

MACAU-CEBU FLIGHTS START DEC 7



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GOV'T PROPOSES NEW 'PHONE TAPPING' REGIME



Secretary Wong wants more power to law and order authorities to surveil people being investigated for certain crimes

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TRUMP: CHINA 'ATTEMPTING TO INTERFERE' WITH US ELECTION



President Trump accuses China of attempting to interfere in upcoming US congressional elections due to his tough trade policy. China denies

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RENATO MARQUES



CHINA-US Sino-American relations, seen most dramatically in their escalating trade dispute, is spilling over into the military arena. China canceled a Washington visit by the head of its navy, while the Trump administration agrees on a USD330m sale of military warfare to Taiwan. [More on p10](#)



SOUTH KOREA Move over pot stickers, here comes another Asian dumpling. South Korea's largest food company is making a multimillion-dollar bet on "mandu," developing its own machines to automate the normally labor-intensive production of the Korean dumpling and building factories around the world. [More on p9](#)

TURKMENISTAN President Berdymukhamedov has ordered a complete end to free natural gas, electricity and water, which residents of the Central Asian nation have enjoyed for a quarter century. The move taking effect next year would help Turkmenistan more rationally use natural resources and develop a free market economy. [More on backpage](#)

Chui visits Asilo Vila Madalena after letter handed to the gov't



Chief Executive (CE) Chui Sai On paid a visit to Asilo Vila Madalena home in Coloane Village this week in the company of Secretary for Administration and Justice Sónia Chan and the President of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) José Tavares, the office of the CE informed. According to the statement, the visit comes after a group of residents handed the government a letter complaining about the relocation of the former Canidrome greyhounds to a land plot next to the home. In the letter, the seniors expressed concerns about noise and smell reducing their quality of life. Chui informed them that the government was paying special attention to the case and that they will do their best to guarantee that the seniors' lives will not be disturbed.

Alexis Tam gets flu shot to encourage vaccination

Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam received the influenza virus vaccine in a promotional activity with the aim of encouraging residents to get the vaccination, the Office of the Secretary informed in a statement. According to the statement, accompanying Tam was the director of the Health Bureau (SSM) Lei Chin Ion, and public hospital director Kuok Cheong U among other members of SSM and the Secretariat. The public vaccination was said to be a way of encouraging and calling on high-risk groups to be vaccinated as soon as possible, in order to protect them against the influenza virus. According to SSM, the bureau has ordered 150,000 vaccine doses for the 2018-2019 season – enough to cover all residents.

DSAMA approves license for Maritime Touristic Tour

The Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA) issued their first license for the operation of maritime tourist tours in Macau waters on Monday, DSAMA informed in a statement. The license will allow the company to make use of the Inner Harbour Passenger Terminal and ferry the passengers to the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge artificial island and by the Inner Harbour Channel before returning to the same pier. Tours start on September 25 and will operate twice daily, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.. Each trip takes about two hours and costs MOP150 per person.



Cebu Pacific introduces Cebu-Macau route

LOW-COST carrier Cebu Pacific recently introduced a new direct route linking Cebu City to Macau, which will begin operating on December 7.

The new route will operate four times a week – every Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday, leaving Cebu at 18:50 and arriving in Macau at 22:00.

The return flight will leave Macau at 22:45 and arrive in Cebu at 01:45.

Cebu Pacific holds over 50 percent of the capacity share, as it now flies direct from three hubs – Cebu, Clark and Manila.

According to the company, this is also an opportunity to grow its other hubs outside of Manila.

“We believe that this new connection is not only an answer to our passengers’ demands but will also stimulate both the trade and tourism aspects in both destinations as it makes available both passenger and cargo services,” said Paterno Mantaring, Cebu Pacific’s vice president of Corporate Affairs, as cited in reports. Earlier this month, the car-

rier also increased the number of flights from Clark to Macau, which now flies daily at 21:25, with the return flight departing Macau at 12:15 the following day.

Direct flights to Hong Kong will also be added, increasing the number of flights from seven per week to 10 flights per week, beginning from November 26. LV

Public tender for fourth Macau-Taipa link should launch this year

THE public tender for the fourth road link connecting the Peninsula to Taipa Island will be ready at the end of this year. The director of Land, Public Works and Transport (DSSOPT), Li Canfeng, wrote this in a written reply to lawmaker Lei Chan U enquiry, Hoje Macau reported. In the reply, Li noted “at the moment, the preparatory works for the public tender are being done,” adding, “the Infrastructure Development Office will continue to follow closely the work with the purpose of reaching,



as planned, the tender [stage] in 2018.”

In his reply, Li also addressed the fifth sea crossing between the same locations.

The DSSOPT director advised that the preliminary feasibility study was concluded at the end of last year, and that for the time

being, the bureau was undertaking different studies on several aspects of the project, namely the interference between maritime

navigation and environmental assessment. Li said results would be presented to the public as soon as the studies conclude. RM

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UM research group says economic uncertainty is on the horizon

Julie Zhu

MACAU'S GDP is expected to grow by 8.3 percent in 2018, ranging from a pessimistic rate 5.1 percent to an optimistic rate 11.6 percent, according to the University of Macau (UM) Department of Economics and Center for Macau Studies.

Yesterday, the UM department released its Macroeconomic Forecast for Macau 2018-2019.

According to the forecast, Macau's GDP is expected to grow by 7.1 percent in 2019.

The Center for Macau Studies pointed out that economic uncertainty is on the horizon.

As explained by Chan Chi Shing, a researcher at the Center for Macau Studies, the economic uncertainty is due to the



expectation of the US Federal Reserve to raise its interest rates continually.

In addition, Chan explained that Trump's administration is creating trade frictions between the U.S. and other countries, Eurozone countries continue to face debt crises, mainland China's economy would slow down and the Central Government

would try to use accommodative monetary and fiscal policies to stabilize economic growth.

Chan believes all the aforementioned situations may affect Macau's economic growth in 2019.

Macau's exports of services are expected to increase by 13.6 percent this year, and are expected to grow at a slower rate of 8.7

percent next year.

Exports of goods are expected to increase by 18.1 percent and 5.7 percent in 2018 and 2019 respectively.

Concomitant with the recovery in local consumption, imports of goods are expected to increase by 7.5 percent in both 2018 and 2019.

Amid the rise in exports of services, the import of services will expand.

The growth rates of imported services are expected to increase by 17.4 percent and 9.5 percent in 2018 and 2019 respectively.

For domestic demand, private consumption spending continued to grow steadily.

It is expected to grow 5 percent in both 2018 and 2019.

Total investment is expected to decline by 5.7 percent in 2018 and grow by 4.4 percent in 2019.

Inflation, as measured by the change in the Composite Consumer Price Index, is expected to be higher. The inflation rate is expected to be 3.3 percent in 2018 and 3.9 percent in 2019.

For the aggregate economy, the GDP price deflator is forecast to increase by 3.4 percent and 4.1 percent in 2018 and 2019 respectively.

The labour market continues to be tight. The unemployment rate is forecast to be 2 percent and 1.9 percent in 2018 and 2019 respectively.

Excluding non-resident workers, the unemployment rate of residents is expected to be 2.6 percent and 2.5 percent in 2018 and 2019.

Median monthly employment earnings are forecast to be MOP16,077 and MOP16,638 in 2018 and 2019 respectively.

EIU PREDICTS LOWER GROWTH FOR MACAU

THE AVERAGE growth rate of Macau's economy is expected to be 4.9 percent in 2018/2019, with growth this year of 5.8 percent, slowing the following year to 3.9 percent, the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) said. The EIU noted, in its latest report on Macau published last week, that this growth is based on the gaming sector, and that gross fixed capital formation or investment should originate from public expenditure related to the construction of social housing and transport infrastructure. The document said that the govern-

ment's efforts to diversify Macau's economic structure are expected to remain unsuccessful but added that gaming operators should continue to focus heavily on tourism not directly related to gambling, which will increase the available entertainment opportunities. The EIU also said that although China's economic growth rate is expected to slow slightly over the period under review, the average income of the population will continue to rise, allowing Chinese tourists in Macau to spend more on both casinos and entertainment.

University launches Macao Economic Database Project

THE Center for Macau Studies of the University of Macau (UM) yesterday announced the launch of the Macao Economic Database Project, which is a joint project with the UM Library.

The project aims to create a comprehensive database of Macau's major economic indicators.

The database is expected to help researchers, students and the general public to better understand Macau's economic and social development so that effective actions can be taken to increase the quality of life of residents.

The project will have two major phases. During

the first phase, official statistical data, including data from the databases of the Statistics and Census Service and the Monetary Authority of Macao, will be converted into a format that is more searchable.

During the second phase, data from other official documents, including academic articles, books, newspapers and magazines, will be systematically collected to be included in the Macao economic database.

The Macao Economic Database Project will be accessible in the UM Library's database after the completion of the first phase. **JZ**

Sou decides to 'not challenge' TUI's ruling

Lynzzy Valles

FOLLOWING the Court of Final Appeal's (TUI) recent decision to end the consideration of an appeal submitted by Sulu Sou, the lawmaker officially stated that he would not pursue clarification of the court's decision.

The appeal was regarding the legal grounds of procedures leading to the suspension of his mandate by the Legislative Assembly (AL).

In a statement Sou disseminated yesterday, the lawmaker lamented that the court ended up not ruling in his favor on the wrongs described in his civil actions against AL.

"The action ended up



From left to right: Menezes, Sou, Chiang and Leal

with no winners, and no losers. I am saddened that Macau was not given an opportunity to see these matters clarified, because the Rule of Law depends to a significant extent on the clarity of the rules and principles that govern our life," the lawmaker stated.

As previously reported, the court's justification was that the appeal was "dismissed as unneces-

sary" according to the Article 84 (e) of the Code of Administrative Litigation and Article 229 (e) of the Code of Civil Procedure, since a favorable decision would result in the return of the lawmaker to his seat in the AL.

Since Sou's mandate had already been re-established, the court thus decided that it was useless to continue to analyze the appeal.



The action [Sou vs AL] ended up with no winners, and no losers. I am saddened that Macau was not given an opportunity to see matters clarified

SULU SOU

Pursuant to the law, Sou could still dispute whether the action would be of no practical consequence or not by lodging an appeal to the three judge panel at the TUI.

"However, I decided not to challenge TUI's ruling. The judge who issued the ruling elaborated on his reasons, explained it to

them, provided the decision in both official languages and publicized it."

Meanwhile, Sou expressed that discussing whether illegal resolutions of the AL can be nullified by the courts – particularly when they breach fundamental rights – is relevant for the protection of the Rule of Law, for fur-

thering the Basic Law's guarantees and for better defining the separation of powers.

