

200 EXHIBITORS AT MGS SHOW



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HO IAT SENG: 'NO NEED TO BE CONCERNED'

In a reply to lawmakers, Ho Iat Seng said that they have no cause to be concerned about legal advisor dismissals



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NORTH KOREA MISSILE BASES OUTED

Thirteen undeclared missile operating bases were identified in a new report, undermining the Trump administration's claims



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WORLD BRIEFS

AP PHOTO



CHINA's premier sought yesterday to reassure its neighbors that Beijing will push ahead with reforms needed to support growth across the region and also keep the peace in contested waters in the South China Sea. *More on p11,13*

MYANMAR Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed sharply criticized Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi yesterday for her handling of an ethnic crisis that led to mass killings and the exodus of more than 700,000 Rohingya Muslims from her country.

INDIA's top court has agreed to re-examine a ruling that lifted a ban on women of menstruating age from entering a Hindu temple after near-constant protests backed by both India's ruling party and the main opposition party.

AP PHOTO



OPEC and allied oil-producing countries will likely need to cut crude supplies, perhaps by as much as 1 million barrels of oil a day, to rebalance the market after U.S. sanctions on Iran failed to cut Tehran's output, Saudi Arabia's energy minister said.

JORDAN's state security court sentenced 10 defendants to prison yesterday, with terms ranging from three years to life, for their role in an Islamic State attack on a popular tourist site that killed 14 people, including a Canadian tourist.

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New affordable housing rules green-lighted

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BIG NAMES SEEKING MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

GP SUPPLEMENT INSIDE



Jay Chun



Aspect of the event

MGS Entertainment Show hosts 200 exhibitors

Lynzy Valles

THE MGS Entertainment Show officially kicked off yesterday, attracting close to 200 exhibitors this year, ranging from gaming equipment, leisure, tourism and technology-themed exhibitors.

This year, the annual gaming trade industry exhibition is divided into three sections, including culture, science and technology, and gaming equipment.

Speaking to the press on the sidelines of the event, Jay Chun, chairman of the Macau Gaming Equipment Manufacturers Association (MGEMA), said that the show has more slot machine exhibitors this year.

"This [gaming] equipment is not too related to the economy changes in the market – after all, if the casinos want to increase revenue of the mass market, then gaming equipment should be the key investment," Chun told the press.

He also implied that the gaming machines available in the city reflects new trends in the gaming industry.

"Many of our technologies, especially the gaming table technology, are a lot more ahead of other places in the world," he said.

When commenting on the visitor arrivals, Chun noted, "In past editions of MGS show, we had about 8,000 to 10,000 visitors [per edition]. We hope that we

can at least achieve this level for this year's edition."

The MSG Summit kicked off with a talk on law and supervision of the local industry, and discussed the challenges facing the city's VIP market.

In today's session, Naoya Harai-kawa, Cabinet Councilor from Bureau of the Integrated Resort Promotion of the Government of Japan, will give a speech on the concept of Integrated Resorts (IR) Development Law and the process of its implementation.

It will be the first time that the government official, who is in charge of Japanese IR affairs, shares his visions abroad about the prospect and blueprint of Japanese IRs.

A talk on how IRs can boost tourism and cultural development of the Greater Bay Area is also scheduled.

The last day of the forum will feature a panel section for gaming equipment manufacturers to discuss how to increase the proportion of revenue generated by Macau gaming equipment in Gross Gaming Revenue (GGR) and expand the emerging Asian market.

Held at The Venetian Macao's Cotai Expo Hall until tomorrow, the show was jointly organized for the first time with China's state-owned enterprise Nam Kwong Culture and Creativity Industry Co, and China National Machinery Industry International Co.

Residential loans record increase

NEW approvals of residential mortgage loans (RMLs) rose by 31.9 percent month-to-month to MOP9.7 billion, the Monetary Authority of Macau announced in a statement.

New RMLs to residents, accounting for 86.2 percent of the total, rose by 15.9 percent to MOP8.3 billion.

Mainly attributed to new enterprise loans with high denomination, the non-resident component increased to MOP1.3 billion.

The monthly average of new RMLs approved between July and September 2018 was MOP7.4 billion, up by 11.4 percent from the previous period (June to August 2018).

Meanwhile, commercial real estate loans (CRELs) dropped by 65.8 percent in the previous month to MOP3.3 billion. Within this total, new CRELs to residents, which occupied 99.8 percent of the total, decreased by 61.9 percent to MOP3.3 billion, while those to non-residents fell to MOP5.2 million.

The monthly average of new CRELs approved between July and September 2018 was MOP5.7 billion, down by 15.2 percent compared with the previous period (June to August 2018).

As at end-September 2018, the outstanding value of RMLs was MOP211.1 billion, up by 3.5 percent from the previous month, or 12.1 percent from a year ago. The resident component made up 92.6 percent of the total.

The outstanding value of CRELs was MOP187.2 billion, up by 1.6 percent month-to-month or 7.8 percent from the previous year. Residents accounted for 93.2 percent of the loans. Compared to a month earlier, outstanding CRELs to residents and to non-residents rose by 1.7 percent and 0.5 percent respectively.

EDUCATION

DSEJ head pledges more cooperation between parents, schools

THE Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) claims that it will continue to ensure parents' rights when they participate in the management of local schools, DSEJ director Lou Pak Sang announced in reply to lawmaker Sulu Sou's written inquiry.

The lawmaker pointed out that local parents should be allowed to participate in the decision-making procedures within different school boards, and be permitted to participate in various



school procedures such as teacher recruitment or school financing.

In its response to Sou, DSEJ said that the city's

non-tertiary education committee "has fully considered gathering all sectors' forces in the society. The members of the com-

mittee are representative and have relevant morality, reputation and social participation."

The city's non-tertiary education committee, which is led by the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, consists of a maximum of 14 local association representatives, in addition to 11 people whom DSEJ regards as experts, scholars, leaders and teachers from the education sector.

"The committee does not exclude the representation of leaders from

legally established parent associations," DSEJ said.

In 2018, Macau had 53 parents unions.

DSEJ further claims that through its subsidized programs between parents and schools (of which there are 365 until the end of the 2017/2018 academic year), parents unions and the collection of opinions from concerned parties regarding school boards, it has ensured parents' participation and democratization of local non-tertiary schools.

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AL PRESIDENT

'No need to be concerned' about legal advisor dismissals

PRESIDENT of the Legislative Assembly (AL) Ho Iat Seng has issued a written reply to an enquiry submitted by lawmakers Sulu Sou and José Pereira Coutinho. The enquiry questioned the cause of the dismissal of two long-standing legal advisors of the legislature. In the reply, Ho assured the lawmakers that they have no cause to be concerned.

Veteran legal advisers of the AL, Paulo Cardinal and Paulo Taipa were dismissed by the Assembly's board in August this year, suddenly and without explanation.

The two Portuguese advisors were notified via letter that their contracts would not be renewed and that their work at the Legislative Assembly would cease by Dec. 31, 2018. The letters did not state the reason for their terminations.



Ho Iat Seng

In response, several lawmakers sent the AL board a letter requesting an explanation of their dismissal, the procedures by which the decision had been made, and clarification on the people involved in the decision-making process.

In a letter dated Friday to which the Times had access, Ho thanked the legislators for raising their concerns about the non-renewal of work contracts for the two Portuguese legal advisors,

but advised them that the Assembly's advisory council remained well-staffed with "consultant coordinators, counselors, technician counselors and other law personnel."

Their dismissal will not have any negative influence on the work of the AL, he wrote, and therefore there is "no need to be concerned about this issue."

The letter also states that the process behind the non-renewal of their work

contracts was handled "according to the law and the contract signed with the two advisors."

Nevertheless, Ho avoided answering the legislator's specific call for an explanation regarding Cardinal and Taipa's dismissal, instead stating that he had "nothing further to explain."

"The decision of non-renewal of the work contracts is made by the Executive Board of the Legislative Assembly, [based on] the Regiment of the Legislative Assembly," Ho noted in the letter. "However, since the undersigned [Ho Iat Seng] has already made public statements regarding this issue, he will make no further comments," added Ho, who, in addition to being the President of the AL, is also the President of the Board of the Assembly.

Third forum held to mark opening-up anniversary

Marking the 40th anniversary of the reform and opening-up in China, the last of three special forums was held yesterday. At the forum, senior government and military officials introduced the latest developments in disciplinary, supervisory, organizational, publicity, judicial and military reforms. The forum was broadcast live online and the officials responded to questions posted by viewers. The first two forums were held on Oct. 25 and Nov. 6, with government officials introducing the latest changes in various areas such as foreign affairs, education, science, environmental protection and rural development. China is unfurling celebration events for the 40th anniversary of the reform and opening-up. A major exhibition opened in Beijing yesterday with around 1,000 people attending the opening ceremony, according to state media outlet Xinhua.

Gaming revenue up, but tracking behind October

The first 11 days in November saw gross gaming revenue reach about MOP9.25 billion, according to estimates from HSBC Global Research. The revenue generated in the first 11 days of the month suggests an average daily run rate of MOP840 million per day, compared with MOP783 million per day during the same period last month. If extrapolated to the month's end, November would record gross gaming revenue of about MOP25.2 billion, or approximately 8 percent less than in the previous month on account of October's profitable Golden Week. Analyzed by segment, HSBC said that VIP daily volume was flat compared to October, while mass gross gaming revenue was down by 5 percent. Analysts also noted that the figures for the first 11 days might have seen a boost from the two full weekends during the period, when visitation numbers are generally higher.

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ESPORTS

Macau squad wins silver in global tournament

A Macau esports squad secured an unprecedented second place at a global esports championship on Monday, earning a silver medal and defying all expectations, according to the president of the local association that backed the team.

The silver medal was earned in the League of Legends category at the 10th edition of the IESF Esports World Championship held at the Kaohsiung Arena in Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

The Macau team was defeated 3-0 in the competition final by South Korea, widely considered the most successful nation in the esports world and known to field the most decorated players on the competitive scene.

In the matches leading up to the final, the Macau team triumphed over squads from Australia, Egypt, Italy, Sri Lanka and Israel, while not dropping a single game during the knockout stages. South Korea mirrored their unbeaten performance, defeating teams from Finland and Iran, as well as 'home team' Chinese Taipei in the semi-finals.



Local esports association Grow uP eSports, which organized and backed the Macau team, described the second-place feat as "punching far above Macau's weight."

"Our team this year was able to prove that, despite being a small region, Macau has the necessary talent to conquer the spotlight in the Esports World Championship," said association president, Fernando Pereira. "We are very proud of the unprecedented achievement and we believe that this will inspire a healthy and competitive esports environment in the region."

Organized by the Kaohsiung City Government, Chinese Taipei Esports Association and the Taiwan

Esports League, the 2018 IESF Esports World Championship brought together some of the biggest names in esports, featuring players from the association's 40-plus member countries.

Macau was eliminated early in the group stages of both other competitive categories, Counter-Strike: Global Offensive (CS:GO) and Tekken.

Grow uP eSports is a non-profit association which aims to promote the development of the esports sector in Macau. It is an expansion of its parent association in Portugal, which was founded over a decade ago and is now one of Europe's largest and oldest such groups. **DB**

EDUCATION

English Speech Contest debates nature topics



THE 17th Macau-wide English Speech Contest took place over the weekend. The Macau-wide English Speech Contest was established in 2002, its purpose being to promote the use of English in the region. The contest is organized by the Macau Polytechnic Institute, and co-organized by several other schools and institutions.

Ever since 2005, the event has enjoyed a nationwide affiliation with China Daily's "21st Century" National English-Speaking Competition and, over the years, many winners of the Macau-wide English Speech Contest have advanced to compete in the national competition.

