

MEMORIAL WRONGLY ATTRIBUTES DATE OF BEAR RESCUE



IMPROVED GENDER EQUALITY Compared to the past, the participation rate of local women in social activities has increased, according to a survey



HONG KONG'S POVERTY

The number of people living in poverty in Hong Kong hasn't declined even with an increase in government assistance



WORLD BRIEFS

KOREA U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said that his country has "made clear" to South Korea that progress on disarming North Korea should not lag behind the expansion of relations between the two Koreas. More on p12



AUSTRALIA's prime minister accused senior Muslim community leaders yesterday of "continuing down a path of denial" after they refused an invitation to a meeting to discuss the threat posed by Islamic extremists.

PAKISTAN A Christian woman recently acquitted of blasphemy charges after eight years on death row in Pakistan wants to leave her homeland for any Western country willing to issue visas for her and her family, her lawyer said.

AFGHANISTAN A suicide bomber targeted a gathering of hundreds of Islamic scholars in the Afghan capital, killing at least 50 people as Muslims marked the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad.

Beijing accused of continuing IP theft





US-SAUDI ARABIA President Donald Trump declared he would not further punish Saudi Arabia for the murder of U.S.-based columnist Jamal Khashoggi making clear that the benefits of good relations with the kingdom outweigh the possibility its crown prince ordered the killing. More on p15

SOPHIA FLÖRSCH'S FATHER

'Those 30 or 40 minutes after the crash were the hardest of my life'



2 MACAU 澳國

22.11.2018 thu TIMES

Brazilian delegation visits Macau



A Brazilian delegation recently visited the University of Macau (UM) to discuss strengthening the collaboration between UM and Brazilian universities. The delegation was led by Geraldo Nunes Sobrinho, director of programs and scholarships of the Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel (CAPES) within the Ministry of Education of Brazil. During a meeting with UM representatives, Sobrinho said that he looks forward to increased collaboration between UM and Brazilian universities in mobility programs and exchange activities.

Zhuhai airport records milestone of 10m passengers

On Tuesday, the Zhuhai airport celebrated the milestone of 10 million annual passengers. The airport expects the number of passengers to reach 11 million this year. The Zhuhai airport company's chairman of the board, Wan Jingping, said that the airport will continue improving its transportation connection to downtown Hong Kong and to the Hong Kong airport. In the vicinity of the Gongbei border gate and the Hengqin border gate, shuttle buses to Zhuhai airport are also available, with buses taking passengers from the two border gates to the Zhuhai airport within one hour.

Casino-banned people's money reverts to gov't

Casino-banned people's earnings from casinos or losses to casinos will be deemed to belong to the government, according to the First Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL). Yesterday, the committee

Flora memorial wrongly attributes date of bear rescue

Paulo Coutinho

THE plaque near the statue of Bobo the Asian black bear wrongly reads that it was rescued "in the summer of 1984."

A news clipping of Va Kio Daily's edition from December 20, 1986, states that the bear cub was rescued "yesterday" (December 19, 1986), which confirms the reports published yesterday by both Macau Daily Times and Macau Post Daily raising suspicions about the date inscribed on the stone.

"Yesterday morning, a bear cub was taken to Municipal Kennels from a restaurant [and] the authority will consider moving it to an enclosure in Flora Garden for [quarantine]. The bear was smuggled to Macau without quarantine document," reads the Va Kio article, which added that, "someone is said to have paid about 10,000 [patacas] to buy the bear to be slaughtered for a meal."

The 1986 article quotes "Municipal Veterinarian Dr Sacco [who said] wild animals such as snakes, civets, pangolins etc. [are] imported into Macau every day by the Border Gate,



and the quarantine documents issued by China are required. According to the Municipal Law, cats and dogs are not allowed to be killed, but there is still no legislation on wild animals."

Yesterday, the Times reported that the bear cub was found in the autumn of 1986 in a cage outside a restaurant in Rua da Felicidade by journalists, namely, the late TDM anchor José Alberto de Sousa who first reported the case to Leal Senado in the course of his investigation, and Harald Bruning.

These reports also indicate that BoBo's age may be less than 35 years old when he died on Tuesday morning, as reported by the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM).

Meanwhile, another controversy arose around the bear's legacy. IACM's plan to embalm BoBo the bear, with complaints reaching the Legislative Assembly.

Cultural industries revenue grows 4.8 percent in 2017

A total of 2,088 organizations were MOP1.83 billion. The total service re-

The total service receipts of the cultural industries stood at MOP7.08 billion, up by 4.8 percent year-onyear, with the gross value added that measures the sectoral contribution to the economy increasing 6.9 percent to MOP_{2.38} billion. That means that the cultural industries accounted for 0.6 percent of the total gross value added by all economic activities of Macau in 2017, the same as in 2016. Analyzed by core domain, there were 1,149

organizations operating in creative design, an increase of 128 year-onyear, with the number of persons engaged rising 2.6 percent to 3,454. Their compensation amounted to MOPo.48 billion, up by 12.2 percent.

respectively. At the same time, a total of 612 organizations and were operating in digital main, media, up by 48 year-onyear, year. The number of perg by sed by 11.6 percent to and 5,367, while their compensation totaled MOP1 billion, up by 4 percent. per-According to DSEC, the Macau government's

There were 107 orga-

nizations operating in

art collection, down by

3 year-on-year, with the

number of persons enga-

ged (427) and their com-

million) increasing 9.5

percent and 54.4 percent

(MOP39.6

pensation

efforts to promote the development of e-commerce has resulted in the number of organizations engaged in the information industry rising by 18 year-on-year to 362 and the number of persons engaged growing by 30.1 percent to 2,190.

The compilation of Cultural Industries Statistics is carried out by the Industries Statistics and Assessment Indicators Group under the Committee of Cultural Industries. In 2017, DSEC conducted a number of specialized surveys in the four domains of cultural industries. The survey results were combined with data collected from relevant industries to estimate the economic contribution of cultural industries in Macau.

discussed the casino-entry ban bill. The abovementioned proposal is expected to stop gaming sector employees from entering casinos while off-duty. Currently, the bill still needs minor improvements. The committee hopes to deliver the bill to the AL before January. Once the law is in effect, the gaming authority's inspectors will enter casinos to check the identity of suspicious gamblers who might be casino employees. mances, art collection and digital media. The number of operating organizations represents an increase of 175 year-on-year, or about 9 percent.

core domains of cultural

industries in Macau in

2017, according to the

Statistics and Census

Service (DSEC), namely

creative design, cultural

exhibitions and perfor-

Meanwhile, the total number of persons engaged in the sector rose by 6.4 percent to 11,702 and their compensation There were 220 organizations engaged in the cultural exhibitions and performances domain, up by two year-on-year, with the number of persons engaged rising by 1 percent to 2,454 and their compensation amounting to MOP0.31 billion, up by 6.6 percent.

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»B MACAU 3

AL PLENARY

Lawmakers urge the gov't to solve 'holidays shift proposal' issue

Renato Marques

URING yester-Legislative day's Assembly (AL) plenary session, lawmakers Ella Lei, Leong Sun Iok and Lei Chan U expressed their strong opposition to the government's proposal to amend the labor law, allowing employers to perform "holiday shifts" between several mandatory public holidays, trading the benefit of such days for others.

The proposal, presented at the Standing Committee for the Coordination of Social Affairs (CPCS), gathered strong opposition from the employees sector, with the workers accusing the government of insisting upon a proposal that goes against public opinion.

The law amendment proposed to change three of the city's compulsory public holidays into normal public holidays, and gathered a total of 64 percent of opinions against during the period of public consultation.

The proposal from the government recommends the selection of three of such holidays out of four: New Year's Day, Ching Ming Festival, The Day following Chong Chao, and Chong Yeung Festival and is being portrayed by opponents as a clear attempt to diminish the rights of the workers. At the AL yesterday, the two lawmakers urged the government to back down from such a proposal.

On the topic, Lei added that the fact the government decided to put such an idea on the negotiation table is, in fact, a way for the government "to delay or even fail to accomplish its promise of the Policy Address," which includes not only to prioritize the law amendments that regulate weekly rest days, but also mandatory holidays and paternity leave. During his turn, Leong said, "mandatory holidays have not increased in the last 30 years, and there has been no update of maternity leave in the last 10 years," urging the government to take action and implement measures on which "society already showed to have reached consensus."



Furthermore, Lei Chan U recalled, "in the beginning [when the labor law was firstly created], it had the purpose of balancing the rights due to the fact that workers were in a weaker position," he noted. Lei added that at that time labor standards followed the minimum criteria of international conventions in the old Macau laws, for example, the rule "the working period can not exceed forty-eight hours per week" followed the criteria of the Working Hours (Industry) Convention of 1919 and the 56 days of maternity leave only includes two weeks more than the six weeks defined by the Maternity Protection Convention also of 1919."

With this historical background Lei tried to show that labor laws in the region are old and not in line with reality, a fact that he contended to be applicable also to the "10 mandatory holidays [rule] that follow the regime of the labor relations of 1989."

The proposal is being portrayed by opponents as a clear attempt to diminish the rights of the workers

Concluding, "In my perspective, the law is perfected through its application and exists not to protect the supe-

Budget for 2019 approved with 13.3 percent increase

riors but to defend the common interests," urging the government to put an end to the arguments between workers and employers by making a decision that gathers the consensus of society in general.

Right after the lawmakers' voices were heard at the AL plenary, the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, called a press conference at the AL lobby to respond to the allegations.

"Since last week [I've been] dialoguing with both parties [workers and employers] hoping that through the platform of the CPCS they can dialogue," Leong said, adding that the government will convene a meeting at the CPCS "as soon as possible." According to the same official, this meeting should be held on December 5 to "address such topics."

ON THE LAWMAKERS' AGENDA

LAND LAW STUDY

Lawmakers Zheng Anting and Pereira Coutinho addressed the plenary, enquiring about the government "study" that the Chief Executive (CE), Chui Sai On, revealed during the Policy Address for 2019. Chui has commissioned the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) to undertake the study regarding the land plots already retrieved by the government and others still being processed. While Zheng said he agreed with previous reports from the CCAC noting the factor of responsibility of the developers on the non-usage of the land, he claimed that the anti-graft body had already produced reports that were "ignored" by the government. Coutinho expressed his disapproval of the choice of the CE in ordering the "anti-corruption police" to undertake such a study, claiming that the CCAC cannot or should not be the department to do it.

SMOKING IN CASINOS Lam

Lon Wai noted that, despite the existing laws and complaints from employees, the lack of smoke control in casinos is a situation that still persists. Lam fears that the existing problem will tend to be aggravated when the new anti-smoking law, which enforces a ban on smoking in VIP lounges and common rooms, enters into force on January 1, 2019. In his opinion, since at least 19 casinos have not submitted any request to install smoking lounges, it means that some casinos will not possess rooms for smokers, a situation that will likely lead to violations of the anti-smoking law. In Lam's opinion, if the existing law has been difficult to enforce, the new one might be equally difficult. He doubts that the government will reinforce its surveillance over the issue - particularly on the strict rules for the smoking lounges.

