



LABOR DAY BROUGHT MORE PEOPLE THAN BUSINESS

A government survey revealed the May 1 holiday period brought more visitors to local businesses, but not more money

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ROAD DESIGN NEEDS WORK

After two near-fatal road accidents over the weekend, several organizations are calling for a review of local road designs

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CANTONESE CUISINE TO FIGHT POVERTY

P8 GREATER BAY



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WORLD BRIEFS



HONG KONG Former Philippine Supreme Court justice Conchita Carpio-Morales, who accused President Xi Jinping of crimes against humanity before the International Criminal Court, said she was barred for hours yesterday from entering Hong Kong. [More on p11](#)

BELT & ROAD India, Japan and Sri Lanka are weighing the development of a terminal at the bustling port of Colombo in a country that's seen ongoing political controversies related to investments from China's Belt and Road initiative. [More on p10](#)



NEW ZEALAND Crews in New Zealand yesterday reentered an underground coal mine where a methane explosion killed 29 workers more than eight years ago, raising hopes among family members that they might find bodies and new evidence that leads to criminal charges.

NEPAL Nine people in two families were slain by masked assailants in their homes at night in a remote mountain village in Nepal. Government administrator Murari Wasti said the bodies were found yesterday morning by neighbors. A 12-year-old girl survived with injuries.

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MICE UPDATE

Macau absent in 2018 'Top Meeting Hotels'

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LYNZY VALLES



G2E ASIA

No consensus on what Japan gaming will mean for Macau

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'Top Meeting Hotels' 2018 list revealed, Macau nowhere to be found

Renato Marques

U.S.-based meetings, events, and hospitality technology provider Cvent yesterday released its annual list of "Top Meeting Hotels" for meetings and events worldwide, ranking the top meeting locations of the previous year, according to data provided by activity on the company's Supplier Network. According to information provided by the company in the report, to get the final results, the company makes use of data collected from over 42 million nights sourced through their network in 2018, as well as on hotel groups' business performance according to criteria such as events held and the total number of requests for proposals (RFPs), among others.

After compiling the information and ranking by region, the Cvent report ranks the Top Meeting Ho-

tels in the United States, Europe, Middle East and Africa, and Asia Pacific.

In the Asia Pacific, Hyatt Regency Sydney retained its number one position as the Top Meeting Hotel in 2017 and 2018.

Five new properties also made their way into the Top 10, including Grand Hyatt Singapore (second), Grand Hyatt Seoul (third) and Grand Hyatt Hong Kong (fourth). Two other entries were from Japan's ANA InterContinental Tokyo (ninth) and Marina Bay Sands Singapore (10th).

In Cvent's list of the Top 50 best-performing hotels for meetings, there are 15 new entrants, including Bangkok Marriott Marquis Queen's Park, Millennium Seoul Hilton, Sofitel Sydney Darling Harbour, Parkroyal Darling Harbour - Sydney, Resorts World Sentosa - Singapore, and Grand Hyatt Tokyo, among others.

The results also show that the Hilton and Hyatt hotel chains are the groups most represented in the Top 50, with a total of five properties listed each.

While neither Macau nor mainland China hotels are featured, the neighboring region of Hong Kong has five hotel units in the top 5, including the previously mentioned and top-rated Grand Hyatt, JW Marriot Hotel (27th), InterContinental Hong Kong (31st), Kerry Hotel (45th) and Renaissance Hong Kong Harbour (49th). Both Japan and Thailand also had five hotels in the list.

The final list is, in fact, dominated by Australian hotels which occupy 13 of the 50 positions, followed closely by Singapore with a total of 12 properties listed.

Hotels from South Korea, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Indonesia complete the list.

MGTO head expects tourist tax study to be concluded this year

THE ongoing survey to study a tourist tax is only one of the three ways the tourism bureau can assess the feasibility of imposing a tourist tax, said Helena de Sena Fernandes, director of the Macao Government Tourism Bureau.

Speaking on the sidelines of the opening ceremony of G2E Asia, the official explained that the bureau expects to receive data every day following its launch on Monday.

"I aim to finish the research process within a year. We have a lot of work to do in collecting data online. I don't have a clear timetable, but I expect it will be concluded within this year," Fernandes told the press.

The website targets lo-



cal residents, while the bureau conducts data collection at immigration checkpoints and sends questionnaires to industry workers for more comprehensive data.

The public consultation will be held for a month

and will be submitted to government departments for a joint study on the feasibility of the tax.

The tourism chief noted that the bureau had conducted some preliminary research before holding the official survey.

G2E ASIA

Daisy Ho: over-tourism

LYNZY VALLES



Lynzy Valles

IT is impossible for the Macau SAR not to face over-tourism due to the region's limited land area, stated Daisy Ho, chairman and executive director of SJM Holdings Ltd, at the opening of G2E Asia yesterday.

Speaking on "Asian markets perspectives:

opportunities and threats," the executive saw a significant number of growing opportunities for the region, citing the improvement of the city's infrastructure.

Ho, who replaced her father Stanley Ho as chairman of the flagship casino company, called for over-tourism to be avoided and moving the customer base up-market, adding that

the SAR should increase its lodging capacity to accommodate the increasing number of visitors.

Ho said over-tourism remains a growing challenge for the city, recalling that the 40 million tourists expected this year was previously considered the city's former maximum carrying capacity.

The chairman of the gaming operator also cal-

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Times

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an inevitable challenge



led on the region to continually enhance its local infrastructure, add more non-gaming attractions and develop local human resources to keep up with leadership opportunities.

Meanwhile, Ho stressed that the Greater Bay Area development plan required “critical growth” in education and training to prepare for future human resource needs.

“If Macau’s hospitality industry adequately meets this challenge and [...] the Greater Bay Area [project] is globalized, there will be greater opportunities for Macau,” said Ho.

Ho added that the integration with the national development plan, the liberalization of a multi-cultural trade and greater connectivity “promises significant long-term opportunities.”

“It is time to seize them and

move ahead,” said Ho.

“It is certain that SJM and STDM [Sociedade de Turismo e Diversões de Macau] will lead the challenge,” she assured.

Ho also presented the offerings of the Grand Lisboa Palace, which is currently under-construction and set to boost the city’s hotel rooms to a total of 42,000.

Meanwhile, the 13th Global Gaming Expo Asia kicked off with nearly 200 exhibitors.

The annual exhibition expects to welcome some 18,000 visitors from major gaming operators around the globe.

Today’s conference will highlight the effects of technology on the customer experience landscape, including how to develop unified analytics platforms to improve the customer experience.

The Financial Technology Fo-

rum will also present technological developments in digital payments and financial security, as well as blockchain and gaming technology.

Yesterday also marked the opening of the first ArtBiz Forum, which focuses on the importance of art and culture in the development of integrated resorts and its impact on various travel destinations in Asia.

The focus of the forum was on the role of art in integrated resort development, inviting architect Carlos Marreiros and artist Konstantin Bessmertny.

The forum will also cover the range of art business matters, focusing on art tourism, public art, art investment and collection, commercial space with art elements and the creative development of various platforms of the art industry, amongst other topics.

No consensus on what Japan gaming means for Macau

Daniel Beittler

The potential of Japan once again featured heavily at this year’s Global Gaming Expo (G2E) Asia, which yesterday held back-to-back sessions on the long-anticipated but still-untapped market.

The consensus: there is still no consensus on what Japan gaming will mean for Macau.

It has taken two decades for Japan to arrive at a place where integrated resorts are a matter of when and not if - and yet there is still a long way to go. The slow pace of development contrasts with that of Singapore, another highly regulated market and likely model for Japan, where the integrated resort concept began in 2002. Eight years later, Marina Bay Sands and Resorts World Sentosa both opened to the public.

Integrated resorts are seen as an integral component of Japan’s tourism objective: to double the number of annual visitors to 60 million by 2030.

The three integrated resorts will likely find homes in or nearby major cities, such as Osaka or Tokyo, because it is precisely these locations that have the infrastructure to support such projects. These cities are also reassuring ‘safe bets’ for license bidders faced with multi-billion-dollar investments and, as Koji Ishikawa of Greenberg Traurig Tokyo Law Offices described yesterday, a hefty “gaming tax of 30 percent [that] is not going to be very popular with foreign casino operators.”

The debate on whether to treat Japanese casinos as a threat to the Macau market has long burned in the Special Administrative Region. It was a topic touched upon again during yesterday’s back-to-back panel sessions.

Although no single Asian gambling destination is thought capable of siphoning away Macau’s 300-billion-pataca gaming market, there are concerns about the role certain jurisdictions could play in chipping away at the SAR’s core segments. For example, Japan might exert pressure by presenting itself as a viable mass market alternative for the gambler who wants more than a casino vacation, while discreet

Cambodian properties might offer VIP high-rollers more of the privacy they are said to crave.

For Niall Murray, Chairman of Murray International Group, “the impact of Japan casinos on the mass market in Macau will be negligible.”

He said during yesterday’s panel that Macau enjoys a special relationship with the mainland that makes the city an attractive destination for Chinese tourists.

But Chinese visitors to Japan are growing. Official figures show the number of Chinese tourists has increased four-fold from 1.4 million in 2012 to 7.4 million in 2017, overtaking South Korea as the biggest source market. Last year, they numbered more than 8.3 million.

David Bonnet, a former casino executive who held senior roles at Sands China, Galaxy Entertainment Group and The 13 Holdings said that this visitor market will be key to the success of the integrated resort model in Japan.

“In order for these Japanese integrated resorts to be successful, they are going to need to attract the Chinese customer,” he said, citing the various restrictions expected to be implemented on the domestic market. That will be necessary to justify the USD5 billion or more investment, he said.

“These Chinese customers could be VIP, or mass or premium mass – these are all things we need to consider. But the Chinese customer is going to be critical for Japanese integrated resorts, in addition to Japanese gamblers.”

Japan may also find specialization and success in the meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibition (MICE) space; an area coveted in recent years by the Macau government.

“MICE is going to be a very important component in the Japanese integrated resort model,” said Ayako Nakayama, Representative Director at the Japan IR Association, which organizes sessions with Japanese Diet members and officials from the national government. “Singapore is number one in Asia right now for MICE, but there is potential to develop Japan into a world-class location for these activities.”

Survey finds labor day brought more people than business

RENATO MARQUES



Renato Marques

A survey conducted by the Economic Bureau (DSE) has revealed that although the May 1 (Labor Day) holiday period brought more visitors to local businesses, they did not necessarily spend more. The survey interviewed a total of

1,562 commercial establishments.

The conclusion can be reached from analysis of the survey results, published by the DSE, in which 48% of the respondents found that their business remained the same this year, despite the sharp increase in the number of visitors.

Another 37% of those surveyed noted their business had registered growth, which according to the DSE report, was by an average of 27%. Meanwhile, only 15% of the respondents had recorded a decline to their business.

