



ECONOMY'S RELIANCE ON TOURISM STANDS AT 30%

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SOU READY FOR BACKLASH ON LONG DEMOCRACY ROAD
The main purpose of Sulu Sou's appeal is to get "people to think more and talk more" about democracy

P5 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



OFFICIAL LASHES AT 'ANTI-CHINA' FOREIGN COLLUSION
Hong Kong Liaison Office Director Wang Zhimin criticized people "colluding with anti-China politicians and organizations"

P7 GREATER BAY

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS



TAIWAN Chinese attempts at military coercion only strengthen Taiwan's resolve to defend itself, the president of the self-governing island republic said. Tsai Ing-wen's comments followed what Taiwan's defense ministry called a major foray by Chinese military planes into airspace just south of the island.

More on p11



ROYALTY The sultan of Brunei has been on the throne for 52 years, making him the second-longest reigning monarch in the world, after Queen Elizabeth II. In Brunei – a rather traditional, deeply Muslim Southeast Asian country – Sultan Hassanal Bolkihah (pictured) is known for leading a decadent life.

More on p12



INDONESIA's presidential election today pits incumbent Joko Widodo against former special forces Gen. Prabowo Subianto in a repeat of the 2014 contest. Widodo, a furniture exporter and heavy metal fan who had a meteoric rise in politics, chose a Muslim cleric as his VP candidate. Subianto's running mate is a self-made tycoon.

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AFTER 12 HOURS INFERNO

World unites to rebuild Notre-Dame Cathedral

P14



DUTY FREE

Wong to punish firemen despite court ruling against suspension

P2

Macau film development made easier in China

China's State Film Administration unveiled yesterday new measures to support the further development of the Hong Kong and Macau film industries on the mainland. There would be no quantitative restriction on Hong Kong and Macau people participating in the production of mainland films, and no restrictions on the proportion of actors or on mainland elements in films co-produced by the mainland and the two Special Administrative Regions, said an administration statement.

Forex reserves reach MOP163 billion

The preliminary estimate of the foreign exchange reserves in Macau reached 163.3 billion patacas (about USD20.2 billion) at the end of March, the Monetary Authority said. The reserves decreased by 2.1 percent from the revised value of 166.8 billion patacas for the previous month. The Macau SAR's foreign exchange reserves at the end of March represented 10 times the currency in circulation. Meanwhile, the trade-weighted effective exchange rate index for the pataca dropped 0.03 points month-to-month but rose 5.07 points year-on-year to 105.6 in March, implying that overall speaking, the exchange rate of the pataca declined against the currencies of Macau's major trading partners on a monthly basis but increased on an annual basis.

Only 22% of Chief Executive voters registered

The Electoral Affairs Commission for the Chief Executive Election has issued a reminder that April 23 is the closing date for legal-person voters to register for the right to have a role in the selection process regarding the formation of the Chief Executive Election Committee. As of Monday, only 22% of the aggregate number of eligible legal-person voters had filed their registration request, said the Commission's President, Song Man Lei. The coming Friday (April 19) and Monday (April 22) were government holidays, Song noted. The date for the Chief Executive Election Committee polling – which will choose most of the Committee's members – has been set for June 16. A 400-member Chief Executive Election Committee will subsequently elect a new Chief Executive.

COURTS

After suspensions revoked, Wong to mull new punishment



Two employees of the Fire Services Bureau (CB) whose suspensions were rejected by the Court of Final Appeal (TUI) will still be punished by the security authority using other means, according to Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak.

The two CB employees, who were suspects in two different cases, were formerly suspended from their positions at the fire services authority.

Both cases were recorded before Wong stepped into office. The first case occurred in 2005 and the second in 2011. Investigative procedures regarding the two cases occurred after Wong stepped into his role.

It was then suggested that the two CB officers be suspended on the basis of opinions from the security department and the security authority's disciplinary committee following the investigations.

Secretary Wong said that although he respects the court's judgment, the two officers will still be punished through other disciplinary measures.

At this stage, the security authority cannot provide updates on the punishments as the cases are still within the appeal period.

The Secretary for Security also reiterated that, as members of staff from the disciplinary force and because these people are working in a public department, they should abide by higher standards in terms of obeying the law.

According to the statement issued by the TUI last week, one of the suspects was suspended for illegal filming, while the other was suspended for the illegal appropriation, use and provision of computer data, and deprivation of privacy.

In both cases, the TUI considered the fact that the crimes were not committed while they were on-duty. The TUI added that the punishment would not restore the reputation of the security force, which was damaged by the behavior of the two, and that the punishment of suspension was too severe to fit the crime. **JZ**

CRIME

Scamming the scammer's wife

Renato Marques

THE Judiciary Police (PJ) have learned that a female resident of Macau has been scammed by a local man in a case that dates back to early 2015 and is related to her husband.

According to the PJ spokesperson, the husband of the victim, a man from the mainland, had been involved in a previous scam case which

resulted in a penalty that banned him from entering the region for a period of five years.

The suspect, a local cook, knowing about the case, pretended to be a lawyer and offered the wife his supposed expertise in filing an appeal that would grant the man a reduction on the ban period.

The lawyer-impersonator asked for an honorary advancement in the

amount of MOP35,000 to prepare the filing.

The woman accepted and paid him the requested sum, receiving in exchange three receipts.

After a period of time without news from the alleged lawyer, the woman decided to take the case into her own hands and to go the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) to check on the status of the appeal she had ins-

tructed the lawyer to file.

There she realized there was no appeal filed at the MP, nor did such a possibility exist. The victim came to the conclusion that the alleged lawyer was in fact a fraud.

After receiving a complaint from the woman, the PJ investigated and discovered that the man had already left Macau and was living

in Zhuhai.

After almost four years, last weekend, the man tried to reenter Macau through the border gate checkpoint being stopped by the immigration authorities and handed to the PJ to be questioned and ultimately charged.

During the questioning he admitted to having committed the crime of which he stands accused.

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Economic reliance on tourism sector stands at nearly 30%

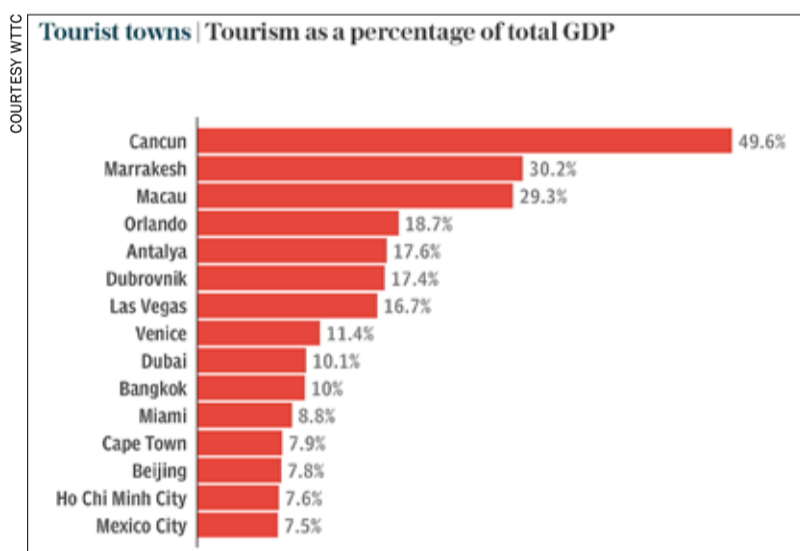
THE Macau SAR's reliance on the tourism pillar of the economy stood at just under 30% in 2017, taking the world number three spot behind just Cancun (49.6%) and Marrakesh (30.2%) respectively, according to a study conducted by the World Tourism and Travel Council (WTTC).

Cities including Orlando, Antalya, Las Vegas, Dubai and Bangkok were also part of the top 10.

The report features 72 major tourism cities and provides estimates of the proportion of their gross domestic product and employment directly generated by the travel and tourism sector.

In the case of Macau, approximately 29.3% of the territory's GDP can be attributed to the sector. However, this excludes the contribution made by the city's casino industry, which would elevate the proportion significantly if included.

The Macau SAR was shown to



be heavily reliant on consumer demand from China and Hong Kong. According to the WTTC report, the "Macau SAR ranked first in reliance on inbound spending, with about 97% of tourism revenue from 'international' spending; the majority coming from mainland China (69%) and

Hong Kong (15%)."

It warned that the reliance makes Macau vulnerable to policy swings by Beijing, citing the city's decline in previous reports in 2014 and 2015 when the central government's anti-corruption campaign effectively halved monthly gross gaming revenues

and ushered in a period of economic contraction.

"Still, Macau remains a leader in overall international visitor spend in 2017, ranking second (USD35.6 billion) after Hong Kong (\$39.2 billion)."

Of the top 10 cities in terms of international visitor spending, five were in the Asia-Pacific region. Dubai, which ranked third globally (\$23.6 billion), attracted a more diverse mix of visitors, with its top three source markets being India, Saudi Arabia and the U.K.

The Macao Government Tourism Office forecasted that this year's tourism numbers would rise between 5% and 6% and could reach up to 38 million tourists. The office also noted that it aims this year to target more tourists from international markets including European countries.

The WTTC report showed that the world's most visited city in 2017 was Hong Kong, with

27 million international arrivals, followed by Bangkok, Macau and Dubai.

Meanwhile, in terms of city growth performance, Macau was also one of the leading cities, grabbing the second place with recorded growth of 14.2%, which was also due to the rise in international visitor expenditure.

Travel and tourism directly generates more than 10% of total city employment in 13 of the cities included in the study, with Cancun (37.7%) and Macau (27.6%) in the leading positions.

Furthermore, the WTTC report also highlighted "a clear shift from North to South and West to East."

Nine of the 15 fastest growing cities in terms of direct travel and tourism GDP in 2017 were cities in the Asia-Pacific region, including Macau, Chongqing, Manila, Beijing and Guangzhou.

Official data in the SAR shows that GDP amounted to MOP440.3 billion in 2018, an increase of 4.7% compared to the year before. The rise was largely fueled by a continued recovery in the gaming sector, with revenues reaching 84 percent of the pre-crash peak by year-end.

The city's gaming activity led to a 14% increase in the government's tax revenue. **LV**

TOURISM

First quarter visitors rise to surpass 10m mark

THE number of visitors to Macau in the first quarter of 2019 rose more than 21% year-on-year surpassing the 10 million mark, according to the latest official data from immigration authorities. In the same

period, the number of entries and exits via ports of Macau reached 48.4 million, up 12.6%.

The rapid rise in the number of visitors comes at a time when concerns of over-tourism in Macau are rife. Last

year's influx of 35.8 million tourists represented an almost 10% rise from 32.6 million in 2017, according to official data. The number of visitors in January 2019 rose 24.9% year-on-year, while those in

February increased by 15.5% year-on-year.

As for the upcoming Easter holidays between April 19 and 22, immigration authorities estimate that there will be around 2.3 million entries and exits during

the period, though most of these will not be tourists.

Nevertheless, the Public Security Police Force warns that the flow of people will increase significantly during the holiday period and it

will continue to deploy "measures to divert passengers and maintain order."

