



AMBROSE SO NEEDS TIME TO STUDY TOURISM TAX
The Chief Executive of SJM Holdings said that the proposed visitor levy would 'certainly affect tourism,' but that he was not yet sure how

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS

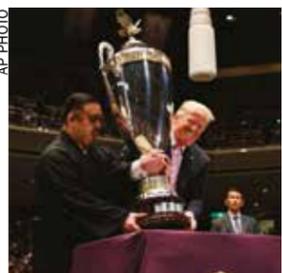
CHINA A couple suspected of killing a man and dismembering his body in California has been arrested in China and returned to the United States to face prosecution.



TAIWAN More than 1,000 people attended a mass wedding banquet in Taiwan's capital to celebrate the marriage of same-sex couples after a landmark decision legalizing the unions.



THAILAND Prem Tinsulanonda, who as an army commander, prime minister and adviser to the royal palace was one of Thailand's most influential political figures over four decades, died yesterday at age 98.



JAPAN President Donald Trump presented a special U.S.-made trophy to the winner of a sumo tournament yesterday as he got a taste of one of Japan's most treasured cultural institutions.

More on backpage



LAND FORMED 150 MILLION YEARS AGO

Jurassic Macau

P2

Thousands march in Tiananmen memorial

This year's march has taken on additional significance as opposition to an extradition law amendment widely seen as dangerous

P8 HONG KONG



BLOOMBERG



By knowing the age of the different places in the world [...] we can better understand plate tectonics.

PROFESSOR ÁGATA DIAS

JURASSIC MACAU

Study shows peninsula was formed 156m years ago, after Taipa, Coloane

Lynzy Valles

A study co-conducted by the Institute of Science and Environment of the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) found that the once-islands of Taipa and Coloane were first formed between 162 to 165 million years ago. The Macau peninsula was said to have been formed later, between 156 to 157 million years ago.

The findings were based on ancient zircon crystals collected in the region that were formed during the Jurassic period, according to the researchers.

According to a geological study titled, "High-Precision Geochronology of Mesozoic Magmatism in Macao, Southeast China: Evidence for Multistage Granite

Emplacement," the mineralogical and whole-rock geochemical characteristics support the existence of two distinct groups of granites in Macau.

The researchers believed that these were emplaced in two pulses during the Upper Jurassic period.

"It is noteworthy that the Macau Jurassic granites are mostly biotite monogranites, as in other areas of Southeast China," the study explained.

The research, which was initiated back in 2016 by Macau and Portuguese scientists, indicates that some areas, including Vale das Borboletas in Seac Pai Van, were only created less than 120 million years ago during the Cretaceous period, as granitic rocks

were cut by volcanic dykes.

"Given the relatively short time span between the two pulses and the chemical similarity of the less evolved rocks, the observed differences in the evolutionary trends are probably the result of a change in magma evolution processes rather than in tectonic setting," it added.

The tectonic setting was dominantly extensional related to the foundering of the "subducting paleo-Pacific plate under the Eurasian plate during the Middle to Upper Jurassic."

Professor Ágata Dias from the USJ Institute of Science and Environment, who coordinated the research, explained to the Times that the study assists plate tectonic research in Macau. She no-

ted that the data collected was the first of its kind.

"This has relevance not only for history and knowing how Macau was formed, but also for geology. By knowing the age of the different places in the world and knowing how they were formed, we can better understand plate tectonics in general," Dias told the Times.

"This is not just important for Macau, it is also important for South China and the rest of the world, in terms of what we know about plate tectonics," added Dias.

The professor said that there would be another paper to be published explaining how Macau was formed in the following months.

The study was funded by the Macao Science and Technology Development Fund (FDCT) and will be presented in the upcoming Goldschmidt Conference in Barcelona.

Additionally, according to the Cultural Affairs Bureau's Cultural Heritage of Macao website, a large quantity of quartz and crystal flakes used for the production of quartz rings, semi-finished products and other tools were found in 2006.