GP PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

THE government's budget for 2019 was passed during yesterday's Legislative Assembly (AL) plenary session on its first reading with unanimity.

The session, which had been scheduled precisely with this matter in mind, triggered little interest from lawmakers, with the exception of requests for further clarification on certain topics.

As such, there was no real obstacle to the proposal by the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, who also made little effort to advocate for the budget in the plenary. Right at the start, the Secretary announced that the integrated budget for 2019 would present an increase of 13.3 percent when compared to the previous year, to reach a total of MOP122 billion.

At the same time, government expenses were forecast to grow 2.2 percent to MOP101.1 billion, an increase explained by Leong as to be mostly the result of the increase in the sa-

lary index of public servants from MOP85 to MOP88, accountable for a surge of about MOP885 million.

The government also expects the income from the gaming industry to grow by about MOP12 billion next year when compared to 2018.

The Secretary highlighted that, besides the increase of the amount announced by the Chief Executive for the wealth partaking scheme to MOP10,000 for permanent residents and MOP6,000 for non-permanent residents, four other measures will aim to ease the burden in concern to taxation.

In this sense, the government presented tax deductions for companies dedicated to "investigation and development", with the purpose of encouraging the development of technology.

The government also said it is revising its taxation structure for rental properties to discourage the non-leasing of units.

Lawmaker Song Pek Kei revisited an idea that has not been voiced for a while. The lawmaker proposed that the government establish public holidays for the days of the Macau Grand Prix racing event, in order to ease the inconvenience to the population during such days and to allow a larger participation from local residents in an event that has a long history and a large impact on Macau's image abroad. In the opinion of Song, the establishment of the days of the Grand Prix as public holidays would facilitate the life of the population and improve the relationship of local residents with the event.

4 MACAU 澳

Women's report indicates improved gender equality

THE average gross disposable income of local women is MOP7,822 with a median of MOP5,000, according to statistics released on Monday by the Women and Children Affairs Committee.

In 2013, the median disposable income of local women was MOP3,000.

The numbers were included in the research results of the 2017 Macau women current condition report, which was first launched in 2008. The report surveyed 1,001 local women aged between 15 and 74 years old.

In 2016, Macau was ranked 51 globally, as its GGI (Gender Gap Index) was 0.718. The gender inequality index was 0.067 in 2016, ranking 10th worldwide.

Compared to the past, the participation rate of local women in social events has increased, with participation in volunteering and furthering their education being the most apparent.

Despite higher participation in social activities, local women still need to enhance their participation in politics, according to the report.



Approximately 70 percent of local women have full-time or part-time jobs, 46 percent of local women are responsible for family finances, and 80 percent of local women take care of housework. On average, each local woman spends 2.3 hours a day doing housework.

An 18.6 percent decrease was recorded for women agreeing with the idea that women should get married and have children, and that they should sacrifice their career and studies for family.

Being a single mother was deemed not shameful by 60.3 percent. Some 14.9 percent of women agreed that men should pay for the bill when dining out. Around 52 percent of women agreed that men are more talented in scientific and engineering areas.

According to the committee, local women's top concerns in terms of social welfare are aged care, child care and housing issues. Concerns surrounding all three topics experienced growth compared to 2012.

Local women also consider themselves to have better physical and mental conditions.

Work, the economy and children are subjects which give local women the most pressure.

The government's women's affairs working team has established 79 measures to be implemented in the short, medium and long term, thus hoping to improve women's social status.

50 suicides recorded in 2018

FIGURES revealed by the Health Bureau (SSM) acknowledge that in the first three quarters of the year, Macau registered a total of 50 suicide cases. Of those, 18 occurred in the third quarter of this year, representing a 3.8 percent decrease compared to the same period last year.

The third quarter data revealed by the SSM noted that the majority of those that had committed suicide were locals (72.2 percent).

The bureau also noted that during the first three quarters of the year (January to September), a total of six suicides were recorded by the SSM in which the victims ages ranged between 15 and 24. The SSM suggested that this shows the importance of paying attention to the "mental health problems of young people."

The bureau noted that the World Health Organization's World Mental Health Day motto was "Young people and mental health in a changing world," to raise awareness about the health problems of younger generations.

The SSM has announced the establishment of a program in cooperation with several institutions and local associations to provide community psychological counseling free of charge, welcoming all residents and families to use it when in need.



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Sábado/Saturday 11h00-13h00 14h30-19h30
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RELIMINARY research on how to turn the Hong Kong-Zhuhai -Macau Bridge into a "smart bridge" has already been carried out, Su Quanke, chief engineer of the HKZMB Authority, said on Tuesday.

Su was a keynote speaker at a recent talk at the University of Macau, where he gave an overview of the bridge, from preliminary studies, to overall planning, to its design and construction.

According to the chief engineer, authorities are collaborating with institutions and key state laboratories, including UM, to help carry the project in a bid to prevent low efficiency

Chief engineer wants to turn HKZMB into 'smart bridge'

and enhance safety considerations.

The chief engineer called for the use of advanced technology in relation to the bridge. "UM and key state laboratories will work with us so that we can be a pioneer and this could be a platform for mutual growth and construction," said Su, adding that experts from the three regions are listing its short and long-term goals.

"[We need] to maintain and operate this bridge using AI [artificial intelligence] to bring in state of art technology. We all hope that we can use AI to resolve [technologies] such as driverless vehicles. Big data plays an important role here," the expert added.



HK community, lawmakers call for crowd control in Tung Chung

MAINLAND crowds in Tung Chung, a resi-dential area close to the port facility of the Hong Kong Zhuhai Macau Bridge, dropped this weekend, with community groups calling for facilities to control the tourist influx.

Lawmakers are also calling for a shopping mall and another car park with about 1,000 to 2,000 spaces to be built at the Hong Kong port, the South China Morning Post reported.

Some also suggested that a bus route should be set up for tourists visiting an east artificial island on the mega crossing, so that they do not need to enter the city.

Hong Kong's Travel Industry Council said around 200 mainland tour groups in Hong Kong pas-



sed over the bridge on Sunday, up from about 90 a week earlier.

Meanwhile, the HKSAR government has already announced further measures to control crowds, noting that it plans to increase the number of port-to-port shuttle buses and loosening the application process for licenses to operate buses.

Su Quanke

According to Su, the bridge is also in need of advancing its technology to predict what maintenance work is needed, based on the volume of the traffic flow.

"We would put in all kinds of data, and even if structure is deformed by 0.1mm, we will not [tolerate it]. AI will have a lot to do," he added.

Su also discussed construction techniques used in the bridge, highlighting the sections of the bridge and the two artificial islands linked by a four-mile tunnel west of Hong Kong's airport.

According to media reports, the 55-km bridge is preparing to have 5G services in the future.

Experts and workers extended the coverage area of the optical fiber to 20 kilometers, double the conventional maximum onshore coverage of 10 kilometers, to ensure the full coverage of network signal along the bridge.

Currently, the bridge is ready for access to the Internet of Things, an innovation to be achieved by 5G technology.

From the very beginning, the technological base needed for 5G has been considered in terms of network architecture, room for 5G station and the installment of fiber. LV



FMCC champions Breakfast Meetings in town with key speakers sharing their views on current business affairs. Our monthly events take place every last Wednesday of the month at Sofitel Macau at Ponte 16. Open to all !







Introduction: Casino operators in Macau are waiting for the draft legislative roadmap and details of the application criteria that will determine the next generation of casino concessionaires. Join us and hear Martin Williams's analysis including pertinent 2018 developments, watch + 2018 FMCC members join free-of-charge* points, obstacles and uncomfortable questions about the . Guests and non-members @ MOP188* politics, process and players that will craft the next era of gambling operations in Macau.

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MACAU GRAND PRIX

Team boss says Flörsch's crash not Macau related



Sophia Flörsch and her father

HE team boss of teenage driver Sophia Flörsch, who suffered a serious crash during Sunday's Macau Grand Prix F3 race, said that the accident could have happened on any other track.

"I don't think the accident was Macau-related. If we go back to Macau next year, I'll be a bit afraid but this accident could have happened elsewhere. We also race in Pau and F1 also races on all kinds of street circuits. Macau is a special track, everyone knows that," Frits van Amersfoort told Autosport. "The contradiction is that everyone knows the dangers, but most drivers also say that Macau is the most beautiful track in the world. That indicates how strange it sometimes is."

Running for the Netherlands-

based Van Amersfoort Racing, Flörsch suffered spinal fractures after her mono-seat collided at high speed with Japanese driver Sho Tsuboi's car, going through a catch fence at the Lisboa bend. The car then hit a photographers' bunker on the perimeter and dropped to the ground, with race marshals immediately on the scene.

The driver underwent a sevenhour long surgery at the Conde de São Januário Hospital Centre on Monday. The operation lasted all afternoon and a press conference was held during the evening, with doctors involved in the proceedings revealing that Flörsch had shown signs of improvement in the last stages of the surgery. The doctors who performed the surgery are hopeful that she will be able to recover from her injury. Yesterday, Flörsch was visited by the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam [see front page picture].

Interviewed by Autosport, Frits van Amersfoort recalled the anguish felt at the paddock during the half-hour that followed the accident. "At first, you're scared because there were rumors that her brakes didn't work. Then you start to doubt yourself. In the end we gradually got to know what had happened. Sometimes you can despise social media, but now there was a lot that we otherwise would never have known," van Amersfoort said.

"The FIA seized the onboard images of Sophia's camera and all the drivers around her so we don't have to expect much help from them. Today we really got to know what exactly happened. And then I can only draw one conclusion: Dear God, everyone had an angel on their shoulders, because it could have ended much worse."

Sophia Flörsch's father, Alex, recalled how the 30 or 40 minutes after the crash were the hardest minutes of his life. "Trying to find her was very difficult. I did not know what was going on. All sorts of concerns come into your mind at a time like that," he told SportsMail.

I can only draw one conclusion: Dear God, everyone had an angel on their shoulders, because it could have ended much worse.

FRITS VAN AMERSFOORT

After the surgery, Alex Flörsch showed optimism regarding the teenage driver's recovery. "I am sitting at her side now and she's just happy the surgery is done. Things will get better every day. But for now she has some pain - the drugs are wearing off," he said. "We have not yet spoken about whether she will race again - it is too soon for that - but from my point of view, there is nothing I would do to stop her."

month of October, the bakery created pink ribbon cookies and rose

Macau to grant 30 mainland postdocs yearly

Mainland China's postdoctoral management office has signed an agreement with the Macao Association for Promotion of Science and Technology to allow mainland China to sponsor 30 mainland PhD students or young teachers to conduct research in Macau universities. The research period will typically last two years, with each person being granted MOP150,000 each year. The research fields include Chinese medicine, microelectronics, lunar and planetary research, smart cities and the internet.

