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WORLD BRIEFS



CHINA Tax authorities have ordered "X-Men" star Fan Bingbing and companies she represents to pay taxes and penalties totaling USD130 million, ending speculation over the fate of one of the country's highest-profile entertainers three months after she disappeared from public view. *More on p11*



MALAYSIA's anti-graft agency said yesterday that the wife of former Prime Minister Najib Razak has been arrested and will face money laundering charges in a graft scandal involving the 1MDB state investment fund.



INDONESIA Officials say more than 1,400 people were killed in the twin tragedies that hit Palu and the surrounding district of Donggala on Sulawesi island. The death toll is expected to rise. Search and rescue personnel are overwhelmed by a multitude of hard-hit areas, including a neighborhood that was swallowed by the earth when the ground liquified during the quake. *More on p13*

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Visitor surge raises business prospects

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TIS 'Activist-in-Residence Program' aims to inspire students

P2 MDT INTERVIEW



Q&A DENNIS STUEBING
THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF MACAU

'Activist-in-Residence Program' aims to inspire students, families

Renato Marques

THE International School of Macau (TIS) recently announced a brand-new program titled "Activist-in-Residence" aiming to advance the institution's mission "to problem solve, think critically, and make positive changes in our global community."

For the inaugural activity of this new program, TIS has invited Salva Dut, founder of Water for South Sudan, who will present a series of activities dedicated to students, parents and the school community on November 1 and 2.

To learn more about this new program and its aims, the Times spoke to Dennis Stuebing, who has organized this and several other similar programs in the school.

Macau Daily Times (MDT) – How did this idea come about?

Dennis Stuebing (DS) – The history of the program came [from the fact] that our former head of School, Howard Stribbell had been following an organization, Inspire Citizens, through social media. He thought it would be a good opportunity for us to connect with them and to invite them in to do some learning around the ideas connected to what this program has now become.

Inspire Citizens is a [relatively] new organization that is operating out of Beijing and it's an initiative that was founded by a number of international teachers, who have contacts with Salva Dut, founder of Water for South Sudan. They have been in operation for at least a year or two, facilitating engagement with international schools in the Asia region.

So when Howard [Stribbell] initially shared this idea with me, we looked into creating this Activist-in-Residence program as a way for TIS to invite some people from the world of advocacy and community engagement for a couple of days, similar to our Artist-in-Residence program. And that's basically the idea, network these people with our students, their families



and the broader Macau community to provide role models around the ideas of responding to a need. I think this can provide a great role model to our students and to their families.

MDT – How do you expect this program to impact the lives of the students and their families?

DS – We live in this amazing place called Macau where we have everything. However, for instance, last year's Typhoon Hato opened the eyes for many people in Macau, as they experienced what people in other parts of the world face. This is also what we are trying to do through the Activist-in-Residence program and other programs. Another program is CAS [Creativity, Activity, Service], which is part of the curriculum and where students go out to different places, either in Macau or other places in the world, and engage in response to service

needs and communities.

Despite us being in this bubble of luxury, wealth and opulence, people in Macau are a little more sensitive to the rest of the world and the needs that exist in other people's lives. Bringing Salva [Dut] here gives a chance for us to see what those needs are and how other parts of the world live. It allows our students and families to connect to that reality and hopefully not just to learn something but to also find a way to do something.

One thing we are doing through Salva's visit is fundraising for his organization called Water for South Sudan. In fact, we have a webpage through Water for South Sudan which has a goal to be met. We have actually started fund raising in the school and we have a goal of USD16,000, which will be the focus of our gala evening on November 1, when he does a presentation in the evening for families and representatives of the Macau and

Hong Kong communities. It will be a way for people to respond to the needs of South Sudan and to give and contribute to this overall goal. This money will be helpful in creating a water source in the community in South Sudan, so that they can have fresh clean water that is maintained and taken care of. It's not just about getting fresh water but also guaranteeing that it remains fresh.

MDT – What do you think will be the response from students and families?

DS – I hope there will be a positive response, as this has not come just "out of the blue." We have been doing a number of different programs and different ways of connecting students to understand the needs of a community. Experience Week is one of those. One of the things that gives us an advantage is that we have gained a lot of experience through the service learning program for our secondary stu-

dents every March, from grade 7 to grade 12. As part of this week, students engage in service learning where they would go and respond to a community need.

This year in Macau, we are doing a program in which students are involved in mangrove rehabilitation and restoration with one of our local professors from the University of Saint Joseph. Hence, we are addressing that need and somehow connecting it to the big storms we have had, as we know that mangroves are so vital in terms of absorbing storm surge and helping to protect us from the typhoons that are happening more regularly now. We also had programs with local organizations and institutions such as Anima, Rainbow Macau and Cradle of Hope. For instance, these organizations presented several needs to our students and community and allowed them to think about the obligations they have as people who come from a privileged background or having an education that is unique and different than other schools, as well as obligations they have to use the things they learned to respond to those needs.

All these things have been very generously received by the members of our community and we hope this is another step. Our expectations are quite high and we think it will be well received but I think this is based on the history that we have been building as a school by creating awareness and equipping our students with that knowledge and opportunities to engage in response to that.

MDT – After this inaugural experience, what will be the next project?

DS – Well, this is our first time running this program. My hope is that we will run it again based on what we have learned through this process and hopefully we will learn how to do it a little bit better, and the ways we can include more people and the community. This may be done by including other schools in our leadership conference or finding the next activists that we will invite to speak to our students and our community. Maybe we want to bring a female activist the next time as we have been bringing several males, it does not have to be, but maybe it will. Another thing that we aim is to try to broaden the topics that needs addressing; so far we have been touching issues such as war conflicts consequences and environment, maybe we can explore other topics that are also relevant.

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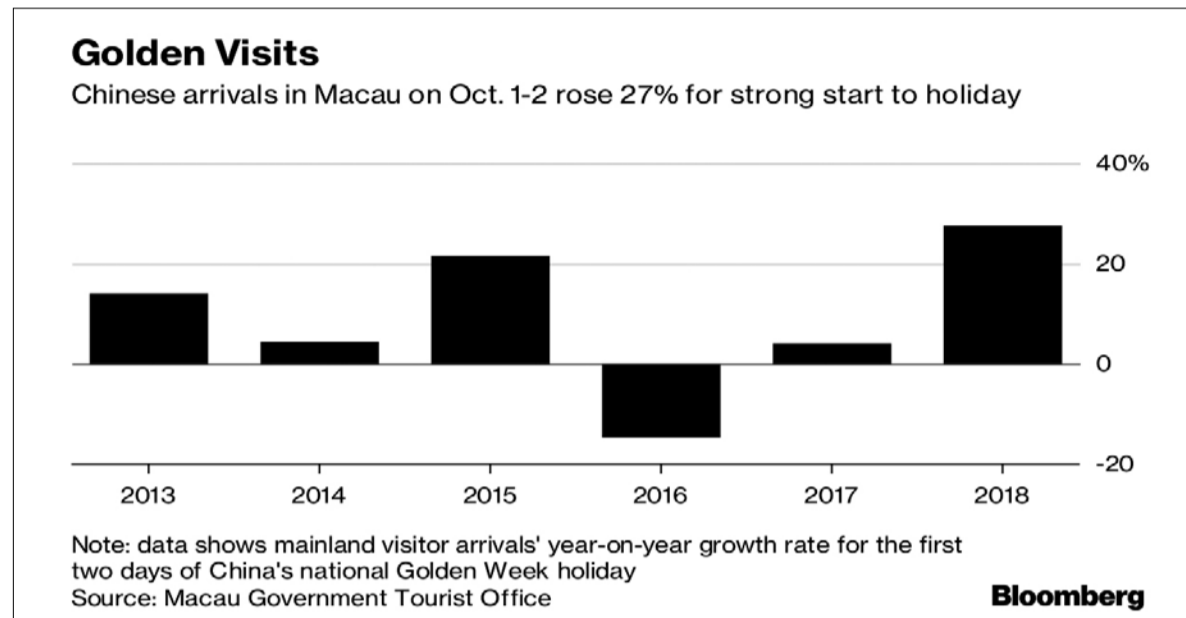
Visitors flooding into city raise holiday hopes for casinos

Daniela Wei

THERE'S a ray of hope in the gloomy outlook for Macau casinos. Early numbers are showing a healthy stream of visitors into the world's biggest gambling hub during Golden Week, helping to alleviate investor fears that the holiday will be a major disappointment. Chinese visitor arrivals in Macau for Oct. 1-2 jumped 27 percent from a year earlier, according to data from the Macau Government Tourist Office. That's the best two-day start to Golden Week in at least six years.

The Bloomberg Intelligence gauge of Macau casino stocks closed 1.2 percent higher, after rising as much as 2.5 percent, on Wednesday. Sands China Ltd. climbed 2.6 percent and MGM China Holdings Ltd. advanced 0.8 percent in Hong Kong.

The benchmark gauge has slumped 36 percent since May



amid a parade of bad news for the industry. It slipped 2.8 percent on Tuesday after data showed Macau's gross gaming revenue rose at the slowest pace in two years last month, weighed down by a typhoon that temporarily shut casinos and a

pullback by high-stakes bettors. With a slowing Chinese economy and trade tensions with the U.S. contributing to softening gaming revenue growth since the second quarter, expectations for Golden Week have been muted. Weak pre-holiday

hotel bookings haven't helped sentiment. The surprisingly strong visitor numbers may restore some faith in the industry's resiliency after 26 straight months of revenue gains in Macau. "Positive drivers for Macau's Golden Week include the fact

that Macau and Hong Kong still have the greatest appeal given better connectivity, ease of access and milder weather conditions," said Bloomberg Intelligence analyst Margaret Huang.

Positive drivers for Macau's Golden Week include the fact that Macau and Hong Kong still have the greatest appeal given better connectivity.

MARGARET HUANG
ANALYST

Huang expects Macau's gaming revenue for all of October could surpass 28 billion patacas (\$3.5 billion) for the first time since 2014, aided by pent-up demand including by those who stayed away because of Typhoon Mangkhut. **Bloomberg**

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

First session of Polytec lawsuit against columnist

Julie Zhu

THE first trial session in the case opposing local Chinese newspaper Son Pou and the Polytec Asset Holdings Ltd (Polytec) was heard yesterday at the Court of First Instance.