The PSP are asking the public and motorists to maintain tolerance in places where there are many people or vehicles. **DB**

HEALTH

Bill to restrict licenses for Chinese medicine practitioners

THE Health Bureau (SSM) will stop issuing new licenses to Chinese medicine practitioners, acupuncturists, masseurs, dental professionals and sports medicine therapists once the city's latest medical professional qualification and registration regime comes into effect, according to the Second Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL).

According to the SSM's previous explanation, these professionals are mostly holders of secondary education degrees or they have learnt the relevant skills from other people.

The policy does not mean Macau will stop having qualified Chinese medicine "practitioners," however.

It means that only Chinese medicine doctors who hold proper qualifications and degrees issued by qualified universities will be licensed.



The bill proposes that new licenses will not be issued and the renewal of current licenses will depend on whether professionals meet qualification requirements in terms of the sustainability of their respective profession.

In regards to the regulation, the SSM explained that the Chinese medicine degrees held by Macau people were mainly issued by mainland China. However, mainland China does not provide the relevant courses

anymore and the number of professionals has decreased.

"After all, [the government] probably thinks they are not qualified," said the chairman of the Second Standing Committee of AL, Chan Chak Mo.

Once the law comes into effect, services such as acupuncture and massage must be provided by a Chinese medicine doctor not a Chinese medicine practitioner, and dental services must be provided by a dentist.

The Macau government previously selected the field of Chinese medicine as a target industry for development under the economic diversification plan for the city. The other major industries include the convention and exhibition industry, and the cultural and creative industries, as well as the facilitator role Macau holds as a platform for trade and cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries. **JZ**

ENVIRONMENT

DSPA records just two complaints on Hengqin noise

MACAU'S Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA) has informed the Times that it has received two noise complaints about various Hengqin construction projects since the start of the year.

Zhuhai is carrying out 24-hour construction in order to finish several projects in time for the 20th anniversary of the Macau handover.

However, as Hengqin spends all its efforts on celebrating the 20th anniversary of Macau, and transforming itself into a new high-technology center, the new Chinese medicine zone, the new birthplace of entrepreneurship, and the new transportation hub for the Greater Bay Area, some citizens and Macau residents are suffering from the effects of noise pollution.

In response to a Times enquiry on the matter, the DSPA wrote that it has received just two reports from Macau inhabitants concerning the noise.

The DSPA notes that, "in view of the fact that the site is located in Zhuhai, it has informed its relevant counterpart via the Zhuhai-Macau Environmental Cooperation Mechanism."

The Macau bureau said that its counterparts in Zhuhai were following up on the noise problem and that the individuals who submitted the complaints have received official responses. **DB**

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CE ELECTION

Sulu Sou ready for backlash on long democracy road

Renato Marques

LAWMAKER Sulu Sou's appeal to the Legislative Assembly (AL) plenary in relation to a proposal to amend the electoral law of the Chief Executive (CE) election has been scheduled to be addressed during next week's plenary meeting on Tuesday.

Yesterday, during a press conference organized by the New Macau Association on the topic, the lawmaker said he expects and is ready to face the criticism of the other lawmakers on the topic, as he has on other occasions.

"I am prepared to face their criticism on the matter at the next general meeting. I think this is [part] of a process [that occurs] in many societies. We need someone to try new things and raise discussion and reflection from the public. This is a necessary process [on the path to] democracy in many societies," Sou said, adding that he expects heavy criticism from other lawmakers.

Both the president of the AL, Ho Iat Seng, and the Executive Board of the AL found that the proposal was not in accordance with the Macau Basic Law when justifying their refusal.

PREPARED TO LOSE

In the words of lawmaker Sou, the main purpose of his appeal was not to win but to get "people to think more and talk more [about democracy-related topics]."

Sou added he thinks that legislators should exercise the powers attributed to them by law.

"We are just 'chopping up' what government wants [and proposes]. That's not acceptable, not just for this bill, but for every bill," Sou said, pointing out the lack of legislative initiative from most of his peers.

Acknowledging that his bill would probably gather more criticism than support, Sou said that he would at least like to try and gather support from the democrats.

"I haven't talked to them yet, but I will. I want to explain my

purpose and intentions clearly so I can get their support," said Sou. "I know the others probably won't even listen."

He hopes that the CE election topic will start a "reasonable and rational discussion among all lawmakers" at the Tuesday debate.

NOT A BATTLE AGAINST HO

Commenting on the constant strife between him and the president of the AL, Ho Iat Seng, Sou said: "I disagree with the idea that I saw aired by some media that I am in a battle against Ho. I am just doing my work and my duties [as a lawmaker]."

When asked if he thought Ho would be present to lead the debate at Tuesday's session, Sou said, "I predict Ho will attend the plenary, because they [the president and the Executive Board] didn't think he was [in a situation] of conflict of interest to discuss the bill. I disagree, and so I suggested that he should not participate."

"If he were absent from the

meeting, [then] this means that he agrees [with what I previously stated], that he had a conflict of interest to decide on my bill previously."

DEMOCRACY IS A LONG ROAD

According to Sou, although there is little hope of passing the bill that would enforce multiple-candidacy elections for the Chief Executive position, there is nevertheless a need for it to be discussed.

Although Sou continues to stress that universal suffrage is a fundamental right, it is not his top priority for the time being.

The lawmaker prefers a softer strategy, progressively adding democratic elements to Macau's electoral system.

"We have been calling for universal suffrage since at least 2017 [for the 2019 Chief Executive election]. Now we know that is not possible, but we still insist on the development of the system to increase the choice."

The last time a Chief Executive election had more than a single

candidate was Macau's first, in May 1999, in which Edmund Ho emerged victorious.

For Sou, it is unacceptable to have uncontested elections for Macau's top post. He pledged to continue to work on the direction of democratization in Macau.

MISUNDERSTOOD BY THE MEDIA

Earlier this week, law expert António Katchi said that in his interpretation, lawmakers should be granted the power to amend the election law. When questioned on this, Sou said, "I will talk to him in the near future to explain the exact purpose and scope of my proposal."

"I am not aiming to change the political structure, neither the election committee composition nor the way that the election is done. My proposal only focuses on the fact that there should be some competition and one candidate should not run alone," added the lawmaker.

"I think that political structure, as stipulated in the Basic Law, should be not be interpreted so broadly," he said.

Sou further noted the fact that lawmakers cannot change the law concerning AL elections is precisely due to their "conflict of interest," since they are voting on something that affects them directly, though this does not occur in the Chief Executive election.



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News At Hand



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HONG KONG

Liaison official denounces 'anti-China' foreign collusion

THE Liaison Office Director in Hong Kong, Wang Zhimin, recently criticized the fact that there are some people in Hong Kong "colluding with anti-China politicians and organizations."

Wang said that these people

are despised by both the Hong Kong people and the entirety of China, according to reports by media in the neighboring Special Administrative Region.

Wang made his remarks on April 16 during his appearance at the National Security Education Day Hong Kong Symposium.

According to Wang, these 'anti-China Hong Kong citizens' hold "closed-door meetings, badmouth Hong Kong and beg for the intervention of foreign countries."

In Wang's opinion, the badmouthing of Hong Kong, begging for foreign intervention,

as well as the selling of "Hong Kong for glory" would be despised by their Chinese ancestors.

In his speech, Wang stated that Hong Kong's security is part of national security, and that maintaining national security is an important constitutional responsibility for

Hong Kong.

"There is only responsibility for the 'one country'; there is no distinction between the two systems," said Wang.

In Hong Kong, a court set the sentencing date for nine of the Occupy protest leaders as April 24; the latest step in a trial that follows the China-backed government's effort to punish the movement's organizers.

When talking about the nine protest leaders' case, Wang said that the group were found guilty in a just trial, which is a victory for Hong Kong and for the rule of law.

Wang stated that the group's actions threatened public security and undermined social stability.

Wang emphasized that the illegal Occupy movement was wrapped in a so-called justice package, which was not only hypocritical and an insult to justice, but also caused deep harm to the core value of the rule of law.

Wang pointed out that the Occupy movement has awakened society and must face up to the shortcomings and risks of Hong Kong in maintaining the national security system.

Earlier this week, a National Security Education exhibition was also held in Macau.

Speaking at the event, Macau Chief Executive Chui Sai On called on the Macau local community to contribute to maintaining national security. Specifically, he said that there was an obligation to recognize that the concept of "one country" on national security issues is not at odds with the "two systems" principle. **JZ**

ARCHEOLOGICAL FIND

China confirms oldest tomb with squatting owner

A 13,500-year-old tomb with a headless woman "squatting" inside, was confirmed as the oldest Chinese tomb where the owner was laid to rest in a certain posture.

The tomb is part of the Qingtang ruins in the city of Yingde, southern China's Guangdong Province, where Chinese archaeologists have found pottery fragments dating back about 17,000 years.

From within the tomb, archaeologists have unearthed remains of a female aged between 13 and 18 years old with her head missing for unknown reasons.

It is the oldest tomb found in China with a squatting owner or an owner whose body was deliberately placed in a specific position, said Liu Suoqiang, who heads the

Qingtang ruins excavation project.

Apart from the squatting posture, the discovery of burial items, including a bone pin, inside the tomb suggests burial practices at that time followed a set of procedures and rituals, Liu told Xinhua.

"It points to the emergence of the concepts of life and death and of primitive religious beliefs," Liu said.

The practice of burying the dead in a squatting posture has been found in prehistoric tombs in southern China and southeast Asia, which cast a major difference from northern China, where early tomb owners were usually found lying on their backs with stretched limbs.

Archaeologists are still debating on the symbolism of the squatting posture, with

some suggesting it was a simulation of baby in the womb.

Meanwhile, the paleolithic pottery fragments discovered in the Qingtang ruins in the city of Yingde provide more proof that southern China might be the first region where pottery was ever produced.

More than 10,000 pieces have been unearthed in the ruins since 2016 including fossils of human bones, stoneware and pottery.

Chinese archaeologists also discovered cooking sites and separate sections for food storage and garbage dump in a 30-square-meter excavation area in the ruins.

The discoveries of the Qingtang ruins is listed as one of the top 10 Chinese archaeological discoveries in 2018. **Xinhua**

FORUM

MDT/Macauhub

China-Lusophone trade up 15% in Jan, Feb

THE value of trade between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries reached USD23.58 billion in the two months of January and February 2019, an increase of 15.6% year-on-year, according to official Chinese figures released by Forum Macau.

In the first two months of the year, China exported goods worth \$6.08 billion, a year-on-year fall of 7.1% for the eight Portuguese-speaking countries, and imported goods worth \$17.5 billion (+26.3%).

Trade with Brazil, China's main global trading partner in world terms, reached \$17.35 billion (+19.7%), with China exporting goods worth \$4.83 billion (-9.1%), and importing goods worth \$12.52 billion (+36.5%).

Angola ranks second in terms of value with two-way trade

of \$4.752 billion (+2.9%), with Chinese companies exporting products worth \$266 million (-31.2%) and importing goods worth \$4.486 billion (+6%).

Portugal is in third place, far behind the top two countries, with trade worth \$150 million (+7.7%), with China exporting products worth \$641 million (+9.4%) and importing products worth \$358 million (+4.9%).