The bureau said that the findings discovered in the excavations between 1973 to 2006 could lead to inferences that there was some human occupation in the island of Coloane during the Neolithic period, around 6000 years ago.

ASK THE VET

by Dr Ruan Du Toit Bester

HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DOG AT HOME

YOU will need training treats to reward your dog for successfully performing a command. You may use some of your dog's kibble as a treat when training in an environment with few distractions. For training in more distracting circumstances you will want to use a higher value treat such as rolover, unseasoned meat or other soft morsels.

A treat bag that will allow you to train without holding treats in your hand is an indispensable training tool. It should either attach to a belt or clip to your waistband or pants pocket. A six foot leash will also be needed as well as a martingale or slip-proof collar. In the beginning, train your dog on-leash to prevent him from wandering away from you during your training session. This will also improve his ability

to listen to you while he is on leash.

Train your dog to sit

Hold a treat between your thumb and forefinger with your palm facing upward. Hold the treat near your dog's nose and lift your hand in an upward motion. This should cause the dog's nose to go up and his rear to go down. When his bottom touches the floor and he is sitting, immediately say "yes!" and give him the treat. Once he has performed the sit command a few times with a treat in your hand, try giving the hand signal with no treat in your hand. If he is successful, say "yes!" and give him a treat from your treat bag. When he will sit reliably when given the hand signal cue, you may then add the verbal command "Sit".

Train your dog to lay down

Hold the treat in the same way you did for training sit, only this time your palm should face downward. Hold the treat near your dog's nose and lure him to the floor. Hold the treat near the floor and wait for him to follow it into the down position. Avoid repetitious hand motions, be patient. Once his elbows are on the ground, say "yes!" and release the treat to him. After a few repetitions try the hand signal without the treat. If he understands the hand signal, you may then add the verbal cue "Down".

Train your dog to come

Call your dog's name in a cheerful happy tone while he is on leash. When he turns to look at you, say "yes!" give him a treat. Take a step back and repeat this action. Once he is able to come to you from six feet away, add the word "Come" after you call his name. When your dog is respon-



ding to the command reliably on-leash, you may attempt to train him off-leash in a secure, low distraction environment.

Hope this info helps
Till next week
Dr Ruan Bester

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Julie Zhu

AMBROSE SO

Visitor tax would 'certainly affect tourism' in Macau

THE Chief Executive of SJM Holdings Limited, Ambrose So, said on Friday that the effectiveness of a levy imposed on visitors to the Macau SAR would depend on how it is collected. Until then, So said he hesitated to comment further, but finally admitted that it would "certainly affect the city's tourism."

Last week, the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) began its survey on the feasibility of imposing a tourist tax. On Friday, on the sidelines of the 6th Gala Dinner 2019 of the Macau European Chamber of Commerce, So was questioned about a possible tourist tax to be implemented in the future.

"I am not very clear regarding how it will be levied. I want to see the plan first. I cannot assess it when there is not a plan," said So.

The survey is a response to complaints regarding the impact of the recent tourism influx on the normal life of residents. There are seven questions in the survey, with specific questions addressing the target and amount of the levy.

Residents have been asking for a tourist tax more frequently in recent years, including several lawmakers who have made proposals to the government at the Legislative Assembly. Proponents argue that it could help to ease overtourism pressures in the city and, according to some lawmakers, 'upgrade' the type of visitors that come to the city.

Some residents support a tourist tax, since its revenue could become a subsidy for the improvement of transportation facilities. On the other hand, opponents argue that the taxation will not help reduce passenger volume but will merely increase the government's revenue.

RENATO MARQUES



When he was asked about the likely consequences of a tourist tax, So said that the "tax will certainly affect the city's tourism."

"However, I don't know how the tax is going to be collected, and the influence depends on the method of the taxation," added the SJM Chief Executive. "We are going to wait for the plan [before commenting]."