Greater consensus was found in how the survey respon-

dents viewed the number of visitors. Some 45% of those surveyed agreed that there were more people this year, followed by another 42% that said the number was similar to previous years. Only 13% contradicted the general tendency saying that they felt that was a reduction in the number of visitors to their business.

Official data shows visitor arrivals increased 37% year-on-year during the Labor Day holiday weekend this year.

According to the report from the DSE, the sites surveyed included the northern district, the area of Avenida de Horta e Costa, the central area, Rua da Praia do Manduco, ZAPE, Taipa, and hotels and shops located in Cotai. The Bureau noted that businesses in the food and beverage, retail, clothing and shoes, cosmetic and hygiene products, leather goods, electronic products, and jewelry sectors registered the highest positive responses.

The Times previously reported that per-capita spending declined 11% year-on-year in the fourth quarter of 2018, led by a fall in the spending of same-day visitors, even as the quarter saw a 13.8 percent increase in the number of visitors.

Consumer prices rise 2.77% in April

THE Composite Consumer Price Index (CPI) for April 2019 has increased 2.77% year-on-year to reach 115.14, according to the latest information from the Statistics and Census Service, which attributed the rise to dearer charges for eating out, higher rent for dwellings, as well as the rising prices of motor vehicles, gasoline, and fruits and vegetables.

A key indicator of inflation, the Composite CPI, reflects the impact of price changes on households in Macau.

Among the various sections of goods and services, the price indexes of education and transport grew notably by 5.89% and 4.74% respectively year-on-year, whereas the index for communication dropped 0.76% and that for alcoholic beverages and tobacco fell 0.4%.

For the 12 months prior to April 2019, the average Composite CPI rose by 3.09% from the previous period, with notable growth in the price indexes of clothing and footwear (+5.77%), transport (+5.66%) and education (+5.33%).

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CRIME

Bus driver arrested after smuggling bird's nest

Renato Marques

GONGBEI customs authorities have reportedly made a record seizure of bird's nest. Yesterday, during an inspection of a bus entering Zhuhai through the Guangdong-Macau express lane of the checkpoint, authorities found a total of 31 kilograms of the product in several hidden compartments of the bus, including the dashboard, TDM reported.

According to available information, the driver was responsible for the failed attempt to smuggle the product into the mainland, concealing several boxes of the delicacy inside the bus.

Initially, authorities only found a small amount hidden in a compartment of the dashboard. However, during questioning, the driver failed to convince



authorities that this was the only product hidden in the vehicle.

A further search of the entire vehicle found a total of 40 boxes of the product, plus another five bags, weighing about 31 kilograms in total.

At this point it is not clear

what the destination of the product was, but Chinese authorities suspect the driver was preparing to resell the bird's nest at a higher price after arriving in mainland China.

The police authorities stated that after this preliminary assessment, they

transferred the driver to the smuggling investigation department where the investigation will continue.

Edible bird's nests are created by swiftlets, using solidified saliva, which are then harvested for human consumption. They are particularly prized in Chinese culture due to their rarity and supposedly high nutritional value and cosmetic properties, particularly for skin. They are among the most expensive animal products consumed by humans, with nests being sold at prices up to about MOP53,400 per kilo, depending on the product quality grading.

Although the quality and type of the seized product has not yet been determined, authorities believe that the seizure may be worth over MOP1 million.

50-meter tall building planned for Ilha Verde

The Urban Planning Council will discuss 21 draft plans tomorrow, including plans for a piece of land adjacent to Ilha Verde Hill. The land is 6,700 square meters in size and contains a military pillbox, the heritage value of which is debatable, even though the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) has suggested conserving it. The suggestion has been accepted by the council. However, 50 meters has been deemed the maximum height allowed for construction. Opposing comments found this to be too high compared to the peak of the hill, which is 54.5 meters. Construction will also affect the connection between the pillbox and other military heritage sites located on the hill. The draft plan was submitted to the Council before the implementation of the Cultural Heritage Law.

Police sweep Cotai three consecutive nights

The Public Security Police Force (PSP) and the Judiciary Police (PJ) have swept various districts three nights in a row, with the former in charge of the first night and the latter the other two. The sweep aimed to clear potential crimes following the assault on Saturday that left one man dead and three wounded in Cotai. The PSP swept establishments on Saturday and brought back 121 people for further investigation. On Sunday night, the PJ swept Cotai and detained 19 men, 11 of whom were involved in illegal money exchange. The PJ's Monday night sweep found a further 56 people involved in illegal money exchange.

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DANIEL BEITLER



Roads need improvement, say local associations

Staff reporter

AFTER two near-fatal road accidents at two different road crossing facilities occurred on Sunday, leaving a 90-year-old and a teenager severely injured, several organizations have urged the government to review local road designs.

Speaking on his own behalf, Ku Man Tat, a member of the Transport Consultative Council, said that pedestrians crossing Avenida do Colonel Mesquita from Dom Bosco Soccer Field may easily have their view blocked by large buses in the left lane. Motorcycles are able to squeeze between vehicles, causing accidents.

Ku also thought the arrange-

ment of local zebra crossings had not kept up with the city's development.

The Women's Union also commented, saying they considered the avenue to be overburdened already. They urged the government to divert traffic to other roads, noting that traffic flow is expected to increase further with the opening of the Xian Xin Hai Museum in the future.

The Macau Institution of Engineers, on the other hand, told a seminar that zebra crossings had been set too close to each other and suggested more traffic lights be added to ease the flow of traffic.

Meanwhile, in neighboring Hong Kong, the Road Safety Cou-

ncil is in charge of road-related issues such as road designs and the layout of traffic signals. The council's job description includes "site investigation and improvements," as stated on its website.

Authorities are required to survey and improve the design of roads to better protect both drivers and pedestrians. Hong Kong authorities also investigate the effect of road design on accidents whenever one occurs.

The Public Security Police has pressed charges against the two drivers involved in separate accidents on Sunday. Police told the media that they had determined the accidents' sequence of events using footage obtained from nearby surveillance cameras.

Journalist João Fernandes dies aged 81

VETERAN journalist João Fernandes has died from an illness aged 81 in Lisbon, according to family sources quoted by Radio Macau yesterday.

Fernandes was the founder and editor of Jornal de Macau, a popular Portuguese daily in the 1980s and '90s. Born in Lisbon, Fernandes had a long career in Angola, Brazil and Portugal before moving to Macau.

Fernandes worked at O Comercio de Luanda and Noticia magazine. After 1974 he went on to work in Brazil, at Estado de São Paulo.

He then returned to Lisbon in 1976, where he was managing editor at O Dia and wrote a regular column for the right-wing newspaper O Diabo. At one point he briefly served as adjunct to a minister in the Lisbon Government.

After moving to Macau in 1982, he founded and edited the Jornal de Macau. The evening daily was popular for its coverage of news from Portugal, but mostly for Fernandes'



short, witty editorials on the front page, which became known as "O quadrado," the little square. A collection of his editorials was published in 1996 in Livros do Oriente.

In 1998, Jornal de Macau joined weekly Tribuna de Macau to become Jornal Tribuna de Macau, which is one of the three Portuguese dailies published in Macau today.

Fernandes was a member of the Consultative Council during the last decade of the Portuguese Administration until 1999, when he retired and moved to Portugal. **PC**

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“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”

China prepares for typhoons in Pearl River valley

Flood control authorities warn that the Pearl River valley will face tough flood, drought and typhoon conditions this year. Precipitation along the drainage area of the Pearl River, the second-largest river in China in terms of run-off volume, is higher than the previous yearly average, said Shu Qingpeng, director of the Pearl River Water Conservancy Commission of the Ministry of Water Resources, at a meeting. The El Niño effect is likely to continue, he said, adding that parts of the area are likely to see a concurrence of drought and floods. Chen Wu, commander-in-chief of flood control authorities along the Pearl River, ordered local authorities to prepare for the drought period and ensure a safe supply of water in the Greater Bay Area.

Guangdong to fully open aged care market

Guangdong province has abolished an old regulation on the market access of aged care institutions to boost the development of the industry, local civil affairs authorities said on Monday. A registration and filing system will be put into practice to replace the old license system, which has been implemented since December 20, 2014, to lower the threshold for setting up aged care institutions. Social sectors are encouraged to participate in the industry. China saw improvements in its aged care system, with 163,800 aged care institutions and facilities offering 7.46 million beds for senior citizens as of the end of 2018. A raft of measures are being taken to accelerate the development of the aged care service industry, including fully opening the aged care market by 2020.

China int'l cultural fair concludes

The 15th China (Shenzhen) International Cultural Industries Fair concluded Monday in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen, showing a higher level of internationalization, organizers say. The fair attracted 22,167 overseas business people from 103 countries and regions, including exhibitors and buyers, according to the organizing committee. Consisting of nine pavilions, the main display venue covered 105,000 square meters, 23.5 percent of which was for overseas exhibitors. The five-day event showcased China's cultural development, progress in advancing Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau cultural integration and innovation, integrated media development, and innovations and creative designs. The event attracted more than seven million visitors as of Sunday, with the number of visitors to the main venue increasing over 10 percent from last year.

GASTRONOMY

Cantonese cuisine fires up poverty alleviation opportunities



Trainees from Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture of Sichuan Province learn to cook at Shunde Culinary Institute in Shunde, south China's Guangdong Province

DIM sum, boiled shrimp, roast goose, bite-sized wontons and steamed spare ribs with pickled plums are all staples of Cantonese cuisine, one of the four major Chinese cuisines. A variety of seemingly simple methods have been used to keep the natural flavors of the ingredients for hundreds of years.

The culinary style is now experiencing a renaissance as Guangdong province steps up efforts to promote Cantonese cuisine training to boost employment and fight poverty.

Guangdong started the Cantonese cuisine training program in 2018. This year, the province will invest more than 20.8 billion yuan to help unemployed people find jobs, with priority given to the cooking program, according to a meeting on the province's human resources and social security.

Guangdong province signed cooperation agreements with Tibet, Guangxi Zhuang, Xinjiang Uygur autonomous regions, and Sichuan, Guizhou, and Yunnan province to train more Cantonese cuisine chefs as part of the pairing-off arrangement for poverty relief.

"Programs like this drive big change," said Yang Hongshan, deputy head of the provincial human resources and social security department. "In the exquisite Cantonese dishes, we can also taste the sweet benefits of poverty alleviation."

A NEW VOCATION

Lei Kalin, aged 46, had been working outside his hometown for nearly 20 years. But he decided to return to his hometown of Wangtong Village in the city of Xinyi when he heard about the Cantonese cuisine chef training class last year.

He soon mastered over 100 Cantonese dishes and 10 local specialties after a one-month course, and with the confidence gained and some of his savings, he bought a share in a local restaurant.

Lei is not alone. Local farmers and laid-off workers are actively participating in the training, said Li Ge, head of the city's human resources and social security bureau.

"Those who are registered as living below the poverty line also receive subsidies for food, housing and transportation," Li said. "After the training,

qualified students will receive certificates with which they will be able to find jobs with a salary of 4,000 to 5,000 yuan per month, 1,000 to 2,000 yuan higher than what they earned in the past."

