



ADELSON DOESN'T HAVE TO TESTIFY IN MACAU

Sheldon Adelson won't be required to testify or provide a deposition in a civil trial that began this week in Las Vegas

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A group of residents hope Chui finds a solution for the adult offspring issue before leaving office

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FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Geldenhuys EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho

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WORLD BRIEFS



CHINA will bar government authorities from demanding overseas companies hand over technology secrets in exchange for market share, a top economic official said yesterday, addressing a key complaint at the heart of the China-U.S. trade dispute. [More on p11](#)



SOUTH KOREA Former President Lee Myung-bak was released from detention yesterday after a court approved USD885,000 bail nearly a year after his arrest and during the ongoing appeal of his corruption conviction and sentence. [More on p13](#)



AUSTRALIA Asylum seekers who are allowed to leave Australian-run migrant camps in Pacific nations to get medical treatment will be sent to a prison-like facility on a remote Australian island, Prime Minister Scott Morrison (pictured) said.



AFGHANISTAN Militants in Afghanistan set off a suicide blast yesterday morning and stormed a construction company near the airport in Jalalabad, the capital of eastern Nangarhar province, killing at least 17 people, officials said.

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EXTRADITION TREATIES

Alarm rings on all sides of the border

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Top court rules in favor of gov't plot reclamation

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COURTS

Judge: Adelson doesn't have to testify in Macau licensing case



LAS Vegas Sands Corp. Chairman and CEO Sheldon Adelson won't be required to testify or provide a deposition in a civil trial that began Monday in Las Vegas.

Jury selection began for the latest phase of the case, which began 15 years ago when Hong Kong businessman Richard Suen filed a lawsuit asserting his relationships with Chinese government and business officials were key to Las Vegas Sands Corp. securing a gaming license in Macau.

District Court Judge Rob Bare ruled in a closed session Friday that Adelson would not have to testify or sit for a deposition after the company announced last week that Adelson has been diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

Clark County juries twice found in favor of Suen and his Hong Kong-based Round Square Company Ltd. In 2008, Suen was awarded USD43.8 million, but the Nevada Supreme Court vacated

the verdict in 2010 because of the amount of hearsay evidence Suen's attorneys put into the record.

In 2013, another jury awarded Suen \$70 million. However, in March 2016, the state Supreme Court affirmed the judgment in favor of Suen while reversing the jury's decision on damages.

On Monday, about 50 prospective new jurors were ushered into the courtroom and another 34 are scheduled to appear Tuesday. The judge indicated he expects the selection of 15 jurors and alternates by Wednesday or Thursday with opening arguments in the trial scheduled to begin Monday.

"If you are selected to be a juror in this trial, your only, but very important, task as a juror will be to determine the amount of damages Round Square is entitled to for the reasonable value of the benefits it conferred on or the services provided to Las Vegas Sands," Bare told prospective jurors.

Bare said the trial involved "quantum meruit," a reasonable sum of money to be paid for services rendered or work done when the amount due is not stipulated in a legally enforceable contract. **MDT/Las Vegas Review-Journal**

New police drone used in marine search and rescue drill

THE Macao Customs Services used its latest police drone to search for and locate seafarers during yesterday's search and rescue drill.

The maritime authority also dispatched two rescue vessels and a speedboat.

Carried out in the sea by the Macao Science Museum and the Macao Outer Harbor Ferry terminal, the drill served mainly to assess the rescue coordination response and order maintenance of relevant governmental departments.

The exercise simulated the collision of two passenger ships on sea, with 14 passengers injured and three people missing.

Participants in the exercise included the Marine



and Water Bureau, the customs authority, the Fire Services Bureau, the Health Bureau, and two shipping companies.

Wu Chu Pang, head of the Maritime Activities Department of the ma-

rine authority, said after the drill that Macau is developing a marine upstream project, and that the safety of vessels at sea is worthy of attention. He believes that the drill can enhance the emergency

coordination capabilities of shipping companies in upstream projects, and enhance the coordination ability of governmental departments.

Yesterday's drill lasted about one and a half hours, with 160 people participating.

The marine authority said that the process was smooth and achieved the intended purpose.

In 2018, no passenger ferry collisions were reported. In an accident in 2016, two passengers were injured after a ferry collision.

No such accident has yet been reported in 2019. As of today, the marine authority has only prosecuted two bulk carriers, which previously collided with beacons. **JZ**

SPORTS

Dragon boat competitions return to Nam Van in June

AS in previous years, Macau will host the Macau International Dragon Boat Races in June, an annual event jointly organized by the Sports Bureau, the Macau-China Dragon Boat Association and the Municipal Affairs Bureau at the Nam Van Nautical Center.

The registration period for the local races started yesterday and will take place until March 27, the organizing committee informed in a press conference on Tuesday.

Similar to last year, this year's competition will see a total of 10 categories held, including the open

and female categories as well as races between participating public entities and university institutions. There will be different race distances and varying boat sizes across the event.

At the press conference, ID president Pun Weng Kun also added that the event would continue to include several complementary elements, such as cultural exhibits and a parade as well as stalls for the sale of cultural and creative products, as well as local gastronomy, in line with the idea of continuing to build Macau into a world tourism and sports city. **RM**

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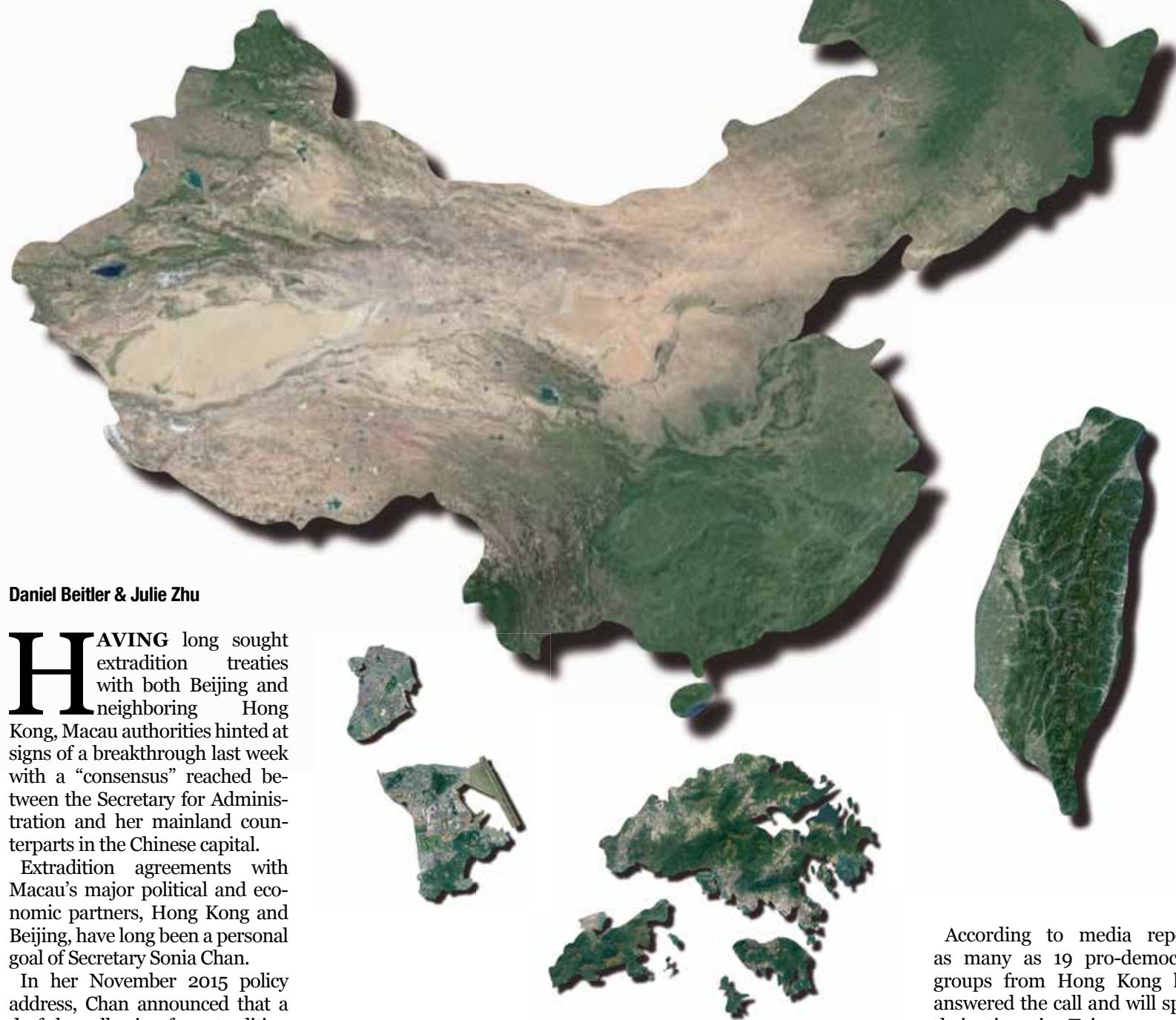
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Extradition treaties raise alarm on all sides of the border



Daniel Beitter & Julie Zhu

HAVING long sought extradition treaties with both Beijing and neighboring Hong Kong, Macau authorities hinted at signs of a breakthrough last week with a “consensus” reached between the Secretary for Administration and her mainland counterparts in the Chinese capital.

Extradition agreements with Macau’s major political and economic partners, Hong Kong and Beijing, have long been a personal goal of Secretary Sonia Chan.

In her November 2015 policy address, Chan announced that a draft law allowing for extradition agreements with the two Chinese jurisdictions was near completion. But the proposal fell through and was ultimately withdrawn from the Legislative Assembly while the government mused “a change in strategy.”

Little progress was seen in the years that followed until, suddenly, last month, Hong Kong’s Security Bureau suggested a work-around following a high-profile murder in Taiwan with a Hong Kong resident as the principal suspect. The bureau proposed allowing extraditions within the greater China region to be studied on a case-by-case basis, adding that no prosecutions would be based on “race, religion, nationality or political opinions.”

Then, returning from meetings with her mainland counterparts at the end of February, Macau’s justice chief announced the consensus over the transfer of convicted criminals. While that does not yet amount to an extradition agreement, it moves the Macau SAR a step closer to signing what would be a highly controversial bill.

The New Macau Association has for years expressed its opposition to an extradition treaty with the mainland, describing it as akin to opening ‘Pandora’s Box’.

This is the principal concern shared by most extradition critics in the two special administrative regions. They objected to the guarantee given by Hong Kong authorities that would exclude politically-motivated crimes from the scope of the extradition agreement, arguing that ideological crimes could easily be disguised as economic offenses. In short, they say they don’t trust mainland authorities to play by the rules.

“Extradition agreements raise concerns when they are signed with countries that do not follow the rule of law,” said lawyer Jorge Menezes yesterday. “It’s not sufficient for the authorities to say that they will not pursue politically-motivated crimes, [since] it would be easy to masquerade a political crime as another [different type of crime].”

“There are three main concerns: extraditions will be used for politically-motivated crimes; judicial systems are not fair; and the use of the death penalty.”

In Hong Kong, pro-democracy politicians and activists have protested the Security Bureau’s suggestion for the past few weeks, arguing that it would pose a security threat to nearly everyone in the city.

They called on the Hong Kong government to exclude Macau and mainland China from any agreement, citing concerns about the potential for the fugitive extradition process to be abused. Political party Demosisto suggested working with Taiwanese authorities to reach a mutual legal assistance agreement for this particular high-profile homicide case. But their repeated objections went largely unnoticed.

That was until yesterday, when it was revealed that a coalition of pro-democrats was traveling to Taipei to make the objections known.

