



ELDERLY RESIDENTS DEMAND ACTION ON GREYHOUND NOISE, SMELL

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ENGLISH TEACHING RELIES TOO HEAVILY ON TEXTBOOKS
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ABE IN POWER FOR ANOTHER TWO TO THREE YEARS
Music to the ears of gaming moguls from here to Vegas. Pro-casino PM Shinzo Abe was re-elected as party head in a landslide victory

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FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Goldenhuys EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho

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WORLD BRIEFS



KOREAS A beaming South Korean President Moon Jae-in, freshly returned home yesterday from a whirlwind three-day summit with Kim Jong Un, said the North Korean leader wants the U.S. secretary of state to visit Pyongyang soon for nuclear talks. *More in Extra*

INDONESIA's president has signed a moratorium on new palm oil development and ordered a review of existing plantations, an official said yesterday, in a blow to an industry blamed for environmental destruction and worker exploitation. *More on p12*



MALAYSIA Former Prime Minister Najib Razak pleaded not guilty yesterday to 25 new charges of abuse of power and money laundering over the multimillion-dollar looting of a state investment fund.

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EXCLUSIVE | ASPIRE-HO IS BORN

Faye Ho, Michael Rutter team up to win GP

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MGM bounces on rumor investor wants Macau exit

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Mooncake sample fails food tests

The government has announced the test results for 40 mooncake samples, one of which was revealed to have not met required standards. The Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM), together with two other government departments, collected 31 traditional Cantonese-style mooncakes and nine ice-cream mooncakes for chemical and microbiological testing. The chemical tests included testing for preservatives, colorants, and antioxidants. The microbiological tests checked for pathogens such as Salmonella, Staphylococcus aureus and Listeria monocytogenes. Of the 40 samples, one mooncake from the Grandview Hotel was found to contain amounts of Aflatoxin B1 exceeding the legal limit. The IACM has called for the suspension of this mooncake.

Retailers found to raise prices during typhoon

The government has received reports concerning a number of wholesalers and retailers who raised the prices of goods during Typhoon Mangkhut. Secretary for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong reported the situation at a meeting with wholesalers and retailers. The industry representatives suggested to Leong that the government establish a mechanism for deliveries, tank truck parking and short-term storage during typhoons, in order to ensure punctual delivery and sufficient storage of basic supplies.

Confidentiality bill to face public consultation

The government will conduct a public consultation on the Macau SAR Confidentiality System this year. The Director of the Legal Affairs Bureau (DSAJ), Liu Dexue, said the bill aims to improve the legal system for confidentiality in Macau and safeguard the SAR's national interests. The bill will set standards for confidentiality within the SAR, establish a strict confidentiality management system, and implement criminal penalties for those who disclose or steal national secrets. The DSAJ, the Public Security Police Force, the Judiciary Police and the Personal Data Protection Office have formed a group to draft the bill.

Elderly residents demand action on greyhound noise

DANIEL BEITLER



Daniel Beitler

A group of elderly residents hand-delivered a petition to the government yesterday afternoon to protest the relocation of some 500 greyhounds to their Coloane neighborhood, which they say has brought problems of noise and odor.

Led by spokesperson Sister Beatrice Ip, the group resides at Asilo Vila Madalena in Coloane village, home to approximately 80 senior citizens, many of whom are over 90 years old.

Ip said the first batch of the greyhounds from the Canidrome rehoming program began on Wednesday and that the re-

sidents are already concerned about the animals' noise and smell.

As many as 500 dogs are expected to be housed at the Coloane site, which is very close to Asilo Vila Madalena, once their relocation is complete.

"The smell and the noise of the dogs will disturb the whole village," Ip told the media yesterday outside of the government headquarters. "When one dog starts to bark, the others do too. Then the street dogs start barking. If the whole place is filled with dogs, we will not be able to sleep. It will become very loud."

"Most of our elderly ladies

cannot move so much; only these few [present at the meeting yesterday] could come out. If there is any problem, it will be difficult for these elderly people to do something about it," she added.

The group's petition seeks answers from the authorities on whether the project was approved by the relevant government departments, and whether the Canidrome or the government should have consulted with residents in the area.

Ip added that other people in the neighborhood "are [also] not happy about it [the situation] but they haven't fully understood the outcomes yet."

In the petition, the senior citizens and their relatives described the situation as an emergency and requested an urgent meeting with the government, as well as a written reply within 10 days.

Last week, the Social Affairs Bureau director, Vong Yim Mui, said that his bureau had sent staff to the senior citizens' home to learn their opinions and to provide assistance if necessary.

The greyhounds are being relocated after the Macau (Yat Yuen) Company concession for greyhound racing expired on July 20. The company had operated in Macau for more than half a century.

Gov't listening to opinions on typhoon casino closures

THE Secretary for Economy and Finance, Leong Vai Tac, told reporters yesterday that there was no specific regulation in Macau currently enabling the government to order a blanket suspension of casino operations in the city.

In view of the adverse weather conditions caused by Typhoon Mangkhut, gaming operations in all of Macau's casinos were suspended

from 11 p.m. on September 15. Gaming operations resumed at 8 a.m. on September 17.

In a bid to minimize the impact of Typhoon Mangkhut, the civil protection management team recommended suspending the city's casino operations to ensure the safety of casino employees, visitors to the city and residents. The recommendation was approved by the Chief Executive and agreed

by the city's six gaming concessionaires and sub-concessionaries.

Leong said the temporary suspension of casino operations was a result of the ongoing cooperation between the government and the city's gaming operators.

Meanwhile, Leong said he hoped gaming operators would streamline the process of suspension and resumption of casino operations in the event of a public emergency.

On Wednesday, the New Macau Gaming Staff Rights Association also called for a mandatory suspension of casino operations during strong typhoons.

The government said that it will heed opinion from the public and from members of the Legislative Assembly regarding the potential introduction of a mandatory city-wide suspension of casino operations during public emergencies.

On Monday, the Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, also said that the government had yet to consider such mandatory casino closures.

According to Wong, Macau does not have a law requiring casinos to close during strong typhoons. The gaming concession contract also does not stipulate casino closures during emergencies.

Such a provision is, however, included in a government proposal to overhaul Macau's civil protection system. A public consultation on the proposal was concluded in August.

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A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

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MDT EXCLUSIVE

Rutter returns to Macau with new team and lofty ambitions

Renato Marques

EIGHT-TIME Macau Grand Prix winner Michael Rutter is returning to the streets of Macau with a new team and grander ambitions.

The British rider will race under the colors of the new Aspire-Ho Team, which is based in the U.K. Rutter will join forces with local businesswoman Faye Ho (granddaughter of gaming tycoon Stanley Ho) and rising star Peter Hickman – himself a two-time Macau Grand Prix winner – to attack the podium.

In an exclusive interview with the Times, Rutter – whose records include Guia Circuit victories – revealed that he will ride the exclusive Honda RCV213 motorcycle for the 52nd Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix, which promises to spark excitement and curiosity about the event.

“For the past few years, I have won eight Macau Grand Prix and my teammate for this year will be Peter Hickman, who has won two. Obviously Hickman is the top rider in the British Championship, plus he won the TT this year and did the fastest ever lap. So Faye [Ho] thought it would be a good idea to put us together under [the] Aspire-Ho name and try to win this year’s Macau Grand Prix,” Rutter told the Times.

“Obviously this is never guaranteed, but between us we have won 10 Macau Grand Prix [events] so we have a good feel for it and Faye [Ho] bought a bike, [a Honda] RCV213, which is basically a MotoGP bike; a very special motorcycle,” he noted.

The motorcycle, which has never been seen in the streets of Macau, will be a major attraction of this year’s event.

“The bike is very special, no one has ever ridden one in Macau. It is just something comple-

RENATO MARQUES



tely different, from the sound of it to everything else really, and it will be amazing to see it around the streets of Macau.”

Rutter can still only imagine how the new ride will fare, as he will only be able to test it “in two weeks’ time.”

To the question of whether the motorcycle will impress the audience, Rutter said, “Definitely. That’s the reason why Faye thought [of] this idea. What is the best bike in the world to go with? This is probably one of the best things you can buy. It’s just unique; there are only 150 of them. It’s very rare and, of course, very expensive.”

Ho told the Times that her interest in motorcycle racing was first piqued when she started attending the Grand Prix in Macau a couple of years ago.

“[When] I moved to the U.K., I went to races a few times [and I started liking it] and when [Michael] asked if I wanted to join the team, I said yes!”

“I must say that this past year opened my eyes; I have been to most of the meetings [from Isle of Man TT to short circuits in the British and Australian championships]. It’s been interesting and a lot of fun too,” she continued.

Aspire-Ho is a U.K.-based property development business run by Ho and a business partner.

The company currently develops properties in Surrey and London, but Ho may consider expanding elsewhere, including Macau.

“You can’t rule that out and we probably will be here, eventually. Obviously this is a very new project. Right now it is based in the U.K. but we [...] will look into expanding into other countries and that is why for this year’s Grand Prix, we want to push it out and go wide,” she said.

Rutter noted that the Grand

Prix is “a [promotional] vehicle and it’s a different way to promote as there are so many people into motorsports, [many of them] business people, and there is a lot of networking within it,” he said, adding, “it’s amazing who you meet through it. So it is definitely a good way of doing it.”

For Rutter, the great advantage lies in the “uniqueness” of the event, which features several high-level competitions both in cars and on motorcycles.

I have won eight Macau Grand Prix and my teammate for this year will be Peter Hickman, who has won two. So we have a good feel for it.

MICHAEL RUTTER

“It’s the only one in the world that runs both car racing and bike events together. It’s definitely unique,” he said. He described coming to Asia, and especially to Macau and Hong Kong, as a great surprise.

“It has been an eye-opener to come to this part of the world. It’s an amazing place to visit [...] with or without the Grand Prix [...] especially if you come from where I’m coming from in [the] U.K., it’s completely different.”

Questioned on his long streak of success on the course, Rutter said, “Macau GP isn’t like the Isle of Man where we race one by one [time trial mode]. Here, it’s a proper race that I think suits me more.”

Breast cancer made Faye Ho change perspective

MANY had questioned the reasons behind local businesswoman Faye Ho’s apparent exit from Macau and her subsequent shift to the U.K.

Ho told the Times the reasons for the move and how her sickness gave her a new outlook on life.

“Obviously I think now people do realize I was sick two years ago. Because I actually experienced breast cancer and I went through all the treatment in the U.K. I now try to put myself out where I can help cancer research a bit more by raising money for their research,” Ho said.

“I think after you experience something like that, you realize how tough the people [are] who do have the disease and go through treatment, which is not nice,” she said adding that this fact now influences her charity work.

“That is something I’m doing now. I have been very quiet for the last two or three years and only this year I managed to go with Michael [Rutter] around to different places and meeting

different people. It has been fun and I must say that the racing world is like a massive family and I understand how close everyone gets and [how they] look out for each other,” she said, adding as an example that “in TT [at Isle of Man] you see that every time there is a red flag, people get quiet. You learn from it.”

Ho stepped back from her other businesses and refrained from getting involved with too many other projects.