So far, 147 vocational schools have opened Cantonese cuisine courses in Guangdong province, with 56,000 current students. The course has been taken around 15,000 times over the past year.

With start-up subsidies and loans, some have also opened restaurants and started businesses of their own.

THE POWER OF COOKING

Shunde District in the city of Foshan, which is well-known for good food and chefs, is one of the most popular destinations for Cantonese cuisine.

A total of 103 young trainees from three poverty-stricken counties in southwest China's Sichuan Province - Meigu, Leibo and Jinyang - came to Shunde this year, hoping to step out of poverty and change their lives.

Dressed in a white uniform and a tall chef's hat, Mahai

Yangzi gets excited when talking about her dream of becoming a chef, despite it taking her more than 30 hours by bus to get here. "In my hometown, there aren't many female chefs because people think we are too weak to lift iron pots. But I want to learn how to cook and become a chef to give my family a better life," the 25-year-old woman said, according to Xinhua.

Mahai and her classmates will receive free cooking lessons for two months at the Shunde Culinary Institute and will have access to restaurant internships organized by the institute. After training, they can choose to work in Shunde or return to their hometown, according to Gan Muyi, a senior official with the institute.

"Taught by masters in Shunde, the students will not only learn how to cook traditional Cantonese dishes such as stir-fried milk and stuffed mud carp, but also innovative techniques combining Cantonese cuisine with Sichuan flavor, which is spicy, helping them become more competitive when going back to Sichuan," Gan said. **DB/Xinhua**

For many wealthy Brazilians, Portugal is becoming the new Miami

BRAZILIAN entrepreneur Ricardo Bellino knows a good deal when he sees one. So after more than a decade living in Miami, he decided to move across the Atlantic to Portugal, where a booming real estate market and tax breaks are attracting a growing number of wealthy Brazilians.

The 53-year-old multimillionaire, who made his fortune in the modeling business, bought a home last year in an exclusive resort on a hill near Lisbon, where he is planning his next business ventures. In Portugal, Bellino will benefit from a flat income-tax rate of 20% and may be entitled to a tax-free pension when he retires.

"It was a chance to live in a tax haven that isn't an island in the Caribbean," said Bellino, whose grandfather was Portuguese. "We're in Europe, in a country that has been going through a revival over the last few years."

Portugal introduced the tax incentives a decade ago in a bid to attract wealthy foreigners to the southern European country. In 2012, a year after seeking an international bailout, the nation of 10 million began offering resident permits to non-Europeans who bought real estate worth more than 500,000 euros (USD560,000).

Portugal's incentives for wealthy immigrants contrast with U.S. President Donald Trump's efforts to limit immigration, though last week, he proposed a "merit-based" system intended to favor immigrants with special skills.

In Portugal, a tourism and property boom followed the immigration incentives and helped the economy post its strongest growth in almost two decades in 2017. It also led to a backlash among Portuguese who saw themselves priced out



of the housing market as the new demand pushed up values.

The French, who have one of the highest tax burdens among 34 developed countries, were the biggest foreign homebuyers in Portugal in 2017, accounting for 29% of foreign property investment, according to Portugal's Real Estate Professionals and Brokers Association. Brazilians, whose language is Portuguese, came second, with 19% of total foreign investment, followed by the British, with 11%, and Chinese buyers, with 9%.

Brazilians are catching up fast and are already the biggest foreign property investors in the capital Lisbon in the south and Porto in the north.

COLONIAL MASTER

While immigration between Brazil and Portugal, its former colonial master, has flowed back and forth in line with economic booms and busts, wealthy Brazilians have for decades favored young, hip, international Miami, viewing Portugal as a melancholic nation, nostalgic for its glorious past. That characterization can be seen in the Portuguese love of fado, a national musical genre full of loss and sadness that contrasts sharply with the livelier African-influenced Brazilian samba.

"I first came to Portugal in the 1970s and was struck by how much poverty there was," said Claudio Madureira, a 70-year-old Brazilian pensioner who

moved to Portugal last year after shutting down his construction company. "My memories of Portugal were like images on a black-and-white television screen."

PRICED OUT OF THE MARKET

All that began to change after Portugal completed its international bailout program in 2014 and a tourism and a real estate boom transformed entire cities with boutique hotels, Michelin-starred restaurants and luxury apartments and stores that cater to foreigners. The tax incentives and the perception of Portugal as a safe place - it ranked fourth in the 2018 Global Peace Index - were the cherry on the cake for many Brazilians.

For many locals who complain they're getting priced out of a property market that goes out of its way to lure foreigners, that's a cause for concern. Median home prices in Lisbon rose 23.5% in 2018 to reach an average of 3,010 euros per square meter, while the net average monthly wage of Portuguese workers increased 3.7% to 888 euros, according to the National Statistics Institute.

"It's very sad," said Isabel Sa da Bandeira, who heads a Lisbon-based organization called People Live Here aimed at reminding authorities about the remaining residents in the capital. "Prices are out of control. Even people with jobs can't afford to live in the city." MDT/Bloomberg

corporate bits

GRAND COLOANE TO HOLD GREEN FAIR IN JUNE



Grand Coloane Resort is set to bring "Boa Vida All Things Green Fun Fair" in collaboration with Macao Green Environmental Protection Association on June 2.

The fair will feature some 30 booths including a selection of eco-friendly products, workshops and games with the overall aim to raise awareness of the importance of

protecting the environment by reducing waste.

According to a statement issued by the hotel, the fair market is an extension of a series of Boa Vida activities varying from culture to wine & dine, and wellness to artistry.

Alongside the event that will commence at 11 a.m., the fair will also offer an afternoon tea picnic basket where people and families can enjoy picnic time at the resort's garden lawn.

"Boa Vida" translates to "good life, good living" in Portuguese; and is a concept that has been advocated by Grand Coloane Resort and Grand Lapa Hotel through a series of activities and events.

FOUR SEASONS HOTEL LAUNCHES SUMMER OFFERINGS



The Spa at Four Seasons Hotel is introducing a series of promotions this summer including the "Bubble Pure Air by Natura Bisse," that will be

offered between May 30 and June 30. Designed to pair with some of Natura Bisse's most popular facials to maximize results, the Bubble

Pure Air emits 99.95% purified air that fills the dome, according to a statement.

On June 15, the integrated resort will hold a night of Brazilian Summer Festa together with Casa do Brasil em Macau to bring a night of carnival-like party. Meanwhile, Four Seasons Macao is proud to be the first hotel in Macau to offer a menu with 50% of plant-based options, at its lounge and restaurant, Windows. The hotel also partnered with local green eatery and Kombucha brewery Blissful Carrot, developing an exclusive blend of flavors, available at Splash and Windows.

Beijing faces new competition as Japan, India eye Sri Lanka port

Jon Herskovitz & Iain Marlow

INDIA, Japan and Sri Lanka are weighing the development of a terminal at the bustling port of Colombo in a country that's seen ongoing political controversies related to investments from China's Belt and Road initiative.

The three countries are set to sign a memorandum of understanding in the coming months to build out the east container terminal at the Port of Colombo, according to an Indian government official who asked not to be identified, citing rules.

India and Japan will seek private sector investment and a terminal operator after the framework agreement is signed, with India likely providing easy credit, the Indian official said. Sri Lanka will control 51% of the project with India and Japan jointly controlling the other 49%, this person said. Unlike the Chinese-owned Hambantota port in southern Sri Lanka - which has been heavily criticized - the Colombo port project is a commercially viable venture, though it should not be viewed as a counter to China's Belt and Road, they said.

Japan has supported the Port of Colombo's development since the 1980s in recognition of the importance of a free and open In-



do-Pacific, said Natsuko Sakata, a spokeswoman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. "Nothing has been decided at this moment on any policy of our new assistance regarding the port of Colombo," she said in a statement sent by email.

Japan has also pushed its plans to be a bigger player in the region under its "Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy."

A Sri Lanka government official, who asked not to be named citing rules, said the deal with India and Japan would soon be finalized. Japan would provide a 40-year Yen loan with a 10-year

grace period, with Sri Lanka holding 51% and Japan and India jointly holding 49%.

Two months ago Sri Lanka's Port Minister Sagala Ratnayaka told parliament the Ports Authority was procuring cranes from Japan for the Colombo port's east terminal. The country was seeking to "attract more shipping lines, especially shipping lines which operate the largest ships in the industry," he said, noting at the time India was a possible partner. Sri Lanka previously tried to court Indian investment in Hambantota's empty airport.

The move reflects India's new

openness to cooperate with Japan, the U.S. and other Indo-Pacific powers in its immediate neighborhood, said Constantino Xavier, a foreign policy fellow at Brookings India. "China's Belt and Road Initiative investments in South Asia and the Indian Ocean region have forced Delhi to be more proactive in offering reliable alternatives to Beijing's rising economic clout."

CHINESE INVESTMENT

Sri Lanka has been one of the countries drawn to China's Belt and Road Initiative, an ambitious plan announced in 2013

by President Xi Jinping to build an estimated USD1 trillion of infrastructure to support increased trade and economic ties and further China's interests around the globe. However, China's politically controversial investments in Sri Lanka became an election issue in 2015 and fueled infighting between politicians in the capital.

One project in the country includes Port City Colombo being built by China Communications Construction Co., or CCCC. The plan envisions a financial district - pitched as a new hub between Singapore and Dubai - with a marina, a hospital, shopping malls, and 21,000 apartments and homes.

State-owned CCCC, one of the world's largest companies with annual revenue greater than Procter & Gamble Co. or FedEx Corp., says its portfolio of 700 projects in more than 100 countries outside China has a value of more than \$100 billion. It is also one of the most vexed. CCCC and its subsidiaries have left a trail of controversy in many of the countries where they operate, with many of its projects criticized as debt traps.

The nine-year-old Hambantota port in southern Sri Lanka - with almost no container traffic and trampled fences that elephants traverse with ease - has become a prime example of what can go wrong for countries involved in Belt and Road. Sri Lanka borrowed heavily to build the port, couldn't repay the loans, and then gave China a 99-year lease for debt relief. **Bloomberg**

Jack Ma is selling cancer coverage for pennies a month

PING An Insurance (Group) Co. employed about 1.4 million people to peddle policies last year. Yet it's Jack Ma's newest online disruptor that is stealing the show - with 50 workers and visions of serving 300 million customers.

Ma's Ant Financial conglomerate launched health-care-coverage product Xiang Hu Bao in October and already has about 65 million clients. They pay small monthly fees that are pooled to help cover treatment costs for members stricken by diseases such as cancer, Alzheimer's and even Ebola.

"No insurance company would service a customer base of this size," Yin Ming, a vice president for Ant Financial who oversees Xiang Hu Bao, said in an interview. "They wouldn't attempt it."