China's trade with Mozambique reached \$442 million (+31.6%), with Chinese companies exporting goods worth \$304 million (+38%) to the country and importing products worth \$137 million (+19.5%).

China's trade with the other Portuguese-speaking countries – Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, São Tomé and Príncipe and East Timor – amounted to \$34.1 million.

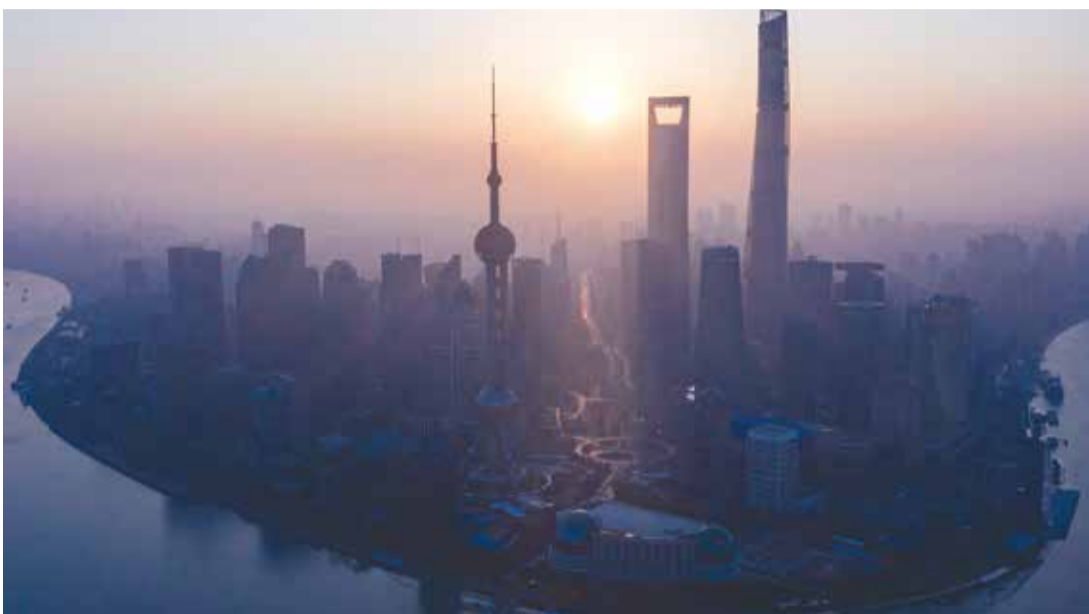
Chinese stocks rally most in weeks as banks, telecoms lead

CHINA stocks rallied, after the central bank's decision to inject cash into the financial system alleviated concerns that officials would hold back on stimulus.

The CSI 300 Index jumped 2.8 percent yesterday, its biggest gain in more than two weeks, while the Shanghai Composite Index added 2.4 percent. The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index closed at a level that denotes a bull market after failing to hold that milestone earlier this month. Banks surged as the People's Bank of China added funds to the money market after an 18-day dry spell.

Stocks sold off Monday as traders pared back their bets of additional stimulus, following data last week that showed the economy is improving. The resumption of cash injections by the People's Bank of China is seen as a positive signal, said Castor Pang, research head at Core Pacific-Yamachi International.

"The central bank's resump-



tion of net injections today alleviated earlier concerns of tightening liquidity," said Ken Chen, a Shanghai-based analyst with KGI Securities Co. "Positive expectations on March economic numbers due tomorrow are also supporting the blue chips, which are more sensitive to changes in fundamentals."

The Bank of Guiyang Co. rose by the 10 percent limit and Industrial Bank Co. added 7.5 percent. China Construction Bank Corp. rose 4.9 percent in Shanghai.

Telecom stocks were also among the biggest gainers yesterday amid signs China is getting serious about developing its next-generation

networks. A gauge tracking the industry group surged 6.9 percent, following news that state-owned firms increased their 5G investments by nearly 40 percent in the first quarter. ZTE Corp rose by its daily limit onshore, while FIH Mobile Ltd. jumped 15 percent in Hong Kong. **Bloomberg**

Home price growth accelerates in credit comeback

NEW-HOME price growth in China snapped a four-month weakening streak, one of the first official signs there may be a widespread recovery in the nation's housing market.

The value of new homes, excluding government-subsidized housing, gained 0.61 percent on average in March from February in 70 major cities tracked by the nation's statistics bureau, official data released yesterday showed. That accelerated from a 0.53 percent rise a month earlier.

The recovery is more evident in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, where local governments have increasingly sought to use so-called stealth easing to offset reduced support from shanty-town renovation projects.

The biggest gains came in Dandong and Jinzhou, cities with populations of about 3 million.

Smaller cities generally enjoy looser property policies, and buyers could flock back into the market once they sense demand is rebounding in bigger towns, said Yan Yuejin, an analyst at China Real Estate Information Corp. **MDT/ Bloomberg**

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Dominic Lau & Denise Wee

HNA unit's lenders play hardball after default, may seize assets

A unit of HNA Group Co. defaulted on a loan it took out less than seven months ago, the latest in a string of missed payments that threaten to complicate the embattled Chinese conglomerate's restructuring.

Lenders to CWT International Ltd., a Hong Kong-listed unit of HNA, said they would seize most of the company's assets - including CWT's stake in a logistics unit, properties in the U.S. and U.K., and golf courses in China - unless CWT makes good on payments tied to a HKD1.4 billion (USD179 million) loan taken out in September. CWT was given a deadline of 9 a.m. today, the company said in a statement to the Hong Kong stock exchange that didn't identify the lenders.

The setback suggests HNA is still struggling to cope with its debt after embarking on more than \$25 billion of asset sales since 2018, unwinding one of the biggest global acquisition binges in Chinese history. HNA units have rarely disclosed threats of imminent asset seizures despite having missed payments in the past. CWT's statement could be a sign that creditors' patience is wearing thin.



For lenders and bondholders navigating a rising number of defaults in China, the question is how much leeway to give HNA as the company tries to restructure. The group repaid a yuan-denominated note after a delay last month, one of several Chinese borrowers to miss payment deadlines only to come up with the cash shortly thereafter.

"HNA is far away from being sustainable," said Warut Prom-

boon, managing partner at credit research firm Bondcritic Ltd. "The asset sale helps, but we believe the governance of the whole structure is difficult. We also believe liquidity transfers between entities is not that easy, hence the sporadic defaults of the subsidiaries."

HNA, a poster child for runaway Chinese corporate debt that became a major target of Beijing's two-year campaign to

curb financial risk, declined to comment beyond the exchange statement. The thinly traded 2019 dollar bonds of HNA Group International were little changed on Wednesday, yielding around 14 percent. CWT International shares were suspended in Hong Kong. They've tumbled 59 percent over the past year.

CWT International, which had almost HKD25 billion of assets at the end of 2018, has been nego-

tiating with lenders, it said. The missed payment led to a cross default under a term-loan facility, which has about HKD766 million outstanding, CWT International said.

CWT Pte, a unit of CWT International, has a SGD100 million (\$74 million) note due tomorrow and another bond of the same amount due March next year, according to Bloomberg-compiled data. An auditors' report contained in CWT International's 2018 annual results said there could be "material uncertainties" within the firm that "may cast significant doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern."

"We hold the view that CWT Pte will pay its Singapore dollar bonds due on April 18 as CWT Pte holds assets and has ongoing businesses," said Ezien Hoo, a credit analyst at Oversea Chinese Banking Corp. "But its parent defaulting may complicate the process and there may be delays." Bloomberg

Winner of USD1.2 million Tiger wager was first-time sports bettor

Nick Turner & James Ludden

THE man who won a record-setting USD1.2 million payout for betting that Tiger Woods would win the Masters golf tournament was a first-time sports bettor who day-tripped into Las Vegas from Wisconsin.

James Adducci, 39, flew in on April 9 to make the \$85,000 wager and then flew right back home, ac-

ording to William Hill Plc, which took the bet. Woods, who was given 14-1 odds at the time of the bet, clinched his victory Sunday.

"This is a story for the ages," Joe Asher, chief executive officer of William Hill's U.S. operations, said in a statement. "Tiger climbs back to the top, and a guy from Wisconsin, on his first sports bet ever, wins over a \$1 million betting

on him. We congratulate both James and Tiger on their epic wins."

Adducci was presented with a check on Monday for \$1.28 million, representing the payoff plus his original \$85,000 stake. He placed the wager at the SLS Las Vegas casino.

Adducci was \$25,000 in debt at the end of last year, following the failure of a protein-supplement business, according to an

interview with Action Network's Darren Rovell. But he managed to raise the \$85,000 in part by selling shares in Amazon.com Inc. While in Las Vegas, he picked up the money at a local bank and put it in a backpack he bought at Walmart.

Asher had to personally approve the bet before William Hill let Adducci place it, Rovell reported.

Now Adducci is the re-



recipient of the largest golf payout in William Hill's history.

"Golf was so special for my dad and I," Adducci

said in the statement. "To see Tiger win a major tournament for the first time in front of his kids meant a lot to me." AP

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CURRENCY

Yuan is so sleepy traders scour complex ways to profit

Tian Chen & Ran Li

AN increasingly dull yuan is prompting currency traders to get more creative.

The currency has been flat against the dollar since late February, with a gauge of one-month swings near the lowest in more than a year. Traders have been wary of placing large wagers with China-U.S. trade talks underway, while a pledge by officials to keep it stable has also helped anchor sentiment.

Strategists predict the yuan will continue to sit still against the dollar, with Bank of America Merrill Lynch saying in a

note that “the death of volatility” has been a defining theme in the currency market this year. While that’s making life more difficult for anyone who feeds on a little turbulence, traders and strategists are now coming up with other ways to benefit from the lull.

SELL VOLATILITY

You can bet that volatility will continue to decline as the yuan holds steady around the current level of 6.7 per greenback. Teck Leng Tan, a foreign-exchange analyst at UBS Global Wealth Management’s chief investment office, says one way to do this is

by selling a bullish dollar option against the yuan with a strike at 6.8. With this trade, you pocket gains if the Chinese currency doesn’t weaken beyond that level and if swings remain subdued.

SELL MORE VOLATILITY

Here’s another wager that volatility will remain low, recommended by Huang Yuting, head of foreign-exchange trading at China Zhesang Bank Co. She says swings will remain muted throughout the year, suggesting a “short straddle” tactic that involves selling both a put and a call with the same expiration

date and strike price. This produces a position that benefits if the yuan moves in a narrow range, while traders earn a fee by selling the contracts.

GET AHEAD

Investors with a hunch the calmness will be short-lived can get started building bets on wilder swings ahead. One way to do this is to buy “strangle options” with tenors of more than six months because volatility may pick up after China and the U.S. reach a trade deal, said Liu Yang, vice general manager of the capital management center at Hangzhou CIEC Group Co.

This strategy sees investors simultaneously buy a call with a high dollar-yuan strike price and a put with a low strike. It works as long as the yuan hits one of those levels when the options mature, which is likely given volatility may climb, Liu said. He recommends building contracts with strikes of 6.9 and 6.5 per dollar.

