Free influenza vaccination for local pregnant women

Lower the risk of contracting influenza and its complications

INFLUENZA Vaccination

CAMBODIA Police yesterday arrested more than 200 Chinese citizens accused of defrauding people in China over the internet.

JAPAN Police said yesterday they found six bodies believed to be members of a family in a farmhouse in a remote mountain village, and the body of a seventh person who jumped or fell from a nearby bridge.

INDIA As Mumbai marked the 10th anniversary of attacks that killed 166 in India's financial capital yesterday, the United States made a new reward offer for information on the 2008 siege. More on p13

IRAN Authorities said yesterday that the number of injured in the magnitude 6.3 earthquake in western Iran the previous night has risen to 716. No fatalities were reported from the temblor. More on p15

P3

Gaming sector growth to be strictly controlled

POlICY ADDRESS | LIONEL LEONG

Flörsch discharged from hospital, vows to return to Macau GP

WORLD BRIEFS

bernardo bertolucci dies at 77

Italian film-maker Bernardo Bertolucci, who won Oscars with "The Last Emperor," died yesterday aged 77

Bernardo Bertolucci

student charged with multiple house robberies

A 19-year-old local student has been identified as the main suspect in two recently reported house robberies

P2 CRIME

P5

P14
Future food festival may only accept electronic payment

The 18th Macau Food Festival closed on Sunday, with the organizers expecting to have had 30 to 40 percent less business compared to last year. Chan Chak Mo, event organizer and chairman of the the United Association of Food and Beverage Merchants of Macau, revealed that they are considering adopting electronic payment at future events, which may be introduced as soon as next year’s festival. “Electronic payment is the trend. Nowadays, everybody pays with their mobiles. We will consider this direction,” said Chan.

Macau records Taiwan Strait earthquake tremors

The Meteorological and Geophysics Station (SMG) reported local earth tremors yesterday morning at 7:57 a.m. The tremors were caused by a magnitude 6.2 earthquake over the Taiwan Strait, located more than 354 kilometers away from Macau. Concurrently, the SMG received inquiries from local residents who claimed to have felt the tremors. “According to the historical earthquake data, Macau is not a frequent seismic zone. However, an earthquake of magnitude 3 happened in Mo Daon Men adjacent to Macau in 1905. Furthermore, Guangdong Province and the South China Sea have earthquakes of magnitude 6 sometimes. Generally, the possibility is low for Macau to suffer from an earthquake,” the SMG website noted.

Sin Fong Temple closed for renovation

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) is carrying out renovation works on the roof and walls of the Sin Fong Temple. In order to ensure public safety, the IC has announced that the Sin Fong Temple is temporarily closed from last Friday until January 20, 2019.

Local student commits multiple house robberies

Julie Zhu

A 19-year-old local student has been charged with aggravated robbery after he was identified as the main suspect in two recently reported house robberies. The Judiciary Police (PJ) revealed during yesterday’s joint police press conference. The investigation was reported to the police on the morning of Nov. 23 by the owners of two shops located in the northern district. The shops’ power distribution boxes were damaged. Together, the two owners reported a total loss of HK$5,000.

The PJ determined that both crimes had been performed by the same person using CCTV surveillance footage. On the same day as the crimes were reported, the PJ visited the identified suspect’s residence in Coloane, where the suspect, named Chou, confessed to the crimes. According to Chou, after the shop staff had left he damaged the electricity distribution box before breaking in.

The money he stole from the two shops was allegedly gambled away in a casino.

Later, police discovered that three similar robberies had been reported by shops last June. The police then found that Chou had committed actions to his actions. He had been convicted of the crimes. After this, Chou was ordered by the court to report periodically to the police.

This time, the police charged the young local resident with aggravated robbery.

In the first half of this year, a total of 28 crimes committed by juveniles was recorded. The 28 cases involved 50 young people, representing 28 more compared to the same period in 2017. The increase was mainly due to cases of fighting (10), while four were arson cases.

UM to confer honorary doctorates on Dec. 1

The University of Macau (UM) will confer honorary doctorates on five distinguished individuals, namely Aaron J. Ciechanover, Liao Ngai Leong, Anthony Lau Siu Wing, Joseph Sung Jao-yiu, and Wang Anyi, for their outstanding achievements and significant contributions to social development and education. The Ceremony for the Conferment of Honorary and Higher Degrees 2018 will be held on December 1 at 4 p.m. in the University Hall.

UM has followed its tradition of conferring doctorates on five distinguished individuals every year since its inception in 1999. The key difference this year is that more than half of the awardees are local Macau residents. As an alumnus of UM’s foundation class, Liao Ngai Leong is a native of Chaoshou, Guangdong province, coming to Macau in the 1970s and starting a business. In addition to outstanding achievements in his career, Lao has advanced social causes and rendered public service in many ways: participating in local politics, serving public organizations, and devoting himself to education and charity.

Joseph Sung is a world-renowned scientist. His research studies have had a major impact on the practice of gastroenterology worldwide. He was hailed the ‘Asian Hero’ by Time magazine for his heroic fight against severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) during its outbreak in 2003. Wang Anyi, winner of the Mao Dun Literature Award and Lu Xun Literature Award – two of the highest Chinese literary honors – and vice chair of the Macau Writers Association, is one of the most accomplished and influential writers in China, with a writing career spanning decades.
Severe crash won’t stop Flörsch from coming back

Daniel Beitler

SEVENTEEN-year-old racing driver Sophia Flörsch says that her severe crash during the Macau Grand Prix weekend won’t stop her from coming back next year.

Flörsch’s single-seater collided at high speed with Japanese driver Sho Tsuboi’s car in the final hours of the Grand Prix event, tearing through a catch fence at the Lisboa bend and injuring several people. The accident left the young F3 driver with spinal fractures that warranted a seven-hour surgery and extended stay at the Conde de São Januário General Hospital.

Having made a partial recovery, Flörsch made her first public appearance yesterday since the November 18 crash. She was due to fly back home last night.

At a press conference held at the public hospital, specialist physicians said that it might take the young driver as long as 12 months to completely recover from the accident. However, they said Flörsch has already shown a significant improvement and is able to walk without assistance.

“Sophia Flörsch has made a significant recovery after a successful surgery carried out by our professional medical team in Macau,” said Dr Chan Hong Mou, a consultant orthopedist at the Conde de São Januário General Hospital. “She will head home later today.”

Dr Lau Wai Lit, the chief of the public hospital’s orthopaedics department, said that “it may take months for Sophia [Flörsch] to make a full recovery, but for now she has been recovering really well. She can make a full recovery within a year.”

Speaking through a translator, Lau said that it would be fine for her to return to motorsports in due time, but whether she is able to move to a higher level of motorsports competition “will be her own decision.”

Flörsch, interrupted by multiple rounds of applause, expressed her gratitude for the care and treatment she received at the public hospital.

“My surgeons have done a great job working on my back and my hip,” she said. “I am thankful for being here and having a good recovery. I’m walking already.”

The racing driver also thanked the Macau Grand Prix Organizing Committee and contested the idea that the Guia Circuit turns presented a safety hazard.

“It was my first-ever big crash and it took me a little while to get over. But I’m over it now and a new chapter is starting. I will be back racing and chasing my dream,” she added.

Despite the crash and her week-long stay at the public hospital, Flörsch was generally upbeat about her performance in the competition.

“To be honest, Macau was great,” she told reporters. “Although I had a bad crash, I think that I have had a lot of good and bad luck. […] I think I had a quite good weekend actually. I think I had quite a good pace for a rookie.”

“It’s my first season in F3 and I really wanted to go to Macau because Macau is such an historic race. The race, the city, the people; it is all so special,” she continued. “For racing car drivers, it’s really a dream.”

“If possible, I will for sure come back for the 66th [Macau] Grand Prix.”

The director of the Macau Government Tourism Office, Helena de Senna Fernandes, was also present at the press conference to present the teenage F3 racer with a certificate that reads, “We hereby appoint Ms. Sophia Flörsch as Goodwill Ambassador”.

Helena de Senna Fernandes presents the teenage F3 racer with a certificate
Maintenance subsidy program for old buildings extended

The government has extended the tenement building and old building maintenance subsidy program for two more years until Feb. 9, 2021, according to a Chief Executive order published yesterday in the Official Gazette. The subsidy is applicable to either tenement buildings of seven stories or less, or to any old buildings aged 30 years or more. Subsidies can be used for renewing or repairing buildings’ entrance gates, electricity and water supply systems, as well for drainage system renewal. Launched Feb. 10, 2009, the subsidy has seen 2,576 applications approved until Dec. 31, 2018, involving a total of MOP297 million.

Au asks about concession of three land plots

Lawmaker Au Kam San has asked the government to clarify questions regarding the utilization of three plots of land which should have been denounced as invalid. In his written inquiry to the government, Au listed the three land plots: one in Coloane; one next to the Macau-Taipa Bridge’s Macau entrance; and one leased to Galaxy Macau. The utilization periods for the three areas ended in 2009, 2011, and 2009, respectively, according to Au. “[The concessions] were probably extended, […] what reasons did the concessionaires present for the extension? According to what standards has the government accepted the extension [request]?” Au asked.

Chinese medicine doctor suspended after sexual abuse report

A Chinese medicine doctor has been suspended from practicing after a female patient reported him for sexual abuse. The Health Bureau (SSM) and police received the report last Friday. The bureau has not ruled out the possibility that more female patients were victims of inappropriate treatment, based on comments which appeared online. However, the case is still under investigation. The most severe punishment is the cancellation of the doctor's license in addition to being accountable for the crime if it is confirmed.

