: City, Min, Max, Condition. Includes Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, Urumqi, Xi'an, Lhasa, Chengdu, Chongqing, Kunming, Nanjing, Shanghai, Wuhan, Hangzhou, Taipei, Guangzhou, Hong Kong.

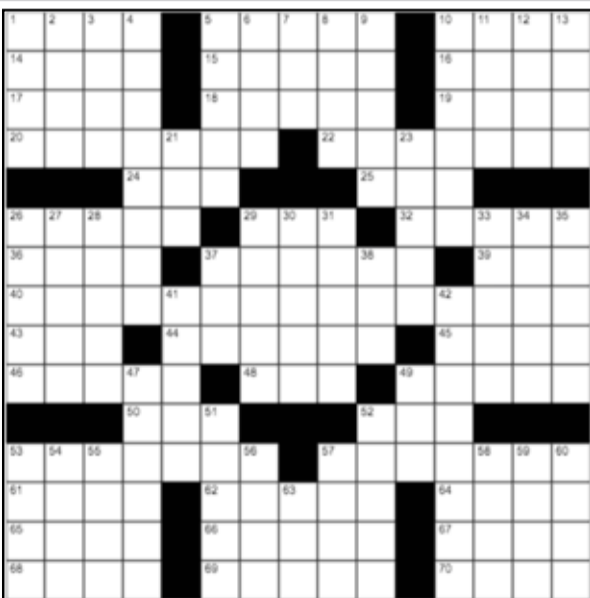
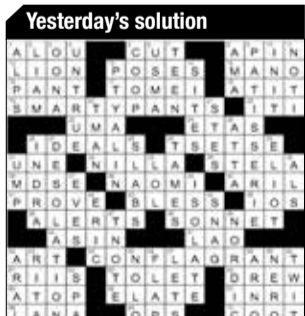
WORLD

Table with 4 columns: City, Min, Max, Condition. Includes Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1-Coalition; 5- Borders on; 10- Window ledge; 14- Ho Chi ___ City; 15- Synagogue scroll; 16- Draft status; 17- Olive genus; 18- Author Hite; 19- Foul mood; 20- Diameter of the bore of a gun; 22- Indian baby; 24- Heston's org.; 25- To and ___; 26- Cowboy's tool; 29- Catchall abbr.; 32- Door sign; 36- Tract; 37- Comfortable; 39- Bauxite, e.g.; 40- In spite of; 43- Music producer Brian; 44-Like some brides and threats; 45- Et ___ (and other men); 46- Biblical mount; 48-Jalopy; 49- Ascends; 50- Kan. neighbor; 52- Thrice, in prescriptions; 53- Defame; 57- Slightly gray; 61- Game played on horseback; 62- Place for "stompin'"; 64-Spouse; 65- Catch a view of; 66- Cafeteria items; 67- Old; 68- So-so grades; 69-Went after; 70- Meddlesome;

DOWN: 1- Univ. hotshot; 2- Reader's Digest co-founder Wallace; 3- Like Nash's lama; 4- Portable power saw; 5- Lost; 6- 1922 Physics Nobel; 7- Suffix with fail; 8- Waterproof cover; 9- Bundle; 10- Already?; 11- ___ uncertain terms; 12- Hula hoops?; 13- After the bell; 21- Sis's sib; 23- Primp; 26- Ways to the pins; 27- Rice-___; 28- Attack; 29- Moral principle; 30- Inventor Nikola; 31- Provide food for; 33- Works hard; 34- Bert's roomie; 35- Philbin of TV; 37- Consumed, usually food; 38- Melancholic; 41- Like some college walls; 42- Keeper of the Holsteins; 47- Bugs; 49- "Michael Collins" actor; 51- Outdoes; 52- Romantic rendezvous; 53- Blueprint detail, for short; 54- Fail to win; 55- Mont Blanc, par exemple; 56- Steak order; 57- Spanish painter; 58-Shakespearean villain; 59- Fr. holy women; 60- Delilah portrayer; 63- Large container;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
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Old Macau, Unique Walk Up Macau 950 sq ft / HKD4.48M HKD 4,715sq ft Three Bedroom Apartment Ref: 18065557
Office - Dynasty Plaza Macau Park-Side Work Space Spacious Commercial Space HKD 72,000 / 3,500 sq ft Ref: 18070685

Manhattan D unit, High Floor Taipa 2,305 sq ft / HKD 17.98M HKD 7,800sq ft Four Bedrooms Apartment Ref: 18075558
Lakeview, Macau Macau 3 Bedrooms Apartment Front Balcony HKD 30,000 / 3,430 sq ft Ref: 18060680

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

Change in attitude key for Luis Enrique's revamped Spain

Tales Azzoni, Madrid

SPAIN 6, CROATIA 0

AFTER only two matches, Luis Enrique already knows the key to his early success as coach of Spain's national team.