"Our view is that confirming the illegality of the AL decisions, which breached fundamental rights of a legislator, would matter for the well-functioning of the AL and to the Rule of Law," said Sou.

In the latter part of the statement, Sou commended his lawyer Jorge Menezes, along with Scott Chiang's defense lawyer, Pedro Leal.

Menezes "took the forefront of our quest by courageously committing to represent us in this system-shaking legal action against the AL," the pro-democracy lawmaker stated.



PRIVACY RIGHTS

Gov't proposes new 'phone tapping' regime with added features

Renato Marques

SECRETARY for Security Wong Sio Chak presented the government's proposal to change the current legal framework which allows authorities to record and gather information from people while they are being investigated for certain crimes.

The proposal was seconded by the Director of the Judiciary Police (PJ) Sit Chong Meng and is now in its public consultation period. It aims to present, as Wong said, "a response to the new challenges created by the fast development and vulgarization of modern communications technology."

In his speech, the Secretary also noted that the current laws are obsolete in the face of new crimes, as these laws also cannot tackle the "more organized, more concerted and more concealed [ways] traditional crimes [have developed]."

The proposal was presented in six sections. This included an analysis of the difficulties of applying the current regime, the protection of fundamental rights, adjustments to the current regime, the content of the new

regime, as well as its application and relation to the Penal Code, and the proposed date of enforcement of the new regime.

According to Sit, the most relevant issue authorities identified was how outdated the current law had become. The legal framework is already 21 years old and when established, did not account for the modern communication developments.

"We do not have just phone calls anymore. Most people use other ways to communicate, such as symbols, images, sounds and videos," the PJ director noted, pointing out that such "new methods" of communication should be included under "communication interception and recording" for criminal investigations.

The PJ director also noted the increase in crimes such as "phone scams, hidden broadcasting stations (for illegal gambling related promotions) as well as terrorism acts, and human trafficking" are new policing challenges.

Sit explained that the principles of the current regime are to be kept.

Investigations and "phone

taps" will still require to be ordered and conducted under the supervision of a judge and court order. Those under investigation will retain the right to access the contents collected for their defense.

Of the adjustments made, the government proposed a change to the types of crimes subjected to such measures. These will now include "Crimes associated with Terrorism, Money Laundering, Crimes against the Security of the State, Cybercrimes and related to the violation of privacy through communications."

Crimes related to smuggling

were removed, as they were a type of crime "that does not exist anymore in Macau," Sit said.

Other changes included the "recording" or collection of information not just related to phone conversations, but also newer communication methods, such as texting, symbols, voice messages and videos, which are to be targeted as "material proof."

There were also proposed changes to article 172 of the Penal Code, regarding methods of intercepting and recording information from these new methods of communication.

The time allowed for certain "surveillance" to occur was also defined. Previously, no maximum period had been established, however, the new law proposes a maximum three-month period, before being up for renewal by order of a judge for similar periods.

A total new change to the law is the fact that both data owners and service providers (such as telecommunications com-

panies) can now be accountable for failing to co-operate with authorities when providing communications contents upon request, and failing to keep the records stored.

The proposed bill includes a penalty of up to two years of imprisonment or 240 days of fine for data owners. Service providers may be targeted with the sanction equivalent to a fine of MOP20,000 to MOP200,000 if they are a person, and MOP150,000 to MOP500,000 if they are a company. The PJ will have jurisdiction over this topic and be responsible for management.

The government is also proposing that the law should be enforced 90 days after its publication, establishing a one-year transition period for operators and service provider to comply.

The document has been in public consultation for 45 days and until November 9, opinions can be sent to the PJ by letter, via the official PJ website and through the government portal.

'To update the laws is a responsibility of the government'

ON the sidelines of the presentation of the new regime for interception and protection of communications, Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak said: "to update the legal regimes is a responsibility of the government and if [the government] was not doing such work it should be failing."

Wong was replying to criticisms that the constant changing and enforcing of stricter legal re-

gimes was restraining the liberty of the citizens and making every common citizen out to be a criminal.

In his reply, Wong noted that "the fulfillment of [legal] obligations is an indicator of a democratic and rule-of-law-based [territory]." He also noted that law updates are being made by all other secretariats to improve and respond to social challenges. **RM**

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TRAFFIC

Gov't wants to widen streets, cut on outdoor parking



THE government wants to widen some of the city's main and most congested streets and cut down street parking for both motorcycles and cars.

The proposal was discussed on last week's meeting of the Traffic Advisory Committee. After the meeting, Director of Transport Bureau (DSAT) Lam Hin San commented

on the proposal, with Avenida do Coronel Mesquita as the first target.

"This is only a preliminary plan. All of Avenida do Coronel Mesquita will go from two to three traffic lanes, allowing 14 bus routes and about 130,000 people to circulate through this street. If possible, we are also planning to create an exclusive bus corridor [similar to the ones enforced

in Inner Harbor area] at some times of day," Lam explained.

Despite being the first, Avenida do Coronel Mesquita will not be the only street to undergo changes, with DSAT noting that improving circulation of public transport and pedestrians – even to the detriment of street parking – is an established priority of the bureau. **RM**

Guinea Bissau opens honorary consulate in Macau, headed by Chan Meng Kam



GUINEA Bissau opened earlier this week an honorary consulate in Macau whose facilities were inaugurated in a ceremony attended by Chief Executive Chui Sai On, the Portuguese press reported.

The ceremony was also attended by Guinean Foreign Minister João Ribeiro Butiam C6, the Guinea Bissau ambassador to China, Malam Sambu and the honorary consul in Macau, Chan Meng Kam.

The new honorary consul stressed that relations between China and Guinea Bissau have been steadily deepening in recent years, and that "mutual trust has grown."

Chan Meng Kam has promised to actively engage in bilateral communication and collaboration and the exchange of people in the economic, commercial and cultural spheres, emphasizing Macau's role as a platform.

Guinean Foreign Minister João Ribeiro Butiam C6 said he hoped the new honorary consul would work to strengthen contacts between Guinea Bissau and China, seeking new markets and opportunities for the future.

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Residents accounted for travel agencies' growth last year

THE latest release from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) shows that local travel agencies have recorded a growth of 20.7 percent in 2017 when compared to 2016 of residents travelling abroad using travel agencies. This represents an expected income of MOP8 billion to the travel agency industry.

Expenditure also rose by 19.8 percent to MOP 7.61 billion in the same period.

The income was generated from services such as package tours (MOP2.49 billion), room reservation services (MOP2.06 billion) and passenger transport ticketing (MOP 1.66 billion). These registered increases of 20.5 percent, 61.2 percent and 0.9 percent respectively.

Rentals of coaches with drivers dropped by 3.5 percent to MOP942 million.

Regarding expenditure, the purchase of goods and services and commission paid increased by 26 percent to MOP6.02 billion, accounting for 79.1 percent of the total income.

When analyzed by number of people employed, there were 18 travel agencies with 50 or more persons (increasing by an agency). The total number of people employed rose by 7.8 percent year-on-year to 2,024.

Meanwhile, there were 17 travel agencies with 30 to 49 staff (decreasing by two agencies) and the number of people employed fell by 8.9 percent to a total of 612. These travel agencies registered a total income of MOP881 million in services, up by 16.0 percent. Contributing to this growth was passenger transport ticketing (MOP388 million), which registered a surge of 49.8 percent.

For the smaller agencies (10 to 29 staff members), there was a great hike in room reservation services (MOP882 million), representing an increase of 253.2 percent.

Gross Value Added, which measures the sectorial contribution to the economy, totaled MOP1.12 billion and was up by 12.9 percent year-on-year. **RM**

Winners of Poker King Cup take home over HKD1.4 million

THE Poker King Cup Macau 2018 has come to a close, crowning China's Kui Song Wu as the HKD200,000 Super High Roller winner. He takes home a trophy and the first place prize of HKD1,720,000.

This is the winner's biggest live tournament cash prize.

Held at The Venetian from September 20 to 25, the event attracted 16 entries on its first day, Pokernews reported.

One of those was a re-entry by Shan Huang, who ended up in fifth place with only four winners being paid.

Another five entries were received today before the registration period ended, including a re-entry of James Chen who finished as the runner-up and won HKD1,017,000; and Australia's Michael Addamo, who was eliminated in the first



payout spot, placing fourth and winning HKD469,000.

Meanwhile, the HKD 16,500 Main Event won by Wei Ran Pu, granting the Chinese player his first major title win and a career-high score of HKD1,464,000.

Tokuho Yoshinaga also won the Poker King Cup Macau HKD80,000 High Roller for HKD1,410,169. **LV**

MELCO GOES GREEN KEY TO A BETTER MACAU

Climate change is the topic on everyone's lips these days, especially with the Macau government pushing to 'green' its tourism industry. It's no wonder, then, that today's eco-conscious consumers are voting with their dollar by supporting ethical companies that can demonstrate environmental and social responsibility.

GREEN KEY

This is the underlying principle of the Green Key, one of the world's leading standards for environmental sustainability in the hospitality and tourism industry. The eco-label promises consumers that Green Key-certified businesses are committed to making a positive difference to the planet.

It is this dedication that has made Melco Resorts & Entertainment the first operator in Macau to win Green Key status for not one but four integrated resorts: Morpheus, Nüwa, City of Dreams and Studio City.

When it comes to green tourism, Melco puts its money where its mouth is.

City of Dreams – Macau's first resort to meet environmental standard ISO 14001 – and Studio City have poured close to MOP200 million into energy- and water-saving infrastructure like advanced filtration, irrigation and food waste management. It's paid off: to date, Melco has conserved CO2 emissions that would have needed over 6.9 million trees to absorb, and saved enough water to fill a whopping 438 Olympic swimming pools.



ELECTRIC BUZZ

2018 has been a good year for Melco, which has made energy efficiency a defining characteristic. In May, it launched a zero-emission fleet of 20 electric buses to ferry passengers between City of Dreams, Studio City and Altira Macau. The latter two resorts also took home top honours at the annual CEM Macau Energy Saving Contest in January.

Looking at all this, you might ask: can Melco surpass its own achievements? The answer so far seems to be "yes". Melco, which incidentally also operates the second-largest centralised cooling system in South China's hospitality industry, has big plans for the near future. It wants to roll out more e-bus services and install rooftop solar panels that will save over 5 million kWh of energy. It has also set higher annual waste reduction targets which focus on plastic and paper.

INSPIRING LEAD

Melco's dedication to environmental sustainability has inspired employees to follow suit. Staff volunteers give back to the community through activities like Earth Hour, tree planting and beach cleaning. Guests are even encouraged to reuse towels and bedsheets, use public transport and choose 'green' dishes at hotel restaurants.