Air Macau adds three new Airbus aircraft to fleet

In the first half of 2019, Air Macau is scheduled to receive three new A320neo Airbus aircraft ordered from BOC Aviation, according to a statement from the Bank of China Group. The statement cites Robert Martin, CEO of BOC Aviation, who expressed his satisfaction at having Air Macau as one of his customers and supported the airline’s plans for network growth. Martin added that BOC Aviation is well placed to support the expansion of China’s air transport market, “with Air Macau choosing Airbus A320neo in line with our decision to invest in technologically advanced aircraft.”

New municipal bureau to quickly respond to hygiene issues

The future Municipal Affairs Bureau will handle environment, hygiene and safety issues within 24 hours of receiving reports. Other matters will be responded to within three to seven days. Once the new bureau commences operations, the public can report municipal affairs issues through the bureau’s new mobile application. The Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) is wholly prepared for the launch of the new municipal bureau, IACM president José Tavares announced yesterday.

Recently, Tavares said that in 2019, the unopened bureau will conduct research on old shops in order to determine what measures it can take to support them. Owners of old shops will reportedly be interviewed one by one to understand their operations and difficulties.

José Tavares
Scholar says local healthcare system lacks transparency

Zhang Jinghua

THE assistant dean of the School of Business of the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST), Zhang Jinghua, suggested that there should be more transparency within Macau’s hospitals.

“Currently, the Macau medical system is open, it gives the private medical sector rooms. However, the medical market is in a situation of unbalanced information [between service providers and customers],” Zhang said on the sidelines an event that took place in Macau according to MUST.

“Regarding the medical sector’s information and transparency, the sector will need to do more in order to open all information to the public and to receive the medical committee’s supervision,” said Zhang.

In the professor’s opinion, with the constant development of the Internet, data and technology continue to move forward, “if the medical sector can become more transparent” the customers have a better service at a lower cost.

“The lack of transparency results from the fact that the public has no information regarding the market or service providers, for instance, customers are not aware of certain medical techniques,” said Zhang, adding that “this transparency issue will cause a big problem because, when there are medical disputes [the public will not know] whom to hold accountable.”

The professor also said that, in Macau, “private hospitals receive less supervision” when compared to the public ones. She explained that this is due to the undeveloped information system within the private sector.

In addition to Zhang’s opinion on Macau’s hospitals, the MUST professor released a report yesterday which she worked as a researcher.

Talking about her research, which concerns Macau peoples’ health, the professor briefed that “many of Macau’s health indexes are at an advanced level globally, and that Macau’s medical care efficiency is world’s first-class.”

The professor then highlighted the fact that cancer is the number one cause of deaths in Macau.

Her study found that the survival rate of such cancers as breast, cervical, and colon has been increasing in Macau in recent years, which follows the trend of Europe and the US.

The waiting time for medical services has been a concern of local residents for a long period. Her study indicates that Macau’s waiting time for medical services is relatively short when compared to Canada.

Macau’s healthcare efficiency is also comparable to that of Hong Kong and Singapore, and is ahead of Japan’s and Europe’s, according to Zhang.

Retail sales up 12.8 percent in Q3

The total value of retail sales during the third quarter of 2018 increased 12.8 percent year-on-year to MOP18.19 billion, according to the latest data from the Statistics and Census Service. Watches, clocks and jewelry accounted for an increase in volume of retail sales, followed by goods in department stores (16.9 percent), adult clothing (13 percent), shoes (12.3 percent), leather goods (13 percent), supermarkets (16.3 percent), adult clothing (12.3 percent), leather goods (12.3 percent) and goods in supermarkets (13 percent), leather goods (12.3 percent), and motor vehicles (11 percent). Over the course of the first three quarters of 2018, the volume of retail sales increased 18.5 percent year-on-year.

Dog dies due to ‘mild power leakage’

A dog was found dead nearby a lamp post at St. Augustine Square on Sunday evening. In a statement issued yesterday, CEM said that its technicians “found that a mild power leakage was measured in one of the classic lamp posts.”

The problem was repaired and “other lamp posts in the same area were also inspected and all were found in normal conditions,” CEM stated. At the moment, the incident is under investigation by the company. The owner of the dog told TDM that he filed a complaint in order to avoid a similar incident from occurring again, hinting that children could be at risk.

Wholesale Person Development

Melco committed to enriching employees’ lives and careers

A SIAN gaming leader, Melco Resorts & Entertainment as one of Macau’s biggest employers has the capacity to make a significant positive contribution to the Macau community by providing life-transforming learning opportunities. Over the years as a result of its steadfast commitment to a strong culture of Corporate Social Responsibility it has implemented an array of initiatives under the auspices of its Whole Person Development philosophy to give employees the opportunity to augment their skills to have the knowledge and confidence to build strong and rewarding careers.

In the words of Lawrence Ho, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer: “as ‘one of the largest employers in the city…we aim to help our employees build a better future for themselves”.

March 19, 2018 saw the graduation and awarding of scholars to 100 employees who pursued various types of study with the support of Melco. Since its establishment in 2010, Melco’s Learning Academy has run over 200 programs per year including both in-house courses and programs in partnership with external training organizations to offer employees opportunities for self-advancement.

Among these initiatives is the “Back-to-School High School Diploma Program”, run with the Escola Secundária Luso-Chinesa de Luís Gonzaga Gomes and the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ), which gives employees who have yet to complete their high school diploma the chance to do so.

With the first group of 15 participants successfully graduating this year, Melco YOU-niversity, run in collaboration with Edinburgh Napier University, offers individuals who have not yet attained a university degree the opportunity to study for one. Specifically enhancing skills within the company, in partnership with the University of Macau, Melco introduced the Diploma in Casino Management in 2015. Open to all employees who have completed secondary school or higher level of education, even if their current role is not directly involved in gaming, the program offers insight into casino operations and management practices. In 2017, Melco launched the Advanced Diploma in Gaming Management to further the skills developed in the Diploma in Casino Management. In the area of non-gaming, the Diploma in Hospitality Management in partnership with Institute for Tourism Studies was launched for interested employees in 2016.

Melco also supports external study. Established in 2010, the Melco Scholarship has so far benefitted 94 employees and their immediate family members in pursuing a bachelor degree in Macau, Hong Kong, and internationally. Internships within Melco have also been made available since 2015 for scholarship recipients to put theories learnt into action. For practical skill extension, the Foundation Acceleration Program (FAP) means employees gain a deeper understanding of the company’s operations within their own stream and the company’s other departments. Such insight creates a broader skillset which in the words of David Bhandari, a Melco employee who joined the FAP, “will be highly beneficial for my future career development.”

Looking ahead, the Melco Learning Academy is continuing to support 124 team members with the chance to study for bachelor degrees, diplomas and advanced diplomas for Hospitality, Casino and Gaming Management to transform both the working and personal lives of its employees.
Leong highlights ‘good effects’ of economy measures, more to come

Renato Marques

To present in a more detailed way the economic measures planned by the government in 2019, Secretary for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong started by positively evaluating the measures enforced in 2018, yesterday at the Legislative Assembly (AL). In the words of Leong, the measures resulted in outcomes such as economic growth of 5.6 percent in the first quarter of 2018, a low level of unemployment as well as a “stable and solid” state of the public finances.

According to Leong, such measures have contributed to an “improvement in the quality of life of the population.”

As for measures to enforce in 2019, Leong presented five categories in which the Secretariat will focus in the upcoming year, starting with the continuation of the participation in the “Greater Bay Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Area”. Leong noted the “extension of the concept of ‘home delivery of services’, in which he proposes that the services provided by the Office of the Macao Trade Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) in Guangzhou would be extended to residents and companies from Macau that operate in the Greater Bay area. The purpose, he said, was to attract more local companies to the project.

Leong also noted advancements made in the sector of Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) in which, according to data disclosed by Leong, “the events of conventions with over 1,000 participants held in Macau, doubled when compared with last year, as well as registering growing income from expenses made by the MICE visitors.”

He said that this justified continuous support to the sector, which would see the “installation of service counters at the Hong Kong border checkpoint” in order to take advantage of opportunities made possible by the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge.

However, most lawmakers were more interested in hearing about the gaming sector. On this sector, Leong said “we will commit ourselves to closely monitor the evolution of non-gaming activities developed by the gaming concessionaires, urging them to explore their activities in line with the positioning of the World Tourism and Leisure Center.”

We will commit ourselves to closely monitor the evolution of non-gaming activities developed by the gaming concessionaires.

LIONEL LEONG

“Will insist on a rigorous control over the size of the (gaming) sector and in the fulfillment of the principle of the annual average growth rate of not more than 3 percent in the total number of gaming tables [until 2025].”

On the topic, several lawmakers questioned the Secretary on how the government would increase its supervision, namely in respect of the principles of the gaming sector and in the fulfillment of the supervision. Coutinho, Sou and other lawmakers that pressed Leong for information on this matter were referring specifically to the funds granted to airline Viva Macau.

According to the Secretary, there is currently an ongoing study that aims to “produce new legislation to raise the level of the regulations as well as the transparency on the operation of the companies that run with public funds.” He noted that such changes would promote “efficiency in the use of public money.”

The reply did not convince the lawmakers, who urged the Secretary to disclose publicly (or at least to the AL) the accounts of such companies. However, Leong noted that, in some cases, the disclosure was not possible due to the “nature of the businesses” and “sensitivity of the information.”

Secretary says casino social responsibility includes plastic use curb

QUESTIONED by lawmaker Agnes Lam during yesterday’s plenary session at the Legislative Assembly (AL), Secretary for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong admitted that the government has already discussed the social responsibility of the gaming industry and that at the time of the gaming licenses tender “will introduce more elements that are favorable to the environment.”

“Yes, we are already considering that,” Leong said, adding, “we are [considering] how we can [promote] energy saving as well as recycling and also reduce the use of plastic. These are matters that we need to take into account and that are definitely responsibilities of the gaming sector.”

Lam had taken the opportunity of the policy address debate at the AL to highlight that in Macau there is no accurate data reflecting how much plastic waste is produced (mainly resulting from plastic water bottle distribution).