“I kind of took a backseat on that, starting when I moved to [the] U.K. and then obviously when I got sick and could not really do anything. For the past year [I’ve been] trying to get everything back on track,” she said, adding that she has recently been more involved in projects and topics close to her heart.

“I have been coming back to the things that I like to do and obviously the charity project [for breast cancer] but I would like to do more things back in Macau. I feel like I have been detached a little,” she said.



Michael Rutter will ride the Honda RCV213 motorcycle for the 52nd Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix

English-language teaching relies too heavily on textbooks, says USJ vice rector

Lynzy Valles

THE University of Saint Joseph's vice-rector, Keith Morrison, says an unbalanced methodology for language learning may negatively impact students' English proficiency.

Speaking at yesterday's breakfast talk of the British Business Association of Macao, titled "Rewiring Macau's English - Problems of non-native English speakers," the scholar argued that Macau still faces problems when it comes to English proficiency, and called for a shift in teaching methodology.

Although some schools in Macau benchmark their English modules, many are still inhibited by over-reliance on textbooks.

"Then they use [textbooks as], though they are given the required knowledge, they don't get the opportunity to practice, to generate their own English," Morrison told the Times.

"That ongoing assessment of children's performance, diagnostic assessment and then recor-

ding of that assessment and the actions that are taken, that's missing [...] and it needs to happen," he added.

Morrison suggested that institutions should require students to go beyond program requirements by speaking more English and fostering a reading culture, instead of recycling fill-in-the-blanks templates from textbooks.

He said that some schools have poor methods of teaching and assessing English skills, adding that there is an over-emphasis on grammar-translation and template-based approaches, which could lead to the lack of self-generated English by students.

■ ■
We still need grammar - but it's a question of how much. If we fill the language curriculum [with just that] something suffers in communication.

KEITH MORRISON
 USJ VICE RECTOR

"We still need grammar - but it's a question of how much. If we fill the language curriculum at the moment with all of that, something suffers in communication," Morrison explained.

Questioned whether the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) and Tertiary Education Services play a significant role in changing the language curriculum, the educator stressed that institutions must be more honest in assessing students and their own standards. He added that there are a number of students in Macau who have graduated high school with minimal English skills.

Although DSEJ has a language curriculum, students may not retain what they have learned.

Morrison said low standards of English are "set, accepted and qualified" in higher education here and there is a lack of external benchmarking in English.

"For example, at university entrance level, how is it that students can meet university entrance requirements in English when their English is awful?"

"I just don't get it, but it happens," he said.

The scholar said similar situations happen abroad. He cited the example of U.K. universities which require applicants to score at least 6.5 in the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) examinations but still admit students who fail, provided that they develop the necessary language skills within a year.

He said universities need to re-assess students' graduation requirements when several modules require a certain standard of performance in English.

"I think there needs to be much greater externality, there needs to be much greater performance assessment on an ongoing basis, not just by semester exams but by ongoing review bases. There are schools in Macau [which] do that and the students in those schools flourish," he said.

Morrison also added that some business operators could assist residents in improving their English skills. He suggested that employers could provide compulsory English training within office hours, with "external standards to be reached and incentives offered."

He also suggested that business operators work more closely with higher education institutions to determine appropriate employment requirements, namely the standards of general and business English.

Another challenge is that good English is not needed for many jobs in Macau. Morrison remarked that local employers have no alternative but to fish from a pool of poor English speakers. ▶

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Keith Morrison

In 2017, Macau plunged five spots in the EF English Proficiency Index (EPI) ranking 42nd worldwide and 12th in Asia.

According to the educator, Macau may stay in this relatively poor position compared to other regions, which

place more emphasis on English.

"We see many documents which will be very helpful for local [English-speaking] residents to have translations in English, and it's not provided because it's not an official language. I

think they need to broaden their view there. If they are genuine about [improving] English then more steps need to be taken," said Morrison.

He added that Macau needs to raise its English proficiency for the sake of

international trade, lest it eventually impact the city's image.

"If businesses from overseas engaging with Macau find [the] level of English questionable, that could hamper the image," Morrison concluded.

UM launches massive open online course

THE University of Macau (UM) will launch its first massive open online course (MOOC) on September 26.

The free course, titled 'Creativity,' aims to help learners develop creative thinking skills through a combination of short lecture videos, multiple choice questions, online and offline communication, and other interactive learning activities.

UM said the MOOC will explore the principles, types, and techniques of creative thinking in a manner that allows learners to immediately put what they learn into practice.

As traditional industries continue to decline, knowledge and skill-based jobs are gradually being taken up by artificial intelligence and robots. Experts predict that this trend will only intensify in the future.

UM believes that there is a pressing need for universities to produce creative graduates skilled in critical thinking, leadership and collaboration to meet the challenges of the new century.

The course instructors are Professor Katrine Wong from the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Professor Michael Li from the Faculty of Education, and Professor Davood Gozli from the Faculty of Social Sciences.

'Creativity' concludes on November 4 and will take about three hours per week to complete. The course is free and all are welcome to enroll.

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CCM to present Swedish dance show

THE Gothenburg Opera Dance Company will perform its show "Noetic" in Macau on November 18 at the Grand Auditorium of Macau Cultural Centre (CCM).

The Swedish contemporary dance group's show merges fashion and design, framed by an eclectic cultural and sonic background.

Conceived by choreographer Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, the performance explores mind, body and space in a display of elegance and sharpness, as cited in a press release issued by CCM.

Dressed in black and white by Belgian fashion label Les Hommes, two dozen dancers step onto the sleek stage, drawing gestures sometimes fluid and sometimes

mechanical, conveying the building, altering and demolition of reality.

The cast expresses a series of emotions, manipulating carbon fibre shapes imagined by renowned British sculptor and set designer Antony Gormley.

Meanwhile, the music especially composed for the Swedish dance company by Szymon Brzóska gradually develops into a blend of orchestral passages, percussion and vocal solos interpreted by Swedish singer Miriam Andersén.

"Noetic" premiered in 2014 and is one of many creations the Gothenburg Opera Dance Company has produced in collaboration with renowned choreographers, artists and composers.

Macao Fashion Festival 2018 to kick off on October 18

THIS year's Macao Fashion Festival will take place during the 23rd International Trade and Investment Fair (MIF) at The Venetian Macao from October 18 to 20.

The organizers – the Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Center (CPTTM) and Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) – hope to use the festival to showcase 'Made-in-Macau' design on a global stage. They aim to present the achievements of the Macao fashion industry and raise its profile in the region.

The 2018 festival will have a total of six professional fashion shows, one of which will take place during the opening ceremony. There will also be four shows featuring local designers.

The opening ceremony, titled the Belt and Road Initiative Fashion Parade, will feature eight renou-



An aspect of last year's International Trade and Investment Fair

ned fashion designers from Macau, Hong Kong and overseas. The line-up includes Canceição Carvalho from Bissau, Joe Chan from Taipei, Hanz Herzl Pableo (aka Hanz Coquilla) from Cebu, Otto Tang from Hong Kong and Pimsiri Nakswas-

di from Bangkok. The local designers include Chanteile Cheang, Rainie Choi and Alo Lo.

On the second day of the festival, there will be two Brand Collection Shows featuring the works of four outstanding local labels, in-

cluding Decom and i-Gift.

There will be a special program on the third day: the Award Ceremony of the 5th Subsidy Programme for Fashion Design on Sample Making, organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC). The eight winners will showcase their diverse collections on the catwalk.

The local brands on display will range from women's and men's wear to shoe designs and sportswear.

Uniform design will also feature in this festival. According to CPTTM, there is high demand for uniform design in the SAR; for instance, Macau's casinos have numerous staff with unique uniforms for different positions and seasons.

Last year's festival attracted 1,400 visitors and 32 designers and fashion brands from Macau, Hong Kong and overseas. Thirteen local brands had their own exhibition booths.

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MELCO DELIVERS MOONCAKES TO ORGANIZATIONS

Some 240 volunteers from Melco Resorts & Entertainment Limited visited eight local organizations to deliver a total of over 1,000 donated boxes of mooncake to those in need for the important Chinese season of reunion and thanksgiving. Melco's Mid-Autumn volunteering team included chairman and CEO Lawrence Ho and other members of senior management, who brought gifts of mooncakes and fruits, and spent time with residents of the Pou Tai Integrated Service Center for the Elderly in time for festive celebrations.

At the Pou Tai event attended by over 50 Melco volunteers, the team performed songs, dances and magic shows for the elderly before distributing gifts and spending quality time communicating with the senior citizens, as cited in a statement issued by the gaming operator.

Other benefiting organizations from this year's Mid-Autumn volunteering activities include the Concordia School for Special Education, Centro de Serviços Completos para Idosos Cheng I and Associação Familiares Encarregados Deficientes Mentais Macau, amongst others.

GAMING

MGM bounces on rumor investor wants out of Macau

CASINO stocks in the U.S. rose this week on the back of a news report that suggested an activist investor in U.S. casino giant MGM Resorts International was pushing for the sale of the firm's Macau properties. The story was first reported by the New York Post and then picked up by several news outlets, including the Financial Times and Bloomberg, which said that people familiar with the matter had denied Starboard owned any MGM stock, but that the fund had refused to comment.

According to the New York Post and several investment websites, U.S.-based hedge fund Starboard Value had allegedly amassed a USD500 million-plus stake in MGM Resorts International, the majority shareholder in MGM China, with the intention of getting a seat on the board and pushing for big changes in the company.

The Post reported that one of Starboard's ideas invol-



The MGM lion statue outside of its Cotai property in Macau

ved selling MGM China's two properties and exiting Macau. Another would be to merge the firm's MGM Growth Properties real estate investment arm with rival Caesars' equivalent.

MGM China owns two properties in Macau; an original site on the peninsula and a newer property in Cotai.

Previously, MGM Resorts advised shareholders not to back board candidates offered by specific hedge funds.

In early 2015, the company called on shareholders to reject a candidate from a New York hedge fund that had suggested converting the company's land holdings into a real estate in-

vestment trust. However, later that same year, MGM Growth Properties was founded.

MGM Resorts could not be reached yesterday for a comment.

Analysts say that move is not unusual activity for Las Vegas, where other activist investors have recently been doubling down.

The city has seen a downturn in casino revenues in recent months and shares of big players MGM Resorts, Sands Las Vegas, Caesars and Wynn Resorts are each double digits down for the year. But investors are hopeful that a recovery is close to hand.

MGM Resorts is the dominant player on the Las Vegas scene, but has less exposure in Macau than American rivals Las Vegas Sands and Wynn Resorts.

It will be the first of the three U.S. operators to have its concession expire in 2020, alongside Stanley Ho's SJM Holdings, while Las Vegas Sands and Wynn Resorts will have two more years. DB

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REAL ESTATE MATTERS

Does taping your windows actually work during a typhoon?

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

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SAM LEE

As you know, Macau just went through another suspenseful event of facing a Super Typhoon. Although innocently named after the Thai word for the fruit Mangosteen, the devastation caused by Mangkhut was not so innocent. It flooded many parts of Macau, caused dozens of injuries and closed all casinos in Macau for the first time. Thankfully, there were no casualties.