HK finds humans contracted hepatitis carried in rats

The Hong Kong Health Department says a second person in the city has been found to have contracted a strain of hepatitis that is carried by rats. Both human cases appear to be the first known globally. The Health Department said in a statement yesterday that it could not determine how the two people came to be infected with this particular strain of the hepatitis E virus. Other strains of Hepatitis E are typically transmitted among humans through contaminated water, particularly in East and South Asia. Both cases in Hong Kong were discovered long after the patients had been treated. The latest case was found in blood samples from a 70-year-old woman with a compromised immune system who had been treated in May 2017. The first case was reported in September.

AL discusses non-resident

Local bakery raises funds for breast cancer foundation

THE Lord Stow's Bakery has donated HKD19,630 to the Hong Kong Breast Cancer Foundation, an amount representing 50 percent of its sales revenue from the company's "Pink Ribbon Cookies" and "Rose Lattes."

To commemorate Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October, the company initiated the raising of funds for the breast cancer-related foundation for the first time.



Speaking to the Times, Eileen Stow, chief executive of Lord Stow's Bakery, explained that

the move was important to the family-owned business, as their mother was a victim of breast cancer.

"We also know other people close to us that suffer, some we've lost, some won the battle. For us it's a very important foundation because what the breast foundation does is it creates awareness amongst women to get themselves checked," said Stow.

"There are too many women scared to get themselves checked for cancer but it's the most prudent thing you can do," she added. Thus, for the whole coffees that had pink elements to draw the public's attention, while also raising funds.

According to Stow, it will do so again next year, hinting that it will be an annual corporate social responsibility initiative of the company.

"We have our own corporate social responsibility favorites. It's one of the group of things that we support throughout the year. Most of the things we support are very local and dear to out hearts, whereas this is more of an international thing and it's family connected," Stow explained. LV

internships

A bill concerning medical professionals suggests that non-local residents can also take internship entrance exams in Macau. According to the proposal, although these non-locals have passed the internship entrance exams, they will still likely not be allowed to undertake internships in Macau. The opinions raised by the Second Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL) argued that once Macau's medical professional internship entrance exams are accredited worldwide, people from other regions can take the exams in Macau and, in turn, it will promote Macau's traditional Chinese medicine industry.

BUSINESS 分析

REPORTS

Japan prosecutors to hold Ghosn for 10 more days

NISSAN Motor Co. chairman Carlos Ghosn will be detained for another 10 days following his arrest on suspicion of falsifying income reports by millions of dollars and misusing company assets for personal gain, Japanese media reported yesterday.

Nissan's board of directors is due to meet today and decide if it will dismiss Ghosn and the company's representative director, Greg Kelly. He also arrested Monday on suspicion of collaborating in the wrongdoing.

Their detention was extended yesterday for another 10 days, Kyodo News service reported. It cited the Tokyo District Court, which declined to comment.

Under Japanese law, suspects can be held for 20 days per possible charge without an official indictment. Additional charges can be tagged on, resulting in longer detentions. Neither Ghosn nor Kelly has been charged so far.

Ghosn is suspected of under-reporting USD44.6 million in income from 2011 to 2015, according to Tokyo prosecutors. The maximum penalty, upon conviction for violating finance and exchange laws is 10 years in prison, a 10 million yen (\$89,000) fine, or both.

Renault SA of France, a partner since the late 1990s and now holding a 43 percent stake in Nissan, retained Ghosn as chief executive in an emergency board meeting Tuesday, while naming the company's chief operating officer, Thierry Bollore, in his place. Renault's board also is requesting that Nissan share details of its internal investigation into Ghosn, which the company says was sparked by a whistleblower.

From the start, Nissan has sought to distance itself from the arrests. Chief Executive Hiroto Saikawa denounced Ghosn and Kelly as "the masterminds," and made clear he thought they should be removed at today's board meeting.

Ghosn, 64, is credited with turning around Nissan from near -bankruptcy after he was sent to Nissan by Renault in 1999. He served as Nissan's chief executive from 2001 until last year. He became chief executive of Renault in 2005, leading the two major automakers simultaneously. In 2016, he became chairman of Mitsubishi Motors Corp. after Nissan took it into the alliance to help it recover from an inspections scandal at the smaller automaker.

Under Japanese law, suspects can be held for 20 days per possible charge without an official indictment

Kelly, 62, joined Nissan in the U.S. in 1988, and became a board member from 2012. His back-ground over the years has been in human resources and allian-



Carlos Ghosn

ce management. He has a law degree from Loyola University School of Law and a bachelor's degree in public administration from Augustana College.

When Saikawa was asked how such actions could have gone undetected for five years, perhaps longer, he blamed a murky system of checks and balances at Nissan and emphasized that he believed Ghosn had too much power.

Nissan's overall performance won't be hurt by the absence of Ghosn, "as long as the executive team pulls together," said Janet Lewis, an analyst at Macquarie Research.

The fact the case was initially raised by a whistleblower shows the system was working, she said. Nissan shares tanked Tuesday after the scandal surfaced, falling 5.5 percent. The stock recovered moderately in yesterday's trading on the Tokyo Stock Exchange, closing up 0.4 percent.

Masahiro Akita, auto analyst with Credit Suisse, said he was stunned by the news of Ghosn's arrest. But he believes operations at Nissan will mainly remain business as usual, while uncertainties about brand image remain.

"It's not realistic to think the alliance will suddenly change as it is now already operating," he said, noting the automakers share platforms, or the basic parts on which vehicles are built, as well as parts purchasing. "You can't go back on it that easily." **AP**



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Amid Hong Kong's riches, poverty isn't receding



An occupant sits inside a subdivided residential unit, known as a "coffin home", located inside a building in Hong Kong

Natalie Lung

HE number of people living in poverty in Hong Kong hasn't declined even with an increase in government assistance, the latest reminder of persistent income inequality in one of the world's most expensive cities.

The number of people below the official poverty line - an individual earning less than HKD4,000 (USD511) a month, or a family of four with a monthly household income of under HKD19,900 - increased to around 1.4 million at the end of 2017. Even including government support and social welfare, there were still more than 1 million people in poverty, or 14.7 percent of the population.

It's a familiar story for the city of 7.4 million, where the world's densest skyscrapers tower over cage homes and a rapidly aging population.

The stubborn persistence is in spite of a continued increase in government expenditure on social welfare, which in 2018 is nearly twice the 2009 level, making it the second-largest area of spending, behind education, according to Chief Secretary Matthew Cheung Kinchung.

Once you remove recurring government cash handouts, the poverty rate actually increased to 20.1 percent, the data show. The government blames changing household sizes and the methodology use to calculate this headline number for the worsening statistics. The data only includes income, not assets, and doesn't take into account subsidies for after-school care and elderly care, public housing support and other payments.

"I don't think our policy has fai-

led at all," Cheung said at a press conference Monday, noting that the poverty rate for the elderly has fallen back to the 2003 level. "But we've got to follow the international norm, that's why all these are not reflected in the figures at all."

The outlook is darkening for the Hong Kong economy as it faces rising external risks. Growth is forecast to slow to 3.2 percent in 2018 after expanding 3.8 percent last year, amid uncertainties from the U.S.-China trade war and a slowing mainland economy.

The child poverty rate conti-

nued to rise, climbing 0.3 percentage points from the previous year to 23.1 percent. That was because more children fell under the poverty threshold of larger households as more families stay with their elderly parents, Secretary for Labor and Welfare Law Chi-kwong said at the same briefing.

Once you remove recurring government cash handouts, the poverty rate actually increased to 20.1 percent, the data show

The impact of the increased minimum wage, which took effect May 2017, would be better reflected in 2018 data, Cheung added, adding poverty statistics will face "greater upward pressure" due to continued adjustment of poverty line thresholds with wage increases.

"It is an indisputable fact that Hong Kong is facing the issue of wealth disparity," Chief Executive Carrie Lam said in her policy address earlier this year, where she pledged to increase supply of public housing and land, as well as improve allowances for low-income working families. "The government has due responsibility to implement appropriate labour and welfare policies." **Bloomberg**

Beijing to judge every resident based on behavior by end of 2020

CHINA'S plan to judge each of its 1.3 billion people based on their social behavior is moving a The Beijing project will improve blacklist systems so that those deemed untrustworthy will be "unasent the most ambitious yet among more than a dozen cities that are moving ahead with similar who violate traffic laws and charge under-the-table fees. By the end of May, people with bad credit in



step closer to reality, with Beijing set to adopt a lifelong points program by 2021 that assigns personalized ratings for each resident.

The capital city will pool data from several departments to reward and punish some 22 million citizens based on their actions and reputations by the end of 2020, according to a plan posted on the Beijing municipal government's website on Monday. Those with better so-called social credit will get "green channel" benefits while those who violate laws will find life more difficult.

ble to move even a single step," according to the government's plan. Xinhua reported on the proposal Tuesday, while the report posted on the municipal government's website is dated July 18.

China has long experimented with systems that grade its citizens, rewarding good behavior with streamlined services while punishing bad actions with restrictions and penalties. Critics say such moves are fraught with risks and could lead to systems that reduce humans to little more than a report card.

Beijing's efforts repre-

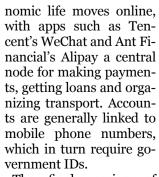
Programs.
Those with better so-called social credit will get 'green channel'

benefits

Hangzhou rolled out its personal credit system earlier this year, rewarding "pro-social behaviors" such as volunteer work and blood donations while punishing those China have been blocked from booking more than 11 million flights and 4 million high-speed train trips, according to the National Development and Reform Commission.

According to the Beijing government's plan, different agencies will link databases to get a more detailed picture of every resident's interactions across a swathe of services. The proposal calls for agencies including tourism bodies, business regulators and transit authorities to work together.

The tracking of individual behavior in China has become easier as eco-



The final version of China's national social credit system remains

uncertain. But as rules forcing social networks and internet providers to remove anonymity get increasingly enforced and facial recognition systems become more popular with policing bodies, authorities are likely to find everyone from internet dissenters to train-fare skippers easier to catch - and punish - than ever before. **Bloomberg**







Han Chinese ride in a tricycle passing by farmhouses at the Unity New Village in Hotan, in western China's Xinjiang region

Cracks show in vision for model ethnic unity village

Emily Wang, Hotan Unity New Village

IN this corner of China's far west, rows of identical white concrete houses with red metal roofs rise abruptly above the sand dunes of the harsh Taklamakan Desert. A Chinese flag flutters above the settlement, and a billboard at the entrance says, "Welcome to the Hotan Unity New Village."