According to the questionnaire published on the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) website, the bureau asked local residents aged 18 years and older what would be the appropriate use of the additional tax income.

The bureau provided six options as possible answers: to maintain existing facilities and tourist attractions; to enhance complementary sightseeing activities; to develop existing/additional attractions; to expand tourism promotion campaign; to provide subsidies to local tourism communities; and to enhance social welfare.

The questionnaire also asks residents for their opinion on the number of tourists Macau receives.

Moreover, the bureau prompts residents to individually rate the effectiveness of 13 strategies which address visitor growth. These strategies include: promo-

ting the dispersal of visitors within the city and beyond; promoting time-based dispersal of visitors; stimulating new visitors' itineraries and attractions; reviewing and adapting regulations; and enhancing visitors' segmentation.

It is worth noting that, despite the fact that this survey is targeting only local residents, it can be filled in by any visitor of the MGTO website as long as the visitor answers 'yes' to the question 'Are you a Macau resident?'. The webpage will then jump to the questionnaire without confirming the authenticity of citizenship of the respondent.

On casino security

AMBROSE So also commented on the issue of casino security following a robbery case reported on the weekend, where two men stole HKD3 million in casino chips from a casino using pepper spray.

In So's opinion, casinos in town have a sufficient number of cameras to guarantee their security.

So suggested that casinos analyze "how could such a situation have occurred," as well as consider how to balance security and ease of access for customers.

Retail, restaurants squeeze persists into second quarter

THE general business performance of the restaurant sector has seen a continued drop in March 2019, with some 36% of the establishments surveyed recording a year-on-year decline in revenue, the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) informed in a statement.

The data comes from the business survey on restaurants and similar establishments and retail

trade for March 2019.

According to the same statement, despite the fall in March, a 3% increase in sales was registered compared to the previous month of February this year.

The same statement also noted that the food and beverage establishment experiencing the greatest declines were the local style cafes and congee and noodle

shops, which registered drops of 17% year-on-year, while the Japanese and Korean restaurants and the Western-style restaurants registered increases of 13% and 11%, respectively.

The survey found mixed results regarding retail sales. While 45% of the interviewed retailers reporting a year-on-year decrease in sales, that proportion represented

a drop of 24 percentage points from the previous month.

Those retailers reporting the worst performance were involved in adults' clothing and watches, clocks, and jewelry, declining by 30% and 28% respectively. However, 35% of the interviewed retailers registered a year-on-year sales increase in March, up by 17% from February. Topping

this list are the supermarkets, which surged by 45 percentage points.

In fact, only the supermarkets and leather goods retailers have recorded year-on-year sales increases or steady performance, while most of the other business sectors reported losses.

Forecasting the results for April, the interviewees from the restaurants and similar establishments

sector do not expect better results, with a large majority of those interviewed (68%) reporting that they anticipated a drop of another 5% from March.

Meanwhile, the retailers expected their sales to be stable in April, with the same percentage of interviewed establishments (68%) anticipating their sales to increase year-on-year by an average of about 4% from March. **RM**

Will Las Vegas glitz play in Boston? Wynn will soon find out

Christopher Palmeri

WYNN Resorts Ltd. is about to find out how well Vegas plays in Boston.

After holding discussions to sell its USD2.6 billion Massachusetts project to MGM Resorts International - talks that sparked an outcry from local officials - the company has decided to keep the property. When it opens next month, Encore Boston Harbor will be the flashiest casino on the East Coast.

The Wynn style - with its floral sculptures, modern art and emphasis on high-end dining - hasn't always traveled well. Founder Steve Wynn struggled with the Beau Rivage, which he opened in Biloxi, Mississippi, in 1999. It's now owned by MGM. Encore Boston Harbor brings Vegas-inspired glitz to a city of cobblestone streets, elite universities and granite buildings.

Still, observers expect the property to have a successful debut.