One thing that you would have noticed if you were in Macau during the typhoon was the extraordinary amounts of tape applied to the windows all around the city. Although some window-tapers opted to create patterns that resemble the Christian cross, the taping is not a superstitious attempt to protect the homes against the typhoon's relentless winds. It's a supposedly practical method that with purposes: to serve as reinforcement for the window panes against the high winds and flying objects, and failing that, to prevent the windows from shattering into a million tiny pieces.

Watching the nervous people of Macau holding their breath and diligently taping away at their windows before the typhoon, I had to wonder - Does it actually work?

A simple Google search revealed the unanimous opinion of the disaster experts of the internet. According to them, not only is taping a completely ineffective method of window protection in a super typhoon scenario, it is actually a net negative. Firstly, the tape does little to nothing to actually reinforce the window itself, no arguments. Secondly, if the window does shatter, the tape can hold the shards together and create an even more dangerous scenario for the inhabitants the tape failed to protect in the first place. Large pieces of glasses taped together and flying at you at super typhoon level speeds is not exactly something you dream of. Lastly, even if the window luckily doesn't break (with no thanks to the tape), you are left with the absolute worst-case scenario of having to re-

move sticky tape residue from your window. It might just be the most difficult thing the good people of Macau would have to endure in their adult lives.

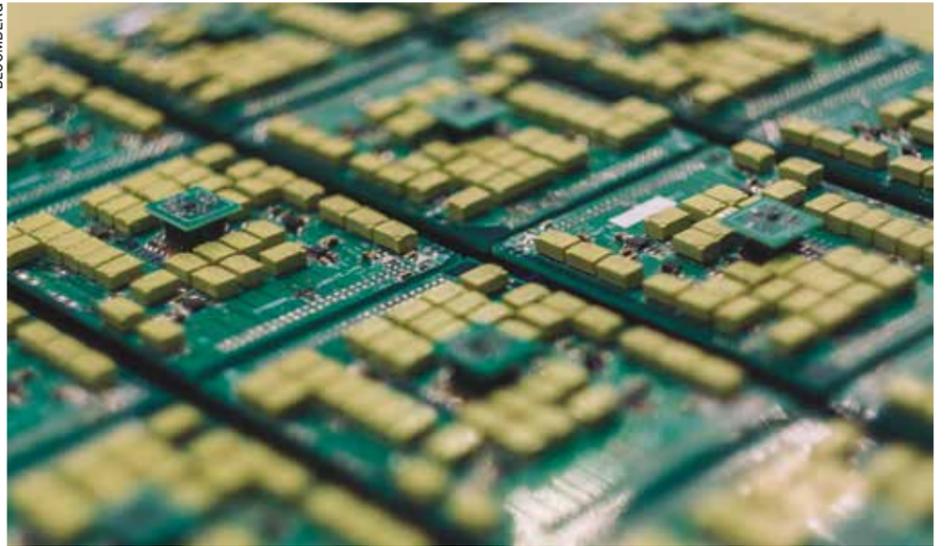
I was joking about the last point, but more importantly, if tape doesn't help then what can you actually do to protect yourself during a typhoon?

According to Business Insider, one DIY option that would help is boarding up your windows with plywood and caulking the perimeters to keep out the water.

To me, this sounds like it might work, but a bit overambitious for the average typhoon survivor. A more practical method might be to save the tape and simply remove yourself and your valuables away from the windows and places exposed to falling objects. Oh, and another thing. Get insurance. Always have insurance.

Property investment presentations and discussions are offered by JML, if you are interested in learning more please do contact me.

BLOOMBERG



Taiwan components maker is said to explore billion-dollar sale

PRECISION Motion Industries Inc., whose components are used in semiconductor equipment, is exploring a sale that could value the Taiwanese company at more than USD1 billion, according to people familiar with the matter.

Closely held PMI is working with a financial adviser on the potential deal, said the people, who asked not to be identified because the deliberations are private. The company has attrac-

ted interest from private-equity firms and other industrial companies, one of the people said.

Any deal would add to the \$4.5 billion of announced acquisitions of Taiwanese companies this year, compared with \$3.9 billion during the same period in 2017, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

In July, a consortium led by KKR & Co. agreed to acquire Taipei-based LCY Chemical Corp. in a deal valued at NTD47.8

billion (\$1.6 billion).

Deliberations on any sale of Taichung-based PMI are at an early stage, and the company could still decide against a deal, the people said. PMI didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

Founded in 1990, PMI makes ball screws and other components used in precision machinery for plastics injection, semiconductor manufacturing and metal shaping, its website shows. MDT/Bloomberg



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Kyunghee Park, Daniela Wei and Matt Townsend

China races to get toys and car parts to US before tariffs hit

THE race is on to get Chinese goods into the U.S. before President Donald Trump's tariffs bite.

At sea and in the sky, the U.S. president's trade war with China has ignited a freight frenzy. Hyundai Merchant Marine Co.'s vessels leaving China for the U.S. are full, deliveries to California ports are surging, and cargo rates for journeys across the Pacific are at a four-year high.

The levies that kick in Monday have amplified the busy pre-holiday season as Chinese manufacturers rush everything from toys to bikes to car parts into American stores before tariffs hit. At Air China Ltd., freight to the U.S. is booming.

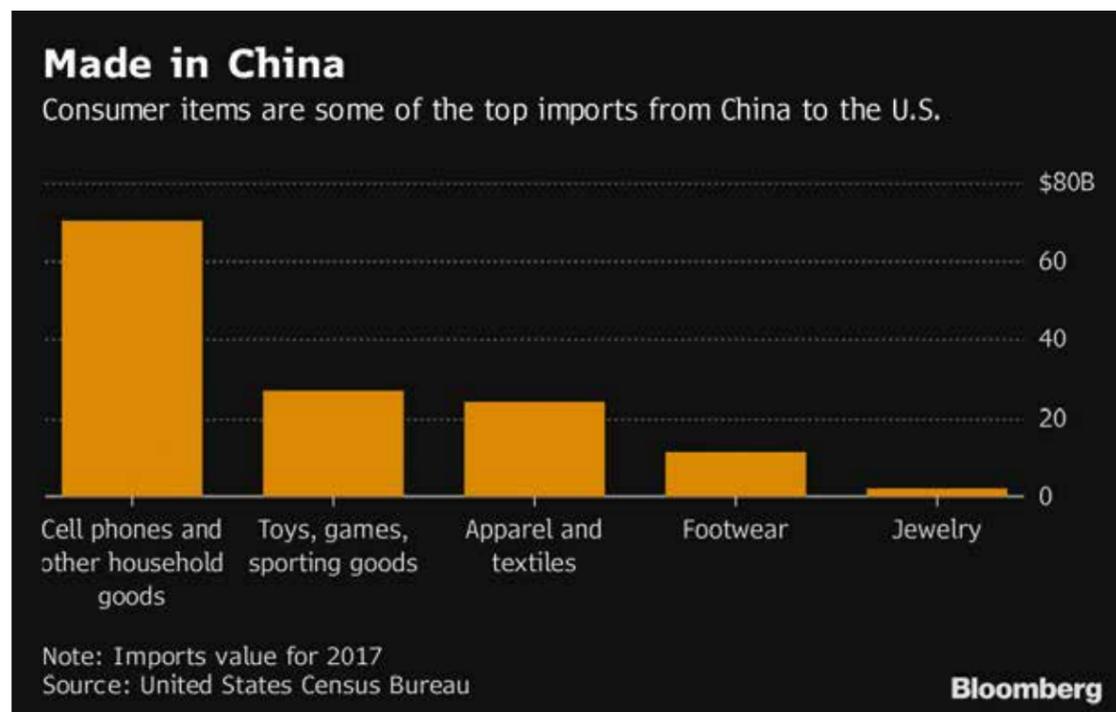
In Jiangsu province on China's east coast, E.D. Opto Electrical Lighting Co. dispatched a batch of car lights by sea to Los Angeles in late August, earlier than planned.

"It takes about 25 days, so I hope we can make it," said export manager Melissa Shu. The company is racing to complete an order for another U.S. customer who's prepared to pay extra for air freight if it means dodging the new tariffs, she said.

CONSUMER BENEFIT

Starting Monday, a 10 percent duty applies to USD200 billion of Chinese imports - Trump's biggest salvo yet in a trade war between the world's largest economies that now directly hits U.S. consumers. After that, American importers have until the end of the year to stockpile Chinese products before the tariff leaps to 25 percent.

As companies accelerate shipments from China to beat those deadlines, American



consumers could get a leg-up: anticipated price hikes on household goods at retailers like Walmart Inc. and Target Corp. might be held off in the short term. In China, this front-loading of exports helped push China's trade surplus with the U.S. to a record in August.

Trump has threatened duties on a further \$267 billion of made-in-China goods, which would hit nearly all other consumer products including mobile phones, shoes and clothes. That escalation could spur U.S. companies to preemptively load up on those goods, too, Deutsche Bank AG said in a report this week. The National Retail Federation in the U.S. warned that

duties will lead to higher prices and even product shortages.

TOY SHIPMENTS

In the industrial hub of Dongguan in southern China, toy maker Lung Cheong Group - which supplies Hasbro Inc. - is getting squeezed by American customers watching their calendars.

"More clients in the last two months are asking if we can deliver goods ahead of the scheduled time to avoid the upcoming tariffs," said Chairman Lun Leung. For small high-tech toys that have higher retail selling prices, some clients are willing to upgrade from sea freight to air, he said.

Such expedited orders are helping to fill ports along the U.S. West Coast. Imports to northern California's Port of Oakland surged 9.2 percent in August. That was the busiest August in the port's 91-year history. At the Port of Long Beach, imports of containers rose 9.4 percent this year through August. That comes after a record 2017.

RUSH GAME

Concerns about the trade dispute is also spurring last-minute shipments across the Pacific for Ocean Network Express Pte., a combination of the container operations of Japan's three biggest shipping firms, it said.

"We have a rush game with

the tariff," said Rahul Kapoor, an analyst at Bloomberg Intelligence in Singapore. He said he'd heard of cargo being left behind at Chinese docks because America-bound ships were so full.

While Monday's tariff may come too soon for some U.S. companies importing Chinese products, they still have a window of more than three months before duties surge on Jan. 1.

Ralph Bradley, chief executive officer of a small automotive lighting manufacturer in Fort Worth, Texas, has more than \$300,000 of products coming to the U.S. on a boat from China. There's not much he can do about paying the 10 percent duty, or \$30,000, on those vehicle-lighting parts.

But Bradley's firm, Jammy Inc., is considering bringing extra goods into the U.S. from China before the tariffs more than double, he said. "I'm anxiously awaiting any word that Congress might fix this situation," Bradley said.

For some businesses, there's no way to sidestep Trump. Hannah Kain, CEO of Alom Technologies Corp., which helps companies manage their supply chains, said clients have been fast-tracking orders for months in an effort to avoid the tariffs. Yet, many products have lead times stretching to two years.