This is a Communist Party showcase for its efforts to tame Xinjiang province, the heartland of China's often restive Uighur Muslim minority and an unforgiving terrain. The free or low-cost houses are assigned alternately to Uighurs and Han Chinese, who work side-by-side in greenhouses and send their children to school together. It is the future the party envisions for Xinjiang after a massive sein their native tongue. Young Uighur women wear Western clothing without the headscarves that are part of traditional Muslim dress.

While these are voluntary settlements with economic benefits, experts and Uighur activists believe they are part of an aggressive government campaign to erode the identities of the Central Asian groups who called the region home long before waves of Han migrants arrived in recent decades.

"Ethnic unity' is a euphemism for taming, breaking the Uighur people," says Joanne Smith Finley, an expert in Uighur identity at Newcastle University in the U.K. "This is putting flowery bright wallpaper over a damp wall, a rotting wall."

Construction of the village began in 2014 with a planned investment of 1.7 billion yuan (USD247 million). The goal was to build 5,000 homes and 10,000 greenhouses, according to local reports, to turn a large swath of desert into farmland and create a shared prosperity among Uighurs and Han Chinese. Around the same time, the Communist Party came forth with a new strategy focused on ethnic mingling. Subsequently, at least one county offered financial incentives for Uighurintermarriages, while Han others have launched programs encouraging Uighur families to move into Han Chinese residential areas.

truction as a tourist attraction near Kuqa, around 600 kilometers from Hotan. A concrete yurt known as the "solidarity farmhouse" already has been completed, and a giant sculpture of a pomegranate is prominently placed at the center of the village to symbolize unity.

In Hotan, there are signs that the government's experiment is making inroads. Uighur farmers toil alongside Han Chinese to farm crops in what was once barren desert land, and both groups live in modern houses equipped with gas, electricity and water. A billboard displays a picture of President Xi Jinping and a group of Uighur elders joining hands and, according to the caption, "linking hearts."

Yet there are also signs of enduring mistrust. As elsewhere in Xinjiang, high walls around homes are topped with barbed wire, and police officers stand guard from behind fences at the entrance of the village. Adults don't mix socially – at night, a group of Han Chinese dance in the square while the Uighur residents chat among themselves on the sidelines. A Uighur farmer who moved to the village last September says authorities provided him with free housing and utilities, two greenhouses, a small orchard with grapevines and a barn with sheep, chickens, and pigeons. But the crackdown on Muslims in Xinjiang has made it risky for ordinary Muslims to discuss their religious practices, and when speaking to reporters in front of government observers, he insists he was never a

Muslim. Another Uighur farmer in his early seventies, Muzitohtahon, says he is no longer a Muslim.

A closer look at what the party calls 'ethnic unity' reveals what isn't there: mosques for Muslim worshippers, or traditional Uighur brick homes For 60,000 yuan (\$8,700), her family bought a two-bedroom home with a small orchard and two greenhouses. The two grandchildren she lives with are given free tuition, school lunches, and even a free set of clothes. Xiao admits she doesn't speak Uighur and cannot communicate with her Uighur neighbors, but she says the layout encourages interaction.

In a greenhouse a few dozen meters away, Uighur Abudu Mijiti has just begun planting chili with his wife. He moved to the village three years ago to make a more stable living. Two of his three children go to the local school and are fluent in Chinese, he says, as a government minder looks on.

"For us, it's good, it helps learning our national language," he says. "And because our nextdoor neighbor is Chinese, as we go in and out, it helps improve ethnic unity."

On the surface, the picture presented at the Hotan Unity New Village reflects the government's vision of an "idealized place," says David O'Brien, an expert at the University of Nottingham.

"Every single part of it is the official narrative," O'Brien says. "The narrative is, water will flow to the desert. The narrative is, if you come here great opportunity awaits you. The narrative that people will be secular, they will learn Mandarin."

Yet the settlement remains only partly inhabited. The city says there are 534 households in the compound, but most of the houses are empty. A drive through reveals rows of empty greenhouses and house after house with a sign that says "sealed off" patched onto padlocked or chained gates.

Under the sweltering desert sun, one Han Chinese farmer tending to her plot of Chinese chives complains that water is scarce and her previous batch of chives had to be thrown out. Even when the crops work out, the chives sell for less than one yuan (14 cents) per kilogram.

"Not even enough for food," she grumbles. "You cannot feed yourself just working on greenhouses."

curity crackdown that has sent by some estimates more than a million Muslims to internment camps, and many of their children to orphanages.

But a closer look at what the party calls "ethnic unity" reveals what isn't there: mosques for Muslim worshippers, or traditional Uighur brick homes, often adorned with pointed arches and carved decorations. In their place are colorful murals of what authorities consider to be scenes of unity, such as a Uighur man and his family holding a Chinese flag.

In the village's new public square, Uighur children banter with Han Chinese children in fluent Mandarin, the language of the Han majority, rather than

China is building several such mixed settlements in Xinjiang. A similar village is under consUighur and Han villagers do seem united by at least one factor — their desire to escape poverty. Rural areas in Xinjiang, including Hotan, rank among the poorest in China, with many families lacking even the most basic utilities and food. The financial incentives are also a key draw for Han Chinese from other impoverished regions of China.

Last May, 58-year-old Xiao Erying, who is Han Chinese, moved to this village from her hometown in the southern province of Hunan, over 4,000 kilometers away. "It is better than our hometown," she says, as she rakes sheep, chicken and cow manure inside her greenhouse. In the absence of government minders, the woman goes on.

"Ordinary people are not able to eat meat. The officials can, but not the ordinary people," says the woman, who declines to give her name out of fear of retaliation.

As dusk approaches and temperatures fall, residents slowly make their way out onto the streets to enjoy the evening breeze. On the Uighur side of the street, a young Uighur woman rests on an electric bike after a day's work, looking at her cell phone.

Asked what she thinks of unity, she looks up.

"Unity?" she asks. Silently and slowly, she shakes her head, and returns to her phone. **AP**

US says Beijing hacking increasing ahead of Trump-Xi meeting

Joe McDonald, Beijing

AU.S. government report ahead of a meeting between Presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping accuses China of stepping up hacking aimed at stealing American technology as a tariff dispute escalated.

Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer's report reflects U.S. skepticism and a possible source of new acrimony ahead of the meeting in Buenos Aires aimed at defusing the dispute companies worry will chill global economic growth.

The two sides have raised import duties on billions of dollars of each other's goods in the fight over U.S. complaints Beijing steals or pressures companies to hand over technology.

Chinese hacking efforts aimed at stealing American technology and trade secrets have "increased in frequency and sophistication" this year, said Lighthizer's report, issued yesterday [Macau time] in Washington.

Asked about the report, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesman, Geng Shuang, said U.S.-Chinese trade relations were "mutually beneficial" and it was "natural to have trade frictions."



Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer

"The key is to engage in dialogue and consultation on the issue based on mutual respect, equality and good faith," Geng said at a regular briefing.

Trump is pressing Beijing to roll back industry plans its trading partners say violate its market-opening obligations that Chinese leaders see as a path to prosperity and global influence.

Those include "Made in China 2025," which calls for state-led

creation of Chinese champions in robotics and other fields.

American and Chinese officials have been talking in preparation for the Trump-Xi meeting and news reports say Bejiing has sent written proposals but no details have been released.

Beijing has tried without success to recruit France, Germany, Japan and other governments as allies against Trump. They dislike his tactics but echo U.S. complaints.

The European Union filed a challenge in the World Trade Organization in June to Chinese policies it said improperly limit the ability of foreign companies to control and profit from their technology.

"China fundamentally has not altered" its technology policy "and indeed appears to have taken further unreasonable actions," Lighthizer's report said. Attacks by possible "Chinese state-sponsored entities" against companies in cloud computing, artificial intelligence and other technologies increased since mid-2017, according to Lighthizer.

中國

That include a "sharp rise" in hacking against manufacturers in the three months up to September — "a type of attack that has been frequently tied to Chinese economic espionage," Lighthizer said.

China is, along with the United States and Russia, regarded as a leading power in military cyber spying.

Xi agreed with Trump's predecessor, Barack Obama, during a visit to the United States in 2015 to refrain from using military resources to steal commercial secrets. American officials have accused China of reneging on that agreement.

An indictment unsealed last month charges a Chinese intelligence officer with trying to steal technology from U.S. and European aerospace companies.

Lighthizer said China also has pressed ahead with improperly trying to acquire U.S. technology by covertly purchasing companies and other tactics. **AP**

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80 countries and for many, their beautiful and romantic act includes a spectacular one-hand lift and a 'bow spin' which many ice skaters aspire to.

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and visitors a chance to see this wonderful show over the upcoming holiday season. Featuring an international cast of 38 death-defying stunt performers, illusionists, champion skaters, and dancers, the show is suitable for audiences of all ages. The 65-minute performance blends illusion, dance, acrobatics and comedy with classic acts such as can-can and burlesque dancing, along with gravity-defying basketball acrobatics and the worldrenowned Globe of Death motorcycle team. La Parisienne Cabaret Francais is one of the world's most entertaining variety shows for audiences, behind the scenes are committed artists with years

extended through until Feb. 3.

2019 at The Parisian Macao's

Parisian Theatre, giving guests

performing death-defying motorcycle acts around the world since the 1960s. The stunt riders race motorcycles inside a mesh sphere, looping vertically and horizontally at high speed. It takes two years to train to be a rider on the team, first learning the routine on a bicycle. The most dangerous part is when the globe actually splits into two sections, leaving zero margin for error. Ice Skating Adagio is performed by two hugely talented Russian ice skaters, Aleksandr Popov and Elena Efaeva, who have been partnered for more than four years. They both competed

at the European Championships

and Olympics, and Aleksandr

won a gold medal in the Junior

Olympics in Slovenia in 2003.

One of the more popular performances of the show is Face Team Basketball, from Budapest in Hungary. With six performers using up to 20 basketballs during their act, they jump, shoot and slam dunk their way around the stage. The team currently holds 10 Guinness World Records, including 'most basketball slam dunks by a team using a trampoline in one minute' (46 dunks) and 'highest slam dunk with a backflip' (4.9 metres). They have performed for celebrities including Simon Cowell, Harry Styles, LeBron James, Kobe Bryant and the Prince of Dubai. Not to be missed, the most challenging part of their act is the backflip from the top of the back board, at a height of around five metres.

22.11.2018 thu TIMeauDaily #Preserver

SOUTH KOREA

Seoul says it will close Japan funded sex slavery foundation

Kim Tong-Hyung, Seoul

South Korea said yesterday funded by Japan to compensate South Korean women who were forced to work in Japan's World War II military brothels.