Call it crowdfunding for

health care - an emerging industry in China that itself is becoming crowded. Ant Financial is one of at least 50 companies, including ride hailing giant Didi Chuxing and a startup backed by Tencent Holdings Ltd., upending the conventional health-insurance business by creating what essentially are online collectives.

It's a unique business model that probably only can be pulled off in China. The country's leapfrog into the smartphone age means more than 700 million people can sign up, make monthly payments and even upload medical documents and bills with just a few clicks.

The pervasive use of apps in China also means people are more accustomed to giving internet juggernauts - with their emporiums of gaming, shopping and banking

services - access to the most private aspects of their lives.

The companies generate revenue by keeping a percentage of every payout. Typically, that's 8%.

Technology-enabled insurance, which includes everything from policies sold online to wearable device-linked insurance coverage, could generate premiums of \$174 billion by 2020, according to a report by research consultant Oliver Wyman on what it calls "Insuretech."

"In China, an underdeveloped insurance market enjoying double-digit growth, the disruptions triggered by Insuretech are causing an insurance industry revolution," the report said.

China's conventional insurance industry is a fledgling one. The country only started rebuilding the sector in the 1970s,

initially through state insurer People's Insurance Co. (Group) of China Ltd., according to a report by Swiss Re. Thanks to rising incomes and a growing awareness of health care, China is set to become the world's largest insurance market by the mid 2030s, Swiss Re estimates.

Yang Jinzhu, who owns a beauty spa in Chengdu, needed just four taps on her smartphone to join Xiang Hu Bao.

"It's not too expensive and it was so easy to sign up, so I thought: Why not?" said Yang, 40, who also spends about 1,000 yuan a month on commercial insurance. She then persuaded eight other people - including family members -- to do the same.

What gives the upstarts an advantage is their relatively low dependence on human beings. State-



backed insurers such as China Life Insurance Co. and PICC rely heavily on employees to sell policies, examine claims and disburse payments.

By comparison, Ant Financial only has about 50 people working on Xiang Hu Bao, which means "mutual protection." In addition to its ubiquitous payments app, Ant Financial's artificial-intelligence software is getting better at recognizing claims and medical records after going through tens of millions of receipts. It can also automatically verify chops from more than 10,000 hospitals in China.

"When we realized that we might service hundreds of thousands, if not millions of users, we knew it couldn't all be done manually, and we needed to rely on technology," Yin said.

Ant Financial envisions having 300 million members within two years - the equivalent of one in every five people in China. The demand for health care should be strong as the population ages, the rates of critical illnesses soar and people earning higher incomes seek better quality treatments. **Bloomberg**



Huawei: US controls have 'no impact,' talking to Google

Joe McDonald, Beijing

THE founder of Huawei expressed confidence Washington's curbs on sales to the Chinese tech giant will have little impact and said yesterday it is discussing "emergency relief" from Google for possible loss of services for its smartphone business. Huawei Technologies Ltd., the biggest maker of network gear for phone carriers, has "supply backups" if it loses access to American components, Ren Zhengfei told Chinese reporters. His comments were broadcast by state TV and other outlets.

The Trump administration's order last week steps up pressure on Huawei, which Washington says is a security risk, and threatens to hamper sales of network gear and other products. Huawei is the No. 2 global smartphone brand but relies on Google's Android operating

system and U.S. components suppliers.

China's government repeated its promise to defend Chinese companies abroad but gave no details of what Beijing might do.

American officials say Huawei and other Chinese telecom equipment vendors are a risk because they beholden to the ruling Communist Party. Huawei denies accusations it facilitates Chinese spying.

The U.S. controls "will have no impact within this company" and none on development of next-generation telecom technology, Ren said. He said some low-end business might be affected.

Huawei has developed its own chips for some smartphones and other products but relies on American suppliers for its most advanced components.

Huawei and Google are discussing possible "emergency relief measures" for its smartphone business, which might lose

access to some of the American company's services, Ren said. He gave no details.

Google, a unit of Alphabet Inc., said Monday its basic services still will work on Huawei smartphones, which use its Android operating system.

Google gave no details of what services might be curtailed. But the company would be barred from transferring hardware or software directly to Huawei. That would affect maps or other services that require the American company's support.

Huawei trails only Samsung of South Korea in global smartphone sales. Industry analysts say it might struggle to compete if it cannot line up replacements for Google services that run afoul of the U.S. curbs.

"I should say this impact will be very big, but Google is an extremely good company," Ren said. "We are discussing emergency relief measures."

A foreign ministry spokesman accused Washington of misusing "state power" to hurt foreign companies and interfere in commercial markets.

"The Chinese government has determination and ability to safeguard its legitimate and lawful rights and interests," said the spokesman, Lu Kang.

China's government repeated its promise to defend Chinese companies abroad but gave no details of what Beijing might do

Apple Inc., Huawei's main American rival in smartphones, makes a prominent potential target for Beijing. The company's iPhones are assembled in China and the country is its No. 2 market after the United States.

Attacking Apple might be politically awkward for Chinese leaders who have accused Washington of mistreating Huawei. Business groups say Chinese officials are trying to reassure American companies they are welcome despite Beijing's tariff war with President Donald Trump. But regulators have an array of tools including tax and safety inspections that can hamper a company with no official acknowledgement it is targeted.

Huawei's U.S. sales collapsed in 2012 after a congressional panel told phone carriers to avoid the company and its smaller Chinese competitor, ZTE Corp., as security threats.

Despite that, Huawei's sales elsewhere have grown rapidly. The company reported earlier its global sales rose 19.5% last year over 2017 to 721.2 billion yuan. Profit rose 25.1% to 59.3 billion yuan.

Huawei smartphone shipments rose 50 percent over a year earlier in the first three months of 2019 to 59.1 million, while the global industry's total fell 6.6%, according to IDC. Shipments by Samsung and No. 3 Apple declined.

Last week's order, however, threatens to disrupt Huawei's global business by limiting access to components for products sold everywhere, not just in the U.S. market.

It will take effect after a 90-day grace period that will allow some transactions to allow telecom operators that depend on Huawei equipment for "critical services" time to make other arrangements, the U.S. Department of Commerce said Monday in a notice on its website.

Washington has tried to persuade U.S. allies to shun Huawei as a supplier of fifth-generation technology. Australia, Taiwan and some other governments have imposed curbs on use of Huawei technology, but Germany, France and other countries still do business with the company. **AP**

Ex-Philippine judge says she was held at Hong Kong airport

A former Philippine Supreme Court justice who once accused Chinese President Xi Jinping of crimes against humanity before the International Criminal Court says she was barred for hours

from entering Hong Kong for unspecified reasons.

Conchita Carpio-Morales says she was stopped by immigration authorities yesterday and was held in a room at Hong Kong's airport

for about four hours and ordered to take a flight back to Manila.

Carpio-Morales says authorities later told her she could proceed with her trip to Hong Kong but she and her family had already de-

cided to return home.

A Hong Kong immigration official who spoke on condition of anonymity in order to speak about a specific immigration case says Carpio-Morales had been admitted to Hong Kong. **AP**



AUSTRALIA

Gov't says it won't break tax cut pledge

Rod McGuirk, Canberra

AUSTRALIA'S newly re-elected government said yesterday that its promise to slash income taxes might be delivered late but would not be broken as it seeks to stimulate consumer spending, revive a flagging economy and repair relations with China, its most important trading partner.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison chose the latest possible date to call an election that on Saturday delivered his conservative coalition a surprise victory.

But the timing means he probably won't be able to recall Parliament to pass the tax cuts before July 1 — the date he promised during the election campaign that the lower tax rate would take effect.

Treasurer Josh Frydenberg said passing the legislation, which would reduce the annual tax bill of 10 million Australians by 1,080 Australian dollars, is the government's first priority when Parliament resumes.

Frydenberg could not say when the law would be passed, but said media reports that the new tax rates might not come into effect until July 1 next year were wrong.

The tax break was outlined in April in the government's annual budget blueprint for the next fiscal year, which starts on July 1.

"Let me be very clear: The tax relief outlined in the budget will be delivered to millions of Australians," Frydenberg said.

However, the ruling coalition will not hold a majority of seats in the Senate, so the government will need the support of the center-left Labor Party opposition or minor parties to pass the tax law legislation.

Because of the weakening economy and persistent low inflation, Reserve Bank of Australia



Prime Minister Scott Morrison

Governor Philip Lowe suggested that the central bank board was likely to reduce its benchmark interest rate below the current record low 1.5% when it next meets on June 4. The rate has not changed since August 2016.

In more concerning news for an Australian economy that has grown for 28 years without a recession, a university study released yesterday found that Chinese investment in the country fell by 50% between 2017 and 2018.

The Australian National University research showed Chinese investment fell from AUD9.6 billion in 2017 to AUD4.8 billion last year — the lowest level in the five years since the university began monitoring Chinese investment. Researchers said the decline was in line with global

Chinese investment trends.

Frydenberg said Australia was susceptible to the trade tensions between China and the United States, Australia's biggest source of foreign capital.

"It's very clear that the Australian economy is facing some economic headwinds — economic headwinds globally as trade tensions rise between China and the United States," Frydenberg said. "But the fundamentals of the Australian economy are sound."

In better economic news, the government's reelection contributed to a AUD33 billion surge in the stock market on Monday to an 11-year high, in part because of expectations of a better business environment and tax cuts.

Analysts see Morrison's reelection as a new opportunity to reset Australia's relationship with China, which suffered under his predecessor, Malcolm Turnbull. Beijing protested when Turnbull announced legislation in 2017 to outlaw covert foreign interference in domestic politics.

Chinese companies were blocked from buying crucial Australian infrastructure and Chinese technology giant Huawei was banned from involvement in the rollout of Australia's 5G telecommunications network on security grounds.

Morrison was thrust into the government leadership last August after colleagues in his conservative Liberal Party lost confidence in Turnbull. Morri-

son has since been kept busy uniting his government, which was bitterly divided over Turnbull's ouster in a ballot of lawmakers.

Michael Fullilove, executive director of the Lowy Institute for International Policy, a Sydney think tank, said the surprise election result had given Morrison a mandate to reshape the relationship with China.

"His international role essentially begins this week because for the first nine months, he was necessarily distracted by domestic issues. I think he was seen as a stop-gap leader internationally, but now he has a mandate, he has immense authority within in his party," Fullilove told Australian Broadcasting Corp. **AP**

NEW ZEALAND

Accused mosque shooter charged with terrorism

Nick Perry, Wellington

NEW Zealand police yesterday filed a terrorism charge against the man accused of killing 51 people at two Christchurch mosques.

Australian Brenton Harrison Tarrant, 28, was already facing murder and attempted murder charges from the March 15 shootings.

The new charge comes with a maximum penal-

ty of life imprisonment upon conviction and will be a test case for New Zealand's terrorism law, which came onto the books in 2002 following the terrorist attacks in the U.S. on Sept. 11, 2001.

The New Zealand law defines terrorism as including acts that are carried out to advance an ideological, political, or religious cause with the intention of inducing terror in a civilian population.