Through its efforts to reduce its carbon footprint and conserve finite resources, Melco hopes to inspire the industry and the general public to take steps to protect the environment. If Macau wants to become a world-class capital for green tourism, it might just be up to companies like Melco to lead the way.

This article is sponsored by Melco Resorts & Entertainment.



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FOOD

With automation, Korean dumplings go global in business bet

MOVE over pot stickers, here comes another Asian dumpling. South Korea's largest food company is making a multi-million-dollar bet on "mandu," developing its own machines to automate the normally labor-intensive production of the Korean dumpling and building factories around the world.

"It will be the next kimchi," predicted Cho Gun Ae, a senior researcher at CJ Cheil-Jedang Corp. who has spent more than 20 years researching dumpling recipes and production.

The nearly 4-year-old effort is an example of how technology is transforming the food industry, in this case making over the image of frozen dumplings as a cheap and unhealthy product made by small companies. Automation made the quality, the look and the size of each bite-size dumpling consistent and significantly improved productivity, Cho said.

CJ recently opened a factory in New Jersey, its third in the U.S., and has expanded production lines in China and snapped up local companies in Vietnam and Russia so it can churn out more of its Bibigo-brand frozen dumplings.

Few workers could be seen on a recent visit to a CJ factory in South Korea. One picked out defective onions and cabbages from a conveyor belt where machines washed the vegetables with water and chopped them into cubes in seconds. At another



conveyor belt, two workers picked out defective chives, while another checked the machines to make sure they were running smoothly.

A series of machines cut the dough into identically sized circles, dropped a dollop of filling inside and closed the dumpling into a crescent shape, onto which another machine put a frill-shaped pattern. Lines of dumplings streamed out on conveyor belts, like a production line of miniature cars. The facility in Incheon, outside of Seoul, produces 100 tons of dumplings a day.

One challenge was designing the machines that make the pattern on the dumplings. Instead of using machines made in Japan for its popular "gyoza" dumplings, CJ developed a new machine for mandu.

Last year, U.S. sales of CJ's Bibigo dumplings surged 70 percent to 175 billion won (USD156 million).

Tess Sarosdy of San Antonio, Texas, who reviews rea-

dy-made foods on her blog "I Am Tired of Cooking," praised the mandu for being easy to heat and serve.

"American consumers are more familiar with pot stickers and not the Bibigo-style of dumpling," she said in an email interview. "My daughter loves them."

Moon Jung-hoon, a food business professor at Seoul National University, is upbeat about CJ's dumpling business.

"Its targets are Chinese, Chinese people outside China and others around the world who are familiar with Chinese dim sum," he said.

Globally, the company aims to triple its dumpling sales to 1 trillion won (\$929 million) by 2020, mostly to Koreans, Americans, Chinese and Russians.

It would be an unusual feat at a time when mainstay South Korean exports, such as autos and ships, are struggling to grow and companies are reluctant to expand investment. **AP**



Clouds on horizon as trade wars, debt weigh on Asia's growth

TRADER conflicts, rising debt and the potential impact from rising interest rates in the U.S. will likely dampen growth in the coming year, the Asian Development Bank said in an update of its regional economic outlook report.

The Manila, Philippines-based regional lender said yesterday that it expects economic growth in Asia to remain at a robust 6.0 percent in 2018 but to slip to 5.8 percent next year.

China's economy is expected to expand at a 6.6 percent annual pace this year but slow to 6.3 percent in 2019.

It cited looming financial and trade shocks as the biggest sources of potential trouble. If the U.S. economy shows signs of overheating, interest rate hikes by the Federal Reserve, including one expected today [Macau time] to take the benchmark rate to 2-2.25 percent, could disrupt currency markets and other capital flows, leading to problems with bad loans.

Overly high housing prices also are risks for China, Hong Kong, Malaysia and South Ko-

rea, the report said.

But it said the bigger threat comes from potential damage to supply chains caused by trade conflicts, especially between the U.S. and China.

President Donald Trump pushed ahead Monday with higher tariffs on USD200 billion of Chinese imports. Beijing retaliated by imposing penalties on \$60 billion of U.S. goods.

China and the United States earlier imposed 25 percent tariffs on \$50 billion of each other's goods. Combined, the tariffs now cover nearly half the goods and services China sells America and nearly 60 percent of what the United States sells China.

The damage will be worse if Trump carries out threats to raise tariffs on virtually all products imported from China, said the ADB's chief economist, Yasuyuki Sawada.

But fast-growing Asia is quickly becoming such a large market that expanding trade within the region can help offset lost exports to the U.S., he said. **AP**

corporate bits

MELCO LAUNCHES 20 ELECTRIC BUSES



Melco Resorts & Entertainment Limited yesterday celebrated the official launch of twenty zero-emission electric

buses in collaboration with manufacturer Zhengzhou Yutong Bus Company Limited (Yutong).

Melco's fleet of twenty electric buses service passengers to, from and between its integrated resort properties City of Dreams, Studio City and Altira Macau, the gaming operator said in a statement.

Akiko Takahashi, executive vice president, chief officer of Human Resources and Corporate Social Responsibility of Melco Resorts & Entertainment, said, "Melco is pleased to service our guests, colleagues and stakeholders with our fleet of 20 full electric buses, the largest number in Macau. We look forward to continuing to develop our strategies and efforts for a better environment."

GALAXY UNVEILS NEW VIP GAMING CLUB



Galaxy Macau has officially unveiled JinMen8, a new gaming club that features premium VIP tables and salons, and second-to-none service and amenities.

Representing an investment of MOP300 million and taking three years to build, the new JinMen8 VIP gaming club is located at the top of The Ritz-Carlton.

This club features 18 tables in the open floor and five salons. Two salons offer a pair of tables within, while the other three salons provide a more private, intimate setting with one table each.

VIP dining choices at JinMen8 include Fook Lam Moon signature dishes and tailor-made dishes from Lai Heen, for JinMen8 members only, as cited in a press release.

Raymond Yap, senior director of International Premium and Mass Market Development of Galaxy Entertainment Group said, "The addition of JinMen8 solidifies our position to offer our discerning VIP clients a new level of premium gaming."

US-CHINA

Trade tensions spilling over into the military arena

Robert Burns, Washington

A deterioration in U.S.-China relations, seen most dramatically in their escalating trade dispute, is spilling over into the military arena.

The Pentagon yesterday [Macau time] confirmed that China had canceled a Washington visit by the head of its navy, and U.S. officials said China had denied a request for a U.S. Navy ship to make a port visit next month at Hong Kong.

Also yesterday, China demanded the Trump administration cancel a planned USD330 million sale of military equipment to Taiwan, the self-ruled island that Beijing considers a renegade province.

The backdrop to these tensions is the U.S.-China trade dispute. Each imposed tariff increases on the other's goods Monday, and Beijing accused the Trump administration of bullying. A Chinese official said China cannot hold talks on ending the trade dispute while the U.S. "holds a knife" to Beijing's neck by imposing tariff hikes.

The two countries are mired in a dispute over Washington's allegations that Beijing pilfers foreign trade secrets and forces U.S. companies to hand over technology in return for access to the Chinese market. The predatory practices, the U.S. says, are part of China's relentless drive to challenge American technological dominance.

AP PHOTO



Also at stake, beyond economic cooperation, are U.S. hopes for gaining China's help in persuading North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons. In his address Tuesday to the U.N. General Assembly in New York, Trump thanked Chinese President Xi Jinping for his assistance with the North Korea problem, but he also blasted China for what he called unfair use of international trade rules to diminish U.S. jobs and deepen U.S. trade deficits.

"Those days are over. We will no longer tolerate such abuse,"

Trump said.

Military ties between Washington and Beijing have been relatively stable in recent years, even as the U.S. complained of China militarizing reefs and islands in the South China Sea amid overlapping territorial claims by other Asian nations. In May, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis disinvited China from participating in a multinational naval exercise in the Pacific. Pentagon officials cited China's military buildup on disputed South China Sea islands.

In recent days the breadth of

military tensions has grown. A Pentagon spokesman, Army Lt. Col. Dave Eastburn, said China informed the Pentagon that the chief of the Chinese navy has been recalled to Beijing, canceling a planned meeting with his American Navy counterpart at the Pentagon after visiting a naval conference at Newport, Rhode Island.

On Monday a reporter asked Mattis what he made of these developments and how he expected to address them.

"Right now, it's too early to say. We're still sorting this out,"

he said, adding that he and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo agree "we do have to have a relationship with China. ... And so we're sorting out the way ahead right now."

Mattis visited Beijing in June, making him the first Pentagon chief to do so since 2014.

In addition to its anger over the military sale to Taiwan, China is strongly objecting to a U.S. decision to issue a visa ban and assets freeze on China's Equipment Development Department and its director, Li Shangfu. The U.S. action relates to China's purchase from Russia of Su-35 combat aircraft last year and S-400 surface-to-air missile system-related equipment this year. Those purchases violated a 2017 law intended to punish the Russian government for interfering in U.S. elections and other activities.

China's Defense Ministry said the U.S. had no right to interfere in Chinese military cooperation with Russia and demanded the sanctions be revoked. In addition to warning that failure to revoke the sanctions would mean Washington "must bear the consequences," Beijing postponed a meeting it had been scheduled to host this week between U.S. and Chinese military staffs.

In a further act of retaliation, China turned down a request for an October port call in Hong Kong by the U.S. Navy's amphibious assault ship USS Wasp. China last denied such a visit in 2016 amid a spike in tensions between the sides over the disputed South China Sea.

"We have a long track record of successful port visits to Hong Kong, and we expect that will continue," said Eastburn, the Pentagon spokesman, in confirming that China had not approved the Wasp's visit. **AP**

STRAIT DIPLOMACY

US approves new warfare sale to Taiwan, drawing Beijing's ire

THE U.S. approved the sale of military equipment to Taiwan this week, drawing China's ire as tensions escalate between the world's two largest economies.

Taiwan welcomed the package, estimated by the Pentagon to be worth USD330 million, which was proposed by its government last year and includes spare parts for F-16, C-130 and indigenous defense fighter aircraft. It represents the smallest stand-alone offering to the self-ruled island since President George W. Bush approved a \$125 million sale of anti-ship missiles

in 2007, according to a report by the Congressional Research Service.

"This case-by-case approach in military sales could be more efficient than previous practices of big packages," Chen Chung-chi, spokesman for Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense, said by phone on Tuesday. "We hope military purchases in the future can be discussed case by case in order to enhance efficiency."