The widely expected decision, if carried out, would effectively kill a controversial 2015 agreement to settle a decades-long impasse over the sexual slavery issue and threatens to aggravate a bitter diplomatic feud between the Asian U.S. allies over history. Many in South Korea believed the Seoul government settled for far too less in the sex slave deal and that Japan still hasn't acknowledged legal responsibility for atrocities during its colonial occupation of the Korean Peninsula from 1910 to 1945.

Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono sharply criticized South Korea's decision to shut down the foundation, saying that Seoul would violate the "most basic rule to live in the international society" by walking back on the deal. Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Takeo Akiba summoned South Korean Ambassador to Japan Lee Su-hoon to the ministry to lodge a protest.

"The announcement is problematic and unacceptable," said Kono, urging Seoul to stick with the agreement signed under its previous government. South Korea's Foreign Ministry couldn't immediately confirm Kono's comments that Ambassador Lee told Japanese officials Seoul doesn't plan to scrap or renegotiate the agreement.

Seoul's Ministry of Gender



Participants tear papers reading "2015 agreement between South Korea and Japan" during a weekly rally against Tokyo near the Japanese Embassy in Seoul

Equality and Family said it will take legal steps to dissolve the foundation, a process ministry officials said could take months. Lee Nam-hoon, an official from the gender equality ministry, said Seoul's Foreign Ministry plans to consult with Tokyo on what to do with the 1 billion yen (USD8.8 million) Japan funded to the foundation that was formally launched in July 2016.

"After considering diverse opinions over the 'Reconciliation and Healing Foundation' based on victim-centric principles, we have decided to push for the dissolution of the foundation," Gender Equality Minister Jin Sun Mee said in a statement. She said the ministry will continue to push policies to "restore the honor and dignity" of the sexual slavery victims.

The decision was welcomed by hundreds of protesters gathered in Seoul for a weekly rally denouncing sexual slavery by Japan's wartime military. Organizers played a recorded message by a hospitalized 92-year-old victim, Kim Bok-dong, who said she was happy that the foundation was getting dissolved but also demanded a proper apology and compensation from Tokyo.

"We won, [but] it's just the start," said Yoon Meehyang, who heads an activist group representing South Korean sexual slavery victims. "In saying that we won, we mean that we turned back history to the day before Dec. 28, 2015. We will invest all our passion to write a new history of justice while the victims still have time and overcome past three years that were lost."

Historians say tens of thousands of women from around Asia, many of them Korean, were sent to front-line military brothels to provide sex to Japanese soldiers.

Liberal South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who has been a harsh critic of the 2015 deal reached under his conservative predecessor, told Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe during a meeting in September that the foundation was failing to function properly because of strong opposition by the victims and public. A South Korean government panel in December last year concluded the deal as seriously flawed because Seoul's previous conservative government failed to properly communicate with the victims before reaching the deal.

South Korea and Japan are already at odds over a ruling by Seoul's Supreme Court last month that a major Japanese steelmaker should compensate four South Koreans for forced labor during Japan's colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula before the end of World War II. Abe said Tokyo will respond "resolutely" to the ruling, which he described as a violation of a 1965 treaty between Seoul and Tokyo that restored diplomatic ties and was accompanied by more than \$800 million in economic aid and loans from Tokyo to Seoul.

Seoul and Tokyo's bitter disputes over history have complicated Washington's efforts to strengthen trilateral cooperation to deal with North Korea's nuclear threat and China's growing influence in the region. At the time of the sex slave deal, Seoul said there were 46 surviving South Korean victims. But 19 of them since died. Twelve victims who rejected payment from the foundation sued the Seoul government over the deal in August 2016, saying it

deal in August 2016, saying it didn't go far enough to establish Japan's responsibility.

Lee, the ministry official, said the foundation had used 4.4 billion won (\$3.8 million) in cash payments to 34 victims who were alive at the time of the 2015 deal and to relatives of 58 victims who were dead by then. Only 27 of around 240 South Korean women who registered with the government as victims of Japan's wartime sexual slavery are currently alive, Lee said. **AP**

SECRETARY of State Mike Pompeo said the U.S. has "made clear" to South Korea that progress

Pompeo sounds word of caution on expansion of South-North ties

on disarming North Korea should not lag behind the expansion of relations between the two Koreas.

Pompeo said there's "complete agreement" between Washington and Seoul on this, but his comments to reporters underscore U.S. anxiety over a potential disconnect with its close ally.

Pompeo said the U.S. and South Korea set up a working group, which is meeting in Washington early yesterday [Macau time], to ensure they don't "talk past each other" on their dealings with North Korea. U.S. Special Representative for North Korea Stephen Biegun was holding the talks with his South Korean counterpart, Lee Do-hoon.

KOREAS

"We have made clear to the ROK that we do want to make sure that peace on the peninsula and denuclearization of North Korea aren't lagging behind the increase in the relationship between the two Koreas," Pompeo told a news conference, using the acronym for the South's official name, the Republic of Korea. "We view them as moving forward together."

Negotiations between the U.S. and North Korea on ending its nuclear program have appeared to stall in the months since President Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un held a historic summit in Singapore, where they made a vague commitment on "denuclearization" of the Korean Peninsula but glossed over how to make it happen. So while North Korea is

pressing for sanctions relief now, the U.S. is continuing to intensify economic restrictions and says it won't relent until Pyongyang denuclearizes.

In the meantime, South Korea's liberal government has pressed forward in cooperation with the North, staging brief reunions of divided families and dialing down military tensions. North Korea on Tuesday blew up some of its front-line guard posts on the heavily fortified border as part of an agreement with the South, Seoul's Defense Ministry said. **AP**



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo

KIM JONG YANG

South Korean named Interpol president in blow to Russia

Aya Batrawy & Angela Charlton, Dubai

OUTH Korea's Kim Jong Yang was elected as Interpol's president yesterday, edging out a longtime veteran of Russia's security services who was strongly opposed by the U.S., Britain and other European nations.

Kim's election was seen as a victory for the White House and its European partners, who had lobbied against Alexander Prokopchuk's attempts to be named the next president of the policing organization.

The U.S. and others expressed concern that if Russia's candidate had been elected, it would lead to further Kremlin abuses of Interpol's red notice system to go after political opponents and fugitive dissidents.

Russia accused its critics of running a "campaign to discredit" their candidate, calling Prokopchuk a respected professional.

■ 일시 | 2018. 01. 23 (화



Kim Jong Yang

Kim's win means he secured at least two-thirds of votes cast at Interpol's general assembly in Dubai. He will serve until 2020, completing the four-year mandate of his predecessor, Meng Hongwei, who was detained in China as part of a wide anti-corruption sweep there.

Kim, a police official in South Korea, was serving as interim president after Meng's departure from the post and was senior vice president at Interpol. Russia's Interior Ministry said after the vote that Prokopchuk, who is one of three vice presidents at Interpol, will continue his role in that position.

<u>عداد</u> ASIA-PACIFIC

Most of Interpol's 194 member-countries attended the organization's annual assembly this year, which was held in an opulent Dubai hotel along the Persian Gulf coast.

Interpol was facing a pivotal moment in its history as delegates decided whether to hand its presidency to Prokopchuk or Kim, who were the only two candidates vying for the post.

Based in the French city of Lyon, the 95-year-old policing body is best known for issuing "red notices" that identify suspects pursued by other countries, effectively putting them on the world's "most-wanted" list.

Critics say countries like Russia, Turkey, Egypt, Iran and China have used the system to try to round up political opponents, journalists or activists, even though its rules prohibit the use of police notices for political reasons.

The agency faced criticism two years ago when Interpol's member-states approved Meng as president for a four-year term. Amnesty International has criticized "China's longstanding practice of trying to use Interpol to arrest dissidents and refugees abroad."

In 2016, Interpol introduced new measures aimed at strengthening the legal framework around the red notice system. As part of the changes, an international team of lawyers and experts first check a notice's compliance with Interpol rules and regulations before it goes out. Interpol also says it enhanced the work of an appeals body for those targeted with red notices.

Still, member countries can issue requests, known as diffusions, directly to other countries using Interpol's communication system, without going through the centralized Interpol vetting that's in place for red notices. Watchdog groups have urged Interpol to reform the diffusion system too.

Bill Browder, who runs an investment fund that had once operated in Moscow, says Russia used the diffusion system against him, which led to his brief arrest in Spain earlier this year. **AP**







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Times



Iraqi soldiers patrol along the border between Syria and Iraq in Qaim, Anbar province, Iraq

IRAQ

Town fearful as battle against IS rages next door

Qassim Abdul-Zahra & Philip Issa, Qaim

MORE than a year after the Iraqi town of Qaim was freed from the Islamic State group, booms from airstrikes still echo and columns of smoke rise beyond the berms and concrete walls marking the border with Syria. There, on the other side, the fight is raging to capture one of the militants' last enclaves.

Iraqi troops and Shiite militiamen outside Qaim watch over a giant earth barricade topped with barbed wire that runs along the long, featureless desert border, trying to prevent IS infiltration. Iraqi artillery and U.S.-led coalition warplanes bombard IS positions inside Syria, while Iraqi militiamen along with allied Iranian troops cross the border to back Syrian government forces there. The battle on the doorstep means life in Qaim is still on hold, with residents waiting for their town to be rebuilt. There is still no central electricity, and running water works only intermittently. On the outskirts lie the wreckage of houses, their walls blasted open and roofs collapsed from bombardment during the assault a year ago by militias and U.S.-backed Iraqi troops who retook Qaim from IS.

The dusty, quiet streets are dotted with security checkpoints, manned by the military and the government-sanctioned, Iranian-backed militias known as the Popular Mobilization Forces, who are viewed with deep suspicion by many in this Sunni Muslim town. Many checkpoints fly both Iraqi national flags and the militias' banners proclaiming Shiite slogans.

On the main commercial road, militiamen and Iranian fighters shop in the markets. One fruit seller, Nabil Mashhad, said that since he doesn't speak Farsi, he shows the Iranians the prices on his cellphone's calculator. who have been waging an offensive since mid-September. On the west bank of the river is the Syrian military, backed by Russian airpower along with Iranian troops and Iraqi militiamen.

The battle on the doorstep means life in Qaim is still on hold, with residents waiting for their town to be rebuilt

in the enclave. The Iraqi military believes senior IS leadership are among them, possibly top leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. IS holds one other pocket in Syria, but that is a largely uninhabited desert expanse surrounded by government-held territory.

"We never thought or said this fight would be easy. These are some of ISIS's most determined fighters, and they've had a lot of time to prepare," the deputy commander of the U.S.led coalition, British Maj. Gen. Christopher Ghika, told The Associated Press.

Retaking the enclave has also been slowed by the rivalries among the various forces besieging it, said Iraqi Gen. Qassim Mohamed, commander of Iraqi forces in the Qaim area. Each must move carefully to avoid friction with the other.