“We don’t have any statistics regarding the number of plastic water bottles that have been distributed by each casino, but I know that the number is huge,” she said. “The gaming sector is using too many resources; land resources, human resources and also environmental resources.”

Lam urged the government to establish and enforce rules that prevent the exploitation of environmental resources, noting that the license tender period that is fast approaching would be the perfect opportunity for the government to demand concrete measures on the topic.

SOU QUESTIONS LEONG ON CE CANDIDACY

LAWMAKER SULU Sou addressed the plenary during the presentation of the policy address for the Secretariat of Economy and Finance questioning whether Secretary Lionel Leong intends to put himself forward as a candidate for the position of the next Chief Executive (CE). Sou’s question received no reply from the Secretary, who ignored the question, which came in a sequence of topics relating to cases occurring in the organizations and institutions under the supervision of the Secretariat.
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“THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’”
Las Vegas is now home to the ‘world’s biggest’ weed store

Craig Giammona

COME for the giant neon lotus flowers, stay for the weed. That’s the pitch from Planet 13, a Las Vegas marijuana dispensary that bills itself as the world’s largest. Housed in a 3,700-square-meter building — with retail space, back offices and room for weed cultivation — the store opened earlier this month just off the Strip in the shadow of the Palazzo, Treasure Island and the Wynn.

Planet 13 embraces the gaudy showmanship that lures more than 40 million tourists to the desert each year to gamble and party. Besides the 15-foot lotus blossoms on the roof, there’s a glowing 20-foot orb sitting in a fountain out front, strategically positioned for maximum visibility from thousands of hotel rooms nearby.

Planet 13 feels like someone put an upscale jewelry store inside a night club. Alongside tasteful wood and glass display cases, are the glam embellishments one associates with Las Vegas. The floor lights up when you step on it. Massive screens play trippy 3-D images.

The marijuana is displayed in containers designed to look like wine goblets; customers can grab a sniff or examine the buds with magnifying glasses. Cashiers at more than 40 registers wait to ring up bags of weed—or edibles and vape pens for gamblers seeking discretion. A gram of high-grade weed sells for USD20, roughly $125 million. The store, which will eventually include a coffee shop and tasting room, cost more than $8 million to build and is aimed squarely at the glam embellishments one associates with Las Vegas. The joint is open 24/7.

“We want this to be a destination,” says Chief Executive Officer Tony Macelzara. “We’re trying to take this out of the casinos and hotels.”

Planet 13 is ramping up as weed growers and retailers look to cash in on Las Vegas’s millions of free-spending tourists. Green Thumb Industries, whose $1.6 billion market capitalization makes it one of the nascent industry’s most valuable companies, recently acquired Nevada stores and cultivation facilities in a deal valued at $250 million.

The company can produce about 2,500 pounds of marijuana a year and uses the harvest for its Medizin brand.

Smoking weed is not allowed in the casino or technically at Las Vegas hotels. With that in mind, Groesbeck is hoping local authorities will approve a bill backing “on-premise consumption,” allowing him to add a smoking lounge at Planet 13.

“We want this to be a destination,” he says. Bloomberg

Corporate bits

SANDS CHINA PURCHASES GOODS FROM CONGJIANG COUNTY

Sands China Ltd. received its second batch of products from Guizhou’s Congjiang County yesterday at The Venetian Macao’s leading bay. The gaming operator was the first integrated tourism and leisure enterprise in Macau to purchase goods from the company, and with this shipment, it is now the first to purchase fresh produce as well, the company noted in a statement.

The company noted in a statement that it will continue to explore and expand the range of agricultural products purchased from Congjiang in the future.

Wynn recognizes graduates of Leadership Program

Wynn recently held a graduation ceremony for the program’s most recent participants. Forty-two graduates were presented with certificates recognizing their learning efforts and achievements.

The program’s graduation ceremony was held at Wynn Palace, and participants shared that they had enhanced their personal management skills, professional knowledge and communications skills through the program.

Since launching the program, Wynn has organized six rounds of training, with 80 team members successfully completing all courses.

UK

May fights to sell Brexit deal to a skeptical country

Prime Minister Theresa May was starring at a frantic two-week race yesterday to convince the British public, and a skeptical Parliament, to back the Brexit deal she has struck with the European Union.

May was gathering her Cabinet for a meeting hours after returning from Brussels with the divorce agreement approved by the 27 other EU leaders. She plans to address lawmakers in the House of Commons later in the day.

The deal needs to be approved by Parliament, but scores of legislators — from both the opposition and May’s government — say they will oppose it.

May aims to convince them that the deal “honors the referendum” in 2016 that saw Britain vote to leave the EU.

She argues that the British people are sick of endless debates about Brexit, and backing the deal will allow “us to come together again as a country whichever way we voted.” Parliament’s vote is due before Christmas, likely the week of Dec. 10.

Brexit Secretary Stephen Barclay conceded that “it’s going to be a challenging vote.” But he said Britain would be in “choppy waters” if the deal was rejected.

Rejection by Parliament would plunge Britain into a political crisis just weeks before it is due to leave the EU on March 29.

Both Britain and the EU are adamant that the U.K. can’t renegotiate the deal, struck after 18 months of tense negotiations. May says it “is the best possible deal. It is the only deal.”

That hasn’t stopped pro-Brexit campaigners pushing for a cleaner break from the bloc, and pro-EU activists trying to stop Britain leaving at all.

On Monday, a European court threw out a challenge from 13 Britons living in other EU nations seeking the annulment of the Brexit negotiations.

The 13 said they were not allowed to vote in the 2016 referendum because they were living abroad and said their court case was the only way to avoid losing EU citizenship when Britain leaves the EU.

The EU general court said that the opening of the Brexit negotiations had no direct impact on their situation.

AP
US carrier in Hong Kong after bombers fly over waters

XI GIVES 3-YEAR FOR TALKS ON ‘CODE OF CONDUCT’

Chinese President Xi Jinping said negotiations between Beijing and Southeast Asian nations on a nonaggression pact to prevent clashes in the South China Sea could be concluded in three years and promised that any differences will be dealt with peacefully.

Xi made the assurances after holding talks with President Rodrigo Duterte and other officials on a visit to the Philippines aimed at deepening relations with the American treaty ally.

Xi’s overnight visit to the Philippine capital, Manila, was his last stop on a three-nation swing through Asia, where he has offered infrastructure loans and aid and championed free trade amid a rivalry for regional influence with the United States.

“We will continue to manage contentious issues and promote maritime cooperation through friendly consultation,” Xi said. He said China aims to conclude the talks on the “code of conduct” in the disputed waters with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations within three years.

CHINA, PHILIPPINES SIGN PACT ON GAS DEVELOPMENT

During Xi’s visit to the Philippines, the sides signed a “memorandum of understanding on cooperation on oil and gas development,” but oral talks provided few details.

Ahead of Xi’s visit, China and the Philippines tried to negotiate an agreement allowing joint oil and gas exploration in the disputed waters. No consensus appeared to have been reached.

“It’s a cooperation to find ways to find a solution,” Philippine Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi said of the agreement signed during Xi’s visit.

Filipino nationalists have warned that any agreement that can undermine the Philippines’ internationally recognized exclusive rights to fish and exploit resources within 200 nautical miles of the country’s coast would violate the Philippine constitution.

Beijing’s relations with Manila deteriorated over territorial rifts until Duterte won the presidency in mid-2016 and sought to rebuild ties with China while criticizing U.S. security policies in a dramatic pivot. The administration of Duterte’s predecessor, Benigno Aquino III, had brought the territorial disputes with China to international arbitration and won, but China has ignored the outcome.

EDITORS’ NOTE: This is a weekly look at recent developments in the South China Sea, where China is pitted against smaller neighbors in multiple disputes over islands, coral reefs and lagoons in waters crucial for global commerce and rich in fish and potential oil and gas reserves. It is published on Tuesdays.

EXCLUSIVE
First gene-edited babies claim at odds with science

A U.S. scientist said he helped make the world’s first genetically edited babies — twin girls born this month whose DNA he said he altered with a powerful new tool capable of rewriting the very blueprint of life.

If true, it would be a profound leap of science and ethics.

A U.S. scientist said he took part in the work in China, but this kind of gene editing is banned in the United States because the DNA changes can pass to future generations and it risks harming other genes.

Many mainstream scientists think it’s too unsafe to try, and some denounced the Chinese report as human experimentation.

The researcher, He Jiankui of Shenzhen, said he altered embryos for seven couples during fertility treatments, with one pregnancy resulting thus far. He said his goal was not to cure or prevent an inherited disease, but to try to bestow a trait that few people naturally have — an ability to resist possible future infection with HIV, the AIDS virus.

He said the parents involved declined to be identified or interviewed, and he would not say where they live or where the work was done.

There is no independent confirmation of He’s claim, and it has not been published in a journal, where it would be vetted by other experts. He revealed it yesterday in Hong Kong to one of the organizers of an international conference on gene editing that is set to begin today, and earlier in exclusive interviews with The Associated Press.

“I feel a strong responsibility that it’s not just to make a first, but also make it an example,” he told the AP. “Society will decide what to do next” in terms of allowing or forbidding such science.

Some scientists were astounded to hear of the claim and strongly condemned it.

Christopher Bodeen, AP

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

The arrival of the USS Ronald Reagan and its battle group in the Asian financial hub was 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.

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 ship-board news conference. “It was unfortunate and I’d like to see that not happen again.”

U.S. Pacific Air Forces said two B-52 bombers flew over the South China Sea earlier in the week, calling it a “routine training mission.”

NEW CONSTRUCTION ON REEF HELED BY CHINA

The Washington-based Center for Strategic and International 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.

China’s largest man-made 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 he had no information about the details of the report, while reasserting China’s right to carry out developments on islands it claims.