Just before the attacks, Tarrant emailed New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and others a manifesto outlining his white supremacist beliefs and his detailed plans for the shootings.

From the outset, Ardern has described the attacks as terrorism.

Police Commissioner Mike Bush said in a statement they wouldn't be commenting on the new

charges as the case was before the courts.

A judge last month ordered that Tarrant undergo mental health assessments to determine if he's fit to stand trial.

His next court hearing has been scheduled for June 14, and the mental health findings could determine whether he is required to enter a plea at that point.

Police also said they had charged Tarrant

with an additional count of murder, bringing the total number of murder charges against him to 51. That came after a Turkish man who was wounded in the attack died earlier this month in Christchurch Hospital.

Police also increased the number of attempted murder charges against Tarrant from 39 to 40.

Aside from those who died, at least 47 other people were treated at

hospitals for gunshot wounds. Some had minor injuries and were discharged within hours.

Police told family members and attack survivors of the new charges at a private meeting attended by more than 200 people.

During the attacks, 42 people were killed at the Al Noor mosque, seven were killed at the Linwood mosque and two died later in hospitals. **AP**

INDONESIA

Official count shows Widodo reelected as leader

Stephen Wright & Niniek Karmini, Jakarta

INDONESIAN President Joko Widodo has been elected for a second term, official results showed, in a victory over a would-be strongman who aligned himself with Islamic hard-liners and vowed yesterday to challenge the result in the country's highest court.

Official counting was completed just before midnight and the Election Commission announced the formal result early yesterday. It said Widodo won 55.5% of the vote in the April 17 election to 45.5% for his challenger, ultra-nationalist former Gen. Prabowo Subianto.

Tens of thousands of police officers and soldiers were on high alert in Jakarta, the capital, anticipating protests from Subianto's supporters. The Election Commission's headquarters in central Jakarta were barricaded with razor wire and heavily guarded.



Declaring victory, Widodo said he and his running mate, conservative cleric Ma'ruf Amin, "will be the president and vice president of all the people in Indonesia."

Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation, is an outpost of democracy in a Southeast Asian

neighborhood of authoritarian governments and is forecast to be among the world's biggest economies by 2030. A second term for Widodo, the first Indonesian president from outside the Jakarta elite, could further cement the country's two decades of democratization.

Widodo's campaign highli-

ghted his progress in poverty reduction and improving Indonesia's inadequate infrastructure with new ports, toll roads, airports and mass rapid transit.

Subianto, who also lost to Widodo in 2014 and unsuccessfully contested that result, has alleged massive election fraud but hasn't provided any credible evidence.

Votes are counted publicly and the commission posts the tabulation form from each polling station on its website, allowing for independent verification. The formal result was almost the same as the preliminary "quick count" results drawn from a sample of polling stations on election day.

Subianto campaign official Sumi Dasco Ahmad said a legal challenge to the results would be filed in the Constitutional Court within the mandatory three days.

Widodo said he "appreciated" his rival is following "a process in accordance with the constitu-

tion and the law."

Subianto and members of his campaign team had previously said they would mobilize "people power" for days of street protests rather than appeal legally because they didn't believe the court would provide justice.

Subianto ran a fear-based campaign, emphasizing what he sees as Indonesia's weakness and the risk of exploitation by foreign powers or disintegration. He aligned himself with hard-line Muslim groups and won massive majorities in conservative provinces such as Aceh, which follows Shariah law, but was defeated by Widodo in the president's populous East Java and Central Java strongholds.

Repeating his tactics following the 2014 loss, Subianto declared himself the winner not long after the election. In a video released after results were announced yesterday he again refused to concede defeat but called on supporters to refrain from violence.

Police this month have arrested 31 Islamic militants they say planned to set off bombs during expected street protests against the election result.

The Election Commission said Widodo won in 21 of 34 provinces and got 85.6 million votes compared with about 68.5 million for Subianto. **AP**

AD



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GULF TENSIONS

Bomb-carrying drone from Yemen rebels targets Saudi airport

Jon Gambrell, Dubai

YEMEN'S Iranian-allied Houthi rebels said yesterday they attacked a Saudi airport and military base with a bomb-laden drone, an assault acknowledged by the kingdom as Mideast tensions remain high between Tehran and the United States. There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage.

The attack on the Saudi city of Najran came after Iran announced it has quadrupled its uranium-enrichment production capacity, though still a level far lower than needed for atomic weapons, a year after the U.S. withdrew from its nuclear deal with world powers.

Underlining the tensions, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani is seeking expanded executive powers to better deal with "economic war" triggered by the Trump's administration's renewal and escalation of sanctions targeting the Islamic Republic, the state-run IRNA news agency reported.

By increasing production, Iran soon will exceed the stockpile limitations set by the nuclear accord. Tehran has set a July 7 deadline for Europe to set new

terms for the deal, or it will enrich closer to weapons-grade levels in a Middle East already on edge. The U.S. has deployed bombers and an aircraft carrier to the Persian Gulf over still-unspecified threats from Iran.

In the drone attack, the Houthis' Al-Masirah satellite news channel said early yesterday they targeted the airport in Najran with a Qasef-2K drone, striking an "arms depot." Najran, 840 kilometers southwest of Riyadh, lies on the Saudi-Yemen border and has repeatedly been targeted by the Iran-allied Houthis.

A statement earlier on the state-run Saudi Press Agency quoted Saudi-led coalition spokesman Col. Turki al-Maliki as saying the Houthis "had tried to target" a civilian site in Najran, without elaborating.

Al-Maliki warned there would be a "strong deterrent" to such attacks and described the Houthis as the "terrorist militias of Iran." Similar Houthi attacks in the past have sparked rounds of Saudi-led airstrikes on Yemen, which have been widely criticized internationally for killing civilians.

Civilian airports throughout the Middle East often host mili-

tary bases.

The New York Times last year reported that American intelligence analysts were based in Najran, assisting the Saudis and a U.S. Army Green Berets deployment on the border. Lt. Col. Earl Brown, a spokesman for U.S. Central Command, said there were "no U.S. personnel involved nor present at Najran" at the time of the attack.

Last week, the Houthis launched a coordinated drone attack on a Saudi oil pipeline amid heightened tensions between Iran and the U.S. Earlier this month, officials in the United Arab Emirates alleged that four oil tankers were sabotaged and U.S. diplomats relayed a warning that commercial airlines could be misidentified by Iran and attacked, something dismissed by Tehran.

In its nuclear program announcement Monday night, Iranian officials made a point to stress that the uranium would be enriched only to the 3.67% limit set under the 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, making it usable for a power plant but far below what's needed for an atomic weapon.

Iran said it had informed the International Atomic Energy

Agency of the development. The Vienna-based U.N. nuclear watchdog did not respond to a request for comment. Tehran long has insisted it does not seek nuclear weapons, though the West fears its program could allow it to build them.

President Donald Trump, who campaigned on a promise to pull the U.S. from the Iran deal, has engaged in alternating tough talk with more conciliatory statements—a strategy he says is aimed at keeping Iran guessing at the administration's intentions. Trump also has said he hopes Iran calls him and engages in negotiations.

But while Trump's approach of flattery and threats has become a hallmark of his foreign policy, the risks have only grown in dealing with Iran, where mistrust between Tehran and Washington stretches four decades. While both sides say they don't seek war, many worry any miscalculation could spiral out of control. A Trump tweet Monday warning Iran would face its "official end" if it threatened the U.S. drew sharp rebuke from Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on Twitter, who used the hashtag #NeverThreatenA-

nIranian.

In Iran, it remains unclear what powers Rouhani seeks. In Iran's 1980s war with Iraq, a wartime supreme council was able to bypass other branches to make decisions regarding the economy and the war.

"Today, we need such powers," Rouhani said, according to IRNA. He added that country "is united that we should resist the U.S. and the sanctions."

Meanwhile, former U.S. Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis told an audience in the United Arab Emirates on Monday night that America "needs to engage more in the world and intervene militarily less." While "Iran's behavior must change," he urged the U.S. not to engage in unilateral action and that American "military must work to buy time for diplomats to work their magic."

"I will assure you no nation will be more honest with you than America," the retired Marine Corps general said, according to a report in the state-linked newspaper The National. "America will frustrate you at times because of its form of government, but the UAE and America will always find their way back to common ground, on that I have no doubt."

Mattis abruptly resigned in December after clashing with Trump over withdrawing troops in Syria. He spoke at a previously unannounced speech before a Ramadan lecture series in honor of Abu Dhabi's powerful crown prince, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. **AP**

SYRIA

Gov't documents show reach of Assad's agencies

Sarah El Deeb, Beirut

THOUSANDS of documents found in abandoned Syrian government offices during the country's civil war reveal the reach of President Bashar Assad's shadowy security agencies that sought to eliminate dissent at all costs, according to a rights report published yesterday.

The documents, obtained by the Washington-based Syria Justice and Accountability Center, show the agencies spied on the populace at large, sought to eliminate dissidents through detention, intimidation or killings and systematically persecuted the Kurdish minority even before the onset of the 2011 uprising against Assad.

The report, titled "Walls Have Ears, An Analysis of Classified Syrian Security Sector Documents" and based on a sample of 5,000 documents, presents some of the most damning evidence of state involvement — at the highest level — in the bloody crack-



down on protesters, dissidents, and even foreign journalists in Syria.

The documents also offer a rare glimpse into the inner workings of Assad's security agencies and how pervasively they monitored Syrians' everyday lives.

Sometimes handwritten, notes contain orders from top commanders to arrest, detain and "do what is necessary" to quell the unrest.

One document details how a man informed on his own brother for supporting anti-Assad protes-

ts, prompting a security commander to seek permission to lure the brother into a trap.

Another document, from the country's top intelligence agency, the National Security Office, identified a French journalist of Lebanese descent as an "instigator of protests" and barred her from entering the country.

Several of the documents identify protesters by name, labelling many as terrorists without any evidence, while others detail the government's policy of containing and monitoring political activities

of the Kurdish minority.

"The documents show clearly that orders were very centralized and came from really high-level officials, including from heads of the security agency themselves, and in lots of documents from the National Security Office," said Mohammad Al-Abdallah, the director of the Washington-based group.

"This, combined with the nature of the orders — deployment of military units, surveillance, the use of lethal force, persecutions of the Kurds — all are proof a systematic state practice, and can be used as evidence to establish both the Syrian state responsibility and the individual criminal responsibility for committing war crimes and crimes against humanity," he added.

When protests erupted in March 2011 in Syria — in part inspired by the wave of uprisings around the region later labelled the Arab Spring — the government responded with a violent crackdown.

The crackdown in turn sparked

an armed rebellion against government forces, dividing Syria into government and rebel-held areas.

Almost nine years later, more than 400,000 people have been killed, half of the pre-war population of 23 million is either displaced internally or refugees in neighboring countries. Most of the towns and cities lie in ruins.