Meanwhile, IS has turned to insurgent tactics inside Iraq. Last week, it claimed an attack on the home of a tribal leader that killed nine members of the security forces in Anbar, the province that includes Oaim. There has been an uptick in bombings and kidnappings elsewhere in the country, though not all are claimed by IS. A reminder of the group's presence came last week when the U.S. military announced that American and Iraqi forces killed more than 50 militants in October in the Makhmour Mountains of north-central Iraq. "The security situation is under control," Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi told a televised press conference. "It's natural that Daesh is trying to recover its strength," he said, using an Arabic acronym for the group. "Our forces monitor them, repel

them and are in control of all the crossings."

In Qaim, the border crossing is sealed by a concrete wall with a metal gate. Militiamen cross into Syria using a gap in the earth berm south of the town.

The town was once a thriving stopover on the highway between Damascus and Baghdad. Long before a hard border materialized in the latter half of the 20th century, tribes sent their grooms and brides across the frontier to marry, extending the branches of their families on both sides.

When IS overran the town in 2014, it linked the group's holdings in both countries and connected them to key highways leading to multiple parts of Iraq.

Many of Qaim's 120,000 residents fled IS. A third of them still have not returned.

Security forces issue passes to allow residents to move in and out, a measure against infiltrators. But to apply for an ID, residents must be vetted by both the army and the militias, raising uncomfortable questions about who is in control. Among Iraq's Sunnis, the Shiite militias are widely resented, and relations between the two communities have been poisoned ever since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion.

"The situation is bad," Mashhad said. "Where are the services? The schools? There's no life. We're working just trying to get by."

The fight next door underscores the tenacity of the Islamic State group, a year after it was driven out of almost all the territory it once held, which at its height encompassed nearly a third of both Iraq and Syria.

The IS enclave across the border is the last area with a significant population that it holds, a 30-kilometer stretch of towns on the east bank of the Euphrates River.

The militants are surrounded. On one side are the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, backed by American warplanes, IS has fought back ferociously. Last month, it attacked under cover of a sandstorm and captured a number of villages from the SDF. During the fighting, the militants drove explosivespacked cars through tunnels to emerge at their opponent's lines and at one point lured SDF fighters into an ambush by sending a woman to cry for help, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a group that monitors Syria's war.

The extremist group is estimated to have several thousand fighters, including many Iraqis, Qaim resident Talal Obeid said he had been hesitant about returning home because of reports of militia abuses.

"We are more scared of the yellow flags than the black ones," he said, referring to the yellow banners of the Kataeb Hezbollah militia and the black flags of IS.

"I worry if they stay, there will be friction and provocations." **AP**

WORLD 1

JAMAL KHASHOGGI

Trump defies calls to punish crown prince for writer's death





Late US-based columnist Jamal Khashoggi

Deb Riechmann, Washington

RESIDENT Donald Trump has declared he will not further punish Saudi Arabia for the murder of U.S.-based columnist Jamal Khashoggi – making clear in an exclamation-filled statement that the benefits of good relations with the kingdom outweigh the possibility its crown prince ordered the killing.

The president condemned the brutal slaying of Khashoggi inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul as a "horrible crime [...] that our country does not condone." But he rejected calls by many in Congress, including members of his own party, for a tougher response, and he dismissed reports from U.S. intelligence agencies that Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman must have at least known about such an audacious and intricate plot. "It could very well be that the crown prince had knowledge of this tragic event," the president said yesterday [Macau time]. "Maybe he did and maybe he didn't!" In many ways, the statement captured Trump's view of the world and foreign policy, grounded in economic necessity. It began with the words "America First!" followed by "The world is a very dangerous place!" It came after weeks of debate over whether the president would or should come down hard on the Saudis and the crown prince in response to the killing of the Saudi columnist for The Washington Post who had criticized the royal family.

The U.S. earlier sanctioned 17 Saudi officials suspected of being responsible for or complicit in the Oct. 2 killing, but members of Congress have called for harsher actions, including canceling arms sales.

Trump said "foolishly canceling these contracts" worth billions of dollars would only benefit Russia and China, which would be next in line to supply the weapons. Critics denounced Trump's statement saying he ignored human rights and granted Saudi Arabia a pass for economic reasons.

Asked by a reporter if he was saying that human rights are too expensive to fight for, he responded, "No, I'm not saying that at all." But then he switched the subject to the "terrorist nation" of Iran rather than any actions by Saudi Arabia. Republican Lindsey Graham, the South Carolina senator who is close to Trump, also disagreed with the president's statement, saying America must not lose its "moral voice" on the international stage.

"It is not in our national security interests to look the other way when it comes to the brutal murder of Mr. Jamal Khashoggi," Graham said.

It could very well be that the crown prince had knowledge of this tragic

se and left for the long holiday weekend in Florida, underscored his world view of putting U.S. interests — both financial and geopolitical — above all else. He told reporters on the Sou-

th Lawn that oil prices would "skyrocket" if the U.S. broke with the Saudis, and he was not going to "destroy" the world's economy by being "foolish with Saudi Arabia."

Asked about any personal financial involvement, he said: "Saudi Arabia has nothing to do with me. What does have to do with me is putting America first." Trump said that King Salman

and Crown Prince Mohammed both "vigorously deny" any knowledge of the planning or execution of the killing. He also said the CIA has not made a Saudi prosecutors say a 15man team sent to Istanbul exceeded its authority when the lead negotiator in the team decided to kill Khashoggi for refusing orders to return. The Saudis say the agents dismembered his body, which has not been found.

Democrats on Capitol Hill called on the CIA and other top intelligence agencies to publicly report what it has learned about the killing.

The CIA had no comment on the president's statement. However, former Director John Brennan, a frequent Trump critic, tweeted: "Since Mr. Trump excels in dishonesty, it is now up to members of Congress to obtain & declassify the CIA findings on Jamal Khashoggi's death. No one in Saudi Arabia — most especially the Crown Prince should escape accountability for such a heinous act."

Trump said he knew some members of Congress would disagree with his decision. He said he would listen to their ideas, but only if they were focused on U.S. national security.

Late last week, a bipartisan group of senators introduced legislation that calls for suspending weapons sales to Saudi Arabia, for sanctions on people who block humanitarian access in Yemen or support the Houthi rebels, and mandatory sanctions on those responsible for Khashoggi's death.

Democrats harshly criticized Trump's decision and called on Congress to cut off arm sales to Saudi Arabia and end support for Saudi Arabia's war against the Iran-backed Houthi rebels in neighboring Yemen, which is facing a humanitarian crisis.

"Standing with Saudi Arabia is not 'America First!" said Democratic Sen. Tim Kaine of Virginia where Khashoggi lived. "President Trump has sided with a murderous regime over patriotic American intelligence officials."

Democrat Dianne Feinstein of California, a member of the Senate intelligence committee, said Khashoggi was killed by agents of the Saudi government in a "premeditated murder, plain and simple," and she said

The U.S. needs a "counterbalance" to Iran, "and Israel needs help, too," he said. "If we abandon Saudi Arabia, it would be a terrible mistake."

The mistake was Trump's, said Republican Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, contending the administration has "blinders on" in comparing Iran and Saudi Arabia.

"It's a sign of weakness not to stand up to Saudi Arabia," Paul said in an interview. "Sometimes when you have two evils, maybe you don't support either side." event. Maybe he did and maybe he didn't!

TRUMP

Likewise, Rep. Adam Schiff, ranking Democrat on the House intelligence committee, said that to suggest that U.S. silence can be bought with arms sales "undermines respect for the office of the presidency, the credibility of our intelligence community and America's standing as a champion of human rights." Trump's statement, issued just before he pardoned the Thanksgiving turkey at the White Houconclusive determination about whether the crown prince ordered it.

A U.S. official familiar with the case told The Associated Press last week that intelligence officials had concluded that the crown prince, the kingdom's de facto leader, did order the killing. Others familiar with the case, however, have cautioned that while it's likely the crown prince had a role there continue to be questions about the degree.

"We may never know all of the facts surrounding the murder of Mr. Jamal Khashoggi," Trump said. "In any case, our relationship is with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. They have been a great ally in our very important fight against Iran." she would introduce legislation requiring intelligence agencies to release an unclassified public assessment.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo defended Trump's decision, saying, "We are determined to ensure that we continue to make sure that we take care of the American people in all of the strategic decisions we make about with whom we work with around the world."

The president opened his eight-paragraph statement chastising Iran for its proxy war against Saudi Arabia in Yemen, its activities in Iraq, its backing of the Syrian government of Bashar Assad and its support of militant groups, which Riyadh has pledged billions to fight. **AP**



22.11.2018 **thu**

Times

what's ON



"WE ARE ARTISTS MADE IN MACAU" MARKET TIME: 2pm-9pm UNTIL: November 25, 2018 VENUE: Albergue SCM ADMISSION: Free ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550 / 2852 3205

MACAU GIANT PANDA PAVILION AND PAVILION OF RARE ANIMALS TIME: 10am-1pm & 2pm-5pm daily VENUE: Seac Pai Van Park ADMISSION: MOP10 (Pavilion of Rare Animals) ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0087

ASSEMBLAGE OF TREASURES TIME: 10am-6pm (Last admission 5:30pm; closed on Mondays) UNTIL: February 19, 2019 VENUE: Macau Museum (Mount Fortress) ADMISSION: Free ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

DISCOVER MACAU: MUSEUM OF TAIPA AND COLOANE HISTORY TIME: 10am-6pm daily (last admission at 5:30pm; closed on Mondays) ADDRESS: Rua Correia da Silva, Taipa ADMISSION: Free ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

AFA AUTUMN SALON 2018 TIME: 10am -7pm ((Closed on Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays) UNTIL: November 30, 2018 VENUE: 1st Floor, Tak Chun Macau Art Garden, Avenida Dr. Rodrigo Rodrigues N. 265, Macau ADMISSION: Free ENQUIRES: (853) 2836 6064

Offbeat

AEROSMITH'S PERRY CANCELS TOUR AFTER RECENT HOSPITAL VISIT



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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



CINETEATRO

22 - 28 Nov



FANTASTIC BEASTS: THE CRIMES OF GINDELWALD ROOM 1

2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45pm Director: David Yates Starring: Eddie Redmayne, Johny Depp, Jude Law Language: English Duration: 130min



THE CURED ROOM 2 2:30, 4:30, 7:30 9:30pm Director: David Freyne Starring: Sam Keeley, Ellen Page,, Tom Vaughan-Lawlo Language: English Duration: 130min

this day in history



1963 KENNEDY SHOT DEAD IN DALLAS

The President of the United States has been assassinated by a gunman in Dallas, Texas.

John F Kennedy was hit in the head and throat when three shots were fired at his open-topped car.

The presidential motorcade was travelling through the main business area of the city.

Texas Governor John Connally was also seriously injured when one of the unknown sniper's bullets hit him in the back.