A U.S. aircraft carrier docked in Hong Kong last week, days after a pair of American B-52 bombers flew over the South China Sea.

The arrival of the USS Ronald Reagan and its battle group in the Asian financial hub was 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.

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.”

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CHINA, PHILIPPINES SIGN PACT ON GAS DEVELOPMENT

During Xi’s visit to the Philippines, the sides signed a “memorandum of understanding on cooperation on oil and gas development,” but oral talks provided few details.

Ahead of Xi’s visit, China and the Philippines tried to negotiate an agreement allowing joint oil and gas exploration in the disputed waters. No consensus appeared to have been reached.

“It’s a cooperation to find ways to find a solution,” Philippine Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi said of the agreement signed during Xi’s visit.

Filipino nationalists have warned that any agreement that can undermine the Philippines’ internationally recognized exclusive rights to fish and exploit resources within 200 nautical miles of the country’s coast would violate the Philippine constitution.

Beijing’s relations with Manila deteriorated over territorial rifts until Duterte won the presidency in mid-2016 and sought to rebuild ties with China while criticizing U.S. security policies in a dramatic pivot. The administration of Duterte’s predecessor, Benigno Aquino III, had brought the territorial disputes with China to international arbitration and won, but China has ignored the outcome.

EDITORS’ NOTE: This is a weekly look at recent developments in the South China Sea, where China is pitted against smaller neighbors in multiple disputes over islands, coral reefs and lagoons in waters crucial for global commerce and rich in fish and potential oil and gas reserves. It is published on Tuesdays.

EXCLUSIVE
First gene-edited babies claim at odds with science

A U.S. scientist said he helped make the world’s first genetically edited babies — twin girls born this month whose DNA he said he altered with a powerful new tool capable of rewriting the very blueprint of life.

If true, it would be a profound leap of science and ethics.

A U.S. scientist said he took part in the work in China, but this kind of gene editing is banned in the United States because the DNA changes can pass to future generations and it risks harming other genes.

Many mainstream scientists think it’s too unsafe to try, and some denounced the Chinese report as human experimentation.

The researcher, He Jiankui of Shenzhen, said he altered embryos for seven couples during fertility treatments, with one pregnancy resulting thus far. He said his goal was not to cure or prevent an inherited disease, but to try to bestow a trait that few people naturally have — an ability to resist possible future infection with HIV, the AIDS virus.

He said the parents involved declined to be identified or interviewed, and he would not say where they live or where the work was done.

There is no independent confirmation of He’s claim, and it has not been published in a journal, where it would be vetted by other experts. He revealed it yesterday in Hong Kong to one of the organizers of an international conference on gene editing that is set to begin today, and earlier in exclusive interviews with The Associated Press.

“I feel a strong responsibility that it’s not just to make a first, but also make it an example,” he told the AP. “Society will decide what to do next” in terms of allowing or forbidding such science.

Some scientists were astounded to hear of the claim and strongly condemned it.
It’s “unconscionable [...] an experiment on human beings that is not morally or ethically defensible,” said Dr. Kiran Musunuru, a University of Pennsylvania gene-editing expert and editor of a genetics journal. 

“This is far too premature,” said Dr. Eric Topol, who heads the Scripps Research Translational Institute in California. “We’re dealing with the operating instructions of a human being. It’s a big deal.”

However, one famed geneticist, Harvard University’s George Church, defended attempting gene editing for HIV, which he called “a major and growing public health threat.”

“I think this is justifiable,” said Church and Musunuru questioned the decision to allow one of the embryos to be used in a pregnancy attempt, because the Chinese researchers said they knew in advance that both copies of the intended gene had not been altered. “In that child, there really was almost nothing to be gained in terms of protection against HIV and yet you’re exposing that child to all the unknown safety risks,” Musunuru said.

The use of that embryo suggesststhat the researchers’ “main emphasis was on testing editing rather than avoiding this disease,” Church said.

Even if editing worked perfectly, he added, “any CCR5 genes face higher risks of getting certain other viruses, such as West Nile, and of dying from them. There are many ways to prevent HIV infection and it’s very treatable if it occurs, those other medical risks are a concern, Musunuru said. There are also questions about the way he said he proceeded. He gave official notice of his work long after he said he started it — on Nov. 8, on a Chinese registry of clinical trials.

It’s unclear whether participants fully understood the purposes and potential risks and benefits. For example, consent forms called the project an “AIDS vaccine development” program.

Dr. E. Deem, who was his advisor and bioengineering professor in He's lab, said he also has two genetics companies. The U.S. scientist who worked with him on this project after he returned to China was physics and bioengineering professor Michael Deem, who was his advisor at Rice in Houston. Deem also holds what he called “a small stake” in—and is on the scientific advisory boards of—two companies.

The Chinese researcher said he practiced editing mice, monkey and human embryos in the lab for several years and has applied for patents on his methods. He said he chose embryo gene editing for HIV because these infections are a big problem in China. He sought to disable a gene called CCR5 that forms a protein doorway that allows HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, to enter a cell.

All of the men in the project had HIV and all of the women did not, but the gene editing was not aimed at preventing the small risk of transmission. He said the fathers had their infections deeply suppressed by standard HIV medicines and there are simple ways to keep them from infecting offspring that do not involve altering genes.

Instead, the appeal was to offer couples affected by HIV a chance to have a child that might be protected from a similar fate. He recruited couples through a Beijing-based AIDS advocacy group called Baihualin. Its leader, known by the pseudonym “Bai Hua,” told the AP that it’s almost like not editing at all if only some of certain cells were altered, because HIV infection can still occur, Church said.

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“Then the gene editing tool was added. When the embryos were 3 to 5 days old, a few cells were removed and checked for editing. Couples could choose whether to use edited or unedited embryos for fertility attempts. In all, 16 of 22 embryos were edited, and 11 embryos were used in single-parent attempts before the twin pregnancy was achieved, He said.

Tests suggest that one twin had both copies of the intended gene altered and the other twin had just one altered, with no evidence of harm, he said. People with one copy of the gene can still get HIV, although some very limited research suggests their health might decline more slowly once they do.

The researcher, He Jiankui of Shenzhen, said he altered embryos for seven couples during fertility treatments, with one pregnancy resulting thus far.

Several scientists reviewed materials that He provided to the AP and said tests so far are insufficient to say the editing worked or to rule out harm. They also noted evidence that the editing was incomplete and that at least one twin appears to be a patchwork of cells with various changes.

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Dolce & Gabbana fiasco shows importance, risks of China market

Ken Moritsugu & Colleen Barry, Beijing

D
ont mess with China and its growing cadre of powerful luxury consumers.

Dolce & Gabbana learned that lesson the hard way. After it faced a boycott after Chinese expressed outrage over what were seen as culturally insensitive videos promoting a major runway show in Shanghai and subsequent posts of insulting comments in a private Instagram chat.

The company blamed hackers for the anti-Chinese insults, but the explanation felt flat to many and the damage was done. The Milan designers cancelled the Shanghai runway show, meant as a tribute to China, as their guest list of Asian celebrities quickly joined the protests.

Then, as retailers pulled their merchandise from shelves and powerful e-commerce sites deleted their wares, co-founders Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana went on camera — dwarfed against the larger backdrop of an ornate red wall-covering — to apologize to the Chinese public.

“We will never forget this experience, and it will definitely never happen again,” a solemn-looking Gabbana said in a video statement posted Friday on social media.

The apology video, and the subsequent backlash that demanded it, shows the importance of the Chinese market and the stakes of operating in it. More broadly, it highlights the huge and still-growing influence of China, a country that cannot be ignored as it expands economically, militarily and diplomatically.

These trends are intertwined in frequent outbursts of nationalist sentiment among consumers who feel slighted by foreign brands or their governments. It’s not the first time a company has apologized, and it surely won’t be the last. Merchandised cannoli, shows a white man ticked to eat pizza and an oversize fork and knife. At least three rap bands cutting up or burning their D&G clothes, or pizza boxes cutting up or burning their D&G garb and Martina Navratilova pledged to trash her D&G shirts.

Gabbana, who has 1.6 million Instagram followers, faced a more contained backlash earlier this year when he responded to a collage of Selena Gomez photos on Instagram with the comment, “She’s really ugly.”

Celebrities took to social media Wednesday to blast Dolce & Gabbana and said they would boycott the show, which was canceled. By Thursday, the company’s goods had disappeared from major e-commerce websites. The prevailing sentiment was captured by an airport duty-free shop that posted a photo of its shelves emptied of D&G products:

“We have to show our stance. We are proud to be Chinese.”

The rapid escalation into a public relations disaster was fueled by social media. Individuals posted videos of themselves cutting up or burning their Dolce & Gabbana clothes, or picking them up with chopsticks and putting them in the trash. A parody of the offended Dolce & Gabbana videos, which featured a Chinese woman using chopsticks to eat pizza and an oversized cannon, shows a white man trying to eat Chinese food with a fork and knife. At least three rap bands took up the tune with new songs.

“Companies that don’t respect China won’t deserve our respect,” Wang Zixin, team leader of CD Rev, a nationalist rap band, said by phone from Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan province. Its new song had been viewed more than 85,000 times on Weibo.

“We hope people will remember companies that have ever insulted China, and not forget about them when the fallout passes,” Wang said.

It highlights the growing influence of China, a country that cannot be ignored as it expands economically, militarily and diplomatically.

That sense of pride reflects a nationalism that has been encouraged by the government, often in disputes China has with other countries over other foreign products.

Sales by Japanese automakers plunged in 2012 amid tensions between islands both countries claim in the East China Sea. The clash also illustrated the complexity of Chinese sentiment: Industry analysts said buyers didn’t want to be seen in Japanese auto showrooms but went ahead with planned purchases once tensions had passed.