Enrique said the team's approach in the impressive wins over England and Croatia in the UEFA Nations League is what made the difference for a revamped squad since he took over.

"What I liked the most in these 10 days was the players' attitude on and off the field," the former Barcelona coach said. "In only a few training sessions they were able to put our ideas into practice."

Enrique spoke after Spain's 6-0 rout of World Cup runner-up Croatia in the Nations League yesterday [Macau time]. Three days earlier, La Roja had come from behind to defeat England 2-1 at Wembley Stadium.

"It was a spectacular day. I couldn't have imagined it," Enrique said after the team overpowered Croatia. "But regardless of the score, what I saw in the players' attitude was what was important. With this level of efficiency and with this quality that we have in front of the goal, it will be very difficult to stop us."



Spain's manager Luis Enrique

Fans loudly chanted the coach's name the game in the southeastern Spanish city of Elche.

"I was a little embarrassed. It surprised me," Enrique said. "I'm thankful, but I prefer that they cheer the players, they are the real protagonists."

Enrique was announced as

Spain's coach in July following the team's World Cup debacle, when the soccer federation fired Julen Lopetegui two days before the tournament and the team eventually was eliminated by host Russia in the round of 16.

His first contact with players came less than two weeks ago

in training camp. He immediately imposed his energetic style in the practice sessions, and it translated onto the field in the first two matches.

Enrique had already taken action to bring the players together and build greater camaraderie within the group, including

banning cell phones during meals so players could spend more time talking to each other. He also took the squad to an "escape room," where players had to work together to solve puzzles and try to break out.

"I liked what I saw from the players the whole week," Enrique said.

On the field, the coach also implemented important changes, making the team apply more pressure without the ball and playing a more direct game in attack, relinquishing the endless short passes that used to be a characteristic of Spain's national team.

"Luis Enrique asks us to be very aggressive up front, to pressure and try to dominate, not giving the opponent any breathing room," said Marco Asensio, who scored a goal and set up three others against Croatia. "We needed to get this sort of feeling back. We've put in two great performances."

Asensio was the man of the match against Croatia but he didn't even start against England. Iago Aspas played at Wembley and also performed well. Saul Niguez, who has become an undisputable starter for Enrique in midfield thanks to his versatility, also scored yesterday, as did Sergio Ramos, Rodrigo and Francisco "Isco" Alarcon.

Spain's next match is a friendly against Wales on Oct. 11 in Cardiff. Four days later it will host England in Seville in the Nations League.

"Now we have time to analyze everything in more detail," Enrique said. "There are things to improve despite these first two matches." AP

TENNIS CARTOON

Newspaper reprints controversial depiction of Serena Williams

A cartoon of Serena Williams that has been widely condemned as a racist depiction of the tennis great has been partially reprinted on the front page of the Melbourne-based newspaper that initially published it.

The Herald Sun newspaper printed an edited portion of the cartoon — featuring 23-time Grand Slam winner Williams jumping on a broken racket during her dispute with a chair umpire in the U.S. Open final — among caricatures of other famous people yesterday under the headline "Welcome to the PC World."

The newspaper, which has Australia's largest circulation, has defended its cartoonist Mark Knight's depiction of Williams and

is asserting that the condemnation, which has come from all parts of the world, is driven by political correctness.

"If the self-appointed censors of Mark Knight get their way on his Serena Williams cartoon, our new politically correct life will be very dull indeed," the paper said on its front page.

Williams has won the Australian Open singles title seven times at Melbourne Park, including in 2017 when she was pregnant. She is a crowd favorite at the first tennis major of the year, which is held each January at a venue that is within sight of the Herald Sun's headquarters.

In comments published by News Corp., Knight

said that he created the cartoon after watching Williams' "tantrum" during her U.S. Open final loss to Naomi Osaka on Saturday and that it was designed to illustrate "her poor behavior on the day, not about race."

Knight reportedly has disabled his Twitter account after his post of the cartoon attracted tens of thousands of comments, mostly critical.