According to media reports, as many as 19 pro-democracy groups from Hong Kong have answered the call and will spend their time in Taiwan meeting with government officials and lawmakers in a move that is likely to provoke Beijing.

The coalition will try persuade Taipei to agree to a narrowing of the scope of the agreement, which would exclude Macau and mainland China. This, they say, will prevent Hong Kong residents from being transferred to mainland China via Macau, or Taiwanese residents from being transferred to the mainland via one of the special administrative regions.

Asked whether such indirect extraditions could occur, lawyer Menezes told the Times yesterday that they are possible, if unusual.

“Normally, extradition is only for the purpose of being tried for that specific crime in that specific place. In principle [further extradition] would violate the terms of the [initial] extradition,” he said, adding that it would be a different matter if a new charge was introduced while the suspect or convict was in the custody of the middling authority.

Bus collided with LRT pillar and injured ten

Early morning yesterday, night bus N3 crashed into a pillar of the Light Rapid Transit (LRT), causing minor injuries to ten passengers. The accident took place at the Estrada Flor de Lótus. The six men and four women who sustained injuries were all passengers onboard and were sent to Conde S. Januário Hospital. The driver (aged 35 years old) was also injured but refused to be sent to the hospital. The driver passed a breathalyzer test. According to the driver, the collision happened when he tried to avoid items which suddenly came into his sight. Another two motorbikes near the pillar were damaged during the accident.

Fire services employee given three months

A civilian employee from the Fire Services Bureau has been sentenced to three months in jail for drunk driving. According to a report by TDM, the court allows the imprisonment to be replaced by a fine of MOP27,000. The employee is also prohibited from driving for one year and six months. The Bureau also instituted disciplinary measures against the accused. In October 2018, an off-duty police officer was also suspended from his position and sentenced to three months in jail for drunk driving.

Lawmakers ask about hostel supervision

The Second Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL) has asked the government to explain its proposed supervision of hostels. The committee carried out its first discussion yesterday on the latest hotel business bill. The committee wants the government to detail which law the tourism authority will refer to when issuing restaurant and bar licenses. The bill, which proposes to allow budget accommodation options, does not cover current accommodation options that are similar to youth hostels.

COURTS

TUI rules in favor of gov't land plot reclamation



Renato Marques

THE Court of Final Appeal (TUI) has ruled in favor of the Macau government regarding an appeal from the concessionaire of a land plot, the Times has learned. The government had considered the plot expired and had requested the retrieval of on the basis of non-usage during the 25-year concession period, but the developer appealed the decision.

According to the TUI ruling, it was clearly proven that the concessionaire is the only party responsible for the non-usage of the Pac On, Taipa land plot during the concession period.

The TUI noted that, on several occasions, the government had allowed the concessionaire to change the project to include a commercial area, and also change the land plot purpose from

industrial to residential. The government had further granted several extensions for the concession.

For these reasons, the TUI considered the concessionaire's appeal to be unjustified, and considered the government to have acted lawfully by claiming the land lot due to the lack of development.

Covering an area of approximately 7,000 square meters, the land in question is listed as plot D of the Pac On landfills. It had been conceded to the developer back in 1988 with a rental period of a quarter-century.

Initially, the land plot was to be used for the construction of a one-story building, consisting of a ground floor and mezzanine, for a ceramic tiles and pavement factory.

According to the contract, the industrial unit was to be under

construction for a maximum period of 18 months from the beginning of the concession.

One year later, the concessionaire requested a change in the project to expand the building into a six-story one. The company would continue to use the ground floor for an industrial purpose, but use the other five storeys for commerce.

This request was approved and the concession was extended for another two years. A further extension was granted in 2008, when the concessionaire requested to change the land plot purpose from industrial to residential.

This time, instead of a six-story building, the land would be used for a 58-storey residential block with a gross construction area of 113,785 square meters, including housing units, shops and a parking lot.

Still, the concessionaire was never able to complete the project on time and was the only entity responsible for the constant delays and lack of development. The concessionaire justified the delays with reference to "economic crises" and "unfavorable market conditions," giving rise to the suspicion that there was never any intention to build the industrial unit but, instead, a highly profitable residential building in a privileged location.

With the final ruling from the TUI, the government now has one more land plot at its disposal, closing a judicial case and giving way to the possibility of using the plot to achieve a similar result with others in the same area, including one that has already been used for the construction of the government's multi-functional building.

Association hopes for adult offspring solution in 2019

YESTERDAY, a group of local residents visited the Macau SAR Identification Department for a discussion on the issue of obtaining local residency permits for their adult offspring living on the mainland.

The group, which consists of members of the Macau Federation of Family Reunion and another association, was invited to meet with the bureau.

Accompanying the group, lawmaker Zheng Anting said that these local residents have always been in contact with him regarding the matter.

Zheng stated that over the past few years, the association has had several meetings with him. The group hopes that their concerns will be resolved in 2019 before the change of government.

"This year, they hope that their problems can be solved [during] Chief Executive Chui Sai On's term," said Zheng.

The lawmaker also said that the identification authority has always replied to the requests of these local residents.

"They hope that the SAR government can reconsider [the restrictions] on adult offspring residency in Macau," said Zheng.

According to the group, there are currently about 1,200 local families experiencing problems affecting a total of 2,300 adult offspring.

The majority of the 2,300 adult offspring are said to live on the mainland. The group hopes that the SAR government can provide assistance so that they can reside, live and work in Macau. **JZ**

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MUSIC

Caetano launches solo album at Ronnie Scott's, makes BBC radio

Renato Marques

MACAU-BORN Portuguese percussionist and singer-songwriter João Caetano last week launched his first solo album at a sold-out event at famous London jazz club Ronnie Scott's.

Earlier this week Caetano was invited to be part of BBC Radio's Robert Elms show.

"I went there and the team played [some tracks] off the album and better than that,

they passed the whole album to the BBC system," he told the Times yesterday, explaining "this means that the album is now part of the BBC Radio library and can be included in more playlists."

As Caetano told the Times, "they became fans of the album. It has a new and fresh sonority that is not common in nowadays music."

For the artist this is an important step as it represents "the recognition of all the work that has been done over the past five years."

Several high-ranking officials from the Portuguese Embassy in the U.K. attended the launch, namely Ambassador Manuel Lobo Antunes and the Embassy's cultural affairs attaché.

For Caetano, it was a particular honor to be presented on stage by jazz legend and founder of Incognito, Jean-Paul "Bluey" Maunick.

Caetano revealed that, in addition to playing his new album, he was able to perform as a bonus a few songs of "future projects" that might be

singles one day.

For now the artist is focused on continuing to promote his new album, "Rhythm & Fado," with the help of its distributor Awal.

"[Awal] is a great distributor and a pioneer in new technologies and online distribution," Caetano said. "With them I can achieve distribution in all online platforms which nowadays means a lot."

"Besides the royalties that can come from there, this means traffic to our pages and social media platforms, which

is important to keep me moving [forward]."

With the album on hand and dedicated online distribution Caetano is says he now must wait to learn how it is received by the public. "It is a matter of time," he said. "I need to give time for people to listen to it and to start receiving their feedback."

As for concerts, he announced that an Asian tour with a Macau date is coming. In addition, he also expressed a desire to perform the new album in Portugal and, maybe, Brazil.

Jabbawockeez holds workshop for local dance enthusiasts

AMERICAN hip-hop dance crew, the Jabbawockeez, held a workshop at MGM Cotai on Tuesday, inviting dance enthusiasts from the city's various associations.

The dance crew is MGM's first residency show that features a combination of choreography, drama and comedy.

Dozens of dance enthusiasts gathered at MGM Cotai for the Jabbawockeez Workshop, themed "true to yourself."

One of the crew's members and instructor, Kevin Brewer, remarked, "Our tagline is to inspire the world through music and



dance and us being out here in Macau is really a step towards doing that."

"It's about touching base with people and being able to connect with them and physically see their faces and be accessible. It's a big deal for us that we're here. We can see that talent in Macau," he said.

According to Brewer, there are plans to expand worldwide, noting that the workshop was also an opportunity to see local talent.

The masked dancers showcase their hip-hop spirit through the universal language of dance, showcasing and teaching different styles and movements to local participants.

"I think if we spent a little more time with them then we would be able to get more Jabbawockeez

into them," Brewer added.

The workshop stood as a platform for local dance enthusiasts to connect with the internationally-known dancers.

The participants expressed their keenness to have dance mentors visit Macau to share their techniques.

"I think it's really nice that they [MGM] organized this workshop and [that] it's for free. We really use this opportunity to learn from Jabbawockeez. It brings those who share the same passion together," said a participant.

"This is something I never thought would ever happen," another remarked.

Jabbawockeez - true to yourself will be presented at MGM Cotai's MGM Theater until March 31. LV



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FORUM

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Angola nurtures 'new alliances' but preserves ties with China

ANGOLA, under the leadership of President João Lourenço, has been forging "new alliances," notably with Japan, but continues to prioritize ties with China and the Portuguese-speaking countries, the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) said.

The EIU recalls in its latest report on Angola that Lourenço, in an effort to diversify economic and diplomatic relations in Europe, visited France and Belgium in 2018 before visiting Portugal later that year.

"New alliances are being nurtured, although relations with global powers such as the U.S. and China will also have high priority," the EIU said.

The report recalls that after a state visit to China by Lourenço in 2018, the Chinese authorities announced a new credit line of USD2 billion, "which will be used mainly to finance infrastructure projects."

"Angola will continue to prioritise relations with Portuguese-speaking countries, including Brazil, as well as with the former colonial power, Portugal,

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President João Lourenço

"a country with which longstanding economic, political and cultural ties" have been hampered by a number of Portuguese legal investigations of senior

Angolan officials, a situation that should be overcome.

Relations with Japan are also growing, benefiting from a recently signed USD600 million

contract for the recovery of the port of Namibe by a consortium of Japanese companies.

The contract is also significant for Japan as it intends to

expand its presence in Africa, despite being overshadowed by its Asian rivals China and South Korea and is preparing to hold the seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development in August, the EIU said.

"Japan has historically been cautious about investing in Angola because of the country's operating environment, and this latest investment is a welcome omen for the government's reform agenda," it said.

Angola is under the assistance of the International Monetary Fund, which, according to Africa Monitor, already translates into a "more favorable environment in which Angola is now negotiating international credits."

Africa Monitor reported that in January, in what are considered "very favorable" conditions, Angola negotiated at least two loans with British banks, for which the interest rate applied, Libor +1.5 percent (in pounds sterling/euro/yen) is lower than that of loans negotiated with China (an average of 3.4 percent).

"Since the beginning of his term, João Lourenço has made several trips abroad with the purpose of attracting private investment, securing loans and, in the specific case of China, to present the intention of a debt renegotiation," the EIU said.

Mak Mak to visit Portugal next week

THE Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) will organize an "Experience Macau - Portugal" mega promotion next week during Lisbon Travel Market (BTL) 2019, at which Macau will be a highlight as this year's International Guest Destination. Macau mascot Mak Mak will be on site to greet and entertain visitors.

A string of activities will be conducted in Lisbon and Porto to market Macau as a tourism destination, emphasizing the upcoming occasion of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Macau Special Administrative Region.

Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, will be

in Portugal to preside over the activities conducted under the umbrella of "Experience Macau - Portugal".

The mega tourism promotion will kick off with the presentation of a video mapping show titled "Macau a Legendary Journey" at Praça do Comércio on March 12, showcasing the city's history, its links to Portugal, and recent developments.

MGTO will participate in BTL with a booth under the themes "Experience Macau Your Own Style" and the 20th anniversary of the Macau SAR. The booth will showcase the city's UNESCO-listed heritage, as well as highlight Macanese gastronomy and Macau as a UNESCO

Creative City of Gastronomy with a food truck presenting Macanese delicacies.