The opportunity to participate in the national competition has been extended to the winners from each of

the Lower Primary, Upper Primary, Junior High School and Senior High School categories and up to 3 winners of the College Category.

The final round of the contest included a total of 66 contestants who were selected from among 171 contestants who participated in the semifinal on October 14.

Under the theme nature, participants researched the animal and plant world, and discussed the problems of environmental pollution, climate change, extinction, and sustainable management.

Organizers hope that the contest can encourage students "not only to develop their English skills, but also their critical thinking, so as to foster their all-round development and prepare them to serve society in the future."

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AL PLENARY

Affordable house ranking returns to points-based system

Julie Zhu

THE ranking of candidates for affordable houses will be points-based once the Macau SAR government implements the new amendment to the affordable housing law, which was passed at the Legislative Assembly (AL) plenary meeting yesterday.

Currently, applicants are being divided into three different groups, with one of the three groups being given priority for balloting.

Once the new amendment comes into effect, no priority will be granted to any category. Therefore, the family that ranks first according to the points it receives will be considered the candidate most in need of affordable housing.

The details behind the points-based methods will be announced after the Chief Executive approves the bill.

However, despite more than 80 percent of the public opinion preferring the points-based method, the ranking method still does not satisfy lawmaker Sulu Sou.

In Sou's opinion, there should be a permanent waiting list mechanism, creating fairer conditions for individual applicants.

"[The permanent waiting mechanism] allows residents to be at ease [because] they can estimate how long they will have to wait for the house. [...] If there is no permanent waiting list, the [less competitive] applicants will be ranked again every time when the government restarts the ranking [for each new project]," said Sou, adding that "if the government knows how many people are on the waiting list, the government will plan better for each affordable housing project."

Both Sulu Sou and Au Kam San want the points-based evaluation mechanism details to be publicly displayed along with the affordable housing law, not just published as a Chief Executive dispatch.

Another controversial change requires applicants to be 25 years old or above and to have lived in Macau for a minimum of seven years.

This proposed change to the eligible age triggered a fierce reaction from several lawmakers, including Sulu Sou, Ho Ion Sang and Leong Sun Iok.

"This is discrimination towards people aged between 18 and 24 years old. What is the basis?" Sou questioned.



"Comparing the medium salary with the housing price, we [young people] basically cannot even afford the down payment unless we are from a rich second generation," said Sou, who also voiced that "the problem with affordable houses is related to private house projects being too expensive."

According to data presented by Ho, in the past few years, only a single-digit number of applicants was aged between 18 and 24.

The age change was questioned by more lawmakers, including Angela Leong and Lei Cheng I.

The amendment states that all members of each application should have resided in Macau for at least 180 days every year. The new law will also provide exceptions to applicants who suddenly obtain possession of a residential property due to inheritance.

In order for public houses to be used reasonably, applicants are not allowed to own (except for the abovementioned exception) any residential property 10 years before the date of the affordable house application submission.

The law also enhances restrictions on the sale of affordable houses. Once the new law starts being implemented, any sales of affordable houses will have to be first approved by

the Housing Bureau. However, under certain conditions, the bureau will consider exceptions. The Housing Bureau should be the first choice for the sale of affordable houses.

Ma Chi Seng supported the amendment, but suggested that the government should increase land supply and private housing supply. Other lawmakers, including Au Kam San, also emphasized the expensive nature of the private housing market in Macau.

We are not discriminating against anybody. If the age requirement is 18 years old, the demand will be even bigger.

RAIMUNDO DO ROSÁRIO

"We support the amendment, but the amendment is far from being ideal," Au commented.

In reply to the lawmakers'

comments, Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, said that the age change "is not discriminatory to anybody."

"We are not discriminating against anybody. [...] If the age requirement is 18 years old, the demand will be even bigger," Rosário clarified.

Regarding the permanent waiting list, the Secretary agreed with the lawmakers that affordable housing allocation should also have a permanent waiting list.

"A permanent waiting list for affordable houses cannot be [established] in a short period. But the government indeed has the intention to do it," said Rosário.

With regard to the points-based mechanism and in particular, the inclusion of detailed selection criteria, Rosário explained that "if it is a dispatch, it will give us more flexibility when [details] need to be changed."

In addition, the Secretary commented that Macau's affordable houses are better than the houses offered in the private sector.

"The affordable houses are not bad. Some people tried so hard to buy a house [from the private market], but they can't see anything [e.g. a nice view]. We pay MOP1 million and we get a new, beautiful house with a nice view," said Rosário.

ON THE LAWMAKERS' AGENDA

TRADE UNION LAW

Sulu Sou has asked the government how long Macau is going to wait for the establishment of trade union law. Sou cited the recent lifeguards' unfair employment case, saying, "Macau has always lacked a specific law which can give trade unions a legal position and ensure that employees will not be troubled for organizing trade unions, strikes, or engaging in negotiations. [...] The government's attitude so far has been [to] avoid its constitutional responsibility and has been suspected [of being] biased toward the employers," said Sou.

COMPULSORY HOLIDAY CHANGE

Some lawmakers, including Lam Lon Wai, have expressed their opposition towards the labor law amendment proposal concerning the compulsory holiday change. As expressed earlier last week, lawmakers believe that selecting three holidays (out of four proposed compulsory ones) to become ordinary holidays violates the workers' rights. "I strongly request the government cancel the amendment plan as well as the part-time job regime," said Wai. Leong Sun Iok requested the "government give up the proposal, to ensure the employees' rights, and to maintain the labor law's principles."

HKZMB Si Ka Lon, Ho Ion Sang and other lawmakers suggested that the Macau government improve the affiliated transportation facilities at the Macau port of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge. The lawmakers pointed out various issues, including traffic problems at Oriental Pearl, issues with the arrangements of buses 101X and 102X, the lack of restaurants and shops at the Macau port, the connection between the HKZMB Macau port and the new urban zone, and the transportation in the port's vicinity. "By comparison with Zhuhai and Hong Kong ports, tourists will have a largely discounted impression about Macau," said Ho. The lawmakers proposed that the government build an integrated shopping facility at the Macau port.

Wagyu beef at USD150 per kilo threatened by 9-cent China straw

Aya Takada

THE world's most pampered cows are finding that a key supplement in their carefully designed diet is getting harder to come by thanks to thousands of pigs falling sick in China.

Japan's wagyu, known for its soft, fatty, marbled meat, are dependent on China for supplies of rice straw, an important part of the gourmet cattle's high-calorie, high-protein diet. Since the outbreak of African swine fever in China, a large portion of the vital feed has been banned from entering Japan, and its agriculture ministry fears that eventually no supplies will be available as the deadly disease spreads.

African swine fever, a highly contagious disease that began spreading in China in August, has raised alarm in neighboring nations with increased disease surveillance and tighter control of imports. With no vaccine, the virus is 100 percent lethal to pigs and can wreak havoc on a country's agricultural industry. While the disease can't affect cattle, it can be transmitted to pigs via contaminated feed, meaning Japan has to boost its biosecurity measures to prevent the virus from entering its borders.

"This is a big problem for both Chinese and Japanese livestock industries," said Shinichi Igawa, deputy director at Japan's agricultural ministry's animal health division. "We may have to find alternative supply sources for rice straw, or alternatives to rice straw, given the risk that African swine



fever will keep spreading across China."

The ministry has already suspended rice straw shipments from 25 of the 80 Chinese processing facilities approved for imports by Japan. The 25 banned facilities are within a 50 kilometer radius of Chinese pig farms hit with African swine fever. The remaining facilities are also at risk as they are in the northeastern provinces of Liaoning and Jilin, both affected by the disease.

The outbreak of African swine fever was confirmed in 74 locations in China by Nov. 9, according to Japan's ministry. Of the total, 27 were in Liaoning. Rice straw imports from China fell 17 percent to 16,586 tons in September from August, according to data from the agriculture ministry.

Japan imported over 200,000 tons of rice straw from China last year, about 20 percent of the total needed to feed its premium cattle, which is being sold at Aeon supermarkets for more than USD150 per ki-

logram. Chinese rice straw can be bought as cheaply as 10 yen (\$0.09) per kilogram, while the domestic variety can cost more for farmers who don't have rice growers nearby due to the high transportation costs. It may be more economical to buy alternatives, such as wheat straw from the U.S. or Australia, Igawa said.

African swine fever, a highly contagious disease, began spreading in China in August

For lovers of wagyu, the already expensive beef could become more expensive unless a substitute is found, Igawa said. **Bloomberg**

Internet traffic hijack disrupts Google services



AN internet traffic diversion rerouted data through Russia and China and disrupted Google services on Monday, including search, cloud-hosting services and its bundle of collaboration tools for businesses.

Service interruptions lasted for nearly one and a half hours and ended about 5:30 p.m. EST., network service companies said. In addition to Russian and Chinese telecommunications companies, a Nigerian internet provider was also involved.

The diversion "at a minimum caused a massive denial of service to G Suite (business collaboration tools) and Google Search" and "put valuable Google traffic in the hands of ISPs in (internet service providers) in countries with a long history of Internet surveillance," the network-intelligence company ThousandEyes said in a blog post.

A Google status page noted that "access to some Google services was impacted" and said the cause was "external to Google." The company offered little additional information.

The type of traffic misdirection employed, known as border gateway protocol hijacking, can knock essential services offline and facilitate espionage and financial theft. It can result either from misconfiguration — human error, essentially — or from malicious action.

Most network traffic to Google services — 94 percent as of October 27 — is encrypted, which shields it from prying eyes even if diverted.

Alex Henthorn-Iwane, an executive at ThousandEyes, called Monday's incident the worst affecting Google that

his San Francisco company has seen.

He said he suspected nation-state involvement because the traffic was effectively landing at state-run China Telecom. A recent study by U.S. Naval War College and Tel Aviv University scholars found that China systematically hijacks and diverts U.S. internet traffic.

Google said it had no reason to believe the traffic hijacking was malicious. It did not explain why.

Much of the internet's underpinnings are built on trust, a relic of the good intentions its designers assumed of users. One consequence: little can be done if a nation-state or someone with access to a major internet provider — or exchange — decides to reroute traffic.

Henthorn-Iwane says Monday's hijacking may have been "a war-game experiment."

In two recent cases, such rerouting has affected financial sites. In April 2017, one affected MasterCard and Visa among other sites. This past April, another hijacking enabled cryptocurrency theft.

The Department of Homeland Security did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

ThousandEyes named the companies involved in Monday's incident, in addition to China Telecom, as the Russian internet provider Transtelecom and the Nigerian ISP MainOne.

Both ThousandEyes and the U.S. network monitoring company BGPmon said the internet traffic detour originated with the Nigerian company. Neither was ready to more definitively pinpoint the cause. **AP**

corporate bits

GALAXY HOLDS SEMINAR ON GBA OPPORTUNITIES



Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) held a seminar titled "Construction of Greater Bay Area and Macau's Roles and Opportunities" last week at Oa-

sis at Galaxy Macau.

The seminar consisted of two sessions — the morning session conducted in English, and the afternoon session in

Mandarin.

During the seminar, Dr. Guo Wanda, executive vice president of the China Development Institute, illuminated the geographic features and the development of the Greater Bay Area, GEG said in a press release.

The speaker introduced attendees to the governmental body overseeing the project and its economic impacts.

The seminar, which gathered some 160 team members at the level of manager or above, also discussed Macau's strategic role as "One Centre, One Platform" in the Greater Bay Area and the emerging opportunities and challenges faced by the city.