"There is really no way to navigate it," said Kain, whose clients have included Ford Motor Co. "You just have to be very reactive, as far as you can." **Bloomberg**

New iPhone no help to assembler as Hon Hai slides down rankings

Yu-Huay Sun

THE contrast between Apple Inc.'s ascension to a USD1 trillion stock and the share performance of its biggest iPhone assembler just got even starker.

Hon Hai Precision Industry Co. has surrendered its position as Taiwan's second-biggest stock after six years. Concern is mounting for some Taiwanese Apple suppliers, which are struggling to adjust to a new dynamic of higher-priced

iPhones because their revenue relies on the number of devices sold.

Hon Hai has slipped behind Formosa Petrochemical Corp., the island's only publicly traded oil refiner, which has a market cap of NTD1.32 trillion (\$43 billion), according to data compiled by Bloomberg. Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., the world's biggest contract chipmaker, has a value of NTD6.74 trillion.

Apple unveiled its new iPhone XS and XS Max

devices earlier this month, though preorders are weaker than those for the iPhone X, according to Rosenblatt Securities Inc. Taiwan's Apple suppliers have seen their share prices fall as shipment growth has stagnated.

Hon Hai has slumped 38 percent since hitting a record price in the middle of last year and is trading at its lowest level relative to the MSCI ACWI/Information Technology Index since 2002.

Investors are shifting

funds to defensive stocks like Formosa Petrochemical because of macro uncertainties including the China-U.S. trade war, said Reliance Securities Investment Consultant Co. vice president Richard Lin.

The downward trend could continue for Hon Hai, Capital Investment Management Corp. vice president Alan Tseng said. "Apple suppliers are bearing the risks of possible disappointing sales of the new iPhones," he said. **Bloomberg**



AP PHOTO



Chinese billionaire Liu Qiangdong, also known as Richard Liu

BILLIONAIRE BLUES

Prosecutors in Minneapolis to review Liu sexual assault case

MINNEAPOLIS police have finished their initial investigation into a sexual assault allegation against Chinese billionaire Richard Liu and have turned the case over to prosecutors for possible charges, prosecutors announced yesterday.

Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman said his office will review the evidence and make a charging decision. There is no deadline for that decision.

The founder of the Beijing-based e-commerce site JD.com was arrested Aug. 31 in Minneapolis on suspicion of felony rape. A police report doesn't provide details of the alleged incident. Liu was released the next day and he returned to China.

Liu is a student with the Carlson School of Management's doctor of business administration China program and was in Minneapolis to attend a residency from Aug. 26 to Sept. 1. The four-year program is geared toward high-level executives in China and is a partnership with Tsinghua University School of Economics and Management.

JD.com has said Liu was falsely accused. His defense attorneys in Minneapolis have said he is innocent.

Liu, known in Chinese as Liu Qiangdong, is a prominent member of the Chinese tech elite, with a fortune of USD7.5 billion.

JD.com purchases goods directly from suppliers and delivers using a fleet of thousands of bright red electric delivery vans emblazoned with its logo, a cartoon dog called Joy. The company has a workforce of 158,000 and operates 486 warehouses. It says its drivers can reach 99 percent of China's population.

The high cost of doing everything itself means JD.com has struggled to make a profit despite explosive sales growth. It reported a 2.2 billion yuan (\$334 million) loss for the quarter ending in June while revenue rose 31 percent over a year earlier to 122.3 billion yuan (\$18.5 billion). AP

INCONVENIENT TRUTH

China is hitting reality now on 'impossible' tax, deficit goals

CHINA'S government is grappling with an inconvenient truth: you can't cut taxes, boost spending and reduce the budget deficit all at the same time.

Having promised to do all three this year, a slowing economy coupled with the trade war with the U.S. is now underlining the contradiction in the government's goals. Incomplete implementation of tax cuts and a rising social-security burden are also worsening the downward pressure on consumers' spending power.

The government is looking into that situation, Premier Li Keqiang said Thursday, and expects that tax revenue will see a relatively large decline in the second half of the year. There are also plans for further tax reductions, he said, and a lowering of the burden of social security payments.

Those measures may well encourage consumption, as Li claims, but are unlikely to do anything to help achieve the goal of reducing the budget deficit. While policy makers are expected to hit their tightened target of a deficit of 2.6 percent for this year, it may be at the expense of a reversal in 2019.

"It's impossible to cut tax, maintain government expenditure growth but not adjust the deficit at the same time", said Song Yu, chief China economist at Beijing Gao Hua Securities Co., Goldman Sachs Group Inc.'s mainland joint-venture partner. Without a meaningful cut in spending, the only effective way to cut taxes is to widen the deficit, according to Song, and the government needs to be explicit about it.

China Politburo Signals Greater Focus on Growth Amid Trade

de Spat

China has gaps to fill when it comes to paying for public services like health-care and provision for the elderly, especially with an aging society and an economy that's on a long-term glide path to more modest rates of growth. Nevertheless, the government is now poised to water down reforms of the social security system that Nomura Holdings Inc estimates could have shaved up to 0.6 percentage point from output growth.

Altering the deficit target would mean reversing March's policy to cut that deficit, which had been part of Premier Li Keqiang's plan to reduce risk in the economy. To do so, the government will have to find new revenue sources, and with tax hikes off the table, that means new bond sales and borrowing at both central and local levels.

From 2019, policy makers will likely have to raise the annual budget deficit target, "otherwise fiscal authorities will be forced to tighten collection to meet the expenditure demand, and there'll be no reduction of the burden for businesses and households in the end," Song said.

With tensions increasing with the U.S. over trade and the slowdown of the domestic economy, the government has revised its strategy to focus more on growth. Since the start of July, the State Council has convened a series of meetings to look at new investment projects, pushed local governments to sell bonds faster and spend money, and added tax breaks, offering at least an extra 65 billion yuan (USD9.5 billion) of tax cuts in addition to 1.1 trillion yuan of reductions planned already this year.

In addition, reform of the personal income tax code includes new deductions aimed at helping middle-class families. While the measures which partly start next month should support consumption, it still puts extra weight on fiscal policy which is the natural shock absorber at a time of stress.

The stricter collection of taxes this year has meant businesses felt the pinch, with the government stepping up local law-enforcement inspection to crack down on tax evasion, especially on corporate value-added tax.

Bloomberg

So while the measures Li flagged Thursday to reduce the burden on companies may help alleviate that, investment is still sluggish, indicating that more time and, potentially, further policy changes will be needed.

Officials are tackling a very fluid, unclear situation, and sentiment is rapidly worsening, triggered by the trade war, wealth management rules and other challenges, said Wen Bin, researcher at China Minsheng Banking Corp. in Beijing.

"When business sentiments is weak, more government-funded projects are necessary to quickly drive up demand along the supply chain," according to Wen, who estimates China needs to raise the annual budget deficit target to 3 percent in 2019, from this year's 2.6 percent.

"There's a long way to go to achieve meaningful tax cuts to households and companies, especially the smaller ones," said Zhao Bo, professor of economics at Peking University. "It requires painful reforms. And sometimes you just have to give up something." Bloomberg

Taxes Grow Faster Than Economy

Government Revenue Tax Revenue Nominal GDP Growth



Note: Revenue data shows year-on-year change in quarterly revenue.

Source: National Bureau of Statistics, Bloomberg Calculations

Bloomberg

TAIWAN

Authorities tracing US gun company owner accused of sex with girl

TAIWAN said yesterday it is looking for the owner of a Texas company that makes untraceable 3-D printed guns who is wanted on an arrest warrant tied to an accusation that he had sex with an underage girl and paid her USD500 afterward.

The National Immigration Agency and Criminal Investigation Bureau confirmed that Cody Wilson was in Taiwan after arriving on the island earlier this month.

Division Director Kan Yen-min was quoted by the official Central News Agency as saying the bureau has yet to receive intelligence from the U.S. regarding Wilson, but will continue seeking more information about the case.

Taiwan and the U.S. do



Cody Wilson, with Defense Distributed, holds a 3D-printed gun called the Liberator at his shop in Austin, Texas

not have an extradition treaty but cooperate extensively on legal and security matters.

Austin, Texas, police Cmdr. Troy Officer said Wednesday that his department is working with national and interna-

tional law enforcement agencies to find Wilson, whose last known location was Taiwan's capital, Taipei.

Officer said it's unclear why Wilson went to Taiwan, but he is known to travel extensively. He

said before Wilson flew there, a friend of the 16-year-old girl informed Wilson that police were investigating the accusation that he had sex with the youth.

Wilson is identified in the affidavit as the owner of Austin-based Defense Distributed. After a federal court barred Wilson from posting the printable gun blueprints online for free last month, he announced he had begun selling them for any amount of money to U.S. customers through his website.

Nineteen states and the District of Columbia sued to stop an agreement that the government reached with Defense Distributed, arguing that the blueprints for how to print plastic guns could be obtained by felons or terrorists. AP

HONG KONG

Doctor gets life term over yoga ball killings

AN anesthesiologist convicted of killing his wife and daughter by placing a yoga ball that leaked carbon monoxide in their car has been sentenced to life in prison in Hong Kong.

Malaysian citizen Khaw Kim Sun, 53, had become estranged from his wife, Wong Siew Fing, 47, and their four children, although they continued to live together while he had an affair with a student.

A jury of five men and four women found him guilty at Hong Kong's High Court after seven hours of deliberation Wednesday.

"It is shocking that a highly educated and successful man would conjure up such a calculated method to get rid of his wife," judge Judianna Barnes Wai-ling was quoted in media as telling Khaw.

Khaw was accused of putting the gas-filled yoga ball in the trunk of a Mini Cooper driven by his wife, Wong Siew-fung, on May 22, 2015.

Wong and their 16-year-old daughter were found unconscious in the car parked at a bus stop about an hour after leaving home. They were later declared dead from severe carbon monoxide poisoning, although the vehicle showed no defects such as a leaky emissions system. AP



Malaysian citizen Khaw Kim Sun is escorted in a prison bus leaving the court after sentenced to life in prison

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GOOD FOR GAMING

Japan's Abe re-elected as party head, to stay on as PM

Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

JAPANESE Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was re-elected as head of his ruling Liberal Democratic Party in a landslide yesterday, paving the way for up to three more years as the nation's leader and a push toward a constitutional revision.

The decisive victory may embolden Abe to pursue his long-sought amendment to Japan's U.S.-drafted pacifist constitution, although the hurdles remain high and doing so would carry political risks.

"It's time to tackle a constitutional revision," Abe said in a victory speech.

Abe said he's determined to use his last term to pursue his policy goals to "sum up" Japan's post-war diplomacy to ensure peace in the country.

"Let's work together to make a new Japan," he said.

Abe, who has been prime mi-

nister since December 2012, has cemented control of his party and is poised to become Japan's longest-serving leader in August 2021.

He has several policy challenges, including dealing with Japan's aging and declining population, a royal succession in the spring, and a consumption tax hike to 10 percent he has already delayed twice.

Amid international effort to denuclearize North Korea, Abe seeks to meet with Kim Jong Un to resolve their disputes, including the decades-old problem of Japanese citizens abducted to the North. He faces China's increasingly assertive activity in the region, and intensifying trade friction with the U.S. that could shake his friendly relations with President Donald Trump.