There will also be Macau virtual reality tour experiences, with Macau tourism mascot Mak Mak welcoming and entertaining visitors at the booth.

An exhibition featuring works from over 30 Macau artists will open on March 13 at the Macau Economic and Trade Office in Lisbon. On the following day, four street dance groups from Macau (The Dancer Studio Macau, Macau Pop Music and Dance Association, the Association of Macau Street Dance and the Macau Street Dance Culture Association) will perform in four popular pedestrian



streets and plazas in the heart of Lisbon.

On March 15, the Macau delegation heads to Porto for the opening of an exhibition to promote the arts among disabled people at Porto City Hall.

Then the delegation takes to Portuguese television to conduct a Macanese cooking demonstration, among other initiatives to be presented by visiting Macanese chefs, Antonieta Manhão and Carlos Cabral.

20 percent increase in cars using HKZMB in Jan

THE number of cars entering Macau using the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge exceeded 15,700 in January 2019, an increase of nearly 20 percent compared to December 2018, according to the Statistics and Census Bureau.

The longest sea-crossing bridge in the world, the HKZMB opened in late October 2018, connecting three major cities that are geographically nearby, but separated by water.

In the first month of the year 457,000 cars entered Macau through the border posts, with more than 298,000 arriving via the Border Gate.

At the Macau International Airport there were 5,750 commercial flights, up 14.2 percent compared to January 2018, with the number of flights between Macau and Mainland China totaling 2,297 or an additional 25 percent year-on-year, while the number of flights between Macau and Taiwan was 1,089, down 3.8 percent.

The number of cars registered in Macau increased by 1.4 percent to 108,750 in January 2019, with motorcycles increasing 1.3 percent to 98,100, with mopeds falling 9.4 percent to just over 26,000.

German spies said to be fighting to keep Huawei out of 5G

Patrick Donahue & Birgit Jennen

HARDLINERS in Chancellor Angela Merkel's government are fighting for the powers to keep Huawei Technologies Co. out of Germany's fifth-generation mobile networks.

The cyber-security hawks are concerned that Huawei could help China steal secrets from German companies or even the state and are pushing for strict criteria on equipment suppliers before the government begins the process of issuing 5G licenses in two weeks' time, according to three people familiar with talks in Berlin.

While the cabinet has decided that an outright ban on the Chinese equipment maker would be legally impossible, officials across the administration are demanding tools that would allow them to block Huawei equipment from being used all the same, the people said.

The interior ministry, the foreign ministry and German intelligence are all pushing back against the economy ministry and



industry lobby groups, which have said that sidelining Huawei would delay the roll-out of 5G by years and cost the country billions. Economy Minister Peter Altmaier has said any restrictions can't involve targeting specific companies, but will have to involve security stan-

dards for all potential service providers.

Spokespeople in the Federal Chancellery and ministries have declined to comment while the negotiations are ongoing.

Huawei has become a lightning rod for tensions between the U.S.

and Europe over trade and security policy as Washington threatens reprisals against any governments that allow Chinese equipment to form part of the crucial ultra-fast networks.

The U.K.'s foreign intelligence chief last month said an outright

Huawei ban may be excessive and Italy's deputy prime minister said his country's intelligence has no security concerns on the Chinese. European telecom executives at a conference in Barcelona last week banded together to try to avert any bans against Huawei.

Security officials in Germany, however, are more sympathetic to U.S. concerns and aren't giving up just yet.

Their efforts are now focused on the catalogue of security criteria that 5G equipment will have to meet in order to be certified by Germany's Federal Office for Information Security, or BSI. The U.K. has a similar certification process.

Ministries are still in the process of negotiating how strict the certification criteria will be.

One of those could involve an assessment of how trustworthy a provider is, one official said. Authorities will also have to pay close attention to how companies interact in their country of origin, according to another, referencing a Chinese law that requires Huawei to share data with intelligence services in Beijing.

Some criteria may be watered down by the time the catalogue is fleshed out - and the BSI may have leeway in granting certification. But the hawks are pushing for the threshold to be as high as possible. **MDT/Bloomberg**

AD

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Friday, March 22, 2019

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Enda Curran & Tian Chen

THE U.S. and China are edging closer to resolving differences on currencies that have bogged down economic talks for nearly two decades. The only question is how meaningful the deal will be.

With both nations inching towards a trade agreement that's expected to include a provision for China to hold the yuan stable, U.S. President Donald Trump is shifting his gaze to the dollar's strength.

During a largely unscripted two-hour speech on Saturday, he targeted Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell as someone who "likes raising rates." Even though his Treasury secretary sets currency policy, Trump pointed to Powell as a "gentleman that likes a very strong dollar."

For China, a possible weaker dollar will lead to a stronger yuan, pressuring officials to halt its appreciation as the economy slows. That will risk triggering blunt criticism from Trump, who used his presidential election campaign to routinely accuse China of deliberately weakening its currency in order to boost exports.

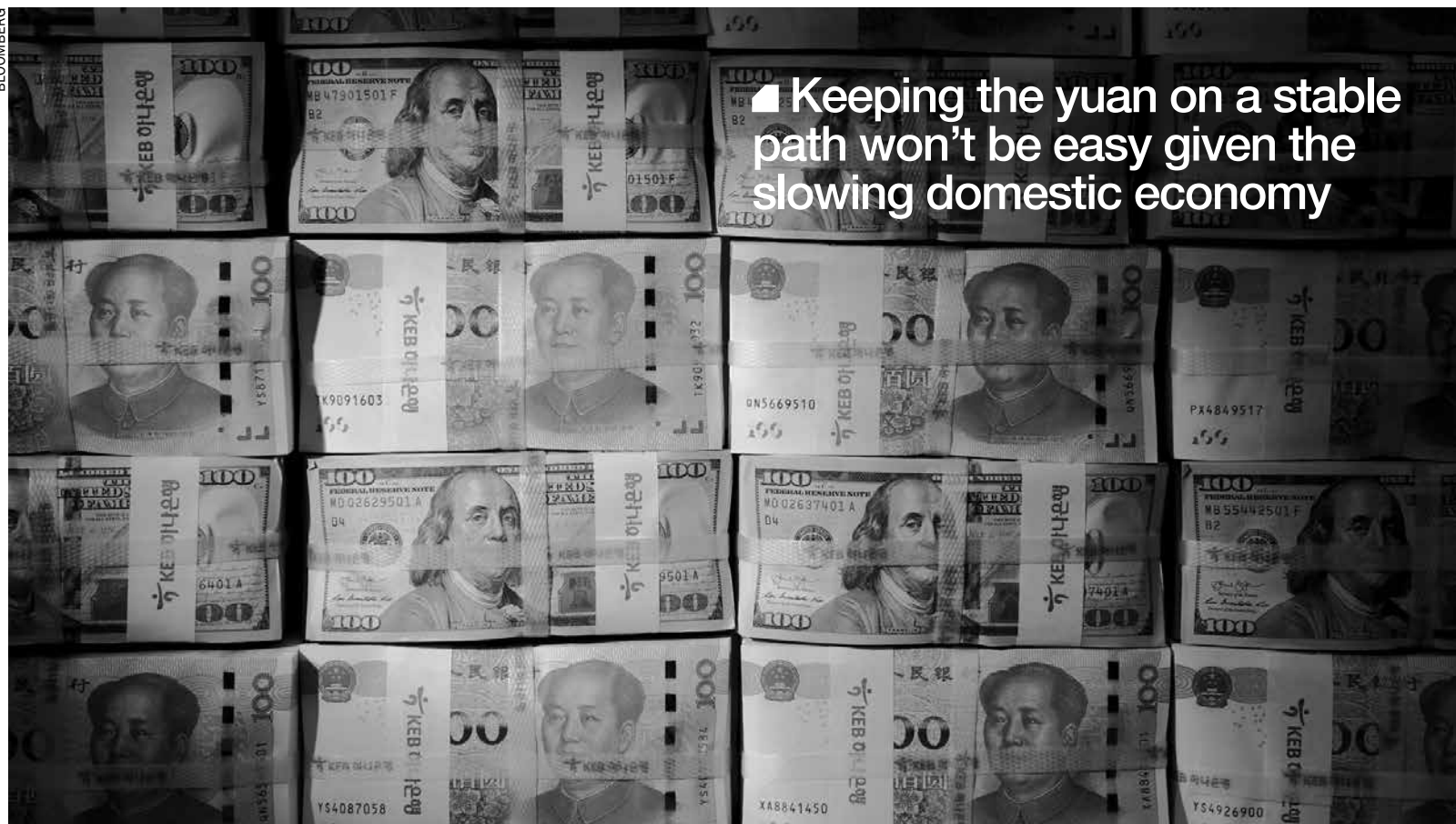
"Trump wants the dollar to stay lower because of the impending election to counter the strengthening effects of his budget and Fed policy," said Douglas Paal, vice president for studies at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "But if you were to ask him why, he might offer the excuse of China's currency."

Keeping the yuan on a stable path won't be easy given the slowing domestic economy and drawing on lessons from previous currency pacts such as the 1980s Plaza Accord, said Cliff Tan, MUFG Bank Ltd.'s East Asia head of global markets research.

"We still think a weaker economy and credit problems should mean a weaker yuan later in the year," Tan said.

US-China trade deal leaves currencies as fighting ground

BLOOMBERG



The government in Beijing on Tuesday used its report to the annual National People's Congress to lower its growth goal for the year to a target of 6 percent to 6.5 percent and pledged to keep the yuan basically stable at reasonable equilibrium levels, while also allowing greater flexibility.

That suits China's own interests, given the risk of capital outflows and market instability that would be triggered by a currency slump. Yet it's less clear how much sovereignty over the yuan China will want to cede in any trade agreement with the U.S.

"It looks unrealistic to us that China would accept any explicit

clause putting down ranges for the dollar-yuan rate or incorporating a vigorous monitoring process," Frances Cheung, head of Asia macro strategy at Westpac Banking Corp. wrote in a note Tuesday. "A rigid exchange-rate policy would have wide implications on China's multi-year reform on the foreign-exchange system and the opening-up of the capital markets."

China's yuan surged 2.4 percent against the dollar this year, making it the best performing currency in Asia, and has rallied to the highest level since July versus a basket of exchange rates. That's a far cry from 2018, when the yuan tumbled more than 5 percent amid concerns

over the trade war and monetary easing by the central bank.

A currency accord will likely require China to avoid devaluing to gain a competitive advantage, U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer said last week, though he also said that there isn't yet a final agreement. That was a shift from Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin's previous remarks that the U.S. and China had concluded "one of the strongest agreements ever on currency."

Currency provisions have become an increasingly common feature of U.S. trade agreements in recent years. The Obama administration insisted on including a commitment to not enga-

ge in competitive devaluations in the Trans-Pacific Partnership it negotiates with Japan and 10 other economies. The Trump administration insisted on the inclusion of something similar in a renegotiated Nafta.

But by and large the provisions have been seen as symbolic and toothless. The Trump administration has also proven reluctant to act on the president's rhetoric before. During his 2016 campaign Trump promised to officially label China a currency manipulator and take tough action. Two years into his presidency, however, the U.S. Treasury has declined to follow through on that threat. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

ASIA'S 50 BEST RESTAURANTS AWARDS RETURNS TO WYNN AS VENUE PARTNER



Wynn Macau and Wynn Palace Cotai have once again been chosen as the official venue partner by Asia's 50 Best Restaurants for the highly anticipated event in the Asian culinary industry.

The organizers of Asia's 50 Best Restaurants will continue to host the #50BestTalks gastronomy forum, The Chefs' Feast and the Awards Ceremony, giving world-renowned chefs and epicureans an opportunity to exchange ideas and to share Macau's rapid rise to success in the culinary industry.