LOCAL SCHOOLS WIN HONG KONG CONTEST



In addition to organizing the 6th CEM Solar & Capacitance Model Car Races with a record 600 students from 25 schools and 108 teams participating,

CEM has also sponsored the top three teams of the two races to represent Macau and compete in the 13th Hong Kong Technology & Renewa-

ble Energy Events (HK TREE 2018).

Nearly 900 students in 57 secondary school teams and 32 primary school teams participated in this year's HK TREE, the company said in a statement.

Over 30 Macau students and teachers participated in the race, winning the title of champion in all competitions entered. In the Solar Model Car Race, Yuet Wah College — Chinese Section was crowned the champion, and Yuet Wah College — English Section and Sacred Heart Canossian College won first prize in the Solar Model Car Best Design Award.

Direct air links between China and Portugal expected to resume

DIRECT flights between China and Portugal, which have been suspended since October 15 by Capital Airlines, are expected to resume in the coming months by air carrier Air China, the China-Lusophone Brief (CLBrief) reported.

According to the report, discrete negotiations are underway, which, if successful, will allow Air China to fly the direct route. Capital Airlines, part of Hainan's HNA group, announced last August that it would suspend direct flights between China and Lisbon, the capital of Portugal, between October 15, 2018 and March 2019 for "operational reasons."

The link, which had three flights a week between the city of Hangzhou on the east coast of China and Lisbon, with a stop in Beijing, began on July 26, 2017, and carried over 80,000 passengers in the first year.



The HNA group is in the throes of a complicated financial crisis, having closed 2017 with an estimated liability of 598 billion yuan (USD82.6 billion).

CLBrief also reported that if the current negotiations remain positive, it is possible that the return of direct air links between the two countries will be annou-

nced when President Xi Jinping visits Portugal in early December.

Air China's first flight to Lisbon could take place in early February 2019. Official figures indicate that Chinese tourists who visited Portugal in 2017 provided tourist revenue of 130 million euros. **MDT/Macauhub**

SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE

French-Angolan consortium plans to prospect for oil



SÃO Tomé and Príncipe's National Oil Agency has begun negotiations with a consortium to sign an oil exploration contract in Block 01 of the archipelago's Exclusive Economic Zone, the agency's chief executive said. The consortium includes Total E&P Activités Pétrolières and Angola's oil and gas company Sonangol. Orlando Pontes, who was speaking on the sidelines of a meeting with São Tomé's Prime Minister, accompanied by the director of Total E&P Activités Pétrolières, Charles Fernandes, representing the consortium, said

that the agreement should be signed "in a few weeks."

The negotiations are the result the interest shown by Total E & P Activités Pétrolières in prospecting for oil in that block following a public tender launched by the National Oil Agency last May.

In addition to the Exclusive Economic Zone, São Tomé and Príncipe has a joint venture with Nigeria, based on a treaty signed in 2001 that establishes 60 percent of revenues for the Nigerian State and the remaining 40 percent for the São Tomé archipelago. **MDT/Macauhub**



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Xi expands China's footprint in Pacific as Trump stays in U.S.

FOR Xi Jinping, diplomatic wins rarely come this easily: Just showing up at an Asia-Pacific summit this week would help to score a victory for China.

With U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian leader Vladimir Putin staying away from Papua New Guinea - an economy smaller than all 50 U.S. states - Xi is by far the most prominent among 21 leaders attending the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting that starts on Friday. And he's making the most of his time there, hosting leaders from about a dozen Pacific Island countries in a show of strength.

The South Pacific, consisting of nations scattered across thousands of miles of ocean, has increasingly become a strategic battleground between China and U.S. allies in Asia - particularly Australia. Xi has started pouring money into the cash-strapped region as part of his Belt-and-Road infrastructure initiative, leading to concerns that China will look to establish a military presence.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison has pushed back, last week announcing a AUD2 billion (USD1.46 billion) infrastructure fund and increased naval deployments to exert influence in what he called "our patch." Yet the absence of Trump, who is sending Vice President Mike Pence instead, has been seen as a missed opportunity for the U.S. to back up its ally and show the region it's committed to providing a long-term alternative to China's debt-driven economic outreach.

BLOOMBERG



"Donald Trump hasn't realized the cultural significance of attending these multilateral forums in Asia. Xi Jinping clearly has," said Rosita Dellios, an associate international relations professor at Bond University in Gold Coast, Australia.

"The narrative on Belt and Road has shifted toward talking about debt traps and China's attempts to get leverage, so Xi will try and reclaim the narrative and put it on his own terms about everyone benefiting and prospering together," she said.

China has committed to spending at least \$5.9 billion on more than 200 projects in the region since 2011, according to data collated by the Lowy Institute.

They've used concessional loans to fund billions of dollars of infrastructure projects, including a \$500 million tourism resort in Fiji, a \$320 million fish farm in French Polynesia and the newly completed conference venue in Port Moresby that will host the APEC conference.

That's led to concerns in Washington about Xi's endgame in the South Pacific. In a June report, the White House's U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission warned that China was "well ahead of the U.S. in most areas" and a Chinese military base in the region "could pose challenges to U.S. defense interests and those of Australia and New Zealand, key U.S. part-

ners in the region."

China has denied its actions in the Pacific are driven by motives beyond economic expedience and altruism.

After a meeting in Beijing last week with Australia's top diplomat, Marise Payne, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said the two nations were "not competitors, not rivals, but partners" in the region.

One of China's main goals in the region is to win friends in a competition with Taiwan, according to Yu Changsen, executive director of China's National Center for Oceania Studies at Sun Yat-sen University. Taiwan has diplomatic ties with six Pacific Island countries, while China has rela-

tions with eight. "The two have had a 'diplomatic battle' in this region for a long time," Yu said.

Australia has recently raised tensions with Beijing by pushing back against China, its largest trading partner. Lawmakers in Australia this year passed a bill cracking down on foreign interference, a move that came after revelations that Chinese agents were funding politicians to advance its interests.

The narrative on Belt and Road has shifted toward talking about debt traps and China's attempts to get leverage.

ROSITA DELLIOS

Morrison's announcement of increased engagement in the Pacific comes after he said that Australia is formally committing to a joint initiative with Papua New Guinea to develop a naval base, edging out a bid by China.

That followed a June announcement that Australia will help fund a new telecommunications cable stretching from Sydney to the Solomon Islands, squeezing out Huawei Technologies Co. - a company that in August was banned from supplying next-generation wireless equipment to Australia's telecom operators on national security grounds. **MDT/Bloomberg**

ANIMAL RIGHTS

Tiger bone, rhino horn trading postponed

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

CHINA is postponing its decision to allow trading in tiger and rhinoceros parts a bare two weeks after the easing of the ban had raised fears the country was giving legal cover to poaching and smuggling of endangered wildlife.

The official Xinhua News Agency quoted Cabinet official Ding Xuedong as saying Monday that the change had "been postponed after study."

"Relevant departments of the Chinese government will soon continue to organize special crackdown campaigns with focus on addressing the illegal trade of rhinos, tigers and their byproducts. Ille-

AP PHOTO



gal acts will be dealt with severely," Ding, an executive deputy secretary-general of the State Council was quoted as saying.

The Xinhua report said the ban on the import and export of rhino and tiger parts and their use in traditional Chinese medicine would also be maintained. Ding's comments did not address whether the postponement meant the decision would be revised.

The traditional medici-

nal uses of tiger bone and rhino horn have continued despite no proof of their effectiveness and the decreasing wild populations. China has also long tolerated the farming of tigers and the semi-legal sale of their parts.

Late last month, authorities said they would allow trading in products made from tigers and rhinos under "special circumstances," bringing condemnation from conservation groups. Far-

ming of non-native rhinos is not known in China but the changing law raised speculation it was being planned.

The World Wildlife Fund said overturning the ban would have "devastating consequences globally" by allowing poachers and smugglers to hide behind legalized trade.

China's authoritarian Communist Party-led government rarely responds to international pressure and the reversal appeared to reflect concerns over the country's reputation as a supporter of environmental preservation. China, home to the highly endangered giant panda, has frequently been named as a top market for endangered wildlife

products including ivory and skin from African elephants and meat and scales from the anteater-like pangolin, native to Africa and southern Asia.

Reacting to the latest development, the Humane Society International and the Humane Society of the United States called for China to completely ban the trade in tiger and rhino products.

"To truly protect tigers and rhinos we need an official written proclamation from the State Council that permanently reinstates a complete ban. Full stop," Iris Ho, senior specialist for Wildlife Program and Policy at Humane Society International was quoted as saying in a news release. "Species

extinction is irreversible and we cannot afford any missteps," Ho said.

Along with other animal protection organizations, the Humane Society International and the Humane Society of the United States have filed a legal appeal for a ban on U.S. imports of all wildlife and their parts from China "unless or until China formally reinstates a complete ban on domestic trade in tigers and rhinos and their parts and products," the groups said in a statement.

An estimated 3,890 tigers remain alive in the wild, according to a report presented during the Third Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation in 2016. Studies put the population of wild rhinos at less than 30,000, while poaching to cultivate their horns is reducing that number drastically each year. **AP**

Li Keqiang says reforms, not stimulus, vital for growth

CHINESE Premier Li Keqiang says the country needs reforms to support business to help drive growth as it weathers a trade war with the U.S., rather than more economic stimulus.

Li said yesterday in Singapore that China can energize its slowing economy by adjusting policies, such as streamlining bureaucratic procedures like business registrations, taxes and fees.

“Despite the downward pressure, we will not resort to massive stimulus. We will make adjustments as appropriate. We want to energize the market, in particular, market entities, and we have the conditions to do that,” Li said in a wide-ranging lecture that touched on China’s role in regional development.

In the quarter that ended in September, China’s economic growth slowed to 6.5 percent over a year earlier, down from the previous quarter’s 6.7 percent. The deceleration reflects long-term efforts to guide the economy toward a more sustainable model of growth and away from excessive reliance on cons-



Commuters with masks for protection against the pollution wait for buses yesterday at the Central Business District in Beijing

truction spending and exports. But the trade tensions with Washington are adding to the challenges for the communist leadership, with the two countries imposing tariffs on billions of dollars of each other’s goods.

While they have rebuffed U.S. demands that Beijing tone

down its technology ambitions, China’s leaders have sought to enhance their own market opening credentials by lowering tariffs and easing access for foreign companies operating in China for some industries.

Li said the government will “crack down harshly” on busi-

nesses that infringe on patents and other intellectual property rights and engage in “other cheating activities.”

China and the U.S. are locked in a trade dispute over Washington’s complaints that China uses predatory tactics to acquire technologies a drive to supplant

U.S. technological supremacy.

He stressed that the government would “crack down harshly” on businesses that infringe intellectual property rights and engage in “other cheating activities.”

“China will not stop in its opening up. The door will only open wider and China will continue to deepen reform. Reform and opening up have brought China to where it is today,” Li added.

China and the U.S. are locked in a trade dispute over Washington’s charges that China uses predatory tactics in a drive to supplant U.S. technological supremacy. The two countries have raised import duties on billions of dollars of each other’s goods, including soybeans, electric cars and whiskey.

Li expressed hopes for a compromise. U.S. President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping are set to meet at the Group of 20 summit in Argentina this month.

“The stable development and sound progress of such a pair of relationship benefits both countries and the larger world. Otherwise, it will affect the whole world,” Li said.

“We hope that negotiations will be carried out on the basis of mutual respect, balance, mutual benefit and good faith, so that a solution can be found acceptable to both sides,” he added. **AP**

Top diplomat defends crackdown in Xinjiang

CHINA’S foreign minister defended a security crackdown effecting one of the country’s largest Muslim minorities as a necessary response to terrorism, in Beijing’s highest-level response yet to reports of mass internment camps.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi told reporters yesterday that conditions in the remote western region of Xinjiang were a “domestic issue” and cautioned foreigners against believing “gossip and hearsay” about the situation. Wang was asked about the reports during a visit to Beijing by German counterpart Heiko Maas.