"Since the Wynn strategy is to depend on less than 50% of the revenue to come from gambling, the Boston market will probably be quite successful at least in the short run," said Richard McGowan, who studies the casino industry at Boston College. "The issue of sports betting will also be huge in the sports-crazy Boston area."

CAVIAR LOBSTER ROLLS

The new resort - located in Everett, a Boston border town along the Mystic River - will have a number of hallmarks familiar to patrons of Wynn casinos in Las Vegas and Macau.

Encore will feature 15 restaurants and bars, including Sinatra, an Italian restaurant sanctioned by the late singer's family. The company also will import many of the famous DJs



it works with in Las Vegas for parties at Encore's nightclub, and has convinced Massachusetts officials to extend the last call for drinks at the casino by two hours to 4 a.m. One thing the Boston resort won't have at first is a pool. Wynn officials are still trying to figure out how to maintain one through the region's long winter.

The Las Vegas-based company expects to do a good bit of business with international clientele, including Asian parents dropping off their children at Boston's many colleges.

Encore will include its Chinese restaurant concept, Red 8, among its eateries. But it also will tip its hat to local cuisine: Encore's steakhouse will feature lobster rolls, though they'll

come with shaved black truffles and caviar.

Although Wynn and MGM are rivals on the Las Vegas Strip, they have distinct styles and their approaches in Massachusetts underscore that. MGM's casino in Springfield operates in a working-class town, about two hours from Boston. That property cost less than half as much to build.

HIGHER END

Both companies are pitching themselves to Boston sports fans, but in different ways. MGM is the official casino sponsor at Fenway Park, a deal that includes signs visible to all the fans. Wynn, on the other hand, will entertain high-rollers in a Fenway skybox, which it has de-

corated in the same glitzy fashion as the new Encore resort.

It has also lined up a private booth at TD Garden for Celtics games. When Encore Boston Harbor opens at the end of June, R&B greats Earth Wind & Fire will entertain the VIP party.

Wynn still has some loose ends to tie up before opening day.

Executives haven't signed off on demands by the state gaming commission that the company be subject to an independent monitor, who will ensure it adopts the best corporate practices. That requirement followed a yearlong investigation into the company's handling of sexual harassment allegations against former Chief Executive Officer Steve Wynn.

Current CEO Matt Maddox,

who replaced Wynn, also will be subject to coaching and training.

REVENUE FORECASTS

Analysts generally believe Encore will be a hit. Brian Egger of Bloomberg Intelligence estimates the property could earn \$230 million on revenue of \$730 million annually when fully operational.

But other casinos that opened recently in the Northeast, including MGM Springfield, failed to generate as much as they promised, according to Clyde Barrow, a professor at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley who follows the industry.

"I am sure it will do well, but I don't expect it to meet its original revenue forecasts," he said.

Bloomberg

Chinese investors in shuttered Vegas casino demand refunds

DEVELOPERS and former managers of Asian-themed Lucky Dragon casino-hotel that was built, open for a year, closed and recently sold in Las Vegas are now facing investor lawsuits.

Some plaintiffs are Chinese investors seeking refunds amid complaints they haven't gained conditional immigration

admission to the United States through the federal EB-5 immigration program, the Las Vegas Review-Journal reported.

"Losing your money is awful," Southern California immigration lawyer Bernie Wolfsdorf told the newspaper, "on the other hand, if you don't get a green card, that's double punishment."

Bankruptcy records show the biggest group of Lucky Dragon investors sought visas through the EB-5 program, the newspaper said. The program lets foreigners obtain a green card for themselves and their families if they invest at least USD500,000 in a new commercial enterprise that creates at

least 10 full-time jobs, among other requirements.

Immigration attorneys say investors can lose both their money and their chance at a green card if the project goes under, but they might still get permanent residency if the business creates enough jobs.

Muzaffar Chishti, di-

rector of the Migration Policy Institute office at New York University School of Law, said the Lucky Dragon sale has "kept alive the possibility" of the investors getting green cards.