Syria's government, which typically does not comment on security issues nor responds to reports accusing it of human rights violations, justifies its crackdown by describing those who rose up against it as terrorists. Assad charges that the uprising was part of a conspiracy supported by the U.S. and regional foes to oust him from power.

The documents were collected from the province of Raqqa and the town of Tabqa in eastern Syria in 2013, and from the western province of Idlib in 2015, following the withdrawal of government forces.

The Washington-based watchdog and investigators from another independent group, the Commission for International Justice and Accountability extracted over 400,000 government documents and collectively scanned and digitized them.

Both groups have already offered assistance to European prosecutors to pursue criminal cases against Syrian officials. **AP**

AD

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what's ON



MIXING THIS MATCHING THAT

TIME: 9am-10pm

UNTIL: June 2, 2019

VENUE: Team Building, IFT Main Campus

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2856 1252

STROLLING AND FEELING: WATERCOLOUR PAINTINGS OF LAI IENG

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

UNTIL: June 16, 2019

VENUE: 3rd Floor, Gallery of Exhibitions 2, Macau Museum of Art

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

2019 BRAND STORY - MACAU ORIGINAL FASHION EXHIBITION II

TIME: 10am-8pm (Closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)

UNTIL: June 23, 2019

VENUE: Macau Fashion Gallery

ADMISSION: Free admission

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 3341

STAMPS AROUND THE WORLD -

LIECHTENSTEIN, KINGDOM OF STAMPS

TIME: 9am-5:30pm (Closed on public holidays)

UNTIL: August 31, 2019

VENUE: Temporary Gallery, Communications Museum

ADMISSION: MOP10

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2871 8063

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

ENQUIRY: (853) 8598 6718

THE GOLDEN AGE OF ARABIC SCIENCE:

EXHIBITION FROM 1001 INVENTIONS

TIME: 10am-6pm (Closed on Thursdays)

UNTIL: October 27, 2019

VENUE: Gallery 2, Exhibition Center, Macau Science Center

ADMISSION: MOP25 (several discounts available)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

Offbeat

PARENTS FORGET NEWBORN BABY IN HAMBURG TAXI

New parents got the fright of their lives in Germany after accidentally forgetting their newborn in the taxi taking them home from hospital.

Hamburg police said that the couple took the baby's one-year-old sibling out of the car, paid the driver and said goodbye — then realized someone was missing as the taxi pulled away.

Dad's attempt to catch the cab on foot failed and the driver, unaware of his sleeping stowaway, parked the taxi in an underground garage to go for lunch.

It wasn't until the driver picked up a fare at the airport that the underage passenger made its presence known.

The driver swiftly called police and after a quick check-up from an ambulance crew the baby and its grateful parents were reunited.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Agua de Mar
15:45	Zig Zag
16:20	Portugueses Sem Fronteiras
16:50	Quem Quer Ser Milionario
17:45	Moda Portugal Sr.3
18:20	Portugal de... Ricardo Costa
19:00	Montra do Lilau (Repetição)
19:35	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	TDM Talk Show
21:50	Livros com João Guedes
22:00	Todas as Palavras
22:20	Show Me Lisbon
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Resumo Liga dos Campeões 2018/2019
00:10	Ocidente no Oriente - Macau nos Cantos da Memória
01:25	Telejornal (Repetição)
02:10	RTPi Directo

cinema



CINETEATRO

16 - 22 May



POKEMON: DETECTIVE PIKACHU

ROOM 1
2:30, 4:30, 7:30pm
Language: CantoneseROOM 1
9:30pm

Director: Rob Letterman

Starring: Ryan Reynolds, Justice Smith, Kathryn Newton

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 104min

ARCTIC

ROOM 2
2:30, 4:30, 9:045pm

Director: Joe Penna

Starring: Mads Mikkelsen, Maria Thelma Smáradóttir

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 98min



AVENGERS: ENDGAME

ROOM 2

6:30pm

Director: Anthony Russo, Joe Russo

Starring: Brie Larson, Scarlett Johansson, Karen Gillan

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 181min

FRIEND ZONE

ROOM 3

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

Director: Chayanop Boonprakob

Starring: Nutthasit Kotimanuswanich, Pimchanok

Leuwisetpaiboon

Language: Thai (Chinese & English)

Duration: 118min

THE HUSTLE

ROOM 3

7:30pm

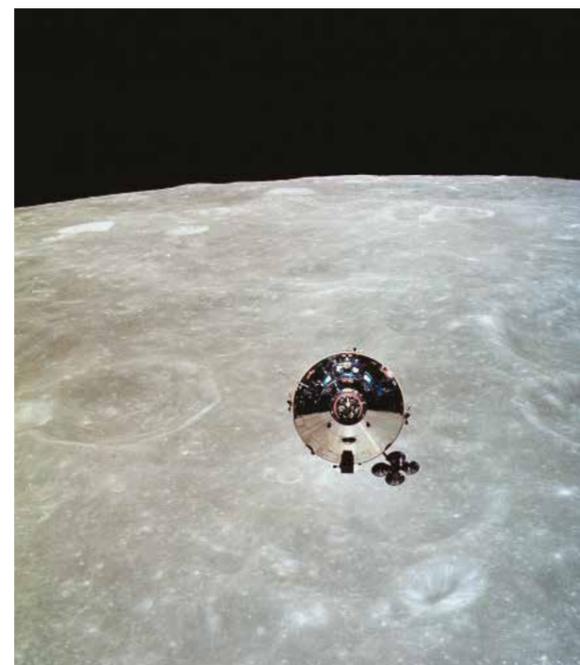
Director: Chris Addison

Starring: Anne Hathaway, Rebel Wilson, Tim Blake Nelson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 94min

this day in history



1969 APOLLO 10 GETS BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF MOON

Two US astronauts aboard Apollo 10 are on their way back to the safety of their mother ship after their lunar module came to within eight nautical miles (14kms) of the Moon's surface.

Colonel Thomas Stafford and Commander Eugene Cernan were carrying out a rehearsal for a planned Moon landing this summer.

They were in the lunar module (LM) nicknamed Snoopy and are now about to rejoin the command module (aka Charlie Brown) piloted by Commander John Young 50 miles (80km) above the Moon.

The two spacemen came closer than any human being has come to a celestial body.

"Snoopy" made two passes over the planned landing site for Apollo 11 before making a successful rendez-vous with "Charlie Brown".

After the first sweep at six times the speed of sound, Col Stafford said they had taken so many photographs he feared the camera had jammed while trying to change the film.

If the mission fails to bring back still shots of possible landing sites and approaches it will be a serious blow to Apollo planners. They want to make sure astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin have a safe landing this July in Apollo 11.

But Col Stafford did manage to get a good view of the surface which he described as "very smooth, like wet clay".

Commander Cernan then reported to control at Houston: "We just saw earthrise - the Earth appearing over the edge of the lunar horizon - and it's got to be magnificent. It would be nice to be here more often."

Apollo 10 was launched four days ago from Cape Kennedy. It is the fourth manned Apollo launch within seven months.

It is hoped that the mission will bring back plenty of colour stills and moving images of the Moon and views of the Earth.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

When America decided to land men on the moon cautious astronomers pointed out that the surface could hold unknown dangers - huge boulders could topple any landing craft, a seemingly smooth surface might be covered with moon dust so deep it would swallow up a spacecraft.

The Ranger programme sent rockets onto a collision course with the Moon and sent back images of the surface but left scientists none the wiser.

It was not until the Russians succeeded in landing Luna 9 in 1966 - followed soon after by the Americans' Surveyor soft-landers - that the deep-dust theory could be brushed aside.

Apollo 10 did succeed in bringing back the best images yet seen of the Moon and Earth from space.

Apollo 11 successfully landed Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong on the Moon on 21 July 1969.

Eugene Cernan became the last man to land on the Moon on the Apollo 17 mission in December 1972.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 It goes without saying that you put your personal needs aside while at work, but today it seems almost impossible to do. If you need inspiration, look to someone else in the office.

Taurus April 20-May 20 A weekday might not seem like a good day to spend on yourself, but it is, and you don't even need to spend annual leave. There are plenty of ways to squeeze self indulgent activities into your work day if you look.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 A good idea won't get off the ground without the consent of your partner. Now that the intellectualizing is done, focus on the romantic side. That's right, woo them.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 It's not the right time for new ventures. Sit tight, no matter how boring your usual projects may have become. Until you smooth out the rough edges, new endeavors can wait.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Your naive side is showing. Raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens -- these may be a few of your favorite things, but try coming up with some good combinations that are more appropriate for the office.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Indulge in impulse buys. The right suit of clothes, the sharp briefcase, the perfect stapler -- none of those things will get the job done, but they will help you feel good about doing it.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 A burst of effort is what's called for. Why settle for fantastic? You're flirting with super, and all you have to do is give the day that one extra push.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 It's beginning to look like management is being passive, but they're just wrestling with some hard decisions. Give everyone a chance to toss ideas back and forth before you start agitating.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Time to put on your robes. Others look to you for answers, and that makes you feel like quite the judge. Put some fun and laughter into the day while you're meting out justice.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 The culture of the office is everything. Well, close to it. There are a few other things to take into consideration when wondering if it's the right time for a raise, but you already know what they are.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 A personal issue is keeping you from working. The best medicine is socializing, so spend some time by the coffee pot. You'll be surprised by the connections you make there and their motivating ability.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Who says we dream in black and white? If you don't have any debts, then make some up. Imagining in red may be the only way to get yourself motivated today.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



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

CROSSWORD clues: ACROSS: 1- Water vapor; 6- Dynamic beginning; 10- ___ and crafts; 14- Foot bones; 15- Modeling material; 16- Harvest; 17- "Farewell!"; 18- Chow; 19- Cab; 20- Backward somersault; 22- Make straight; 24- Charged atoms; 25- Online brokerage; 26- Humbert Humbert's obsession; 30- Jane ___; 32- Brother of Hoss; 33- American space agency; 35- Cordage fiber; 40- Novelty; 42- Sharp-sighted; 44- Org.; 45- Fabric ridge; 47- Jocular Johnson; 48- Baseball's Hershiser; 50- Mode of action; 52- Feminine; 56- Customer; 58- Staggered; 59- Anticlimax; 64- Approximately; 65- Anwar's successor; 67- Et ___; 68- ___-Japanese War; 69- Red as ___; 70- Kemo ___; 71- Adolescent; 72- Curt; 73- Movie lioness; DOWN: 1- Wild guess; 2- And here it is!; 3- Slang expert Partridge; 4- "Dilbert" intern; 5- Fit badly; 6- ___ the hole; 7- Goes by; 8- Squeal; 9- Bivalve mollusk; 10- Pianist Rubinstein; 11- Rodeo rope; 12- Imposed a levy on; 13- Thorn; 21- Bank offerings; 23- Dined at home; 26- Turner of "Peyton Place"; 27- Poems of praise; 28- Statutes; 29- ___ expert, but...; 31- Southern pronoun; 34- Even ___ speak...; 36- Read quickly; 37- Gull's cousin; 38- Past the deadline; 39- Steven Chu's cabinet dept.; 41- French school; 43- Inhabitant of Aden; 46- Four-time Indy 500 winner; 49- Linux variety; 51- Exist; 52- Frozen dew; 53- So spooky as to be frightening; 54- Intervening, in law; 55- Crazy as ___; 57- Loudness units; 60- Flower holder; 61- Mideast carrier; 62- Pen points; 63- ___ yellow ribbon...; 66- UK honor;

Yesterday's solution crossword grid with filled-in words.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



FOR SALE: THE BUCKINGHAM, TAIPA. 1,439 ft² 2+2+2 \$11,770,000. Includes an image of the property interior.