Abe said he will meet with Trump next week in New York, where they attend the annual U.N. assembly, to discuss bilat-

eral trade and "the roles Japan and America should play in establishing global trade rules."

Abe renewed his commitment to push for a revision to the U.S.-drafted 1947 constitution, a decades-old pledge of the Liberal Democratic Party since its foundation in 1955 and a goal that none of Abe's predecessors has been able to achieve.

Many conservatives see the constitution as a humiliation imposed on Japan following its World War II defeat. Among them was Abe's grandfather, Nobusuke Kishi, who served as prime minister 1957-1960. Kishi was imprisoned as a suspected war criminal during the U.S. occupation.

Constitutional revision is divisive and it's unclear whether Abe could get enough votes for passage.

For the public, the constitution is a lesser concern than issues such as pay, education and the

high cost of child care, surveys show.

If a revision is rejected in a national referendum, Abe would likely have to step down.

"It's a goal that would be difficult to achieve," Abe told a news conference later yesterday. "We'll have to walk on a thorny path."

Abe and his party want to rush a revision while their ruling coalition still holds two-thirds super majority in both houses — a requirement to propose a revision. The next parliamentary election is due next summer.

Abe seeks to submit a draft constitution revision to a parliamentary session later this year. He is proposing to add a clause to Article 9, which bans the use of force in settling international disputes, to explicitly permit the existence of Japan's military, now called the Self-Defense Force.

Abe has survived a series of scandals, including cronyism

allegations against him and his wife. Despite attacks from opposition parties and criticism in the media, he has seen his support ratings bounce back to about 40 percent, considered high for a Japanese leader after nearly six years in office.

An extended term for Abe is generally seen as good news for stability and continuity.

"A stable government under a strong leader is good for the economy and diplomacy, and Prime Minister Abe has established a rather significant presence in diplomacy," said Yu Uchiyama, a University of Tokyo politics professor.

But his long and strong leadership has caused a lack of political competitiveness, Uchiyama said.

"The biggest concern about Japanese politics is how to restore competition in politics and reinvigorate democracy," Uchiyama said.

In Thursday's leadership vote, Abe handily defeated his sole challenger, Shigeru Ishiba, a former defense minister. Abe won 553, or about 70 percent, of 807 votes.

Abe took 80 percent of parliamentary votes, while support from regional rank-and-file party members was at 55 percent, though it fell within projections.

Experts see the margin of victory in regional member votes as a more accurate indicator of general public sentiment than the parliamentary votes. Abe's softer showing there means he will have to be more mindful of voices coming from outside parliament.

Abe's dominance has been bolstered by the strengthening of the Prime Minister's Office, allowing him and his party executives to monopolize decisions over policies and personnel affairs, experts say. The system has accommodated Abe's long reign, as many lawmakers are primarily interested in getting Abe and other senior lawmakers' backing in elections. **AP**

INDONESIA

Widodo imposes moratorium on new palm oil plantations

INDONESIA'S president has signed a moratorium on new palm oil development and ordered a review of existing plantations, an official said yesterday, in a blow to an industry blamed for environmental destruction and worker exploitation.

Prabianto Mukti Wibowo, a deputy minister at the Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs, said the moratorium, first announced by president Joko Widodo after devastat-

ing fires in 2015, will last three years.

He told The Associated Press it's needed because many planned plantations are inside natural forests and also to clarify the legal rights of villagers and smallholders.

Palm oil, mainly produced in Malaysia and Indonesia, is used in a vast number of products globally from cosmetics to snacks and is a big export earner for both countries, though most of the profits

go to a few conglomerates.

"In this presidential instruction, all central and provincial governments, including governors, mayors and district chiefs were ordered to re-evaluate permits," Wibowo said. "It also instructs [them] to delay the opening of new palm oil plantations to reduce conflict."

The palm oil industry is the target of a worldwide campaign by conservationists and human rights groups, who are pres-

suring consumer brands to drop producers involved in deforestation and rights abuses.

Clearance of rainforest for palm oil and pulp wood plantations is also behind a slide in the population of critically endangered orangutans, a great ape found only in Indonesia and Malaysia.

Amid a backlash against palm oil producers, the European Union has been considering a ban on the use of palm oil in biofuels.



But the influential International Union for Conservation of Nature earlier this year said bans are not a solution because other sources of plant oil require as much as nine times more land.

It said a ban would likely only displace forest and species destruction to other areas. Concerted action is needed to make the palm oil a responsible and sustainable industry, it said. **AP**

PHILIPPINES

New landslide kills 21, buries houses in disaster-prone archipelago

A massive landslide buried dozens of homes near a central Philippine mountain yesterday, killing at least 21 people and sending rescuers scrambling to find survivors after some sent text messages pleading for help.

The slide surged down on about 30 houses in two rural villages after daybreak in Naga city in Cebu province, city police chief Roderick Gonzales said by telephone as he helped supervise the search and rescue. Seven injured villagers were rescued from the huge mound of earth and debris.

Some victims managed to send messages after the landslide hit, Gonzales said, adding that elderly women and a child were among the dead.

Nimrod Parba, a 26-year-old resident, said a relative trapped in a house beneath the rubble managed to call yesterday morning and begged to be rescued. The calls stopped, however, and the relative could not be re-



AP PHOTO

ached hours later, Parba said.

Naga city Mayor Kristine Vanessa Chiong said at least 64 people remained missing.

"We're really hoping we can still recover them alive," she said.

The landslide hit while several northern Philippine provinces are still dealing with deaths and widespread damage wrought

by Typhoon Mangkhut, which pummeled the agricultural region Saturday and left at least 88 people dead and more than 60 missing. A massive search is still underway for dozens of people feared dead after landslides in the gold-mining town of Itogon in the north.

Cebu province was not directly hit by Mangkhut but the massi-

ve typhoon intensified monsoon rains across a large part of the archipelago, including the central region where Naga city lies about 570 kilometers southeast of Manila.

Rescuers were treading carefully in small groups on the unstable ground to avoid further casualties.

"We're running out of time. The ground in the area is still vibrating. We're striking a balance between intensifying our rescue efforts and ensuring the safety of our rescuers," Naga city Councilor Carmelino Cruz said by phone.

Cristita Villarba, a 53-year-old resident, said her husband and son were preparing to leave for work when the ground shook and they were overwhelmed by a roar.

"It was like an earthquake and there was this thundering, loud banging sound. All of us ran out," Villarba said, adding that she, her husband and three children were shocked but unharmed.

Outside, she saw the house of

her older brother, Lauro, and his family buried in the landslide.

"Many of our neighbors were crying and screaming for help. Some wanted to help those who got hit but there was too much earth covering the houses, including my brother's," she said.

Nearly 20 people lived in her brother's home, mostly his family and grandchildren, she said.

Villarba said she had felt sorry a few days earlier for the landslide victims in the country's north.

"I had no idea we would be the next," she said.

Elsewhere in the landslide-hit community, a father and his young daughter were found dead in each other's embrace in a house, volunteer rescuer Vic Santillan said.

It's not clear what set off the landslide, but some residents blamed limestone quarries, which they suspect may have caused cracks in the mountain-side facing their villages. AP

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USA

Trump's immigrant roundups increasingly

Matt Sedensky, New York

A daughter who never returned home, a son gunned down point-blank, a mom who was brutally attacked — all deaths at the hands of immigrants in the country illegally, all gripping stories the White House has been eager to share.

But for all the talk of murderers, rapists and other “bad hombres,” those netted in President Donald Trump’s crack-down on immigration are typically accused of lesser offenses, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents are increasingly apprehending those with no criminal records at all.

“Unshackling ICE has really allowed it to go after more individuals,” said Sarah Pierce, a policy analyst with the nonpartisan Migration Policy Institute who calls the apprehension of noncriminal immigrants, in particular, “a defining characteristic of this administration’s approach to immigration.”

The case of Mollie Tibbetts — a 20-year-old Iowa college student authorities say was killed by a man living in the U.S. illegally — is among the latest used by Trump to advance his argument for stricter immigration controls. Yet the government’s own statistics show such cases are far more likely to be the exception than the rule.

ICE arrests of noncriminals increased 66 percent in the first nine months of the 2018 fiscal year over the same period a year earlier. Arrests of convicts, meantime, rose nearly 2 percent. More noncriminals have also been deported. Among those expelled from the U.S. interior in fiscal 2017, there was a 174 percent increase from the previous year of those with no criminal convictions. Deportations of those with convictions rose nearly 13 percent over the same period.

The result is immigration courts are filling with defendants like Ruben Moroyoqui, a 45-year-old mechanic in Tucson, Arizona, whose only run-in with police came last year, his attorney said, when he was pulled over while picking up auto parts.

First, the officer asked for his license. His second question, Moroyoqui said, was “Are you here legally?” He wasn’t cited for any driving violation; he was simply handed over to ICE, which began proceedings to deport him to Mexico. An appeal is pending.

Moroyoqui entered the country with authorization 16 years ago but then overstayed his visa, not wanting to return home because of the lack of opportunity there. He has four U.S. citizen children

AP PHOTO



Luis Alberto Enamorado Gomez gets a kiss from his daughter, Jeydi

and said he has always paid his taxes. “I feel great respect and love for this country,” he said.

ICE has heralded its deportations of drug kingpins, violent gang members and others accused of serious offenses, and in the 2017 fiscal year, it reported that 56 percent of all deportees it processed — from the interior U.S. and border — had been convicted of crimes. But under Trump, as with prior administrations, when a deportee does have a criminal record, it’s generally for lesser infractions.

Arrests of noncriminals increased 66 percent in the first nine months of the 2018 fiscal year over the same period a year earlier

Among more than 220,000 deportees in the 2017 fiscal year, 79,270 had no convictions, according to ICE data housed by the Transactional Access Clearinghouse at Syracuse University. Of those with a record, according to the data, 1 in 4 had illegal entry or re-entry to the U.S. as their most serious offenses. Those two counts represented the first- and third-most common charges among deportees. Driving under the influence was second, followed by assault

convictions and traffic offenses. Drug trafficking, burglary, domestic violence, larceny and selling marijuana rounded out the top 10 offenses.

The rest of those with a record were convicted of a wide range of misdeeds, both grave crimes like kidnapping and minor offenses including taking a joy ride, gambling or violating a fish conservation statute.

For Ariel Vences-Lopez, the charge that led him to deportation proceedings was an accusation of riding the light rail in Minneapolis last year without a ticket. After asking whether Vences-Lopez was in the country illegally, a transit officer used a Taser on him and arrested him on suspicion of fare evasion before turning him over to ICE. The charges were later dropped, but the 25-year-old roofer is still fighting his deportation back to Mexico. Proceedings have been put off until 2019.

Adriana Cerrillo, an immigrant advocate who took part in protests over the case and who has befriended Vences-Lopez, said the public should know how seldom those deported are actually accused of violent crimes.