The sale may further hurt U.S.-China relations, which have deteriorated as President Donald Trump's use of tariffs stokes fears of a long-term

competition for global power between the nations. The Chinese government has already called off a planned round of bilateral trade talks with the U.S., according to people familiar with the matter, and the countries imposed a new round of tariffs on each other on Monday.

China's military "is strongly dissatisfied and strongly opposed to this," Defense Ministry spokesman Ren Guoqiang said in a statement, adding that it has launched "stern representations" with the U.S.

"We are resolutely opposed to the U.S. sale of weapons to Taiwan," Ren said.

China demanded that the U.S. cancel the sales as well as its military contacts with Taiwan "in order to avoid the next step in damaging China-U.S. military relations and peace and stability in the Taiwan strait."

Trump's relationship with Taiwan has been a hot issue for China since he accepted a congratulatory phone call from President Tsai Ing-wen after his election and questioned why the U.S. recognizes Beijing instead of Taipei, a policy that underpins China-U.S. relations.

Since then, the U.S. has approved \$1.3 billion in



arms sales to Taiwan, and Trump has signed legislation to encourage senior U.S. officials to visit the island, a move that would raise its diplomatic status.

In a March address to China's parliament, President Xi Jinping warned that efforts to widen divisions with Taiwan would be "punished by history." The government has ordered all airlines to stop

referring to Taiwan and the former colonies of Hong Kong and Macau as countries, something the White House described as "Orwellian nonsense."

"Strong self defense will help Taiwanese people to be more confident when they face more severe security challenges," said Alex Huang, spokesman for the president. **Bloomberg**

CHINA-VATICAN

Pope urges Chinese Catholics to trust, reconcile after deal

Nicole Winfield, Vatican City

POPE Francis urged Chinese Catholics yesterday to trust him and make concrete gestures of reconciliation following a landmark deal over bishop appointments that is aimed at ending decades of estrangement between the Vatican and Beijing.

In a letter to the Chinese faithful, Francis also called for greater dialogue between local priests and government authorities to ensure that ordinary church activities can be carried out, while encouraging the opening of "a new chapter" in official bilateral cooperation.

China's estimated 12 million Catholics are split between those belonging to the government-backed Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association, which is outside the pope's authority, and an underground church loyal to the pope. Underground priests and parishioners are frequently detained and harassed.

The letter appeared aimed at acknowledging the deep reservations of some underground faithful, for whom the deal represents a sell-out to the Communist government and betrayal of their decades of loyalty to the pope.

Francis acknowledged these Chinese "sense themselves somehow abandoned" and expressed his "sincere admiration" for their fidelity over the years. But he asked them to trust him.

The aim, he said, is to "initiate an unprecedented process that we hope will help to heal the wounds of the past, restore full communion among all Chinese Catholics, and lead to a phase of greater fraternal cooperation."

The letter follows the deal signed Saturday governing the naming of bishops in China, an issue that has split the church and vexed relations for decades.



Pope Francis arrives for his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican yesterday

The agreement regularizes the status of seven bishops who had been appointed by Beijing over the years without papal consent, and sets out a process of dialogue going forward to name new ones. Francis says he, not Beijing, ultimately will name new bishops.

While the deal addressed a crucial aspect of church governance in China, it didn't address more pastoral issues of unifying split communities, which the letter published yesterday aims to do.

"The Catholic community in China is called to be united, so as to overcome the divisions of the past that have caused, and continue to cause, great suffering in the hearts of many pastors

and faithful," Francis wrote. "All Christians, none excluded, must now offer gestures of reconciliation and communion."

Francis — and before him Pope Benedict XVI and St. John Paul II — had tried to unite the two communities, including a letter Benedict penned to the Chinese faithful in 2007. Years of negotiations kicked into high gear over a year ago, culminating in the deal signed Saturday.

Unlike Benedict's 2007 letter, which labeled the Patriotic Association "incompatible" with Catholic doctrine and took a hard line in asserting the exclusive right of the pope to name bishops, Francis' tone was far more conciliatory and focused on moving

past previous differences. He didn't even name the Patriotic Association or insist on his right to name bishops.

He has told reporters, however, that after a period of dialogue he would ultimately name new leaders of the church.

The letter provided some detail of the process involved, which includes ordinary priests and lay faithful taking part in the nomination process. That lay participation is unknown in the West, where such nominations are put to the Vatican for consideration by the local hierarchy and the local Vatican ambassador.

Francis urged the Chinese faithful "to join in seeking good candidates" who are not mere

functionaries but are "authentic shepherds ... committed to working generously in the service of God's people, especially the poor and the most vulnerable."

Speaking to reporters Tuesday, Francis acknowledged that both sides lost something in the talks, and said members of the underground Chinese church "will suffer" as a result of the deal, the text of which has not been released.

■ **The Pope's letter appeared aimed at acknowledging the deep reservations of some underground faithful**

But he took full responsibility for it, and said he had already received messages attesting to the "martyr-like faith" of Chinese Catholics and their willingness to accept whatever was decided. He urged prayers "for the suffering of those who don't understand, or who have so many years behind them of living clandestinely."

It was a reference to the underground faithful who endured decades of persecution for refusing to join the Patriotic Association and staying loyal to the Holy See. Their cause has long been championed by Hong Kong Cardinal Joseph Zen, who has called Francis' deal a sell-out of the church to China's Communist rulers.

The issue of bishop nominations had been the main stumbling block to restoring diplomatic relations that were severed nearly seven decades ago when the Chinese communists came to power. The Holy See insisted on the pope's right to name bishops to preserve the apostolic succession that dates to Jesus' original apostles. China considered the Vatican's insistence as an infringement on its sovereignty. **AP**

CHINESE CITIZEN IN CHICAGO

Ji Chaoqun accused of spying, helping recruit US engineers

A Chinese citizen living in Chicago was arrested yesterday [Macau time] for allegedly spying, including by helping with the recruitment of U.S. engineers, defense contractors and scientists for intelligence services in China, federal prosecutors said.

Ji Chaoqun, 27, is charged with one count of knowingly acting in the U.S. as an agent of a foreign government without prior notification of the attorney general, a statement from the U.S. attorney's office in Chicago said. He allegedly

worked at the direction of high-ranking intelligence officials with the People's Republic of China and was given the task of providing information about eight people for possible recruitment.

Ji made an initial appearance in federal court

in downtown Chicago, looking tired and fidgeting as he stood before U.S. Magistrate Judge Michael T. Mason. Ji huddled with a Chinese-language interpreter for much of the 15-minute hearing. But when the judge asked if he understood his rights, Ji

lifted his head and said in English, "I understand."

Assistant U.S. Attorney Shoba Pillay said at the hearing that Ji faces up to 10 years in federal prison if convicted on the one count.

Through a lawyer, Laura Hoey, Ji also asked that the Chinese consulate be notified about his arrest. Judge Mason ordered that Ji remain in custody for now, and U.S. Marshal's agents handcuffed him and led him away. No additional hearings were immediately set.

A 17-page criminal complaint says Ji came to the U.S. in 2013 on a student visa to study engineering at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserves in 2016 under a program that allows some immigrants living in the country legally to serve in the military if their skills could be vital to U.S. interests.

There was no answer at a number for the Chinese consulate in Chicago yesterday. **AP**



This combination of file photos show (from left to right) Malaysia's Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, Maldives President-elect Ibrahim Mohamed Solih and Pakistan politician Imran Khan

ANALYSIS

Asian victors may find anti-China campaign vows hard to keep

Emily Schmall, New Delhi

THREE Muslim-majority Asian countries have elected leaders who campaigned on a promise to temper China's growing influence, but analysts say reducing the foothold of the world's second-largest economy won't be easy because of the billions of dollars in development projects that are already under way.

The surprising elections in recent months of nonagenarian Mahathir Mohamad in Malaysia, cricketer Imran Khan in Pakistan and longtime opposition lawmaker Ibrahim Mohamed Solih in the Maldives buck a regional trend toward authoritarianism, and could present an obstacle for Chinese President Xi Jinping's hallmark "Belt and Road Initiative" to build ports, highways and other trade-related infrastructure.

Countries including India, the U.S. and Japan are concerned that China's massive initiative is part of an effort to build a China-centric world order in which all roads lead to Beijing and their own influence is eroded.

Xi said in a late August closed-door event with officials in Beijing to mark the project's fifth anniversary that it was about business, not geopolitics.

"The projects are not free aid from China, but an economic cooperation, a kind of business deal," said Zhao Gancheng, a

Shanghai Institute of Foreign Studies researcher.

New governments in Malaysia, Pakistan and the Maldives are free to decide they no longer want Chinese investment in these projects, Zhao said, but they should be prepared to compensate China accordingly. How newly elected governments could buy their way out of China's grasp remains to be seen.

MALAYSIA

Malaysia's former authoritarian leader Mahathir Mohamad led an opposition alliance to a stunning victory in May 9 elections, ushering in the country's first change of power since independence from Britain in 1957.

It led to a political earthquake for Malaysia, sweeping aside the government of Prime Minister Najib Razak, whose reputation was tarnished by a monumental corruption scandal and the imposition of an unpopular sales tax that hurt many of his coalition's poor rural supporters.

Mahathir, 93, was credited with modernizing Malaysia during his 22-year rule that ended in 2003 but was also known as a heavy-handed leader who imprisoned opponents and subjugated the courts. Angered by the graft scandal involving the 1MDB state investment fund, Mahathir emerged from political retirement and joined the opposition to oust Najib, his former protege.

Mahathir, the world's oldest elected leader, has reopened investigations into 1MDB and banned Najib and his wife from traveling abroad. Najib is facing 32 charges of criminal breach of trust, corruption, abuse of power and money laundering. He has denied any wrongdoing and his trial is to start next year.

Mahathir's government has also axed China-backed energy pipelines and a rail project along peninsular Malaysia's eastern coast as part of efforts to reduce national debt that it said worsened under Najib's rule. The projects were part of "Belt and Road" but Mahathir said the deals struck by Najib were too costly and unfair to Malaysia.

PAKISTAN

While in opposition, Pakistan's new prime minister, former cricket star Imran Khan, questioned whether a "Belt and Road" partnership with China benefited Pakistan. He promised the contracts would be made public, something the new government has yet to do.

He also promised greater transparency moving forward on the multibillion-dollar project known as the China Pakistan Economic Corridor Project, which includes an ambitious cross-country road system linking Pakistan's Arabian Sea port of Gwadar to China.

The multi-level project was un-

dertaken by Pakistan's previous government, although little is known about the details of the contracts with China and the debt Pakistan would incur as a result of these deals.