The men were accompanied by their wives, who were both uninjured.

Vice-president Lyndon Johnson - who was following in a different car - has been sworn in as the new US leader.

The presidential party was driving from Dallas airport to the city centre when witnesses said shots were fired from the window of a building overlooking the road.

The president collapsed into Jackie Kennedy's arms, who was heard to cry "Oh no". Seconds later Governor Connally was also hit.

Dallas Times Herald photographer Bob Jackson was in the motorcade close behind the Democrat leader's car and heard the shots as it entered Dealey Plaza.

"As I looked up I saw a rifle being pulled back from a window - it might have been resting on the windowsill - I didn't see a man," he said.

Mr Kennedy's limousine was driven at speed to Parklands Hospital immediately after the shooting.

The president was alive when he was admitted, but died at 1400 local time (1900 GMT) - 35 minutes after being shot.

Police and Secret Service agents stormed the School Book Depository building moments after the shots were fired and recovered a rifle with a telescopic sight, said to be the assassination weapon.

The mood of shock in the US was echoed by Se-

Steven Tyler (left) and Joe Perry of Aerosmith perform on NBC's "Today" show in August 2015

Joe Perry has canceled his fall tour to take time off after recently being hospitalized with breathing problems.

The Aerosmith guitarist's publicist said in a statement yesterday [Macau time] the 68-year-old will take the rest of the year off. He had expected to return to the road starting Nov. 30 through Dec. 16.

Perry felt short of breath after a guest performance with Billy Joel at Madison Square Garden in New York. Paramedics backstage gave Perry oxygen and used a tracheal tube to clear his airway before taking him to the hospital.

Perry had joined the 69-year-old Joel on stage for a rendition of Aerosmith's "Walk This Way."

Perry says he apologizes to fans who planned to attend his shows. He expects to return next year.

KAMEN RIDER BUILD X ROOM 3 2:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30 pm Director: Kazuya Kamihouriuchi Language: Japanese (Chinese) Duration: 112min



MY HERO ACADEMIA ROOM 3 9:30 P.M. Director: Kenji Nagasaki Language: Japanese (Chinese, English) Duration: 112min nator Mike Mansfield in an emergency forum of the senate.

"This is terrible - I cannot find words," he said.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

A little under an hour after the shooting, a policeman approached Lee Harvey Oswald, believing he recognised his description. The policeman was shot dead. Oswald was arrested almost immediately under suspicion of murder.

Shortly afterwards, he was also charged with the assassination of President Kennedy.

The suspect was never tried as he was shot dead himself two days later by nightclub owner Jack Ruby.

The Warren Report, commissioned to investigate the president's death, concluded he had been killed by shots fired by Mr Oswald from the School Book Depository building.

But conspiracy enthusiasts quickly turned the assassination into one of the most disputed events in modern history, with theories ranging from claims it was an elaborately staged suicide to the driver being the murderer.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



Mar. 21-Apr. 19

This is not a good time to sit around waiting for things to happen - you have to stir them up! You may find that your energy is perfect for moving forward with all sorts of crazy new schemes.





love or in other parts of life are calling in favors or otherwise dominating your time. This is not at all a bad thing, though it may keep you from some vital tasks.



Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Small-minded people really get under your skin today - and you may need to tell one off. The good news is that people are inclined to take your words in the right way, so you should still get along afterward.



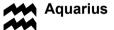
Sep.23-Oct. 22

Explore new territory today whether it's online, out in the world or even in the middle of your most intimate relationship. You're at your best when you're finding out what's really going on.



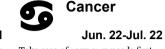
Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You're feeling quite jolly today — and it's easy to share this feeling with those around you. Make sure that your people are all having fun. Those who aren't need an attitude adjustment that you can provide easily.



Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You find new ways to use your talents and energy today, so make sure that you're reaching but into new fields and trying any new activity that comes your way. You might learn something big!



something cool happen.

Take care of your own needs first otherwise, you will never get around to them! It may feel awkward to deny others while you're dealing with your own business, but it's vital that you do.

Taurus



Roll the dice — take a risk today. You need to believe in yourself and push your luck just as far as it will go. You may not come out ahead, but the act of trying should prime the pump for later adventures.

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Trust your gut today - even if it's telling you some pretty weird things. Your energy needs all the help it can get to navigate the day's weird obstacles, and you may find a few shortcuts.



Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Your sense of discipline and rigor makes today more focused - but also more fun, if you can believe it! Your determination makes it easier to get all the important work done early so you can move on to other activities.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20

You are in conflict with your boss - or someone else who's responsible for a project you care about. You can't convince them you're right, so you may just have to let them fail.



SUDOKU

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VEATHER

	MIN	ΜΑΧ	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	5	19	cloudy
Harbin	2	16	clear/cloudy
Tianjin	9	20	clear/cloudy
Urumqi	-6	2	clear
Xi'an	12	18	drizzle/overcast
Lhasa	5	20	clear/cloudy
Chengdu	13	15	drizzle
Chongqing	15	17	drizzle
Kunming	11	22	cloudy/clear
Nanjing	10	20	cloudy
Shanghai	13	20	cloudy
Wuhan	12	19	cloudy/overcast
Hangzhou	11	20	cloudy
Taipei	20	22	drizzle
Guangzhou	19	25	cloudy
Hong Kong	22	25	cloudy
WORLD			
WORLD			
Moscow	-5	0	flurry
Frankfurt	0	6	drizzle
Paris	-2	4	clear/cloudy
London	0	8	drizzle
New York	2	4	cloudy

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Transvaal farmer; 5- Like old jeans; 10- Attire; 14- Magazine founder Eric; 15- Eastern; 16- Novelist Seton; 17- In spite of; 20- Earth; 21- Parisian season; 22- Leers at: 23- Lance on the bench: 25- Loosen: 27- Artisan who works with metal: 21- Late bloomers; 35- Romeo's last words; 36- Drink; 38- Fido's appointment;
 39- Diarist Anaïs; 40- Cpl.'s superior; 41- ____ Kapital; 42- UN agency; 43- Non-Rx; 44- Cellist Pablo; 46- Remove water from a boat; 47- Aries; 49- To befall; 51-Met highlights; 53- Vinegar's partner; 54- French composer Erik; 57- Back muscle, briefly; 59 ____ acid (B vitamin); 63- Cause light to pass through; 66- Farm unit; 67- Mythical weeper; 68- Footnote abbr.; 69- Storage shelter; 70- Where Hercules slew the lion; 71- Shout;

DOWN: 1- It's laid down on a diamond; 2- Nebraska City's county; 3- ____'acte; 4- Big revision: 5- Blubber: 6- 1975 Wimbledo

of fingerprint; 10- Doohickey; 11- Ind source; 12- Sandberg of baseball; Sacks; 18- Must've been something 19- Sounds; 24- Japanese art of fold paper; 26- Pungent sauce; 27- Burgu grape; 28- Archie Bunker's wife; 29- Flinch; 30- 911 respondents; 32- Perrier rival; 33-

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USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency calls 999 Fire department 28 572 222 PJ (Open line) 993 PJ (Picket) 28 557 775 PSP 28 573 333 Customs 28 559 944 S. J. Hospital 28 313 731

Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333

Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283 Water Supply - Report 2822 0088 Telephone – Report 1000 Electricity - Report 28 339 922 Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



AD

4 7 8

Museum piece; 34- Ripped off; 37- Lazy, inactive: 40- Frightens: 45- Third son of David; 46- Nonsense; 48- Showered; 50-LP player: 52- Kate & : 54- BB stops: 55- Flatfoot's lack; 56- Shipping deduction; 58- Pipe; 60- Overdue; 61- Romance lang.; 62- Honeycomb unit; 64- B & B; 65- Give break



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Tourism 28 333 000

Airport 59 888 88

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SPORTS 19

Nations League a hit as positivity replaces skepticism

James Ellingworth, Steve Douglas

OR Aleksander Ceferin, the UEFA Nations League was an overwhelming thumbs up.

Across the continent, skepticism seems to have been replaced by positivity as European soccer's latest innovation replaced many unpopular friendly games in a busy calendar.

"The Nations League is even more successful than we thought," Ceferin, the president of UEFA, said after group play ended Tuesday.

Most Nations League games were taken seriously and some, like the Netherlands' dramatic comeback draw against Germany on Monday, provided real drama. What initially appeared to be a complex format started to make sense.

The competition involves all 55 European national teams, playing in small groups and separated into four tiers using promotion and relegation. A champion will emerge from a Final Four after a mini-tournament in June.

The Nations League will also award at least one place at the 2020 European Championship to one of the lowest-ranked teams on the continent. A look at the Nations League's impact:

FINAL FOUR

With World Cup finalists France and Croatia failing to win their groups — while Spain, Germany and Belgium also missed out — the Final Four in June will take place without several top teams. Instead, the surprise lineup of finalists includes Por-



Harry Kane celebrates scoring his side's second goal during the UEFA Nations League football match between England and Croatia

tugal, England, the Netherlands and Switzerland.

Can Portugal forward Cristiano Ronaldo win another trophy? That's if he plays, of course. The Juventus forward, who will be 34 in February, has been absent from international duty since the World Cup and faces a rape allegation in the United States.

Kathryn Mayorga filed a civil lawsuit in September in Nevada claiming Ronaldo raped her in his Las Vegas hotel room in 2009. Police reopened an investigation into the allegation at her request. Ronaldo has denied any wrongdoing.

Will Harry Kane-led England capture its first international title since the World Cup in 1966? The debate over whether winning the Nations League would genuinely end the title drought will ramp up in the coming months but coach Gareth Southgate will view it as another important step for a young team which also reached the World Cup semifinals.

Is this the start of a new, exciting era for the Dutch after the dark days when they failed to qualify for the 2016 European Championship and the 2018 World Cup? Highly rated youngsters Frenkie de Jong and Matthijs de Ligt are key members of the team and Memphis Depay is seemingly fulfilling his potential.

Can Switzerland, which hasn't reached the quarterfinals of a major tournament since 1954, continue to upset the odds after ousting Belgium in group play? The Swiss will be the outsiders.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The Final Four, as well promotion and relegation in the four leagues, are easy enough to understand. However, the Nations League is also a backdoor into the 2020 European Championship.

That's where things can get confusing.

There will still be a typical European Championship qualifying campaign, but 16 teams get a second chance through playoffs.

In spring 2020, the 2018 Nations League results will be dusted off as the qualifying criteria for the playoffs, handing places to the four best-placed teams from each Nations League tier who missed out in qualifying.

Currently, that means Kosovo is guaranteed a playoff spot but World Cup champion France isn't — although the French are almost certain to qualify for 2020 the usual way.