MOVE ON

It’d be better to wager on higher rates resulting from faster growth in inflation because it’s just too hard to make money in a currency market beset by low volatility, said two traders in Shanghai. To do this, bet that interest-rate swaps will continue to rise, said the traders, who asked not to be named as they aren’t authorized to speak to the media. The yuan’s 12-month IRS has already surged 27 basis points this month to 2.88 percent, the highest level since September. **Bloomberg**

India is said to cut trade deficit with China by USD10b

Shruti Srivastava

INDIA cut its trade deficit with China by the most in more than a decade, according to people familiar with the data, as it boosted exports amid a U.S.-China trade war.

The South Asian nation’s exports to China jumped 31 percent year-on-year to USD17 billion in the financial year ended March 31, the people said, asking not to be identified as the data is not public yet. In the process, it cut the bilateral trade deficit by \$10 billion to \$53 billion.

The surge in exports was mainly due to greater demand for marine products, grapes, raw cotton and plastic raw materials: items that were casualties in President Donald Trump’s trade war with Beijing. This is the second straight year that India’s shipments to China have grown by more than 30 percent.

“Exports with China will do much better this year than in the last few years,” Ajay Sahai, director general and CEO of the Federation of Indian Export Organizations, said by pho-

ne. “China has agreed to give increased market access, as it sees India filling in the gap left by the U.S.”

New Delhi has also used the opportunity to push for greater cooperation with China on trade, using talks for a Beijing-backed 16-nation Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, or RCEP, as a lever.

Last year, India won market access for sugar, rice, pharma, grapes, fish meal, fish oil, rapeseed meal, and tobacco. It is now working to export soybean meal, pomegra-

nates, banana, pineapple, okra and corn among other items. The results have been encouraging -- export of marine products to China witnessed a 346 percent jump in April-February period, grapes by 200 percent, raw cotton 226 percent, and plastic raw materials 134 percent.

Falling imports from China also helped shrink the trade gap. India’s purchases from its largest commercial partner declined to \$70 billion last fiscal year from \$76 billion in the previous year, the people said. **Bloomberg**



TAIWAN

President denounces Chinese military 'coercion'



CHINESE attempts at military coercion only strengthen Taiwan's resolve to defend itself, the president of the self-governing island republic said yesterday.

Tsai Ing-wen's comments followed what Taiwan's defense ministry called a major foray by Chinese military planes into airspace just south of the island on Monday, as well as by warships in the surrounding waters.

That included bombers, fighter jets, and early warning and control aircraft.

Tsai told a security forum in Taipei that China's actions "threaten Taiwan and other like-minded countries in the region."

"As president, I want to tell you that Taiwan is not intimidated. These actions only serve to strengthen our resolve. Our military forces have the capacity, determination and commitment to defend Taiwan and not allow coercion to dictate our own futu-

re," Tsai said.

China's ruling Communist Party considers Taiwan its own territory, although it has never governed the island, which split from the mainland amid civil war in 1949.

Beijing cut ties with Tsai's government following her 2016 election and has been stepping up military threats and efforts to isolate Taipei diplomatically.

Tsai, whom Beijing despises for her pro-independence views, has pushed for major improvements in Taiwan's armed forces and this year has asked to purchase new F-16V fighter jets and M1 Abrams tanks from the U.S., its main supplier of weaponry.

Tsai also said Taiwan had received notification of U.S. approval of a training package for Taiwanese air force pilots at Luke Air Force Base in Arizona.

American arms sales to Taiwan have long been a thorn in the side of U.S. relations with China, adding to tensions over trade and human rights.

Taiwan said last week that its planes warned off Chinese military aircraft that crossed the center line in the Taiwan Strait, and called China's move a provocation seeking to alter the status quo in the waterway dividing the island from mainland China. **AP**

Foxconn's Terry Gou mulling Run for Taiwan presidency

Debby Wu

BILLIONAIRE Foxconn founder Terry Gou said he was considering a run for Taiwan's presidency, adding a powerful symbol of Chinese business ties to the field of potential challengers against the island's leader.

Gou, who amassed a personal fortune of about USD4.4 billion building iPhones on the mainland, said on the sidelines of a security forum in Taipei that he was weighing a bid to oust Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen. He would seek the nomination of the China-friendly Kuomintang, or Nationalist Party, should he choose to run, he said.

"If I am to make a decision, I will participate in the KMT primary," Gou, 68, said yesterday at the event hosted by the American Institute in Taiwan - the U.S.'s de facto embassy - and Taiwan's foreign ministry. The opposition KMT, which has controlled Taiwan for all but 11 years since World War II, was expected to choose a candidate in the coming weeks.



Gou plans to step down "in the coming months" as chairman of Foxconn Technology Group, which rose to global prominence as the main production partner for Apple Inc., Reuters reported Monday. Louis Woo, his special assistant, later told Bloomberg that Gou would be stepping back from operations and focusing on strategy, but didn't plan to relinquish his chairmanship.

Hon Hai Precision Industry Co., Foxconn's main listed entity, was up 0.8 percent to the highest since October 2018 at 1:06 p.m. in Taipei. Gou is Taiwan's third-richest person and the 442nd in the world, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

BIG FISH

Gou's resources could help him stand out among a field of potential challengers,

including former New Taipei City Mayor Eric Chu and Kaohsiung Mayor Han Kuo-yu. The KMT is vying to capitalize on Tsai's apparent vulnerability as she struggles to navigate a global isolation push by Beijing and calls from within her own party for a more decisive break from the mainland.

China cut off official communication with Taiwan after Tsai's Democratic Progressive Party ousted the

KMT from the presidency and parliamentary majority in 2016, citing her refusal to accept that both sides belong to "one China." The two sides have been governed separately since Chiang Kai-shek moved his Nationalist government to Taipei during the Chinese civil war.

Tsai is also facing a challenge for the DPP nomination by her former premier, William Lai, a vocal advocate of asserting the island's formal independence.

■ He would seek the nomination of the [...] Nationalist Party, should he choose to run

While Gou's wealth and notoriety could bring attention to the race, his business experience also presents political liabilities. At home, Gou has faced criticism for moving his factories across the Taiwan Strait, as one of the first outside executives to exploit cheaper wages and land

costs on the mainland.

Foxconn's Zhengzhou facility in central China employed hundreds of thousands of workers, cranking out more than 100 million iPhones every year. That success has been tinged with controversy, especially a series of suicides by employees that focused scrutiny on worker conditions.

Gou was also at the center of a plant project in the U.S. presidential swing state of Wisconsin that could provide a potential source of Democratic attacks against U.S. President Donald Trump in his re-election campaign. Trump and Gou touted Foxconn's investment in the \$10 billion factory as evidence of returning manufacturing jobs, but the company's decision to shift the campus's focus to research has cut the number blue-collar positions available.

Gou had previously played down the prospect of a presidential run, telling Hong Kong's Phoenix Television last year that he could be more influential as a business executive than as a politician. He also said his status as the son of emigres who had come to Taiwan from China would make it harder for him to win.

"I didn't sleep at all last night," Gou said. "I am asking what I can do for young people." **Bloomberg**

Brunei wants to punish gay sex with death by stoning – can boycotts stop it?



Protestors outside The Dorchester hotel on Park Lane in London, demonstrating against the Brunei anti-gay laws earlier this month

Paula Gerber, Monash University

THE sultan of Brunei has been on the throne for 52 years, making him the second-longest reigning monarch in the world, after Queen Elizabeth II.

In Brunei – a rather traditional, deeply Muslim Southeast Asian country – the sultan is known for leading a decadent life.

Vanity Fair once dubbed Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah and his brother, Prince Jefri Bolkiah, “constant companions in hedonism.” They spend lavishly on luxury cars, yachts and real estate, and according to the magazine, “allegedly sent emissaries to comb the globe for the sexiest women they could find in order to create a harem the likes of which the world had never known.”

Now, Brunei’s sultan appears to have found religion.

He has implemented a harsh interpretation of Sharia – Islamic law – in his country, taking aim at LGBT people, women and even children with some of the world’s harshest penalties for homosexual conduct.

Under Brunei’s new laws, gay sex and adultery can result in death by stoning, and having an abortion is punishable by public flogging. Dressing in clothing associated with a different sex may incur a fine and imprisonment up to three months. Younger children can be whipped for these offenses.

DIVERSION FROM ECONOMIC WOES

These laws represent serious breaches of international hu-

man rights law, my field of academic expertise.

Thirty-six countries – including the United States, United Kingdom, Argentina and Australia – recently issued a joint statement expressing “profound dismay” at Brunei’s penal code, which the United Nations has deemed “cruel and unusual.”

Why is Brunei’s sultan suddenly so keen to enforce Sharia across this island nation of 430,000?

One of the main reasons may be plunging global oil prices. For the first time, the oil-rich nation of Brunei is grappling with economic crisis.

Other countries have similarly whipped up hatred against LGBT people to distract the public’s attention from economic crisis or corruption allegations.

The sultan may also be seeking to rehabilitate his reputation as a “party boy.”

“This is obviously not coming from a place of religious devotion, since the sultan himself is in violation of every single rule of Sharia you could possibly imagine,” religious scholar Reza Aslan told the New York Post in 2014, when the sultan first flagged his intention to impose strict Islamic law in Brunei.

Perhaps the Sultan thinks that implementing Sharia will enable him to leave a religious legacy that outweighs his decades of very public excess and indulgence.

DO BOYCOTTS WORK?

As a way of trying to get the Sultan to change his mind about imposing these harsh penalties within Brunei, many celebrities

and gay rights advocates are calling for boycotts of the sultan’s international hotels and of Royal Brunei Airlines.

But evidence suggests that boycotts are not the most effective way to influence foreign governments.

For one, they can cause the offending government to harden its position to show it will not give in to foreign pressure. That can make it harder to work collaboratively with leaders of that country to actually improve the situation.

That’s what happened in Uganda in 2014, when President Yoweri Museveni introduced some of the world’s toughest anti-gay laws.

“I advise friends from the West not to make this an issue, because if they make it an issue the more they will lose,” he said. “Outsiders cannot dictate to us. This is our country.”

This risk is compounded by the evident double standard of an international boycott of Brunei and the sultan’s businesses. Other countries that impose the death penalty for same-sex sexual conduct – including Afghanistan, Yemen, Pakistan, Iran and Saudi Arabia – are not subjected to similar global condemnation.

WHO CAN STOP THE SULTAN?

The United Nations may stand a better chance of curbing Brunei’s behavior.

Brunei’s human rights record will be reviewed by the U.N.’s Human Rights Council next month, as part of a regular assessment called the Universal

Periodic Review – a relatively new process described by the International Bar Association as “the most progressive arena for the protection of the LGBTI community internationally.”

Other countries have similarly whipped up hatred against LGBT people to distract the public’s attention from economic crisis or corruption allegations

Though the Universal Periodic Review has no power to enforce its recommendations, it has shown some success in advancing human rights in U.N. member countries. Its method is to foster dialogue with and between governments and civil society, create a plan for improving rights and closely monitoring progress.

Brunei’s allies and neighbors are also well placed to put pressure on the sultan.

Research has found that if a state is criticized by one of its strategic partners, it is more likely to accept that criticism

than if it comes from a state with which it has fewer ties.