The #50BestTalks

forum will be held on March 25 at Wynn Macau, where a number of influential chefs and industry experts will share their insights around the theme – Vital Ingredients. The Awards Ceremony will take place at Wynn Palace on March 26, where Asia's most influential restaurant winners will be revealed.

Kristoffer Luczak, Executive Vice President of Food and Beverage for Wynn Macau, Limited said: "We are very pleased that Asia's 50 Best Restaurants has chosen to return to Wynn once again to host

their event. We are also proud to continue supporting Macau as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy, where we can truly demonstrate the quality of Macau's diverse dining experiences."

Meanwhile, a Helena de Senna Fernandes, Director of the Macao Government Tourism Office, said: "The gathering in Macau for the second consecutive year of so many top chefs for the unveiling of the most influential restaurants in Asia will offer a remarkable opportunity for our city to connect and be inspired by their innovative spirit."

AP PHOTO



ENVIRONMENT

S. Korea proposes rain project with Beijing to clean air

Kim Tong-Hyung, Seoul

SOUTH Korean President Moon Jae-in has proposed a joint project with China to use artificial rain to clean the air in his country, where an acute increase in pollution has caused alarm.

Moon also instructed government officials yesterday to quicken the retirement of old coal-burning power plants, according to his spokesman, Kim

Eui-kyeom.

Seoul has been struggling to tackle the rise in air pollution that experts have linked to China's massive industrial activity and emissions from South Korean cars. Fine dust levels in South Korea have hit new highs over the past week, prompting people to wear masks while commuting under thick-gray skies that online users have compared to scenes from the movie "Wall-E."

When asked about Moon's

proposal, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang said cooperation would be "good" but downplayed Seoul's claim that China is a major source of its pollution problems.

"Is South Korea sure if their pollution is from China?" Lu said. "Many countries have realized that the causes of pollution are various."

As of 4 p.m. yesterday, the fine dust concentration level was 136 micrograms per cubic meter in

Seoul, according to the National Institute of Environmental Research, which defines levels above 75 micrograms per cubic meter as "very bad."

Na Kyung-won, the floor leader of the conservative Liberty Korea Party, called for Moon to designate the air pollution as a national disaster. Ruling and opposition parties held an emergency meeting at which they agreed to swiftly pass bills to cope with the problem.

In a meeting with government officials, Moon noted that China was "much more advanced" than South Korea in rain-making technologies and expressed hope that creating rain over waters between the countries would help mitigate the air pollution, Kim said.

In January, South Korea's weather agency failed in an experiment to create artificial rain which involved an aircraft releasing chemicals into clouds over the sea.

"China has claimed that South Korea's dust flies toward Shanghai, so creating artificial rain over the Yellow Sea would help the Chinese side too," Kim quoted Moon as saying during the meeting. Moon also proposed that South Korea and China develop a joint system for issuing air pollution alerts, Kim said.

Is South Korea sure if their pollution is from China?

LU KANG
CHINESE FOREIGN
MINISTRY SPOKESMAN

Moon instructed government officials to take steps to quickly close coal-burning power plants that have operated for more than 30 years and draw up an extra budget if necessary to install more air purifiers in schools and support possible joint activities with China, Kim said.

In a meeting with top Chinese diplomat Yang Jiechi last year, Moon said China was partially responsible for South Korea's pollution problem and called for Beijing's cooperation in efforts to improve air quality. **AP**

Big concessions on trade deal won't be made, ex-minister says

CHINA won't make big concessions to the U.S. in order to seal a trade deal, former finance minister Lou Jiwei said in Beijing yesterday, calling some U.S. demands for change "unreasonable."

"China's concessions probably won't be very big because a lot of their demands are what we already plan to reform," Lou, who was finance minister until 2016 and now runs the social security fund, said in an interview on the sidelines of the National People's Congress. Some U.S. demands are "just nipping," he said.

China and the U.S. are nearing the finish line on

a trade deal that could be signed by Presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping as early as this month, though there is still a risk either side could walk away. The U.S. wants China follow through on pledges ranging from better protecting intellectual-property rights to buying more American products before Trump removes additional tariffs on USD200 billion of Chinese goods.

The two sides are still negotiating and it will take more effort to reach an agreement, Commerce Minister Zhong Shan said on Tuesday. While substantial progress has been

made, work remains to be done, Ning Jizhe, a member of the Chinese trade delegation and head of the country's statistics bureau said yesterday.

STICKING POINTS

Lawmakers will vote on a foreign investment law next Friday, which includes measures to protect the IP of foreign companies and ease pressure on them to transfer technology to local partners, an effort to address U.S. concerns. Beijing has also already reportedly agreed to several conditions, including boosting its imports of agriculture goods and keeping the yuan sta-

ble, a commitment that could prove controversial.

China must reject U.S. demands to keep the yuan stable against the greenback as part of a trade deal, though it can commit to not maintain it at an artificially low level, former People's Bank of China adviser Yu Yongding wrote in an opinion piece last week.

A prospective deal can't put all the burden of proof that agreements are being carried out on Beijing, former Chinese officials with experience of dealing with the U.S. have said, warning that the "strong enforcement language" Trump has pledged will

BLOOMBERG



Former finance minister Lou Jiwei

be seen as unfair unless it also binds the U.S. to address China's own grievances.

"Consensus can be reached in the trade war," Jiangsu Province representative Fei Shaoyun said in an interview

echoing much of what Lou said. "Many of the conditions we are negotiating now are also what we need to do in reform and opening up. We also have our timetable, and don't need to make concessions." **Bloomberg**

Canadian canola permit revoked as dispute escalates

ONE of Canada's largest grain processors said Tuesday that China has revoked its permit to export canola there, a move that some saw as retaliation for the Canadian government's arrest of a top executive for the Chinese tech giant Huawei.

China's action against Richardson International Ltd. following non-compliance notices alleging that some imports from Canada were contaminated with pests or bacteria.

According to Beijing's Foreign Ministry spokesman, Lu Kang, China acted to suspend canola imports from a Canadian company "in accordance with laws and regulations and international practice."

Lu cited "harmful organisms" he did not further identify as a threat.

He yesterday said China's government "needs to protect the health and safety of its own people."

"I can tell you responsibly that the Chinese government's decision is definitely well-founded. Upon verification, China customs has recently detected dangerous pests in canola imported from Canada many times," Lu said.

Meanwhile, Canada disputes that claim.

"I am very concerned by what



we've heard has happened to Richardson. We do not believe there's any scientific basis for this," Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland said in Montreal. "We are working very, very hard with the Chinese government on this issue."

The loss of the shipping permit comes as Canada is proceeding with an extradition hearing for Huawei CFO Meng Wanzhou, who is the daughter of Huawei's founder. She was arrested by Canada at the request of the U.S., where she is wanted on fraud charges.

It wouldn't be the first time

Beijing has retaliated against nations that offend it. China suspended its bilateral trade deal with Norway and restricted imports of Norwegian salmon after the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Chinese political prisoner Liu Xiaobo in 2010.

Britain and other countries were retaliated against over meetings with the Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama, considered a dangerous separatist by Beijing.

Canadian Agriculture Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau said in a statement that the government was closely monitoring

the situation and any potential impact on Canada's agricultural trading relationship with China.

She said the Canadian Food Inspection Agency conducted further investigations after China issued the notices of non-compliance on canola seed imports, including nine since January, and said the agency had not identified any pests or bacteria of concern.

China is the destination for about 40 percent of Canada's canola exports, and the revocation of Richardson's permit hurts the entire value chain of industries involved in the market, the Ca-

nola Council of Canada said.

"We are aware of challenges our exporters have faced shipping to China — these are concerning as they create instability and add costs," council spokeswoman Heidi Dancho said by email.

Dancho said that while the diplomatic frictions between China and Canada are concerning, there is no clear evidence they are related to the canola dispute.

Neil Townsend, senior market analyst at FarmLink, however, said he thinks there is a definite link to the Huawei case. "There's no doubt China's mad at us," he said.

Beijing has warned of serious consequences if Meng is not released. China arrested two Canadians on Dec. 10 in what was widely seen as an attempt to pressure Canada to release Meng.

After Meng's arrest, a Chinese court also sentenced a Canadian to death in a sudden retrial, overturning a 15-year prison term handed down earlier.

China's move hits a vital crop for western Canada, and comes after canola prices have already been hit by China's retaliatory tariffs on U.S. agricultural exports. The industry should be concerned because if China cuts back on buying it would hit prices further, Townsend said.

"With China kind of saying — because they're mad about the Huawei thing — they're basically saying like, 'Oh, we're not going to buy any more,'" Townsend said.

He said he suspects Richardson was targeted since it is the largest exporter that is fully Canadian-owned. **AP**

NPC

Beijing says new law will bar demands for technology handover

Christopher Bodeen

CHINA will bar government authorities from demanding overseas companies hand over technology secrets in exchange for market share, a top economic official said yesterday, addressing a key complaint at the heart of the China-U.S. trade dispute.

The provision is contained in a foreign investment law to be debated at the current annual session of the National People's Congress, Ning Jizhe, vice chairman of the Cabinet's economic planning agency told reporters at a news conference.

The law will "clarify the system for advancement and protection of foreign

investment," Ning said. The legal system will ensure that foreign businesses "cannot be required to transfer technology by administrative means, providing a more encompassing and beneficial legal guarantee," he said.

The rubber-stamp legislature is expected to pass the law during its 11-day session, although the central government routinely says it has little control over commercial agreements between Chinese and foreign firms.

Ning's statement came a day after Chinese Premier Li Keqiang announced a robust annual economic growth target and promised in a speech to the congress' opening session that foreign companies

will be "treated as equals" with their Chinese competitors.

Accusations that China demands the disclosure of technology secrets are a key stumbling point in the U.S.-China trade dispute that has significantly disrupted commerce between the world's two largest economies, affecting farmers, liquor exporters and China's key manufacturing industries.

Li on Tuesday set this year's economic growth target at 6 to 6.5 percent. Such a growth rate, if achieved, would be among the world's strongest. Yet it would be slightly below last year's 6.6 percent growth in China and would mark a new three-decade low.

China's emergence as a competitor in smartphones, telecom equipment, solar power and other technologies has increased the range of products available to consumers and helped to drive down prices. But it rattles Washington and other governments that worry Chinese competition is a threat to their industries and employment.

Such concerns underscore a standoff between the U.S. and China over Huawei Technologies, the world's biggest maker of telecom infrastructure for new high-speed 5G networks. Washington has been pushing hard to exclude the Chinese company from building the backbone of the future internet.



News reports say Washington and Beijing might be close to an agreement to end the trade battle and avoid further tariff hikes, although no firm agreements have been announced on the core of the dispute: U.S. pressure on Beijing to roll back its plans for state-led creation of global competitors in robotics and other technology.

Last year, the U.S. levied import taxes of 25 percent on USD50 billion of Chi-

nese imports. It followed in September with 10 percent duties on an additional \$200 billion. All told, the U.S. tariffs covered roughly half of what the U.S. buys from China.

Washington, Europe and other trading partners say China's policies violate its market-opening obligations and give an unfair advantage to domestic firms. Some American officials worry they might erode U.S. industrial leadership. **AP**

NUCLEAR OPERATION

North Korea said to be rebuilding structures at rocket site

Hyung-Jin Kim
& Kim Tong-Hyung, Seoul

NORTH Korea is restoring facilities at a long-range rocket launch site that it dismantled last year as part of disarmament steps, according to foreign experts and a South Korean lawmaker who was briefed by Seoul's spy service.