Khan promised to reveal all to Pakistanis, who have watched with a mix of enthusiasm and caution the development that has taken place in recent years as four-lane superhighways open up linking northern areas to other parts of the country.

As well as road construction, Pakistan's previous government also negotiated agreements with Chinese power companies to supply much needed electricity to energy-starved Pakistan. However, criticism has been loud about the terms of the agreements and the revolving debt costs to Pakistan.

Khan's earlier stridency has softened since July elections propelled him to power. In one of his first speeches to the nation as prime minister, Khan said Pakistan had much to learn from China, praising its economic development and an anti-corruption drive, which was the central plank of his Pakistan In-saf (Justice) Party platform.

Zhao, the Chinese researcher, was incredulous that Khan would oppose Chinese investment, given the massive amounts of money poured into Pakistan. "No Pakistan leader would risk damaging the country's relations with China," Zhao said.

MALDIVES

In the Maldives, an island nation southwest of India with around 400,000 people, Solih declared victory in Sunday's presidential election, an unexpected result against an incumbent government accused of suppression and the jailing of political opponents.

Outgoing Maldives President Abdul Yameen Gayoom traveled to Beijing last year to sign a free-trade deal that eliminates most tariffs on Maldivian exports, primarily fish, and opens the island nation to Chinese goods and services, including in finance, health care and tourism.

China is already the Maldives' primary source of tourists, whose spending largely drives the economy, and Beijing is investing hundreds of millions of dollars in an airport expansion, housing development and other projects.

China considers Maldives a key cog in "Belt and Road" projects following along ancient trade routes through the Indian Ocean and Central Asia.

The Center for Global Development, a Washington think tank, estimates China's loans to Maldives total at least USD1.3 billion, a quarter of the island nation's gross domestic product. The country is considered by the World Bank and the IMF to be at high risk of debt distress because of its vulnerability to outside shocks.

"The kind of debts the Chinese have subjected the Maldivians to, the effects of it will continue to linger on and Maldivians will have to continue to deal with it. We have seen it in Sri Lanka. Even if you have a change in government the dependency on China continues," said Ashok Behuria, a South Asia policy expert at the Institute for Defense Studies and Analyses in New Delhi.

Solih's friend and the leader of his party, former Maldives President Mohamed Nasheed, has described China's growing influence as a land grab in the guise of investments in island development.

China congratulated Solih on his victory and said it would like the new Maldivian government to uphold the previous administration's policies toward China, including the free trade agreement.

While campaigning, Solih criticized the agreement, complaining that Parliament was only given five minutes to review a several-hundred-page document.

"He has been quite furious about the money that's been said to have been lost to corruption," said Hamid Abdul Gafoor, an opposition spokesman and former Maldives lawmaker now living in Colombo, Sri Lanka, adding "Our country's under financial straits because the debt is very high, and so that is a concern." **AP**

HUMAN RIGHTS

Pakistanis in China seek answers about detained Uighur wives

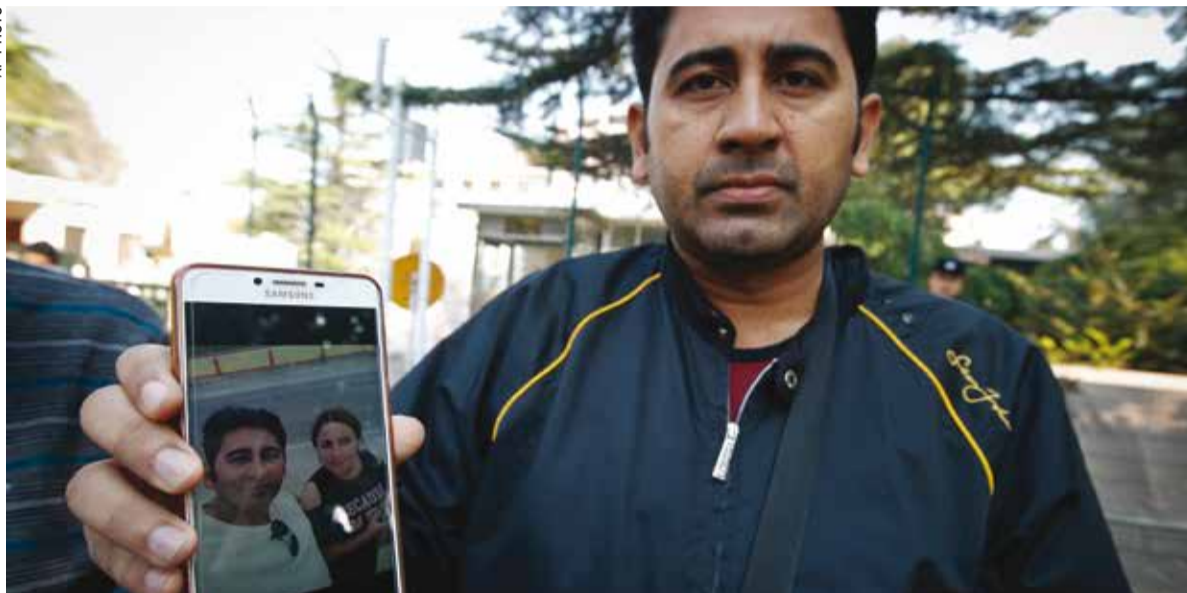
Dake Kang & Yanan Wang, Beijing

TWO Pakistani men went to their embassy in Beijing yesterday to lobby for help in reuniting with their wives, who they say are ethnic Uighurs blocked from leaving China, in an example of how a sweeping crackdown has spilled across China's borders.

"I am very, very unhappy," said Mirza Imran Baig, a Pakistani cosmetics trader. His Chinese Uighur wife, Malika Mamiti, was sent to a political indoctrination camp after returning to China's far west Xinjiang region in May 2017, Baig said.

The internment camps, which have alarmed a United Nations panel and the U.S. government, are estimated to hold around 1 million Uighurs and other Muslim minorities. China denies their existence and maintains that current security measures are necessary to combat religious extremism in

AP PHOTO



Pakistani businessman Mirza Imran Baig shows his picture taken with his Uighur wife Malika Mamiti outside the Pakistan's embassy in Beijing yesterday

a region that has previously experienced ethnic unrest.

Xinjiang's security drive has swept up and separated families and also created friction with neighboring Kazakhstan over the internment of ethnic Kazakh Chinese nationals and even Kazakh citizens.

There are at least 38 Pakistani men whose mostly Uighur Chinese wives are detained or unable to leave Xinjiang, according to Mian Shahid Ilyas, a Lahore-based businessman. Ilyas has been tracking such cases since his own wife was detained in April last year.

China's foreign ministry said Tuesday that it was not aware of the situation involving the Pakistani husbands, and reiterated its stance that China's policies are aimed at creating "stability and lasting peace" in Xinjiang.

Baig said his wife has since

been released from the internment camp but is confined to her hometown in a southwestern part of the region. He said her passport and that of their 4-year-old daughter, also a Chinese citizen, were confiscated.

He has visited the Pakistani Embassy in Beijing and met with the ambassador, Masood Khalid, several times. Still, he said he believes Pakistan is "not interested" in helping him.

■ The internment camps are estimated to hold around 1 million Uighurs and other Muslim minorities

Baig and Muhammed Asif, another Pakistani man whose wife and child are stuck in Xinjiang, met with Khalid on Wednesday afternoon to ask for help in getting China to allow their wives to leave the country. Khalid told them to return to the embassy on Thursday for an update, Baig said. **AP**

AD



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President Donald Trump's Supreme Court nominee, Brett Kavanaugh

Ford's lawyers submit 4 affidavits backing up assault story

Alan Fram, Lisa Mascaro
and Laurie Kellman, Washington

CHRIStINE Blasey Ford's lawyers said yesterday they have given the Senate sworn affidavits from four people who say she told them well before Brett Kavanaugh's Supreme Court nomination that she had been sexually assaulted when she was much younger.

And according to all four, she either named Kavanaugh as the assailant or described the attacker as a "federal judge."

At the U.N., meanwhile, President Donald Trump said on the eve of the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing with Kavanaugh and Ford that Republicans "could not be nicer, could not be more respectful" in their treatment of Ford. He described his nominee as "an absolute gem" and said he probably would have pushed for faster confirmation rather than waiting for Ford's testimony.

In one of the affidavits, family friend Keith Koegler said he wrote to Ford in a June 29 email, "I remember you telling me about him, but I don't remember his name. Do you mind telling me so I can read about him?"

"Brett Kavanaugh," Ford responded by email, according to Koegler, her son's baseball team coach.

Trump nominated Kavanaugh, 53, to the high court on July 9. Kavanaugh staunchly denies

ever sexually assaulting anyone, and his allies have questioned the credibility of Ford and a second accuser based in part on what they say is a lack of corroboration. Trump has dismissed both accusations as a "Democratic con job."

The affidavits signed Monday and Tuesday of this week could give more weight to Ford's story on the eve of her testimony — and Kavanaugh's expected denial — before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday. Republicans are concerned that, win or lose, the battle over Kavanaugh's nomination is further animating women already inclined to vote against Trump's party in November's elections in which control of the next Congress is at stake.

Hanging in the balance is Trump's chance to swing the high court more firmly to the right for a generation. Despite Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's forecast that Republicans will win, Kavanaugh's fate remains uncertain in a chamber where Republicans have a scant 51-49 majority.

Ford, 51, went public with her story in *The Washington Post* recently, saying Kavanaugh had pinned her down, tried to remove her clothes and clamped a hand over her mouth at a party when both were in high school. She got away when a second male in the room jumped on the

bed and sent all three tumbling, she says.

According to the affidavits, Ford revealed the assault in varying levels of detail between 2002 and Koegler's email in June.

Her husband, Russell Ford, stated that he became aware around the time the couple wed in 2002 that his wife had "any experience with sexual assault," but she provided no details at the time. In 2012 during a couples therapy session, he says, she revealed that in high school she had been "trapped in a room and physically restrained by one boy who was molesting her while another boy watched." He says she named the attacker as Kavanaugh.

The subject came up again when Trump was considering his first Supreme Court nominee, who ended up being Justice Neil Gorsuch. Before the selection, Ford had told her husband that she was afraid the president might nominate Kavanaugh. The matter came up again when Justice Anthony Kennedy announced his retirement and Trump had a second seat to fill.

In a third affidavit, Adela Gildo-Mazzon, a friend of more than a decade, said Ford first told her about the assault in June, 2013. The two met at a Mountain View, California, restaurant, where Ford arrived "visibly upset."

"Christine told me she [...] had been thinking about an assault she experienced when she was much younger," Gildo-Mazzon's statement says, adding that she has a receipt from the meal. "She said that she had been almost raped by someone who was now a federal judge."