“My mother’s not a criminal. My sister’s not a criminal,” she said. She questions how many so-called “bad hombres” — a term Trump has used — are actually in the U.S. and urges Americans to think critically about the message being promulgated. “How do we say ‘brainwashing’ in a different term?”

Daniel Stein, president of the Federation for American Immigration Reform, which supports restrictive immigration measures, said focusing solely on whether those in the country

illegally have committed a serious crime ignores the law and that those residents should be deported regardless of whether they have a rap sheet. His group supports restrictive immigration measures.

“Who decided that the policy of the United States was that anybody could come into the country regardless of the law as long as you didn’t commit a violent felony?” he asked.

Stein said many in the country illegally likely have committed crimes — including securing employment by fraudulent means — but haven’t been caught yet. Ignoring that fact, he said, makes a mockery of immigration laws and encourages more people to break them.

Luis Alberto Enamorado Gomez, who left Honduras for the U.S. in 2005, was charged with a DUI in 2012 and ordered deported the following year, but because his case was considered a low priority under the administration of President Barack Obama, he never was forced to leave. That was common in the final two years of Obama’s presidency, when ICE was directed to exercise discretion to defer action on certain migrants with standing removal orders, including those with citizen children and living in the U.S. prior to 2010.

That ended under Trump, and with new marching orders to prioritize any and all immigration cases, ICE followed up earlier this year and took Gomez into custody. He was held for about six weeks and is now fighting his deportation. The 31-year-old from Grandview, Missouri, said he fears what his removal would mean for his se-

ven children, all U.S. citizens for whom he is the sole provider.

“How are we criminals when we just come here and work and provide for our families?” he asked.

With a spotlight on the separation of immigrant children and their parents this summer, Trump tried to refocus attention on dangerous immigrants by hosting a White House event with relatives of those killed by people in the country illegally. “These are the American citizens that are permanently separated from their loved ones,” Trump said. “These are the stories that Democrats and the people that are weak on immigration, they don’t want to discuss.”

And yet the most serious crimes, such as murder and rape, are relatively rare among deportees. Studies also have found immigrants to the U.S. have a lower level of criminality than citizens.

Some local law enforcement agencies partner with ICE and immediately alert the agency if an immigrant in the country illegally comes in contact with an officer — whether because they committed a crime or were a victim of one. Even without such cooperation, ICE can send its officers to courthouses when immigrants are scheduled to appear to apprehend them for deportation.

That’s what happened to Nefi Rodas, a 34-year-old construction worker in Worcester, Massachusetts, who paid a smuggler to escape Guatemala in 2003. After he was cited last year for suspicion of driving under the influence, he went to court for a pre-arrest appearance. ICE agents were waiting outside

net noncriminals



Ruben Moyoroqui (right) talks with his son, Rafael, in his auto repair shop

the building.

"We don't even know what to do as immigration attorneys," said Cindy Burke, who represents Rodas. "You have to show up to state court, but there's a good chance ICE is going to be waiting for you."

■ **The rest of those [caught] with a record were convicted of a wide range of misdeeds, both grave crimes like kidnapping and minor offenses including taking a joy ride**

Because Rodas never made it to his hearing, a warrant was issued for his arrest, complicating his drunken driving case. He spent nearly four months in ICE custody,

but deportation proceedings ended after a judge found that sending Rodas back to Guatemala would have caused undue hardship on his special-needs daughter. He is now a legal permanent resident of the U.S.

"One person does something, and it's as if we all have done it," he said of the inclination of some Americans to brand all without legal status as violent criminals. "I haven't murdered anybody. I haven't violated anybody."

The share of deportees not convicted of a crime was higher at the end of George W. Bush's presidency, when two-thirds had no record, according to ICE data. Total deportations reached a peak in the early years of the Obama administration — but the share of those people without a criminal record fell. Overall, when examining deportations of both those caught at the border and living within the country, the percentage of those with no conviction has increased slightly under Trump compared to Obama. But with increased arrests of immigrants already living in the U.S., experts expect the

numbers to continue rising.

"We see ICE doing things that allows them to get the low-hanging fruit, so to speak, the easy enforcement," said Pierce, referring to arrests at ICE-mandated office check-ins, for example.

Melissa Aispuro, 20, of Tucson, Arizona, is another with no record to find herself in deportation proceedings. Aispuro has lived most of her life in the U.S. She was brought as a child and returned to Mexico for a time after high school before coming back in 2016. She entered legally with a border crossing card, but overstayed.

When her car was struck by another motorist last October, she didn't think anything of calling police. She hadn't even considered they would call ICE on someone with no criminal record who had just been in an accident.

"It's like really sad because not all of us are criminals. Some just come here for education, for a better life," said Aispuro, who is married to a U.S. citizen and fighting her deportation. "You can think whatever you want, but in my heart I know what I am." AP



Look who's laughing: May seen behind Merkel

BREXIT

EU, UK fail to resolve border row as deadline looms

Lorne Cook, Salzburg

B RITAIN and its European Union partners failed yesterday to secure a breakthrough in Brexit talks, largely because of seemingly intractable divisions over the best way to avoid a hard border on the island of Ireland and how to deal with future trade.

With Britain's departure from the EU looming — March 29, 2019 — there are growing concerns that a deal on the post-Brexit relationship may not be cobbled together in time to ensure a smooth and orderly British exit.

Despite reports of a friendly spirit at the meeting, the fundamental differences remained, said EU Council President Donald Tusk after chairing a summit in Salzburg, Austria.

All leaders, including British Prime Minister Theresa May, are desperate to solve the biggest Brexit riddle — how to keep goods moving freely between Northern Ireland in the U.K. and EU member state Ireland.

"We need to compromise on both sides," said Tusk, highlighting the importance of the Oct. 18-19 summit in Brussels. He wants a major breakthrough there, but also said a special Brexit summit could still be set up in mid-November.

If an agreement is to be sealed by March 29, May and her EU partners must find an acceptable answer in coming weeks so parliaments have enough time to ratify the agreement.

They've spent two days in Sal-

zburg trying to do just that, but with no clear solution in sight, the sides have tried to ramp up pressure on each other. Each side is urging the other to compromise while the EU issues constant warnings to Britain about the Brexit clock ticking.

"Time is running short," Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar told reporters. "We want to avoid a 'No Deal Brexit,' but we are preparing for that. We are hiring extra staff and officials, bringing in IT systems. We are ready for that eventuality, should it occur."

Tusk said that key parts of the British proposals to leave would undermine the union of the 27 remaining members.

May has been looking to keep some part of trade between the U.K. and the EU in the bloc's single market but not others. The EU has insisted that the single market cannot be cherry-picked like that.

Tusk said of her so-called Chequers proposals that "the suggested framework for cooperation will not work, not least because it risks undermining the single market" of seamless movement of goods, services, capital and persons.

May however said her Brexit plan is the "only serious and credible" proposal on the table that can guarantee the frictionless movement of goods across borders, and ensure there is no return to a hard frontier between Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Any Brexit deal will include a withdrawal agreement and transition period to smooth Britain's exit from the bloc. AP

TV canal macau

FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Portuguese Soap Opera
18:15	Miscellaneous
19:00	Hato Documentary (Repeated)
19:35	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	Portuguese Mini Serie (100% Portuguese)
22:25	Portuguese Serie - Liberty 21
23:15	TDM News
23:50	European League 2018/2019 Highlights
00:10	Movie
01:35	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
02:50	RTPi Live

SATURDAY

10:30	Zig Zag
11:35	Miscellaneous
12:30	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast (PT)
14:30	Miscellaneous
17:20	Miscellaneous
18:20	Lusa Music Box
19:40	Portuguese Serie - 1986
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (PT)
21:15	Grimm Sr. 4
22:45	Miscellaneous
23:15	TDM News
23:50	2 FIMM
00:45	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:30	RTPi Live

SUNDAY

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

Offbeat

TOO SOON? FANS FIND RED SOX DIVISION TITLE BANNER IN STREET



The Boston Red Sox have not clinched this year's American League East division championship, but a banner marking the accomplishment has already been accidentally unveiled.

Boston-area friends Louie Iacuzzi, James Amaral and Randy Baldassarri say they found the banner on a road Monday after it apparently fell off a delivery truck in Somerville, Massachusetts.

But the trio held onto the banner for two days, hoping they'd be rewarded with game tickets or a chance to meet their favorite players.

Instead, the Boston Globe reports, the men brought the banner to Fenway Park Wednesday afternoon and returned empty handed.

Iacuzzi said he always intended to return the banner and rejected accusations he stole it.

The team can clinch the division if they defeat the New York Yankees.

cinema

CINETEATRO

20 SEP - 26 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



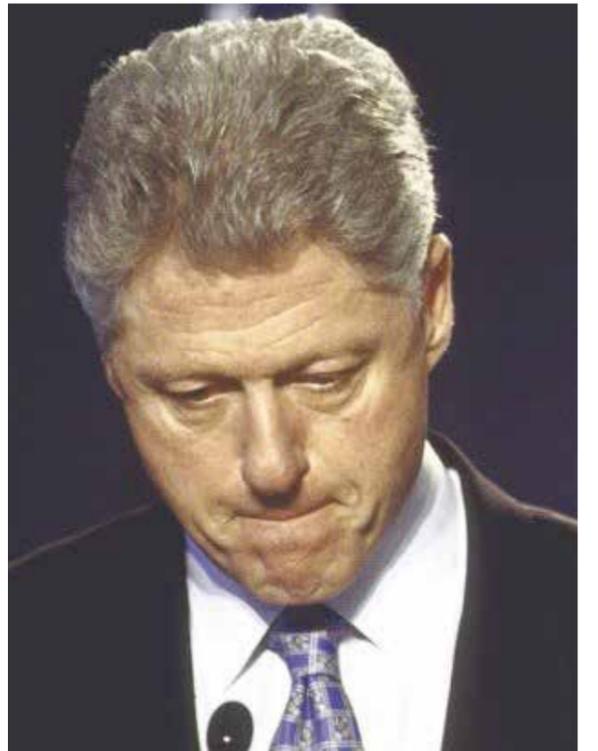
JOHNNY ENGLISH STRIKES AGAIN
ROOM 2
2:30, 4:30, 7:30 9:30pm
Director: David Kerr
Starring: Emma Thompson, Olga Kurylenko, Rowan Atkinson
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 88min

GOLDEN JOB
ROOM 3
2:30, 4:30, 9:30pm
Director: Chin Ka-lok
Starring: Michael Tse, Jerry Lamb, Eric Tsang
Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)
Duration: 90min



WHEN I GET HOME, MY WIFE ALWAYS PRETENDS TO BE DEAD
ROOM 3
7:15pm
Director: Toshio Lee
Starring: Nana Eikura, Ken Yasuda, Sumika Nono
Language: Japanese (Chinese & English)
Duration: 115min

this day in history



1998: CLINTON'S GRAND JURY TESTIMONY RELEASED

Bill Clinton's testimony about his relationship with a young female assistant has been released to the United States public.

The video of the American president's 17 August interview in front of the Grand Jury was taken to a television station at 0910 local time (1410 BST) and broadcast immediately by many US networks.