The finding follows a high-stakes nuclear summit last week between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and U.S. President Donald Trump that ended without any agreement.

South Korea's National Intelligence Service provided the assessment about the North's Tongchang-ri launch site to lawmakers during a private briefing Tuesday. North Korea didn't immediately respond in its state media.

An article from 38 North, a website specializing in North Korea studies, cited commercial satellite imagery as indicating that efforts to rebuild some structures at the site started sometime between Feb. 16 and March 2.

Dismantling parts of its long-range rocket launch facility was among several steps the North took last year when it entered nuclear talks with the United States and South Korea. North



Unha-3 rocket at a launching site in North Korea back in April 2012

Korea has carried out satellite launches at the site in recent years, resulting in U.N. sanctions over expert claims that they were disguised tests of banned missile technology.

It wasn't immediately clear how the report might affect nuclear diplomacy. The Trump-Kim summit fell apart because of differences over how much

sanction relief North Korea could win in return for closing its aging main nuclear complex. The U.S. and North Korea accused each other of causing the summit breakdown, but both sides left the door open for future negotiations.

Trump said Kim told him that North Korea would continue to suspend nuclear and missile

tests while negotiations are underway, and South Korea and the U.S. announced Sunday that they are eliminating massive springtime military drills and replacing them with smaller exercises in an effort to support the talks.

One of the South Korean lawmakers who attended the intelligence briefing said yester-

day that NIS director Suh Hoon said the structures being restored at the launch site include roofs and building doors.

The lawmaker requested anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the information.

He quoted Suh as saying that the move could be preparation to restart long-range rocket launches if nuclear diplomacy completely collapses, or could be an attempt to add structures that could be dramatically blown up in a show of denuclearization commitment when U.S. inspectors visit if negotiations with Washington go well.

The NIS said it couldn't confirm the report on Suh's briefing.

The 38 North report published Tuesday said the rail-mounted processing building, which is where space launch vehicles are worked on before they're moved to the launch pad, is being reassembled. It said two support cranes can be seen at the building, and walls have been erected and a new roof added.

At the engine test stand, the website said it appears that the engine support structure is being reassembled. It said new roofs have been installed on the fuel and oxidizer buildings.

The report was written by Jack Liu and Jenny Town.

Beyond Parallel, a website run by the Center for Strategic and International Studies think tank, issued a similar assessment of the Tongchang-ri site. It said satellite imagery taken Saturday, two days after the failed summit, showed North Korea "is pursuing a rapid rebuilding" of the rocket site. **AP**

BORDER TENSIONS

India, Pakistan again target army posts, villages in Kashmir

INDIAN and Pakistani soldiers shelled military outposts and villages along their highly militarized frontier in disputed Kashmir yesterday, in an outbreak of new violence despite stepped-up diplomatic efforts by the rival countries to ease tensions.

The two armies accused each other of initiating the artillery and mortar fire and small-arms gunfire. No casualties were immediately reported.

Tensions have been high since Indian aircraft crossed into Pakistan last week, carrying out what India called a pre-emptive strike against militants blamed for a Feb. 14 sui-

cide bombing in Indian-controlled Kashmir that killed 40 Indian troops.

Pakistan retaliated, shooting down two Indian planes and capturing a pilot, who was later returned to India in a peace gesture. The two countries have also resumed bus and train services that were stopped following the escalation of tensions, the most serious in the long-simmering conflict since 1999, when Pakistan's military sent a ground force into Indian-controlled Kashmir.

In another effort aimed at easing tension with India, Pakistan on Tuesday arrested dozens of people

including the brother of the leader of the outlawed Jaish-e-Mohammad militant group, which claimed responsibility for the suicide bombing in Kashmir.

Among the detainees were Mufti Abdul Rauf and Hammad Azhar, two prominent members of the group who were on a list of suspects given by India to Pakistan over the weekend.

Pakistan yesterday continued a crackdown on seminaries, mosques and hospitals belonging to outlawed groups, saying the actions were part of its efforts to fight terrorism, extremism and militancy. **AP**

INDONESIA

No flights or internet during sacred Day of Silence

BALI'S airport will close for 24 hours, the internet will be turned off and streets emptied as the predominantly Hindu island in Indonesia observes its New Year with an annual day of silence.

"Nyepi" begins at 6 a.m. today clearing beaches and all public spaces of people except for special patrols to ensure silence is observed. For the second year, phone companies will turn off the mobile internet on the island, home to more than 4 million people.

Balinese will stay indoors, covering windows and keeping lights off for the day of reflection that is the most sacred in Balinese Hinduism.

"A day of silence to mark Saka [Balinese calendar] New Year for us Balinese Hindus is an opportunity



to restart life with a pure heart," said Wayan Gota, a hotel manager in Kuta, one of the island's tourist hotspots.

"For me, through the ritual of observing thoughts while meditating on Nyepi, in essence I get the opportunity to evaluate my achievements for the past year and rearrange the plan of life for the next year," he said.

The night before Nyepi is celebrated with noisy "ogoh-ogoh" processions of giant scary figures symbolizing evil spirits. During Nyepi, any tourists on the island have to stay in their hotels. TV and radio broadcasts also stop.

In past years, tourists, both foreign and Indonesian, have been arrested for wandering around Kuta during Nyepi. **AP**

SOUTH KOREA

Ex-president Lee granted bail in bribery case

Kim Tong Hyung, Seoul

FORMER South Korean President Lee Myung-bak was released from detention yesterday after a court approved USD885,000 bail nearly a year after his arrest and during the ongoing appeal of his corruption conviction and sentence.

An official from the Seoul High Court said Lee was permitted to return home after he accepted strict monitoring conditions that resemble a house arrest, including a ban on meeting or communicating with people beyond direct family members and lawyers. The official didn't want to be named, citing office rules.

Dressed in a black jacket and tie-less shirt, Lee was escorted out of the detention center and driven in a black sedan to his southern Seoul home that was surrounded by lines of

AP PHOTO



police officers.

Lee, 77, has denied the accusations against him and appealed to the High Court after a lower court convicted him of bribery, embezzlement and tax evasion and sentenced him to 15 years in prison in October.

Lee's conservative successor, Park Geun-hye, is also serving a lengthy prison term over a separate corruption scandal for

which she was removed from office in 2017 following months of huge anti-government rallies. She has not requested bail.

Lee's lawyers had called for his release, citing his age and what they described as deteriorating health. The judge didn't acknowledge the health concerns but signed off on his release because it was unlikely

that a verdict would be reached until his arrest warrant expires next month, the court official said. She said the strict bail conditions would reduce the possibility of Lee tampering or destroying evidence while free.

Still, the court's decision drew criticism from the ruling liberal party, which said in a statement that Lee's release caused "huge disappointment" for

South Koreans. Hwang Kyo-ahn, a former South Korean prime minister and leader of the conservative Liberty Korean Party, said it was "fortunate" that Lee was released considering his supposed health problems.

Prosecutors said most of Lee's alleged crimes took place while he was president from 2008 to 2013 or when he was a candidate before winning the 2007 election.

The charges against Lee include taking about \$10 million in bribes from business group Samsung, the country's spy agency and others. Prosecutors also say Lee embezzled about \$30 million in funds from an auto parts company he owned and evaded about \$280,000 in corporate taxes.

Lee was a Hyundai CEO and Seoul mayor before he became president. His election victory ended a decade a liberal rule that sought rapprochement with North Korea and reflected voters' hopes that he would revive a bad economy. But Lee's presidency was marred by political and corruption scandals and heightened animosity with North Korea, including attacks on a warship and a border island that killed 50 South Koreans in 2010. **AP**

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More migrants crossing US southern border in large groups

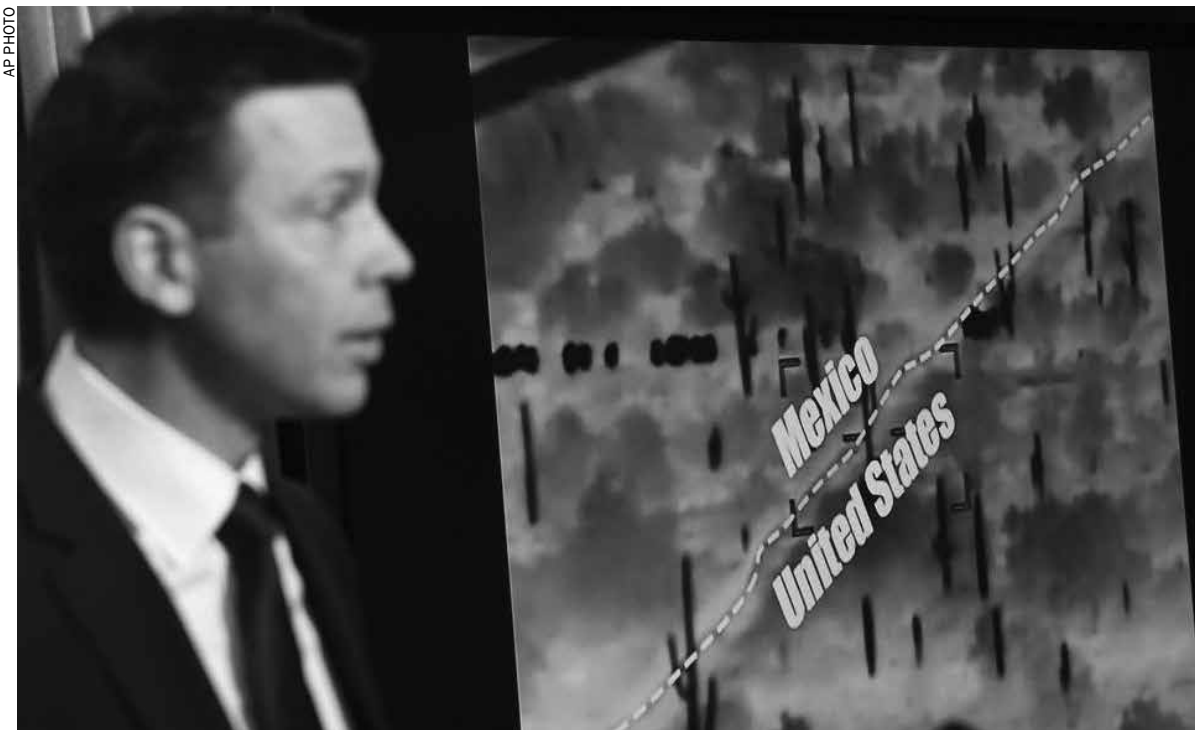
Colleen Long, Washington

THE number of migrant families crossing the southwest border is again breaking records, and the crush is overwhelming border agents and straining facilities, officials said.

More than 76,000 migrants crossed the U.S.-Mexico border last month, more than double the number from the same period last year. Most were families coming in ever-increasingly large groups — there were 70 groups of more than 100 people in the past few months, and they cross illegally in extremely rural locations with few agents and staff. There were only 13 large groups during the previous budget year, and only two the year before.

The system “is well beyond capacity, and remains at the breaking point,” U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Kevin McAleenan said during a press conference yesterday [local time].

The new figures reflect the difficulties President Donald Trump has faced as he tries to cut down on illegal immigration, his signature issue. But it could also help him make the case that there truly is a national emergency at the border — albeit one built around humanitarian crises and not necessarily border security. The Senate is expected to vote next week and join the House in rejecting his national emergency declaration aimed at building border walls, but Trump would almost certainly veto the measure and the issue is likely to be settled in the courts.



U.S. Customs and Border Patrol Commissioner Kevin McAleenan speaks during a news conference in Washington

After the deaths of two migrant children in Border Patrol custody, Customs and Border Protection stepped up medical screenings. They also announced sweeping changes including more rigorous interviews as migrants come into the system.