The remarks represent the ruling Communist Party’s latest effort to explain the mass detentions, which have become its biggest source of criticism from Western governments and human rights advocates.

Academic estimates, which have been described as credible by the United Nations officials, suggest that authorities are holding as many as many as 1 million ethnic Uighurs



In this 2014 photo, police officers stand guard near a blast scene in downtown Urumqi

and Kazakhs in “transformation through education” camps -- or roughly 10 percent of their population in the province.

Wang said China’s security efforts in Xinjiang “are in line with those by the international communities, and the focus is on prevention.” “If you do well in prevention, terrorism won’t have a chance of spreading and taking root. That’s the most effective way of fighting against terrorism,” he said.

Wang called on outsiders to view the situation “objectively.” “We hope journalist

friends and friends from other countries will pay attention to official information from China’s government,” he said.

It was the second time this year that a German visit prompted China to address human rights concerns. A reporter’s question during Chancellor Angela Merkel’s trip in May caused Chinese Premier Li Keqiang to defend his country’s record on the issue. Two months later, the country’s diplomatic push was credited with securing the release of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Liu Xiaobo’s widow **Bloomberg**

HONG KONG

World-beating IPO market starts to show cracks

AMID a banner year for Hong Kong listings, cracks are starting to show in the world’s biggest market for initial public offerings.

A parenting website part-owned by Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. yesterday delayed the launch of its Hong Kong IPO, while one of China’s top travel-booking sites started taking orders for an offering in the city that’s a fraction of its earlier fundraising target.

Backing from some of China’s biggest firms may not be enough to get investors excited in a market like this. Babytree Group, which abruptly canceled a press conference to kick off its listing, counts Alibaba and billionaire Guo Guangchang’s Fosun International Ltd. as investors. It hasn’t announced a new timetable

| Global Dominance | | |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Three out of the five largest IPOs globally this year listed in Hong Kong | | |
| Venue | Company | Size |
| Hong Kong | China Tower | \$7.49 billion |
| Hong Kong | Xiaomi | 5.43 |
| Xetra | Siemens Healthineers | 4.98 |
| Shanghai | Foxconn Industrial Internet | 4.31 |
| Hong Kong | Meituan Dianping | 4.22 |

Source: Bloomberg

for the deal.

Meanwhile, travel website Tongcheng-Elong Holdings Ltd. started a roadshow yesterday for an IPO of as much as USD232 million. The company was earlier considering a fundraising target of \$800 million to \$1 billion, according to people with knowledge of the matter. Unlike most listings in Hong Kong, the deal launched without any cornerstone investors.

Such investors typically commit to hold their stock for six months. That’s become a risky proposition in

Hong Kong, where the benchmark index has fallen 23 percent from its January high. It doesn’t help that roughly three-quarters of Hong Kong IPOs this year are trading below their offer prices. A representative for Tongcheng-Elong declined to comment.

This all adds up to bad news for a market that has hosted three of the world’s five biggest IPOs in 2018. Hong Kong first-time share sales have raised \$37.2 billion this year, more than double the same period last year. **Bloomberg**

PAKISTAN

Group says millions of girls deprived of education

MILLIONS of girls in Pakistan are still out of school, mostly because the government spends less money on education, a leading international rights group said yesterday — a dire warning that follows Prime Minister Imran Khan's promises to offer education to all children.

With a population of about 207 million, including an estimated 80 million school-age children, Pakistan has nearly 22.5 million children out of school, the majority of them girls, according to a new report released by Human Rights Watch.

Pakistani girls are deprived of education for multiple reasons, including a shortage of government schools, the New York-based watchdog said in the 111-page report, entitled "Shall I Feed My Daughter, or Educate Her?: Barriers to Girls' Education in Pakistan."

The Pakistani government's "failure to educate children is having a devastating impact



on millions of girls," said Liesl Gertholtz, women's rights director at HRW.

For the report, HRW said it interviewed 209 people — including many girls who never attended school or were unable to complete their education and their families — in all four provinces in the country.

Human Rights Watch said that along with the government's under-investment in schools, overall lack of schools and prohibitive school fees and related costs, issues such as corporal punishment and a failure to enforce compulsory education are also contributing factors.

Pakistan spent less than 2.8

percent of its GDP on education — far below recommended standards of 4 to 6 percent — in 2017, the rights group said.

New Prime Minister Khan, who has pledged that no child will remain out of school, has assigned Education Minister Shafqat Mahmood to reform the education system.

"Our main focus will be to bring the 25 million out-of-school children back to schools," Mahmood said, adding that the government would soon announce a new education policy.

HRW's report made no mention of security concerns, and though it is generally safe for girls to go to schools these days in Pakistan, dozens of schools for girls have come under attacks by militants in recent years.

In April, 11 girls' schools were torched in northern Pakistan. The attack angered Pakistan's Malala Yousafzai, the young Nobel laureate and champion of girls' education worldwide, who demanded the schools be promptly rebuilt.

Yousafzai, 21, had also campaigned to promote education for women in the northwestern Swat Valley where she was shot and wounded by the Pakistani Taliban in 2012. She survived the horrific attack became the youngest person to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014.

Yousafzai, who has been living in Britain since her attack, visited her hometown in March 2017. Her Malala Fund has invested, she said at the time, a total of \$6 million for schools and to provide books and uniforms for schoolchildren in Pakistan. **AP**

JAPAN

Debt market's secret probed as more bonds go unsold

JAPANESE regulators are starting to look into underwriting practices in the nation's corporate bond market, where banks routinely say deals are successful even in cases when they are under-subscribed.

The move suggests that the potential damage to some investors in Japan's 76 trillion yen (USD669 billion) company note market is getting too big for the government to ignore. Bloomberg reported last month that underwriters in Japan failed to fully sell at least 29 percent of corporate debt offerings in September, twice the average over six months, based on interviews with investors, underwriters and issuers.

As part of its regular discussions with market participants, the Financial Services Agency plans to ask whether domestic brokerages often get stuck holding onto company notes they couldn't sell as a result of mispricing, according to Hidenori Mitsui, director-general of the policy and markets bureau.



Officials may "encourage" relevant players to improve their practices if they find that underwriters are indeed often failing to sell all of the debt, he said in an interview. The FSA will likely do so if officials find structural defects in the market that could hold back growth, according to Mitsui.

"I don't mean to say a lot about individual deals that went unsold, but I am very interested in the phenomenon from the perspective of how we can make a better market," Mitsui said.

In all the cases that Bloomberg has reported

on, underwriters said the deals were sold out, in claims that people familiar with the matter said may be intended to hide a lack of demand and ensure good relationships with bond issuers. The brokerages often sell the leftover securities to favored clients later at a discount, hurting investors who paid more for the bond at the initial offering, the people say.

Still, the agency has no intention to try to forcefully correct market practices that generate unsold bonds, and those practices aren't against the law, he said. The questions are

part of the FSA's efforts to improve the functioning of Japan's corporate debt market, Mitsui said.

Bond deals by some of the nation's biggest companies have failed to sell out recently, including those from Japan Airlines Co., Japan Tobacco Inc., Honda Finance Co. and Idemitsu Kosan Co., according to information obtained by Bloomberg. Spokespeople for those four companies said their banks told them that all of the debt sold.

The percentage of deals with unsold bonds rose further last month, to at least 31 percent, according to Bloomberg interviews with market participants.

Japanese regulators' deeper interest in corporate bond offerings comes as the FSA pledges to study ways to help the nation's credit market gain more depth, according to annual policy guidelines released in September. Those are in line with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's broader goal of making Japan an international financial center. **Bloomberg**

SINGAPORE

Facebook stands ground after criticism over 1MDB post

FACEBOOK Inc. stood its ground after Singapore called the social media giant unreliable for declining a request to remove a post, which the government had said was false and defamatory.

"We have a responsibility to handle any government request to restrict alleged misinformation carefully and thoughtfully, consistent with our approach to government requests around the world," Facebook said in an e-mailed statement. "We do not have a policy that prohibits alleged falsehoods, apart from in situations where this content has the potential to contribute to imminent violence or physical harm."

The post in question - by alternative news website States Times Review - had connected Singapore and its Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong to probes on the embattled Malaysian state fund 1MDB. Facebook's decision to not remove malicious information on Singapore shows the need for legislation,

the Ministry of Law said in a Nov. 9 statement.

"Facebook has declined to take down a post that is clearly false, defamatory and attacks Singapore, using falsehoods," the Ministry of Law said. Facebook "cannot be relied upon to filter falsehoods or protect Singapore from a false information campaign."

Singapore is among a growing number of countries looking at laws regulating "fake news" and the social media. A parliamentary-select committee's report laid out 22 recommendations that included a call for legislation to halt the viral spread of fake news "in a matter of hours."

The measures sparked concerns among some big technology companies with the Asia Internet Coalition - a group representing companies such as Apple Inc., Facebook and Google - urging Singapore to consider industry self-regulation and coordination with local authorities. **Bloomberg**

North Korea missile bases outed in report that undermines Trump

Benjamin Din

THIRTEEN undeclared North Korean missile operating bases were identified in a new report, undermining the Trump administration's claims that its outreach to Pyongyang is making progress in getting Kim Jong Un's regime to give up its nuclear weapons program.

The 13 sites are among an estimated 20 bases, small and dispersed across the country, that are believed to have underground facilities containing mobile launchers that can be quickly dispersed to other locations, according to the report from Beyond Parallel, a group at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. Although not designed as launch sites, the bases could be used to launch short-range as well as intercontinental ballistic missiles.

"The dispersed nature, small size of operating bases, and tactics and doctrine employed by ballistic missile units provide the best chances for their survival given the KPA's technology and capabilities," according to the report, using an acronym for the Korean People's Army.

The existence of the bases - which presumably would have



US Senator Ed Markey

to be declared and then dismantled under the U.S. goal of North Korean "denuclearization" - suggests that Pyongyang's previous efforts to dismantle known missile launch sites or nuclear facilities had little impact on its nuclear program.

The report comes as talks between the U.S. and North Korea hit another snag last week, with a New York meeting between Secretary of State Michael Pompeo and the top negotiator from Pyongyang canceled at the last minute. President Donald Trump - who's cited North Korea's yearlong freeze on nuclear weapons tests and ballistic mis-

sile launches as signs of progress - chalked up the change to a scheduling conflict, adding, "We think it's going fine, we're in no rush."

Senator Edward Markey, a Massachusetts Democrat who sits on the Foreign Relations Committee, said in a statement that Trump was "getting played by Kim Jong Un." "We cannot have another summit with North Korea - not with President Trump, not with the secretary of state - unless and until the Kim regime takes concrete, tangible actions to halt and roll back its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs," Markey said

in a statement Monday.

U.S. and South Korea officials played down the report's findings, suggesting intelligence agencies were aware of the facilities.

"I don't comment on matters that may or not pertain to intelligence," U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton told reporters Tuesday on the sidelines of regional summits in Singapore. "Obviously, we're very well aware of what's going on in North Korea."

A spokesman for South Korean President Moon Jae-in told reporters described the CSIS report as "nothing new," adding that describing North Korea's missile activities as deceptive risked hindering diplomacy. The spokesman, Kim Eui-keum, said that Pyongyang had never agreed to shut down its short-range missile bases.

While the administration seeks to continue its "maximum pressure" campaign against Kim's regime, momentum is building to ease international sanctions put in place last year, a move the U.S. is struggling to resist. On Thursday, Russia called a meeting of the United Nations Security Council to take up its request for humanitarian exemptions to international sanctions on Pyongyang. The U.S. said it would vet Russia's list, but ad-

ministration officials have previously said Moscow is already violating the restrictions.