During the examination President Clinton was questioned by prosecutors about the exact nature of his affair with Monica Lewinsky - and whether he had previously lied under oath.

The president's defence against the accusations relied on elaborate definitions of certain words.

The interview was originally taped on the insistence of the investigating team for the benefit of a jury member who could not attend the hearing.

But members of the House of Representatives justified the release of the tape by saying the public had the right to see all the evidence of the Starr Report.

"It's not a pretty sight... But the key thing we've all got to focus on is what is the truth", said Charles Canady - a republican on the House Judicial Committee.

A visibly uncomfortable President Clinton was forced to defend previous statements about his affair with Miss Lewinsky by quibbling over the precise definition of his words.

In particular he said "sexual relations" did not to him mean "sexual intercourse" - which he denied having with the former White House intern.

Challenged later in the hearing, he argued the meaning of the smallest of words contained in one of his lawyers' statements.

"It depends upon what the meaning of the word 'is' is. If 'is' means 'is and never has been' that's one thing - if it means 'there is none', that was a completely true statement," he said.

After facing the Grand Jury, the president now awaits the verdict of the American people.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

On 9 December 1998 the House Judiciary Committee proposed four articles of impeachment against the president. Ten days later - after a bitter debate between republicans and democrats - the House of Representatives voted to confirm the recommendation. Bill Clinton became only the second president in American history to face such an indictment, but he refused to resign. His trial began on 7 January 1999 and ended on 12 February when senators voted to acquit him of the impeachment charges of perjury and obstruction of justice.

YOUR STARS

Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

But it's bad because you are going to have wait even longer for the changes you've been hoping for. Conserve your energy and wait things out. In the meantime, get busy with a night out on the town.

Taurus

April 20-May 20

If you're feeling overwhelmed by your emotions right now, give yourself all the time you need to get used to the new experiences you're going through ... rearrange your schedule if need be.

Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

Rushing through this day is not going to be the right strategy - instead, you need to take things one step at a time and not worry about anyone who may (or may not) be hot on your tail.

Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

An informal friendship could grow into a bigger, much more important relationship today; they could become a person who influences your life in either a romantic or a business sense.

Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Today you will be given an excellent chance to take control, so don't be shy - grab the wheel and drive everyone where you want to go. Let your opinion show and resist the urge to be everyone's best friend.

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Your actions probably won't result in the overthrow of any regime, but it could spark some fascinating conversations that redefine (and improve) some unsatisfying relationships.

Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

It will be extremely easy to feel in sync with everyone today - you're in a solid phase of life, and each day you get more comfortable with who you are. To build on this momentum, simply keep floating.

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

No man (or woman) is an island, so get out into the world as much as you can today. You are in need of a dose of the type of energy you can only get from meeting new people.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

When you see a chance to improve your life today, you have to take it - there is just no question about it. This may require some major sacrifice in your time or patience, but it will be worth it.

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

No one has more control over your life than you, so start taking bolder steps to make things happen for yourself. If you don't have any goals, make some. If you do have goals, make them more like ambitious.

Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You've got an unbeatable combination of insight and energy going on right now, so if you're encountering any new people today you'll have a distinct advantage over them.

Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

Be bold and act with conviction - because as soon as you step into the situation, you will realize that you are the only person who can get the entire gang back on the same page.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	15	25	clear
Harbin	14	18	drizzle/moderate rain
Tianjin	16	25	cloudy/clear
Urumqi	11	23	clear
Xi'an	14	26	clear
Lhasa	9	22	cloudy
Chengdu	19	28	clear
Chongqing	20	25	drizzle
Kunming	16	24	cloudy
Nanjing	23	26	shower
Shanghai	24	28	shower
Wuhan	19	26	drizzle
Hangzhou	23	27	moderate rain
Taipei	24	30	drizzle
Guangzhou	25	34	cloudy/thundershower
Hong Kong	27	32	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	12	25	clear
Frankfurt	17	27	cloudy/drizzle
Paris	15	20	overcast/moderate rain
London	14	20	moderate rain
New York	19	26	drizzle

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- I'd hate to break up ___; 5- Give off; 9- Churns up; 14- Puerto ___; 15- Bern's river; 16- Rustic; 17- ___ about; 18- Property; 20- Borrowed; 22- Crafty; 23- Pay attention to; 24- Agitate; 26- Flying start?; 28- Fatherly; 32- Noises; 36- Clean air org.; 37- Choreographer de Mille; 39- Grenoble's river; 40- Hair untangler; 42- More reasonable; 44- Bahrain bigwig; 45- Shake like ___; 47- They get high twice a day; 49- Guido's high note; 50- Scandinavian; 52- One of the 12 tribes of Israel; 54- At the apex of; 56- Flood survivor; 57- Go belly up; 60- Holds; 62- "Hotel ___"; 66- Person skilled in accounting; 69- Bearing; 70- Lott of Mississippi; 71- Shipping deduction; 72- Robert ___; 73- Stiff bristles; 74- Support beam; 75- Spanish muralist;

DOWN: 1- Suffix with buck; 2- ___ Fein; 3- Environmental sci.; 4- Knobbed; 5- Wages; 6- Fannie ___; 7- Some nest eggs; 8- I cannot ___ lie; 9- Monopoly quartet; Abbr.; 10- Outbuilding; 11- Dies ___; 12- Not punctual; 13- Go downhill; 19- Sight organs; 21- Razor name; 25- Charged toward; 27- Louis XIV, e.g.; 28- Pie nut; 29- Speed skater ___ Anton Ohno; 30- Circus performer; 31- Bolshevik leader; 33- Where Hercules slew the lion; 34- Hand tool; 35- Caravansary; 38- Four-door; 41- Seaport near Barcelona; 43- Newsmen; 46- In shape; 48- "Saint Joan" playwright; 51- Mindy of "The Facts of Life"; 53- English river; 55- Singer LaBelle; 57- Solid oils; 58- Farm unit; 59- Rapper born Tracy Marrow; 61- Swedish auto; 63- Khartoum's river; 64- Antelope's playmate; 65- Work without ___; 67- Western Indian; 68- Heston's org.;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
- Fire department 28 572 222
- PJ (Open line) 993
- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- Customs 28 559 944
- S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
- Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
- Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
- IACM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
- Airport 59 888 88
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
- Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
- Telephone - Report 1000
- Electricity - Report 28 339 922
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Three Bedroom Apartment
Ref: 18065557

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Taipa
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Macau
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FOOTBALL

No Ronaldo? No problem for Madrid, Juventus in Champs League

Graham Dunbar, Geneva

REAL Madrid managed to win easily in the Champions League without Cristiano Ronaldo. So did Juventus, after its superstar signing was tearfully sent off within 30 minutes.

Three-time defending champion Madrid eased to a 3-0 win over Roma yesterday [Macau time], with Francisco "Isco" Alarcon scoring from the kind of free kick only Ronaldo got to take in his nine years with the club.

Ronaldo, making his Juventus debut in a competition he has won five times, also had a new experience — getting a red card against Valencia for tangling with Jeison Murillo.

Seemingly frustrated that Murillo went to ground too easily, Ronaldo reached down to tug or ruffle the defender's hair.

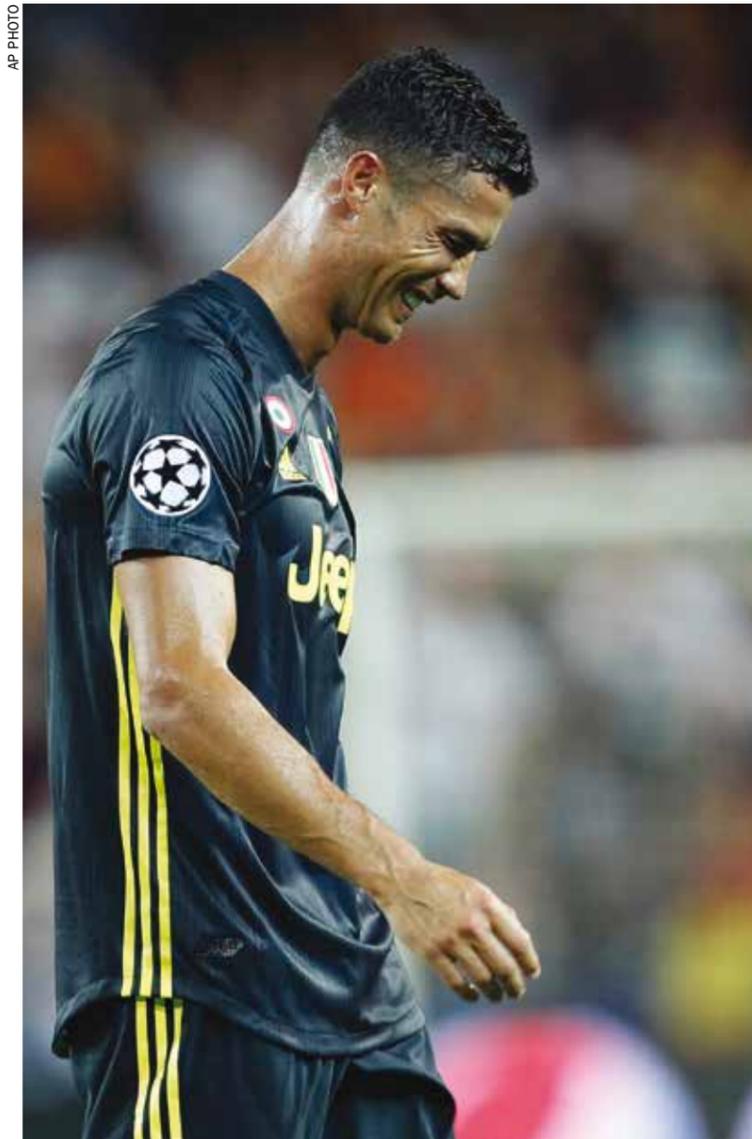
German referee Felix Brych did not have access to a video review but showed a red card after consulting his assistant behind the goal.

It was Ronaldo's first sending off in 154 games in the competition and left him in tears.

Still, Juventus went on to win 2-0, scoring twice from penalties despite designated spot-kick taker Ronaldo not being there. Miralem Pjanic scored both times.

Elsewhere, one of the favorites to dethrone Madrid this season, Manchester City, lost at home and Manchester United won away to further dispel its uneasy start to the season.

City was lackluster in a 2-1 loss to Lyon, while rival United had little trouble winning 3-0 at Swiss champion Young Boys.



REAL MADRID 3, ROMA 0

It could have been tricky for Madrid. No Ronaldo on the field, no Zinedine Zidane in the dugout, and facing Roma, a semifinalist last season.

But it was business as usual for the 13-time European champion under new coach Julen Lopetegui.

Isco, Gareth Bale — who seemed sure to leave if Zidane

stayed — and Mariano Diaz got the goals.

Bale finished off an accurate pass by Luka Modric, and goalkeeper Keylor Navas kept a clean sheet after being preferred to new signing Thibaut Courtois.

Also in Group G, CSKA Moscow trailed 2-0 at halftime, but a stoppage time penalty from Nikola Vlasic made it 2-2 at Czech champion Viktoria Plzen.