Brunei is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations, a voluntary association of 53 sovereign states, most of them former British colonies. Its biannual Heads of Government Meeting, set to take place in Rwanda next year, is a potential forum for meaningful dialogue about the state of LGBTQ rights across the Commonwealth of Nations, since Brunei is one of 35 Commonwealth countries that still criminalize consensual same-sex sexual conduct.

If negotiations with Brunei are unsuccessful, the Commonwealth of Nations can take the powerful step of suspending its membership. That would prevent Brunei from participating in group meetings and events – including the popular Commonwealth Games, which have been described as “sport with a social conscience.”

This step was previously taken in response to grave human rights violations committed by Fiji, Nigeria, Pakistan and Zimbabwe.

Over 100 LGBTQ and human rights groups from Southeast Asia have also called on the Association of South East Asian Nations – ASEAN, a regional intergovernmental organization – to take a hard line against member state Brunei, saying its new laws “legitimize violence.”

But ASEAN’s non-binding 2012 declaration of human rights – which does not explicitly prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and contains imprecise language that significantly dilutes its power – seems unlikely to demand an institutional response.

DOES THE SULTAN MEAN IT?

There is concern that Brunei’s imposition of hard-line Sharia will embolden its Muslim majority neighbors, Malaysia and Indonesia, to follow suit.

Malaysia already applies Islamic law in some states. Last September, two women found guilty of attempting to have sex were sentenced to be, and were, caned.

In nearby Indonesia, gay sex is legal in all but one province, but homophobia and transphobia are rising nationwide, and recent talk of criminalizing gay sex has LGBTQ Indonesians worried.

Brunei, it’s important to note, has not actually used the death penalty since 1957.

An optimist could conclude that the new laws are mostly symbolic – designed to beef up the sultan’s Islamic credentials and garner favor with other Muslim countries to boost trade and tourism.

That interpretation, however, is unlikely to diminish the fear of the vulnerable minorities targeted by Brunei’s Sharia laws. **AP**

Kim Jong Un getting ready for first summit with Putin

Jihye Lee

RUSSIA is preparing for North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's first summit with President Vladimir Putin, setting the stage for consultations between the long-time allies after Kim's nuclear talks with the U.S. broke down.

Russian officials told a South Korean diplomatic delegation visiting Moscow this week that plans were being made for a summit but offered no details on a time or place, South Korea's Foreign Ministry said yesterday.

South Korea's Maeil Business Newspaper reported that Putin and Kim's summit will likely take place April 24 in Vladivostok, before Putin's April 26-27 visit to Beijing to meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping. Maeil didn't say where it got its information.

South Korea's Vice Foreign Minister Cho Hyun met with Russian First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Vladimir Titov. Cho told reporters both men thought the collapsed February summit between Kim and President Donald Trump in Hanoi "was not a failure"



BLOOMBERG

and that denuclearization talks should be pursued, South Korea's Yonhap News reported.

Russia, which wields veto power on the United Nations Security Council, has expressed repeated support for the reduction of sanctions that have crippled North Korea's economy.

POWER BROKERS

It would be Kim's first visit to Russia since taking power in 2011, as he calls for an end to the sanctions intended to punish North Korea for its nuclear arms program. The severity of those penalties was a major factor in the collapse of his summit with Trump, who wants Kim to make greater disarmament

commitments before receiving economic rewards.

Trump-Kim Summit Breakdown Renews Doubts North Korea Will Disarm

The U.S. and its allies have balked at allowing the development of projects long sought by North Korea and currently blocked by sanctions - including an energy pipeline that would extend into Russia and regular train service across the Russian-North Korean border - until Pyongyang agrees to reduce its security threat.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in's office said it wasn't its place to confirm the date and location of any upcoming summit between Putin and Kim. **Bloomberg**

PHILIPPINES

Police: Four wives of Abu Sayyaf commanders arrested

PHILIPPINE police yesterday arrested four women they said were wives of Abu Sayyaf commanders who took care of their financial transactions, helped procure guns and bomb parts and arranged the travels of foreign militants to the country.

The women were arrested in raids on houses in southern Zamboanga city where authorities seized two grenades, a bag of suspected ammonium nitrate and electrical parts that can be used in making bombs, police officials said.

The women worked under Abu Sayyaf leader Hajan Sawadjaan, the main suspect in the Jan. 27 bombing of a Roman Catholic cathedral during a Mass that killed 23 people in nearby Sulu province's capital town

of Jolo. The cathedral attack by two suspected suicide bombers sparked the latest military offensive against the Abu Sayyaf.

"The women are the wives of Abu Sayyaf group leaders," a police report said without identifying the militant husbands of the women. They "are being utilized by the ASG for their financial transactions, procurement and transportation of firearms and explosives and the facilitation of recruitment and travel of foreign fighters to the Philippines," it said.

Sawadjaan has been regarded as the current leader of small armed groups aligned with the Islamic State group in the southern Philippines, homeland of minority Muslims in the largely Roman Catholic nation.

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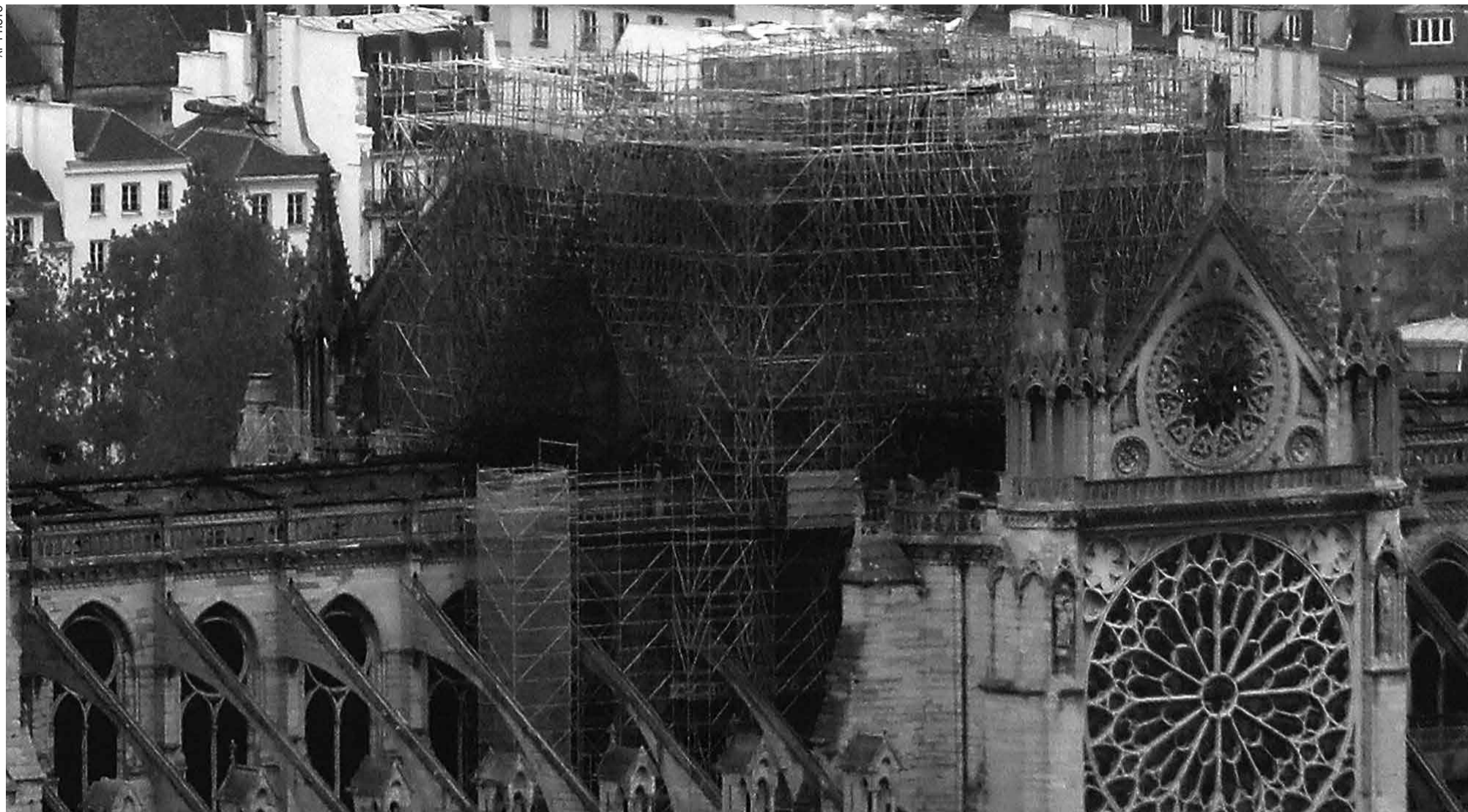
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Macron presides over rare unity as nation grieves Notre Dame

Gregory Viscusi & Helene Fouquet

FRENCH citizens joined global leaders to rally behind Emmanuel Macron in the aftermath of a fire that ravaged the iconic Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris, giving the French President an opportunity to quell the political volatility that's embroiled his government.

Macron vowed on early yesterday [local time] to rebuild the 850-year-old Gothic monument, an issue that's united the French population across the political spectrum, with national parties suspending their European election campaigns and leaders from around the globe lending their support.

The fire prompted the cancellation of a planned speech by the 41-year-old leader meant to allay the concerns of citizens angered over economic disparities and by a lack of trust in the political system. The address was an effort to move past months of protests by the Yellow Vests movement and bolster Macron's popularity, which had taken a battering from a public perception that he's out of touch and that his policies favor the rich.

"This is an opportunity for Macron to reach out to the opposition to create unity in a fractured, divided nation," said Bruno Cautres, a politics professor at Sciences Po institute, who cycles past the land-

mark every morning. "He can't be seen as using this moment of widespread grief, but at the same time, people will expect all politicians to start working together, first for Notre Dame and hopefully, beyond Notre Dame."

This is an opportunity for Macron to reach out to the opposition to create unity in a fractured, divided nation.

BRUNO CAUTRES
POLITICS PROFESSOR AT
SCIENCES PO INSTITUTE

VOW TO REBUILD

The fire raged for about 12 hours, taking with it about two-thirds of the roof and its spire, and at one point even the stone structure of the monument was at risk. The cause of the fire is still unknown but Paris prosecutor Remy Heitz said nothing indicates it was started deliberately. Paris prosecutors opened a non-criminal investiga-

tion, a common step in such a major incident.

The entire structure was a half-hour away from collapsing before firemen prevented the blaze from engulfing the bell towers, according to Deputy Interior Minister Laurent Nunez.

Culture Minister Franck Riester said major treasures such as the "Crown of Thorns" and Louis IX's tunic were removed to City Hall, while other relics were taken to the Louvre. The altars weren't burned but will be removed to be treated for smoke damage, while the rose windows appeared to have escaped major damage, he said.

The initial budget to restore the cathedral before the fire was about 150 million euros and may need to be increased to about 450 million euros now, according to Michel Picaut, president of the Friends of Notre-Dame de Paris.

Money has already started to arrive for a rebuilding that will take years if not decades. The Paris region has unblocked 10 million euros in emergency funding. The Pinault family of Gucci owner Kering SA announced it was giving 100 million euros and the Arnault family that controls LVMH said it pledged 200 million euros.