The facilities identified in the new report are located in strategic locations that would put missiles in range of South Korea and Japan, according to the report. Some are likely to house missiles that could reach the continental U.S. when they become deployed. For decades, the bases have been camouflaged to prevent destruction from preemptive strikes and during military operations.

The report singled out a base known as Sakkanmol, about 80 kilometers north of the demilitarized zone and one of the closest to South Korea. The base, located in mountainous terrain, contains a unit equipped with short-range ballistic missiles, the report said, and could house medium-range ones. As of this month, "the base is active and being reasonably well-maintained by North Korean standards" with minor infrastructure changes.

Meanwhile, Bolton said Trump was still interested in meeting Kim again. "We have indicated to the North Koreans that the president is prepared to have a second summit with Kim Jong Un after the first year," Bolton said. **Bloomberg**

Southeast Asian summit puts focus on trade tensions, trends

THE potential damage to global trade brought on by President Donald Trump's tariffs battle with Beijing is looming as leaders of Southeast Asian nations, China, the U.S. and other regional economies meet in Singapore this week.

Countries across the region, many of which have relied heavily on trade to grow their economies, are responding with strong talk about free trade. "All countries are linked in the same industrial chain in the world today and China and the U.S. are an important part of it. No one wants or expects to see an interruption of it," Premier Li Keqiang said yesterday in a lecture on the sidelines of the summit.

It's unclear if this week's summit meetings of the 10-nation Association of Southeast Asian Na-

tions will yield progress on a new trade pact that would commit member countries and others in the Asian-Pacific region to opening markets further.

Participants say India, for one, is balking at opening its markets wider to imports from China under the accord, dubbed the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, or RCEP.

Expectations are modest. Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said yesterday in a statement that he would be joining leaders in Singapore to just "review progress" toward an agreement.

But the momentum must be in the direction of more, not less, open trade, said Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Muham-

mad. Otherwise, he warned, there could be a "domi-

no effect" where countries engage in increasingly protective measures against their rivals.

Inward-looking, protectionist policies have gained ground in ASEAN as elsewhere, he said.

"This is not the time to close our doors by invoking trade protectionism measures but instead we should be actively engaged in finding amicable solutions," Mahathir said. "It is now that we must continue to expand our intra-regional trade and deepen the economic integration within ASEAN."

ASEAN economic ministers on Monday approved statements on facilitating more open trade, cooperation on developing renewable energy, and e-commerce.

A fast-urbanizing and aging region of 630

million people, ASEAN is destined to become the world's fourth biggest economy by 2030, after the U.S., China and the European Union.

The globalization of manufacturing has been a key factor driving dynamic growth in the regional economy, which has more than doubled in size to USD2.8 trillion as of 2017.

Speaking at a business conference on the sidelines of the ASEAN summit, Li, the Chinese premier, compared "rising unilateralism and protectionism," uncertainties and other destabilizing factors to harmful contaminants in an ocean.

"No country can effectively deal with these challenges on its own," he said.

During Li's visit, Singapore and China signed an upgraded free trade



agreement that gives each better access to markets in services industries.

As discussions over the RCEP trade pact drag on, another, rival accord, the dozen-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership, has been making headway despite Trump withdrawing the U.S. from the Pacific Rim free trade initiative three days after he took office.

The remaining 11 countries are preparing to inaugurate the revised trade deal, the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership, following Australia's ratification earlier this mon-

th. The deal is due to take effect on Dec. 30.

Several other economies are preparing to try to join the pan-Pacific accord, including the Philippines and South Korea.

Japanese media reported that Taiwan's representative to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, former chairman of Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. Morris Chang, plans to ask Japan to back the island's request to also become a member during a meeting at the grouping's annual summit in Papua New Guinea. **AP**



OBITUARY

A universe of flawed heroes: Stan Lee was ahead of his time

Ted Anthony

It became easy, in recent years, to dismiss him as the wisecracking grandpa of the American comic book, a past-his-prime gimmick who cameoed alongside Earth's angriest superheroes in the high-grossing Marvel blockbusters of the past decade.

But Stan Lee, who died Monday, was far more than that. It's no stretch to say that he helped redraw the world of American fiction. And he certainly made sure everyone knew it.

From the ashes of pulp magazines and the radioactive raw material of postwar uncertainty about science and power, he summoned — not singlehandedly, but certainly without parallel or peer — a textured, self-sustaining universe of imperfect heroes.

While Updike and Cheever were doing it in literature, while Kubrick and Lumet and Penn were doing it at the movies, the father of Marvel presented comic-book America — which meant, at the time, mostly adolescent boys — with a pantheon of deeply flawed protagonists who, despite their presence in so many tales to astonish, were in many ways just like you and me.

These outcasts and misfits rose to the alarm clock's buzzing and slogged to work each morning to get the job done, not in a fanciful Metropolis or Gotham but on the actual streets of New York

City and in the imperfect America beyond it. For them, the struggle was the thing — no matter whether the task was saving the world, paying the rent or trying to make ends meet as a freelance photographer or a blind lawyer or an itinerant stunt motorcyclist.

Unlike DC Comics' iconic heroes, many of whom had been destined for greatness as the last sons of doomed planets, Amazon royalty or rightful kings of the sea, the likes of Spider-Man, the Fantastic Four, Iron Man, the Ghost Rider and the Incredible Hulk composed a catalog of human frailties — schmoes who inadvertently, or negligently, wandered into the traffic of destiny.

Some moneyed, some working-class, all neurotic, they had powers thrust upon them by misfortune or questionable choices. Their abilities were just as often bane as boon. And sometimes it was hard to tell the heroes and the villains apart. Sort of like real life.

This was in no small measure due to Lee, who as Marvel's editor-in-chief wrote many of the books himself during comics' "Silver Age" years of the early 1960s. With seemingly boundless energy and a staggering variety of voices, he breathed personality, ambiguity and a common narrative into soon-to-be-beloved characters.

"One of the things we try to demonstrate in our yarns is that nobody is all good, or all bad," Lee wrote in a column for Marvel's

March 1969 issues. "Even a shoddy super-villain can have a redeeming trait, just as any howlin' hero might have his nutty hang-ups."

■ ■
One of the things we try to demonstrate in our yarns is that nobody is all good, or all bad.

STAN LEE

It's hard to overestimate how groundbreaking this philosophy was in a nation that, with a tone set by production-code Hollywood since the early 1930s, had spent three decades positioning largely unambiguous heroes at the center of its rising mass culture. Add government efforts in the 1950s to demonize comics as the mind-decayers of America's youth, and to push publishers back toward pabulum, and you'll have some idea what Lee accomplished at the beginning of the 1960s.

Suddenly here was Tony Stark, a genius inventor with daddy issues (and, we would eventually learn, an alcoholic narcissist) who fixed his literally broken heart by

turning himself into Iron Man. Here was Peter Parker, a meek high-school nerd who had no clue how to handle the creepy abilities and hormonal changes bestowed upon him by the bite of a radioactive spider on a class field trip. Talk about playing to your target audience.

Here was Bruce Banner, a military scientist who tried to save someone from one of his test blasts and ended up locked in a battle with his own angry, destructive id — hardly an incidental narrative in an era when psychotherapy and self-help were sharply on the rise. And here was Matt Murdock, blinded in a horrible accident by irradiated waste, proving every night with precision radar powers, as Daredevil, that disability isn't necessarily destiny. And here were the X-Men, mutants and perpetual outsiders whose struggle to find a place in the mainstream on Earth has been variously framed as a parable for race relations, anti-Semitism and the Red Scare.

Even Steve Rogers, whose Captain America was the most Superman-like of the bunch, had demons. He was the skinny kid rejected by his World War II draft board who wanted so badly to fight that he volunteered to be a guinea pig for a "supersoldier serum" that would turn him into the ultimate fighting machine.

Captain America debuted during the war years when Marvel was still called Timely Comics, but Lee

and his team updated the story for the 1960s by giving Rogers even more ghosts: He lay frozen in ice for nearly two decades after falling into the sea, and awakened out of time in a fast-changing, morally murky world he barely recognized or could navigate.

There was another, less-noticed corner where Lee was equally groundbreaking. As Marvel's editor, in an age before computers were in every pocket, he worked tirelessly to develop a relationship with his audience.

He talked about stuff behind the scenes and curated a tallish tale of a wacky, collegial studio of writers and artists who might do just about anything in their pursuit of good stories. His regular column, "Stan's Soapbox," talked directly to readers in a way that presaged the kind of access to celebrities that Twitter, Facebook and Instagram afford today.

Many felt Lee didn't share enough credit with such comics pioneers as Jack Kirby and Steve Ditko, who worked alongside him in those early years as he developed the "Marvel Method" of story development. Fair enough. But part of Lee's genius was his ability to be a master of collage.

Like a Bob Dylan or a Gene Roddenberry, Lee took cultural threads — elements already afoot in society — and constructed his own quilt. While his source material was sometimes derivative, what he stitched was something new under the sun.

And within his emerging pantheon of white male angst, Lee was often an enthusiastic champion of progressive views about race, if not always gender. The now-fabled Black Panther first appeared in a Marvel comic book in 1966, becoming one of the earliest mainstream superheroes of African descent, though it took until 1973 for him to snag a marquee spot in a comic entitled "Jungle Action."

"None of us is all that different from each other. We all want essentially the same things outta life," Lee wrote in the pages of Marvel Comics in February 1980. "So why don't we all stop wasting time hating the 'other' guys. Just look in the mirror, mister — that other guy is you."

Marvel is a calibrated commercial juggernaut now, its stories drowning in the merchandise that amplifies them. It has been dismissed as mass-produced storytelling for a mass-produced age. Yet somehow, among the things Lee manages to leave behind is a lingering sense — snake oil, maybe, but potent nonetheless — that with Marvel's tales, still, anything might happen.

Because, as Stan Lee knew well before America did, we still want our fantastic, unlikely superheroes to be just like us. Or, more saliently, we want to believe that we can be just like them. And who knows what they might do to prevail because, after all, who really knows what we might do? Maybe we can be heroes, sure, but the rent's still due on the 15th. **AP**

After 17 years, many Afghans blame US for unending war



In this 2013 photo, a U.S. soldier investigates the scene after two suicide attacks in Kandahar province

Kathy Gannon, Kabul

WHEN U.S. forces and their Afghan allies rode into Kabul in November 2001 they were greeted as liberators. But after 17 years of war, the Taliban have retaken half the country, security is worse than it's ever been, and many Afghans place the blame squarely on the Americans.

The United States has lost more than 2,400 soldiers in its longest war, and has spent more than USD900 billion on everything from military operations to the construction of roads, bridges and power plants. Three U.S. presidents have pledged to bring peace to Afghanistan, either by adding or withdrawing troops, by engaging the Taliban or shunning them. Last year, the U.S. dropped the "mother of all bombs" on a cave complex.

None of it has worked. After years of frustration, Afghanistan is rife with conspiracy theories, including the idea that Americans didn't stumble into a fo-rever war, but planned one all along.

Mohammed Ismail Qasimyar, a member of Afghanistan's High Peace Council, wonders how U.S. and NATO forces — which at their peak numbered 150,000 and fought alongside hundreds of thousands of Afghan troops, were unable to vanquish tens of thousands of Taliban.

"Either they did not want to or they could not do it," he said. He now suspects the U.S. and its

ally Pakistan deliberately sowed chaos in Afghanistan to justify the lingering presence of foreign forces — now numbering around 15,000 — in order to use the country as a listening post to monitor Iran, Russia and China. "They have made a hell, not a paradise for us," he said.