■ The affidavits signed earlier this week could give more weight to Ford's story

Neighbor Rebecca White said she was walking her dog in 2017 when she ran into Ford, who said she had seen White's social media post describing her own experience with sexual assault.

"She then told me that when she was a young teen, she had been sexually assaulted by an older teen," White recalled in the document. "I remember her saying that her assailant was now a federal judge."

The documents are likely to be central in the momentous hearing on Thursday in Washington. Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley said Arizona prosecutor Rachel Mitchell will be brought in to handle ques-

tioning of Kavanaugh and Ford. Mitchell comes from the Maricopa County Attorney's Office in Phoenix, where she is the chief of the Special Victims Division, which covers sex crimes and family violence.

Hoping the hearing will yield no new surprises, the Judiciary Committee scheduled its own vote on Kavanaugh for Friday, and Republican leaders laid plans that could keep the full Senate in session over the weekend and produce a final showdown roll call soon after — close to the Oct. 1 start of the high court's new term.

Meanwhile, the Republicans were still assessing what Kavanaugh's Monday interview on the Fox News Channel — an unusual appearance for a Supreme Court nominee — indicates about how he would do in Thursday's hearing.

During the interview, Kavanaugh denied sexually assaulting anyone. He also denied the account of a second woman, Deborah Ramirez, who told *The New Yorker* magazine that Kavanaugh caused her to touch his penis at a party when both were Yale freshmen.

Some in the White House expressed relief that Kavanaugh, 53, presented a positive image to counter the allegations. Yet he appeared shaky at times. And there remained concern among aides and Trump himself about how Kavanaugh would hold up facing far fiercer questioning from Senate Democrats, according to a White House official not authorized to speak publicly.

The affidavits are not the first challenges to Kavanaugh's denials.

James Roche, a Yale graduate who says he was Kavanaugh's roommate in 1983, issued a public statement saying he was "close friends" with Ramirez and "cannot imagine her making up" the story about Kavanaugh exposing himself.

"The second accuser has nothing," Trump told reporters at the United Nations. "The second accuser doesn't even know—thinks maybe it was him, maybe not. She admits she was drunk. She admits time lapses."

Predictably, that played badly with Democrats.

"How many women have heard that before? How many women have kept their experiences quiet because they knew they would hear that?" Sen. Patty Murray of Washington said of Trump's characterization.

Treatment of Ford, 51, on Thursday will be watched closely.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, a potentially key Republican vote, said GOP senators need to come into the hearing with open minds.

"It's very important to take allegations of those who come forward seriously, and I think we need to go into this hearing with the view that we will listen," she said. **AP**

TRUMP TO UN

China 'attempting to interfere' with 2018 US election

PRESIDENT Donald Trump yesterday accused China of attempting to interfere with the upcoming United States congressional elections, and claimed its efforts are motivated by opposition to his tough trade policy.

Trump, speaking in front of world leaders while chairing the United Nations Security Council for the first time, did not present evidence for his claim, which came amid an ongoing special counsel investigation into Russia's attempts to interfere in the 2016 U.S. election and concerns that the November elections could also be vulnerable.

"Regrettably, we found that China has been attempting to interfere in our upcoming 2018 election," Trump said "They do not want me or us to win because I am the first president ever to challenge China on trade."

U.S. officials did not immediately respond to requests for comment. With the elections less than two months away, U.S. intelligence officials have said they are not now seeing the intensity of Russian intervention registered in 2016 but are particularly concerned about activity by Russia, China, Iran and North Korea.

Trump also used his moment chairing the Security Council meeting about nuclear proliferation to issue a strong warning to nuclear-aspirant Iran, which he deemed the "world's leading sponsor of terror" fueling "conflict around the region and far beyond."

The president has withdrawn the U.S. from the 2015 nuclear accord with Iran, accusing the country of destabilizing actions throughout the region and support for terrorist groups like Hezbollah. Tough sanctions are due to kick in against Tehran in November, and Trump warned that there would be "severe consequences" for any nation that defied them.

Despite his tough talk, Trump said he could envision relations with Iran moving along a similar "trajectory" as ones with North Korea. A year ago at the U.N., Trump belittled its leader Kim Jong Un as "Rocket Man" and threatened to annihilate the country, but on yesterday he touted the "wonderful relationship" with Kim and teased that details of a second summit between the two men could be released soon.

He also condemned violence in the ongoing bloody civil war in Syria, saying that the "butchery is enabled by Russia and Iran."

Trump also waded into thorny Middle East politics, endorsing



Guterres listens as Trump addresses the Security Council during the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly in New York, yesterday

the two-state solution to bring an end the decades-long conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. A day after being greeted with laughter by world leaders still uncertain how to manage his "America First" ideology, Trump explicitly backed Israel, noted the moving of the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem and suggested that he saw progress on the horizon for Middle East peace.

"I like two-state solution," Trump said in his most clear endorsement of the plan as he met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. "That's what I think works best."

Trump indicated that moving the embassy was "a big chip" the U.S. delivered to the Israelis.

"I took probably the biggest chip off the table. And so obviously they have to start, you know, we have to make a fair deal. We have to do something. Deals have to be good for both parties."

"Now that will also mean that Israel will have to do something that is good for the other side."

The two-state "solution" is mostly aspirational. Ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestinians over the division of territory, borders and governance has spawned violence going

back years and long stymied Mideast peace efforts.

Moving the embassy from Tel Aviv triggered considerable protest from the Palestinians and expressions of condemnation from many American allies who worried about further violence that could destabilize the fragile region. Trump said that his administration's peace plan, in part helmed by his son-in-law senior adviser Jared Kushner, would be released in the coming months.

Trump's meeting with Netanyahu came, symbolically, just ahead of his chairing a meeting of the U.N. Security Council

about nuclear proliferation. The president had suggested, in a recent tweet, that Iran could be his focus, and he unloaded harsh

The high-profile Security Council meeting came a day after Trump poured scorn on the "ideology of globalism" and heaped praise on his own administration's achievements in a speech to the U.N. General Assembly that drew head shakes and even mocking laughter from his audience of fellow world leaders.

"The U.S. will not tell you how to live and work or worship," Trump said as he unapologetically promoted his "America First" agenda. "We only ask that you honor our sovereignty in return."

Trump, speaking while chairing the UN Security Council for the first time, did not present evidence for his claim

Speaking in triumphal terms, Trump approached his address to the world body as something of an annual report to the world on his country's progress since his inauguration. He showcased strong economic numbers, declared that the U.S. military is "more powerful than it has ever been before" and crowed that in "less than two years, my administration has accomplished more than almost any administration in the history of our country." AP

Beijing rejects charge of elections meddling

CHINA'S foreign minister said his country doesn't interfere in any other nation's internal affairs. His comments came at a U.N. Security Council meeting after President Donald Trump accused the Chinese of "attempting to interfere" in the November elections in the U.S.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi also said he refused to accept any "unwarranted accusations" against China.

Trump said the interference happened because he's the "first president ever" to challenge China on trade.

Wang looked on, stone-faced, as Trump made his statement.

China's longstanding policy is noninterference in other nations' internal affairs — and it is quick to cite that policy when any other nation criticizes it over anything from politics to human rights.

President Donald Trump is following a detailed script as he convenes his first meeting of the United Nations Security Council.

The famously free-wheeling leader is referring to notes that are guiding him through the body's parliamentary procedures, including which leaders to recognize and when to use the gavel afforded to the council's president. The U.S. held the presidency for yesterday's session.



Wang looked on, stone-faced, as Trump made his statement

today's session.

Wearing an earpiece, Trump is alternating between listening to simultaneous translation as other leaders and ministers spoke and scanning the room or his prepared notes.

Bolivian leader Evo Morales launched a

blistering critique of U.S. policy toward Iran as well as Trump's immigration policies that resulted in the separation of migrant children from their parents. Trump sat stone-faced during the remarks, looking straight ahead. He thanked Morales for his remarks, before recognizing the next leader. AP

what's ON



MONKEY KING

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ADMISSION: MOP380, MOP480, MOP680, MOP980, MOP1280

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TREASURE OF SACRED ART OF ST. JOSEPH'S SEMINARY

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

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

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

TIME: 12pm to 8pm

UNTIL: October 5, 2018

VENUE: Taipa Village Art Space

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2857 6118

SCULPTURE – A JOURNEY, EXHIBITION BY ANTÓNIO LEÇA

TIME: 3pm-8pm (Mondays)

12pm-8pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)

UNTIL: October 21, 2018

VENUE: A2 Gallery, Albergue SCM

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550 / 2852 3205

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

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ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8820

Offbeat

DENSE SWARM OF BATS CAUSES FLAP AT VIENNA AIRPORT



Birds are a well-known hazard for airport operators, but Vienna airport officials have had to deal with different winged intruders: a swarm of bats.

Airport spokesman Peter Kleemann told the Austria Press Agency on Monday that the dense swarm of bats descended on one runway for about 45 minutes Wednesday evening. As a safety precaution, another runway was used for takeoffs and landings, affecting four flights and causing a few slight delays.

Airport firefighters saw off the mammals by spraying a fine mist of water over the runway. Kleemann said Vienna airport hasn't previously experienced a similar incident, and officials are looking into causes. He said that there was no risk to passengers.

He was confirming a report in the Heute newspaper on the incident.

TV canal macau



13:00 TDM News (Repetição)

13:30 Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)

15:00 Mistura Fina

15:55 Pilotos Velozes

16:15 Cenas do Casamento

16:50 Quem Quer Ser Milionário

17:40 Moda Portugal Sr.1

18:15 Regresso a Sizalinda - Fim

19:00 Montra do Lilau (Repetição)

19:35 Os Nossos Dias Sr.2

20:30 Telejornal

21:15 TDM Talk Show

21:50 Coisas Curiosas de Saber

22:20 Liberdade 21

23:15 TDM News

23:50 A Entrevista - Catarina Martins

00:25 Telejornal (Repetição)

01:10 RTPi Directo

cinema



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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



THE PREDATOR

ROOM 1

2:30, 7:30pm

Director: Shane Black

Starring: Boyd Holbrook, Trevante Rhodes, Jacob Tremblay

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 107min

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

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

Director: Toshio Lee

Starring: Nana Eikura, Ken Yasuda, Sumika Nono

Language: Japanese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 115min

this day in history



1968 MUSICAL HAIR OPENS AS CENSORS WITHDRAW

The American hippy musical "Hair" has opened in London - one day after the abolition of theatre censorship.

Until yesterday, some of the scenes in the musical, written by out-of-work actors Jerome Ragni and James Rado, would have been considered too outrageous to be shown on a stage in Britain.