And McAleenan said a new processing center would be built in El Paso, Texas, that will be better suited to manage families and children and handle medical care concerns — but it's not a permanent solution.

“While our enhanced medical efforts will assist in managing the increased flows, the fact is that these solutions are temporary and this solution is not sustainable,” he said.

While fewer people overall are being apprehended crossing

the border illegally each year — about 400,000 over the last budget year compared with the high of 1.6 million in 2000, the increasing numbers are alarming, officials said.

Those apprehended used to be mostly single men from Mexico, but are now mostly families from Central America — since October, more than 130,000 families have been apprehended between ports of entry. From October through September 2018, about the same number of families was apprehended at the U.S.-Mexico border. Tens of thousands of children illegally cross the border alone. While single men used to evade capture, the families are seeking out agents.

Customs and Border Protection also reported using firear-

ms less and less. There were 15 instances where officers and agents used firearms during the budget year 2018, down from a high of 55 reported during the 2012 budget year, and down from 17 during 2017's budget year and 25 the year before.

Despite high-profile instances in recent months where agents used tear gas on groups of migrants that included children, use of less-lethal force like tear gas, batons or stun guns are also down, to 898. That's a decrease from the high in 2013 of 1,168, according to the data.

Border officials said the large families groups are creating opportunities for smugglers because attention is diverted to the large groups. Border officials say they worry they're spending too much time on migrant care and

not enough on security.

During 2018's fiscal year, border agents and officers seized more than 1.7 pounds of narcotics, including 1.1 million pounds of marijuana, 282,570 pounds of cocaine, 6,552 pounds of heroin and 2,463 pounds of fentanyl, mostly through ports of entry, according to the border security report from budget year 2018, released yesterday. Fentanyl seizures were up nearly 70 percent from the last budget year.

Complaints of excessive force prompted the border enforcement agency to commission an audit and investigation by the Police Executive Research Forum, a research and policy group. The 2013 audit highlighted problems that included foot-patrol agents without access to less-lethal options, and it recommended law enforcement not be allowed to use deadly force when people throw rocks — a suggestion that was rejected.

Following those reviews, major training and policy changes were made. Border Patrol agents now undergo scenario-based drills at the academy and learn how to de-escalate tense situations. They get 64 hours of on-the-job training on use of force. Agents and officers are authorized to use deadly force when there is reasonable belief in an imminent danger of serious physical injury or death to the officer or another person.

They have discretion on how to deploy less-than-lethal force: It must be both “objectively reasonable and necessary in order to carry out law enforcement duties” — and used when other “empty hand” techniques are not sufficient to control disorderly or violent subjects.

Officials say they deploy the lowest form of force necessary to take control of a situation, but instances a few months ago where tear gas was used on migrants that included children drew strong criticism. **AP**

RUSSIA

Putin urges stronger protection of military secrets

PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin urged Russia's top domestic security agency on Wednesday to tighten its protection of information related to new weapons and other sensitive data.

In a speech to top officials of the Federal Security Service (FSB), the main KGB successor agency, Putin said foreign spies have intensified their efforts to get access to Russia's secrets.

“They are looking for access to political, economic, scientific and technological information,” said the KGB veteran who headed the FSB in the 1990s before ascending to the presidency. “That means that your work should become even more effective.”

The Russian leader noted that the FSB last year exposed 129 foreign intelligence officers and 465 of their agents.

He said the FSB should pay particular attention to protecting information related to the development, testing and production of new Russian weapons.

Putin has claimed that new weapons such as the Avangard and the Zircon hypersonic weapons have no foreign analogues and are impossible to intercept, rendering missile defense useless.

Russia has intensified efforts to modernize its

arsenals as relations with the West have plummeted to post-Cold War lows over the Ukrainian crisis, the war in Syria and allegations of Russian meddling in the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

In his speech yesterday, Putin mentioned a buildup of NATO forces near Russia's borders and referred to the U.S. decision to withdraw from the 1987 Intermediate-Range

Nuclear Forces treaty, saying it upsets international security and raises new challenges.

He noted that foreign spy agencies have also sought to influence political developments in Russia, but didn't elaborate.

Putin also pointed to a growing number of cyberattacks on government agencies and state-controlled companies.

“We must be prepared

for continuing cyber offensive against Russia and the growing threats it presents,” he said. “It's necessary to take additional steps to protect critically important information infrastructure, develop a state system of detecting cyberattacks and fending them off.”

Despite the tensions with the West, Putin noted that Moscow remains open for counterterrorism cooperation, calling it a “common challenge.”

The president said that the FSB prevented about 20 terror attacks a year over the past three years.

He noted the continuing instability in the Middle East, saying it spawns terror threats to Russia. **AP**

US

Cohen's 4th day of testimony could touch on Russia, finances

Mary Clare Jalonick
& Eric Tucker, Washington

PRESIDENT Donald Trump's former lawyer is returning to Capitol Hill for a fourth day of testimony as Democrats pursue a flurry of investigations into Trump's White House, businesses and presidential campaign.

Michael Cohen became a key figure in those investigations after turning on his former boss and cooperating with special counsel Robert Mueller's probe. He was interviewed behind closed doors by both the Senate and House intelligence committees last week and is due for another private, daylong meeting with the House intelligence panel on today [local time].

Cohen also testified publicly before the House Oversight and Reform Committee, where he called Trump a con man, a cheat and a racist. He pleaded guilty last year to lying to Congress, campaign finance violations and other charges and is set to begin a three-year



prison sentence in May.

Among the issues discussed in Cohen's closed-door interviews with both the House and the Senate was the issue of pardons, according to people familiar with those interviews. They requested anonymity to speak about the confidential discussion.

The issue is expected to come up again during Cohen's return visit. Though Cohen told Congress last week that he had never asked

for nor would accept a pardon from Trump, a lawyer for Cohen expressed interest to the Trump legal team in a possible pardon for his client in the aftermath of a raid last April on Cohen's hotel room, home and office, according to people familiar with the encounter who weren't authorized to discuss it by name and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The president's attorneys were noncommittal during the con-

versation with Cohen's lawyer, Stephen Ryan, the people said. Cohen did not participate in the conversation.

No pardon was given, and Cohen ultimately wound up pleading guilty and cooperating against the president in separate investigations by the special counsel and by federal prosecutors in New York. Another of Cohen's lawyers, Lanny Davis, said on MSNBC Tuesday evening that Cohen was referring to the time after he turned on Trump when he testified that he wouldn't accept a pardon.

There is nothing inherently improper about a subject in a criminal investigation seeking a pardon from a president given the president's wide latitude in granting them. But lawmakers have requested information about talks on possible pardons for Cohen and other defendants close to the president who have become entangled in Mueller's investigation.

House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, D-Calif., said after last week's private mee-

ting with Cohen that the committee had "additional document requests" that they were discussing with him. Schiff would not comment on the substance of the interview, but said it helped "to shed light on a lot of issues that are very core to our investigation."

The intelligence panel is investigating Russian interference in the 2016 election and whether Trump's campaign coordinated with the Russians in any way. They are also looking into Trump's foreign financial dealings and whether there was obstruction of justice. It is one of several probes Democrats have launched in recent weeks as they delve deeper into Trump's political and personal dealings.

On Monday, House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., sent 81 letters to Trump's family and associates seeking documents and information. Nadler said he would investigate possible obstruction of justice, corruption and abuse of power.

Cohen pleaded guilty to lying to Congress about the duration of negotiations over a Trump real estate project in Moscow. In addition, he pleaded guilty to campaign finance violations for his involvement in payments to two women who allege they had affairs with Trump, affairs that Trump denies. **AP**

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what's ON



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COLLECTIONS OF THE PALACE MUSEUM

TIME: 10am-7pm (no admittance after 6:30pm; closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: March 10, 2019

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art

ADMISSION: Free

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NO WHERE THERE – WORKS BY TANG JING

TIME: 11am-1pm & 2pm-6pm (closed on Sundays)

UNTIL: March 16, 2019

VENUE: 1844 Macau Photography Art Space

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 6311 1390

3RD MACAU PRINTMAKING TRIENNIAL

TIME: 10am-7pm (no admittance after 6:30pm, closed on Monday)

VENUE: Macau Contemporary Art Center - Navy Yard No.1

Exhibitions Gallery and Nostalgic House of the Taipa Houses

UNTIL: March 16, 2019

VENUE: 1844 Macau Photography Art Space

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

Offbeat

HELLO KITTY TO MAKE HER BIG SCREEN DEBUT

AP PHOTO



Hello Kitty might not have a mouth but she's got a movie deal.

Warner Bros.' New Line Cinema announced yesterday [Macau time] that it has acquired film rights to Hello Kitty from the Japanese corporation Sanrio. The 45-year-old iconic feline has never been turned into a movie despite its merchandising ubiquity.

New Line said it will quickly begin work on a script to put a film into production. Sanrio also granted film rights to other characters including Gudetama, My Melody and Little Twin Stars.

Warner Bros. has had success with toy adaptations before, including "The Lego Movie." That film's sequel, however, has underperformed at the box office since opening last month.

Hello Kitty presents potentially steeper challenges, though. She doesn't talk or, for the most part, change facial expressions.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Água de Mar
15:50	Zig Zag
16:10	Viver é Fácil - Fim
16:35	Quem Quer Ser Milionário
17:30	Moda Portugal Sr.2
18:10	Ministério do Tempo
19:00	Montra do Lilau (Repetição)
19:35	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	TDM Talk Show
21:50	Livros com João Guedes
22:00	Justiça de Chicago Sr.1
22:45	Todas as Palavras
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Resumo Liga dos Campeões 2018/2019
00:10	Macau, Quatro Séculos de Aventura - Sun Yat Sen, Aventura em Macau - Fim
00:40	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:25	No Ar
01:55	Liga Europa: Dinamo Zagreb - Benfica (Directo)
04:00	RTPi Directo

cinema



CINETEATRO

06 - 13 Mar



CAPTAIN MARVEL

ROOM 1

2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30 pm

Director: Anna Boden, Ryan Fleck

Starring: Brie Larson, Samuel L. Jackson, Ben Mendelsohn

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 124min



HAPPY DEATH DAY 2U

ROOM 2

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

Director: Christopher Landon

Starring: Jessica Rothe, Israel Broussard, Phi Vu

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 100min

THE WANDERING EARTH

ROOM 2

7:15pm

ROOM 3

2:30pm

Director: Frant Gwo

Starring: Chuxiao Qu, Jing Wu, Guangjie Li

Language: Chinese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 123min

DRAGON BALL SUPER BROLI

ROOM 3

4:45, 9:30pm

Director: Tatsuya Nagamine

Starring: Masako Nozawa, Aya Hisakawa, Ryô Horikawa

Language: Japanese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 100min

this day in history



1965 POLICE ATTACK ALABAMA MARCHERS

State troopers and volunteer officers in the southern US state of Alabama have broken up a demonstration of black and white civil rights protesters, injuring at least 50 people.

They assaulted a group of about 500 demonstrators using tear gas, whips and sticks after Governor George Wallace ordered the planned march from Selma to the state capital Montgomery to be halted on the grounds of public safety.

At least 10 of the injured have been taken to hospital with skull and limb fractures and suffering the effects of tear gas.

They were stopped by 200 police this morning at the Edmund Pettus Bridge as they were heading east out of Selma on US Route 80.

When they refused to turn back the state troopers, some on horseback, attacked in full view of photographers and journalists.

As they were pushed back to the Browns Chapel Methodist Church area, some protesters threw bricks and bottles at police but were chased into their homes by troopers wielding sticks, riot guns, pistols and tear gas bombs.

The streets were patrolled for an hour after the violence had subsided.