In his canceled speech, Macron had been expected to announce middle class income tax cuts, indexation of small

pensions and the abolition of the elite ENA school for civil servants, in an effort to assuage grassroots discontent, French media reported.

POLITICAL PAUSE

The fire comes at an auspicious time, with France due to elect its members of the European Parliament May 26. According to Ifop's daily rolling poll, Macron's La Republique en Marche! party and Marine Le Pen's euro-skeptic National Rally are tied at 21.5 percent, with the Republicans in third place at 13 percent. In the latest Ipsos poll, Macron's approval rating fell 1 point to 27 percent.

In the week leading up to Monday, political leaders from opposition parties were on television saying Macron's measures wouldn't be up to the task, even without knowing what he was due to announce. Hours later they were all expressing their sadness at France's incalculable artistic loss.

"For two years, all we've had are tortured words that go around in circles, and when we get to the finish line there's nothing there," Laurent Wauquiez, head of The Republicans, the largest opposition party in Parliament, said Sunday on BFM TV. Monday night he wrote on Twitter that "it's a whole part of our history, of all of us, that burns tonight." He canceled an EU elec-

tion rally he was due to attend in the southern city of Nimes yesterday night.

Jean-Luc Melenchon, leader of the far-left France Unbowed party and one of Macron's most scathing critics, said "This building is like a member of our family. For at least 24 hours I can't feel and act like a politician."

MAY'S MISSTEP

Macron will have to walk a fine line, and tragic incidents in other countries have proven to be pitfalls for leaders who miscalculated the political severity of the events. British Prime Minister Theresa May had to admit that her initial handling of the 2017 Grenfell Tower fire, which killed at least 80 people in a London apartment block, was "not good enough" because she hadn't met victims on her first visit.

Leaders from around the world expressed their solidarity with Paris, including Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Zarif and Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte. Macron will speak later Tuesday with Pope Francis, after having talked earlier with U.S. President Donald Trump, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres.

Italian Deputy Prime Minister Matteo Salvini, whose populist government has been at odds with Macron, reached across the political divide.

"A thought and a hug for the people of Paris," Salvini wrote on Twitter. "From Italy, all of our friendship and all the help we can give." **Bloomberg**

After years of crisis, Venezuelans wonder what is 'normal'

Christopher Torchia, Caracas

A normal country? At first glance, the graffiti reading "Un pais normal?" seems ambiguous in Venezuela's frayed capital, where the government brandishes slogans like clenched fists and the opposition lobs insults at President Nicolás Maduro. Actually, the message on a Caracas wall is a tart comment in a place where talk of what is normal, or should be normal, has become common and touches nerves.

Normalcy elsewhere in the world doesn't fit Venezuela, where extremes are the norm.

Two men say they are president. The worst nationwide blackouts last month played havoc with millions of people. Hyperinflation has slashed many monthly salaries to the equivalent of a few dollars. One-tenth of the population — over 3 million and growing — has fled, causing Latin America's biggest migration crisis.



AP PHOTO
People collect water falling from a leaking pipeline along the banks of the Guaire River during rolling blackouts, which affects access to running water in Caracas

Don't think of Venezuela's chaos as the new normal, warns opposition leader Juan Guaidó.

"There can't be normality when we Venezuelans can't even communicate with our family members and some have to look for water in the Guaire [river] to slake the thirst of their children," Guaidó tweeted during electricity outages in March.

Guaidó's supporters worry that anger over the country's escalating problems will fade and therefore extend the rule of Ma-

duro, whose re-election last year was denounced as illegitimate by Guaidó as well as the United States and about 50 other nations.

"It's not normal," read a cardboard poster at an opposition rally in Caracas this month. It listed miserable conditions now synonymous with Venezuela: a lack of water and light, commuter trains that resemble saunas (when they work), hospitals without enough medication, and self-exile as a way to survive.

Maduro, meanwhile, tries to

project reassurance, saying the water supply is "normalizing" and announcing an electricity rationing plan as the grid stabilizes, for now, in Caracas and other politically key areas. But he also stokes an idea of crisis with references to a "permanent battle" against the United States and other perceived enemies allegedly bent on unraveling Venezuela's "Bolivarian Revolution" and its socialist system.

Maduro's government has described migration from Venezuela as "normal" and denied there is a humanitarian crisis, despite considerable evidence that there is. In tacit recognition that it can't cope on its own, the government has agreed to allow the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to begin delivering medical aid this month.

While a Peruvian foreign minister once described Maduro as "not a normal person," the Venezuelan leader can dish it out as well. Last week, he said U.S. Vice President Mike Pence's behavior

was "abnormal" because he so frequently — obsessively, in Maduro's view — criticizes the Venezuelan government.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is also talking up normality. On Sunday, he met with Venezuelan migrants in the Colombian border city of Cucuta and said Venezuela lacked medicine and other basic items "which under normal circumstances, in any normal country, would be readily available."

As Maduro and Guaidó spar over what normal means and who is to blame for Venezuela's shocking decline, a lot of Venezuelans are too preoccupied to gauge their own diminishing expectations.

Some residents of the poor Caracas neighborhood of La Vega say the flow of tap water to their homes hasn't been reliable for more than a year, long before Venezuela's recent shortages. This week, several dozen blocked a road and banged pots in anger over the current system of receiving water from cisterns. **AP**

AD

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what's ON



SEE SAW ZINE?

TIME: 12pm-8pm (closed on Tuesdays)
UNTIL: July 12, 2019
VENUE: Taipa Village Art Space
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2857 6212

STROLLING AND FEELING: WATERCOLOUR PAINTINGS OF LAI IENG

TIME: 10am-7pm (no admittance after 6:30pm; closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: June 16, 2019
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

STAMPS AROUND THE WORLD - LIECHTENSTEIN, KINGDOM OF STAMPS

TIME: 9am-5:30pm (closed on public holidays)
UNTIL: May 31, 2019
VENUE: Temporary Gallery, Communications Museum
ADMISSION: MOP10
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2871 8063

PHOTO-SCRIPTS

TIME: 10am-7pm (closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: June 2, 2019
VENUE: Contemporary Art Center - Navy Yard No.1
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

ONENESS: CALLIGRAPHY BY PROFESSOR JAO TSUNG-I

TIME: 10am-6pm (No admission after 5:30pm, closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: September 30, 2019
VENUE: Jao Tsung-I Academy
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2523

Offbeat

DOG RESCUED WHILE SWIMMING 135 MILES OFF THAILAND



A dog found swimming more than 135 miles from shore by workers on an oil rig crew in the Gulf of Thailand has been returned safely to land.

A worker on the rig belonging to Chevron Thailand Exploration and Production, Vitisak Payalaw, said on his Facebook page that they saw the dog last Friday swimming toward the platform. He said they were lucky to spot it because if there had been waves it probably would not have been visible.

The dog made it to the platform, clinging to the support structure below deck without barking or whimpering, Vitisak wrote.

The crew managed to lower a rope and secure it around the dog's neck and haul it up. Vitisak said they speculated the dog might have fallen off a fishing trawler, and dubbed it "Boon Rod," or "Survivor."

The dog was delivered by boat Monday to the southern port of Songkhla and was declared in good shape after being taken to the animal protection group Watchdog Thailand.

Vitisak said if the dog was unclaimed, he would like to take it to his home in northeast Thailand.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Água de Mar
15:45	Zig Zag
16:05	T2 para 3 Remodelado
16:45	Quem Quer Ser Milionário
17:35	Palcos Agora
18:05	Sonhar era Fácil
19:00	TDM Entrevista (Repetição)
19:35	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	Montra do Lilau
21:50	LiteraturAqui
22:20	Network Negócios
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Resumo Liga dos Campeões 2018/2019
00:10	5 Para a Meia-Noite
01:50	Telejornal (Repetição)
03:00	Liga dos Campeões: Porto - Liverpool (Directo)
05:00	RTPi Directo

Cinema



CINETEATRO

11 - 17 Apr



SHAZAM

ROOM 1

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

Director: David F. Sandberg

Starring: Zachary Levi, Djimon Hounsou, Michelle Borth

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 132min

THE UPSIDE

ROOM 2

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

Director: Neil Burger

Starring: Kevin Hart, Bryan Cranston, Nicole Kidman

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 126min



US

ROOM 2

7:15pm

Director: Jordan Peele

Starring: Lupita Nyong'o, Winston Duke, Elisabeth Moss

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 116min

BREAKTHROUGH

ROOM 3

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

Director: Roxann Dawson

Starring: Chrissy Metz, Topher Grace, Josh Lucas

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 116min

P STORM

ROOM 2

9:30pm

Director: David Lam

Starring: Chrissie Chau, Louis Koo, Kevin Cheng

Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 96min

this day in history



1984 LIBYAN EMBASSY SHOTS KILL POLICEMAN

A police officer has been killed and ten people injured after shots were fired from the Libyan People's Bureau in central London.

WPC Yvonne Fletcher had been helping control a small demonstration outside the embassy when automatic gunfire came from outside.

She received a fatal stomach wound and some of the demonstrators were also severely injured.

WPC Fletcher, 25, died soon afterwards at Westminster Hospital.

Her fiancé, another police officer who was also at the demonstration, was at her side.

After the shooting people were cleared from surrounding offices in St James' Square.

Some had witnessed events from their workplace.

Film maker Ray Barker said people were stunned by what had happened.

"Several of my colleagues burst into tears. It was unbelievable that sort of thing could happen at such an insignificant demonstration," he said.

Journalist Brian Cartmell was in St James' Square just feet away from Yvonne Fletcher when she was hit.

"She crumpled to the floor clutching her lower stomach and groin and rolled on to her right-hand side with a look of total surprise on her pretty face," Mr Cartmell said.

The Libyan building is now surrounded by armed police officers including specialist marksmen.

However, Home Secretary Leon Brittan has said the police are prepared to wait and deal with the situation in a peaceful way.

Police officers are in touch with those inside the Libyan People's Bureau via a special telephone link.

The Libyans, led by Colonel Gaddafi, are blaming Britain's police and security forces for "attacking" their embassy.

Libyan soldiers have now surrounded Britain's embassy in Tripoli trapping 18 diplomats inside.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Diplomatic relations with Libya were severed on 23 April. British diplomats in Libya who had been trapped in their embassy were allowed to leave.

The Libyans were ordered out of UK and left peacefully but due to their diplomatic immunity police were unable to question suspects before they went.

However, in 1986 a British businessman who had worked for Colonel Gaddafi's regime reported WPC Fletcher's killer had been hanged as soon as he returned to Libya.

Britain restored diplomatic relations with Libya in 1999 after the Libyan Government admitted it bore "general responsibility" for WPC Fletcher's death.

It also paid a six-figure sum in compensation to her family.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You have the power to succeed today - even if it feels like you're losing ground. Just keep pushing yourself. Things may look dark early in the morning, but by tonight you should see a glimmer of hope.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Your earthy nature asserts itself in a big way today, but that may put off those with their heads in the clouds. You should just ignore them and let them enjoy their silly fantasies - you've got work to do!