The show, billed as an American tribal love-rock musical, first opened in New York on 2 December last year.

Many were angered by scenes containing nudity and drug-taking as well as a strong anti-war message at the height of the Vietnam conflict and the desecration of the American flag on stage.

The show's transfer to London's West End would not have been possible before the new Theatres Act which ended the Lord Chamberlain's powers of censorship dating back to 1737.

Prime Minister Sir Robert Walpole introduced play censorship to silence shows like The Beggars' Opera which contained biting anti-government satire.

The new Theatres Act does not give playwrights a completely free hand. Strong language and obscenity will still be liable for criminal prosecution.

Hair does contain some blasphemous and sexually explicit language.

But the scene that has aroused most controversy in the musical so far is where the cast appears on stage in the nude, emerging from beneath a vast sheet.

The director of the London production of Hair, Tom O'Horgan, said: "I think that the famed nude scene has been greatly over-emphasised.

"It has very little importance in the show itself and much of the publicity has obscured the important aspects of the play, which are also perhaps shocking to people because they deal with things as they are. We tell it the way it is."

Asked whether the timing of the opening was significant, he said: "We couldn't have done the play the way we're doing it prior to this time without drastic modifications."

The cast of the West End production appeared on Eamonn Andrews Independent Television show last night but decided against performing the nude scene. Mr O'Horgan said it would have given the wrong impression of the show.

Hair had a shaky start in New York. Its first two runs were cut short before producer Michael Butler became involved. He brought in Tom O'Horgan as director.

It took three months to re-vamp the musical - and when it finally appeared at the Biltmore on Broadway it had 19 songs in the first act compared with just nine in the original production.

Courtesy BBC News

I WAS THERE

I attended the opening night of Hair in London with my late husband, Dr Frank Hughes, who was doctor to the cast, and one of the producers, John Nash. After the show we waited up until the reviews came in in the morning newspapers - all the reviews were bad except the Financial Times. They were the only ones that were right and the show went on happily for a long run. It was a wonderful show and I have many happy memories of many good times spent with the cast. I would love to hear from any of the cast who remembers my husband Dr Frank Hughes. Caroline Hughes, UK

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You have the power to succeed today - even if it feels like you're losing ground. Just keep pushing yourself. Things may look dark early in the morning, but by tonight you should see a glimmer of hope.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Your earthy nature asserts itself in a big way today, but that may put off those with their heads in the clouds. You should just ignore them and let them enjoy their silly fantasies - you've got work to do!

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You rely on others to help get your own business done, but today you may be on your own. Things aren't terrible just yet, but you may want to take extra time for all your important tasks.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You feel a new sense of balance today - though it might come at a cost. See if you can just enjoy what you've got and worry about the consequences when they actually start to affect you.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You're making great progress toward some personal goal - but you need to keep it personal for now. Let others take center stage, and they will have more time and attention for you later.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Your romantic world is spinning a little faster - so take a chance or snuggle up with your sweetheart! All that great energy needs to be shared with someone, and you can feel it when it's right.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Be wary of new situations - something isn't quite right, though that's not to say you need to avoid dealing with it entirely! Just make sure you're careful to see the bad as well as the good today.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Your potent energy is the driving force behind today's big mission - so make sure that you're talking it up or inspiring others to the cause. Things should start to look really good this evening.

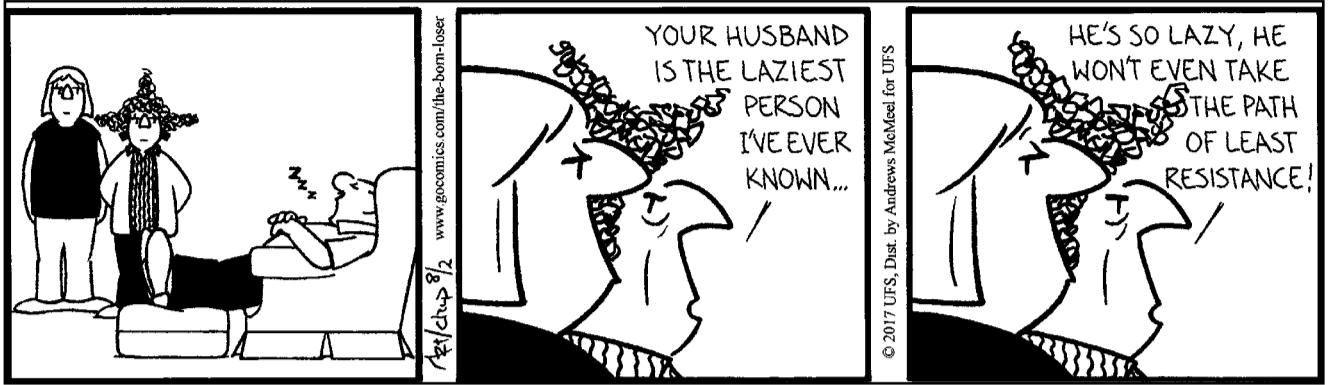
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You are firmly committed to doing it all yourself today, whether it's making your own lunch or building your own shed. Whatever it takes to get it done is readily available in your skill set.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You need to deal with all this energy in a positive way - which isn't such a hard task for you! Just make sure that you're actively engaged with everything that needs to happen by tonight.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You're more tired than you feel you ought to be, so go easy on yourself and make sure that you're delegating responsibilities as much as you can. There's not much point in driving yourself to exhaustion!

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Your assistance is needed in a big way - so ask around or look for opportunities to save the day. Things may move slowly at first, but once you enter the picture, the pace picks up considerably.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle.

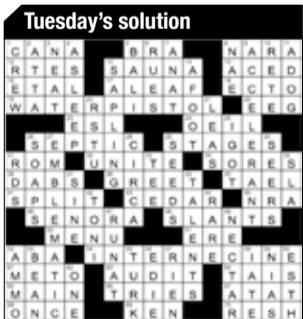
WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION for various cities in CHINA and WORLD.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Indonesian resort island; 5- Reduce gradually; 10- How sweet ...; 14- Environmental sci.; 15- Accustom; 16- Marquand sleuth; 17- Indian princess; 18- Twangy, as a voice; 19- Feminist Lucretia; 20- Muchness; 22- Grain stores; 23- Person of action; 24- Merit; 26- SAT takers; 29- Pressing need; 31- Midday nap; 35- Pertaining to punishment; 37- Low in pitch; 39- Christmas; 40- Affirm; 41- Saturn's largest moon; 42- Crime boss; 43- Repentant one; 44- Sign of injury; 45- Eagle's home; 46- Sister of Venus; 48- Old Fords; 50- '60s campus gp.; 51- Gillette brand; 53- Wild ones are sown; 55- Gift of the Magi; 58- Shellfish which cling to ships; 63- I could ... horse!; 64- Museum artifact; 65- "The Clan of the Cave Bear" heroine; 66- Shake ... (hurry); 67- Aquarium buildup; 68- Lustful look; 69- ... majesty; 70- Uncultivated country; 71- On a cruise;

DOWN: 1- Floe; 2- Rent-...; 3- The ... Ranger rode a horse called Silver; 4- Troy story; 5- Two fins; 6- Absence of oxygen; 7- Cat; 8- Clear the board; 9- Seminary subj.; 10- Nearness; 11- Kit item; 12- Sock ... mel; 13- Drunkards; 21- Work like a dog; 22- ... Lanka; 25- Org.; 26- Fights; 27- Variety show; 28- Twisted expression?; 30- Pertaining to birth; 32- Flies high; 33- Lukewarm; 34- Healing plants; 36- The amount overdue; 38- Pertaining to tailors; 41- Nicholas II, for one; 45- "The Thin Man" pooch; 47- To the ... degree; 49- Moved rhythmically; 52- White poplar; 54- Milan's La ...; 55- Kind of ticket; 56- Ivy League school; 57- AAA suggestions; 59- Pond organism; 60- Caustic substances; 61- Waiting for the Robert ...; 62- Franklin D.'s mother; 64- Uncooked;



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ANALYSIS

Ryder Cup an opportunity missed for French golf

John Leicester,
Saint-Quentin-En-Yvelines

IT remains, on the eve of the Ryder Cup outside Paris, the defining image of French golf: Jean Van de Velde losing the British Open in excruciating fashion in 1999, peeling off his socks and shoes to fish his ball out of the silty creek in a final-hole meltdown at Carnoustie.

"Oh, Jean, Jean, Jean ...," lamented BBC commentator Peter Alliss, hunting for words to describe the brain-freeze that destroyed the Frenchman's three-shot lead. "Would somebody kindly go and stop him? Give him a large brandy and mop him down."

This week's clash between Europe and the United States at Le Golf National offered the possibility of a reset for French golf. Imagine how Gallic hearts would have soared, how many kids from Paris and beyond might have been lured off soccer fields and onto greens, had a hometown hero been around to sink the winning putt on Sunday, to cries of "Vive L'Europe!" and



Tiger Woods of the US arrives in a buggy to start a practice round for the Ryder Cup at Le Golf National in Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, outside Paris

"Vive la France!"

Opportunity missed. Victor Dubuisson, the last Frenchman (and just third ever) to play in a Ryder Cup, in Europe's most recent victory in 2014, isn't here, laid low by an injury to his left inner ear. Despite their intimate knowledge of Le Golf National's

Albatross course, France's highest-ranked players, Alexander Levy (91) and Michael Lorenzo-Vera (99), didn't loom large on the radar of Europe team captain Thomas Bjorn. This 42nd Ryder Cup will be the first without a player from the home nation.

Given their multitude of other strengths, their mastery of culinary arts and of fine living, the eternal romance of Paris and the heartache of Edith Piaf, perhaps it's only fair that the French don't also have a top golfer. Certainly, the absence of a French Tiger Woods isn't

really felt outside golfing circles. The nation is still buzzing from its soccer team's victory at the World Cup in July. Ask the schoolkids who have been touring Le Golf National during practice this week and most reply that, given the choice, they would rather follow in the footsteps of Kylian Mbappe, France's 19-year-old soccer star, than the far wealthier and globally more famous Woods.

Still, French organizers of only the second Ryder Cup to be held in continental Europe see this week's tournament as a potential big step toward a greater footprint for golf in France, where it trails behind soccer, tennis, horse riding, judo, basketball and handball in numbers of card-carrying players.

Pascal Grizot, the golf-loving businessman who has overseen tournament preparations as president of the 2018 Ryder Cup committee, notes that 44 percent of tickets were bought by French spectators, who snapped up their allocation in less than two hours. The French golf federation's 410,000 signed-up members also helped cover tournament costs, each chipping in 3 euros (about USD3.50) per year.