The Polytec Group, developer of the canceled real estate project Pearl Horizon, sued Son Pou's columnist Lei Kong (the first defendant) and the publisher of newspaper Chao Chong Peng (the second defendant).

The real estate company sued both defendants for alleged defamation originating in Lei Kong's articles published on Son Pou about the Pearl Horizon issue.

In total, the Son Pou columnist wrote more than 25 articles, including eight feature stories, which featured comments on the Pearl Horizon case.

After Son Pou published Lei's 27th Pearl Horizon story, the columnist received a lawsuit notice from the court.

Polytec's accusation identifies eight defamatory articles written by Lei Kong. In these articles, Polytec found that Lei



Lei Kong (left) and Chao Chong Peng (right) pictured outside the court

Keong's expressions included the words "fraud" and "trap", as well as other accusations and allegedly defamatory statements about the company. In particular, Lei depicted the Pearl Horizon contract with buyers as being "arbitrary", a "trap", and that it was a "suspected fraud".

Both the prosecution and defense focused on these expressions. According to the first defendant, neither he nor his friends and family members benefited from the Pearl Horizon case.

He thus claimed to have written his articles without any conflict of interest. The same applied to the second defendant.

A representative lawyer

of Polytec, former lawmaker Leonel Alves, argued that all the above expressions carried a pejorative tone and were in written in a way that could have led readers to think that Polytec had defrauded buyers or that Polytec was guilty of fraud.

During the questioning, Alves remarked that "the developer understands the articles and understands Chinese. We [the plaintiff] are very unhappy."

Most of the concerned words were written in quotation marks.

However, according to Lei's answers, he used the quotation marks for emphasis, or because he was quoting other sources.

Furthermore, the defendant said that Polytec has never issued a letter to the newspaper to clarify any of the articles.

Yesterday, the only witness, surnamed Chan, was present at the court to give his testimony. The witness is a Polytec employee who has been working in the company for more than 30 years.

According to the witness, Polytec always kept track of Lei's articles on the company. However, it only decided to sue the columnist after having already read more than 20 of his articles.

Chan's testimony served mainly to explain the development progress of the Pearl Horizon project.

The witness's answers pointed out that the Pearl Horizon was delayed because the Macau government had delayed the issuing of a construction license.

"The society's unawareness of the procedures became the stage for many assumptions and it stirred up quite some misunderstandings," said Chan.

In 2011, Polytec started selling the houses, with sales lasting until May of 2013. Polytec promised

buyers to complete the construction within 1,200 sunny days.

In one of his articles, Lei claimed that Polytec "obviously knew" that the project could not be completed before the land plot's expiration date, which would be December 2015.

The prosecution expressed doubt over Chan's explanation, saying that Polytec was still selling houses by May 2013, at which point it knew that it could not finish the project's development before December 2015.

However, Chan's testimony pointed out that Polytec had expected the government would extend the land plot's concession due to the company's previous experience.

Polytec had planned to construct 18 buildings, each 47 storeys tall.

Lei also replied that he wrote the articles with the intention of triggering a discussion among readers, and not to make an accusation against Polytec.

There was another area of dispute: according to Polytec's witness, the company had issued a letter to Son Pou asking for

the newspaper's and Lei's clarification regarding the articles.

The second defendant, Chao, said that the newspaper had indeed received a letter, although only after Polytec had already sued the newspaper. Hence, the newspaper opted to not make a clarification since the case had already entered judicial proceedings.

At the end of the session, the first defendant made a comment on the witness's testimony. "[The witness's words] are full of lies. [The witness] distorted the truth," declared Lei.

Lei Kong has been writing for newspapers, mainly as columnist, for more than 40 years. This year, Son Pou commemorates the 29th anniversary of its establishment. Lei has been writing on Son Pou since the first print of the newspaper.

In 29 years, the newspaper was involved in a lawsuit only once before the current Polytec litigation. Lei also said that he has never been involved in a lawsuit before due to his articles.

Another session of the trial has been arranged to take place on October 26th.

Taxi drivers beaten up for allegedly competing for patrons

Two taxi drivers were beaten up by another group of taxi drivers over a dispute regarding the taking of some passengers. The incident took place on Tuesday night at a taxi stand nearby a hotel located in Cotai. According to the Public Security Police Force, the two groups of taxi drivers got involved in a brawl because each group thought the other one was waiting for the same group of passengers. Two drivers, both in their 30s, sustained injuries, having ended up in the hospital. Three drivers were charged with assault and have been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office.

Bad air quality expected to last until weekend

The Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) predicts that bad air quality will last until the weekend. According to the SMG, Macau continues to be affected by the continental airstream. In addition, the weather is fine, and the sun is abundant during the day. The ozone concentration levels in Macau will remain high, which deem the air quality level to be bad. The bureau urges people with respiratory or heart diseases to reduce their physical exertion and avoid outdoor activities. The bad air quality has been lingering over the city since last Friday. SMG has predicted that it will last during the Chinese National Day holiday, which will end this weekend.

Gov't extends deadline on rehousing greyhounds

The government approved a seven-day extension to the deadline for Macau (Yat Yuen) Canidrome to rehouse its retired greyhounds.

On Tuesday, the Canidrome was supposed to relocate some 160 greyhounds to its Coloane home.

Under the new timetable, the dogs are to be rehoused on or before October 6.

The new dog shelter in Coloane is near Instituto Canossiano Vila Madalena, a home for the elderly.

Speaking to reporters prior to the government's reception to celebrate the 69th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, Chief Executive Chui On said that the SAR would take enforcement actions, if necessary, should Canidrome fail to act in line with Macau's noise control regulations and the city's Animal Protection Law.

Chui added that the government has been monitoring any possible impacts on the nearby community caused by the new shelter for the greyhounds.

Meanwhile, in a letter ad-



ressed to the head of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM), José Tavares, local animal rights group, Anima, warned that the new deadline proposed for adoptions (between March and April 2019) is not practical.

"As you can imagine, everything becomes more complicated with this decision and the animals, instead of taking one year to leave [and be adopted], will take two or three years," the letter read, as cited in a TDM report.

"This short timeline will result in the end of the sterilization and treatment in Macau and not guarantee that [the outside

recipients] will accept this measure, even if the costs are covered by Yat Yuen."

IACM previously noted that the Canidrome would be fined for abandonment if the relocation of the greyhounds to its new Coloane home did not occur. Anima president, Albano Martins, then told TDM that the organization would dedicate itself to the adoption processes.

Meanwhile, José Tavares explained yesterday on the sidelines of the Executive Council press conference that the transfer of greyhounds from the Canidrome facilities to the new location in Coloane would not

happen. According to the official, the reason is due to "lack of isolation of the new venue," he said when questioned by the media.

Tavares noted that the IACM had performed an inspection of the facilities ahead of the transfer, finding that "the facilities were not built like they should and the isolation is not perfect." With only two days left before the deadline for clearing the Canidrome facilities, it is not likely that the company will be able to fix the facilities on time.

According to Tavares, what can happen is the imposition of a fine, "that can go from MOP20,000 to MOP100,000." "We will study and considered this according to the costs related to the shipping of the greyhounds for adoption outside Macau," he said. He noted that the possibility of the government covering such expenses has not been excluded at this stage. Also not excluded, Tavares said, is the possibility of the government seeking compensation from the Canidrome Company by judicial means. LV/RM

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GAMING

Weakest revenue growth since August 2016

MACAU'S gaming industry revenue increased by 2.8 percent year-on-year to MOP21.95 billion (approximately USD2.72 billion) in September, the Gaming Inspection Bureau announced. It is the weakest growth seen since August 2016.

Results were affected by the impact of super typhoon Mangkhut, which hit Macau on September 16. The storm forced a 33-hour shutdown of casinos - the first-time resorts have closed since gambling licenses were first distributed in 2002.

The typhoon added to casino operators' woes over recent months. Analysts have lowered their estimates for this year and 2019 as a weakening yuan, China's economic slowdown and escalating trade tensions with the U.S. threaten to derail



26 straight months of revenue gains in Macau. The benchmark gauge of Macau casino stocks is down 36 percent since the end of May due to worries that high rollers are easing up on their bets.

"The typhoon Mangkhut and casino suspension were the obvious drag, but underlying demand in VIP was softer than expected as well," JPMorgan Chase &

Co. analyst DS Kim wrote on Monday. "Though not a big surprise, this does suggest the market will need to lower VIP expectations for the fourth quarter and next year."

Key junkets did not see improved volume after the Mid-Autumn Festival in late September following the typhoon, and VIP growth was negative for the month, Morgan Stanley analysts

Praveen Choudhary and Jeremy An wrote on Monday.

Analysts forecast that the weakening trend will continue, with October growth predicted to be 5 percent. The industry is closely watching the influx of tourists during Golden Week as an indicator for the rest of the month. The holiday, which started on Monday, is considered to be peak season for Macau.

The accumulated revenue in 2018 has reached MOP224.06 billion (about USD27.79 billion), 15.9 percent higher than the same period of 2017.

Macau's monthly gaming revenue registered a 1.1 percent year-on-year rise in August 2016, ending a 26-month industry slump. Since then, the monthly revenue has maintained a year-on-year growth as of September, which recorded the 26th monthly increase.

Unemployment rate remains at 1.8 percent

MACAU'S general unemployment rate from June to August 2018 was 1.8 percent, the unemployment rate of local residents stood at 2.4 percent, the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) announced.

The latest report from DSEC showed that all three indicators held stable as in the previous period from May to July 2018. Total labor force was 392,100 for the period and the labor force participation rate was 71 percent. Total employment was 385,000 and number of employed residents totaled 283,700, down by 500 and 600 respectively from the previous period.

Analyzed by industry, employment in hotels, restaurants and the construction sector registered decreases, while employment in recreational, cultural, gaming and other services increased.

The number of people unemployed was 7,100, similar to the previous period. With fresh graduates entering the labor market, the proportion of fresh labor force entrants searching for their first job increased by 4.9 percentage points to 21 percent of the total unemployed.

In comparison with the same period in 2017, the labor force participation rate and the unemployment rate dropped by 0.5 and 0.2 percentage points respectively, while the underemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage points.



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NATIONAL DAY

CE pledges to step up efforts in development strategies

IN celebration of the 69th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, Chief Executive Chui Sai On said that the SAR would step up efforts in responding to the needs of the national development strategy.

Chui joined more than 700 people at a reception at the Macau Tower on Monday.