FOR RENT: 4 storey Commercial Building. 4,003 ft² \$168,000/mth. Includes an image of the building exterior.

FOR SALE: [Taipa] Nice Court 3+2+2 1,600 ft² \$8,980,000 (ref: 19045002); [Taipa] Nova City 4+2+2 2,503 ft² \$17,800,000 (ref: 19015574); [Taipa] Wa Bao 2+2+2 1,020 ft² \$8,500,000 (ref: 18115568); [Macau] Lakeview 2+2+2 3,430 ft² \$25,000,000 (ref: 18105565).

FOR RENT: [Taipa] The Manhattan 3+2+2 1,626 ft² \$23,800/mth (ref: 19030002); [Taipa] Nova Park 2+2+2 1,134 ft² \$16,400/mth (ref: 17020638); [Taipa] Ocean Garden 4+4+4 3,700 ft² \$35,000/mth (ref: 18040674); [Macau] Macau CBD Office 1,813 ft² \$21,000/mth (ref: 19010699).

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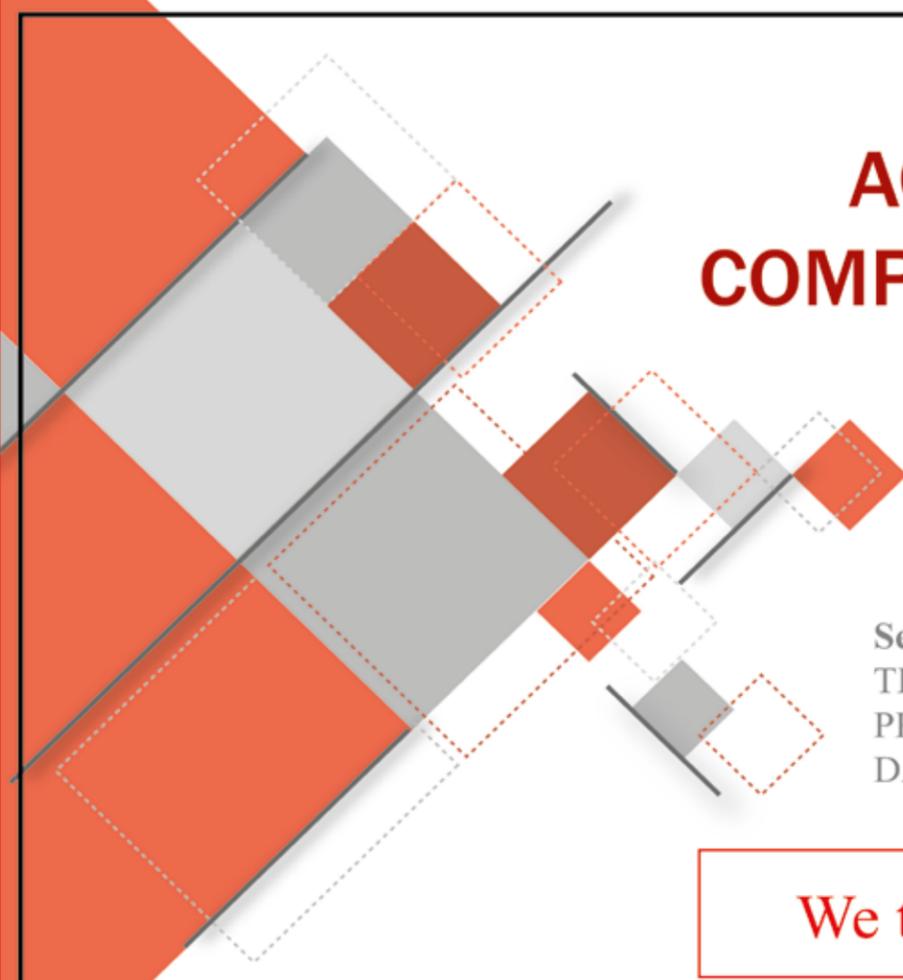
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Geir Moulson, Berlin

FORMULA One great Niki Lauda, who won two of his world titles after a horrific crash that left him with serious burns and went on to become a prominent figure in the aviation industry, has died. He was 70.

Lauda's family issued a statement saying the three-time world champion "passed away peacefully" yesterday [Macau time], the Austria Press Agency reported.

Walter Klepetko, a doctor who performed a lung transplant on Lauda last year, said Tuesday: "Niki Lauda has died. I have to confirm that."

"His unique successes as a sportsman and entrepreneur are and remain unforgettable," the family statement said. "His tireless drive, his straightforwardness and his courage remain an example and standard for us all. Away from the public gaze he was a loving and caring husband, father and grandfather. We will miss him very much."

Lauda won the F1 drivers' championship in 1975 and 1977 with Ferrari and again in 1984 with McLaren.

In 1976, he was badly burned when he crashed during the German Grand Prix, but he made an astonishingly fast return to racing just six weeks later.

Lauda remained closely involved with the F1 circuit after retiring as a driver in 1985, and in recent years served as the non-executive chairman of the Mercedes team.

Formula One posted a message from its official Twitter account to acknowledge Lauda's contribution to the sport.

"Rest in peace Niki Lauda. Forever carried in our hearts, forever immortalized in our history," the post said. "The motorsport community today mourns the devastating loss of a true legend."

Born on Feb. 22, 1949 into a wealthy Vienna family, Nikolaus Andreas Lauda was expected to follow his father into the paper-manufacturing industry, but instead concentrated his business talents and determination on his dreams of becoming a racing driver.

Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz said "Niki, we will miss you."

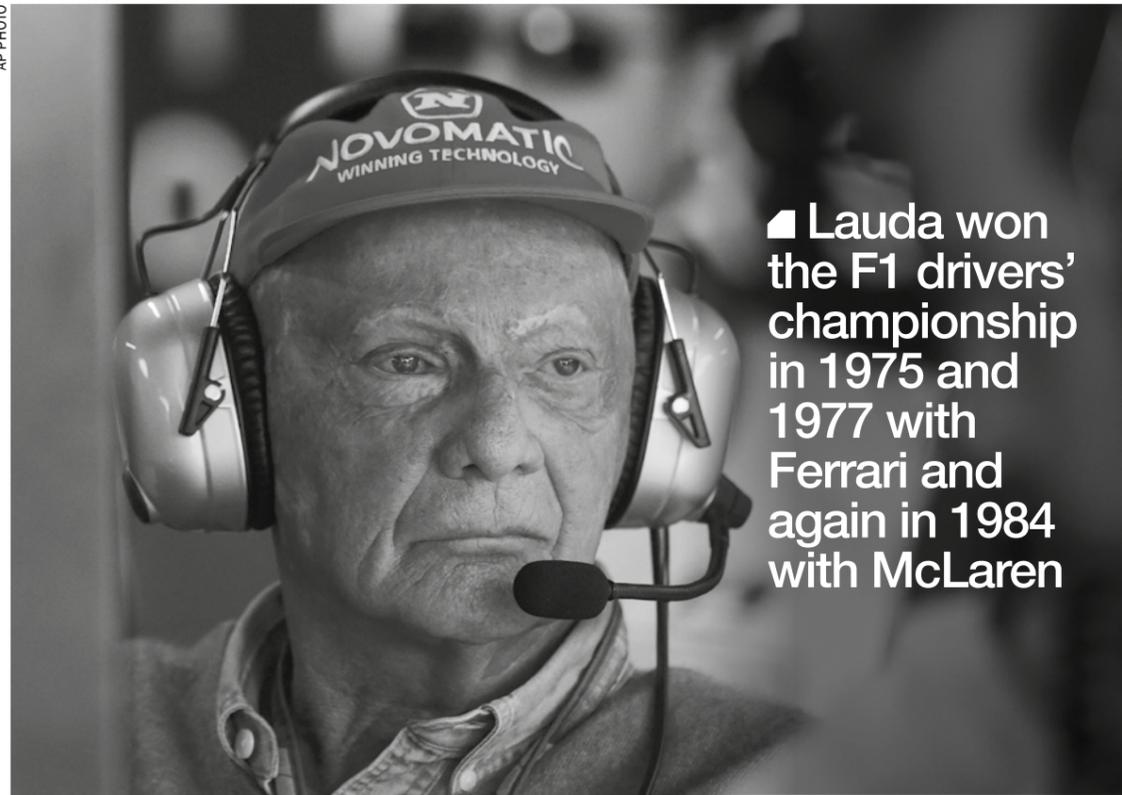
"The whole country and the motor sports world are mourning a really great Austrian," Kurz wrote on Twitter.

Austrian President Alexander Van der Bellen paid tribute to Lauda as "an idol and an ambitious fighter who never gave up."

Lauda financed his early career with the help of a string of loans, working his way through the ranks of Formula 3 and Formula 2. He made his Formula 1 debut for the March team at the 1971 Austrian Grand Prix and picked up his first points in 1973 with a fifth-place finish for BRM in Belgium.

OBITUARY

F1 great and aviation entrepreneur Niki Lauda dies at 70



Lauda, in 2017

▲ Lauda won the F1 drivers' championship in 1975 and 1977 with Ferrari and again in 1984 with McLaren

Lauda joined Ferrari in '74, winning a Grand Prix for the first time that year in Spain. He won his first drivers' title with five victories the following season.

Facing tough competition from McLaren's James Hunt — their rivalry featured in the Ron Howard-directed movie *Rush* — Lauda appeared on course to defend his title in 1976 when he crashed at the Nuerburgring during the German Grand Prix. Several drivers stopped to help pull him from the burning car, but the accident would scar him for life. The baseball cap Lauda almost always wore in public became a personal trademark.

"The main damage, I think to myself, was lung damage from inhaling all the flames and fumes while I was sitting in the car

for about 50 seconds," he recalled nearly a decade later. "It was something like 800 degrees."

Lauda fell into a coma for a time. He said that "for three or four days it was touch and go."

"Then my lungs recovered and I got my skin grafts done, then basically there was nothing left," he added. "I was really lucky in a way that I didn't do any (other) damage to myself. So the real question was then will I be able to drive again, because certainly it was not easy to come back after a race like that."

Lauda made his comeback just six weeks after the crash, finishing fourth at Monza after overcoming his initial fears.

He recalled "shaking with fear" as he changed into second gear on the first day of practice and thinking, "I can't drive."