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You rely on others to help get your own business done, but today you may be on your own. Things aren't terrible just yet, but you may want to take extra time for all your important tasks.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You feel a new sense of balance today - though it might come at a cost. See if you can just enjoy what you've got and worry about the consequences when they actually start to affect you.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You're making great progress toward some personal goal - but you need to keep it personal for now. Let others take center stage, and they will have more time and attention for you later.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Your romantic world is spinning a little faster - so take a chance or snuggle up with your sweetheart! All that great energy needs to be shared with someone, and you can feel it when it's right.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Be wary of new situations - something isn't quite right, though that's not to say you need to avoid dealing with it entirely! Just make sure you're careful to see the bad as well as the good today.

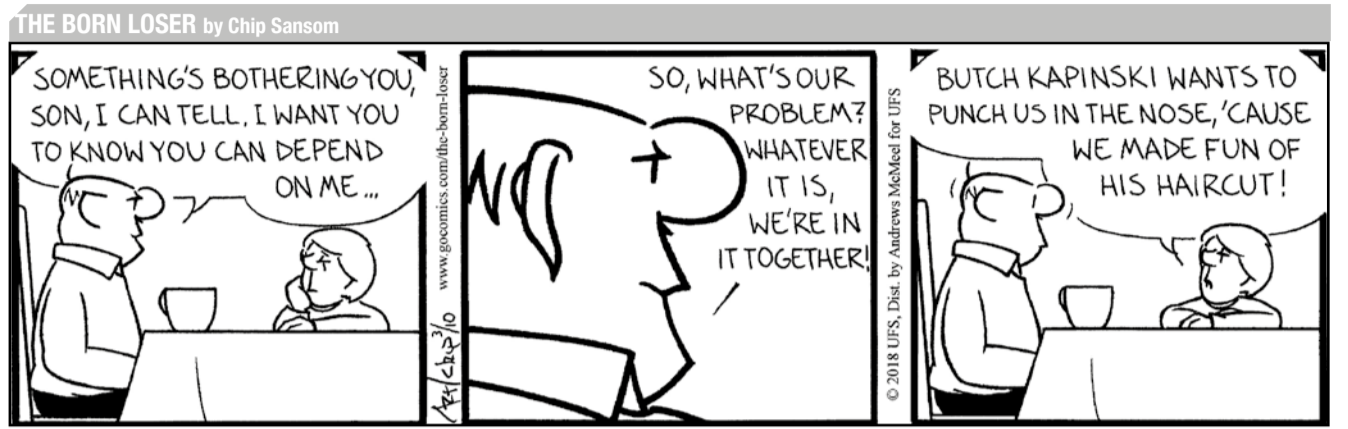
Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Your potent energy is the driving force behind today's big mission - so make sure that you're talking it up or inspiring others to the cause. Things should start to look really good this evening.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You are firmly committed to doing it all yourself today, whether it's making your own lunch or building your own shed. Whatever it takes to get it done is readily available in your skill set.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You need to deal with all this energy in a positive way - which isn't such a hard task for you! Just make sure that you're actively engaged with everything that needs to happen by tonight.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You're more tired than you feel you ought to be, so go easy on yourself and make sure that you're delegating responsibilities as much as you can. There's not much point in driving yourself to exhaustion!

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Your assistance is needed in a big way - so ask around or look for opportunities to save the day. Things may move slowly at first, but once you enter the picture, the pace picks up considerably.



SUDOKU

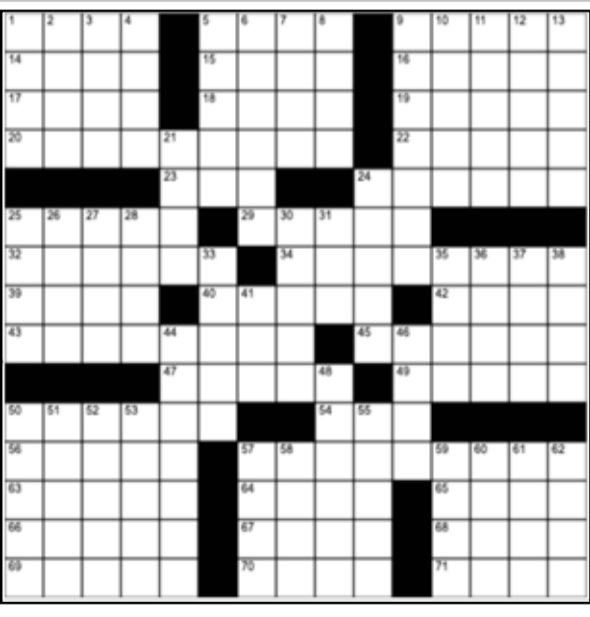
Sudoku puzzles categorized by difficulty: Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard. Each category contains a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled.

WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION. It lists weather for various cities in CHINA and the WORLD.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Tax experts; Abbr.; 5- Kind of prof.; 9- Venomous snake; 14- Describes a gently cooked steak; 15- Spots; 16- Sign of spring; 17- Pinball paths; 18- URL starter; 19- Social gathering; 20- Great beasts; 22- Up to; 23- Snaky swimmer; 24- Gibson of tennis; 25- Notches; 29- Wipe out; 32- Conceit; 34- Toward the sunrise; 39- Maize; 40- Pond scum; 42- Suffix with switch; 43- Indonesian volcano; 45- Thin candles; 47- Electricity pioneer; 49- Remains; 50- Killick; 54- Antlered animal; 56- Physician to Marcus Aurelius; 57- Yule; 63- Me too; 64- Security problem; 65- Kansas city; 66- Sausalito's county; 67- Art Deco master; 68- Chinese weight; 69- As a companion; 70- Rivals; 71- Cuzco people; DOWN: 1- Pinchy crustacean; 2- Peel; 3- St. Louis landmark; 4- Zaire's Mobutu; 5- ... who lived in ...; 6- Colonize; 7- Third son of Adam; 8- Recipe amts.; 9- Family name of Juliet; 10- Praying figure; 11- Lineage; 12- Knot again; 13- Sanctuaries; 21- Military meal; 24- Strong point; 25- Bottle part; 26- Composer Stravinsky; 27- Mrs. Dithers, in "Blondie"; 28- Twist; 30- Fit for a king; 31- Drivers' org.; 33- Alma; 35- Cried; 36- Domain; 37- Actor Calhoun; 38- Crash wherever convenient; 41- Angeles; 44- Making amends; 46- Inquires; 48- Oxygenize; 50- Brightly colored lizard; 51- Twangy, as speech; 52- Mild cigar; 53- Surround; 55- Finds pleasing; 57- Staff symbol; 58- Parade honoree; 59- South American monkey; 60- Grumble; 61- Actor Baldwin; 62- Room in a casa;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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



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1,610 ft² \$10,800,000 (ref: 18105563)
[Taipa] Choi Long Meng Chui 3 3
3,398 ft² \$17,800,000 (ref: 18045555)
[Taipa] Va Fat 2 2
550 ft² \$4,580,000 (ref: 18115566)
[Coloane] Hellene Gardens 3 3
1,663 ft² \$8,990,000 (ref: 18085559)

FOR SALE
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638 ft² \$4,480,000 (ref: 17085533)
[Taipa] Wa Bao 2 2
1,020 ft² \$8,500,000 (ref: 18115568)
[Taipa] The Buckingham 2 1
1,186 ft² \$8,888,000 (ref: 18025544)
[Taipa] The Manhattan Carpark space
\$1,950,000 (ref: 17115539)

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England's Billy Vunipola

RUGBY

England warns Vunipola for defending Folau's anti-gay post

Steve Douglas

FIVE months before the Rugby World Cup, England No. 8 Billy Vunipola was given a formal warning by the country's governing body for supporting an anti-gay Instagram post by Australia player Israel Folau.

Following a meeting with the player, the Rugby Football Union said Vunipola's conduct was "prejudicial to the interests of the game" and against its values of "inclusivity and respect."

"The player expressed genuine regret at his public comments," the RFU said, "and understood that he had caused hurt and offense as a result of his actions."

Vunipola was also warned about his conduct by his English club, Saracens, yesterday [Macau time], though he stopped short of offering an apology on that occasion, saying his beliefs are "a source of great strength, comfort and guidance in my life."

With the warning staying on Vunipola's disciplinary record

for five years, any further misstep — or repeat of the kind of message he posted in defense of Folau — could jeopardize his place in England's World Cup squad.

Folau was also issued with a warning by Australian rugby officials last year for posting anti-gay messages on his social media accounts. When he reoffended last week, by publishing a message on Instagram saying that hell awaits "drunks, homosexuals, adulterers, liars, for-

nicators, thieves, atheists, idolaters," Rugby Australia came down hard on Folau by terminating his contract.

It deprives Australia of one of its best players for the upcoming World Cup in Japan, but Australian rugby wanted to take a stand.

Folau was entitled to his religious beliefs, said RA chief executive Raelene Castle, but the way in which he expressed them "is inconsistent with the values of the sport."

"We want to make it clear that he does not speak for the game," Castle said.

In defending Folau — in a post on Instagram that has yet to be deleted — Vunipola said his fellow player was only trying to say that "how we live our lives needs to be closer to how God intended them to be."

"Man was made for woman to procreate, that was the goal, no?" Vunipola said.

■ The Rugby Football Union said Vunipola's conduct was 'prejudicial to the interests of the game'

The 26-year-old Vunipola, whose mother is a Methodist minister, has faced a backlash from English rugby fans since his comments on social media. He was jeered during his appearance as a second-half replacement for Saracens against Bristol, who also played "It's Raining Men" — a song widely perceived as a gay anthem — on their PA system.

Saracens director of rugby Mark McCall said he will pick Vunipola for the team's European Champions Cup semifinal match against Munster on Saturday even though he said he's "sure there's stuff going on in his head."

British broadcaster Channel 4 has removed Vunipola as one of the faces of its Champions Cup coverage.

Vunipola is likely to be a key member of the England team heading to Japan for the World Cup starting September. **AP**

RUGBY LEAGUE

Great Greg Inglis begins second career as coach

A day after retiring from a storied career in rugby league on the field, Greg Inglis started one yesterday on the sidelines as an assistant coach.

South Sydney Rabbitohs captain Inglis ended a 15-year career in the National Rugby League on Monday, almost two years before his planned retirement date. He had been battling a serious shoulder problem and hadn't played since the second week of the new NRL season.

"What a career," the 32-year-old Inglis said. "I've been contemplating it for a while now. I've come to terms with it."



Australia's Greg Inglis (right) keeps the ball from New Zealand's Shaun Johnson during their World Cup Final International Rugby League match at Old Trafford Stadium, Manchester, in 2013

Inglis retired after playing 263 NRL games, including five championship grand finals and winning one

premiership with the Rabbitohs in 2014.

He also won two grand finals with the Melbourne

Storm in 2007 and 2009, however both titles were stripped due to salary cap infractions. He also

played 39 test matches for Australia and 32 State of Origin games for Queensland.

Inglis will continue to work with the club in a variety of roles, but assisting head coach Wayne Bennett will be at the top of the list.

Yesterday, many of the South Sydney players returned to training admitting they were shocked by Inglis' decision to retire, but pleased that he would stay on in a coaching capacity.