During the final against Osaka, Williams got a warning from the chair umpire for violating a rarely enforced rule against receiving coaching from the sidelines. An indignant Williams emphatically defended herself, denying she had cheated. A short time later, she smashed her racket in frustration

and was docked a point. She protested and demanded an apology from the umpire, who penalized her a game.

Critics of Knight's cartoon described it as a clear example of a stereotype facing black women, depicting Williams as an irate, hulking, big-mouthed black woman jumping up and down on a broken racket. The umpire was shown telling a blond, slender woman — meant to be Osaka, who is Japanese and Haitian — "Can you just let her win?"

"I was deeply offended. This is not a joke," said Vanessa K. De Luca, former editor-in-chief of Essence magazine, who wrote a column about the U.S. Open furor.

The cartoonist "comple-



tely missed the point of why she was upset," De Luca told The Associated Press. "It was about her integrity, and anybody who doesn't get that is perpetuating the erasure that so many black women feel when they are trying to speak up for themselves. It's like our opinions don't matter."

In a social media post, Peter Blunden, managing director of News Corp.'s

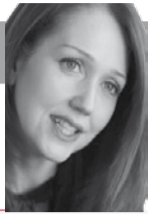
operations in the state of Victoria, said: "Australia's finest cartoonist Mark Knight has the strongest support of his colleagues for his depiction of Serena Williams' petulance. It's about bad behavior, certainly not race. The PC brigade are way off the mark ... again."

This isn't the first time a cartoon in a News Corp. newspaper has drawn allegations of racism. AP

opinion

Girl About Globe

Linda Kennedy



MOZZIE ZEUS

Have you ended summer with more insect bites than ever before? I have. The current ones, inflicted by mosquitos in Mykonos, Greece, have created topographical issues on my skin which rival Mount Olympus.

Here are my theories about what's going on.

Theory 1)

Every mosquito in Mykonos is toned, with a sculpted structure and a taut proboscis. They are, consequently, athletic and vigorous.

Evidence:

I mean, come on, you've heard of Mykonos, right? Recent celebrity sightings include Lewis Hamilton and Jason Derulo plus an Emirati big shot with a yacht called Radiant which has a water cannon. Mykonos is holibags for the gilded.

And the glorious. Mykonos men walk their dogs bare-chested. They hike wearing nano-shorts. On an average drive to the supermarket, you pass 15 six-packs on display. That's 90 packs. On one drive.

Body fat is rarely seen; Greece's economy is getting better, but when it comes to diet, austerity rules.

And it's not just blokes: women go running in bikinis and trainers. Mykonos may be the only place where Lulu Lemon is shunned.

Such human divinity is what makes me suspect anatomically perfect mosquitos are also here. Perhaps Mykonos' mosquitos have abdomens toned from crunches, wings with a daily upper-body routine and proboscises made long and flexible from whatever exercise targets that area. Pro-curls? Proboscis Pilates?

Theory 2)

These are hipster mosquitos. Pale Scottish people are their kale.

Evidence:

Mykonos is a resort where Greek meets chic. This is hipster Greece, with a low traditional taverna count. Chances are that the moussaka is artisanal and the kebabs were marinated in unicorn salted caramel. Single origin coffee is the day drink, swapped, after 5pm, for an ironic Ouzo-tini. Given this, mosquitos might watch their diet – and find they get all their organic nutrients from visitors like me.

Theory 3)

These are Zeus Mozzies, brought in after Greek mythology was extended to mosquitos, following an EU directive requiring diversity of deities across species.

Evidence:

My bites hint these mosquitos are indeed God-like. All powerful. Definitely comparable to Zeus. Plus Zeus could assign portfolios to lesser gods. Has he opened applications for God roles to insects and a mosquito has been appointed as the God of controlling tourism and restoring Greek culture?

Theory 4)

Or, actually, are there just more insects everywhere?

Evidence:

Let's not forget one of the new emojis unveiled in Unicode 11 was a mosquito. And earlier this year, it was calculated the number of illnesses caused by mosquitoes, ticks and fleas has tripled in the US over the last 13 years. Also, reports say warm weather in the UK has meant more wasps.

There were definitely more insects this year in Scotland, my home country. There, climatologists said midge numbers were higher than usual; ascribing this to spring's wet start and then early summer's hot sunshine.

(The midge is a Scottish presentation of a mosquito, smaller, bearing no lethal diseases other than to tourism, which it can kill. They come in squadrons; if Scotland ever becomes a warring nation, its air superiority could not be challenged. The Midge Devils would perform flypasts. The Midgewaffe could blitz London. Aeronautical designers could learn from midge agility in the air and create Boeing 7Midge7.)