In his speech, Chui noted that the mainland has entered a "new era of development," adding that the country serves as a driving force for the SAR's development.

"The better the country is, the better Macau will become. The prosperity and strengthening of the country are driving forces for the development of Macau and they will always be the unshakable support of the stability of Macau," he said.

Chui also pledged to strengthen the SAR's disaster



prevention and response measures, increasing investment in resources for implementing short, medium and long-term measures to develop a long-term disaster prevention and mitigation plan.

"In the future we will work hard to improve our capacity and the level of disaster prevention and response, keeping, as a priority, the safety of the lives and the goods of residents," he said.

Chui outlined routes

to further advance development and ensure socio-economic stability of the region, which include enhancing coordination and planning, and strengthening the quality of governance.

According to him, the government will adjust the region's Five-Year Development Plan by adding new content to support the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area.

The Chief Executive noted that the SAR Government would work closely with the governments of Guangdong and Hong Kong to explore innovative mechanisms and systems to improve living, working and tourism conditions.

"We aim to enhance Macau people's sense of satisfaction and solidarity, especially to create a favorable environment for the younger generation to engage in competition within the Greater Bay Area," he said.

He also pledged that SAR government would continue to optimize the long-term livelihood mechanisms for social security, healthcare, housing and education.

"We will further increase subsidies and allowances, targeting the underprivileged, so that they can share the results of economic development," said Chui.

Lam wants disclosure of telecommunication interception requests

LAWMAKER Agnes Lam has proposed that telecommunication companies be required to release the annual number of requests from police to intercept private communications conducted over the internet.

The local government is currently conducting a public consultation on a telecommunication interception law.

Regarding the bill, Lam voiced two proposals. The first consists of having telecommunication operators disclosing the police's annual number of requests to intercept communications to increase transparency. "Numbers must be disclosed to ensure that the police force is not abusing its power [of intercepting communications]," Lam de-

clared. She said that she respects the police force's statement that regarding the inconvenience of releasing information about ongoing investigations, however, she believes that telecommunication operators should be authorized to reveal the data.

Lam's second proposal suggests that an independent investigation committee be established to receive assistance requests from residents.

In Lam's opinion, a single resident will have many difficulties in suing any party if he or she suspects their communications are being intercepted by that party.

An independent investigation committee is believed to keep the appealing cost to the minimum and also protect the public.

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" THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

Chinese team wins int'l fireworks display contest



The 29th Macau International Fireworks Display Contest wrapped up on Monday, with the Chinese fireworks team winning the championship, Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) announced. Liuyang New Year Fireworks Trading Co. Ltd from mainland China won first place. The fireworks team from Japan won second place, followed by the team from Germany. The local authorities aim to continue to enrich and upgrade the contest to a new level, director of MGTO Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes said at the awards ceremony. The contest was held above the sea area in front of the Macau Tower one night every week throughout September, as well as on the night of October 1. The other teams contesting came from the Philippines, South Korea, Belgium, France, Portugal, Austria and Italy.

Exhibition of Macau Visual Arts opens



The "Collective Exhibition of Macao Visual Arts 2018" was inaugurated last week at the Tap Seac Gallery. Winning artists were announced and awarded prizes at the opening ceremony which was attended by the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, the president of the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), Mok Ian Ian, and other top officials. According to the IC, the event is "a platform for Macau artists to showcase their talent and creativity." A total of 291 works from 182 participants were submitted since the call for submissions last June. Eighty artworks have been selected by a jury composed by five art professionals. The work "The Fourth of the Wall Series" by Lam Un Mei won the Grand Prize of the Jury Award and the Young Artist Award. Ten other artworks were selected to receive the Excellent Artwork Award.

IAM with fewer competences, more staff and budget

Renato Marques

SOME of the responsibilities of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) will be transferred to departments such as the Public Security Police Force (PSP) once the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) is established, the Executive Council (ExCo) spokesperson Leong Heng Teng said yesterday during a press conference.

The new bureau will have more departments, more divisions, at least 14 additional staff members and a growing budget of around MOP12 million.

The ExCo completed its analysis of the Administrative Regulation that will organize the IAM's operations. As Leong mentioned, the new bureau will continue to be run by a board of directors, and will have 12 departments (one more than IACM) and 36 divisions (three more than IACM).

"The IAM will also have 14 more workers and a budget that will see growth of some MOP12 million," Leong said.

In response to questions from the media, the president of the IACM, José Tavares explained, "the additional department is the department of 'Organization and Information Technology,' which will be responsible for two of the new divisions: planning and installations." He added, "the other new division will be 'integrated services to the citizens,' which previously was a department and will now be a division."

In response to queries regarding the new bureau's additional workers and budget, Tavares said, "the added staff has to do with the new



Leong Heng Teng (center) and José Tavares (right)

structure and the external services," adding, "we aim to provide a better and faster response on the external services."

Jurisdiction over demonstrations, public gatherings and street protests as well as over the licensing of fireworks and firecrackers, and the sale of weapons and ammunition will be granted to the PSP.

As Tavares explained, a new IAM Service Center will be opened in Taipa.

"It's a new service center, similar to the one existing in Areia Preta district that will be working in Taipa by the Central Park, and it's planned to open in the first trimester of next year," the president of IAM informed. The center will house 22 departments of the Bureau and offer 270 services to citizens who will no longer be required to go to the Peninsula for these administrative procedures.

All IACM staff will be transferred to the new IAM center and retain the same form of appointment, career position and category. Regarding real estate assets, some will be transferred to IAM and others will revert to the government.

On the topic, Tavares said, "We will not lose any relevant facilities; we will retain most of the real estate that we have now."

Another topic that the Administrative Regulation addresses is the creation of a Commission for Finance and Assets Inspection that would be in charge of the "effective inspection over the assets and finance accounts of the bureau." As explained by Leong, this commission has not yet been created, and as such he was not able to comment on its composition.

During the same press conference, the ExCo also presented conclusions of

two other related administrative regulations relating to the transfer of power over fireworks and firecrackers and weapons licensing from the IACM to the PSP.

The new regulations clarify that with the exception of fireworks and firecrackers used during Chinese New Year in specified locations, all activities that require such materials require licensing administered by the PSP.

However, the licensing over the sales of pyrotechnic products will remain under IAM's jurisdiction.

The ExCo proposes that all the administrative regulations will enter into force on January 2019, with a transition period to be only applied to the sale of guns and ammunition. According to Leong, there are currently a total of seven establishments that possess licenses for the sale of such products in the region.

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Jack Ma says US-China trade war could last 20 years



ALIBABA founder Jack Ma said Tuesday that the trade dispute between the U.S. and China could last 20 years. But he expressed hope that a solution could be reached as a trade war would "hurt everybody."

The Chinese e-commerce billionaire also questioned the focus among some on trade deficits, calling it a relic of the 20th century. U.S. President Donald Trump has long decried the U.S.'s whopping deficit with China.

"When trade stops, sometimes the war starts. So trade is the way to stop wars," Ma said at a World Trade Organization seminar. "Trade is the way to

build up trust. It's not the weapon to fight against each other."

Trade is the way to build up trust. It's not the weapon to fight against each other.

JACK MA

He said trade conflict would not only hurt the U.S. and China but other countries' small businesses. The standoff, he ad-

ded, "may last 20 years, unfortunately."

Overall, Ma expressed bullishness about trade, but said it needed to be protected from regulators.

"Today we see Made in China, Made in America, Made in Switzerland or Made in Geneva: 2030 will see Made in Internet." More than 85 percent of business will be e-commerce, he said.

Alibaba Group is the world's biggest e-commerce company by value of the goods that pass across its platforms.

A key part of its business is connecting American retailers with Chinese suppliers, many of them small producers of furniture, handbags, tools and

household appliances. The United States is an important market for Chinese businesses and Washington's tariff increases have been a hit.

The Trump administration has imposed tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of Chinese goods, prompting retaliation from Beijing.

Ma, 54, is one of China's most prominent and outspoken business leaders. He announced last month he will step down as Alibaba's chairman next September but will stay on as a member of the Alibaba Partnership, a group that retains control of the company through their right to nominate a majority of its board of directors. **AP**

IMF reveals crisis legacy is slower growth, more debt, fewer babies

THE global financial crisis left lasting scars on the world economy, including slower growth, higher government debt and even lower fertility rates, the International Monetary Fund said.

A decade after Lehman Brothers filed for bankruptcy in 2008, output in more than 60 percent of the world's economies remains below where it would have been if the crisis hadn't occurred, the fund said in a report yesterday. The drop was steepest in the 24 countries that experienced financial crises, the Fund said in an analytical chapter accompanying its latest World Economic Outlook. The full outlook, including the latest forecast for global growth, will be released Oct. 9 at the IMF's annual meetings in Indonesia.

"The 2008 financial crisis had its roots in the U.S. housing boom of the preceding half-decade," the IMF said. "Its impact was seen worldwide from shuttered maquiladora factories in Mexico to the restructuring of regional savings and loan cajas in Spain and extended joblessness for migrant workers in China's Pearl River Delta."

The economies that suffered the biggest output and job losses in the initial aftermath also posted the biggest increases in income inequality, a trend that may hold clues about the surge in anti-establishment sentiment and growing appeal of protectionism around the world, the IMF said.

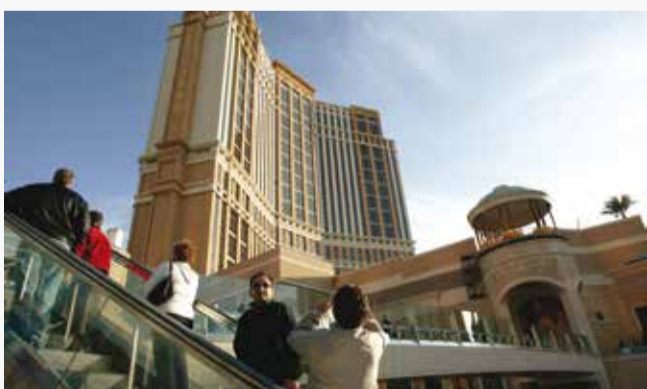
The crisis even had a dampening effect on two factors not usually associated with the banking system: migration and fertility. Advanced economies experienced a surge of immigrants in the decades leading up to the crisis, but that trend reversed in the aftermath, according to the Fund. Meanwhile, the number of births per woman fell in advanced nations.