"He will be a massive asset because he has obviously just left the game, so he understands what players

are thinking at the moment and how the game is on the field," hooker Damien Cook told Australian Associated Press. "Sometimes coaches might not get that understanding. That's probably where he can be at the top of the list. The players and the coaches and have a different point of view."

South Sydney officials confirmed Inglis walked away from USD1 million left on his contract.

But Inglis had no doubts it was time to hang up his playing boots.

"I just think it's time and the right decision for myself," Inglis said. **AP**

FOOTBALL

Guardiola: 'I'm a failure' in CL

Thursday, 3:00am
Man City v Tottenham
H 1.32, D 6, A 11

WINNING the Champions League twice as a coach puts Pep Guardiola in a fairly elite company. After all, only three managers have won it more times.

Yet, to some, Guardiola's record in soccer's grandest club competition is increasingly becoming a stain on his otherwise stacked resume, and the Manchester City manager is 90 minutes away from delivering another underwhelming Champions League campaign. City trails Tottenham 1-0 after the first leg of the quarterfinals and needs a big performance in the return match at Etihad Stadium on



Wednesday to reach the last four for only the second time in the club's history.

After winning the Champions League with Barcelona in 2009 and 2011 with teams containing the great Lionel Messi, Guardiola never reached the final of the competition in three seasons at Bayern Munich.

In his first two seasons at City, his team has been eliminated in the last 16 and then the quarterfinals.

"I'm a failure in this competition," Guardiola said — maybe sarcastically. "If my teams don't win the Champions League, we fail all the time. This competition is tough.

In this competition, there are many, many good teams. What's important is the way we approach it."

"I know at Bayern Munich," he added, "like a big club, after three seasons winning absolutely everything apart from the Champions League, [it] was a big failure but what can I say? I accept that. I know that. I have to live with that."

Guardiola said he didn't come to City to win the Champions League, but instead "to see my team play the way we are playing the last 20 months." In that time, City has amassed 183 points in the Premier League, winning the title in record style last season while being on course to retain the trophy this season.

"What's important," Guardiola said, "is how you handle 11 months. That's why I say many times the Premier League is, for me, the most important title. Showing every three days, being there. It's a good message for society, for ourselves. Being there every time." **AP/Oddschecker.com**

WAYNE HENNESSEY

Goalkeeper showed ignorance of fascism, says FA panel



CLEARED by a disciplinary panel of performing a Nazi salute, a Premier League soccer player was still criticized for his lack of knowledge about fascism and Adolf Hitler.

Crystal Palace goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey was described by a Football Association commission as having displayed "a very considerable — one might even say lamentable — degree of ignorance about anything to do with" the Nazi regime.

The 32-year-old Hennessey, who is from Wales, had denied giving a Nazi salute because, the commission said, "he said he did not even know what one was."

"Improbable as that may seem to those of us of an older generation, we do not reject that assertion as untrue," it said. "All we would say (at the risk of sounding patronizing) is that Mr. Hennessey would be well advised to familiarize himself with events which continue to have great significance to those who live in a free country."

A photograph posted on Instagram by Hennessey's teammate at Palace, German midfielder Max Meyer, showed Hennessey with his right arm raised and his left hand under his nose. The photo was taken during a team dinner following Palace's win over Grimsby in the FA Cup in January. **AP**

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opinion

Animal Farm

Albano Martins



CREATIVITY IS LACKING EVERYWHERE

The scarcity of human resources in Macau is an irrefutable fact. No one doubts this, even the most aggressive populist, those guys that always try to ignore the facts that are as clear as daylight.

Of the three traditional factors of production, Macao has no land, has abundant or almost endless financial resources for its small size, and has no manpower to fuel anything, not even the businesses that have only meager staffing requirements.

In any part of the world, this would be considered an explosive combination capable of generating much more inflation than the official numbers reported by the authorities may suggest.

It is necessary to find intelligent solutions for this great and serious problem. The encouragement to solve this bottleneck in the economy and the community in a delicate and intelligent way - whenever such a will can be discerned, and it is not always so - does not seem, however, to interest many local people, convinced that Macao and its economy should be reserved for them.

As non-resident workers are treated here in a rather less generous way so to be simply sympathetic to the locals, the magic formula to solve the lack of manpower is to put in active service again those who should have already been enjoying the company of their grandchildren for some years or enjoying the rest of their lives in a peaceful environment.

That is, we must feed the economy by using and reusing the resources available: the old people! In stark terms, force the elderly to work again, because society does not support them with enough income for the last years of their lives!

And that's what we are seeing already, old people serving tables in restaurants, many already bowed by age, harsh conditions of life and past work: a total lack of solidarity with the older generations, the result of unprecedented selfishness!

The paladins of this magic formula should think about the social and economic implications for society of this decision, one which I find shameful, to have people die working in a land where the Government has full coffers, yet the distribution of income is extremely unequal.

The whole truth is that what many defenders of this formula do not want are for non-resident workers to work on their land - not only foreigners, but even their own nationals!

The Macau concept of patriotism!

Curiously, many of them came from the Mother Land itself, or are directly descended from those who came from mainland China. This is called xenophobia!

Alone, with only locals, this economy would not have multiplied and would not have generated enough jobs for locals. Note that during the Portuguese Administration the unemployment rate was almost six to seven percent!

Our locals are still betting on myopia. Thus, Macau will never be able to compete with any place, not far or near, in this Great Bay, where audacity and intelligence overlap in this incessant struggle for life, for greater productivity and, of course, for competitiveness!

A Portuguese professor in the creative industries, in referring to Portugal, was saying a few days ago that there are capable people and a virtual army reserve behind them waiting for employment in that field. The teacher also mentioned that there are "extraordinary" conditions in Macau to make this a dynamic industry. I am sure of this.

I take the liberty now to confirm that this is true but there is a detail that he probably does not know: Macau is not in the situation to naturally build an industry capable of having any impact on its GDP. The reason is simple, it does not have enough creative local man-power, nor does it allow others to occupy these vacant roles.

There are no statistical data available on the impact of this activity on GDP or GVA, but we would say that it is ridiculously residual. It would not be one thousandth of GDP or GVA!

THE ARETHA FRANKLIN MAKES HISTORY WITH POSTHUMOUS PULITZER WIN

Aretha Franklin is still getting R-E-S-P-E-C-T after death: The Queen of Soul received the Pulitzer Prize Special Citation honor, becoming the first individual woman to earn a special citation prize since the honor was first awarded in 1930.

The Pulitzer board said the award was given to Franklin for "her indelible contribution to American music and culture for more than five decades."

Franklin died on Aug. 16 at her home in Detroit from pancreatic cancer at age 76.

The superstar musician was the first woman inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

The Pulitzer board most recently awarded a special citation prize in 2010 to Hank Williams, the country music legend who died in 1953. From the arts world, other recipients include Duke Ellington, Bob Dylan, John Coltrane, Thelonious Monk, George Gershwin, Ray Bradbury, William Schuman, Milton Babbitt, Scott Joplin, Roger Sessions, Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II.



Attacked newsroom: Pulitzer commemorated with somber silence

Michael Kunzelman, Annapolis (Md.)

CAPITAL Gazette staff members stayed silent and somberly exchanged hugs yesterday [Macao time] when the Maryland newspaper won a special Pulitzer Prize citation for its coverage and courage in the face of a massacre in its newsroom.

Before the announcement, newspaper employees gathered in their newsroom to remember the five staffers who were shot and killed last June in one of the deadliest attacks on journalists in U.S. history.

"It's definitely bittersweet," said reporter Chase Cook. "Since it's so connected to something so tragic, there was no euphoric pop-off of excitement."

The Capital Gazette, based in the Maryland state capital of Annapolis, published on schedule the day after the shooting attack. The man charged in the attack had a longstanding grudge against the newspaper.

Capital Gazette editor Rick Hutzell said the paper had submitted entries in five categories, including a joint entry with The Baltimore Sun for breaking news. Although the Capital Gazette didn't win in any of the five categories, the Pulitzer board awarded the citation with an extraordinary USD100,000 grant to further its journalism.

The Pulitzer board said the citation honors the journalists, staff and editorial board of the newspaper "for their courageous response to the largest killing of journalists in U.S. history in their

newsroom" and for an "unflagging commitment to covering the news and serving their community at a time of unspeakable grief."

Hutzell said he thought the Pulitzer board handled its decision admirably.

"Clearly, there were a lot of mixed feelings," Hutzell said. "No one wants to win an award for something that kills five of your friends."

He also said the paper was aware it would be facing stiff competition.

"It's very difficult when you are reporting in some ways on yourself," he said. "That's not what we do. We're behind the camera, not in front of it."

The Capital Gazette published on schedule the day after the shooting attack

Employees John McNamara, Wendi Winters, Rebecca Smith, Gerald Fischman and Rob Hiaasen were killed in the attack last June 28. The shooting didn't stop other staffers from covering it and putting out a newspaper the next day, with assistance from colleagues at The Baltimore Sun, which is owned by the same company.

Joshua McKerrow, a photographer for the newspaper, said the staff remained "stone silent" for about a minute after learning about

the citation. Capital Gazette reporter Rachael Pacella said the citation provided a "big sense of validation for the staff."

"It's been a challenge returning to work," she said. "It lets you know that the additional stress you've endured going back to work has been worth it and appreciated."

Features reporter Selene San Felice said she had to compose herself in a bathroom before the prizes were announced. She initially wasn't sure how to react to the special citation.

"At first, I thought that meant they just feel bad for us. And that's not true, because there are a lot of people you can feel bad for right now. We've really earned this," she said.

Jarrod Ramos, the man charged in the newsroom shooting, had a history of harassing the newspaper's journalists. He filed a lawsuit against the paper in 2012, alleging he was defamed in an article about his conviction in a criminal harassment case in 2011. The suit was dismissed as groundless.

The rampage last June began with a shotgun blast that shattered the glass entrance to the open newsroom. Journalists crawled under desks and sought other hiding places, describing agonizing minutes of terror as they heard the gunman's footsteps and repeated blasts of the weapon. County police said they captured Ramos hiding under a desk. Authorities say he did not exchange fire with police.

Ramos' trial is scheduled to start in November. **AP**

Station	Air quality
Roadside	45-65 Good
High Density Residential Area	40-60 Good
Ambient	45-65 Good

WORLD BRIEFS

PHILIPPINES Police arrested four women they said were wives of Abu Sayyaf commanders who took care of their financial transactions, helped procure guns and bomb parts and arranged the travels of foreign militants to the country.

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INDIA Beleaguered airline Jet Airways' stock fell sharply yesterday after its former chairman reportedly withdrew plans to bid for a controlling stake in the company and its flight operations might be temporarily halted. Naresh Goyal, who founded Jet Airways in 1992 and saw it soar to become India's largest airline, abandoned plans to bid for a controlling stake.



COLUMBINE Twenty years after the Columbine High School shooting made practicing for armed intruders as routine as fire drills, many parents have only tepid confidence in the ability of schools to stop a gunman, according to a new poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.



DAVID BRION DAVIS, a Pulitzer Prize-winning historian who documented the centrality of slavery in Western culture through a landmark trilogy that made him among the world's most respected and influential scholars, has died. Davis, a professor emeritus at Yale University (pictured), died over the weekend at age 92. Yale announced that he died of natural causes.