More recently, several foreign companies ran afoul of Beijing’s insistence that they explicitly refer to Taiwan, a self-governing territory, as part of China. Many complied, showing how important the Chinese market has become.

Delta, American and other airlines agreed to refer to Taiwan as part of China, and Zara now sells its clothing on a web site after regulators criticized the fashion brand for calling Taiwan a country. Marriott International announced it “respects and supports” China’s sovereignty after it was ordered to shut its China website for a week.

It remains unclear whether the D&G mea culpa video will stop the backlash or if it will have implications for Made-in-Italy at large. The scandal erupted as Italy’s high-end furniture and design companies were gathering for an annual presentation in Shanghai and as Min Mi, the Prada Group’s little-known marketing chief, showed its cruise line in Shanghai.

Italian designers have so far resisted the backlash, while Dolce & Gabbana has remained conspicuously outside of the Italian Fashion Chamber, which organizes fashion weeks and acts as a lobby for the fashion industry.

Brand Finance’s luxury expert, Alex Haigh, said the scale of the backlash could fuel other public self-criticism. “They made a big storm for themselves,” he said. “They need to wait a few months, and potentially another few years, before something like Volkswagen, when it had the emission scandal and repositioned itself as a more environmentally friendly electric-vehicle-first brand. Sometimes these issues can be a focal point for change.”

Italian commentators mused whether Dolce & Gabbana would be a bigger lesson for others or if there was some level of government control behind them. The government has publicly said it has no official role in these kinds of events and did not comment.

Everywhere in the world, an entrepreneur can make a mistake, use inappropriate language. Usually it is the consumers and retailers that decide the importance of the offensive,” the Milan daily Corriere della Sera wrote in an editorial. “In this case, there is one forced to produce a humiliating video with public self-criticism, like in the time of Mao’s revolution. Now China feels powerful and is applying re-education on a global scale.”
INDIA

Officials cautious as they look to recover American body

IndiAn officials have traveled repeatedly in recent days near the remote island where an American missionary was killed by pirates more than 50,000 years ago, survive on the small, forested island by hunting, fishing and gathering wild plants. Almost nothing is known of their lives, except that they attack outsiders with spears or bows and arrows.

American John Allen Chau was killed by islanders in mid-November after paying fishermen to smuggle him to the island, where outsiders are effectively forbidden by Indian law. The fishermen told authorities that they saw the Sentinelese bury Chau’s body on the beach. The notes Chau left behind say he wanted to bring Christianity to the islanders.

A boat carrying police and other officials approached North Sentinel on Friday and Saturday, watching the Sentinelese through binoculars. On Saturday the tribesmen were armed with spears and bows and arrows, but they did not attempt to shoot them at the authorities, Pathak said.

“We watched them from a distance and they watched us from a distance,” he said.

Officials have not given up on recovering the body, he said. But they are moving very gingerly, studying the 2006 killing of fishermen whose boats had drifted onto the island.

“We are looking carefully at what happened then, and what [the Sentinelese] did,” he said.

“We are consulting anthropologists to see what kind of friendly gesture we can make.”

The islanders buried the two fishermen on the beach in 2006, but dug up the corpses after a few days and propped them upright. Authorities apparently never recovered those bodies, and the killings were never investigated.

There has been no significant contact with the Sentinelese for generations. Anthropologists used to occasionally drop off gifts of coconuts and bananas, but even those visits were stopped years ago.

Anthropologist P.C. Joshi said he understands why authorities want to recover the body.

“If there is a death, then the cause of death should be known. It’s important,” said Joshi, a professor at Delhi University.

“Of course, we can’t prosecute the islanders if they killed Chau,” he said. Plus, he noted, it may already be too late to learn much from the body, since the heat and humidity on North Sentinel will cause rapid decomposition.

“Ultimately, it’s becoming futile,” he said.

TEN YEARS AFTER MUMBAI ATTACK

As Mumbai marked the 10th anniversary of attacks that killed 166 in India’s financial capital yesterday, the United States made a new reward offer for information on the 2008 siege.

The Pakistani gunmen who waged the attack were killed or captured.

But U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said that those who planned the attack had not been convicted. He called on Pakistan to implement sanctions against those responsible and said the U.S. was offering a new USD5 million reward and was committed to seeing those responsible face justice.

On Nov. 26, 2008, gunmen staged coordinated attacks in the heart of Mumbai. They targeted two luxury hotels, a Jewish center, a tourist restaurant and a crowded train station in three days of carnage.

India blamed the attack on the Pakistani militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba, throwing relations between the nuclear-armed neighbors into a tailspin. Indian officials accused Pakistan’s intelligence agency of working with the militant group to mastermind the attack — an allegation Islamabad denied.

“We call upon all countries, particularly Pakistan, to uphold their U.N. Security Council obligations to implement sanctions against the terrorists responsible for this atrocity, including Lashkar-e-Taiba and its affiliates,” Pompeo said in a statement.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to those who lost their lives in the attacks.

“Our solidarity with the bereaved families. A grateful nation bows to our brave police and security forces who valiantly fought the terrorists during the Mumbai attacks,” he said in a statement.

NEW ZEALAND

145 pilot whales die in stranding on beach

A ll of the 145 pilot whales that stranded themselves on a remote New Zealand beach have died.

However, conservation workers are hoping to save some of the eight pygmy killer whales that remained stranded yesterday at the other end of the country in an unrelated event.

A hiker discovered the pilot whales in two pods about 2 kilometers apart late Saturday on Stewart Island, about 75 were already dead and conservation workers decided to euthanize the others due to their poor condition and remote location.

Only about 375 people live on Stewart Island, which is also called Rakiura. The whales were found at Mason’s Bay about 35 kilometers from the main township of Oban.

“You feel for the animals, it’s just a really sad event,” said Ren Leppens, the Rakiura operations manager for the Department of Conservation.

“It’s the kind of thing you don’t want to see. You wish you could understand the reasoning why the whales strand better, so you could intervene.”

Leppens said the whales were half buried in sand and not in good health, indicating they had been there for perhaps a day before they were found.

He said staff shot the whales and the carcasses would be left where they were for nature to take its course.

Meanwhile, on Sunday, 10 pygmy killer whales were found stranded at Ninety Mile Beach on the North Island. Two have since died, and staff plan to try and refloat the remaining eight.

Whale strandings are relatively common in New Zealand during the Southern Hemisphere spring and summer. It’s believed strandings can be caused by a number of factors, such as the whales trying to escape predators, falling ill, or navigating incorrectly.
OBITUARY

Oscar-winning director
Bernardo Bertolucci dies at 77

Nicole Winfield, Rome

ITALIAN film-maker Bernardo Bertolucci, who won Oscars with "The Last Emperor" and whose erotic drama "Last Tango in Paris" enthralled and shocked the world, died yesterday. He was 77.

Bertolucci’s press office, Punto e Virgola, confirmed the death in an email to The Associated Press. Italy’s state-run Rai said Bertolucci died at his home in Rome, surrounded by family.

"He will be remembered among the greatest in Italian and world cinema," the Venice Film Festival, which awarded Bertolucci a lifetime achievement award in 2007, said in a statement.

Bertolucci’s movies often explored the sexual relations among characters stuck in a psychological crisis, as in "Last Tango." The self-professed Marxist also did not shy away from politics and ideology, as in "The Conformist," which some critics consider Bertolucci’s masterpiece.

Despite working with A-list American and international stars, Bertolucci always defended his own film-making style against what he said was the pressure of the U.S. film industry. He maintained critical success for most of his career, weathering the controversies that his sexually provocative work would stir and some commercial flops.

“When it comes to commercial cinema, I have the strange pleasure of feeling that I’m from another tribe, an infiltrator," he told Italian daily Corriere della Sera in 1990. He was honored for lifetime achievement at the Cannes film festival in 2011.

Bertolucci’s movies also bore the imprint of the director’s own experiences in psychoanalysis. He always said that making films was his way of communicating with the audience. It was his personal language.

"Maybe I’m an idealist, but I still think of the movie theater as a cathedral where we all go together to dream the dream together," he said upon receiving an award from the Director’s Guild of America for his 1987 film "The Last Emperor."

That movie handed Bertolucci his greatest success. In 1988 it won all the nine Academy Awards that it had been nominated for — including best movie and best director.

The movie — the first Western feature film to win permission to shoot in Beijing’s Forbidden City — follows the life of China’s last emperor, from child-king at the end of the Qing Dynasty to war criminal and finally to an ordinary citizen in the People’s Republic.

It was filmed in the lush and vivid style that was one of Bertolucci’s trademarks. It featured grandiose scenes and intimate moments, and a flashback structure that is typical of biopics.

Cinematographer Vittorio Storaro, who often worked with Bertolucci and won one of his three Oscars with "Last Emperor," compared the director to William Faulkner.

"His style is not unlike that of Faulkner who’ll go on for 50 pages without a period. Bertolucci just doesn’t use the camera to convey just one sentence. Everything flows into everything else," said Storaro.

Bertolucci was born in the northern city of Parma on March 16, 1941, the son of poet Attilio Bertolucci and his wife Ninetta. The family moved to Rome when Bertolucci was 13. He had originally wanted to be a poet like his father, but later turned to movies.

He began his career while still a student at the University of Rome as an assistant director on Pier Paolo Pasolini’s film "Accatone." A year later, in 1962, he made his first film "The Grim Reaper," about the murder of a prostitute.

Soon he established himself as one of the brightest young stars of international cinema. By his early 30s, he had already directed highly acclaimed movies: "Before the Revolution" in 1964, a reflection on politics and the middle-class set in the director’s hometown; "The Spider’s Strategem" in 1970, the story of a man who returns to the scene of the killing of his father, an anti-Fascist hero, to discover a web of lies; and "The Conformist," which is based on an Alberto Moravia novel and depicts the struggle of a man, Jean-Louis Trintignant, to conform to society and expectations in Fascist Italy.