Afghanistan is rife with such conspiracy theories. After last month's assassination of Kandahar's powerful police chief, Gen. Abdul Raziq, social media exploded with pictures and posts suggesting he was the victim of a U.S. conspiracy. Recent insider attacks, in which Afghan forces have killed their erstwhile U.S. and NATO allies, have attracted online praise.

"In 2001 the Afghan people supported the arrival of the United States and the international community wholeheartedly," said Hamid Karzai, who was installed as Afghanistan's first president and twice won re-election, serving until 2014.

"For a number of years things worked perfectly well," he said in a recent interview. "Then we saw the United States either changed course or simply neglected the views of the Afghan people and the conditions of the Afghans."

He blames the lingering war on the U.S. failure to eliminate militant sanctuaries in neighboring Pakistan, the bombing of Afghan villages and homes, and the detention of Afghans in raids.

Others blame the notoriously corrupt government, which Kar-

zai headed for more than a decade, and which is widely seen as yet another bitter fruit of the American invasion.

"All the money that has come to this country has gone to the people in power. The poor people didn't get anything," said Hajji Akram, a day laborer in Kabul's Old City who struggles to feed his family on around \$4 a day. "The foreigners are not making things better. They should go."

It's not just Afghans. The United States' own inspector general for Afghanistan's reconstruction offered a blistering critique in a speech in Ohio earlier this month.

John Sopko pointed out that the U.S. has spent \$132 billion on Afghanistan's reconstruction — more than was spent on Western Europe after World War II. Another \$750 billion has been spent on U.S. military operations, and Washington has pledged \$4 billion a year for Afghanistan's security forces.

The result?

"Even after 17 years of U.S. and coalition effort and financial largesse, Afghanistan remains one of the poorest, least educated, and most corrupt countries in the world," Sopko said. "It is also one of the most violent."

Hamidullah Nasrat sells imported fabrics in the capital's main bazaar on the banks of the Kabul River, a fetid trickle running through a garbage-filled trench. He remembers welcoming the overthrow of the Taliban, who had shut down his photography studio because it was deemed un-Islamic.

"After the Taliban we were expecting something good, but instead, day by day, it is getting worse," he said. "How is it that a superpower like the United States cannot stop the Taliban? It is a question every Afghan is asking."

The U.S. and NATO formally concluded their combat mission in 2014. Since then, the Taliban have carried out near-daily attacks on rural checkpoints

and staged coordinated assaults on major cities. Authorities stopped publishing casualty figures earlier this year, deeming them classified. An Islamic State affiliate has meanwhile carried out massive bombings against the country's Shiite minority.

Afghans who have recently served on the front lines complain of faulty equipment, inadequate supplies and reinforcements that show up late and ill-equipped, if at all.

All the money that has come to this country has gone to the people in power. The poor people didn't get anything.

HAJJI AKRAM
DAY LABORER

Tameem Darvesh served in the Afghan army for nearly five years in the southern Helmand province. This year he went on holiday and never returned, trading his \$180 monthly salary for work as a day laborer making much less. He said morale is at an all-time low, with many soldiers expressing sympathy for the Taliban.

Jawad Mohammadi served for more than seven years in the security forces until 2015, when he stepped on a land-mine he was tasked to clear and lost both his legs. He was just 25 years old.

He recalls how the foreign instructors told him to always check his mine detector by waving it over a piece of metal before heading out into the field. But whenever a device failed to respond, his Afghan commander would tell him to use it anyway.

"I was told that's all we have. That's what we were given, you just have to use it," he said.

The next time he went out with a faulty device, his foot found a bomb the detector had missed.

"I felt myself being thrown through the air. I looked and I saw my legs were near me and there was so much blood. I yelled: 'Please help me.'" AP

SUICIDE BOMBER TARGETS ANTI-TALIBAN RALLY, KILLS 4

A SUICIDE bomber struck near an anti-Taliban rally in Kabul on Monday, killing at least four people, officials said, as a lawmaker reported that insurgents killed at least 20 Afghan policemen over the past 24 hours in eastern Ghazni province. According to Basir Mujahid, spokesman for the Kabul police chief, the bomber was on foot and detonated his vest full of explosive after he was spotted by police. Hours later, the Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack, which took place about 500 meters from where hundreds of minority Shiites had gathered to denounce the latest Taliban attacks in Ghazni districts of Jaghuri and Malistan.



what's ON



18TH MACAU FOOD FESTIVAL
TIME: 5pm-11pm (Monday to Thursday)
 3pm-12am (Friday to Sunday)
UNTIL: November 25, 2018
VENUE: Sai Van Lake Square
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2857 5765

CHINESE CALLIGRAPHY EXHIBITION BY AO IO NAM
TIME: 10am-7pm
UNTIL: November 19, 2018
VENUE: UNESCO Centre of Macau
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2872 7066 (Exhibition);

Offbeat

THIS IS HEAVY: THE KILOGRAM IS GETTING AN UPDATE

The kilogram is getting an update.

No, your bathroom scales won't suddenly become kinder and a kilo of fruit will still weigh a kilo. But the way scientists define the exact mass of a kilogram is about to change.

Until now, its mass has been defined by the granddaddy of all kilos: a golf ball-sized metal cylinder locked in a vault in France. For more than a century, it has been the one true kilogram upon which all others were based.

No longer.

Gathering in Versailles, west of Paris, governments are expected on Friday to approve plans to instead use a scientific formulation to define the exact mass of a kilo. The change is expected to have practical applications in industries and sciences that require ultra-precise measurements of mass.

And it will mean redundancy for the so-called Grand K, the kilo that has towered above them all since 1889.

Made of a corrosion-resistant alloy of 90 percent platinum and 10 percent iridium, the international prototype kilo has rarely seen the light of day. Yet its role has been crucial, as the foundation for the globally accepted system for measuring mass upon which things like international trade depend.

Three different keys, kept in separate locations, are required to unlock the vault where the Grand K and six official copies — collectively known as “the heir and the spares” — are entombed together under glass bell-jars at the International Bureau of Weights and Measures, in Sevres on the western outskirts of Paris.

Founded by 17 nations in 1875 and known by its French initials, the BIPM is the guardian of the seven main units humanity uses to measure its world: the meter for length, the kilogram for mass, the second for time, the ampere for electric current, the kelvin for temperature, the mole for the amount of a substance and the candela for luminous intensity.

Of the seven, the kilo is the last still based on a physical artefact, the Grand K. The meter, for example, used to be a meter-long metal bar but is now defined as the length that light travels in a vacuum in 1/299,792,458th of a second.

“This, if you like, is a moment of celebration because it's like the last standard remaining from 1875 that will finally be replaced by new innovation,” Martin Milton, the BIPM director, said in an Associated Press interview. “Everything else has been recycled and replaced and improved. This is the last improvement that dates back to the original conception in 1875. So that's a tribute to what was done in 1875, that it's lasted this long.”

Only exceedingly rarely, and exceedingly carefully, have the BIPM's master kilos been gingerly taken out so that other kilos sent back to Sevres from around the world could be compared against them, to be sure they were still properly calibrated, give or take the mass of a dust particle or two.

Even as humans argued, fought and slaughtered each other by the tens of millions in the 20th century, they shared the kilo. The kilo allocated to China in 1983, as it started to embrace market reforms that subsequently turned it into an economic behemoth, was the first manufactured with ultra-high precision diamond machining. Allocated to Japan in 1894, K39 was later ceded to South Korea in 1958.

The kilo is “a tribute to man's ability to collaborate,” Milton says. “It's been called a great work of peace, actually, because it's one of the areas where all of the states of the world come together with absolutely the same objective.”

The metal kilo is being replaced by a definition based on Planck's constant, which is part of one of the most celebrated equations in physics but also devilishly difficult to explain. Suffice to say that the update should, in time, spare nations the need to occasionally send their kilos back to Sevres for calibration against the Grand K. Scientists instead should be able to accurately calculate an exact kilo, without having to measure one precious lump of metal against another.

TV canal macau



| | |
|-------|--|
| 13:00 | TDM News (Repeated) |
| 13:30 | News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast |
| 15:00 | Portuguese Soap Opera |
| 15:50 | Cartoons |
| 16:15 | Portuguese Comedy |
| 19:00 | Portugal Fashion |
| 19:35 | Portuguese Serie |
| 20:30 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report |
| 21:15 | You, Me & Apocalypse |
| 22:00 | Funny Things To Know |
| 22:25 | Portuguese Serie - Liberty 21 |
| 23:15 | TDM News |
| 23:50 | Documentary |
| 00:15 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated) |
| 01:30 | RTPi Live |

cinema



CINETEATRO

08 - 14 Nov



CODE BLUE

ROOM 1

2:30, 7:15 9:30pm

Director: Masaki Nishiura

Starring: Yamashita Tomohisa, Aragaki Yui, Toda Erika

Language: Japanese (Chinese, English)

Duration: 112min

MY HERO ACADEMIA

ROOM 1 (4:45 P.M.)

ROOM 3 (9:30 P.M.)

Director: Kenji Nagasaki

Language: Japanese (Chinese, English)

Duration: 112min

PATRICK

ROOM 2

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

Director: Mandie Fletcher

Starring: Beattie Edmondson, Ed Skrein, Tom Bennett

Language: English

Duration: 130min



HALLOWEEN

ROOM 2

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

Director: David Gordon Green

Starring: Jamie Lee Curtis, Judy Greer, Will Patton

Language: English

Duration: 130min

HICHKI

ROOM 3

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

Director: Siddharth P Malhotratiqua

Starring: Rani Mukerji

Language: Hindi (Chinese/ English)

Duration: 112min

this day in history



1991 US ACCUSES LIBYANS OF LOCKERBIE BOMBING

Two Libyan intelligence officers have been accused of masterminding the Lockerbie bombing.

The United States has called on Libyan leader Colonel Gaddafi to hand over the two men, Abdel Basset Ali Al-Megrahi and Al Amin Khalifa Fhimah.

The men have been indicted in the US on 193 charges, including three which carry the death penalty.

Arrest warrants have also been issued for the two Libyans in Scotland on charges of murder and conspiracy in relation to bombing of Pan Am flight 103 in December 1988.

The plane was en route from London to New York when it exploded over Lockerbie in Scotland, killing all 259 people on board and 11 people on the ground.

President George Bush is to consult British Prime Minister John Major and other world leaders over the next few days to decide the international response.

Both President Bush and Mr Major have refused to rule out military action if Libya fails to hand over the suspects for trial.

However, Libya's ambassador to France, Saeb Mujber, has said his country would not comply with the indictments.

Mr Mujber told the BBC that surrendering the two men would be to surrender Libya's sovereignty.

Libya had been implicated as an excuse for a military assault, he added.

“This is a political thing. This is a lynching to bring Libya to its knees,” Mr Mujber said.

But the US acting Attorney General, William Barr, said a fragment from the Toshiba radio-cassette recorder which contained the bomb linked the accused to the crime.

“Scientists determined that it was part of the bomb's timing device and traced it to its manufacturer - a Swiss company that had sold it to a high-level Libyan intelligence official,” Mr Barr said.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Abdelbaset ali Mohamed al-Megrahi and Al Amin Khalifa Fhimah were not brought to trial for another decade.

After years of wrangling, Colonel Gaddafi finally allowed them to be tried in a neutral country under Scottish law.

In January 2001 Abdelbaset ali Mohamed al-Megrahi was jailed for life following an 84-day trial at Camp Zeist in the Netherlands.

His alleged accomplice, Al Amin Khalifa Fhimah, was found not guilty. Al-Megrahi is serving his sentence at Barlinnie Prison in Glasgow, Scotland in a specially-built isolation unit, dubbed “Gaddafi's Café”.