The next day, Lauda said he "started very slowly trying to get all the feelings back, especially the confidence that I'm capable of driving these cars again." The result, he said, boosted his confidence and after four or five races "I had basically overcome the problem of having an accident and everything went back to normal."

FLYING LAUDA

Lauda won his second championship in 1977 before switching to Brabham and then retiring in 1979 to concentrate on setting up his airline, Lauda Air, declaring that he "didn't want to drive around in circles anymore."

Lauda came out of retirement in 1982 after a big-money offer from McLaren, reportedly about

USD3 million a year.

He finished fifth his first year back and 10th in 1983, but came back to win five races and edge teammate Alain Prost for his third title in 1984. He retired for good the following year, saying he needed more time to devote to his airline business.

Initially a charter airline, Lauda Air expanded in the 1980s to offer flights to Asia and Australia. In May 1991, a Lauda Air Boeing 767 crashed in Thailand after one of its engine thrust reversers accidentally deployed during a climb, killing all 213 passengers and 10 crew.

In 1997, longtime rival Austrian Airlines took a minority stake and in 2000, with the company making losses, Lauda resigned as board chairman after an external audit criticized a lack of internal financial control over business conducted in foreign currency. Austrian Airlines later took full control.

Lauda founded a new airline, Niki, in 2003. Germany's Air Berlin took a minority stake and later full control of that airline, which Lauda bought back in early 2018.

He partnered with budget carrier Ryanair on Niki's successor, LaudaMotion.

Lauda in later years formed a close bond with Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton, who joined the team in 2013. He often backed Hamilton in public and provided advice and counsel to the British driver.

Lauda also intervened as a Mercedes mediator when Hamilton and his former Mercedes teammate Nico Rosberg feuded, argued and traded barbs as they fought for the title between 2014-16

Lauda twice underwent kidney transplants, receiving an organ donated by his brother in 1997 and, when that stopped functioning well, a kidney donated by his girlfriend in 2005.

In August 2018, he underwent a lung transplant that the Vienna General Hospital said was made necessary by a "serious lung illness." It didn't give details.

Lauda is survived by his second wife, Birgit, and their twin children Max and Mia. He had two adult sons, Lukas and Matthias, from his first marriage. **AP**



Niki pictured during the Argentine Grand Prix in Buenos Aires, in 1975



Niki Lauda behind the wheel of his Ferrari 312 T2 on the track of Florano after a near fatal crash on Aug. 1 during the German Grand Prix, in 1976

opinion

World Views
 Tyler Cowen, Bloomberg

THE NEW RIGHT IS BEATING THE NEW LEFT. EVERYWHERE.

Sometimes political revolutions occur right before our eyes without us quite realizing it. I think that's what's been happening over the last few weeks around the world, and the message is clear: The populist "New Right" isn't going away anytime soon, and the rise of the "New Left" is exaggerated.

Start with Australia, where Prime Minister Scott Morrison won a surprising victory last week. Before the election, polls had almost uniformly indicated that his Liberal-National Coalition would have to step down, but voters were of another mind. With their support of Morrison, an evangelical Christian who has expressed support for President Donald Trump, Australians also showed a relative lack of interest in doing more about climate change. And this result is no fluke of low turnout: Due to compulsory voting, most Australians do turn out for elections.

Or how about the U.K.? The evidence is mounting that the Brexit Party will do very well in this week's European Parliament elections. Right now that party, which did not exist until recently, is in the lead in national polls with an estimated 34% support. The Tories, the current ruling party, are at only 12%. So the hard Brexit option does not seem to be going away, and the right wing of British politics seems to be moving away from the center.

As for the European Parliament as a whole, by some estimates after this week's election 35% of the chamber will be filled by anti-establishment parties, albeit of a diverse nature. You have to wonder at what margins the EU will become unworkable or lose legitimacy altogether.

Meanwhile in the U.S., polls show Joe Biden as the presumptive front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination. He is one of the party's more conservative candidates, and maybe some primary voters value his electability and familiarity over the more left-wing ideas of Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren. That's one sign the "hard left" is not in ascendancy in the U.S. Biden's strategy of running against Trump is another. It's hard to say how effective that will prove, but it is likely to result in an election about the ideas and policies of Trump, not those of Democratic intellectuals.

Meanwhile, the U.S. economy has remained strong, and Trump's chances of re-election have been rising in the prediction markets.

One scarcely noticed factor in all of this has been the rising perception of China as a threat to Western interests. The American public is very aware that the U.S. is now in a trade war with China, a conflict that is likely to provoke an increase in nationalism. That is a sentiment that has not historically been very helpful to left-wing movements. China has been one of Trump's signature causes for years, and he seems to be delighting in having it on center stage.

The Democratic Party is not well-positioned to make China a core issue. Democrats have been criticizing Trump's tariffs for a while now, and it may be hard for them to adjust their message from "Tariffs Are Bad" to "Tariffs Are Bad But China Tariffs Are OK." Their lukewarm support for free trade agreements — especially the Trans Pacific Partnership, which could have served as a kind of alternative China trade policy — also complicates matters. The net result is that Republicans will probably be able to use the China issue to their advantage for years to come.

Elsewhere, the world's largest democracy just wrapped up a lengthy election. The results in India aren't yet known, but exit polls show that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling coalition — and his philosophy of Hindu nationalism — will continue to be a major influence.

In all of this ferment, I am myself rooting for a resurgence of centrist cosmopolitanism. But I try to be honest about how my ideas are doing in the world. And in the last few weeks, I've seen a lot of evidence that a new political era truly is upon us.

THE BUZZ GERMANY TO HAND ISRAEL THOUSANDS OF KAFKA CONFIDANT'S PAPERS

German authorities are handing over to Israel some 5,000 documents kept by a confidant of Franz Kafka, a trove whose plight could have been plucked from one of the author's surreal stories.

The papers being returned yesterday include a postcard from Kafka from 1910 and personal documents kept by Max Brod, which experts say provide a window into Europe's literary and cultural scene in the early 20th century.

They are among some 40,000 documents, in-

cluding manuscripts, correspondence, notebooks and other writings that once belonged to Brod, which are being brought together again in Israel's National Library. They had ended up in bank vaults in Switzerland and Tel Aviv, a Tel Aviv apartment and in a storage facility in Wiesbaden, Germany, where police found them tucked among forged Russian avant-garde artworks.

"I think he [Kafka] would really be amused," said National Library archivist and humanities collection curator Stefan Litt.

Nigel Farage taps anger in UK's Brexit-dominated EU election

Jill Lawless, Frimley Green

NO one in Britain is more enthusiastic about this week's European Union elections than people who hate the EU.

Hard-core Brexit supporters are chomping at the bit to cast ballots for Nigel Farage's newly formed Brexit Party, whose sole policy is to leave the EU as soon as possible. They're attending rallies in their thousands to chant "Ni-gel! Ni-gel!" and denounce what they call the betrayal of their referendum vote to leave the bloc. Three years after that decision, political gridlock in Parliament means the U.K. is still not out the exit door.

The five-yearly elections to the European Parliament are generally sleepy affairs in Britain; only about a third of the electorate bothered to vote in 2014. But Brexit has made Thursday's vote an emotionally charged showdown with high stakes for Prime Minister Theresa May's Conservative government.

"There is a momentum, an energy behind the Brexit Party," a beaming Farage told The Associated Press before addressing more than 1,000 supporters at a rally in Frimley Green, a commuter-belt village 30 miles southwest of London. "There are millions of people out there asking a question: What kind of country are we if we turn our backs on a democratic result?"

If things had gone to plan this election — being held across the 28 EU countries between Thursday and Sunday — would not be taking place in Britain, which was due to have left the bloc on March 29. But with departure postponed, potentially until Oct. 31, Britain must elect its 73 representatives, even though they may only serve briefly in the 751-seat EU legislature, which has a wide array of budgetary and scrutiny powers.

Opinion polls suggest Farage's Brexit Party could pick up as much as a third



of the vote in an election many see as proxy Brexit referendum, with many defecting from May's deeply divided Conservative Party.

The pro-EU Liberal Democrats and the Greens are also seeing big surges, largely at the expense of the main opposition Labour Party, which is divided over whether to support a second Brexit referendum.

There is a momentum, an energy behind the Brexit Party.

NIGEL FARAGE

Arguably the U.K.'s best-known Brexiteer, Farage is a longtime thorn in the side of the EU, a prominent U.K. fan of President Donald Trump and a hate figure for liberal and pro-European Britons. He helped lead the "leave" campaign in Britain's 2016 EU referendum using messages that have been accused of racism — one billboard showed a line of migrants under the slogan "breaking point." Electoral authorities have since investigated the funding of Farage's Leave.EU campaign and fined it for breaking electoral spending laws.

After the referendum Farage quit as leader of the U.K. Independence Party, which later lurched to the anti-Islam far right. He launched his new party last month to harness the anger and frustration felt by many Brexit-backers over the impasse in Parliament. Farage says more than 100,000 people have paid 25 pounds to become registered supporters. Election regulators are investigating the party's finances after claims it broke the rules by accepting donations from overseas.

In Frimley Green, the largely white, middle-aged crowd — packed into a 1970s leisure center that usually holds darts tournaments — roared as Farage condemned the "betrayal" of Brexit and May's "shameful" deal with the EU.

Farage, 55, has sat in the European Parliament for two decades and run unsuccessfully for Britain's Parliament seven times, but the crowd lapped up his tirades against the "career political class."

"He's the only one who speaks for us," said Kerry Hawkins, wearing a "team Nige" T-shirt with Farage's face plastered on it.

The Brexit Party wants to rip up the divorce agreement agreed between May and the bloc — and three times rejected by Parliament — and leave without a deal on future trade terms. AP

Station	Air quality	Icon
Roadside	60-80 Moderate	☹️
High Density Residential Area	45-66 Moderate	☹️
Ambient	80-110 Bad	☹️

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS



NEPAL A Sherpa mountaineer extended his record for successful climbs of Mount Everest with his 24th ascent of the world's highest peak yesterday. Kami Rita (pictured) reached the 8,850-meter (29,035-foot) peak, which was his second time on the summit in a week.



LIBYA After years of assassinations, bombings and militia firefights, Benghazi finally feels safe again — but security has come at a heavy cost. Uniformed police are out at major intersections, cafes and restaurants stay open late into the night, and local groups hold art exhibitions and festivals. The city center lies in ruins, thousands remain displaced, and forces loyal to commander Khalifa Hifter have cracked down on dissent.



YEMEN's Iranian-allied Houthi rebels said they attacked a Saudi airport and military base with a bomb-laden drone, an assault acknowledged by the kingdom as Mideast tensions remain high between Tehran and the United States. There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage. More on p14



USA Three handwritten wills have been found in the suburban Detroit home of Aretha Franklin, months after the death of the "Queen of Soul," including one that was discovered under cushions in the living room, a lawyer said yesterday.