Among the injured was John Lewis, the chairman of the Student Non-violent Co-ordinating Committee (SNCC), who along with Hosea Williams, led the silent marchers from the Browns Chapel Church towards the outskirts of town.

He told the New York Times: "Next time we march we may have to keep going when we get to Montgomery. We may have to on to Washington."

One of the doctors at Selma's Good Samaritan Hospital said it looked as if there had been "a moderate disaster".

Another hospital official said most of the injuries had been sustained by heavy blows.

FBI agents will be interviewing the wounded and other witnesses tomorrow to establish if there are grounds for legal action against the officers involved.

The protest march had been planned to highlight discriminatory practices in the state that prevented black people from registering to vote.

It was also meant to commemorate the death on 17 February of Jimmie Lee Jackson who was shot by a state trooper on a civil rights march in Selma.

There is widespread outrage at events in the city.

Congressman William Ryan of New York said the Federal Government should send marshals, or even troops down to Alabama to protect the marchers.

But Governor Wallace remains steadfast in his views saying: "These folks in Selma have made this a seven-day-a-week job but we can't give one inch. We're going to enforce state laws."

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Since 1963 Selma had been the focus of civil rights activists attempting to register black voters in Dallas County, Alabama.

Demonstrations in January and February 1965 tried to highlight violations of existing voting rights laws. On the orders of Sheriff James Clark and with the support of Governor George Wallace, the protests were forcefully broken up - resulting in the death of activist Jimmy Lee Jackson.

The violent scenes in Selma on 7 March, which left 17 people in hospital, came to be known as Bloody Sunday.

Civil rights leader Dr Martin Luther King organised another march there two days later. His group knelt and prayed in front of state troopers who stopped them at the Edmund Pettus Bridge but did not attack them.

Dr King filed a federal lawsuit for the right to march on Montgomery and on 21 March began the third and final march under the protection of federal troops. He and his supporters arrived a week later and held a rally attended by thousands.

President Lyndon B Johnson finally signed a new Voting Rights Act in August 1965 that banned discrimination in voting practices and procedures on the grounds of race or colour.

YOUR STARS

Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

If someone you care about is acting dramatically out of his or her character today, try to find out what is on his or her mind, but be careful you don't push too hard.

Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

Flex your muscles today! You have a lot more power than you think you do, and it's time you reminded yourself that you are definitely a force to be reckoned with!

Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Right now, you are entering a phase where shallow ideas and material goods aren't nearly as important to you as ideas, concepts, and emotions. So today, try to gently push all your conversations into these areas.

Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

So today, try to gently push all your conversations into these areas and steer the talk away from the latest music, hottest new clubs or juiciest celebrity gossip.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Someone you don't know very well could serve as inspiration, so follow their actions and do like they do. Lean on them for insight on how to approach the situation.

Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

This is not the time to puff out your chest and stake your claim. Exhibiting too much aggression will do you more harm than good, pushing people to react in ways that will only shut you out of the action.

Taurus

April 20-May 20

There's magic in the details, so why not slow down and take them all in? You will find great joy in the little things you witness today...and a big part of this joy is in noticing something that no one else notices.

Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Keep a sharp eye out for minor differences that could create some major problems today...you may have a tendency to get mixed up a bit here and there, and details really matter!

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Keep a dinner date, even though you might have to work early tomorrow... or make sure you're home in time for dinner instead of pushing through until you get things done. Keep your life in the right perspective!

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Get ready to put on a command performance today—you may not want to go public with your latest news, but it seems like no one can wait for the inside scoop. Divulge only as much as you want.

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

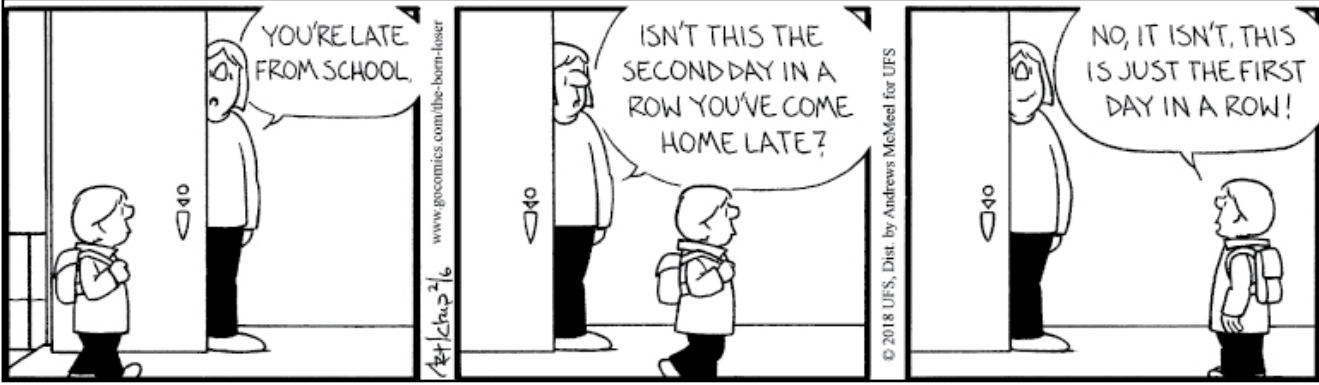
The mists of your memories will do nothing but cloud up your vision today, and you will need clarity to make some important decisions. So try to live in the present moment each step of the way today.

Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

Someone who is working with you has been a bit behind the curve, but today you will finally see them catching up. Your words of encouragement will help them even further...

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

		8				1	4	
4		6			7			
5	9		3		4			
2		7		3				
1	5						6	4
				6		2		1
			9		3		1	2
			1			4		9
7	1				8			

Easy+

7	4			2				
3				4		6	9	
		5		9			7	
2			5			6		
		1		3		2		
		4			8			3
	8			4		3		
1	3		6					4
			3				5	6

Medium

		6				8	3	
3					5			6
		9			6			5
	9	1		8			7	
				7	9	1		
	7			4		9	8	
5			1			6		
7			3					8
	1	3				4		

Hard

	7		2				6	
	1	3						
2			6				4	
8			4					
	5							
					1	3		9
					5			1
4								

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
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CHINA

Beijing	-2	13	clear
Harbin	-7	7	clear
Tianjin	0	14	clear
Urumqi	-3	1	cloudy
Xi'an	8	13	overcast
Lhasa	-1	12	cloudy
Chengdu	9	11	drizzle
Chongqing	9	12	drizzle
Kunming	8	19	shower
Nanjing	3	12	clear/cloudy
Shanghai	6	11	cloudy
Wuhan	6	12	cloudy
Hangzhou	5	12	cloudy
Taipei	12	15	moderate rain/drizzle
Guangzhou	13	16	heavy rain
Hong Kong	16	19	heavy rain

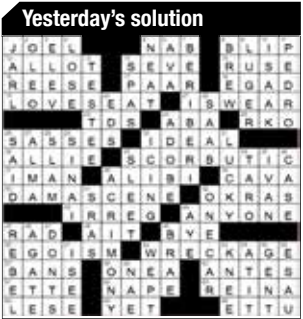
WORLD

Moscow	1	3	drizzle
Frankfurt	2	18	overcast/drizzle
Paris	9	16	drizzle/moderate rain
London	8	15	moderate rain/drizzle
New York	-8	-1	cloudy

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1-Panhandles; 5- Hot sauce; 10- Equipment; 14- Moises of baseball; 15- Ginger cookies; 16- Opposite of ecto-; 17- Workers' rights org.; 18- Now; 19- Top draft level; 20- Soviet spacecraft; 22- Division of the United Kingdom; 24- ___ Nui (Easter Island); 27- Monetary unit of Portugal; 28- Broad-brimmed straw hat; 32- ___ at the office; 36- Be obliged to; 37- Frozen dew; 39- Lubricated; 40- Literary collections; 42- Sierra Nevada lake; 44- An apple or a planet will have this at the centre; 45- Starbucks size; 47- Stagger; 49- Taxpayer's ID; 50- Car bomb?; 51- State of USA; 53- Let up; 56- Actress Russo; 57- Recently married; 61- Pitchers; 65- Q.E.D. part; 66- Specific geographical places; 69- "___ Tu" ('70s hit); 70- Exchange premium; 71- Give up; 72- Mmes., in Madrid; 73- Color quality; 74- Turkish palace; 75- Recipe amts.;

DOWN: 1- Outlaws; 2- Cockney greeting; 3- Bloody; 4- District adjacent to a city; 5- Fast flier; 6- "Wheel of Fortune" buy; 7- Scottish boys; 8- Room; 9- Start of a Shakespeare title; 10- Based on the study of the earth; 11- Sicilian resort; 12- Yemeni seaport; 13- Highway; 21- Middle Eastern coffee holder; 23- Small jazz combo; 25- Sassy; 26- Noisy; 28- Italian white wine; 29- Possessed; 30- Averages; 31- Milo of "The Verdict"; 33- At ___ for words; 34- Vice follower; 35- Perfect places; 38- It's human; 41- Work boot feature; 43- Actress Sommer; 46- Now ___ me down...; 48- All there; 52- Most recent; 54- Influences; 55- Unsettling; 57- Tidy, without fault; 58- Consequently; 59- Farm wagon; 60- Forest forager; 62- Makes mistakes; 63- Cut the crop; 64- Flat sound; 67- ___ carte; 68- Star Wars letters;



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Emergency calls 999	Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
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PJ (Open line) 993	Telephone – Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775	Electricity – Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333	Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944	
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Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333	
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HKD 7,961 sq ft
Four Bedroom Apartment
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HKD 5,291 sq ft
Three Bedroom Apartment
Ref: 18085559

Va Fat, Taipa Village
Taipa
638 sq ft / HKD 4.48 M
HKD 7,021 sq ft
Two Bedroom Apartment
Ref: 17085533

Taipa, Nam Long
Taipa
550 sq ft / HKD 4.08 M
HKD 7,418 sq ft
Two Bedroom Apartment
Ref: 18095561

Coloane Village
Coloane
664 sq ft / HKD 4.25 M
HKD 6,404 sq ft
Two Bedroom Apartment
Ref: 16095490

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FOOTBALL

Ajax's display against Madrid raises likelihood of transfers

Mike Corder

REAL MADRID 1, AJAX 4

AJAX'S breathtaking display against Real Madrid is likely to be its undoing.

The Dutch club's dramatic 4-1 rout of the three-time defending champions yesterday [Macau time] put it in the Champions League quarterfinals, but it also showed once again that many of the team's current crop of players are too good to be playing in their own national league.

"It was a night when everything went right," said 19-year-old Ajax captain Matthijs de Ligt, who has already been linked to major European clubs.

After this season ends, Ajax will likely have to go back to The Future — the name of its storied youth academy — to start rebuilding. Again.

Like the team that won the Champions League in 1995 and reached the final the next year (losing to Juventus on penalties), Ajax will inevitably sell off its best players in the next trans-



Real midfielder Luka Modric (10) tries to stop Ajax's Dusan Tadic

fer window.

Ajax is one of the biggest and richest clubs in the Netherlands, but it can't match the spending power of heavyweights like Real Madrid, Manchester City and Paris Saint-Germain. Player salaries are far lower and Champions League qualification is not guaranteed.

Back in the 1990s, stars to

emerge from Ajax's academy included Clarence Seedorf, Patrick Kluivert, Edgar Davids and twins Ronald and Frank de Boer. After their successes under coach Louis van Gaal, they all headed to major European clubs and left Ajax to rebuild.

The club, a four-time European champion, hasn't won the Champions League since bea-

ting AC Milan in that 1995 final.

With the latest resurgence, however, major clubs have been hovering around Ajax for months looking to snap up its best players.