"It's going to be an extraordinary success," Grizot said. "We'll be speaking about golf like never before in France. Afterward, we'll have to see what heritage it leaves, but I'm not worried." AP

AD

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ROHAN Dennis has finally won the only major time trial title lacking from his long list of victories.

And he has done so in style.

The Australian rider won gold at the road world championships yesterday, dominating the 52.5-kilometer race to beat last year's winner Tom Dumoulin by a massive 1 minute, 21.09 seconds. Victor Campenaerts, who won the European title in Glasgow last month, was 0.53 seconds behind in third.

"I can't really explain it, it's an amazing feeling," said Dennis, who has won time trials in all three Grand Tours, including one in the Giro d'Italia and two in the Vuelta this year.

Dennis had won gold in the team time trial with the BMX Racing Team in 2014 and 2015, but was still after his first individual world title.

"It's a dream come true," he said. "I have been chasing this since I was a junior. I have never won it in any age group, so to win the first one in the seniors is very special."

CYCLING

Rohan Dennis beats Dumoulin for world time trial title

The course through the Austrian Alps was rather flat for the first 30 kilometers, until a five-kilometer climb from Fritzens to Gnadewald with an average gradient of 7.1 percent.

Dennis was the fastest from the start. He already led Dumoulin by nearly nine seconds at the first split after 16.5 kilometers and built on his advantage in the steep second part of the course, where he increased his advantage to just over a minute.

The defeat left Dumoulin in disbelief, and he shook his head several times while staring down on his bike after he crossed the line. It was his second silver at these worlds, after a runner-up finish with Team Sunweb in Sunday's team time trial, which was won by Quick Step.

Dennis and Dumoulin were widely regarded as the gold favorites. The

Dutchman beat Dennis in the opening stage of the Giro, but Dennis won a longer time trial later that event.

While Dumoulin took a break from racing after finishing second in both the Giro and Tour de France, Dennis used the Vuelta as his preparation for the world championships.

The victory made him only the second Australian to claim the world time trial title, after Michael Rogers won three straight from 2003-05.

Trying to match that feat was not on his mind, he said shortly after finishing.

"I am just going to enjoy the moment, and enjoy the next year in the rainbows (jersey)," Dennis said.

The road races at the world championships take place this weekend, with the women competing on Saturday and the men the following day. AP



Rohan Dennis of Australia at the Road Cycling World Championships in Innsbruck, Austria

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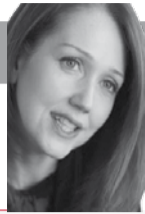
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opinion

Girl About Globe

Linda Kennedy



**IT'S NOT CALORIE COUNTING
 - IT'S FEEDBIT CONNECTIVITY**

It's a mystery to me why no one has come up with Feedbit. It would be like Fitbit but, instead of counting steps taken and calories burned, it'd assess calories consumed. Surely there is a measurable relationship between pulse rate, heart rate and digestion, which a tech bracelet could audit?

This, in turn, would enable calorie information to be made techy and therefore cool. It would be called 'Feedbit connectivity' and, when the word 'connectivity' is attached to anything, there is no more scoffing from men. If women count calories, that's silly vanity. If men scan and update their Feedbit connectivity - different thing entirely. Course it is. It's shiny and manly.

There is sector waiting to developed, VCs; call it it nutri-tech, or perhaps tummy tech.

The reason I mention all this is the splendid idea by Britain to consider asking restaurants and cafes to provide calorie labelling, extending the requirement that's currently only made of food bought in shops. kJ and kcal would have to be on menus, meaning one could preserve kJ funds for a night out.

This plan has led to ample hubbub by equally ample politicians spluttering a question: 'why would one POSSIBLY want to go to a restaurant and know the calories?'. Prepare for a legislative loophole allowing London's gentlemen's clubs to opt out.

Other classes, eating-wise, already have this calorie information to an extent. McDonald's nutritional counts are available. So are the counts of chains like Pizza Express.

But beyond that, it's a game of chance. Having lunch in a gastro pub? How damaging is the truffle oil glaze on those sweet potato fries? In a hipster café? Horror, you are at artisanal sea: is vegan cheese more or less fattening than its dairy doppelganger? And as for an accompanying beverage, well, one doesn't want to end up with a craft beer belly. Oh please come soon, calories chalked onto the handwritten board of daily specials.

Calorie labelling on restaurant menus would be the end of a long journey which started, for me, with the scorn of fellow delis.

It was a joy when calories were at last displayed clearly on the front of British packaging, ceasing the requirement for an embarrassing stoop over the chill cabinet doing the 'fat gram twist'. This was not a grocery groove where shoppers partnered their trolleys; it was the business of finding which dish offered the best trade-off between flavour and fat grams. And I dreaded it. I loathed the looks of scorn on faces of fellow delis as I twisted each carton to assess nutritional details.

Despite contempt, the twist had to be undertaken. Otherwise one might mistakenly buy fresh pasta in a sauce of honey with butterbean rather than, say, the leaner taste team of tomato and curly kale thereby quintupling one's fat gram intake because of ingredients insidiously weighing down the former but missing from the light-option latter. Without a guiding paragraph on the packet, who but the most specialised nutritionist could be aware of the strike capacity of every relish, root and pickle to inflict damage to the figure?

Back to the present day, where weighty change is in the air. What could be altered by having calories marked on restaurant and café menus?

Requests might cease for salad dressing on the side. Happy waiting staff - fewer items to carry.

Michelin stars would likely matter less. The calorie-aware might seek a new culinary calibration. Chins? A one-chin restaurant would be low-cal. Three-chins would be a big budget night out.

Meantime, I'm considering crowd-funding Feedbit. Slogan: 'No More Tummy Tucks with Tummy Tech.'

**THE ZIMBABWE'S LEADER SAYS HE OFFERS
 BUZZ TRUMP LAND FOR GOLF COURSE**

Zimbabwe's leader says he is willing to offer land to President Donald Trump to build a golf course in a national park teeming with wildlife.

President Emmerson Mnangagwa was speaking to a New York investors' forum ahead of his first address to a United Nations annual gathering of world leaders this week.

Mnangagwa said he made the offer to Trump staffers earlier this year at the World Economic

Forum in Switzerland, pitching land in the tourist town of Victoria Falls. Trump is a keen golfer.

"I had offered President Trump ground to build a state-of-the-art golf course so that as he plays he can be able to see the big five," Zimbabwe's president said. The "big five" refers to big game: lion, rhino, elephant, buffalo and leopard.

U.S. sanctions remain on Mnangagwa and others in the southern African nation.



FACEBOOK Inc. finds itself entangled in yet another political spat - this time with China, a market the social media giant is seeking to enter.

Police in Hong Kong, a semi-autonomous part of China, have asked the company to remove the official page of the pro-independence National Party, which was slapped with an unprecedented government ban this week. The prohibition pledges fines and imprisonment for those aiding the group. Hong Kong officials made their request of Facebook after the measure was announced earlier this week.

The move to ban the National Party, which the government calls a risk to national security, is fueling concerns that Hong Kong's administration wants to set a precedent for clamping down on opposition groups, eroding the city's autonomy under the "one country, two systems" framework in place since Chinese rule began in 1997. The request also puts the Menlo Park, California-based social media company in a difficult position, and refusal could hamper any future efforts to expand in China.

While China censors media outlets and bans Facebook, Twitter Inc. and Alphabet Inc.'s Google in the mainland, Hong Kong has relatively fewer restrictions on the press and the internet. The party's Facebook page remained visible as of Wednesday afternoon Hong Kong time.

The Hong Kong police declined to comment on a South China Morning Post

report, but said it will observe and collect evidence in accordance with the law and take appropriate enforcement actions based on the circumstances.

A Facebook spokeswoman didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. It's not clear whether Hong Kong police asked Twitter or Google's YouTube to remove the party's official pages from their sites.

National Party leader Andy Chan declined to comment, adding that he hadn't used the party's Facebook page since it was banned. "I am going to call a press conference soon and I will answer all your questions then," Chan said, and indicated that he'll use his personal Facebook page to announce the date.



National Party leader Andy Chan

Hong Kong's request also comes at a fraught moment for Facebook, which has dealt with waves of criticism in the U.S. and Europe over its handling of political content. Following reports of Russian meddling in the 2016 U.S. presidential elections, Facebook and other tech companies have faced mounting scrutiny over con-

tent moderation decisions. At a recent Senate hearing, lawmakers chastised the social media company and other Silicon Valley giants, including Alphabet's Google, for their willingness to collaborate with China.

Facebook may be keen to avoid inflaming tensions in China. Earlier this year, its attempt to open an "innovation hub" in the country was blocked.

In China, the ruling Communist Party views any comments on Hong Kong's affairs by foreign governments as an infringement of its own sovereignty. "Certain countries and institutions have made irresponsible remarks on the Hong Kong SAR government's ban on the operation of the Hong Kong National Party," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said Tuesday. "We express strong dissatisfaction with and firm opposition to this."

Hong Kong's push to ban the National Party immediately drew criticism from U.S. officials, amid an escalating trade dispute between the two countries. State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert responded to Geng with a tweet on behalf of Secretary of State Michael Pompeo.

"We are concerned by the #HongKong Government's decision to ban the Hong Kong National Party," the tweet said. "The U.S. supports the freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly, and association. These are core values we share with Hong Kong, and that must be vigorously protected." **Bloomberg**

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	40-60 Good	😊
High Density Residential Area	35-55 Good	😊
Ambient	55-75 Moderate	😞

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS



USA Sen. Ted Cruz (pictured) is talking again about chaos in Washington, only this time he's not the one causing it. "If the next two years are nothing but a political circus of impeachment that paralyzes the federal government." Things may devolve into "simply naked political warfare. Mad Max at Thunderdome," the former Trump challenger added.



RUSSIA-TURKEY The same day that Russian diplomats struck a deal at the UN with Turkey over a demilitarized zone in Syria's last rebel-run region, dozens of Russian businessmen were flying home from Damascus, contracts in hand for trade with a postwar Syria.



UK Opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn is rallying his Labour Party by calling for a clampdown on unfettered capitalism, as he tries to refocus attention on domestic policies after an annual conference dominated by debates about Brexit. For Corbyn "the old way of running things isn't working anymore."



SOUTH AFRICA While Mandela is celebrated at the United Nations, two prominent lawyers say his greatness lay partly in his ordinary qualities and recognition of his own mistakes. Former judge Albie Sachs said Mandela referred to himself as proof that "a president can be wrong." Lawyer Tembeka Ngcukaitobi noted that Mandela was "normal" in many ways and his example shows "how much power lies in each and every one of us."