In 2002 his appeal against conviction was rejected.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 The year shouldn't be the only thing that's new. You'll be back at the regular grind in a mere 24 hours. In the mean time, go out and do some exploring.

Taurus April 20-May 20 True to your nature, you're venturing slowly into the New Year. Putting your pinky toe in is perfectly legitimate, as least for today. Tomorrow will be another story.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 It's time to widen your circle of acquaintances, if not friends. This could include coworkers, even the ones you never imagined socializing with outside of work. Keep an open mind.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Put aside all thoughts of friction with your boss. If you've had a long break, don't ruin it by worrying about tomorrow. You may surprise yourself with a fresh attitude come 9am.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You'll learn something new about yourself. Specifically, you can't wait to get back to the office. Take this piece of information to file it in your 'Who'd Have Think It' file.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Coworkers have been out of sight, and out of mind. Don't let yourself lose sleep over old problems. The New Year means you all get to start fresh. That thought alone should help you wake up refreshed.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 No matter how much you love your job, it's about business, not romance. Spend some time brushing up. You'll want to go back to work prepared to wrestle with the issues left over from last year.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You've put off starting the year long enough. It's time to get your resolutions rolling. If that means going to work prepared each and every day, then you know how to spend your evening.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You have a lot to do to prepare for tomorrow, and you might as well have fun doing it. Let the pleasure of the last few weeks stay around you like a cloud of fairy dust, trailing you into the office.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 A day of rest it is not. Rearrange your plans to postpone whatever is not absolutely necessary. You have plenty of personal things to attend to before you get back to a regular work schedule.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 The freedom of the last couple of weeks has been heavenly. You could get used to it. In fact, you have. Enjoy the informality for one more day, then be prepared to buckle down and button up.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You're entering a brand new maze, and it's called the New Year. The twists and turns will be bewildering at times, but for now, enjoy dreaming of its hidden paths.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

Table listing weather conditions for various Chinese cities like Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

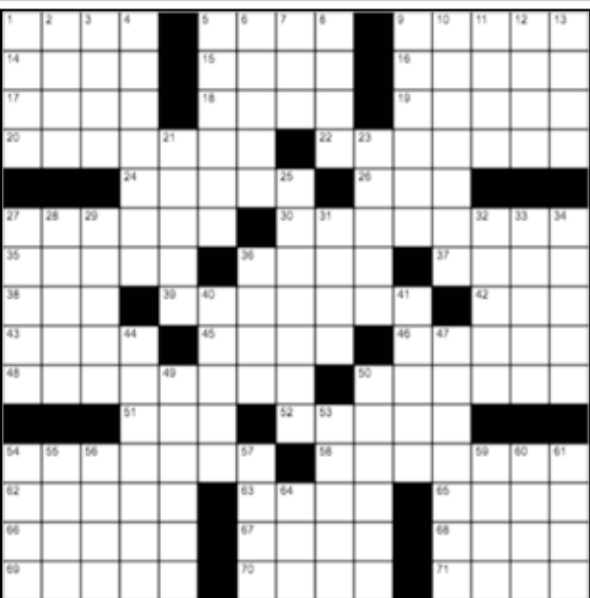
WORLD

Table listing weather conditions for various world cities like Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, etc.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Author Harte; 5- Emulates Eminem; 9- Commoners; 14- Country singer McEntire; 15- Beige cousin; 16- Eagle's nest: var.; 17- Strong as ___; 18- Moderately cold; 19- Nabisco's ___ Wafers; 20- Scarlet bird; 22- Dog-houses; 24- Young rabbit; 26- Eggy drink; 27- Lucky charm; 30- Toothless; 35- Palm fruits; 36- Carson's predecessor; 37- Pearl Buck heroine; 38- Burma's first prime minister; 39- Songbird; 42- Approved; 43- Currency of Turkey, and formerly of Italy; 45- ___ Misbehavin'; 46- Sleep issue; 48- Substantial; 50- Soundless; 51- Night school subj.; 52- Research deeply; 54- Window over a door; 58- Teased; 62- Veda devotee; 63- Cornerstone abbr.; 65- Bestow; 66- Radii neighbors; 67- Puppeteer Tony; 68- ___ go braghl; 69- Glaze; 70- ___ sow, so shall...; 71- Snakelike fishes;

DOWN: 1- German sausage; 2- Actress Sofer; 3- Black, to Blake; 4- Subject to tax; 5- Of late occurrence; 6- Squirrel's prize; 7- Major-leaguer; 8- Remain sullen; 9- Tapered flag; 10- Deceiving; 11- Author ___ Stanley Gardner; 12- Beak; 13- Oceans; 21- Surmise; 23- January, in Juárez; 25- Longed for; 27- Not for kids; 28- Craze; 29- One-eighty; 31- Slender missile; 32- Unaccompanied; 33- Captivated (by); 34- Conclude by; 36- Bucket; 40- Picasso or Casals; 41- Forgo; 44- To-do lists; 47- Promise recipient; 49- Flows out; 50- Heavy hammer; 53- Diary bit; 54- Ruffian; 55- Small brook; 56- Part of A.D.; 57- Small plateau; 59- Italian bread?; 60- Heinous; 61- Reading rooms; 64- Airline to Oslo;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



AD

Real estate advertisement for JML Property, featuring 'FOR SALE' and 'FOR RENT' sections with property details and the JML logo.

FOOTBALL

UEFA warns clubs over financial abuses after Man City leaks

Rob Harris, Manchester

PREVIOUSLY concluded Financial Fair Play cases could be reopened, UEFA warned on Monday as evidence grows of Manchester City's attempts to disguise its source of income and spending.

The UEFA statement on the prospect of the financial compliance system being "abused" by teams comes after internal correspondence exposing City's alleged deception was published by European media outlets.

The reigning English Premier League champion and current leader has not provided a defense or disputed the authenticity of the information from leaked emails which reveal elaborate attempts over several years to try to avoid breaching the rules designed to curb overspending on player costs.

City, which has been owned by Abu Dhabi's Sheikh Mansour for a decade, has already been punished for violating FFP after reaching a settlement agreement with UEFA in 2014 that saw it fined rather than banned from the Champions League.

Having spent more than a week declining to comment on the information in the "Football Leaks" documents, UEFA has issued a response to questions about City that raises the prospect of new sanctions.

"Should new information suggest that previously concluded cases have been abused, those cases may be capable of being reopened as determined on a case by case basis," UEFA said. "This approach is applied universally to all clubs that apply for a UEFA license and participate in European club competitions."



The agreement with UEFA eventually saw City forfeit only 20 million euros (USD23 million) in Champions League prize money. UEFA has not said how aware it was in 2014 of City's plans to hide spending of more recent schemes, which have been reported in a five-part series by German magazine Der Spiegel.

"FFP is a framework which clubs that wish to play in UEFA competitions agree to abide by," the organizer of the Champions League and Europa League said in a statement. "It relies on the cooperation of clubs to declare a complete and genuine financial position. While UEFA can test the information it receives, it relies on that information being fair and accurate reflections of a club's finances."

The title sponsor of City's stadium, training campus, and jersey backer is Etihad Airways, the state-owned airline from Abu Dhabi. Sheikh Mansour is a member of Abu Dhabi's royal family and deputy prime minister

of the United Arab Emirates.

The leaks emails claimed to show in 2015 how the Etihad deal generated 67.5 million pounds annually for City. But City's holding company — state-backed Abu Dhabi United Group — channeled 59.9 million pounds back to Etihad, according to Jorge Chumillas, the club chief financial officer in an internal email.

The evidence could be significant for UEFA which checks clubs' finances annually to ensure they are meeting break-even requirements on a rolling three-year basis.

"This includes a thorough assessment of clubs' financial positions on the basis of both the information disclosed by the clubs (based on their independently audited financial statements) as well as a number of compliance checks and analysis undertaken by UEFA (including independent external audits)," UEFA said. "If new information comes to light that may be material to this assessment, UEFA

will use that to challenge the figures and will seek explanation, clarification or rebuttal from the club concerned."

Abu Dhabi United Group was also alleged to be sending cash to a shell vehicle which was created to supposedly buy the right to use players' images in marketing campaigns. This helped raise revenue by 30 million euros in one case cited by Der Spiegel, which reported City's emails from 2013.

City has not commented on its use of the Fordham Sports Management image rights company or attempts to shift costs away from the club.

Roberto Mancini, who managed City from 2009-13 and won the Premier League in 2012, was also shown to have received more pay from a team Sheikh Mansour owns in Abu Dhabi than from the Manchester club. Der Spiegel shows Mancini signed two contracts at the same time, to receive a base salary of 1.45 million pounds from City and 1.45 million pounds and

1.75 million pounds for advising Al Jazeera Sports.

Since July 2011, UEFA has monitored the annual accounts of all clubs entering its two club competitions. The first period UEFA assessed clubs for compliance with FFP was 2011-13 when owners were allowed to cover losses up to 45 million euros.

UEFA requires clubs to approach break-even on football-related business — television rights fees, buying and selling players, salaries, sponsor deals, tickets sales, prize money. The complex accounting rules encourage clubs to spend on long-term projects — stadiums, youth training — which do not count as losses for FFP purposes.

Financial Fair Play has led to a step change in the health of the finances in European club football.

UEFA STATEMENT

"Financial Fair Play has led to a step change in the health of the finances in European club football," UEFA said on Monday. "Seven years ago, European clubs had a cumulative debt of 1.7 billion euros. Last year it was a profit of 600 million euros. Without question, it has been a success for the game across Europe."

Qatar-owned Paris Saint-Germain was sanctioned for overspending in 2014 at the same time as City. The Spanish soccer league last year asked UEFA to investigate City and PSG, claiming they benefit from state aid which "distorts European competitions" and "is irreparably harming the football industry." AP

BASEBALL

MLB All-Stars visit Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park



MIAAMI Marlins manager Don Mattingly and Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Kenta Maeda were among the members of Major League Baseball's All-Star tour of Japan who visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park this week.

Mattingly laid a wreath at the cenotaph in the park which commemorates the victims of the atomic bombings in 1945.

The MLB All-Stars are in Japan for a six-game exhibition series against Japan's national team.

Game 4 was played yesterday in Hiroshima, marking the first time MLB has played in the city.

"Personally, it's humbling to stand in front of the memorial and also an honor to be here as part of MLB to represent our game and bring our two countries and two leagues together to be able play in this great city," Mattingly said. Mitch Haniger of the Seattle Mariners joined Mattingly and Maeda at the visit.

The U.S. bombing of Hi-

roshima on Aug. 6, 1945, killed 140,000 people and was followed three days later by another bombing of Nagasaki, which killed an estimated 70,000 people. They were followed by Japan's surrender, ending World War II.

More than 300,000 of the "hibakusha," or atomic bomb survivors, have died since the attack. Many survivors suffer from long-lasting effects of radiation.

Maeda, who played for the Hiroshima Carp befo-

re signing with the Dodgers, will start Game 4 in his former home park.

"I played here for nine years so this is a very special place for me," Maeda said. "I'm really honored to be able to play in this game as a member of the MLB team and this is one of the reasons that I decided to come over here as a member of the MLB team."

Japan won the first two games of the tour. The MLB squad won 7-3 on Sunday for its first win. MDT/AP

THAILAND

Child boxing debated after 13-year-old's death

Kaweewit Kaewjinda, Tassanee Vejpongsa

THE death of a 13-year-old boy who was knocked out during a kickboxing match in Thailand has sparked debate over whether to ban matches involving children.