Midfielder Frenkie de Jong has already signed with Barcelona for next season in a deal that could be worth up to 86 million euros (USD98 million). Plenty

of teammates are sure to follow.

De Ligt helped his own cause with a commanding performance in the center of defense that was reminiscent of Real Madrid's own leader, Sergio Ramos — the team captain who missed the match after deliberately drawing a yellow card in the first leg.

In the absence of Ramos, Ajax forward Dusan Tadic outmuscled and mesmerized Madrid's defense as he set up two goals and scored one. The Serb's pirouette away from Casemiro before teeing up Brazilian winger David Neres for Ajax's second goal is sure to draw plenty of admirers.

Tadic has thrived at Ajax since his offseason transfer from Southampton, adding strength, skill and experience to the young team. Now, the team may struggle to keep him.

Another stellar performance came from midfielder Donny van de Beek. His tough tackling, quick passing and clever runs created the space that the forwards exploited.

And Hakim Ziyech, a Moroccan midfielder who scored Ajax's first goal in Madrid, is another player who likely will be looking for a bigger stage next season.

Despite already having his deal to leave Ajax, De Jong is focused on finishing his time in Amsterdam in style.

"Hopefully I can achieve great things," De Jong told Dutch news site Nu.nl, "starting this season with Ajax." **AP**

NBA

Harden scores 35, Rockets beat Raptors 107-95



Houston Rockets guard James Harden (13)

JAMES Harden scored 35 points, Gerald Green had 11 of his 18 in the fourth quarter and the Houston Rockets beat the Toronto Raptors 107-95 yesterday (Macau time).

Eric Gordon and Austin Rivers each scored 13 points as the Rockets won their sixth straight, matching a season high.

Kawhi Leonard scored 26 points and Serge Ibaka had 10 points and 15 rebounds for Toronto. Pascal Siakam had 17 points, and Danny Green 14 as the Raptors had their seven-game home winning streak snapped.

Harden, the NBA's leading scorer, made 12 of 30 shots, including three of nine from long range. He was perfect at the foul line, hitting all eight of his attempts.

Harden has scored 28 or more points in 39 straight games, the second-longest streak in NBA history. Wilt Chamberlain (71 games) holds the record.

CELTICS 128, WARRIORS 95

Gordon Hayward scored 30 points off the bench, Kyrie Irving had 19 points and 11 assists, and Boston ran away from the Golden State early in a game that turned testy with the two-time defending champions down big.

Jayson Tatum scored 17 points for the Celtics, who came in having lost five of six since the All-Star break.

Stephen Curry provided a bright spot with 23 points and four 3-pointers on a night Splash Brother Klay Thompson sat out with

soreness in his right knee.

Kevin Durant scored 18 points but committed five turnovers, while DeMarcus Cousins wound up with 10 points on 4-for-12 shooting — missing all five of his 3-point tries — and nine rebounds to go with four turnovers.

76ERS 114, MAGIC 106

JJ Redick hit six 3-pointers and scored 26 points to break out of a slump and lead Philadelphia over Orlando.

Redick was 5 of 6 from 3-point range in the first half (7 of 10 overall) and paced an offense that shot 64 percent in the half and led 70-64. He had been seriously slumping — going 23 of 81 overall over his last seven games and hit-

ting 15 3s. Redick had his first 20-point game since Feb. 10 against the Lakers.

Ben Simmons had 16 points and 13 rebounds for the Sixers.

Evan Fournier led the Magic with 25 points and Aaron Gordon had 24.

PACERS 105, BULLS 96

Bojan Bogdanovic scored 27 points, Darren Collison added 22 and Indiana beat Chicago.

Indiana was looking to build momentum heading into a crucial 11-game stretch during which the Pacers will play Oklahoma City and Denver twice each and visit Milwaukee, Golden State and Boston.

Chicago was led by Zach LaVine with 27 points. Robin Lopez had 20 points and 11 rebounds as the Bulls lost their fifth in a row to Indiana, including all four games this season. Lauri Markkanen finished with 14 points and 13 rebounds.

GRIZZLIES 120, TRAIL BLAZERS 111

Mike Conley scored 19 of his career-high 40 points in the fourth quarter as Memphis used a late rally to beat Portland.

Conley made six of his seven shots in the fourth as Memphis erased a nine-point Portland lead in the final quarter with a 38-25 scoring advantage in the period.

Delon Wright matched his career high with 25 points and Jonas Valanciunas finished with 17.

TIMBERWOLVES 131, THUNDER 120

Karl-Anthony Towns had 41 points and 14 rebounds as Minnesota spoiled Paul George's return to the Oklahoma City lineup.

Towns has 182 points over his last five games, the best five-game stretch in team history. He fell one point shy of tying his season high.

The Timberwolves, who snapped a three-game skid, have won all three meetings against the Thunder. **AP**

opinion

World Views
The Editors, Bloomberg

SMART FISCAL DISCIPLINE IS
OVERDUE FOR A COMEBACK

The Congressional Budget Office recently released its revised Budget and Economic Outlook. Its economists estimate that, on present policy, annual deficits of a trillion dollars — between 4 percent and 5 percent of gross domestic product — will persist over the next decade. They expect this to push government debt from 78 percent of GDP to 93 percent by 2029.

Remember that the U.S. is at or close to full employment. Note as well that the CBO's numbers assume that automatic corrective measures built into current legislation will be allowed to take effect. On the alternative and up-to-now reliable assumption that they'll be blocked, the debt would rise to 105 percent after 10 years. Beyond the end of the decade, even on the more favorable projection, debt would keep on going up — passing 150 percent of GDP by 2049.

Is this a problem? You bet it is.

In a new essay, Jason Furman and Lawrence Summers — economists of renown, top advisers to Democratic presidents and in the case of Summers, a former Treasury Secretary — seem to say otherwise. They urge Washington to get over its "obsession" with government debt. "Politicians and policymakers should focus on urgent social problems, not deficits," they advise.

At the moment, the warning hardly seems necessary: Excessive fiscal discipline isn't much in evidence. The numbers, and the steady policy preferences of Democrats and Republicans alike, demonstrate no great inhibition about government borrowing. If anything, they suggest the opposite — complete disregard for the need under any circumstances to finance government spending responsibly. Most Republicans favor tax cuts regardless of the implications for borrowing. And many Democrats favor all manner of additional public spending, again regardless of the deficit. If the CBO's projections reflect obsessive fiscal control, one dreads to think what fiscal negligence would look like.

The approach Furman and Summers recommend as an alternative to all this austerity would tolerate substantial deficits as long as debt didn't rise over time, except during recessions. If the CBO is right, however, and government debt is on a firm upward trend, the authors' recommended policy requires higher taxes or lower public spending — making this a strange moment to advise policymakers to stop worrying so much about deficits.

Moreover, the goal of preventing increases in the debt except during recessions is actually too lax. That scenario implies a debt ratio that ratchets indefinitely higher over time — rising in recessions, but not falling during periods of expansion. Granted, this path would involve stricter fiscal control than the one the economy is currently tracking, but still implies in the end a diminished capacity to respond to downturns with strong fiscal stimulus. This is why, during periods of expansion, the debt should fall back as a proportion of GDP, keeping it roughly steady over the longer term.

To be sure, the authors are correct on several important points. In particular, when the economy turns down, attempts to curb borrowing can be downright counterproductive. Also, when long-term interest rates are as low as they are now, borrowing to support investment is unusually attractive, and the need to cut debt from current levels is less urgent than it would otherwise be. Even so, it would be rash to assume that interest rates will stay this low over the course of years or decades.

Above all, Furman and Summers are right to emphasize that the composition of the government's budget counts for much more than the traditional debate about debt and deficits would suggest. It matters to spend on the right things, and raise the needed revenue in ways that are fair and efficient. But the suggestion that concerns about public debt have gotten out of hand and need to be dialed back is both wrong and, given the fiscal outlook, perplexing. Intelligent fiscal discipline isn't passé: It needs to make a comeback.

THE CHINESE OFFICIAL INSISTS NO LOVE
FOR DALAI LAMA IN TIBET

China's Communist Party chief in Tibet insisted yesterday that the Tibetan people feel more affection toward the government than to the region's traditional Buddhist leader, the Dalai Lama, who fled following an abortive uprising against Chinese rule nearly 60 years ago.

The Dalai Lama hasn't done a "single good thing" for Tibet since he left, Tibet Party Secretary Wu Yingjie said during a meeting of China's ceremonial legislature.

The people of Tibet are instead "extremely grateful for the prosperity that the Communist Party has brought them," he said.

Zhaxi Jiangcun, a Tibetan grass-roots delegate whom Wu called upon to speak, said as far as he knows "there is no such thing" as adoration for the Dalai Lama among Tibetans.

This Sunday marks 60 years since the 1959 rebellion which erupted in the regional capital of Lhasa.

Frenchman completes
sentence for Myanmar
drone flight

A French man sentenced to one month in prison with hard labor for flying a drone in Myanmar completed his term yesterday, but remained in detention because his deportation order was delayed.

Arthur Desclaux, 27, was arrested on Feb. 7 for flying the drone near the parliament building in the capital, Naypyitaw. He was convicted of violating the Illegal Export-Import Act by bringing the device into Myanmar without a license. He also was fined about USD100 for violating two other laws covering aviation and immigration.

Myint Zaw, the chief immigration officer of Ottarathiri township, said Desclaux would be kept in a police jail over night because the deportation order from the Immigration Department had not arrived by late afternoon and no one was available to take responsibility for guaranteeing his whereabouts.

He said Desclaux could expect to be free today.

"We will do this process quickly," he said. "Unless we do so, it will not be good for both countries, the law will come under criticism. So, we will do it quickly."

Frederic Inza, a counselor at the French Embassy in



Arthur Desclaux, 27

Myanmar who has attended the legal proceedings, said: "Now that all the procedures at the court have finished, we're satisfied. We only have immigration procedures left."

He added his appreciation for the Immigration Department's work, but said it was unfortunate that no one in Myanmar could post a guarantee for Desclaux.

Desclaux's family had been trying to contact someone to take care of the guarantee but with no re-

sult so far, so he would have to remain in police custody, Inza said.

In 2017, a film crew working for Turkish state television was jailed for two months for trying to fly a drone over the parliament in Naypyitaw. A Singaporean and a Malaysian working for broadcaster TRT, along with two Myanmar assistants, were convicted under a 1934 law covering aircraft. The two foreigners were deported immediately after their release from prison. AP

THE
DECISIVE MOMENT

Al Wagner/Invision/AP



Come together. Kelsea Ballerini (center) is invited to join the Opry by members of Little Big Town at the Grand Ole Opry, in Nashville, Tennessee.

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	30-50 Good	😊
High Density Residential Area	30-50 Good	😊
Ambient	30-50 Good	😊

SOURCE: D5M6

WORLD BRIEFS



US-MEXICO The number of migrant families crossing the southwest border is again breaking records, and the crush is overwhelming border agents and straining facilities, officials said. More than 76,000 migrants crossed the U.S.-Mexico border last month. More on p14



US Provocative comments from Rep. Ilhan Omar of Minnesota (pictured) have thrust the Democrats into an uncomfortable debate over Israel policy a few weeks before a high-profile conference at which senior Democrats typically make a show of support for the Jewish state.



INTERNET As iPhone sales slip, a brewing backlash against the rich commissions Apple earns from all purchases and subscriptions made via iPhone apps could undercut the app store, which generates about a third of the company's services revenue.



CHAMPIONS LEAGUE Ajax's breathtaking display against Real Madrid is likely to be its undoing. The Dutch club's dramatic 4-1 rout of the three-time defending champions put it in the quarterfinals, but it showed once again that many of the team's current crop of players are too good to be playing in their own national league. More on p19