As for Asia, I could find no official statistics on insect numbers. But, anecdotally, there was a cockroach in my gym class in Hong Kong earlier in summer. I felt sorry for it. Imagine doing lunges with all those legs. Maybe it's now on vacation in Mykonos.

Theory 5)

I just read this aloud to my boyfriend. He said: maybe it's because there's no wind.

THE PUTIN SAYS RUSSIA IDENTIFIED BUZZ SUSPECTS IN NOVICHOK POISONING

President Vladimir Putin said yesterday that Russia has identified the two men that Britain named as suspects in the poisoning of a former Russian spy, and that there is "nothing criminal" about them.

Britain last week charged two alleged agents of Russia's military intelligence agency in absentia with the poisoning of former Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia. Britain blames the Russian government for the attack, a claim

that Moscow has vehemently denied.

Speaking at a panel of an economic conference in Russia's Far East Putin insisted they do not work for the military.

"We know who these people are, we have found them," Putin said. "There is nothing special or criminal about it, I can assure you."

Asked by the panel's moderator if the men work for the military, Putin replied that they are "civilians" and called on the men to come forward.

Bigger, pricier iPhone expected at Apple event in Frisco today

Michael Liedtke, San Francisco

APPLE is expected to showcase three new iPhones today [Macau time], including its biggest and most expensive model yet, as the company seeks to widen the product's appeal amid slowing sales growth.

Most of the buzz is swirling around a rumored iPhone that is supposed to boast a 6.5-inch OLED screen, up from 5.8 inches on the existing iPhone X. OLED is a step up from traditional LCD technology in offering a display without a backlight, so black is truly black rather than simply dark.

If the speculation pans out, the even-bigger iPhone would represent Apple's attempt to feed consumers' appetite for increasingly bigger screens as they rely on smartphones to watch and record video, as well as take photos wherever they are.

The iPhone X, a dramatically redesigned model released last fall, got rid of the home button and introduced facial-recognition technology to unlock the device. It was the first mass-market smartphone to demand a USD1,000 starting price. Although the iPhone X didn't fulfill analysts' lofty sales expectations, it fa-



red well enough for Apple to up the ante with the bigger model, whose price is expected to unveil Wednesday.

Apple also is expected to release an iPhone with minor updates to last year's \$1,000 model and another version made of cheaper materials, including a 6.1-inch LCD screen. Even so, the cheaper iPhone is still expected to sell for \$650 to \$750. The cheaper phone also is expected to lose the home button. Price cuts for older models, with the home button, are also likely.

Names for the new devices aren't known. The company may also announce a new smartwatch. Apple didn't comment ahead of Wednesday's event, which is being held at its Cupertino, California, headquarters.

By making more expensive iPhones, Apple has been able to boost its profits despite waning demand as people upgrade phones less frequently. iPhones fetched an average price of \$724 during the April-June period, a nearly 20 percent increase from a year earlier.

Worldwide smartphone sales grew just 2 percent during that period, according to the research firm Gartner Inc. During the second quarter, which is typically slow for Apple, China's Huawei Technologies surpassed Apple as the second-largest seller of smartphones, based on Gartner's calculations. Samsung remained in the lead. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



Big shots. Vladimir Putin treated Xi Jinping with warmth during a visit to Russia. The two leaders ate pancakes with caviar and had shots of vodka at an exhibition at the sidelines of an economic forum in the far eastern port of Vladivostok.

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

WORLD BRIEFS

SYRIA Turkey urged the international community "to vocally and actively support" Turkish calls for a cease-fire in Syria's last rebel-held stronghold in neighboring Idlib province where Syria and its allies have intensified attacks ahead of an expected offensive.



VATICAN Pope Francis is summoning the presidents of every bishops conference around the world for a February summit to discuss preventing clergy sex abuse and protecting children – evidence that he realizes the scandal is global and that inaction threatens to undermine his legacy.



GERMANY Chancellor Angela Merkel suggested yesterday that Germany must be prepared to respond if chemical weapons are used in war zones, remarks that come amid a debate over possible military involvement in the Syrian conflict.



SPAIN Spanish Foreign Minister Josep Borrell says that he would prefer for jailed Catalan separatist leaders to be free while awaiting a trial for their role in last year's push for independence from Spain.

BRAZIL In a letter from his jail cell, former Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has called on tens of millions of supporters to vote for the man he named to replace on the Workers' Party ticket in October's presidential election.