MEANINGFULL MATCHES

Europe's smallest teams finally have something to play for. The likes of Georgia, Macedonia and Kosovo usually spend their time scrambling to organize barely watched friendlies. The Nations League gives them meaningful games and, since all three won their League D groups, a shot at qualifying for a European Championship — something that's normally all but impossible.

Gone are the days when several of the tiniest nations waited years to earn a single point. The Nations League division system means UEFA's smallest member, Gibraltar, was playing comparable opponents and earned two rare wins, while Luxembourg came within four points of winning its group.

No change for perennial struggler San Marino, though. It still lost all six of its games without scoring a goal.

FANS UNSURE

The games may be exciting, but they're rarely sold out. There were more than 20,000 empty seats in Gelsenkirchen for Germany's dramatic 2-2 draw with the Netherlands, while Tuesday's game between World Cup quarterfinalists Sweden and Russia was roundly criticized for its flat atmosphere even though promotion was at stake.

For Scotland's 3-2 home win over Israel — a promotion decider billed as the host nation's biggest game in a decade — Hampden Park was less than half full.

That shows that some European soccer fans have been slow to fall in love with the new Nations League format, though the old friendlies weren't always crowd pleasers.

FIFA is sure to be watching, since president Gianni Infantino — formerly of UEFA — is looking to build a worldwide Nations League clone. **AP**





new tournament in Japan

"I think this will be the

first PGA Tour sponsor

that is going to the moon,"

he said through an inter-

preter Tuesday in annou-

ncing the tournament. "I

haven't decided who I will

take to the moon with me

yet. I would like to talk to

many people with an open

Japanese golfer Hideki Matsuyama was si-

tting alongside Maezawa

during the media event at

mind.'

Stephen Wade, Tokyo

THE PGA Tour will hold its first official tournament in Japan. And the main sponsor of next year's event, Japanese billionaire Yusaku Maezawa, is describing it as a kind of "moonshot" for golf in his country. Maezawa should know.

The founder of the Japanese fashion website Zozotown, Maezawa was announced earlier this year as the first commercial passenger to attempt a central Tokyo hotel. a flight around the moon. "I don't know whethe

"I don't know whether he will ask me, but I would love to go [to the moon]," Matsuyama said.

The tournament, set for Oct. 24-27, will be part of the PGA's swing through Asia along with stops in South Korea and China. The Japanese tournament replaces one in Malaysia. The PGA said it was a six-year deal, and driven partly by the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and golf's high profile there. PGA officials said the Zozo Championship will have a purse of \$9.75 million with a field of 78 — plus 10 designated by the Japanese Tour, and eight others with special exemptions. It will be played at the Accordia Golf Narashino Country Club in Chiba prefecture, just outside Tokyo.

Maezawa said he was a "5-handicap" golfer at his best, but said he may have slipped to a 9-handicap — also a high level for an

amateur player.

Isao Aoki, who was the first Japanese player to win a PGA Tour event, was thrilled by the announcement. Aoki won in 1983 in Hawaii. "Finally this day has come," the 76-year-old Aoki said. "If I were younger, I'd like to play in a PGA tournament in Japan. I wish this day had come earlier." **AP**

МаcauDaily _{жранва} «

opinion

Made in Macao Jenny Lao-Phillips



Work-Life Balance and the Seven Sins

Talking about the seven sins as a form of work-life-balance may be against my Catholic beliefs. But as I watched the episode about The Seven on the TV show Supernatural for the tenth plus time, I cannot help but think of the seven sins in their relation to successful careers and contentment in our lives. I came to the conclusion that the seven sins are deadly only when they are committed in the extreme.

In all likelihood even those who are not religious would know the seven sins from fiction. So without further ado, let's first look at "pride", that which is considered the root of all sins, the cause of all our damnation from the first fallen angel to our ancestors in the Garden of Eden. So, pride is bad! But one that has no pride in one's work at all may lack the motivation to continue. While pride at its extreme leads to arrogance, without a small amount of pride, one becomes subservient, or in other words, a push-over. So, in terms of achievement, there must be something that makes one feel proud of what one does.

Then there is "envy", a force that may push us to be better than others, but may tempt us to kill those whom we are jealous of when taken to the extreme, which is not good. But like it or not, it is out of pride and envy that most people are pushed to work harder and do better. However, "pride" and "envy" cause us to focus on competing with others, and as the Chinese saying goes '一山還有一山 高 There is always a mountain higher', so envy out of pride for ourselves alone would be endless, for there is always someone to compete with, and ultimately, we end in "wrath": anger towards everyone or even the world, for we failed to achieve what we want.

So, sometimes it may not be too bad to add a little bit of "sloth" in our lives, some time to do nothing, think nothing and over indulge in ice-cream, or in my case, oysters, which may be indicative of "gluttony". But in the end "sloth" and "gluttony" may prevent us from the "wrath" that may result from our unresolved "pride" and "envy". And a moderate amount of "sloth" and "gluttony" may temper the "greed" of power and money if that is what we strive for in our career, and therefore keep us from corruption.

Not that I am advocating any of the seven deadly sins should be practiced, but if we

AID GROUP: 85,000 CHILDREN MAY BUZZ HAVE DIED OF HUNGER IN YEMEN

An estimated 85,000 children under age 5 may have died of hunger and disease since the outbreak of Yemen's civil war in 2015, an international aid group said yesterday.

Save the Children said the "conservative" estimate is based on average mortality rates for Severe Acute Malnutrition, which the U.N. says has afflicted more than 1.3 million children since a Saudi-led coalition went to war with Yemen's Houthi rebels in March 2015.

Tamer Kirolos, Save the Children's Yemen director, says: "For every child killed by bombs and bullets, dozens are starving to death and it's entirely preventable," adding that "children who die in this way suffer immensely."



High Density Residental Area Ambient

Station

Roadside

Air quality

70-100 Moderate

55-75

70-100

Moderate

Moderate

WORLD BRIEFS

SOUTH SUDAN A child bride auction has gone viral in South Sudan, marking the largest dowry ever paid in the civil war-torn country. The highest bidder was a man three times the 17-year-old's age. At least four other men in Eastern Lakes state competed, including the state's deputy governor.

KOSOVO's government says it will put a 100 percent import tax on all goods imported from Serbia and Bosnia Herzegovina as diplomatic tensions rise.



BRITAIN Prime Minister Theresa May told skeptical lawmakers yesterday that rejecting her divorce deal with the European Union would mean uncertainty and division, before a meeting with European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker to help finalize the Brexit agreement.

BRAZIL A civil society organization says greenhouse gas emissions in Brazil dropped last year mainly due to a 12 percent reduction in Amazon deforestation as a result of increased inspections by Brazil's environmental protection agency.



US carrier in Hong Kong after bombers fly over South China Sea

Alice Fung & Christopher Bodeen, Hong Kong

AU.S. aircraft carrier docked in Hong Kong yesterday, days after a pair of American B-52 bombers flew over the disputed South China Sea.

The arrival of the USS Ronald Reagan and its battle group in the Asian financial hub is being seen as a friendly gesture ahead of a planned meeting later this month between President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping. That will mark the first time they've sat down together since the start of a bitter trade war and amid tensions over the South China Sea.

China has demanded the U.S. cease military activity of all kind near its South China Sea island claims that it has been rapidly fortifying. The U.S. says it takes no stance on sovereignty claims, but will continue to sail and operate wherever international law permits.

In late September, a Chinese destroyer came close to the USS Decatur in the South China Sea in what the U.S. Navy called an "unsafe and unprofessional maneuver."

Asked to comment on the incident, Rear Adm. Karl O. Thomas, commander of Carrier Strike Group 5, said the "vast majority of our interactions out there at sea are very professional."

"That was a rare, unusual occurrence," Thomas told reporters at a shipboard news conference. "In that particular case, the ship made some aggressive, continuing aggressive maneuvers and our ship warned them and had to maneuver to prevent a collision. It was unfortunate and I'd like to see that not happen again." nesday. The Navy said in a statement that during the Reagan's visit, interactions will take place with Hong Kong citizens through sports, community relations projects and tours of the carrier. More than 4,400 men and women are usually aboard the ship.

The Reagan's visit comes two months after China rejected a similar request by another U.S. Navy ship amid a spike in tensions between the countries' militaries.

Ronald Reagan aircraft carrier in Hong Kong

Journalists and navy sailors gather on the deck of the U.S. Navy USS

More than 4,400 men and women are usually aboard the ship

And while the port call is seen as a positive for bilateral relations, other events this week point to the ongoing rivalry between the sides.

U.S. Pacific Air Forces said two B-52 bombers flew over the South China Sea earlier this week, calling it a "routine training mission." The B-52H Stratofortress bombers departed Andersen Air Force Base in Guam as part of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command's Continuous Bomber Presence operations that began in 2004, Pacific Air Forces said in a statement Wedtional Studies, or CSIS, reported that China had installed a new platform on Bombay Reef, a remote undeveloped feature in the Chinese-controlled Paracel Islands in the South China Sea. Vietnam and Taiwan also claim the reef.

The platform appears to be topped with a radome and solar panels, and its strategic location makes it likely it is intended to extend China's radar or signals intelligence collection in the area, the report said. Bombay Reef already has a lighthouse to serve as an aid to navigation.

Unlike China's large manmade islands created by piling sand on top of coral reefs, installing the modestly sized Bombay Reef platform did not require inflicting major environmental damage, CSIS said. However, that illustrates how easily China could expand its footprint to other features such as Scarborough Shoal, which it seized from the Philippines in 2012, it added. Compared to dredging and reclamation, the installation of a modest platform would be "harder to prevent at the time and more difficult to rally international condemnation against after the fact," the report said. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said that he had no information about the details of the report, while reasserting China's claims to the island group it calls Xisha. AP

cannot avoid all, we may as well balance them a bit. The seven sins are deadly if taken to the extremes, but without a balance amongst them, we may end up becoming unambitious push-overs that do nothing but overeat and covet what other people have, thus being angry with the whole world for what we are not given. At least with a bit of "pride", "envy" and "greed", we are motivated to do more and gain more, and they are balanced with a little "sloth" and "gluttony" so we can enjoy life, especially with people we love, and that would help suppress general "wrath" as a result of the unbalanced. Yes, I am aware there is one of the seven that I have not mentioned, but that would take a whole thesis to explain, which may get me evicted from my Church. So here, let's just try to balance an even number of six before we tip the scale with the seventh.

"This recent mission is consistent with international law and United States' long-standing commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific," the statement said.

Also this week, the Washington-based Center for Strategic and Internaof Guatemalan villagers are beginning to return home a day after being evacuated due to an eruption of the Volcano of Fire. MEXICO's former top security chief and another law enforcement official who once worked

enforcement official who once worked under the country's new president-elect took millions of dollars in bribes from the notorious Sinaloa drug cartel in the mid-2000s, a witness testified Tuesday at the U.S. trial of kingpin Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman.