



LURING VIPS BACK TO BACCARAT - IN VIETNAM

Suncity will open a resort in Vietnam by year's end, seeking growth elsewhere as an exodus of VIPs from Macau shows no sign of abating

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HENGQIN THEME PARK TO STAR HUNGER GAMES, TWILIGHT

P6-7



PATTEN: EXTRADITION LAW 'WORST THING' SINCE 1997

"People talk about China's role in the 21st century, but the Chinese have yet to prove that we can trust them," Chris Patten said

P9 GREATER BAY

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

WORLD BRIEFS



CHINA is stepping up pressure on Boeing Co. as its airlines demand compensation for the grounding of 737 Max jetliners after fatal crashes in Ethiopia and Indonesia.

CHINA Beijing is cutting taxes on its fledgling software and integrated circuit industries as U.S. export controls threaten to handicap Chinese tech companies. [More on p11](#)



INDONESIA President Joko Widodo said authorities have the volatile situation in the country's capital under control after six people died yesterday in riots by supporters of his losing rival in last month's presidential election. [More on p12](#)

PHILIPPINES The president's allies won a majority of the 12 Senate seats at stake in midterm elections, official results showed yesterday, while the opposition's shutout heralds a stronger grip on power by a leader accused of massive human rights violations.



NORTH KOREA has labeled Joe Biden a "fool of low IQ" and an "imbecile bereft of elementary quality as a human being" after the U.S. presidential hopeful called North Korean leader Kim Jong Un a tyrant during a recent speech. [More on p13](#)

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HELENA S. FERNANDES

Art, culture will drive visitors to Macau

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RENATO MARQUES

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SAR's soft on corruption

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G2E ASIA

Tourism chief says art, culture will one day drive visitors to Macau

Lynzy Valles

MACAU'S first large-scale art exhibition, Art Macao, is set to kick off June 6, aiming to expand the city's local art scene, Helena de Senna Fernandes announced yesterday. Fernandes, director of the Macao Government Tourist Office (MGTO), made the announcement on the sidelines of an ArtBiz Asia Forum held alongside G2E Asia.

Although no budget was announced for the mega-event, which counts the participation of many of the city's largest organizations, the tourism chief said she understands "the activities will not cost much."

"We are reaching the final stage of preparations," she said.

Speaking on how art drives tourism growth, Fernandes said the city's heritage and culture remains part of why tourists come back to Macau, aside from gaming.

Fernandes cited the region's annual art and cultural activities, such as the Fringe Festival, Hush Festival and the International Film Festival & Awards Macao, which she believes attracts tourists.

The tourism chief explained that there has been a recognition, particularly in China, of culture and tourism being inter-related, adding that the future growth of tourism will be rooted

LYNZY VALLES



in culture in various forms.

"In the future development of Macau, tourism suitability and long-term development of Macau, culture and art will be the important elements that drive our growth," she said.

"We have a lot of festivals that are being created and have also taken [their] roots in the culture of Macau, encompassing a lot of artists," the official added.

Fernandes described the project as an "ambitious" one, as it would be held until October and integrate several entities, inclu-

ding gaming operators. A few gaming concessionaires have already kicked off their exhibitions under the Art Macao program.

MGTO aims to create a new brand of cultural tourism to enhance the artistic and cultural experience of the city through the five-month art festival.

"What we're trying to create is a new band of cultural tourism using different art forms [for tourists] to come to Macau and appreciate Macau in a different way," Fernandes said.

The official said that the government and private sector are paying more attention to what could possibly be the "heart of [Macau's] entire tourism scene," aiming to create a series of platform for local artists to express themselves as well.

The international and cultural event is set to feature visual art works and art installations that will be displayed in outdoor public spaces.

Six outdoor art installations from Macau, Korea, Belgium, Hong Kong and Beijing will be placed in

different parts of the city.

A series of musical and theatrical performances will also be presented from next month.

"There should be more choices for people. [...] We have to realize and admit that Macau is a small destination," she said.

Meanwhile, Fernandes pledged that the bureau would also work on adding "a little life to the evenings of Coloane Village," after a participant of the talk questioned whether it would also be possible to include this location in the bureau's

Editor's note: Our website macaudailytimes.com.mo has been experiencing long periods of downtime this week.

The problem occurred during the migration of MDT's website to a new and more up-to-date server, when spammers launched a series of attacks and forced the hosting company to shut down the server at times.

Our IT support team has been working around-the-clock to handle the situation and resume normal service. As of last night, the server has been stabilized and our website is now up and running again.

We apologize to our readers, advertisers and friends for the inconvenience.

Per capita visitor spending down 15%

A 21% year-on-year increase in visitor arrivals during the first quarter of 2019 yielded a mere 3% increase in non-gaming spending in Macau, according to the latest results of the visitor expenditure survey released yesterday by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). The survey data shows that visitor arrivals in the first quarter grew 21.2% to 10.36 million, while total spending (excluding gaming expenses) increased by 3.1

percent year-on-year to reach MOP16.93 billion. Spending of overnight visitors (MOP12.92 billion) and same-day visitors (MOP4.01 billion) rose by 1.9% and 7.2% year-on-year respectively.

The results confirm earlier reports from the Times that per capita spending of visitors had fallen significantly in the last quarter.

According to DSEC, per capita spending of visitors was down almost 15% year-on-year

to MOP1,634 in the first quarter, led by a drop in the spending of mainland visitors, which declined 17.2% to MOP1,849.

Spending of those from Guangdong province (MOP1,789) and Fujian province (MOP1,140) fell by 9% and 14.1% respectively in the same period. Per-capita spending of visitors from Singapore (MOP1,682) and Taiwan (MOP1,460) registered declines, whereas spending

of those from Japan (MOP1,612) and South Korea (MOP1,429) rose by 5.5% and 2.9% respectively.

The data also sheds light on what types of goods and services interested visitors to Macau in the first quarter. Visitors primarily spent on shopping (48.4% of total), accommodation (25.1%) and food and beverages (18.9%).

The per-capita shopping spending of visitors decreased by 13.2% year-on-year to

MOP790, with spending on local food products (MOP234) and, cosmetics and perfume (MOP220) falling by 19.2% and 9.7% respectively.

Analyzed by main purpose of visit, the per-capita spending of visitors coming for MICE events (MOP4,358) surged almost 50%, whereas spending of those coming for shopping (MOP2,549) and vacation (MOP2,172) dropped by 1.8% and 13.1% respectively. **DB**

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Times

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GAMING

Junket king hatches plan to lure VIPs back to baccarat — in Vietnam

Daniela Wei & Jinshan Hong

MACAU'S biggest junket operator will open its own resort in Vietnam by year's end, seeking growth elsewhere in Asia as an exodus of big-spending VIPs from the world's gaming epicenter shows no sign of abating.

Suncity Group, a middleman lender for Chinese high rollers, is moving into casino operations with a USD4 billion Vietnam project and is eyeing the Philippines, Cambodia and Japan for its next investment. Suncity says more than 30% of the group's revenue now comes from markets outside Macau, compared with 10% five years ago.

The overseas push comes as Suncity expects that its betting volume will drop by 10% to 15% in Macau in the second half of the year, as tensions from the U.S.-China trade war and stricter industry regulations damp VIP sentiment.

"Our betting volume in Macau fell 20% in the last few months, but the group's total volume fell by only single digits," said Andrew Lo, executive director of the group's listed vehicle, Suncity Group Holdings Ltd., in an interview Tuesday. "Where is the business going? To the overseas markets."

MAJOR SHIFT

Suncity's urgency to diversify beyond Macau is the latest indication that a major shift



Andrew Lo, Executive Director of Suncity Group

is taking place in the gaming hub and challenging its prospects for growth. A sluggish Chinese economy and stricter regulations, including a smoking ban in casinos, have been keeping high-end customers away from the baccarat tables. The emergence of regional gaming spots across Asia are offering an attractive alternative to Chinese high rollers, who increasingly feel more comfortable further away from Beijing.

Overall casino revenue at the world's largest gaming hub slumped 8.3% in April, the most in almost three years, with the VIP segment sinking 23% from a year earlier.

"The threat is real," wrote Union Gaming analysts Grant Govertsen and John DeCree in a note Monday. "Clearly there is a growing realization that Macau VIP play is bleeding to regional markets, with Cambodia and Vietnam being the primary beneficiaries."

While it's typical for high rollers to try out regional resorts and eventually return to Macau, the analysts said "this time is different." The regional properties have improved in quality, and infrastructural expansion has made them easier to reach, they wrote, noting that junket operators are sending a steady stream of Macau players to these locations.

While Suncity's Lo said that Macau's scale and variety of gaming options cannot be replaced

by any other location, he was pessimistic on the territory's near-term outlook. The company controls about half of the city's market for junkets, which are operations that lend money, collect debts and market casino trips to high-end gamblers.

STOCK PERFORMANCE

"Macau stocks have risen by a lot in the first half of the year because the market is expecting a rebound in gaming revenue in the second half," he said. "But so far, I still haven't seen any positive signs."

A Bloomberg Intelligence gauge of Macau casino stocks has dropped 18% this month, after climbing almost 30% this year through April.

The company's integrated resort is located in Hoi An, near the emerging tourist destination of Danang in central Vietnam. The company plans a soft opening at the end of this year with 140 gaming tables and 300 slot machines. About 70% of the initial revenue is expected to come from VIP gamblers, but Suncity is confident Vietnam's economy is strong enough to bring in more mass gamblers.

So far, Suncity and its partners have invested more than \$1 billion in the Vietnam project, which is expected to take 13 years to complete. Lo said future expansion will follow China's "Belt and Road" route, as the key for VIP business is to follow where Chinese money and human capital go. **Bloomberg**

MGM ends talks with Wynn about acquiring Boston casino



Christopher Palmeri

MGM Resorts International ended discussions with Wynn Resorts Ltd. about buying that company's nearly finished casino outside Boston, saying it would focus on its existing Massachusetts property in Springfield.

MGM and Wynn said last week that they'd been holding discussions about a deal, news that came as a shock to the casino industry and many in the Bay State. MGM opened its USD960 million Springfield property only last year and would have

had to sell it to acquire the Boston-area resort, as companies aren't allowed to own more than one casino in the state.

The rapid about turn came after the deal discussions sparked an outcry in the state, with both the governor and the mayor of Everett, where Wynn's \$2.6 billion casino is located, expressing concern. Las Vegas-based Wynn has only just emerged from an investigation by the Massachusetts regulators into its handling of sexual-misconduct allegations that felled co-founder Steve Wynn.

The ultimate regulatory decision not to revoke Wynn's license to do business in the state was a relief for the company, as it would have dismantled an eight-year journey to

building the Encore Boston Harbor Casino, which will now open late next month.

"We have noted the anxiety raised by various stakeholders regarding a transaction and this troubles us," MGM said in a statement Tuesday. "We think the best course of action is to discontinue discussions concerning this opportunity."

In a separate statement, Wynn said it remains committed to opening and operating the casino. "At times, world class assets attract the attention of others and our board takes seriously its fiduciary duty to review such interest," the company said. "After careful consideration we have agreed to cease discussions with MGM Resorts." **Bloomberg**

Moody's maintains Macau's 'Aa3' rating

Moody's Investors Service, an international credit rating agency, announced yesterday that it has confirmed the Macau SAR's long-term issuer ratings at "Aa3" with a "stable" rating outlook. It said the rating was in part based on the SAR government's strong fiscal and external positions and further progress on economic diversification. Moody's points out that the solid fiscal and external buffers will continue to offer Macau the capacity to withstand potential market shocks. Meanwhile, the rating agency expects Macau's economy to grow moderately as the government's economic diversification policies mature. "Aa3" is three notches lower than the highest rating. According to Moody's rating definitions, ratings in the "Aa" category are high investment grade and are subject to very low credit risk.

Traditional Chinese Medicine consultations held in Dubai

The 2019 Dubai-Macao TCM Exchange Program, co-hosted by the Traditional Chinese Medicine Science and Technology Industrial Park of Co-operation between Guangdong and Macao (GMTCM Park) and the Dubai Healthcare City (DHCC), was held at the Mohammed Bin Rashid Academic Medical Center of the Dubai Healthcare City last Sunday. Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) experts from Macau and mainland China led young practitioners from Macau to exchange and discuss with more than 150 prominent local healthcare professionals in Dubai, focusing on the application and development of the industry there. The program also provided Traditional Chinese Medicine health consultations for local citizens.

Staff reporter

HONG Kong and Singapore are much tougher on corruption than Macau, said lawmaker Agnes Lam yesterday at the Legislative Assembly (AL), citing relatively lenient punishments in the MSAR for such crimes even though the three jurisdictions are similar in terms of prevention works. Several of Lam's AL peers aligned with her stance, believing more severe punishment will help restore public confidence in the government.

As requested by lawmakers Agnes Lam, Leong Sun Iok, and José Pereira Coutinho respectively, a debate on anti-corruption policy, measures, and effectiveness was conducted at the Legislative Assembly (AL) yesterday afternoon.

Lam's enquiry focused on the punishment for corruption and malpractice by civil servants. The lawmaker questioned whether heavier punishment would be more effective in terms of prevention.

She said that even though the Criminal Code has "severe" provisions for some conditions or crimes, for others the punishments are

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

HK, Singapore tougher

relatively mild. Also, these provisions of "severity" are mainly applicable to civil servants.

Meanwhile, Leong questioned whether appraisers in charge of internal disciplinary procedure are well-prepared for the responsibility. He provided examples such as the case of the former Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) head, Fong Soi Kun, which the government suspended from obtaining retirement fund for a total of four years. Fong had later filed an appeal to the Court of Second Instance, which revoked the government's decision as the Court had found flaws in the disciplinary procedure against Fong.

Coutinho supported Leong, adding that certain codes had not been reviewed for the past 20 years.

As the authority in relation to this topic, Secretary for Administration and Justice Sonia Chan presided over the session and answered questions from lawmakers.



INEFFECTIVE MECHANISM

Lawmakers Ng Kuok Cheong and Sulu Sou both questioned Secretary Sonia

Chan on the effectiveness of the existing mechanism, especially on the fact that it seldom deters senior officials from corrupt practices.

AD

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on corruption than Macau, says Agnes Lam



“The law is here, but the CCAC [Commission Against Corruption] report shows all types of violations,” said Ng. “The highest positions were never affected. Is

the law still useful?” Ng brought up the cases involving the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute, the Productivity and Technology

Transfer Centre, and the Macau Customs to exemplify his statement that higher officials were not held accountable. None of them were charged even as all were mentioned in the CCAC report released earlier this year.

Mak Soi Kun raised the issue of inaction in government departments. “It is an invisible killer,” he said.

Secretary Chan replied by reiterating that the accountability system is the core belief of the government. She also said that inaction would not be tolerated.

‘NOT ENOUGH CASES’

In the course of replying to Leong’s question, Chan revealed that there are 400 cases of civil service malpractice each year on average. With this, she thought “there weren’t enough cases to support more severe punishments.”

Near the end of the debate, Agnes Lam disclosed that there are around 700 cases of malpractice per year on average in Hong Kong’s team of 180,000 civil servants. Macau currently has around 40,000 civil servants.

Many echoed Leong Sun Iok’s

proposal to the government of setting up an independent commission against misconduct in public services. Secretary Chan replied that the government would take these suggestions into account.

Several lawmakers questioned Chan about the government’s standard in a disciplinary procedure. For example, Ella Lei said there was a case in which two officials were investigated for abuse of power. Both later were found guilty, with one being suspended from work and the other not.

Secretary Chan replied that it is at the individual bureau’s discretion regarding suspension from work.

In reply to his colleagues’ comments, Wu Chou Kit expressed his belief that Macau is fairly strong in terms of administrative cleanliness, adding that to say the city needs to “hold officials accountable for each malpractice has no meaning.”

A HEATED EXCHANGE

Yesterday’s meeting kicked off with a degree of tension between AL President Ho Iat Seng and lawmaker Coutinho, who argued about whether the legislative

body had correctly handled an administrative procedure concerning the lawmaker’s motion.

Ho acknowledged that Coutinho had requested a separate debate for his motion, but said that since this would cause changes to the existing agenda and likely require extra meeting sessions, a vote on the request was first required.

Coutinho replied that he had been notified of the date of the debate, but not his request for the motion. His justification for the separate debate session was because his motion was not closely related to the recent CCAC report. The president reminded Coutinho that the introduction of the motion had reference to the CCAC report.

Coutinho’s request for a separate debate was put to vote, supported by only four lawmakers, and ultimately rejected.

Mak Soi Kun also complained about the time needed for the government to respond to lawmakers’ interpellations. “The legal timeframe is 30 days; but sometimes I had to wait for 100 days to get my reply,” he said.

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Hengqin theme park to star 'Hunger Games'

SOME of Lionsgate's most popular film franchises from "Hunger Games" to "Twilight" will be brought to life when the studio opens what it calls the world's first vertical theme park in Hengqin this summer.

Lionsgate Entertainment World will offer several adventures including a virtual reality motorcycle ride based on "Twilight," a maximum-security prison breakout like in "Escape Plan" and a replica of The Capitol lobby from "Hunger Games," complete with shops where guests can fashion themselves in the film's distinctive couture.

More than 25 rides and virtual reality experiences will pack a sleek, futuristic looking bean-shaped building that stands 10 stories high. The theme park, which will also include attractions based on films such as "Divergent," "Now You See Me" and "Gods of Egypt," is scheduled to open in July on Hengqin island located in Zhuhai.

"We found a way to create this theme park experience inside of one box over multiple floors," said Jenefer Brown, senior vice president of Global Live and Location Based Entertainment at Lionsgate. "We created experiences that are



immersive, that tell stories and are organic to the brands," she said. "It's a mix of all the cutting-edge attractions that you'll find in entertainment right now."

Brown said Lionsgate decided to create its first theme park to expand their international brand into China where films like "Twilight" and "Gods

of Egypt" are popular. She said the studio hopes to capitalize off Zhuhai's emerging status as a tourist destination and its proximity to Macau, which is

considered the "Las Vegas of China." She said the Chimelong Ocean Kingdom theme park in Zhuhai has already drawn tens of millions of people.

SPORTS

Macau GP confirms International Series cars will race

Renato Marques

AS the Times reported on March 4, the Macau Grand Prix Organizing Committee (MGPOC) has now confirmed that the 66th Macau Grand Prix to be held this November will use the cars debuting this year at the FIA Formula 3 Championship (International Series). The announcement was made during a press conference for the annual sporting event yesterday afternoon.

The confirmation came from the president of the Automobile General Association China-Macau and coordinator of Sporting Subcommittee of the Macau Grand Prix, Chong Coc Veng, who said, "this year, the Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 World Cup plans to introduce the latest FIA Formula 3 cars to Macau."

"The new car[s] will be larger than the former models, while the horsepower performance is increased to 380 horsepower."



Regarding the entrants' list, Chong expects most of the teams and drivers currently participating in this championship "will come to Macau to compete in the FIA F3 World Cup."

This is the major novelty of this year's race, which will otherwise run in a very similar format to last year, featuring a total of six racing categories, three of which are international-level competitions scrutinized by the FIA (the FIA F3 World Cup, FIA GT World Cup, and FIA World Touring Car Race).

As the Times also reported in March, contrary to the last edition, this year

the Macau WTCR race will not be the "Grand Finale." This year it is being held at Malaysia's Sepang Circuit from December 13 to 15, one month after the Macau Grand Prix.

BUDGET INCREASES 23%

The 2019 Macau Grand Prix has a budget increase of 22.7%, informed the president of the Sports Bureau (ID) and coordinator of the MGPOC, Pun Weng Kun, in reply to media questions on the sidelines of a press conference held at the Macao Science Center.

According to Pun, for the past two races the MGPOC

has been trying to keep the budget unchanged and around MOP220 million. This year will see it raised to MOP270 million, an increase of almost 23%, which Pun justified with the increased prices of several products and services, and to the need to make some changes to the circuit, following the indication of the International Automobile Federation (FIA). Questioned as to what changes would be made, Pun did not reply clearly,

saying only that the changes were imposed by the FIA and were concerned with adding safety features to all participants from the several competitions.

SUNCITY GROUP RETAINS TITLE SPONSORSHIP

One of the main announcements made at the start of yesterday's press conference was that the Suncity Group would continue to be the title sponsor of the 66th Ma-

cau Grand Prix.

The announcement was made by the ID president, who also took the opportunity to thank the company for supporting the event over the years.

After the press conference, an agreement signing ceremony was held. Senior Vice President of Corporate and Community Relations Gina Lei represented the company and handed the MGPOC a cheque in the amount of MOP25 million.

Mysterious football match case still unconfirmed

SPEAKING to the media on the sidelines of the press conference of the 66th Macau Grand Prix, President of the Sports Bureau (ID) Pun Weng Kun said that, "so far we have nothing to add concerning what we previously announced about the football match that has been discussed in society."

According to Pun, the only confirmed match involves Southampton F.C. and Guangzhou R&F F.C. on July 23, and is being organized as part of celebrations for the 20th anniversary of the MSAR.

As for the July 27 match between Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) and Inter Milan,

Pun continued to say that "so far, the ID has not received any requests for the use of the facilities of Taipa's Olympic Stadium."

When asked about a possible deadline for the request in order to make the match possible, the president of ID answered, "usually the requests are made at least one or two months ahead of the event date."

However, he stressed that the ID was not "closing the doors to the possibility [that] such an event could take place in Macau," merely that, "if the request arrives we need to analyze it and see if there are the conditions for it to happen." **RM**

and 'Twilight'

We would complement Macau. The idea is to have Vegas and Orlando right next to each other and create this super tourist destination.

JENEFER BROWN
GLOBAL LIVE AND LOCATION BASED ENTERTAINMENT

The Santa Monica, California-based company expects to have around 1.5 million park goers this year. "We would complement Macau," Brown said. "The idea is to have Vegas and Orlando right next to each other and create this super tourist destination. [...] People are already coming here. But we're on

the early side in terms of development on the island. It's growing into this dedicated kind of entertainment tourist place and virtual containment vessel."

The theme park will be a part of a large destination called Novotown, a multi-phase project that includes a hotel and office towers along with retail dining and entertainment. Future phases include plans for the National Geographic Ultimate Explorer and Real Madrid interactive experiences, as well as an international school will be built offering British-based education.

Here are some of the theme park's other features:

FLYING, AND FASHION, IN 'HUNGER GAMES'

Based on the four-part film series starring Jennifer Lawrence as Katniss Everdeen, park goers will journey through a motion simulator 3D ride experience called The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Flight Rebel Escape. It starts on the streets before riders board a vehicle that gets picked up by a hovercraft that flies through The Capitol.

Guests will also have the oppor-



This rendering released by Lionsgate shows the aerial view of Lionsgate Entertainment World, a virtual reality-heavy theme park set to open in July on Hengqin island

tunity to venture around the lobby area of The Capitol where they can get their hair, makeup and even nails done to look like a citizen of the "Hunger Games" films, including the look of chaperone Effie Trinket.

Restaurants will feature a "Hunger Games"-themed menu with different dishes inspired by the film's various districts.

BIKING WITH WOLVES IN 'TWILIGHT'

Guests will have a chance to spend time in Forks, the town where author Stephenie Meyer based her vampire novels before they were turned into movies.

Twilight Saga: Midnight Ride offers a chance for four to hop on a motorcycle and take a virtual ride with Jacob Black and a pack of wolves on a dirt-bike adventure through the moonlit woods while an evil creature roams the area looking for blood.

Guests will control their bike's speed, which path it takes and see other riders during the excursion.

Twilight Saga: Bella's Journey will be an indoor amusement ride that highlights key moments from the films including Bella Swan's relationship with her vampire husband Edward Cullen and encountering The Volturi, the most powerful coven of vampires.

SOARING WITH THE 'GODS OF EGYPT'

Gods of Egypt: Battle for Eternity will be a virtual reality roller coaster based on the 2016 film about Egyptian deities. Riders on the high-speed amusement train ride will don headsets and soar through ancient Egypt during an epic battle between good and evil.

PLOTTING AN 'ESCAPE PLAN'

About 20 people work together to break out of a maximum-security prison in Escape Plan: Prison Break. The group faces a climbing challenge course and crawl through tunnels to escape to freedom. MDT/AP

AD

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Introduction:
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Uproar over ad with gay couple shows HK lags in LGBT rights

Bruce Einhorn & Natalie Lung

TWO barefoot men dressed conservatively in dark suits stroll hand-in-hand on a beach, in a print advertisement that's part of a new Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd. campaign. The tag line for the ad featuring the same-sex couple reads: "Move Beyond Labels."

That seemingly tame request set off a controversy in Hong Kong, where the city's subway and airport operators initially declined to run the ad, according to a May 20 report in the South China Morning Post. With critics vowing social media action to shame subway operator MTR Corp., the government-backed company and the airport authority both released statements distancing themselves from the decision.

Hong Kong's Airport Authority said in a statement the ad was

"not in infringement of the AA's established guidelines on advertisements." MTR said in a separate statement that it rejects gender or sexual orientation discrimination. And the ad agency, JCDecaux, said "the design can be posted at MTR stations."

The initial decision to censor the ad is the latest example of the gap between Hong Kong and many other places when it comes to LGBT rights. While the former British colony debates whether it's appropriate to show two men holding hands, Taiwan on May 17 became the first place in Asia to legalize marriage equality.

Same-sex marriage is also legal in New York, London, Sydney and other cities that, like Hong Kong, are international financial hubs.

MORE ACCEPTANCE

Still, there are some signs

of growing acceptance of same-sex relationships in Hong Kong. Ocean Park, a theme park that is the biggest local competitor to Hong Kong Disneyland, in March published an ad showing two men in boxer shorts and sleeveless white undershirts embracing, with one closing his eyes as the other kisses his neck.

The ad was an homage to the 1997 film "Happy Together," a same-sex romance starring Leslie Cheung, a gay man who was one of the city's biggest stars before his death in 2003.

Activists have launched multiple legal challenges to promote civil rights in the Chinese special administrative region, where there is more recognition of the importance of LGBT rights than in other parts of China. The campaign is building on last year's landmark case in which a Hong Kong

court ruled foreign spouses of gay expatriate workers were entitled to the same residential visas as foreigners in heterosexual marriages.

"We were very encouraged" by the case, said Gigi Chao, vice chairman of Hong Kong-based property developer Cheuk Nang Holdings. Chao, a lesbian, is a board member of advocacy group BigLove Alliance, which launched the social-media campaign against MTR.

"The fight for equality will be spearheaded by what happens in the courtroom," she said.

LEGAL CHALLENGES

Among the plaintiffs pushing for more rights is a civil servant in the Immigration Department who has sued the government for refusing to give spousal benefits to his husband after the two wed in New Zealand, where same-sex marriage is legal.

There are also two new challenges to the ban on same-sex marriage, according to Lisa Wong, a partner at Hong Kong-based law firm Boase Cohen & Collins. In one case, a University of Hong Kong student referred to as TF and a 31-year-old activist known as STK are arguing the government's refusal to recognize same-sex marriage violates the Basic Law, Hong Kong's mini-constitution.

In another case a woman referred to as MK is calling on the government to allow her to enter into a civil partnership with her same-sex partner.

"Attitudes are changing and as the LGBTQ+ rights movement gains momentum worldwide, so the Hong Kong government is facing increasingly frequent legal challenges to its policies," Wong wrote in an article published on her law firm's website last month. **Bloomberg**

Kyle Bass confident in bet against Hong Kong dollar

KYLE Bass, founder of Hayman Capital Management, said he's shorting the Hong Kong dollar against the U.S. dollar to express his view that Hong Kong's usable reserves for defending its currency peg are insufficient.

"We are very long dollars and that means we are short Southeast Asian currencies, and we are focused on Hong Kong," Bass told Bloomberg TV on Tuesday.

An analysis on the Hong

Kong dollar that Bass released Monday is based on a misunderstanding about the linked-exchange rate system and exchange fund, a spokesperson from the city's de facto central bank said in an emailed response to questions from Bloomberg.

The Hong Kong dollar's peg is officially set at 7.80 per dollar, but the currency is allowed to trade 5 cents to either side. The pair currently trades at 7.8492, close to the

weaker end of its band, amid lower interest rates relative to the U.S. The Hong Kong Monetary Authority intervened last year for the first time since 2005 at the weak side of the band, and has tapped its reserves this year as well to defend the peg.

Hong Kong falls short of basic International Monetary Fund reserve adequacy, according to a letter to investors from Hayman Capital on Monday. By Bass's calculations, the net result of

even a conservative minimum reserve requirement is around USD495 billion. This is more than the \$436 billion reserve pile kept by the HKMA.

Bass's analysis "ignored the fact" that the Exchange Fund Ordinance states that the exchange fund may be used to maintain the peg, according to the HKMA spokesperson. The HKMA also said "many market participants" have pointed out the "various inaccuracies" in his calculations.

"HKMA has sufficient reserves to defend the peg," said Wells Fargo currency strategist Brendan McKenna. "Kyle Bass's analysis did not include the Exchange Fund Ordinance, which is key to how the exchange rate moves."

The ratio of Hong Kong's reserves - which are underpinned by the exchange fund - to its monetary base now stands at more than two times, compared with the one-to-one match mandated

by its linked exchange-rate system.

Still, Bass said in the letter that Hong Kong's actual usable reserves are "a meager 13% of reported reserves" and "are woefully inadequate."

The Hayman founder says the Hong Kong dollar peg to the greenback will naturally expire in 2047. He says the switch is inevitable and the debate is when investors should begin discounting the timing of the expiration. **DB/Bloomberg**

Hong Kong's last governor calls extradition law 'worst thing' since 1997

Rosalind Mathieson

CHRIS Patten said Hong Kong's proposed extradition law would break China's "one country, two systems" promise and risks undermining the territory's rationale as an international trade hub.

The proposed law would be the "worst thing" to happen in Hong Kong since its 1997 handover from the U.K. to China, said Patten, who was the last colonial governor of the territory. "It's not surprising that this has caused as much alarm as it has in Hong Kong," Patten said in an interview on Tuesday in London ahead of a speech for the Salzburg Global Seminar.

Hong Kong's legislature is debating a controversial proposal to allow extraditions to mainland China. The plan, which would also ease extraditions to Taiwan and Macau, could open the door to Hong Kong citizens and foreign residents being prosecuted on the mainland.

Critics say the plan will erode the autonomy guaranteed to Hong Kong before its return to China, and business groups have warned it could reduce the city's appeal as a global financial hub.

"If China starts to treat Hong Kong as though it was simply part of the mainland, as though it were Shenzhen or Shanghai, sooner or later the international community will be encouraged to think, well, in that case that Hong Kong ceases to be special," he said.

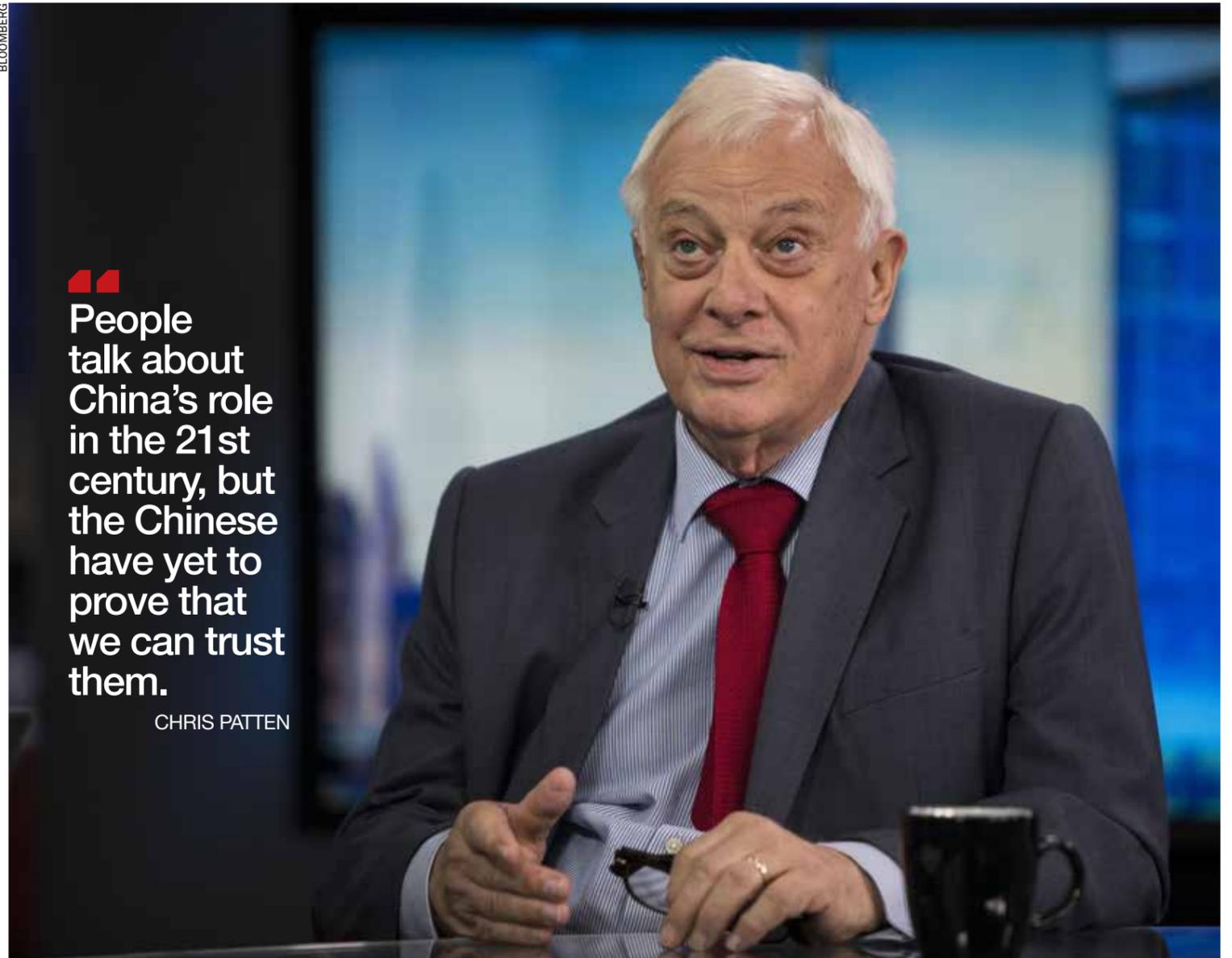
Patten said the law would remove the firewall between Hong Kong and China. Hong Kong citizens risked being subjected to the Chinese "rule by law" system with "no real distinction between the courts, the security services and what the party wants to happen," he said, referring to China's Communist Party.

As many as 130,000 people

BLOOMBERG

“People talk about China's role in the 21st century, but the Chinese have yet to prove that we can trust them.”

CHRIS PATTEN



took to the streets to protest against the bill in April, and the discussion in the legislature descended into a brawl earlier this month in which lawmakers yelled, shoved and climbed over each other. The Beijing-backed government has proposed the resumption of the second reading of the bill on June 12.

The debate comes against the broader backdrop of concern about the slow creep of Chinese influence in Hong Kong. An event in June commemorating the 30th anni-

versary of the Tiananmen Square crackdown could be another opportunity for pro-democracy forces to show their numbers.

Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam, whom pan-democratic lawmaker Claudia Mo this month described as "just a puppet," has said there's been misunderstanding about the bill, which was spurred by a high-profile 2018 murder case against a Hong Kong resident who confessed to killing his girlfriend in Taiwan. The confession

came after the man returned to Hong Kong, which doesn't have an extradition agreement with Taiwan.

Lam yesterday called China's support of the extradition law a "natural thing."

Beijing "certainly wants Hong Kong to implement the 'one country, two systems' policy, to uphold the rule of law and to collaborate with other places in the world including the mainland, Macau and Taiwan to crack down on serious crimes," she told the city's legislative council.

China's foreign ministry has said the bill is necessary to "uphold the rule of law" in Hong Kong.

The situation in Hong Kong - in terms of free society and the rule of law - has worsened since 2012 under President Xi Jinping, Patten said.

"Just as he's tightened his grip in China, so he's done the same in Hong Kong," he said. "People talk about China's role in the 21st century, but the Chinese have yet to prove that we can trust them." **Bloomberg**

FORUM

MDT/ Macauhub

Portugal plans to issue public debt in China

PORTUGAL plans to issue bonds denominated in Chinese currency in the amount of 2 billion yuan or about 260 million euros, the Portuguese Secretary of State for Finance announced in statements to Portuguese

online newspaper Eco.

Ricardo Mourinho Félix also said these "panda bonds," due to be sold on 29 and 30 May, will have a maturity of three years, and the interest rate is likely to exceed that currently paid by Portugal for financing.

Portugal is paying historically low amounts to issue public debt (the 10-year benchmark rate is currently at 1.033%), and the Secretary of State said that the higher rate "will be the cost of entering a new market."

"The purpose of the [Chinese currency debt] issue is to be involved in a large and very liquid market," the secretary of state said, which will require the Treasury and Public Debt Management Agency to make

hedge the exchange rate risk.

The amount put up for sale is limited because it is the first time Portugal is issuing debt in the Chinese market but the authorization that the country was given from

the Chinese authorities allows for further issues in the future.

This operation also involves the Bank of China and HSBC, which will act as leaders, and Portugal's CaixaBI will be the financial adviser.

opinion

KICKED IN THE TEETH
BY THE BRITISH

Alex Webb, Bloomberg

When it comes to 5G-enabled smartphones, Britain is a pretty decent bellwether: It's one of just five countries currently rolling out the new mobile standard. So the decision by BT Group Plc, the U.K.'s former national carrier, not to offer 5G handsets made by Huawei Technologies Co. augurs badly for the beleaguered Chinese telecoms firm's consumer aspirations. The mobile operator Vodafone Group Plc followed suit.

It's telling too that of those five pioneering 5G countries – which include the U.S., China, Switzerland and South Korea – Britain is the one you'd expect to be most neutral about whether or not to sell Huawei handsets.

In the U.S., Huawei is already prevented from selling its phones, while China is Huawei's home territory. Switzerland's Swisscom AG has already started offering 5G phones from another Chinese company, Oppo. And South Korea is dominated by Huawei's rival Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd., so isn't much of a potential market for the Chinese company.

That's why Britain is an important indicator of what the next wave of 5G-implementing countries might choose to do with the Chinese company's handsets.

The U.K. still hasn't gone as far as to ban Huawei outright from its 5G networks, despite the best efforts of the Americans to persuade it to do so. Nevertheless, BT's move is a direct consequence of the U.S. blacklisting of Huawei last week, which prohibits American companies from supplying the Chinese telecoms equipment group. Crucially, that ban extends to Alphabet Inc.'s Google, whose Android operating system runs Huawei's phones. That's why BT doesn't want to take the risk of offering handsets to its customers that might end up not carrying fully functional software.

Last week's U.S. Android ban doesn't seem to extend to Huawei's already available handsets, or those that have been announced. But it has left mobile phone operators like BT and Vodafone struggling to work out whether the software on those phones can be updated, and whether other Alphabet services such as Google Maps and the Google Play Store will continue to be supported on the handsets.

The last thing a carrier wants is a disgruntled consumer who returns in several months' time and demands a refund because their smartphone doesn't work as advertised.

Of course, the damage from the U.S. blacklisting is more immediately significant for Huawei's lucrative plans to build 5G networks than it is for its smartphone ambitions – but the latter will become more important. Deloitte expects just 1 million 5G-ready handsets to be sold by all mobile phone makers in 2019, out of a projected 1.5 billion smartphone sales. That will rise to as much as 20 million units next year, though that's still just 1 percent of the total.

Nevertheless, it's another opportunity for rivals to steal market share from the Chinese company. That's more likely to benefit second-tier handset rivals such as LG Electronics Co., where even small increases in sales make a difference.

Swisscom had planned to introduce Huawei's 5G-enabled Mate X in the third quarter. One has to wonder whether it will push ahead with that plan. This is a real kick in the teeth for Huawei as it tries to become a consumer brand to rival Apple Inc. and Samsung.

BT drops new Huawei phones from 5G rollout



BT Group Plc won't offer phones from Huawei Technologies Co. when it starts Britain's first 5G mobile network next week, joining a growing list of wireless operators ditching the Chinese company's handsets after the U.S. blocked it from critical suppliers.

BT decided not to include Huawei phones in its 5G launch because of uncertainty over whether they could use Android software developed by U.S. tech giant Alphabet Inc., a spokesman for the carrier said.

It will still rely heavily on Huawei, the world's largest provider of networking gear and No. 2 smartphone vendor, as it's supplying much of the infrastructure for the new network, alongside Finnish equipment vendor Nokia Oyj.

President Donald Trump's move last week to put Huawei on an export blacklist threatens to cut it off from the U.S. software and semiconductors it needs to make its products. Phone companies around the world are in turn grappling with uncertainty over how they'll access Huawei gear in the months and years to come.

Huawei's 5G-capable smartphones are reliant on Android and under Trump's export ban, Alphabet's Google unit isn't allowed to give

Huawei access to the most popular version of the mobile operating system.

"We've put the Huawei devices on pause until we've got a bit more information on that," the head of BT's consumer division Marc Allera told reporters at a launch event.

Asian wireless operators also began to distance themselves from Huawei on Wednesday, with NTT Docomo Inc., Japan's largest telecom operator, canceling pre-orders of its new P30 handset and KDDI Corp. saying it would indefinitely delay introduction of the phone. Taiwanese carrier Chunghwa Telecom Co. said it won't pro-

vide new Huawei models.

5G promises to fix data bottlenecks in busy areas and open up more sophisticated mobile applications such as augmented reality gaming and mapping. BT's mobile division EE says the service will cost more than standard 4G connections. Rival Vodafone Group Plc has pledged to launch 5G services in seven cities on July 3 at the same price as 4G.

BT's 5G service will be available across the U.K.'s six biggest cities from May 30 and will reach 16 urban areas by year-end, Allera said. Customers could buy 5G subscription plans and pre-order 5G-enabled devices from yesterday.

EE was the first U.K. operator to offer 4G in 2012 and used Huawei gear to build the core of that network. Growing pressure on U.S. allies to restrict Huawei has forced carriers to review their ties to the company and devise back-up plans in case of bans or supply disruptions. Huawei executives have repeatedly denied its systems are vulnerable to espionage.

While BT is set to remove Huawei from its 4G core - the gateway that connects other parts of the network - all four of Britain's wireless networks have been using its systems in 5G trials. **Bloomberg**

Japan carriers delay sale of new Huawei smartphones

Two Japanese mobile carriers said yesterday they are delaying the sale of new smartphones from Huawei as they confirm the safety of the Chinese products.

Sales of the Huawei P30 lite, set for May 24, from SoftBank Corp.'s Y! Mobile service have been delayed, and advance orders were canceled, the company said. KDDI also indefinitely delayed its sales, initially set for late May.

SoftBank spokesman Hiroyuki Mizukami said the company wants its "customers to

feel safe using our products."

Other details were not available. It's unclear if the sales will proceed.

The U.S. government has said Huawei, the No. 2 smartphone brand, is a security risk and restricted technology sales to it and other Chinese telecom gear suppliers. But it has announced a 90-day grace period for telecom carriers to find other suppliers.

The Japanese government has not taken action against Huawei, whose products are relatively popular in Japan. **AP**



TRADE

Beijing cuts taxes to spur chipmakers in face of US pressure

Joe McDonald, Beijing

CHINA is cutting taxes on its fledgling software and integrated circuit industries as U.S. export controls threaten to handicap Chinese tech companies.

The Finance Ministry's announcement yesterday comes amid a spiraling tariff war with Washington over Chinese technology ambitions.

Most smartphones, tablet computers and other electronics are assembled in China. But its manufacturers usually use U.S., Japanese or Taiwanese microchips and other components. Beijing is developing its own suppliers to capture more of the industry's profits and reduce what the ruling Communist Party sees as a security risk in relying on foreign vendors.

Integrated circuits, or micro-

chips, are among technologies China has targeted for state-led development in official plans that helped to ignite Beijing's tariff battle with President Donald Trump.

The United States, Europe, Japan and other trading partners say those plans violate China's market-opening obligations. Chinese officials have offered to alter details but are unlikely to abandon a strategy they consider a path to prosperity and global influence.

Under the new measure, software and integrated circuit companies founded by the end of 2018 will owe no income tax for two years and the rate will be cut by half for three years after that, the Finance Ministry said.

Its two-sentence statement gave no details. But the top economic official, Premier Li Keqiang, said May 8 policies

to promote the industry would apply equally to foreign-financed and Chinese companies.

Beijing has spent billions of dollars over the past two decades on research subsidies and importing technology, sometimes using tactics that have angered Washington and other governments.

Trump vetoed the 2017 acquisition of an Oregon tech company, Lattice Semiconductor, after it became clear the buyer was financed by the Chinese government.

Political analysts say the sense of urgency over reducing reliance on foreign technology increased after another telecom equipment maker, ZTE Corp., was nearly forced into bankruptcy last year by U.S. export controls.

Washington imposed a seven-year ban on technology sales to ZTE over its exports to

Iran and North Korea. Trump agreed to restore access after ZTE agreed to pay a USD1 billion fine and replace its executive team.

Also last year, the Trump administration imposed restrictions on technology exports to a state-supported Chinese semiconductor maker, Fujian Jinhua Integrated Circuit Co. The Commerce Department said Jinhua was developing the ability, possibly with U.S. technology, that threatens the viability of American vendors needed for military systems.

One measure of how far China needs to go to supply its own technology needs is industry analysts' warnings about how many U.S. suppliers may be battered by the loss of Huawei Technologies Ltd. as a customer. They include industry leaders Micron Technologies, Qualcomm, Qorvo, Skyworks Solutions, Xilinx, Broadcom and Texas Instruments.

The Trump administration's order last week will reduce or eliminate Huawei's access to American chips and Google, which provides the Android operating system and services for its smartphones.

Vendors are required to obtain government permission for technology sales to Huawei. The Commerce Department said it granted a 90-day exemption for some technology to minimize the impact on rural phone carriers that use Huawei equipment.

Huawei, China's first global tech competitor, has developed its own chips for smartphones, servers and artificial intelligence. But it needs American components for its top-line phones, network gear and other products.

Huawei founder Ren Zhengfei said Tuesday the company has "supply backups" if it loses access to American components. He said Huawei was talking to Google about possible "emergency relief measures" for its smartphones but gave no details. **AP**

Surveillance tycoons lose billions from threat of US sanctions

ESCALATING tensions between Washington and Beijing are wiping billions from the net worth of China's richest surveillance tycoons.

The billionaires behind Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Co. and Zhejiang Dahua Technology Co. have watched their combined fortunes sink by more than USD8 billion since March 2018 as shares of

both companies sank on speculation of potential U.S. sanctions. The losses deepened yesterday after reports that Donald Trump's administration is considering blacklisting the surveillance giants, in part because of their alleged role in human rights violations.

Hikvision Vice Chairman Gong Hongjia, whose fortune peaked at \$13 billion in Novem-

ber 2017, is now worth about \$6 billion after the stock fell as much as 10% yesterday, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. Dahua Chairman Fu Lique's net worth has dropped to \$1.9 billion from \$4.3 billion in March 2018.

Hikvision and Dahua have been among the biggest beneficiaries of Chinese President Xi Jinping's unpreceden-

ted push to keep tabs on his country's 1.4 billion people. Both companies have also been accused by human rights groups of facilitating the government's suppression of Uighurs, a Muslim ethnic group, in the western region of Xinjiang.

As tensions between China and the U.S. have escalated in recent months over issues ranging from trade to corporate espionage and human rights, Hikvision and Dahua have seen their share prices drop by more than 40% from record highs.

The U.S. is deliberating whether to add Hikvision, Dahua and several other surveillance firms to a blacklist that bars them from U.S. components or software, people familiar with the matter said. Trump's administration last week barred Huawei Technologies Co. from American technology.

It's unclear which other companies may join Huawei on the so-called Entities List, which prohibits the sale of U.S. technology without a special license. **MDT/Bloomberg**

Taiwan navy holds drill amid China tensions

TAIWAN'S navy held a major live-fire exercise yesterday off the island's east coast in an area increasingly threatened by Chinese ships and planes.

The drills are part of annual Han Kuang exercises that simulate an attack by China, which claims Taiwan as its own territory to be annexed by force if necessary.

Navy craft fired cannons and missiles and released depth charges, while fighter jets launched munitions and anti-submarine warfare aircraft released buoys.

Submarines, along with a vast array of ballistic missiles, are considered among China's most potent weapons against Taiwan, which split from the mainland during a civil war in 1949.

China has boosted its military threat against Taiwan, with President Xi Jinping saying this year that Beijing would not rule out using force. That comes on top of growing Chinese pressure to isolate Taiwan in the international community and inflict economic pain, largely to force independence-leaning President Tsai Ing-wen to agree to Beijing's contention that Taiwan is a part of China.

Stepped-up Chinese operations have included sending ships to nearby waters and warplanes to circle the island on what Beijing calls training missions. While China would need to send thousands of troops across the Taiwan Strait to effect an invasion, Beijing military planners are also believed to be considering a form of lightning strike that could quickly devastate the island's ability to resist and force it to capitulate before its chief ally, the United States, could come to its aid.

Taiwan's lightly populated east coast is home to a key air base and other important military installations.

"We will conduct military exercises regularly at the location where we think the war could be possibly happening," navy Capt. Soong Shu-kou told reporters.

"The waters off Taiwan's eastern coast are the important area where we need to conduct military drills often. Because this area could be a significant battle ground in the future," he said.

Defense ministry spokesman Chen Jung-ji said Taiwan was accelerating the pace of training as a way of deterring Chinese aggression.

"We can only depend on ourselves to defend our own country. We will conduct more training to strengthen our combat capabilities in the face of the ongoing military threats" from China, Chen said. **AP**

INDONESIA

Six dead in riots; Widodo says he won't tolerate unrest

Stephen Wright
& Fadlan Syam, Jakarta

INDONESIA'S President Joko Widodo yesterday said authorities have the volatile situation in the capital Jakarta under control after six people died in riots by supporters of his rival in last month's presidential election.

The clashes began Tuesday night when supporters of former general Prabowo Subianto tried to force their way into the downtown offices of the election supervisory agency and have continued unabated since then. More than two dozen vehicles were burned as rioters took over neighborhoods in central Jakarta, throwing rocks and Molotov cocktails at police who responded with tear gas, water cannon and rubber bullets.

Flanked by the military chief and other top leaders, Widodo said: "I will work together with anyone to advance this country, but I will not tolerate anyone



who disrupts the security, democratic processes and unity of our beloved nation."

Subianto, a volatile ultra-nationalist politician, has refused to accept the official results of the April 17 election and instead declared himself the winner. The

Election Commission on Tuesday said that Widodo, the first Indonesian president from outside the Jakarta elite, had won 55.5% of the vote, securing the moderate technocrat a second term. Subianto, an elite figure from a wealthy family connec-

ted to former dictator Suharto, also lost to Widodo in 2014. He has made four unsuccessful bids for the presidency since Suharto was ousted in 1998.

"The bottom line is the people who are protesting and rioting in the past 24 hours represent a small minority of Indonesian voters and a small minority of Indonesian Muslims," said Alexander Arifanto, an Indonesian politics expert at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore.

"The vast majority of both clearly accepted the election results. By tacitly backing the protesters, Prabowo has lost any remaining legitimacy he had left and clearly shows his true colors as a narcissistic New Order-era relic," Arifanto said, referring to the Suharto era.

Rudiantara, the communications and information technology minister, said features of social media including Facebook, Twitter and WhatsApp will be restricted on a temporary basis

to prevent the spread of hoaxes and inflammatory content. He said messaging systems will still work for text and voice messages but photos and videos will be blocked or slowed.

National police chief Tito Karnavian said the people who died in the rioting were hit by gunshots or blunt devices. Authorities are still investigating the death causes and are not ruling out the involvement of third parties acting as provocateurs.

"There are attempts to create martyrs, blaming security officials for building public anger," he said.

The rioting in Jakarta was planned and not spontaneous, according to police. Officers found an ambulance filled with stones and some of the dozens of people arrested had envelopes of money, said national police spokesman Muhammad Iqbal. Many of those arrested and come from outside Jakarta, he said.

The government had deployed some 50,000 police and soldiers in Jakarta in anticipation of protests following the official election results. Many residents have left the city and parts of the downtown are closed to traffic with the election supervisory agency and Election Commission barricaded with razor wire. **AP**

AD



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N. Korea calls Biden 'fool of low IQ' over Kim criticism

Kim Tong-Hyung, Seoul

NORTH Korea has labeled Joe Biden a "fool of low IQ" and an "imbecile bereft of elementary quality as a human being" after the U.S. presidential hopeful called North Korean leader Kim Jong Un a tyrant during a recent speech.

Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency yesterday said the former American vice president had insulted the country's supreme leadership and committed an "intolerable and serious politically-motivated provocation" against the North.

Biden during a campaign launch in Philadelphia on Saturday accused President Donald Trump of cozying up to "dictators and tyrants" like Kim and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"What he uttered is just



sophism of an imbecile bereft of elementary quality as a human being, let alone a politician," KCNA said.

The piece, labeled a commentary, said Biden had "gone reckless and senseless, seized by ambition for power." It went on to mention apparent Biden gaffes, such as once appearing to fall asleep during a speech by President Barack Obama.

"It is by no means accidental that here is nonstop comment over his bid for

candidacy that he is not worth pinning hope on, backed by the jeer that he is a fool of low IQ," KCNA said.

It mocked Biden's belief that he was "the most popular presidential candidate." "This is enough to make a cat laugh," the report said.

There was no immediate reaction from the Biden camp, possibly due to the late hour in the United States.

North Korea has often unleashed crude insults

against U.S. and South Korean politicians to criticize what it sees as slanderous remarks toward its leadership or hostile diplomatic and military policies against Pyongyang. The insults have included racist and sexist diatribes, including when the North called Obama "a monkey" and former South Korean President Park Geun-hye, the country's first female leader, a prostitute.

During tensions created by a provocative run in missile tests in 2017, Kim called Trump a "mentally deranged U.S. dotard" after he said that the United States would "totally destroy North Korea" if forced to defend itself or its allies.

The North's description of Trump dramatically improved after Kim initiated diplomacy with Washington and Seoul in 2018 while attempting to leverage his nuclear arsenal for economic and security benefits. **AP**

PHILIPPINES

Duterte moves to forcibly send garbage back to Canada

PHILIPPINE President Rodrigo Duterte has moved to have truckloads of garbage that Filipino officials say were illegally shipped to the Philippines years ago be forcibly shipped back to Canada, Duterte's spokesman said yesterday.

Presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo held a news conference to announce that Duterte has ordered officials to look for a private shipping company to transport the garbage to Canadian territory in an escalation of his increasingly adversarial stance. The Philippines will shoulder the cost of the garbage shipment, Panelo said.

"If Canada will not accept their trash, we will leave the same within its territorial waters or 12 nautical miles out to sea from the baseline of any of their country's shores," Panelo said. "The president's stance is as principled as it is uncompromising: The Philippines as an independent sovereign nation must not be treated as trash by other foreign nations."

The Philippine government recalled its ambassador and consuls in Canada last week over Ottawa's failure to comply with a May 15 deadline to take back the garbage. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said last week that Canada has been working hard with Philippine officials and hopes to strike a resolution shortly but did not specify a time frame. **AP**

AD



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NUNO ASSIS • PAULO CABRAL TAIPA • PEDRO REIS
• RENATO MARQUES • ROGÉRIO PD LUZ • RUI PALHA •
SARA AUGUSTO • SOFIA MOTA

Inauguração | 開幕
04/06/2019 | 18h30

horário | 時間表
05/06-05/07/2019
Segunda-Sexta
星期一到星期五
10h-18h

local | 場地
Chancelaria do Consulado-Geral
de Portugal em Macau e Hong Kong
葡萄牙駐澳門及香港總領事館



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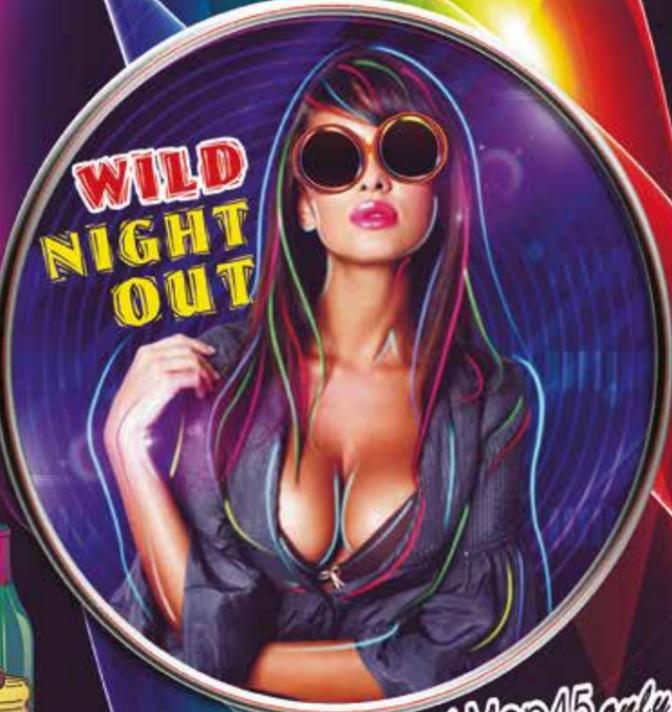


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USA

More Democrats seeking impeachment proceedings against Trump

Mary Clare Jalonick
& Lisa Mascaro, Washington

MORE Democrats are calling — and more loudly — for impeachment proceedings against President Donald Trump after his latest defiance of Congress by blocking his former White House lawyer from testifying.

A growing number of rank-and-file House Democrats, incensed by former counsel Don McGahn's empty chair in the Judiciary Committee hearing room, are confronting House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and pushing her and other leaders to act. Their impatience is running up against the speaker's preference for a more methodical approach, including already unfolding court battles.

Pelosi summoned some of them — still a small fraction of the House Democratic caucus — to a meeting of investigators to assess strategy.

Trump repeated his mantra about Democrats contributing to a "Witch Hunt" against him.

"The Democrats are getting ZERO work done in Congress," he tweeted.

Some Democratic leaders, while backing Pelosi, signaled that a march to impeachment may become inevitable.

"We are confronting what might be the largest, broadest cover-up in American history," Majority Leader Steny Hoyer told reporters. If a House inquiry "leads to other avenues including impeachment," the Maryland Democrat said, "so be it."

Reps. Joaquin Castro of Texas and Diana DeGette of Colorado added their voices to the impeachment inquiry chorus.

"There is political risk in doing so, but there's a greater risk to our country in doing nothing," Castro said on Twitter. "This is a fight for our democracy."

Tweeted DeGette: "The facts laid out in the Mueller report, coupled with this administration's ongoing attempts to stonewall Congress, leave us no other choice."

One Republican congressman, Justin Amash of Michigan, has called for impeachment proceedings. He said he thinks other GOP lawmakers should join him — but only after reading special counsel Robert Mueller's report carefully.

Republican House leader Kevin McCarthy dismissed Amash as out of step with House Republicans and "out of step with America." And Sen. Lindsey

AP PHOTO



Graham of South Carolina said wryly of Amash's position, "I don't think it's going to be a trend-setting move."

As Democrats weigh their options, Trump is almost taunting them by testing the bounds of executive power in ways few other administrations have. The White House contends that even former employees like McGahn do not have to abide by subpoenas from Congress.

A short time later House Judiciary Chairman Jerrold Nadler issued subpoenas for more Trump administration officials — former White House communications director Hope Hicks and Annie Donaldson, a former aide in the White House counsel's office — for documents and testimony.

Trump's former White House counsel is the most-cited witness in Mueller's Trump-Russia investigation report, recounting the president's attempts to interfere with the probe. And that makes his silence all the more infuriating for Democrats.

Nadler gavelled open yesterday's [local time] hearing with a stern warning that McGahn will be held in contempt for failing to appear.

"Our subpoenas are not optional," Nadler said. "We will not allow the president to stop this investigation."

However, Rep. Doug Collins, the ranking Republican on the committee, spoke scornfully of Nadler's position, calling the session a "circus" and saying the chairman preferred a public "fight over fact-finding."

Democrats are "trying desperately to make something out

of nothing," Collins said, in the aftermath of Mueller's report.

A lawyer for McGahn had said he would follow the president's directive and skip the hearing, leaving the Democrats without yet another witness — and a growing debate within the party about how to respond.

Nadler said the committee would vote to hold McGahn in contempt, though that's not expected until June, after lawmakers return from the Memorial Day recess.

Democrats are encouraged by an early success in the legal battles, a Monday ruling by a federal judge against Trump on in a financial records dispute with Congress. Trump's team filed notice of appeal yesterday.

But Pelosi's strategy hasn't been swift enough for some lawmakers. In particular, several members of the Judiciary panel feel they must take the lead in at least launching impeachment proceedings.

They say a formal impeachment inquiry could give Democrats more standing in court, even if they stop short of a vote to remove the president.

"I think that's something a lot of members of the committee — and more and more members of the caucus — think is necessary," said Rep. Steve Cohen of Tennessee. "I think an inquiry, as the Senate Watergate hearings were, would lead the public to see the misdeeds of this administration."

Others, though, including some from more conservative districts, said they prefer the step-by-step approach.

"We want to make sure that

we're following all the legal processes, everything we've been given, to truly make the best decisions," said Rep. Lucy McBath of Georgia, a freshman on the Judiciary panel.

Pelosi scheduled today's [local time] meeting with lawmakers from the Judiciary and Oversight committees after some members confronted her during a meeting among top Democrats Monday evening.

Some Democratic leaders, while backing Pelosi, signaled that a march to impeachment may become inevitable

At that time, Rep. Jamie Raskin of Maryland led others in arguing that an impeachment inquiry would consolidate the Trump investigations and allow Democrats to keep more focus on their other legislative work, according to people familiar with the private conversation who requested anonymity to discuss it.

Pelosi pushed back, saying that several committees are doing investigations already and noting that Rep. Elijah Cummings of Maryland, the chairman of the Oversight Committee, already had won the early court

battle over Trump's financial documents.

With a 235-197 Democratic majority, Pelosi would likely find support for starting impeachment proceedings, but it could be a tighter vote than that margin suggests. Some lawmakers say voters back home are more interested in health care and the economy. Many come from more conservative districts where they need to run for re-election in communities where Trump also has support.

For Pelosi, it's a push-pull exercise as she tries to raise awareness about Trump's behavior without moving toward impeachment unless she knows the public is with Congress.

"We've been in this thing for almost five months and now we're getting some results," Pelosi told lawmakers Monday night. "We've always said one thing will lead to another as we get information."

But other Democrats in the meeting, several of whom have spoken publicly about a need to be more aggressive with Trump, are increasingly impatient. They include Reps. David Cicilline of Rhode Island, Ted Lieu of California and freshman Joe Neguse of Colorado.

"We're in a very grave moment," said Rep. Madeleine Dean of Pennsylvania, and "probably right now are left, with nothing but that we must open an inquiry."

Tweeted Rep. Veronica Escobar of Texas: Congress has made "accommodation after accommodation. I don't think we should wait any longer." AP

what's ON



ITALIAN RENAISSANCE DRAWINGS FROM THE BRITISH MUSEUM
TIME: 10am-7pm (No admittance after 6:30pm, closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: June 30, 2019
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

SALINE BATHS
TIME: 12pm-7pm (Closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: May 26, 2019
VENUE: Post-Ox Warehouse Experimental Site
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026

Offbeat

WASHINGTON IS FIRST STATE TO ALLOW COMPOSTING OF HUMAN BODIES



Katrina Spade, the founder and CEO of Recompose

Ashes to ashes, guts to dirt.
 Gov. Jay Inslee signed legislation Tuesday making Washington the first state to approve composting as an alternative to burying or cremating human remains.

It allows licensed facilities to offer "natural organic reduction," which turns a body, mixed with substances such as wood chips and straw, into about two wheelbarrows' worth of soil in a span of several weeks.

Loved ones are allowed to keep the soil to spread, just as they might spread the ashes of someone who has been cremated — or even use it to plant vegetables or a tree.

"It gives meaning and use to what happens to our bodies after death," said Nora Menkin, executive director of the Seattle-based People's Memorial Association, which helps people plan for funerals.

Supporters say the method is an environmentally friendly alternative to cremation, which releases carbon dioxide and particulates into the air, and conventional burial, in which people are drained of their blood, pumped full of formaldehyde and other chemicals that can pollute groundwater, and placed in a nearly indestructible coffin, taking up land.

"That's a serious weight on the earth and the environment as your final farewell," said Sen. Jamie Pedersen, the Seattle Democrat who sponsored the measure.

He said the legislation was inspired by his neighbor: Katrina Spade, who was an architecture graduate student at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, when she began researching the funeral industry. She came up with the idea for human composting, modeling it on a practice farmers have long used to dispose of livestock.

She tweaked the process and found that wood chips, alfalfa and straw created a mixture of nitrogen and carbon that accelerates natural decomposition when a body is placed in a temperature- and moisture-controlled vessel and rotated.

A pilot project at Washington State University tested the idea last year on six bodies, all donors who Spade said wanted to be part of the study.

In 2017, Spade founded Recompose, a company working to bring the concept to the public. It's working on raising nearly \$7 million to establish a facility in Seattle and begin to expand elsewhere, she said.

State law previously dictated that remains be disposed of by burial or cremation. The law, which takes effect in May 2020, added composting as well as alkaline hydrolysis, a process already legal in 19 other states. The latter uses heat, pressure, water and chemicals like lye to reduce remains.

Composting could be a good option in cities where cemetery land is scarce, Pedersen said. Spade described it as "the urban equivalent to natural burial." AP

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Agua de Mar
15:45	Zig Zag
16:20	T2 para 3 Remodelado
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	O Pátio das Cantigas
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



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16 - 22 May



POKEMON: DETECTIVE PIKACHU

ROOM 1
 2:30, 4:30, 7:30pm
 Language: Cantonese

ROOM 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



1998 LEADERS WELCOME 'YES' VOTE FOR N IRELAND

The Prime Minister, Tony Blair, has welcomed the resounding "yes" vote in the referendum on the Good Friday Agreement on Northern Ireland, calling it "a day for joy".

The referendum, held yesterday on both sides of the border, returned a resounding "yes" vote with 71% of voters from Northern Ireland and 94% of those in the Irish Republic showing their support for the Good Friday peace agreement. "This is the result we have worked for and wanted," said Mr Blair. "It's another giant stride along the path to peace, hope and the future."

The agreement signed last Easter seeks to resolve relationships within Northern Ireland - between Northern Ireland and the Republic and between both parts of Ireland and England, Scotland and Wales - and pave the way for devolution from Westminster with a new all-inclusive Assembly.

It was signed on 10 April - Good Friday - by all interested parties except Rev Dr Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party and Bob McCartney's United Kingdom Unionist Party. They objected to the presence of the IRA's political wing Sinn Fein in the multi-party talks leading up to the agreement.

The Northern Ireland Secretary, Mo Mowlam, told reporters she was delighted with the two nations' endorsement of the agreement.

Ulster Unionist Party leader David Trimble said: "It is quite clear that a majority of unionists - not as big a majority of unionists as I would have liked - but a clear majority - have endorsed this agreement. We have taken an important step forward."

John Hume, leader of the nationalist SDLP, said that for the first time the people of both sides of the Irish border were speaking as one.

Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams said he was prepared to sit down with David Trimble in a new Northern Ireland assembly "now".

Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern said the overwhelming result was the true "voice of the people".

The British Government will press ahead next month with elections for a Northern Ireland Assembly.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

After the euphoria of the positive vote for a peaceful solution to the problems of Northern Ireland came the reality.

The first three years of the agreement's implementation saw accusations and counter-accusation from both sides of the divide.

Unionists said the republicans had not complied with the spirit of the agreement's requirement for the decommissioning of arms.

And Sinn Fein accused the British government of failing to demilitarise quickly enough. It added that it could not force anyone to give up arms and that the agreement only stated that the parties should use all their power to influence the process.

Disagreement over decommissioning and policing led to the suspension of the Northern Ireland Assembly twice in 18 months - in February-May 2000 and in August 2001.

The issue has remained the major stumbling block in talks between all parties seeking to restore devolution since the Northern Ireland Assembly was suspended in October 2002 over alleged intelligence gathering by republicans.

Direct rule finally ended in May 2007 when the Northern Ireland Assembly met with the return of devolution and DUP leader Ian Paisley as first minister.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 It's a good day to hash out disagreements at work or nearly anywhere else.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Take a second or third look at your situation - is it really as bad as you had feared?

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Don't get too excited about how much you've got to do - your energy is better spent on dreaming up new ideas and making plans.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Try not to miss the point of whatever news comes your way - though it may be hard to discern which bits are most important.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Its time for you to make a new friend! That doesn't mean you have to force anything, but you should at least open up to new coworkers or chat with folks in new social situations.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Work - or the lack of it - may cause problems today, but there's good news: You're on the way back into balance!

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Your fierce, brainy energy is making life easier for you today - but not in a boring way! Your great ideas and big plans help you to see the best way to cut through the bureaucracy and get your way.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 The little details really matter - so make sure you're paying close attention! If you have to sign anything, read it twice and get someone else you trust to do the same.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 People are not to be trusted today - though that's not to say they are actively trying to stab you in the back!

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You may be a little more social than usual today, but there's no need for you to go nuts. If anything, you may find that your energy is better spent on parties than on work projects or other stuff.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Your unique take on today's events makes you perfect for finding solutions - or opportunities! It's a great day to advance your agenda, whatever it may be, and to show others where to go.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You have two conflicting goals today, but you don't have to worry too much about choosing just yet. If anything, you may be able to find a way to have your cake and eat it, too!

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

3x3 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle.

Easy+

3x3 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle.

Medium

3x3 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle.

Hard

3x3 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle.

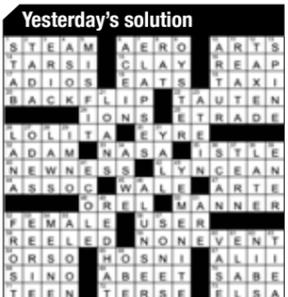
WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Even ___ speak...; 5- Dull; 9- Like most sumo wrestlers; 14- Edible mollusk; 15- Ethereal; Prefix; 16- 1957 hit for the Bobbettes; 17- ___ but known...; 18- Actress Patricia; 19- Flip-chart holder; 20- Eternal; 23- Dash lengths; 24- Shelter; 25- Type of tide; 27- D-Day beach; 31- Canonized Fr. women; 33- Mariners can sail on seven of these; 37- Japanese mat; 39- Western treaty grp.; 40- Popular fashion magazine; 41- Like afterschool activities; 44- Omani money; 45- Center starter; 46- First-born; 47- Hungary's Nagy; 48- The most heavily populated continent on Earth; 50- Main blood vessel; 51- High-ranking NCO; 53- Nine-digit ID; 55- Actress Lupino; 58- Myopic; 64- Hostess Perle; 66- Anatomical passage; 67- Render therefore ___ Caesar...; 68- Eight Days ___; 69- Russo of "Tin Cup"; 70- They're fired; 71- Recurring series; 72- Concordes, e.g.; 73- Greek letters;

DOWN: 1- Painful throb; 2- Czech, e.g.; 3- Walk in water; 4- Chieftain, usually in Africa; 5- Mother of Perseus; 6- Candy brand; 7- Smell ___; 8- A type of interpolation, transform, or map; 9- Alpha's opposite; 10- Lingerie buy; 11- Ultimatum ender; 12- Come off as; 13- Long fish; 21- Alpaca's cousin; 22- Monster's nickname; 26- Pretended; 27- Cheri of "Saturday Night Live"; 28- Principle of conduct; 29- Essential oil; 30- New York City borough; 32- Japanese gateway; 34- "Oklahoma!" aunt; 35- As ___ resort; 36- Perfect Sleeper maker; 38- Glacial epoch; 42- On an upper floor; 43- Loud sound; 49- Thumbs-up; 52- Reptile; 54- Begets; 55- Colorful computer; 56- Like grass in the morning; 57- Wait ___; 59- AAA recommendations; 60- Enormous; 61- Hardware fastener; 62- View from Catania; 63- Crash wherever convenient; 65- Business card no.;



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

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Phelps honored for honesty on mental health, helping others

David Ginsburg, Baltimore

WHILE swimming to Olympic glory, Michael Phelps found comfort in the pool and quite a bit of angst out of it.

His bout with depression reached its nadir in 2014 after a second DUI arrest. That's when the most decorated Olympian of all time checked himself into a rehabilitative center in a desperate effort to make sense of it all.

"When I was in my room and not wanting to talk to anybody for a number of days and not wanting to be alive, I wanted to see what other roads I could take to see if there was help," Phelps recalled.

The treatment he received — and continues to receive — chartered his post-Olympic course.

"I know it's something that changed my life and saved my life and allowed me to be able to be where I am today, enjoying the platform of talking about

something that's so important," Phelps told The Associated Press in an interview Tuesday.

Because he is willing to share his story of depression and raise awareness of mental health issues, Phelps was given the fifth annual Morton E. Ruderman Award in Inclusion on Tuesday night in Boston.

After participating in four Olympic Games and collecting 28 medals, including 23 gold, Phelps has dedicated his time and energy to promoting the im-

portance of water safety and advocating for the de-stigmatization of mental health problems through the Michael Phelps Foundation.

"When I first really opened up about the struggles that I had in '15, obviously I dreamed of being able to get more publicity to this and to really share my journey and have other people share their journeys with me as well," Phelps said. "Honestly, I never thought it would be as big as this, but it's been a true

dream to be able to watch the growth that mental health has taken, almost being at center stage."

To say this endeavor has been fulfilling is an understatement.

"Through this, if I can save one life, two lives, five lives, a thousand, a million, to me that's so much more important than winning a gold medal," he said.

The 33-year-old Phelps believes his bout with depression is a story that many can share, including CEOs and other retired athletes. After accomplishing every goal he set for himself, what was left to do?

"Probably my first real depression spell was after 2004, then the next big one was after 2008," he said. "When you set out to be an Olympian, your whole life is put on hold. All the eggs are in one basket. I would say 2004, 2008, 2012, partly after '16 (all Olympic years) I've dealt with pretty severe depression spells. I was kind of lost at that point."

The Baltimore native is in a far better frame of mind now.

"To have my wife [Nicole Johnson], who's always by my side, two amazing little boys at home and a third one on the way, I'm extremely thankful of the support I've had to get me through these times," Phelps said.

The Ruderman Award is given to individuals who are passionate about providing opportunities for others. Phelps certainly fits that description.

"Michael Phelps is a unique leader who has used his fame and status as the greatest swimmer of all time to challenge our society to remove stigma surrounding mental health," said Jay Ruderman, president of the Ruderman Family Foundation.

"For me, this award means everything because this is where my passion is and the next chapter of my life is really heading," Phelps said. "We're kind of scratching the surface of what can be done, and I'm looking forward to continuing this journey and accomplishing some of the goals that I have — de-stigmatizing mental health and just getting the point across that it's OK to not be OK." AP

CORRUPTION

BeIN media group CEO charged in probe

THE chief executive officer of media group beIN was handed preliminary charges of corruption as part of an investigation into the bidding process for the 2019 track world championships in Qatar, a judicial official said yesterday.

The official said Yousel Al-Obaidly was indicted on March 28 and also said

former IAAF president Lamine Diack was handed preliminary charges of "passive corruption" in the same case. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the case is ongoing.