To contain the damage, governments ramped up spending and central banks resorted to unconventional methods to keep credit flowing, including massive bond purchases. The world's median debt-to-gross domestic product among governments has risen to 52 percent from 36 percent before the crisis, according to the IMF. Central-bank balance sheets are "several multiples" bigger than before Lehman went under.

The extraordinary policy efforts following the crisis prevented an even more severe drop in output and employment, averting a second Great Depression, the IMF said. Still, the extended period of ultra-low interest rates has stoked a buildup in vulnerabilities in the financial sector, it said. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

LVS RECOGNIZED BY DOW JONES FOR CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS



Las Vegas Sands Corp. has once again been recognized by the Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (DJSI) for its industry-leading corporate sustainability efforts. Sands is the only Integra-

ted Resort company included on the DJSI North America.

"This designation speaks to our commitment to continually strengthening our corporate social responsi-

bility performance, as well as maintaining our drive toward positive business impact in the regions we serve," said Robert Goldstein, president and chief operating officer of Las Vegas Sands.

The DJSI is one of the most highly recognized indices for corporate sustainability.

Sands drives its People, Planet and Communities corporate social responsibility platform through programs including the Sands ECO360 global sustainability program; the Sands Cares corporate giving and community engagement program, the Project Protect initiative focused on responsible gaming, anti-money laundering and human trafficking prevention practices; and Sands Academy, a global team member development program.

MELCO KICKS OFF LIFESTYLE SERIES AIMED AT PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE GAMING



Melco Resorts & Entertainment Limited has introduced "The Art of Living" lifestyle series with the objective of communicating the importance of responsible gaming. It is aimed specifically at women, but open to all.

The gaming operator annou-

nced in a statement that the workshop is followed by a lifestyle learning activity and is open to the community without charge. The workshop and activities are set to take place on a bi-monthly basis.

The launch for this series kicked off with a flower arrange-

ment class taught by the Floral Design Manager of Studio City attended by 20 women at the Gaming Employees Home Association Center in Macau Peninsula.

Upcoming workshop themes include, among others, social media, fitness and art appreciation.

Akiko Takahashi, executive vice president, chief officer of Human Resources and Corporate Social Responsibility of Melco Resorts & Entertainment, said, "The objective [...] is to introduce and reiterate the importance of responsible gaming to members of the community, and forms part of Melco's continued efforts supporting the Macau SAR government's policies to develop a responsible gaming culture via outreach to our patrons and members of the general public."



April 28: Houthis Shiite mourners attend the funeral of Saleh al-Samad, a senior Houthi official who was killed by an airstrike believed carried out by a Chinese drone in Sanaa, Yemen

THE TRADE OF WAR

Chinese armed drones now flying across Mideast battlefields

Jon Gambrell & Gerry Shih, Dubai

HIGH above Yemen's rebel-held city of Hodeida, a drone controlled by Emirati forces hovered as an SUV carrying a top Shiite Houthi rebel official turned onto a small street and stopped, waiting for another vehicle in its convoy to catch up.

Seconds later, the SUV exploded in flames, killing Saleh al-Samad, a top political figure.

The drone that fired that missile in April was not one of the many American aircraft that have been buzzing across the skies of Yemen, Iraq and Afghanistan since Sept. 11, 2001. It was Chinese.

Across the Middle East, countries locked out of purchasing U.S.-made drones due to rules over excessive civilian casualties are being wooed by Chinese arms dealers, who are world's main distributor of armed drones.

"The Chinese product now doesn't lack technology, it only lacks market share," said Song Zhongping, a Chinese military analyst and former lecturer at the People's Liberation Army Rocket Force University of Engineering. "And the United States restricting its arms exports is precisely what gives China a great opportunity."

The sales are helping expand Chinese influence across a region vital to American security interests.

"It's a hedging strategy and the Chinese will look to benefit from that," said Douglas Barrie, an airpower specialist at the International Institute for Strategic Studies. "I think the Chinese are far less liable to be swayed by concerns over civilian casualties," he said.

At the start of the year, a satellite passing over southern Saudi Arabia photographed U.S.-made surveillance drones at an airfield, alongside Chinese-manufactured armed ones.

According to the Center for the Study of the Drone at New York's Bard College, that was the first documented example of the two drone systems being used in the war in Yemen. The country has emerged as a "sort of a testing ground for these strike-capable drones," said Dan Gettinger, the co-director of the Center for the Study of the Drone. "There's a rapid turnaround from delivery to deployment."

U.S. drones were first used in Yemen to kill suspected al-Qaida militants in 2002.

One of the biggest Chinese exports is the Cai-Hong, or Rainbow, series made by the state-owned China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp., or CASC, the largest contractor for the Chinese space program.

CASC's CH-4 and CH-5 models are on a par with San Diego-based General Atomics' Predator and Reaper drones, and much cheaper. Independent analysts

say the Chinese models lag behind their American counterparts but the technology is good enough to justify the price tag, which might be half or less.

A CASC executive, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to journalists, said cutting-edge U.S. models like Boeing Co.'s Stingray, introduced this year for the U.S. Navy, still hold a technological advantage.

And while price is an advantage, so too is a more relaxed attitude toward how drones are used, said Ulrike Franke, an expert on drones and policy fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations.

Since 2014, China has sold more than 30 CH-4's to countries including Saudi Arabia and Iraq in deals worth over USD700 million, according to CASC. Ten countries are currently in negotiations to purchase the CH-4, according to the firm.

Last year, China sold to the UAE the Wing Loong II, an armed unmanned aerial vehicle roughly equivalent to the American MQ-9 Reaper.

"In recent years, all types of drones have proven their value and importance through a high degree of use in warfare, and the military has noticed," said the top CASC executive. "Many countries are now speeding up the development for these weapons systems, including China."

During President Xi Jinping's

five years in power, China has stepped up spending on stealth fighters and aircraft carriers for its own military, while boosting sales of advanced equipment such as attack submarines to close allies like Pakistan.

China still lags behind the U.S., Russia, France, and Germany in total arms sales but it's catching up. Chinese arms exports rose by 38 percent between 2008-12 and 2013-17, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, which tracks the global arms trade.

Mounting criticism over the rising civilian death toll in Yemen prompted the U.S. to impose restrictions on drone sales, forcing foreign countries to go through the U.S. government to buy ar-

med drones, including those with laser-guidance systems.

The Washington-based New America Foundation estimates more than 240 drone strikes in Yemen have killed more than 1,300 people, including at least 111 civilians.

But with China's drone sales booming, there's growing pressure from U.S. arms makers to remove restrictions to let them catch up.

After some U.S. lawmakers urged President Donald Trump to loosen controls and let General Atomics sell its armed Reapers to Jordan and the UAE, the administration on April 19 permitted U.S. manufacturers to directly market and sell drones, including armed versions.

The government must still approve and license the sales, which are also contingent on human rights and proliferation reviews and congressional authorization.

General Atomics did not respond to a request for comment.

China doesn't routinely announce arms sales like the U.S. and others, but a review of drone spottings gives some indication of who its customers are:

— In Iraq in October 2015, the country's then-defense minister inspected a CH-4 drone at an air base in the city of Kut.

— Chinese armed drones have been operating at Jordan's Zarqa Airport, at an air base in Pakistan and from bases in Egypt in the Sinai Peninsula and near its border with Libya, according to satellite photos analyzed by the Center for the Study of the Drone.

— Satellite photographs taken of a mysterious air base in the United Arab Emirates' deep south — a desert area known as the Empty Quarter — appear to show three Wing Loong IIs, IHS Jane's Defense Weekly reported in January.

— Two CH-4s were spotted by satellite alongside surveillance-only Predators purchased by the UAE at Jizan Regional Airport in southern Saudi Arabia, near the kingdom's border with Yemen, according to the Center for the Study of the Drone.

— Outside of the Mideast, Nigeria has used Chinese armed drones against the Islamic extremist group Boko Haram. **AP**



A model of the Wing Loong II weaponized drone hangs above the stand for the China National Aero-Technology Import & Export Corp. at a military drone conference in Abu Dhabi

DEATH & TAXES

Authorities orders actress Fan Bingbing to pay massive fine

Gillian Wong, Beijing

CHINESE tax authorities have ordered “X-Men” star Fan Bingbing and companies she represents to pay taxes and penalties totaling USD130 million, ending speculation over the fate of one of the country’s highest-profile entertainers three months after she disappeared from public view.

Of the total amount, Fan is being personally fined around \$70 million for tax evasion, according to an announcement carried yesterday by China’s official Xinhua News Agency, citing tax authorities.

Fan would not be investigated for criminal responsibility for tax evasion as long as the taxes, fines and late fees amounting to nearly 900 million yuan (\$130 million) are paid on time, the report said.

The announcement gave no indication of Fan’s whereabouts but indicated her agent is being held by police for allegedly obstructing the investigation.

Fan has starred in dozens of movies and TV series in China and is best known internationally for her role as Blink in 2014’s “X-Men: Days of Future Past,” a cameo in the Chinese version of “Iron Man 3,” and star turns on the red carpet at Cannes as recently as May. Before her disappearance, she had been booked to star with Penelope Cruz in the Hollywood

AP PHOTO



Fan Bingbing

film “355.” She has a role in the upcoming Bruce Willis-Adrien Brody feature “Air Strike.”

Fan posted an apology on her official account on the social media site Weibo.com saying that she accepts the tax authorities’ decision and would “try my best to overcome all difficulties and raise funds to pay back taxes and fines.”

“I am unworthy of the trust of the society and let down the fans

who love me,” she wrote in her first update of her Weibo.com microblog since June 2.

A man surnamed Liang, who identified himself as a staff member of Fan’s studio when reached by phone, refused to comment on the announcement or on Fan’s location.

Her disappearance coincided with a crackdown by the authorities on high salaries for actors that can eat up much of the cost

of a production. In June, regulators capped star pay at 40 percent of a TV show’s entire production budget and 70 percent of the total paid to all the actors in a film.

Chinese state media said the investigation served as a warning to anyone working in the country’s arts and entertainment. A separate Xinhua report said the penalties issued to Fan would promote the “sustainable

and healthy development of the film and television industry and raise social awareness on paying taxes according to the law.”

Hu Xijin, editor of the Global Times tabloid known for its nationalist pro-Communist Party opinions, said, “Fan’s case must be shaking the performing arts world.”