But it was with "Last Tango" that Bertolucci shot to stardom, and notoriety. The film, starring Marlon Brando and Maria Schneider as a middle-aged man and younger woman who engage in a brutal sexual relationship in a bare Paris apartment, shocked the world and incurred censorship in his native country.

But its raw and improvisational style also earned Brando and Bertolucci Oscar nominations and was likened by New Yorker film critic Pauline Kael to Stravinsky’s "The Rite of Spring" as a revolutionary work of art.

The movie was banned in Italy just after its release in 1972, and was not released again until 1987. The case went back and forth in the courts until the high criminal court banned the film in 1976 and ordered all copies confiscated and destroyed. Bertolucci, Brando and Schneider, as well as the producer Alber
to Grimaldi, were sentenced to two months in jail and a fine of $40 each — although the jail terms were suspended.

Schneider herself would say she was traumatized by the movie. The actress, who died in 2011, was just 19 during filming and told the Daily Mail in 2007 that a rape scene involving a stick of butter was included without warning.

"I should have called my agent or had my lawyer come to the set because you can’t force someone to do something that isn’t in the script, but at the time, I didn’t know that," she said.

Marlon said to me: ‘Maria, don’t worry, it’s just a movie,’ but during the scene, even though what Marlon was doing wasn’t real, I was crying real tears. I felt humiliated and to be honest, I felt a little raped, both by Marlon and by Bertolucci. After that scene, Marlon didn’t console me or apologize. Thankfully, there was just one take,” she said.

Bertolucci then embarked on his most ambitious project, a four-hour epic tale on the lives of two boys — Gerard Depardieu and Robert De Niro — through the political upheavals of the past century in Italy. The movie — "1900" — won some critical praise, but ended up a spectacular commercial flop.

Bertolucci’s later movies included "The Sheltering Sky," featuring Debra Winger and John Malkovich as an American couple trying to inject new life into their relationship during a trip to Africa. The 1990 work won Bertolucci a nomination at the Golden Globes.

He also directed "Little Buddha" in 1993 with Keanu Reeves as Siddharta. "Stealing Beauty" in 1996 starring Liv Tyler as a teenage discovering sex during a trip to Italy. "The Dreamers," again an erotic drama set against a political backdrop — in this case the 1968 student riots in Paris — starring Eva Green and Louis Garrel as cinema-loving siblings who strike up a friendship with visiting American student Michael Pitt. The film featured full-frontal male nudity but was released uncut in the United States.

Bertolucci was married to the English writer and director Clare Peploe. They had no children. Peploe is the sister of Mark Peploe, a screenwriter and close friend of Bertolucci’s who worked with the director on a number of projects.

Punto e Virgola, the press office, said details of funeral plans are not yet finalized but that it expects a ceremony in the next few days.
Military helicopter crashes in Istanbul; four soldiers killed

FOUR Turkish soldiers died while another was fighting for life after their helicopter crashed yesterday into a residential area of Istanbul.

Even though the helicopter struck a four-storey building before crashing, there were no civilian casualties, according to the state-run Anadolu Agency.

The UH-1 helicopter, which was on a training flight, ended up on a street in Istanbul's Sancaktepe neighborhood — on the Asian side of the city that straddles two continents — while trying to make an emergency landing, Defense Minister Hulusi Akar told reporters at the scene of the crash.

The helicopter appeared to have turned over and debris from the crash scattered around the street, according to video footage from the scene.

Akar said the pilot appeared to be trying to land the helicopter, which was on its way to the air force base of Samandira, near Sancaktepe, on an empty plot of land in order to prevent civilian deaths.

"They tried to make an emergency landing for a reason that we do not know yet," the minister said. "(The helicopter) was very close to the air base, but unfortunately could not make it back."

The dead servicemen included two officers and two non-commissioned officers, Akar told reporters. The injured service-man, a sergeant, was in serious condition and facing an operation.

An investigation into the cause of the crash has been launched, he said. AP

Number of injured in 6.3 magnitude quake rises to 716

IRANIAN authorities said yesterday that the number of injured in the magnitude 6.3 earthquake in western Iran the previous night has risen to 716. No fatalities were reported from the temblor.

According to Iran’s state television, most of the injured were immediately released from hospitals and suffered only slight injuries in the quake on Sunday night. The TV said 37 remained hospitalized.

It said more than 160 aftershocks occurred in the region, including two quakes stronger than magnitude 5. Dozens of rescue teams and several rescue dogs were deployed to the region.

The quake struck just after 8 p.m. in Iran, meaning most were still awake at the time and able to quickly flee.

The region, nestled in the Zagros Mountains, largely rebuilt in recent decades after Iran and Iraq’s ruinous 1980s war, saw many buildings collapse or sustain major damage in the 2017 quake.

Iran is located on major seismic faults and experiences an earthquake per day on average. In 2003, a magnitude 6.6 earthquake flattened the historic city of Bam in southern Iran, killing 26,000 people: AP
what’s ON

Treasure of Sacred Art of St. Joseph’s Seminary
Time: 10am-5pm daily (closed on Wednesdays, open on public holidays)
Venue: St. Joseph’s Seminary and Church, Rua do Seminário
Admission: Free
Enquiries: (853) 2835 7911

Mandarin’s House
Time: 10am-6pm daily (last admission at 5:30pm; closed from Wednesdays, open on public holidays)
Address: No. 10, Travessa de António da Silva
Admission: Free
Enquiries: (853) 2896 8820

Macau Science Centre
Time: 10am-6pm daily (Except on Thursdays; open on public holidays)
Venue: Macau Science Center
Admission: MOP25 (Exhibition Centre)
MOP60 (Planetarium 2D dome or 2D sky shows)
MOP80 (Planetarium 3D dome or 3D sky shows)
Enquiries: (853) 2888 0822

Monkey King
Time: 4pm & 8pm daily (except on Thursdays)
Venue: Sands Cotai Theatre
Admission: MOP380, MOP480, MOP680, MOP890, MOP1280
Cotai Ticketing: (853) 2882 8818
Kong Sena Ticketing: (853) 2855 5555

Keith Haring Maze Macau
Time: 1pm – 9pm
Until: December 31, 2018
Venue: Cotal Expo Hall F, The Venetian Macau
Admission: MOP150
Enquiries: (853) 2888 8818

Style-Encounter Moment
Time: 10am – 8pm
Until: December 30, 2018
Venue: Macau Fashion Gallery
Admission: Free
Enquiries: (853) 2835 3341

Offbeat

Vermont Couple Looking for Family Peacock Among the Turkeys

A Vermont woman whose family peacock ran off with a flock of turkeys says she’s hopeful to get close enough to catch it with a net.

The peacock belonged to Rene and Brian Johnson has been on the run for six weeks.

Last week, the Johnsons posted a message on the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Facebook page: “My peacock has run off with the turkeys. Do you have any suggestions on how to catch the little twerp?”

Rene Johnson told WCAX-TV she thinks the bird she calls Pea was lonely so it sought turkey companions.

Johnson said Friday she got close to Pea on Thanksgiving Day, but couldn’t catch it.

Johnson says she’s worried about the cold, but she recognizes the unusual situation, which she says is “kind of funny, actually.”

CINE TEATRO

room 1
215, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45pm
Director: David Yates
Starring: Eddie Redmayne, Johnny Depp, Jude Law
Language: English
Duration: 130min

room 2
230, 4:30, 7:30 9:30pm
Director: David Freyne
Starring: Sam Keeley, Ellen Page, Tom Vaughan-Lawlor
Language: English
Duration: 130min

room 3
230, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30pm
Director: Kazuya Kanihouriuchi
Language: Japanese (Chinese, English)
Duration: 112min

THE CURED
room 3
9:30AM
Director: Kenji Nagasaki
Language: Japanese (Chinese, English)
Duration: 112min

this day in history

1967 De Gaulle says ‘non’ to Britain - again

The French President, Charles de Gaulle, has for a second time said he will veto Britain’s application to join the Common Market.

He warned France’s five partners in the European Economic Community (EEC) that if they tried to impose British membership on France it would result in the break-up of the community.

All five - Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Italy and Germany - have said they would support negotiations towards British membership.

Only France remains opposed. At a news conference at the Elysee Palace in Paris, attended by more than 1,000 diplomats, civil servants and ministers as well as journalists, General de Gaulle accused Britain of a “deep-seated hostility” towards European construction.

He said London showed a “lack of interest” in the Common Market and would require a “radical transformation” before joining the EEC.

“The present Common Market is incompatible with the economy, as it now stands, of Britain,” he said.

He went on to list a number of aspects of Britain’s economy, from working practices to agriculture, which he said made Britain incompatible with Europe.

Hopes that he might offer clear terms for associate membership were also dashed. He said France would back commercial exchanges with Britain - “be it called association or by any other name” - “but that was all.”

His remarks were greeted with dismay in Europe, where it is feared an open crisis within the EEC is now inevitable.

General de Gaulle’s position has hardly changed since he first vetoed Britain’s application to join in 1963.

He leaves the British Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, with no realistic hope of taking Britain into Europe in the near future.

All three political parties are committed to joining the EEC, and the news of General de Gaulle’s continuing intransigence on the issue was met with gloom in Westminster.

The only group which was pleased was the General’s core anti-European campaigners.

They called on the prime minister to withdraw Britain’s application immediately.

Only then, they said, could a “humiliating” inquiry into the UK’s economic affairs be avoided when Common Market foreign ministers meet to consider Britain’s application for membership next month.

Mr Wilson himself said he would not countenance what he called “peevish reactions” which might jeopardise Britain’s relations with France or the other five EEC countries.

Courtesy BBC News

In context

Harold Wilson reacted two days before replying to General de Gaulle’s statement.

He made a 16-point rebuttal of the French leader’s statement and ruled out any offer of associate membership.