A close ally of Paris Saint-Germain president and beIN chairman Nasser Al-Khelaifi, Al-Obaidly is also a board member of the French

soccer club. He denies any wrongdoing.

"I voluntarily attended an appointed meeting as part of a preliminary investigation," Al-Obaidly said in a statement. "The allegations raised are not only utterly baseless and unsubstantiated, but they have been - quite remarkably - leaked to the media. For the avoidance of any doubt whatsoever,

the allegations are completely and categorically denied and will be vehemently challenged using the full force of the law."

In November 2016, Le Monde newspaper obtained documents showing that a former IAAF official received two payments totaling about USD3.5 million from Qatari investors before the vote for the 2017 track

world championships.

Qatar eventually lost to London but was later awarded the 2019 worlds. The championships will be held in Doha from Sept. 27-Oct. 6.

The two payments from Oryx Qatar Sports Investments, an investment fund linked to the Qatari government, were made to Pamodzi Sports Marketing in October

and November 2011, days before the vote.

Pamodzi was founded by one of Diack's sons, Papa Massata Diack. A former marketing consultant at the IAAF, he has been banned for allegations of extorting hundreds of thousands of dollars from a Russian marathon runner to avoid a doping ban before the 2012 Olympics. According to Le Monde, Lamine Diack is suspected of favoring the Qatari bid in exchange of money transferred to his son's company. MDT/AP

opinion

Made in Macao

Jenny Lao-Phillips



THE COMPLICATION OF 'THANK YOU'

Cantonese is one of the hardest languages to learn because on top of the difficulty of reading Chinese characters, Cantonese speakers have been inventing more colloquial characters since the 17th century. We all know that unlike most languages with alphabets or forms that guide pronunciation, each Chinese character's pronunciation has no relation to how the character is formed. This is why it takes us Chinese all our lives to be able to recognize only around 5,000 to 8,000 characters (approximately 10-15% of all characters) on average, which is enough to read and write a non-Chinese-scholarly book. Even if one tries to learn Cantonese with romanization, getting the pronunciation right without learning Chinese characters makes this one of the world's most difficult challenges.

Cantonese consists of nine tones, so a light difference in pronouncing a word could mean something totally different. This makes it not only difficult, but also dangerous to speak Cantonese without enough practice. Especially when Cantonese speakers seem to have been very creative with "swearing," many words with a slightly different pronunciation can become bad words. For instance, a slight mispronunciation of "I was transferred (at work)" in Cantonese, can mean "I was f---ed." Merely counting from one to 10 in Cantonese already includes a couple of bad words. To further complicate the language, we created different ways of saying one thing with slight differences in meaning. I believe the first challenge Cantonese learners may encounter is merely saying "thank you."

"Thank you" is usually one of the first phrases we learn when we attempt to acquire a new language. Obviously, most of my non-Chinese speaking friends have asked me how to say "thank you" in Cantonese. In most cases, I highly recommend them to learn the Mandarin, "Xie Xie", which all Cantonese speakers understand. It is also a lot easier to pronounce and remember, and needs less explanation, because in Cantonese we have two ways to say "thank you" and they cannot be used interchangeably.

One term is "Do Ze," which sounds more similar to the Mandarin term. However, this "thank you" is only used in terms of gratitude. For example, when people give you a gift, pay you a compliment, or do you a favor not of simple service like opening the door for you. When someone holds the door for you, we say "Ng Goi," which is used when you receive a service from someone. Like when someone offers you a seat on the bus, pulls out your chair for you in a restaurant or serves you a cup of coffee you say "Ng Goi."

We also need to be careful not to mix up "Do Ze" and "Ng Goi," because if someone gives you a bunch of roses and you say "Ng Goi" it makes it seem like it is a favor and they are helping you buy the roses rather than you accepting it as a gift with gratitude. On the other hand, if someone serves you a cup of coffee, and you said "Do Ze", they may misunderstand that you assumed it is a gift and you can take the cup away as a present. Well, I was kidding with this last example, it will just make the service providers feel weird. Of course, Cantonese speakers understand that anyone who uses "Ng Goi" or "Do Ze" in the wrong scenario formally must be a non-native speaker. Native Cantonese speakers also purposely use the two terms interchangeably, but mostly as a joke. This could be an inside joke that is hard to explain. So to prevent confusion, even in Macao as a Cantonese-speaking city, it is always safer to say "Xie Xie."

THE BUZZ WITH BRAD AND LEO, TARANTINO DEBUTS A FAIRY TALE IN CANNES

Twenty-five years after premiering "Pulp Fiction" in Cannes, Quentin Tarantino returned to the French film festival with neither great vengeance nor furious anger but a gentler fairy tale about 1960s Los Angeles.

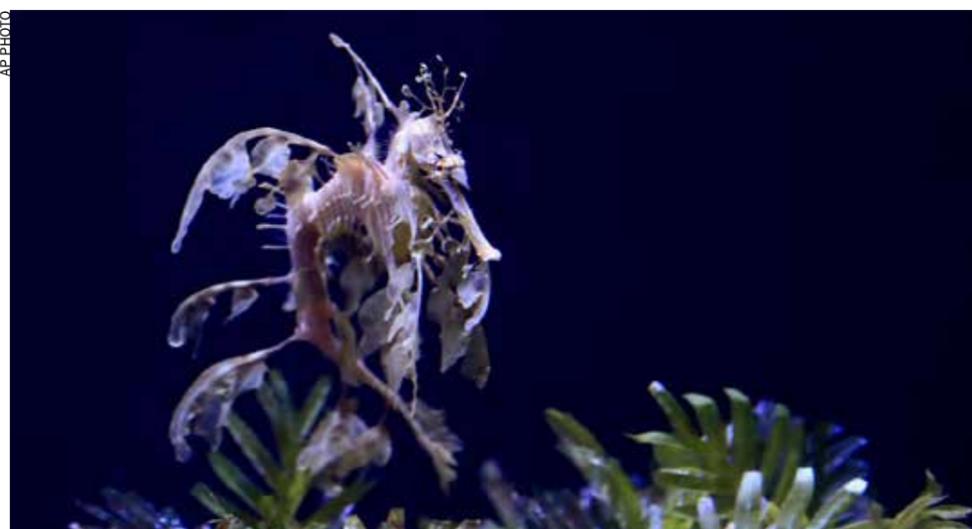
"Once Upon a Time In ... Hollywood" made its much-anticipated debut yesterday [Macao time] in Cannes, giving the festival its most concentrated splash of celebrity and frenzy. The film's two stars, Brad Pitt and Leonardo DiCaprio, brought a fittingly old-school

Hollywood glamour to the Cannes red carpet, where throngs of onlookers swelled along the Croisette.

DiCaprio plays a Westerns actor anxious that his notoriety is slipping. Pitt plays his stunt double, friend and, because of a drunk driving offense, his driver.

Though set against the backdrop of the Manson Family murders, much of Tarantino's film is invested in recapturing the radiance of a by-gone Hollywood.

New California sea dragon habitat is among world's largest



A sea dragon swims at the Birch Aquarium at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California San Diego

Julie Watson, La Jolla

At first glance, it looks like a branch of kelp, but then an eye moves among its leafy appendages, and ridges of tiny, translucent fins start to flutter, sending the creature gliding through the water like something from a fairy tale.

A Southern California aquarium has built what is believed to be one of the world's largest habitats for the surreal sea dragons, whose native populations off Australia are threatened by pollution, warming oceans and the illegal pet and alternative medicine trades.

The Birch Aquarium at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California San Diego hopes the exhibit, which opened this month, will lead to the leafy sea dragon, the lesser-known cousin of the seahorse, being bred for the first time in captivity.

"It literally just looked like a piece of kelp," said Steven Kowal, 25, who was visiting San Diego from Greensboro, North Carolina, and took time to see the exhibit. "It was crazy to me that it was, like, actually living and swimming around, so that's cool. I've never seen anything like that."

That's a common reaction.

"They look like something out of this world," said Leslie Matsushige, the aquarium's associate curator, who noted the sea dragons' amazing ability to camoufla-

ge themselves. "When people see them move, you hear them say, 'What? That's alive? Wow! That's crazy.'"

Scientists like Matsushige hope the creatures' magnetic power will prompt people to read signs next to the tanks that outline ways to protect them and what can be done to make oceans healthier, such as picking up trash and stopping pollutants from going down the drain.

They look like something out of this world.

Few aquariums have sea dragons. There are only two types of sea dragons, the leafy and the weedy, each representing its own genus. Both are found only in a small area of temperate waters off the southern and western coasts of Australia.

Little is known about them because their populations are so small and in remote areas.

So far, only the weedy sea dragon, a bony fish that resembles seaweed when floating, has been bred in captivity, and only a handful of times.

The Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach was the first in the world to breed the weedy sea dragons in

2001. It also is trying to breed leafy sea dragons.

The Birch Aquarium's 18-foot-long (5.5-meter-long) tank has three leafy sea dragons — two males and one female — and 11 weedy sea dragons. The 5,300-gallon (20,062-liter) tank is a vast space, especially for the smaller leafy sea dragon, which grows to only about 14 inches (36 centimeters) in length. The tank has grassy plants, a sandy bottom and rocks.

Scientists hope the large space will foster breeding. Sea dragons mirror each other in a courtship dance, spiraling upward before the female deposits her eggs onto a patch on the underside of the male's tail. Like seahorses, the male carries the young and gives birth.

"We're already seeing great courtship behaviors, and so we're hopeful we can get some egg transfers really soon," said Jenn Nero Moffatt, director of animal care at the Birch Aquarium.

The exhibit is the latest effort by the aquarium that is a world leader in seahorse propagation.

Sea dragons swim by spinning translucent fins while their tails act as rudders. They have no natural predators, in part because their slender bodies are covered by bony plates.

If both types of sea dragons can be bred, scientists believe that could reduce the number being taken illegally from the wild. AP

Station	Air quality	Icon
Roadside	70-100 Bad	Red face with slash
High Density Residential Area	40-60 Moderate	Yellow face with squint
Ambient	70-100 Bad	Red face with slash

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS



IRAN will "under no circumstances" enter a war either directly or indirectly with the United States, a prominent reformist Iranian lawmaker said yesterday, as both Washington and Tehran try to ease heightened tensions in the region.



KENYA One of Africa's best-known authors and gay rights activists, Binyavanga Wainaina, has died at age 48, a colleague and friend said yesterday.



WEST BANK Palestinian officials say they have inaugurated their first solar panel plant as part of a plan to reduce their dependence on Israeli power sources.

EU Fake news has evolved beyond the playbook used by Russian trolls in the U.S. election. As the European Union gears up for a crucial election, it is mostly homegrown groups rather than foreign powers that are taking to social media to push false information and extremist messages, experts say.



BRITISH and Japanese mobile phone companies said yesterday they're putting on hold plans to sell new devices from Huawei, in the latest fallout from U.S. tech restrictions aimed at the Chinese company. More on p10

GERMANY Germany has granted asylum to two Hong Kong activists in a sign of growing concern over how dissent is dealt with in the territory.