People who try to evade taxes now will have to cough them up sooner or later, Hu wrote on his social media page. “The bigger the brand, the more likely you are to attract scrutiny. Just suffer this financial loss to be spared greater disaster, moreover these are ill-gotten gains.”

Of the total amount, Fan is being personally fined around USD70 million for tax evasion

The Xinhua report said Fan evaded 7.3 million yuan in taxes by using a secret contract worth 20 million yuan that she signed for starring in the Chinese film “Unbreakable Spirit.” She instead paid taxes on a contract for only 10 million yuan, it said. The example refers to a reportedly common entertainment industry practice in which actors have a public contract stating an official salary and a private contract detailing actual, much higher pay.

A talk show host, Cui Yongyuan, said in May that Fan had such an arrangement, which allegedly facilitates tax evasion, and revealed details that sparked a public outcry. Cui later apologized. **AP**

HONG Kong’s securities regulator froze the assets of an unnamed chairman of a public company on suspicion of fraud totaling USD1.3 billion.

The person may have conducted two suspicious transactions to make significant profits, the Securities and Futures Commission said in a statement dated Sept. 17 but published to the city’s official Gazette on Friday. It did not name the company or person it suspects of being involved in the alleged fraudulent transactions.

The company has purportedly lost contact with the chairman, the SFC said, adding that recent news reports appear to indicate that the person may be abroad or under investigation in China as a suspect in corruption case.

The SFC said it has ordered Kingston Securities

HONG KONG

Securities regulator freezes chairman assets, alleges USD1.3b con



ties Ltd., Satinu Markets Ltd. and HSBC Broking Securities (Asia) Ltd. to stop any dealings with the

person’s accounts. The person has securities and cash at the brokerages with an estimated value

totaling HKD4.64 billion, the SFC said. Kingston Securities’s parent Kingston Financial Group Ltd.

dropped as much as 7.7 percent in Hong Kong on Tuesday.

A spokesman for the SFC declined to comment beyond the statement. The amount ordered for freezing is the largest ever for the city, according to activist investor David Webb.

At least three chairmen have gone missing from Hong Kong-listed Chinese firms this year, including Yang Zhihui from casino operator Landing International Development Ltd. and Wang Fucai from Real Nutraceutical Group Ltd.

While incidents such as missing bosses may make investors more cautious about the Hong Kong market, “you cannot prevent cases like these,” said Alex Wong, Hong Kong-based director of asset management at Ample Capital Ltd.

Investors have also grappled with sudden share price plunges in the wake of short seller reports. The city’s bourse last month proposed a trading halt when auditors issue a disclaimer or adverse opinion on financial results as part of a review to address market concerns. **Bloomberg**

HIDDEN COBRA

North Korea said to have stolen a fortune in online bank heists

NORTH Korea's nuclear and missile tests have stopped, but its hacking operations to gather intelligence and raise funds for the sanction-strapped government in Pyongyang may be gathering steam.

U.S. security firm FireEye raised the alarm yesterday over a North Korean group that it says has stolen hundreds of millions of dollars by infiltrating the computer systems of banks around the world since 2014 through highly sophisticated and destructive attacks that have spanned at least 11 countries. It says the group is still operating and poses "an active global threat."

It is part of a wider pattern of malicious state-backed cyber activity that has led the Trump administration to identify North Korea — along with Russia, Iran and China — as one of the main online threats facing the United States. Last month, the Justice Department charged a North Korean hacker said to have conspired in devastating



Trump this weekend will dispatch his top diplomat, Mike Pompeo (pictured with Kim), to Pyongyang

cyberattacks, including an \$81 million heist of Bangladesh's central bank and the Wanna-Cry virus that crippled parts of Britain's National Health Service.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security warned of

the use of malware by Hidden Cobra, the U.S. government's byword for North Korea hackers, in fraudulent ATM cash withdrawals from banks in Asia and Africa. It said that Hidden Cobra was behind the theft of tens of millions of dollars from

teller machines in the past two years. In one incident this year, cash had been simultaneously withdrawn from ATMs in 23 different countries, it said.

North Korea, which prohibits access to the world wide web for virtually all its people, has previously denied involvement in cyberattacks, and attribution for such attacks is rarely made with absolute certainty. It is typically based on technical indicators such as the Internet Protocol addresses that identify computers and characteristics of the coding used in malware, which is the software a hacker may use to damage or disable computers.

But other cybersecurity experts tell The Associated Press that they also see continued signs that North Korea's authoritarian government, which has a long track record of criminality to raise cash, is conducting malign activity online. That activity includes targeting of financial institutions and crypto-currency-related organiza-

tions, as well as spying on its adversaries, despite the easing of tensions between Pyongyang and Washington.

"The reality is they are starved for cash and are continuing to try and generate revenue, at least until sanctions are diminished," said Adam Meyers, vice president of intelligence at CrowdStrike. "At the same time, they won't abate in intelligence collection operations, as they continue to negotiate and test the international community's resolve and test what the boundaries are."

CrowdStrike says it has detected continuing North Korean cyber intrusions in the past two months, including the use of a known malware against a potentially broad set of targets in South Korea, and a new variant of malware against users of mobile devices that use a Linux-based operating system.

This activity has been taking place against the backdrop of a dramatic diplomatic shift as Kim Jong Un has opened up to the world.

Tensions on the divided Korean Peninsula have dropped and fears of war with the U.S. have ebbed. Trump this weekend will dispatch his top diplomat, Mike Pompeo, to Pyongyang for the fourth time this year to make progress on denuclearization. AP

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QUAKE-TSUNAMI

Horror difficult to erase for Indonesians as toll tops 1,400

AP PHOTO



Five days later, aid was slowly creeping into areas where victims become desperate after being left without food, water, fuel and medicine

Stephen Wright, Palu

FOR some who survived the massive earthquake and tsunami on Indonesia's Sulawesi island last week, the memories and the horror of experiencing a disaster that has left more than 1,400 people dead are both hard to erase and understand. Nature simply unleashed its fury on them.

Furniture maker Khairul Hassan recalled working at a shop near the beach in front of a row of warehouses when the ground came alive and shook violently. He ran to a nearby hill and watched as the ocean heaved up and hurled forward. Now he can't forget.

"I saw the waves come and sweep out everything — buildings, factories, warehouses and some people who were lost, racing from the waves, some of them women and children," he said yesterday. "Also, warehouse workers who were trapped under goods, all swept by the sea. It's so tragic. It's so scary to remember."

Five days later, aid was slowly creeping into areas where victims have become increasingly desperate after being left without food, water, fuel and medicine. In one neighborhood in the city of Palu, residents celebrated as they swarmed a truck deliv-

ring aid — clapping, cheering and high-fiving.

"I'm so happy," said Heruwanto, 63, who goes by one name. He was clutching a box of instant noodles. "I really haven't eaten for three days."

The official death toll increased to 1,407 yesterday, with thousands injured and more than 70,000 displaced from their homes, said national disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho. He said the number of dead would increase, but that rescue crews had reached all affected areas.

The U.N. humanitarian office estimated that some 200,000 people need assistance in the disaster zone and announced a USD15 million allocation to bolster relief efforts. Help has been slow to reach many victims, especially those living in areas cut off by impassable roads. But large fuel and food convoys, guarded by security forces, have been making their way in.

In addition to the quake and tsunami, Indonesia also demonstrated what it means to sit on the Pacific "Ring of Fire" when a volcano erupted in another part of Sulawesi island about 940 kilometers northeast of the earthquake zone. It sent a plume of ash more than 6,000 meters into the sky. Planes were warned of the cloud billowing from Mount Sopotan because the ma-

terial can be hazardous for aircraft engines, but no evacuations were ordered in the area.

Experts said it's possible the quake accelerated the eruption, but there is no concrete evidence to prove that. Activity at the volcano had been increasing since August and began surging on Monday, Kasbani, who heads Indonesia's Volcanology and Geology Disaster Mitigation Agency

and uses one name, told an online news portal.

More than 25 countries offered assistance after President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo appealed for international help. He visited the disaster zone yesterday, saying there's still work to be done, but that conditions were improving with businesses starting to reopen, helping people to start returning their lives to

normal. He said U.S. President Donald Trump called him yesterday, offering assistance.

"We are going in phases. There are lots of things happening related to evacuation, as aid and fuel are also coming in," he said, noting that 30 people remain buried under rubble at the Roa Roa Hotel in Palu. "Every province has different cases, including security."

Some homeless residents weren't waiting for help. Dozens sifted through what remained of the flattened complex of warehouses along Palu's ravaged coastline, looking for anything they could salvage to either sell or help them rebuild. They carted away corrugated metal, wood, piping and other items.

"We have to do this because there's no assistance from the government," said Zaitun Rajamangili, 41, adding that his home was swept away but his family survived.

Following widespread looting and aid vehicles being stopped and surrounded by people on roads, Indonesian military chief Hadi Tjahyanto said one soldier and one police officer would be placed on every aid truck and soldiers would be sent to secure markets, the airport and fuel depots to maintain order. He added that a Singaporean military transport plane will help evacuate victims from the airport in Palu. In addition, aircraft from South Korea, the United Kingdom and Japan were expected to ferry aid.

Australia, the United States and China are among other countries that have offered assistance.

Indonesia, a vast archipelago of 260 million people, is frequently struck by earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis because of its location on the "Ring of Fire," an arc of volcanoes and fault lines in the Pacific Basin. A powerful quake on the island of Lombok killed 505 people in August. **AP**

Australia sends 50 medical professionals and USD3.6M in aid

AUSTRALIA'S government says it will send more than 50 medical professionals to Indonesia to help with the aftermath of a devastating earthquake and tsunami as part of a 5 million Australian dollar (USD3.6 million) aid package.

Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne told reporters in Washington: "We will be working very closely with the Indonesian government to make sure that the support we are providing is highly targeted."

She says: "Australia is considering further support for the disaster, with the death toll expected to rise and millions affected by the crisis."

Payne says she has been in contact with her Indonesian counterpart Retno Marsudi and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison is continuing talks with President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo about possible further support.

The U.N. said yesterday its humanitarian office is reporting that "needs are vast" following

the earthquake and tsunami in Indonesia, with people urgently requiring shelter, clean water, food, fuel and emergency medical care.

U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said that U.N. and relief agencies are on the ground or en route. He said the agencies are working closely with the government to provide technical support.