MAN CITY 1, LYON 2

A troubled opening half hour for Juventus in Valencia saw Mario Mandzukic and Sami Khedira miss clear chances before Ronaldo left the field in tears.

Just before halftime, Joao Cancelo hit the crossbar with a shot and was then fouled by a high boot to the face while chasing the rebound.

Miralem Pjanic converted that penalty kick, and scored again six minutes into the second half when Murillo was penalized for a foul.

There was a third penalty in stoppage-time, but Juve goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny saved Daniel Parejo's kick to preserve the 2-0 win.

YOUNG BOYS 0, MAN UNITED 3

Paul Pogba scored twice and set up Anthony Martial for Man United's third goal in a comfortable win at Swiss champion Young Boys.

Though Pogba has been unsettled at United this season, his curling shot and trademark slow-trot penalty within eight first-half minutes suggested he is feeling happier now.

United had lost on its last two trips to Switzerland, both against Basel, but is in a good position to welcome Valencia in two weeks' time.

Old Trafford could also be denied a reunion with Ronaldo for Juve's Oct. 23 visit depending on the ban UEFA imposes.

MAN CITY 1, LYON 2

With coach Pep Guardiola watching in the stand, serving a ban carried over from last season, Man City was surpris-

singly beaten 2-1 by visiting Lyon.

City trailed by two goals at halftime, when errors were punished by Maxwell Cornet and Nabil Fekir, a member of France's World Cup squad.

The manner of City's Premier League title win last season has persuaded many that Guardiola can add to his two Champions League crowns with Barcelona.

But the stadium was far from full Wednesday, and City only managed to pull one goal back in the 67th from Bernardo Silva.

The other Group F game saw Hoffenheim make its Champions League debut in Ukraine. Playing at its adopted home city Kharkiv, Shakhtar Donetsk got a late leveler in a 2-2 draw.

BENFICA 0, BAYERN 2

Renato Sanches has often looked like a lost talent since helping Ronaldo and Portugal win the 2016 European Championship.

Then 19, a move from Benfica to Bayern Munich seemed to happen too soon and he was sent to Premier League struggler Swansea on loan.

Back in Lisbon on Wednesday, Sanches scored Bayern's second goal in a 2-0 win after Robert Lewandowski got Bayern's early opener.

Also in Group E, Ajax marked its return after a four-year absence to join Madrid as the only home teams winning Wednesday, also by 3-0.

In the Johan Cruyff Arena, Ajax dispatched AEK Athens with the help of two goals from Argentina defender Nicolas Tagliafico. AP

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opinion

World Views
 The Editors, Bloomberg

DONALD TRUMP'S STANCE ON REFUGEES IS A DISGRACE

President Donald Trump's decision to cut the number of refugees admitted to the U.S. hardly comes as a surprise. Even by this administration's standards, however, the policy just announced is impressive in its heartlessness, cynicism and dishonesty.

The current cap of 45,000 refugees a year is already the lowest since Congress created the refugee resettlement program in 1980, when the U.S. admitted a record 207,116 refugees under President Ronald Reagan. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has lowered it to just 30,000 for the coming fiscal year. Because of onerous vetting procedures, the number actually admitted will be fewer still. (Despite the cap of 45,000, the U.S. is on pace to admit and resettle 21,000 refugees this year, down from 85,000 in 2016.)

The U.S. is closing its doors as the global ranks of the dispossessed reach historic highs. The U.N. estimates that 25.4 million people have been displaced from their home countries due to war and persecution. Of that number, 1.4 million are thought to need urgent resettlement in other countries next year, a 17 percent increase over 2018.

Supporters of Trump's refugee clampdown point out that despite the recent drop, the U.S. still resettles more refugees than any other country. That's true. Until recently, in fact, it resettled more than the rest of the world put together. So yes, other countries should be doing much more. But it's right that the world's richest economy should set the example it did until recently — using its generosity to push other countries to open their doors, while advancing its other foreign-policy goals.

Pompeo also said the U.S. immigration system can't process more refugees due to the "daunting operational reality" of working through 800,000 existing requests for asylum. That's especially misleading: Refugee applicants are vetted overseas, separately from applicants for asylum, who are already in the country or at the border. Pompeo adds the refugee program should be considered in the wider "context" of overall humanitarian spending. That seems reasonable — except that the White House has also proposed cutting foreign aid by 30 percent.

Pompeo sinks to pure alarmism when he talks about the threat refugees pose to the public. History suggests that the threat is essentially zero: Since 1980, no American has been killed in a terrorist attack committed by a refugee.

The U.S.'s traditional commitment to aiding and resettling refugees is something to celebrate, not repudiate. The administration should be ashamed — and Congress should be too, if it consents to let this happen.



THE TRUMP TO SPAIN: 'BUILD A WALL' ACROSS SAHARA TO SOLVE MIGRANT CRISIS

President Trump suggested building a wall across the Sahara to solve Europe's migrant crisis, Spain's foreign minister said yesterday cited by the BBC.

Josep Borrell, also a former President of the European Parliament, disagreed with the strategy. The comments were made during a visit Borrell made to the US in June.

Borrell recounted his conversation with the US president at a lunch event in Madrid this week, Spain's foreign ministry confirmed to the BBC.

"The border with the Sahara cannot be bigger than our border with Mexico," Borrell quoted Trump as saying.

The US-Mexico border is 3,145 km long. The Sahara desert stretches for 3,000 miles.

Spain has no sovereignty over the Sahara, but it does possess two small enclaves on the north African coast, Ceuta and Melilla, separated from Morocco by controversial wire fences.

Since January of this year, 35,000 migrants arrived in Spain, the highest number received by any EU country. (See page 14-15)

Giant bong, huggable buds: Marijuana museum opens in Vegas

Regina Garcia Cano, Las Vegas

A glass bong taller than a giraffe. Huggable faux marijuana buds. A pool full of foam weed nuggets.

Las Vegas' newest attraction — and Instagram backdrop — is a museum celebrating all things cannabis.

Nobody will be allowed to light up at Cannabition when it opens today [Macau time] because of a Nevada ban on public consumption of marijuana, but visitors can learn about the drug as they snap photos.

It's a made-for-social-media museum where every exhibit has lights meant to ensure people take selfies worthy of the no-filter hashtag.

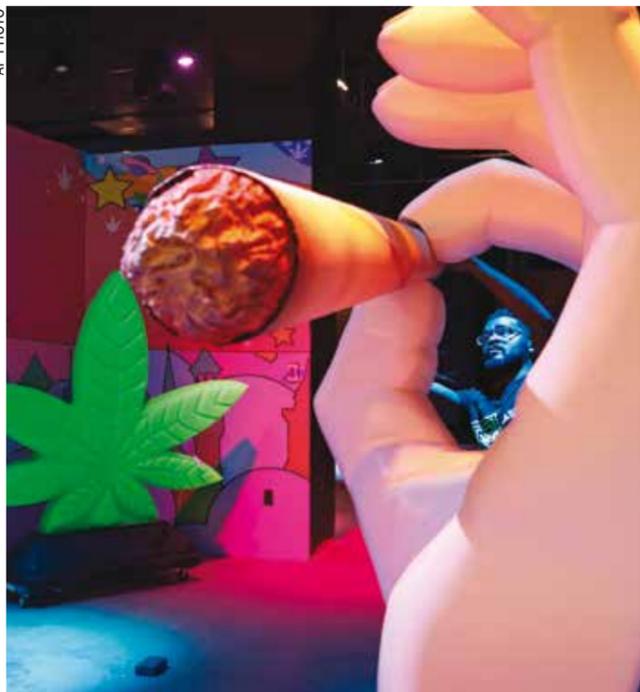
The facility — whose founder says has a goal of destigmatizing marijuana use — will likely land among the talking points officials and others use to try to draw gambling-resistant millennials to Sin City.

It will welcome its first visitors almost 15 months after adults in Nevada began buying recreational marijuana legally, with sales far exceeding state projections.

"Our goal when people come out of this is that they don't fear the cannabis industry if they are not believers in the industry," founder J.J. Walker told The Associated Press. "Cannabition is not about just serving people that like marijuana, it's about serving the masses that want to learn about cannabis and or just have fun and go do a cool art experience."

Guests will wander through 12 installations with rooms like "seed," where people can lie down in a bed shaped like a marijuana seed, and "grow," which features artificial plants in sizes ranging from inches to feet tall placed under bright lights to represent an indoor cannabis grow facility.

Photo ops are also available under a glow-in-the-dark tree, next to a giant marijuana leaf meant to



What happens in Vegas...

represent an edible gummy and by a 24-foot-tall (7-meter-tall) glass bong that's dubbed "Bongzilla" and billed as the world's largest.

It will welcome its first visitors almost 15 months after adults in Nevada began buying recreational marijuana legally

There is a space with taller-than-you faux buds representing different strains and another room with gonzo journalist Hunter S. Thompson's famous "Red Shark" Chevrolet Caprice.

This museum in Las Vegas' downtown entertainment district is not the Smithsonian of marijuana, but it has some educational components. Guests get an introduction from museum guides and some graphics on walls explain how concentrates are made and the

differences between indica and sativa cannabis strains.

Museums always evolve with the times to remain relevant, and audience engagement is an important goal for the facilities today, said Gwen Chanzit, director of museum studies in art history at the University of Denver. For those who remember very traditional, no-photography-allowed museums, she said, "that ship has sailed."

"Once cellphones became ubiquitous, the culture of museum visiting changed," Chanzit said.

Many of the facility's exhibits are sponsored by cannabis companies, with their logos prominently displayed. It is common for museums to receive the support of corporations and to place their logo on a wall.

Only adults 21 and older will be allowed at Cannabition. The tour is designed to last up to an hour.

Walker, the founder, has invited reality TV stars, models and other influencers to Las Vegas for the weekend with the charge of spreading the word about the facility.

As for those who buy a ticket but their Instagram followers are only in the dozens or hundreds, Walker said, "you're still an influencer to your friends." AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	30-50 Good
High Density Residential Area	30-50 Good
Ambient	30-50 Good

WORLD BRIEFS

INDIA-PAKISTAN Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan has written to his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi, seeking to resolve outstanding disputes between the two nuclear-armed nations, including the issue of the divided region of Kashmir.



LEBANON The leader of Lebanon's militant Hezbollah boasted yesterday the group now possesses "highly accurate" missiles despite Israeli attempts to prevent it from acquiring such weapons.



RUSSIA Election officials in Russia's Far East have cancelled the results of Sunday's gubernatorial election following reports of blatant vote rigging and say they will hold a new vote.

UKRAINE's president says the country needs to amend its constitution to make NATO membership its long-term goal.



FRANCE Far-right leader Marine Le Pen is refusing to undergo a court-ordered psychiatric exam for tweeting brutal images of Islamic State violence, comparing the demand to methods used in totalitarian regimes.

NETHERLANDS A train slammed into an electric cargo bike in the Netherlands yesterday, killing four young children and leaving two other people critically injured, authorities said.

GUATEMALA U.N. Secretary-general Antonio Guterres has rejected a request by Guatemala's government to name a new head of a U.N. commission investigating corruption in the Central American nation.