He also said Britain would press ahead with its application for full membership of the Common Market.

After General de Gaulle fell from power in 1969, Britain applied a third time.

He made a 16-point rebuttal of the French leader’s statement and ruled out any offer of associate membership.

In January 1973, the UK became a full member of the EEC.

In 1999, the European Union, as it is now known, has grown to 27 member states.

The EU is now the world’s largest trading bloc by population, with about 455 million citizens.

Among its achievements, the community has been responsible for establishing the Single Market in 1992, and launching a common currency, the Euro, in 2002.

In June 26, 2016, Britain voted in a referendum to exit the EU. The word Brexit entered the political and media lexicon.
**INFOTAINMENT**

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

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**WEATHER**

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**THE BORN LOSER** by Chip Sansom

**YOUR STARS**

- **Aries**
  Mar. 21-Apr. 19
  In addition to a few personal conflicts, there will be quite a few semi-insurmountable scheduling conflicts that will throw a wrench into your plans for most of the day.

- **Taurus**
  April 20-May 20
  If you feel distanced from the people who really matter in your life, that is a problem that can be easily remedied. Pick up the phone, ask them what they’re doing for dinner tonight and invite them out.

- **Gemini**
  May 21-June 21
  From time to time, looking deep inside your own heart is the very best way to see the truth about the world around you. If you feel you are moving into an introspective, inward-focused time, then just go with it.

- **Cancer**
  Jun. 22-July 22
  Don’t worry about creating quality time; just have fun. Right now, quantity does mean more than quality, no matter what the relationship experts on TV tell you.

- **Leo**
  July 23-Aug. 22
  Everything in your life is knocked out of its normal pattern right now and is floating around with little if any direction. But it’s okay. Everything is meant to be that way.

- **Virgo**
  Aug. 23-Sept. 22
  There is a fine line between debating and arguing, and you will have to be careful not to lose yourself by talking on the right side of that line. The person you’re talking to may not be thinking clearly or calmly.

- **Libra**
  Sept. 23-Oct. 22
  This is something you should work on changing today. If you are in the midst of making a big decision, ask a person who really matters in your life if you want them to be in your life.

- **Scorpio**
  Oct. 23-Nov. 21
  Today the cautious, humble side of you is telling you to stop for a moment to review the situation. Listen to this little voice inside you now — and don’t let yourself get caught up in the moment.

- **Sagittarius**
  Nov. 22-Dec. 21
  An awkward silence can easily evolve into a long period of miscommunications. So if you put your foot in your mouth today, rely on honesty to dig you out of that hole.

- **Capricorn**
  Dec. 22-Jan. 21
  In one of your newer relationships, things are well on their way toward gaining real momentum. This is a partnership built on mutual respect and a shared sense of what is right.

- **Aquarius**
  Jan. 20-Feb. 18
  It is something that can’t be denied. For moral support, look to the people in your life who are always there for you. They are there for you now, waiting to help.

- **Pisces**
  Feb. 19-Mar. 20
  These extra sacrifices might be temporary, and if you make a big issue out of them, you might be causing more drama than you need in your life right now. Try to hold your tongue and keep the peace.

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS:**

1. Secular; 5- West Pointer; 10- Sounds of disapproval; 14- Eastern nanny; 17- NYC cultural center; 20- Judge; 22- Reporter; 24- Rejections; 25- “... and the cows come home”; 26- Pool stroke; 29- Invoice no.; 32- Caterpillar rival; 36- Half barrel; 37- Each; 39- Beatty’s “Superman”; 40- In spite of; 43- Son-gun

**DOWN:**

1. Tiaan’s mark; 2- Latin love; 3- Poetic foot; 4- Portable power saw; 5- Apple centers; 6- Affirm; 7- “Runaway” singer Shannon; 8- “... Brockovich”; 9- Be silent, musically; 10- Sounds of disapproval; 11- Unwanted ad; 12- Japanese syllabic script; 13- British gun; 21- Foot digit; 23- Legendary ruler of Crete; 27- Legendary ruler of Crete; 28- Stiff bristles; 29- Plant part; 30- “... and the cows come home”; 31- ___-eyed (close to tears); 32- Naked eagle; 33- Tribal leader (squeezing); 34- French hero; 35- ___-yard N in South America; 36- ___ Tennyson; 37- Each; 38- Roadster; 39- Inuit dwelling; 40- In spite of; 41- Inuit dwelling; 42- ___ barrel; 43- ___ the crack of dawn; 44- ___-eyed (close to tears); 45- “... and the cows come home”; 46- ___ Bard; 48- Bad: Prefix; 49- Academy award; 50- ___ few rounds; 52- Joan of ___, French

**SUDOKU**

### Easy

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### Hard

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**THE BORN LOSER** by Chip Sansom

**I'M GOING TO SQUEEZE IN NINE HOLES OF GOLF AFTER WORK, WOULD YOU CARE TO JOIN ME?**

**SORRY, I'M NOT APPRECIATING BUT THERE IS SOMETHING I REALLY NEED TO BE HOME EARLY FOR...**

**I JUST MIGHT GET A ROBOCALL REGARDING LOWERING THE INTEREST RATES ON MY CREDIT CARDS**
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Email: amy@ktranz.com.mo
Tel: +853 2871 6081/2 Fax: +853 2871 6084
Avenida da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR
Korea wins UNESCO recognition of traditional wrestling

Hyung-Jin Kim, Seoul

DIVIDED for seven decades, North and South Korea together won their first international recognition of Korean traditional wrestling yesterday.

The Koreas had earlier pushed separate bids for the sport’s UNESCO recognition before merging their applications amid an easing of tensions this year. Local media reports said South Korea had first proposed the joint bid after a leaders’ summit at a Korean border village in April.

Yesterday, the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, meeting in Port Louis, decided to inscribe traditional Korean wrestling on its list of “Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity” on the basis of an application by the two Koreas, UNESCO said in a release.

“The joint inscription marks a highly symbolic step on the road to inter-Korean reconciliation,” UNESCO director-general Audrey Azoulay said. “It reminds us of the peace-building power of cultural heritage, as a bridge between peoples. This marks a victory for the longstanding and profound ties between both sides of the inter-Korean border.”

South Korean President Moon Jae-in hailed the UNESCO inscription, calling it a “result of recent South-North cooperation.”

The South’s Cultural Heritage Administration said that the two Koreas have been given a new opportunity to promote exchanges in the field of cultural heritage. It said in a statement that the joint inscription is the “fulfilling outcome of a meeting” between Moon and Azoulay in October.

UNESCO said during that meeting with Moon, Azoulay proposed a series of concrete projects involving UNESCO that would facilitate inter-Korean reconciliation. It said similar discussions also took place with North Korea in recent weeks.

“The commitment of UNESCO to facilitate peace between the two parties has led to the joint inscription in a short timeframe,” it said.

The Koreas saw their ties improve greatly since North Korean leader Kim Jong Un reached out to Moon and U.S. President Donald Trump with a vague nuclear disarmament commitment early this year.

They have since marched together during the opening ceremony of the Olympics, exchanged pop singer performances and taken steps toward easing a frontline military standoff. But it’s unclear how far their reconciliation moves would go as U.S.-led diplomacy aimed at stripping North Korea of its nuclear program has reported headway since Kim’s summit with Trump in June.

The Koreas were a single country before their separation in 1945. Split along the world’s most heavily fortified border, the countries now have linguistic, cultural and other gaps.

Korean wrestling is a national sport and a popular cultural practice in both Koreas. In the sport, participants with a belt around their waists and thighs use their hands, legs and other body parts to bring down their opponents. In South Korea, it gained widespread popularity in the 1980s, threatening the long-running popularity of baseball and soccer. AP

First loss of season exposes Chelsea’s frailties under Sarri

Steve Douglas

It took one dreadful 90-minute performance to expose the growing list of shortcomings in the Chelsea team that its coach has forewarned for much of the season.

Chelsea was fortunate to come away from Wembley Stadium with only a 3-1 loss to Tottenham on Saturday. So rampant and dominant were some of Tottenham’s second-half attacks that the margin of victory could easily have been five or six goals.

Some will attempt to put this result in perspective, arguing that it was Chelsea’s first loss in 19 games this season and that an away match against Tottenham — a team that has made its best start to a Premier League campaign — will be among the toughest this season.

Look deeper, though, and there are a slew of issues to concern Chelsea coach Maurizio Sarri, who acknowledged that a “problem is evident.”

The biggest might be that opponents appear to have figured out that shackling deep-lying midfielder Jorginho goes a long way to shackling Chelsea. An off-season arrival from Napoli, Jorginho dictates the way the team plays with his relentless distribution and is Sarri’s brains on the field.

Dele Alli swarmed all over Jorginho on Saturday, forcing mistakes out of the Italy international and leading to him hitting out at him just before halftime. Everton did the same in a 0-0 draw at Chelsea in the last round of games before the international break, with forward Richardson dropping back to suppress Jorginho, who ended up being booked for a nasty scissors-tackle on Gylfi Sigurdsson.

The fact that nullifying Jorginho is so effective naturally switches the focus to N’Golo Kante, a player widely seen as the best midfield anchor in the world but who no longer plays in that position for Chelsea.

Now he plays in a more advanced role ahead of Jorginho, which hardly gets the best out of the France international. He was anonymous against Tottenham, offering no attacking threat as the game largely passed him by. It seems Kante’s abilities are being wasted by Sarri.

Meanwhile, taking Jorginho out of the game means there is less protection for Chelsea’s back four. David Luiz, a ball-playing center back, has mostly had an easy ride this season with Jorginho sitting in front of him but he and fellow central defender Antonio Rudiger were left badly exposed against Tottenham.

Luiz’s defending can be slack at times and the way he turned his back to Harry Kane when the striker fired in a long-range shot for Tottenham’s second goal would have disgusted Chelsea fans who have seen recently retired John Terry put his body on the line so often for the team’s cause.