Haq told reporters at U.N. headquarters in New York that water is the main issue because most of the water supply infrastructure has been damaged.

He says the Indonesian Ministry of Social Affairs has asked the U.N. children's agency, UNICEF, to send social workers to the affected area to support children who are alone or become separated from their families.

Haq says the World Health Organization is warning that a lack of shelter and damaged water sanitation facilities could lead to outbreaks of communicable diseases.

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THREE researchers who “harnessed the power of evolution” to produce enzymes and antibodies that have led to new drugs and biofuels have been named winners of the Nobel Prize in chemistry.

Half of the 9-million-kronor (USD1.01 million) prize goes to Frances Arnold of the California Institute of Technology. The other half is shared by George Smith of the University of Missouri and Gregory Winter of the MRC molecular biology lab in Cambridge, England.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, which chose the winners yesterday, said Arnold conducted the first directed evolution of enzymes, whose uses include “more environmentally friendly manufacturing of chemical substances such as pharmaceuticals and the production of renewable fuels.”

Smith developed a method to evolve new proteins and Winter used the method to evolve antibodies, which are disease-fighting proteins in the blood.

The first pharmaceutical based on Winter's work was approved for use in 2002 and is employed to treat rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis and inflammatory bowel diseases, the academy said.

Reached by The Associated Press, Smith credited others for the work that led to his breakthrough.

“Very few research breakthrou-

US, British scientists win Nobel Prize in chemistry

ghs are novel. Virtually all of them build on what went on before. It's happenstance. That was certainly the case with my work,” he said. “Mine was an idea in a line of research that built very naturally on the lines of research that went before.”

Smith said he learned of the prize in a pre-dawn phone call from Stockholm. “It's a standard joke that someone with a Swedish accent calls and says you won! But there was so much static on the line, I knew it wasn't any of my friends,” he said.

The medicine prize was awarded Monday to American and Japanese researchers. Scientists from the United States, Canada and France shared the physics prize Tuesday.

On Tuesday, researchers from the United States, Canada and France were awarded the physics prize for advances in laser technologies.

The winner of the Nobel Peace Prize is to be announced tomorrow. No literature prize will be awarded this year. The Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences, honoring the man who endowed the five Nobel Prizes, will be revealed on Oct. 8. **AP**



US biochemical engineer Frances Arnold

EU Finnish ex-prime minister bids to become Commission head

FORMER Finnish Prime Minister Alexander Stubb said yesterday [Macau time] he would run for the head of the European Commission following next year's elections.

Stubb announced his bid at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, saying he sees himself as the “next generation candidate” to lead the European Union, a bloc that will decrease by one to 27 members after Britain's planned departure in March.

To achieve his goal, he launched a bid to become the top candidate within the center-right European People's Party, or EPP, in the European elections in May.

The top candidate is very likely to become the European Commission's next leader should the EPP retain its position as the largest group at the EU Parliament, which elects the commission president.

The current holder of the post, Jean-Claude Juncker, won't seek another five-year term.



Former Finnish Prime Minister Alexander Stubb

“I see that core European values are being attacked both from inside and outside” the European Union, Stubb, who is liberal-leaning and age 50, said.

He was referring to recent political developments in member states Hungary, Italy and Poland as well as attempts by China, Russia and the United States to undermine the bloc.

“If we don't defend what we represent, we'll have nothing left,” he said, listing democracy, equality, tolerance and respect for legal institutions as key EU values among others.

Stubb led the Finnish govern-

ment from 2014-2015.

He's also a former finance and foreign minister, and ex-leader of Finland's conservative National Coalition Party, currently serving as a vice president at the European Investment Bank.

Stubb's main rival is likely to be Germany's Manfred Weber, a European lawmaker who has been endorsed by Chancellor Angela Merkel for the post.

EPP, which currently includes 77 member parties and partners from 41 European countries, will elect its top candidate at a party congress in Helsinki on Nov. 7-8. **AP**

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what's ON



ASSEMBLAGE OF TREASURES

TIME: 10am-6pm (Last admission 5:30pm; closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: February 19, 2019

VENUE: Macau Museum (Mount Fortress)

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

SCULPTURE – A JOURNEY, EXHIBITION BY ANTONIO LEÇA

TIME: 3pm-8pm (Mondays)

12pm-8pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)

UNTIL: October 21, 2018

VENUE: A2 Gallery, Albergue SCM

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550

DISCOVER MACAU: MUSEUM OF TAIPA AND COLOANE HISTORY

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (last admission at 5:30pm; closed on Mondays)

ADDRESS: Rua Correia da Silva, Taipa

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

EXHIBITION OF NEW WORKS IN MAM COLLECTION

TIME: 10am-7pm (last admission 6:30pm; closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: October 26, 2018

VENUE: Macao Museum of Art

ADMISSION: Free admission

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

Offbeat

CALIFORNIA DIVORCE COURTS GO TO DOGS AS PETS GAIN STATUS



California courts could be going to the dogs — and maybe cats, too — under a new law granting judges authority to settle disagreements over who keeps the family pet in divorce cases the same way they handle child-custody disputes.

Until now, Fido and Kitty have been considered family property, a status giving them little more standing in a divorce than a family's big-screen TV.

Under a bill signed last week by Gov. Jerry Brown, pets will still be considered community property but a judge deciding who gets to keep them will have the discretion of weighing such factors as who feeds them, who takes them to the vet and on walks, and who protects them.

"I think it's a good idea. I personally have a little rescue bichon poodle named Rodney King Stone. He's like a family member," said family law attorney Megan Green of Los Angeles, who has seen her share of divorce cases where couples battled relentlessly over the pet.

In one case, a woman said the dog was a gift from her husband, but the husband maintained he was the one who took care of it. They finally worked out an agreement just ahead of trial.

Without the law that goes into effect on Jan. 1, attorneys say judges have often had to get creative in reaching agreements when both sides say they can't bear to part with their pet.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Mistura Fina
15:50	Zig Zag
16:10	Nelo & Idália
16:45	Quem Quer Ser Milionário
17:35	Moda Portugal Sr.1
18:10	Depois do Adeus
19:00	Montra do Lilau (Repetição)
19:35	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	TDM Talk Show
21:45	Livros com João Guedes
21:55	Coisas Curiosas de Saber
22:20	Liberdade 21
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Resumo Liga dos Campeões 2018/2019
00:10	Telejornal (Repetição)
00:55	Liga Europa: Vorskla - Sporting (Directo)
03:05	RTPi Directo

cinema



CINETEATRO

04 - 10 Oct



VENOM

ROOM 1

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

Director: Ruben Fleischer

Starring: Tom Hardy, Michelle Williams, Riz Ahmed

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 112min



PROJECT GUTENBERG

ROOM 2

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

Director: Felix Chong

Starring: Chow Yun Fat, Aaron Kwok, Zhang Jingchu

Language: Cantonese (Chinese, english)

Duration: 130min



A SIMPLE FAVOR

ROOM 3

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

Director: Paul Feig

Starring: Anna Kendrick, Blake Lively, Henry Golding

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 117min

JOHNNY ENGLISH STRIKES AGAIN

ROOM 3

7:30pm

Director: David Kerr

Starring: Rowan Atkinson Emma Thompson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 88min

this day in history



1965 IMMIGRANTS FEEL AT HOME WITH BBC

The British Broadcasting Corporation has announced plans to introduce a new service for Asian immigrants starting next week.

The programmes will go out every Sunday on radio on the BBC's Home Service and on television on BBC1.

Titled 'Making Yourself at Home', the programmes will offer informal language lessons in everyday English and music from Indian and Pakistani films.

David Gretton, organiser and producer of the series says the English lessons will provide an opportunity for people who have recently moved to Britain from India and Pakistan to cope with everyday situations.

He said: "They teach the words and phrases needed...and convey a reassurance that these situations are not too difficult to be faced".

Guests on the programme will discuss carrying out essential domestic routines such as taking children to school or finding their way on the bus.

According to Mr Gretton the target audience is approximately 250,000 listeners and viewers, with emphasis placed on serving recently-arrived wives and school-age children joining their Asian fathers and husbands.

"Our task here is to answer questions, and to sweeten the jaw-breaking complexities of housing or nationality with a little traditional song and dance," Mr Gretton said.

Contributors will speak in a combination of Hindu, Urdu and English.

The radio programme will be broadcast at 0810 hours on Sunday mornings and last for half-an-hour. The television programme will be shown at 0900 and last 15 minutes. The TV version will be repeated on Wednesdays at 1225 hours.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The 'immigrant service' was introduced under the BBC governorship of Hugh Greene, who was responding to calls for broadcasters to consider serving a growing immigrant population.

Maurice Foley, a junior government minister with special responsibility for immigrants said in the first programme's introduction:

"I hope you will find them entertaining and useful...so that you can settle happily amongst us."

He went on: "In the world of today we all need to know a great deal more about each other. This is one small contribution towards showing you something of ourselves and the society in which you live."

In 1967 Rainbow City became the first drama series to give a leading role to a black actor.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Someone needs your help -- but they may not know how to ask you. Make sure that you're really paying attention as you move through the day, as you can score bonus karma points!

Taurus April 20-May 20 You finally get that one friend or family member who's been so odd lately -- and the explanation is likely simpler than you would have thought. Just reach out and let them know you're savvy.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You need to really hunker down and focus on communication today -- in all its creative forms. Your energy is better spent on poetry than on drafting that email to get a new job.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You need to enjoy what you've got today -- your energy is terrific, and almost anything you choose to do should make life sweeter and more enjoyable for you and your people. Go for it!

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Nothing is quite clear today -- you need to take a big step back before you can make sense of anything. That could work to your advantage, though, as you may spot details you'd never have seen otherwise.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Not much gets done today -- which could mean that you just need to deal with a backlog later. There's nothing wrong with that, especially as fighting too hard against today's pace could result in moving backward!

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You need to stay flexible and enjoy life's little treasures -- there's no sense in walling over every little thing that goes wrong today! All should return to balance soon, and no one knows that better than you.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Your artistic license just got renewed -- make the most of it! All this great energy should make you a hit with your colleagues or friends, as long as you're free with your ideas.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Try something totally new today -- it could be almost anything! Your personal energy is somewhat restless and seeking new inspiration. A new friend, a random website or even a cloud can give it to you!