The death of Anucha Tasako came after a Muay Thai — Thai boxing — match Saturday in the Bangkok suburb of Samut Prakarn. The Facebook page Muaythai Krobwongjorn, which covers the sport, said he died from a brain hemorrhage. Protective gear is normally not worn in the sport, and video circulated on social media said to be of the fight shows Anucha not wearing any.

Child boxing is widespread in Thailand, especially in rural areas, where it offers a way for children to help provide for their families and a path to lift them out of poverty, according to its advocates. Opponents say the sport is dangerous, citing studies such as one published last



Two novice Buddhist monks practice Muay Thai

month by Thailand's Mahidol University saying that allowing children under 15 to box could result in various types of brain damage.

Thai lawmakers are considering legislation proposed last month banning children under 12 from competitive boxing. The legislation has been forwarded to the Ministry of Tourism and Sports, which has already drafted a revised version, said Gen. Aduldej Intapong, a member of the National Legislative Assembly.

Kickboxing is one of the most popular sports in Thailand and

its boosters oppose regulating it.

"This would have a major impact on the industry," Sukrit Parekrithawet, a lawyer who represents several boxing training camps, said of the proposed legislation. "Those who drafted the law do not know anything about the sport of Thai boxing, and this would make Muay Thai become extinct."

"If you don't allow younger players to learn their way up, how can they be strong and experienced enough to fight?" he said. "We call it 'boxing bones.' You need to have boxing bones built from a very young age."

Sukrit said the death of the 13-year-old, who fought under the name Petchmongkol S. Wilitong, was a one-off incident and the result of a poorly organized event.

"This has never happened before and it's unprecedented," he said. "There are several factors involved which have nothing to do with age. The referee wasn't quick enough to stop the fight and the venue didn't have a doctor on standby, which shouldn't happen."

Public television station Thai-PBS reported that Anucha had fought more than 170 matches since he began boxing at the age of 8, and was currently fighting in the under 41 kilogram (under 90 pound) weight division. It said he was raised by his uncle, who is a boxing trainer, after his parents separated.

The uncle, Damrong Tasako, told Thai PBS that Anucha's death was an accident but he would like to see regulations for children under 15 to wear protective gear to soften blows to the head and body. **AP**

FOOTBALL

Chelsea midfielder Joe Cole retires at 37

Former England and Chelsea midfielder Joe Cole has retired from football. The 37-year-old Cole completed his career with the Tampa Bay Rowdies in the United Soccer League, scoring 104 goals in 716 professional appearances for seven teams. After impressing at West Ham, Cole made his England debut at 19 and went on to earn 56 caps and appear at three World Cups. Cole was part of England's so-called Golden Generation, playing alongside David Beckham and Wayne Rooney.

BASEBALL

Acuna named National League Rookie of the Year

Atlanta Braves outfielder Ronald Acuna Jr. woke up in Japan to news he had been named National League Rookie of the Year. Acuna was a runaway choice for the award over Washington outfielder Juan Soto in a contest between 20-year-olds. "I'm just flattered, I'm so honored," Acuna said through a translator. "My career is just starting. There are so many things I need to do to be a better player. I'll take advice from anyone who will help me improve." Acuna received 27 first-place votes and three seconds for 144 points. Soto got two firsts and 89 points, and Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Walker Buehler was next with one first and 28 points.

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opinion

Macau Matters

Richard Whitfield



To SLEEP, PERCHANCE TO DREAM

I grew up fascinated by the clockwork mechanical systems of our industrial world and studied systems engineering at university, but hated the seemingly meaningless, messy complexity of biology. It was only much later that I came to understand how biology was actually much more sophisticated and avoided the fragility of mechanical systems, instead often making use of the optionality and resilience of chemical processes.

You just need to compare a simple mechanical metronome with the complex interactions between Melatonin and Adenosine and other chemicals for controlling the sleep-wake cycles in most biological entities (humans included).

In a fascinating book called "Why We Sleep" by Matthew Walker I recently learned that the Pineal Gland in our brains produces Melatonin on a sinusoidal 24-hour cycle and it is subsequently eliminated from our bodies by our Livers. Melatonin production is regulated by the Suprachiasmatic Nucleus in our brains that, among other things, detects daylight through our Optical Cortex. Melatonin production is like a 24-hour metronome, but the Suprachiasmatic Nucleus adjusts the time base depending on external conditions which explains why our metabolisms can adjust to time-zone changes. Melatonin levels in our bodies help control many time regulated bodily processes, including wakefulness.

Our central nervous system also produces Adenosine while we are awake and its buildup creates a "sleep pressure" that controls many bodily processes that make us sleepy. Adenosine is also continuously metabolized (decomposed) in the body. Thus Adenosine levels in our body rise when we are awake and fall when we sleep.

In the mornings, after sleep, Adenosine levels in our bodies are low and Melatonin levels fall making us wide awake and active. Later, in the evening, Adenosine and Melatonin levels have risen causing us to get sleepy. Various chemicals, notably caffeine, can interrupt this cycle by interfering with the effects of Adenosine on the body, thus delaying the onset of sleepiness.

Researchers know we experience two kinds of sleep – REM and NREM – and we cycle between them several times each night, and that the cycling changes as we grow up and age. REM is an acronym for Rapid Eye Movement and it is associated with dreaming; NREM is Not REM, and no dreaming there!

I find it fascinating that nearly all life on Earth sleeps. Even microbes and bacteria display periodic dormancy and most animals show evidence of REM and NREM sleep. Given how vulnerable to predation animals are during sleep, it must perform an essential life function. Even fish and migrating birds are known to put different parts of their brains into "sleep mode" at different times each day.

We now know that NREM and REM sleep are crucial for consolidating our memories, integrating them into our life view/experience and building associations between different life experiences, which are essential for creativity and innovation. NREM sleep seems to transfer our daily experiences to long term memory and to build on existing associations. REM sleep then seems to trim unneeded memories and build new associations. As well as this mental housekeeping, a lot a physical housekeeping also occurs while we sleep to regulate, repair and replenish our bodies.

I will go into some of the fascinating reasons for and functions of sleep in future articles, highlighting their relevance in Macau.

THE US AIRMAN IN JAPAN DIES IN STABBING; JAPANESE WOMAN ARRESTED

The U.S. Air Force says a U.S. airman in Japan has been stabbed and later died at a hospital. Japanese police say they have arrested a suspect, a Japanese woman. The Air Force said in a statement that 35-year-old Master Sgt. Nicholas Vollweiler, from the 374th Airlift Wing, was found unconscious in his off-base home with stab wounds Friday.

Japanese police identified the suspect as 27-year-old Aria Saito. They said she was arrested on suspicion of attempted murder, allegedly stabbing Vollweiler in the neck. Japanese media said Saito was telling police she killed Vollweiler because she did not want to end their relationship, and she intended to kill herself afterward.

The Air Force and the police are working together on the investigation. About 54,000 American troops are stationed in Japan under a bilateral security alliance.

The Air Force and the police are working together on the investigation. About 54,000 American troops are stationed in Japan under a bilateral security alliance.

Heaviest fighting since 2014 convulses Israel-Gaza border



ISRAELIS and Gazans awoke to another day of rocket fire and airstrikes yesterday, adding new urgency to efforts to quell fighting that is the heaviest since their 2014 war.

Months of contacts led by the United Nations and Egypt aimed at reaching a long-term truce seemed less promising as Gaza rocket squads unleashed the biggest bombardment of southern Israel in four years, and Israel pounded targets across the Hamas-run territory. Eleven Gaza militants, an Israeli soldier, and a Palestinian in Israel have been killed since the violence was triggered Sunday night by a bungled Israeli intelligence operation inside Gaza.

The Israeli military said about 400 launches were identified from Gaza since Sunday night, including more than 100 intercepted by missile defenses. Israeli aircraft struck about 150 militant targets including military compounds, weapons manufacturing and storage sites, underground tunnels, Hamas naval vessels, rocket-launching sites and Hamas's al-Aqsa television, the military said.

The intense clashes threatened to explode into war, and have dealt a blow to efforts by Egypt and the UN to forge a sustainable cease-fire and ease the dire humanitarian situation in the Palestinian territory. The enclave has been under an Israeli and Egyptian blockade since Hamas seized power more than a decade ago. Sanctions applied by the West Bank-based Palestinian Authority, as well as

Hamas's decision to spend its money on weapons rather than infrastructure or social services, have deepened the area's destitution.

Israel's security cabinet convened yesterday morning, Army Radio reported, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu under intense pressure from some politicians and residents of southern Israel to act more forcefully against Gaza militants. His decision to let a Qatari plane land last week with suitcases of cash designed to ease Gaza's distress has also been attacked by critics who say Israel is paying protection money to Hamas in hopes of achieving quiet.

On Sunday, hours after telling reporters in Paris that he'd prefer a long-term truce to war, Netanyahu cut short a European trip to deal with the outbreak of fighting.

UN special envoy Nickolay Mladenov said on Twitter that he has been working closely with Egypt to "ensure that Gaza steps back from the brink."

"The escalation in the past 24hrs is EXTREMELY dangerous and reckless," Mladenov wrote late Sunday. "Rockets must STOP, restraint must be shown by all! No effort must be spared to reverse the spiral of violence."

A spokesman for Hamas's military wing, Abu Obeida, warned on Twitter of harsher strikes to come if the Israeli attacks continue, and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas cut short a trip to Kuwait and his office said he held "intensive regional

and international contacts" to try to stop Israel's assaults. But U.S. President Donald Trump's envoy to the Middle East Jason Greenblatt laid the blame squarely at Hamas's door, saying its activities "continue to prove they don't really care about the Palestinians of Gaza."

"Israel is forced once again into military action to defend its citizens," he tweeted. "We stand with Israel as it defends itself against these attacks."

Israeli reserves soldiers have not been mobilized, Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan Conricus told reporters in a briefing. He estimated Gaza militants have more than 20,000 rockets and mortars of varying calibers and ranges.

In its assaults on Gaza, Israel has signaled to Hamas "that we have the intelligence and the capabilities to strike a very wide array of military targets that belong to Hamas, and we aren't bound only to weapons facilities and positions, etc.," Conricus said. "So there is definitely ample room for additional targets."

Confrontations between Gaza and Israel have been escalating since Palestinians launched a campaign of anti-Israel protests in late March. Israeli snipers deployed on the border have killed more than 220 Palestinians, and one Israeli soldier has been killed by sniper fire from Gaza. The campaign began as an effort to draw attention to Palestinians' plight but has included repeated attacks on Israel and efforts to breach the border. **Bloomberg**

| Station | Air quality |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Roadside | 70-100 Moderate |
| High Density Residential Area | 55-75 Moderate |
| Ambient | 70-100 Moderate |

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

RUSSIA Opposition leader Alexei Navalny was stopped at the border yesterday and barred from leaving Russia as he was about to travel to a court hearing at the European Court for Human Rights in France.



CZECH REPUBLIC The country's billionaire prime minister (pictured) will face an ouster motion over a fraud investigation that took a new twist when his son claimed he'd been abducted to Crimea as his father tried to hide him from the probe.

ITALY's premier yesterday hosted a meeting of Libya's rival leaders on the sidelines of a conference aimed at helping its former colony crack down on Islamic militants and human trafficking.



US With Santa Ana winds returning and hundreds of homes in ashes, firefighters were struggling to corral a devastating Southern California wildfire that has ravaged scenic canyons and celebrity enclaves near the ocean. **More on p13**

BRAZIL The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights expressed deep concern over human rights in Brazil, saying it will monitor what happens when the government of President-elect Jair Bolsonaro assumes office Jan. 1.

ZIMBABWEAN consumer prices surged at their fastest pace since a hyperinflationary spiral a decade ago as the policies of the government led by President Emmerson Mnangagwa caused shortages of everything from fuel to consumer goods.