With left back Marcos Alonso remaining very attack- ing down his wing, there is a danger that Chelsea’s defense can be overrun.

Up front, Sarri continues to switch between Olivier Giroud and Alvaro Morata as the team’s sole striker but neither player has looked convincing. Giroud seems to be bringing the best out of Hazard but doesn’t score enough, with his late consolation at Wembley his first Premier League goal of the season.

Morata offers more of a goal threat but is inconsistent, with Sarri saying recently that the Spain striker is “fragile from a mental point of view.”

Chelsea was overtaken by Tottenham in the standings and now is only one point above fifth-place Arsenal.

Chelsea’s team manager Maurizio Sarri yells during the English Premier League football match between Tottenham Hotspur and Chelsea.

FOOTBALL | EPL

Korean wrestling is a national sport and a popular cultural practice in both Koreas

Korean wrestling is a national sport and a popular cultural practice in both Koreas. In the sport, participants with a belt around their waists and thighs use their hands, legs and other body parts to bring down their opponents. In South Korea, it gained widespread popularity in the 1980s, threatening the long-running popularity of baseball and soccer. AP

Chelsea was overtaken by Tottenham in the standings and now is only one point above fifth-place Arsenal.

FOOTBALL | EPL

Chelsea’s team manager Maurizio Sarri yells during the English Premier League football match between Tottenham Hotspur and Chelsea.

Chelsea’s attack click. Although he started the season with 10 goals in his first 12 games for club and country, he has not scored since Oct. 7 and the burden of carrying the team might start weighing him down.

Chelsea was overtaken by Tottenham in the standings and now is only one point above fifth-place Arsenal, with Manchester City visiting North Korea has won UNESCO recognitions of two Korean cultural assets — the Korean folk tune “Airrang” and the making of Kimchi. The two are among UNESCO’s “fruitful outcome of a meeting” it said.

The Koreas’ joint bid after a leaders’ summit in April. The Koreas were a single country under Kim Jong Un’s summit with Trump in June. They have since marched together during the opening ceremony of the Olympics, exchanged pop singer performances and taken steps toward easing a frontline military standoff. But it’s unclear how far their reconciliation moves would go as U.S.-led diplomacy aimed at stripping North Korea of its nuclear program has reported headway since Kim’s summit with Trump in June. The Koreas were a single country before their separation in 1945. Split along the world’s most heavily fortified border, the countries now have linguistic, cultural and other gaps.

The honeymoon period under Sarri lasted three months. Now he is facing his first real test as Chelsea coach. AP

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ASIA'S LIQUIDITY SQUEEZE IS THE WORST SINCE 2008

Liquidity is getting tight in Asia. Leave aside Japan, where the printing presses are still pumping out yen. In yet of the region, central banks’ supply of currency plus bank reserves has shrunk 7 percent this year, the biggest decline since the dollar began surging in April. This is the steepest contraction in base money since the 11 percent fall between January and October of 2008.

Bank of America Merrill Lynch equity strategists recently looked at a similar measure of money supply for the world and asked if the squeeze was a harbinger of something ugly. The inflation-adjusted global monetary base has shrunk just five times since 1980, the analysts noted in 1982, 1992, 1999, 2001 and 2008. All five episodes either preceded or coincided with global slowdowns.

The Asian tightness is easily explained as the unwinding of the capital outflows that came rushing in after Western central banks cut interest rates to zero and expanded their balance sheets — first to deal with the 2008 credit contagion and then to put nominal GDP on its pre-crisis path. Now a stronger dollar and higher U.S. interest rates are pulling funds back.

The only major Asian equity markets that have seen year-to-date net inflows of foreign funds are China and Vietnam. Next year could be worse if Goldman Sachs Group Inc. is right in its forecast of global central bank tightening for companies in the MSCI Asia Pacific-ex-Japan Index. That’s half of the current consensus.

Exports, which could mitigate the outflows by bringing dollar revenue into Asia from surging U.S. demand, are also at risk. Container rates of $2,652 per 40-foot box on the Hong Kong-Los Angeles route are the highest since 2012, according to Drewry Shipping Consultants Ltd. But that’s only because everyone’s trying to rush Chinese goods into America before President Donald Trump ratchets up the tariff on $200 billion of imports from China to 25 percent at the start of 2020.

Should there be no trade deal by then, Nomura Research expects Chinese export growth to crash by 5.6 percentage points in the first quarter of 2019. A 1.8 percentage point deceleration in the current quarter. Meanwhile, global smartphone demand looks fatigued. Foxconn Technology Group, the biggest iPhone assembler, is planning deep spending cuts next year as demand wanes. If Asian central banks don’t have incoming dollars to buy, the only other way they can print money is by purchasing bonds of their governments. But fiscal policy is lax only in Malaysia and India, with some easing expected next year in China, especially if the trade war gets bloodier. Other governments and central banks are worried about what happens when too much money chases too few goods: inflation. So Bank Indonesia has jacked up rates six times this year, and Jakarta has promised to hold the line on its budget deficit.

Once quantitative easing ends in Europe, and slows in Japan, expect more liquidity tightening in Asia. The private sector in China and India is already squeezed for cash. In China, President Xi Jinping’s administration is pacing the financial system to lend more to private-sector borrowers. Easier financing for small and mid-size firms has become a thorny issue in already-fragile relations between the government and the central bank in India.

At some stage, the spillover effect of Asia’s liquidity (and growth) deficit could make the U.S. Federal Reserve halt its rate-raising campaign. That respite may not come very soon.

Dictionary.com chooses ‘misinformation’ as word of the year

Leanne Italie, New York

MISINFORMATION, as opposed to disinformation, was chosen yesterday as Dictionary.com’s word of the year on the tattered coat-tails of “toxic,” picked earlier this month for the same honor by Oxford Dictionaries in these tumultuous times.

Jane Solomon, a linguist-in-residence at Dictionary.com, said in a recent interview that she thinks there’s only one choice of “mis” over “dis” was intended to serve as a “call to action” to be vigilant in the battle against fake news, flat earthers and anti-vaxxers among other conduits.

It’s the idea of intent, whether to inadvertently mislead or to do it on purpose, that the Oakland, California-based company wanted to highlight. The company decided it would go high when others have spent much of 2018 going low.

The rampart spread of misinformation is really providing new challenges for navigating life in 2018, Solomon told The Associated Press ahead of the word of the year announcement. “Misinformation has been around for a long time, but over the last decade or so the rise of social media has really, really changed how information is shared.

We believe that understanding the concept of misinformation is vital to identifying misinformation as we encounter it in the wild, and that could ultimately help counter impact.”

In studying lookups on the site that trended this year, Dictionary noted “our relationship with truth is something that came up again and again,” she said.

For example, the word “mainstream” popped up a lot, spiking in January as the term “mainstream media,” or MSM, grew to gargantuan proportions, wielded as an insult by some on the political right. Other words swirling around the same problem included a lookup surge in February for “white lie” after Hope Hicks, then White House communications director, admitted to telling a few for President Donald Trump.

The word “Orwellian” surfaced in heavy lookups in May, after a statement attributed to White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders accused the Chinese government of “Orwellian tactics” in trying to impose its views on American citizens and private companies when it declared that United Airlines, American Airlines and other foreign carriers must refer to Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau as part of China in public-facing materials, such as their websites.

Misinformation, Solomon said, “frames what we’ve all been through in the last 12 months.” In that vein, the site with 90 million monthly users has busied itself adding new word entries for “filter bubble,” “fake news,” “post-fact,” “post-truth” and “homophily,” among others. Other word entries on the site have been freshened to reflect timely new meanings, including “echo chamber.”

The company’s runners-up for the top honor include “representation,” driven by the popularity of the movies “Black Panther” and “Crazy Rich Asians,” along with wins during the U.S. midterm elections for Muslim women, Native Americans and LGBTQ candidates.

But the rise of misinformation, Solomon said, stretches well beyond U.S. borders and Facebook’s role in disseminating fake news and propaganda in the Cambridge Analytica scandal. The use of Facebook and other social media to divide and conflict was documented around the globe in 2018, she said.

“Hate speech and rumors posted to Facebook facilitated violence against Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar, riots started in Sri Lanka after false news set the country’s Buddhist majority against Muslims, and false rumors about child kidnappers on WhatsApp led to mob violence in India,” Solomon said.

The idea of “misinformat- ics” has surfaced in the last several years to identify the anti-vaccination movement and other beliefs that lead to real-world health crises, Solomon said.

AP

MEXICO looked set to shore up security near its border with the United States yesterday, and local authorities said that 39 migrants were arrested after a peaceful march developed into mob action when U.S. agents fired tear gas into Mexico to stop some migrants who tried to breach the international line.

TURKEY Four Turkish soldiers died while another was fighting for life after their helicopter crashed yesterday into a residential area of the country in the wake of Russia’s seizure of three Ukrainian ships and crews. Current President Petro Poroshenko has reportedly reduced the martial law proposal to 30 days from 60.

FRANCE President Emmanuel Macron’s government vowed yesterday an “unwavering” stance toward troublemakers who use protests over rising fuel taxes to damage businesses and clash with police — including in the heart of Paris, on the glittering Champs-Elysees.

URUGUAY Three former Ukrainian presidents have joined forces to oppose the motion to impose martial law in the wake of Russia’s seizure of three Ukrainian ships and crews.

ISRAEL-PALESTINE The Israeli military says a Palestinian assailant rammed his car into a group of soldiers in the West Bank and was then shot and killed.

KENTUCKY Four Turkish soldiers died while another was fighting for life after their helicopter crashed yesterday into a residential area of the country in the wake of Russia’s seizure of three Ukrainian ships and crews. Current President Petro Poroshenko has reportedly reduced the martial law proposal to 30 days from 60.