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You have got to make social connections today -- though not necessarily new ones. Reach out to old friends (even old flames, possibly) to see if you've still got anything to talk about.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Take a chance on that new volunteer opportunity or charity pitch, even if it doesn't quite seem right -- you can always back off later if it falls apart. You need to give back on a day like today.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You've got to rethink things a bit -- but your great energy helps you do just that with ease. See if you can get your friends to pitch you new ideas for transformative activities. Use them all!

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

Easy Sudoku grid with numbers 3, 4, 1, 8, 9, 1, 2, 6, 3, 4, 7, 2, 5, 3, 7, 1, 4, 5, 7, 6.

Easy+

Easy+ Sudoku grid with numbers 2, 3, 4, 7, 3, 5, 1, 3, 9, 9, 6, 5, 8, 8, 5, 2, 6, 7, 3, 4, 3, 9, 4, 8, 1, 6.

Medium

Medium Sudoku grid with numbers 5, 6, 8, 9, 3, 2, 9, 5, 6, 4, 9, 1, 3, 8, 7, 2, 6, 1, 8, 4, 7, 6, 8, 2, 3, 9, 7, 1, 4.

Hard

Hard Sudoku grid with numbers 5, 8, 1, 3, 1, 4, 2, 9, 2, 4, 7, 6, 7, 2, 3, 5.

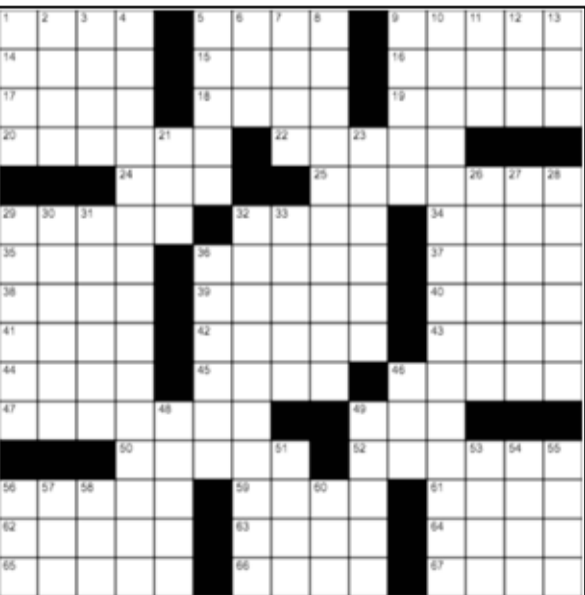
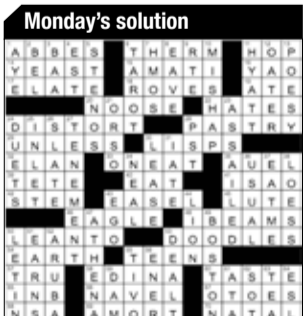
WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Rows include CHINA (Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, Urumqi, Xi'an, Lhasa, Chengdu, Chongqing, Kunming, Nanjing, Shanghai, Wuhan, Hangzhou, Taipei, Guangzhou, Hong Kong) and WORLD (Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York).

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Incline; 5- Western Indians; 9- Covered with mud; 14- Iams alternative; 15- Short skirt; 16- Type of sanctum; 17- Bubbly name; 18- Collar type; 19- Surgery souvenirs; 20- Important person; 22- ___ Janeiro; 24- ___ tree falls...; 25- Eighth sign of the zodiac; 29- Young male horses; 32- Sheep shelter; 34- Inventor Rubik; 35- No way; 36- Tierney of "ER"; 37- Shape; 38- Dict. entries; 39- Composer Bruckner; 40- Ancient Greek coin; 41- Nipple; 42- Nest; 43- Campbell of "Scream"; 44- I could ___ horse!; 45- General ___ chicken; 46- Conceals; 47- Rare metallic element; 49- ___ Paulo; 50- Draw off liquid gradually; 52- Unfair lender; 56- Skylit lobbies; 59- Unclothed; 61- Walkman maker; 62- Inclined; 63- Approved; 64- Crescent-shaped figure; 65- Marsh plant; 66- Actress Russo; 67- Votes for;

DOWN: 1- Gyro meat; 2- "The Time Machine" people; 3- Take down ___; 4- In spite of; 5- Last Greek letter; 6- ___ for tat; 7- ___ about (roughly); 8- Ill-omened; 9- Botch; 10- Informally; 11- Modern-day evidence; 12- ___ Rosenkavalier; 13- Mos. and mos.; 21- Conditions; 23- Vast seas; 26- Poked; 27- Smitten; 28- Large quantity; 29- American general; 30- Wanna bet?; 31- Crescent-shaped; 32- The Little Dog; 33- Perform better than; 36- Woman's loose gown; 46- Gives birth to; 48- Angry; 49- Kid leather; 51- Microwave; 53- Womanizer; 54- Sicilian resort; 55- Some whiskeys; 56- Gore and more; 57- Driving aid; 58- Far out!; 60- Thieves' place;



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PSP 28 573 333
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FOOTBALL | CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Substitute Semedo helps Benfica beat AEK, Bayern draws Ajax

Derek Gatopoulos, Athens

AEK ATHENS 2, BENFICA 3

SUBSTITUTE Alfa Semedo rescued 10-man Benfica with a late goal to secure a 3-2 win over AEK Athens yesterday [Macau time] as the Greek champion was punished for chaotic defending with a second straight Champions League defeat.

AEK had come from two goals down to level the match after Ruben Dias was sent off just before the break. But Semedo was left unchallenged and ran through the static AEK defense to fire past goalkeeper Vasilis Barkas in the 74th minute at Athens' Olympic Stadium.

"I came on to help the team and I'm so happy to get that goal," Semedo said. "The coach (Rui Vitoria) told me to support the counterattacks."

Benfica looked to have wrapped up the Group E match ear-

ly, scoring twice in the opening 15 minutes.

Haris Seferovic tapped in the opener in the sixth minute after AEK goalkeeper Vasilis Barkas blocked a shot from Gedson Fernandes. The Portuguese side looked threatening on every push forward and added another nine minutes later when the unmarked Alex Grimaldo headed in a free kick from Pizzi.

But the visitors lost control after Dias received a second booking for a foul on Ezequiel Ponce.

Viktor Klonaridis scored twice in the second.

BAYERN 1, AJAX 1

AEK lost its opening game 3-0 at Ajax, and showed little imagination before the break, while center-back duo Marios Oikonomou and Dmytro Chygrynskiy struggled to contain Benfica's three forwards.

"We started out looking scared and there's no real explanation

for that," AEK coach Marinos Ouzounidis said. "When they went down to 10 men, we reacted well and should have won it. That third goal came after we had worked so hard. It was very unfortunate."

Bayern and Ajax drew 1-1 in the group's other game. **AP**



Benfica's Alfa Semedo (right) runs to score his side third goal

JUVE WINS, MADRID LOSES WITHOUT RONALDO

REAL MADRID is having trouble scoring with Cristiano Ronaldo no longer on the team. His new club, Juventus, did just fine without him. For the first time in more than a decade, Madrid has gone three straight games without a goal after losing 1-0 at CSKA Moscow in an early setback to the Spanish club's title defense in the Champions League. Madrid is running into some problems in the post-Ronaldo era, having won only two of its last six games in all competitions. They arrived at Luzhniki stadium — where Spain lost to Russia in the last 16 of the World

Cup — having also failed to score in its last two Spanish league games. Not since January 2007 has Madrid gone scoreless in three consecutive games. Ronaldo, who joined Juventus from Madrid in a deal worth 112 million euros (USD131.5 million) this offseason, was missing for the Italian champions for their match against Young Boys after his sending-off against Valencia in the opening round of group play. Paulo Dybala stepped up in the Portuguese star's absence by scoring a hat trick in a 3-0 win to put Juventus top of its group. Another of Ronaldo's



former clubs is struggling, too. Manchester United's bus got stuck in traffic — leading to a delayed kickoff against Valencia — and the team never got going on the field either in a dull 0-0 draw at Old Trafford.

AD

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Chicago Cubs' Javier Baez (9) hits a one-run double against the Colorado Rockies

BASEBALL

For Cubs, season ends on sour note with loss to Rockies

Andrew Seligman, Chicago

NO team in the National League piled up more victories than the Chicago Cubs through 162 games. That seems like small consolation now.

Kyle Hendricks gave up a tie-breaking single to Tony Wolters in the 13th inning, sending the Cubs to a 2-1 loss to the Colorado Rockies in a marathon wild-card game yesterday [Macau time].

Chicago lost two home games with a chance to reach the NL Division Series. The Cubs scored a total of two runs over 22 innings, dropping a tiebreaker to Milwaukee for the NL Central championship and then getting

knocked out of the playoffs by the Rockies.

They squandered a dominant start by Jon Lester, got shut down by Kyle Freeland and wasted several big scoring opportunities. Hendricks came in to retire the final two batters in the 12th and got the first two in the 13th before running into trouble.

Trevor Story grounded a single through the left side and Gerardo Parra lined one to right, putting runners at first and third. Wolters — who came into the game as part of a double switch in the 12th — then drove an RBI single up the middle.

In the bottom half, Terrance Gore acted as if he was hit by a tight pitch leading off and ran to first before being ordered back

to the box. The Cubs challenged the call to no avail. Gore, Baez and Albert Almora Jr. then struck out, bringing a marathon game and a difficult season to a fitting end.

“We have had a lot of things go awry this year and in spite that have still tied for the most wins in the National League in a 162-game season,” manager Joe Maddon said. “Again, that speaks to the quality of the player in the room of the and even though maybe the numbers offensively didn’t matchup, these guys put up 95 wins.”

The Cubs had a long line of injuries and didn’t get the contributions they expected from some key players, including Yu Darvish and Kris Bryant.

That didn’t stop them from going from 4 1/2 games behind Milwaukee in late May to leading the division by five in early September, only to have the Brewers tie them on the final weekend of the regular season.

They got shut down by Jhoulys Chacin in a 3-1 tiebreaker loss to Milwaukee, then had to watch Colorado celebrate after winning the longest win-or-go home game in major league history.

“All I can say is I’m extremely proud of how we’ve come together,” Kris Bryant said.

It was a bitter end for a team that made the NLCS the previous three years and won a World Series in 2016 that ended a drought dating to 1908. A

franchise that for decades was defined by heartache has more wins the past four seasons than any other team.

The Cubs beat Pittsburgh in a wild-card game in 2015 after a 97-win breakout regular season that established them championship contenders. But the expectations since then have changed. And this loss stings.

“In 2015, we were winning the wild-card game no matter what,” Rizzo said. “In 2018, I’d say fans were (ticked) that we were in the wild-card game. We had a chance to win the division and we didn’t. We’ve really flipped this culture here.”

The Cubs — who finished fourth in the NL in runs despite being held to one or zero in 39 regular-season games, one fewer than Baltimore for most in the majors — managed just four hits in 6 2/3 innings against Freeland.

Anthony Rizzo grounded into a double-play with two on in the sixth, and they left the bases loaded in the seventh when Jason Heyward struck out.

Chicago had another chance in the 11th.

Baez walked leading off against Seungwhan Oh and moved up on a sacrifice bunt by Almora. Daniel Murphy was intentionally walked and Baez got tagged out by Arenado on Willson Contreras’ grounder to third.

As Arenado applied the tag in the middle of the base path between second and third, Baez wrapped his arms around him. Arenado smiled and patted him rather than try a throw to first.

Chris Rusin then retired pinch-hitter Victor Caratini on a grounder to first to end the inning.

“At the end of the day, coming down the stretch I felt like we played good baseball,” Lester said. “I mean, it wasn’t like we beat ourselves. Sometimes you have to tip your hat to the opponent. You go 13 innings tonight against a really tough team and we come out on the short end of the stick, but I feel like we should have won that game.” AP

TENNIS

Dimitrov out of China Open, Pliskova advances

THIRD-SEEDED Grigor Dimitrov is out of the Beijing Open, beaten 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 by Dusan Lajovic in the second round yesterday.

At 4-4 in the deciding set, the 55th-ranked Lajovic, helped by a Dimitrov double-fault, broke the Bulgarian’s serve, then won four consecutive points in his next service game to close out the match in 1 hour, 51 minutes.

Later yesterday, top-seeded Juan Martin del Potro was scheduled to

play his second-round match against Karen Khachanov.

In women’s play, Karolina Pliskova advanced to the third round for the third consecutive year with a 6-3, 6-4 win over Aliaksandra Sasnovich.

The win helped avenge Pliskova’s loss to Sasnovich in their only previous meeting, a straight-set defeat in Tokyo in 2016.

The seventh-seeded Pliskova, who trailed 2-0 in the second set

at the National Tennis Stadium before winning four games in a row, has lost in the third round each of the last two years in Beijing. She will next play local wild-card entry Wang Qiang.

Among featured women’s matches, second-seeded Caroline Wozniacki played Petra Martic in the second round and ninth-seeded Sloane Stephens took on Dominika Cibulkova in a third-round match. AP



Grigor Dimitrov (pictured) loses to Dusan Lajovic

opinion

Made in Macao

Jenny Lao-Phillips



NATIONAL FOOD: RICE OR NOODLES?

The Americans have apple-pies on the Fourth of July, and that got me wondering on National Day a few days ago: What food do we consider our national food?

When we think of any Chinese festivals, there are always auspicious foods related to the tradition, like moon cakes for Mid-Autumn Festival, or dumplings for Lantern Festival and Winter Solstice. But there is no special food for our National Day. Technically speaking, all festive foods are related to the tradition and legends of the related holidays, and National Day is not a traditional festival. But as the city of gastronomy, how can we not have something celebratory for our National Day?

The reason for having apple pies or hamburgers and hot dogs on the American Independence Day is not because these foods have any special meaning, but because they are usual family foods in America. Therefore, if we have to choose some kinds of food to share on our National Day, they have to be down-to-earth and representative of the Chinese family. On this line of thought, for Chinese, especially for those in Southern China, we must get back to our basic kinds of food, often jokingly considered our four greatest inventions: 粥 juk, 粉 fan, 麵 min, 飯 faan: congee, vermicelli, noodles and rice.

Of these foods, central to the everyday lives of Chinese people, congee seems to have the longest history. It is believed that the earliest record dates back over 4000 years, and the growing of grains that are used to make rice today, some say, dates back 7000 years. However, our ancestors had not refined rice to be eaten as it is now, so the grains were boiled with large amounts of water – what we call congee nowadays.

The significance of rice and congee to our everyday lives cannot be better stated than by the popular Cantonese saying, roughly translated as: “We’ll have rice together if there is rice, and have congee together if there is only congee”. This saying is used to show one’s commitment to friends or family, implying a promise to sharing prosperity or suffering through poverty together. To have rice to eat everyday refers to prosperity, with no worries about food and basic needs. So, there is no doubt about the centrality and representation of rice to our everyday lives.

However, noodles also have a very long history in the Chinese tradition. Although written record dates back only a bit less than 2000 years, there are archeological findings of our ancestors having noodles or vermicelli more than 4000 years ago. Although named differently, we usually refer to all kinds of noodles and vermicelli as ‘noodles’, in the same way that spaghetti, penne, linguini, are all referred to as pasta.

Aside from being an everyday family dish, especially in the northern part of China, noodles also have an auspicious representation. We often have noodles during birthdays because it represents longevity. Longevity in Chinese is 長壽 “cheon sau”. Cheon means ‘long’, and sau means ‘birth’, and has a similar pronunciation to ‘slim’, so eating noodles which are long and slim signifies longevity. Also, in some places, the longevity noodle eaten on one’s birthday is specially made. And I use singular ‘noodle’, because it is made of one very, very long noodle to represent extremely long life.

Although congee and rice have a longer history in our nation, vermicelli and noodles offer more than everyday comfort food. So, of our four greatest inventions, which should we choose for our national day food? Rice or noodles? Or perhaps, just for the National Day, we can come up with a dish that contains 粥 juk, 粉 fan, 麵 min, 飯 faan all in one.

THE CLIMATE GOALS MEAN EUROPE WILL OVERTAKE US IN ELECTRIC CARS

European carmakers are rolling out electric vehicles like the ones on view this week at the Paris Motor Show to burnish their reputations as technology leaders and to compete with Tesla. But also because EU regulations don’t leave them much choice.

New emission standards mean Europe will soon see an upsurge in electric offerings, outpacing the United States, where the regulatory push has eased under the Trump administration, but still likely lagging China, where the

government is mandating more e-cars.

The new rules could increase sales of electric cars in Europe from a minuscule 0.6 percent of the 14.5-million vehicle annual market to the high single digits over the next five or six years. From about 10 available models there would be several dozen to choose from.

Automakers, at the Paris show, are obviously trying to grab some of the buzz Tesla earned with its Model X SUV and Model S high-performance sedan.

Pope opens youth synod as confidence dips on abuse fallout



Bishops attend a Mass celebrated by Pope Francis for the opening the synod in St. Peter’s Square, at the Vatican, yesterday

Nicole Winfield, Vatican City

POPE Francis urged Catholic bishops yesterday to dream of a future free of the mistakes and sins of the past, as he opened a global gathering of the church leadership amid renewed outrage over the priestly sex abuse and cover-up scandal.

Francis celebrated Mass in St. Peter’s Square with more than 200 priests, bishops and cardinals summoned to Rome for a month-long meeting on proposing new ways to minister to today’s young Catholics.

Francis prayed for the bishops to guide the young with experience, but also rekindle in themselves the gift of “dreaming and hoping” that young people have.

He prayed for God’s help to ensure that the church “does not allow itself from one generation to the next to be extinguished or crushed by the prophets of doom and misfortune, by our own shortcomings, mistakes and sins.”

The Oct. 3-28 synod is opening under a fresh cloud of the abuse scandal has seen new revelations about decades of wrongdoing in the U.S., Chile, Germany and elsewhere. That has sent confidence in

Francis’ leadership to all-time lows among the American faithful.

A survey by the Pew Research Center released on the eve of the synod found that just 31 percent of U.S. Catholics felt the pope was doing an excellent or good job in addressing the abuse issue, down from 45 percent in January and 55 percent in 2015.

Francis prayed for the bishops to guide the young with experience, but also rekindle in themselves the gift of ‘dreaming and hoping’

Francis didn’t refer directly to the scandal in his homily, but he did urge the synod members to “reverse situations of uncertainty, exclusion and violence, to which our young people are exposed.”

Let us “transform those frames of mind that today paralyze, separate and alienate us from young people, leaving them exposed to stormy seas, orphans without a faith community that should sustain them, orphans devoid of a sense of direction and meaning in life,” he said.

Francis visibly and audibly choked up during his homily when he welcomed two Chinese bishops to the gathering. Their presence was made possible thanks to a landmark agreement with Beijing over bishop nominations that unified the Chinese Catholic leadership for the first time in decades.

“Today, for the first time, we have also with us two bishops from mainland China,” Francis said, pausing to compose himself. “We offer them our warm welcome.”

The presence of Bishops Guo Jincai of Gengde and Yang Xiaoting of Yan’an at the synod was of such significance that one of the pope’s communications advisers tweeted a selfie with them.

“The joy and consolation of full communion in the church,” tweeted the Rev. Antonio Spadaro, editor of the Jesuit journal La Civiltà Cattolica. AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	70-100 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	100-130 Bad
Ambient	100-130 Bad

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS



THAILAND Authorities said they have decided to indefinitely extend the closure of a beautiful bay made famous by the Leonardo DiCaprio movie “The Beach” until it recovers from years of environment damage caused by too many tourists.

INDIA plans to send seven Rohingya Muslims back to Myanmar, in the first deportation of members of the Myanmar minority group since the Home Ministry ordered state authorities last year to identify and deport them and other illegal immigrants.

RUSSIA With a contemptuous grin, President Vladimir Putin yesterday called a former double agent who was sickened by a military grade nerve agent in Britain a traitor and “scumbag” — but dismissed the idea that Russia would target him in a poison attack.



SYRIA With back-to-back trade fairs held in Damascus this month, the country is hoping to jumpstart reconstruction of its devastated cities by inviting international investors to take part in lucrative opportunities.



SWEDEN Three researchers who “harnessed the power of evolution” to produce enzymes and antibodies that have led to a best-selling drug and biofuels won the Nobel Prize in chemistry yesterday. One expert called their discoveries “revolutionary.” More on p15

SPACE A German-French observation device safely landed on an asteroid yesterday after a Japanese spacecraft released it as part of a research effort that could find clues about the origin of the solar system, Japanese space officials said.