The nine-story, 200-room casino-hotel just off the Strip was the first hotel-casino built from the ground up in Las Vegas since the recession. It opened in November 2016 and closed in January 2018 after aiming to attract Asian gamblers but struggling to draw crowds.

About \$126.7 million was spent building the Lucky Dragon, and the resort generated about \$35.2 million in revenue its first year of operations. That was just 22 percent of projections, according to a bankruptcy court filing last year by attorneys for most of the EB-5 investors.

About \$89.5 million of investor funds was used for construction and operations, and nearly \$9 million was spent on administrative fees to the developer, according to bankruptcy records. **DB/AP**

Coutinho says gov't reviewing housing reserved for civil servants

DANIEL BEITLER



Julie Zhu

SECRETARY for Administration and Justice Sonia Chan is said to have already submitted a report to the Chief Executive on a proposal to build housing specially for civil servants, according to lawmaker Pereira Coutinho.

On Friday, Secretary Chan met with the new management of the Macau Civil Servant's Association, including Rita Santos, president of the association, and Coutinho, who stands on the Macau Civil Servant's Association platform for election to the Legislative Assembly.

The association brought 13 proposals to Chan concerning civil servants' welfare.

According to Coutinho, the most updated information provided by Chan relates to housing for civil servants.

"The Secretary said she had already submitted a report to the Chief Executive regarding reserve lands where civil servants' housing will be built," said Coutinho. "We hope that the Chief Executive can make a decision within his term."

In 2012 and 2015, the local government opened applications for local civil servants regarding 160 and 110 civil servant housing units, respectively. However, only civil servants with fixed-term contracts were eligible to apply for the houses. Those on non-fixed-term contracts were excluded.

"There are currently over 40,000 civil servants, together with their family members," said Coutinho.

Civil servants belonging to the security force should be

given priority for housing services, according to Coutinho.

The association's representative also discussed with Chan topics including the possibility of increasing salary points for both doctors and nurses, on-the-job supervision, and grass-root level civil servants, including drivers.

The association further suggested that Chan amend regulations to maintain salary points for retired civil servants as well as granting retired civil servants housing compensation.

According to Coutinho, Chan informed them that she will consider these suggestions and undertake a further evaluation of relevant matters.

In addition, the group questioned Chan about the reasons for the government to be hiring non-local workers.

"We have received complaints from Macau's translators, who felt that the situation is unfair. We hope for greater transparency in recruiting. [The government] must advertise in newspapers to see if there are Macau residents interested in the job, therefore giving opportunities to Macau people," said Coutinho.

The association proposed to Chan that the University of Macau and the Macau Polytechnic Institute should provide more translation degrees, and that the government should work with universities to provide internship opportunities to local students so that governmental departments can avoid hiring non-local translators.

ADVERTORIAL

SANDS CHINA NEWS

Las Vegas Sands Recognises Recipients of Sands Cares Citizenship Award

Sands China team members among those honoured at third annual awards

Sands China's parent company Las Vegas Sands Corp. has announced the 12 recipients of the Dr. Miriam and Mr. Sheldon G. Adelson Sands Cares Citizenship Award, including three team members from Macao.

The award recognises team members who have demonstrated a dedication and commitment to giving back to unique charitable causes within their local communities, in the regions around the world where LVS does business. The Citizenship Award was created to honour the Adelson family's long-term commitment to philanthropy and the legacy of giving they have instilled within the organisation.

The 12 Sands Cares Heroes of the Year were selected by a team comprising executives across the various regions in which LVS operates. This year's honourees from Macao were Kun Sok Fong, Leong Ka Hou and Lam Kam Hang, who have volunteered for various activities under the Sands Cares Ambassador programme.

All award winners were invited to Las Vegas to attend a ceremony held in their honour on April 17.



林錦行 Lam Kam Hang

梁嘉浩 Leong Ka Hou

管淑芳 Kun Sok Fong





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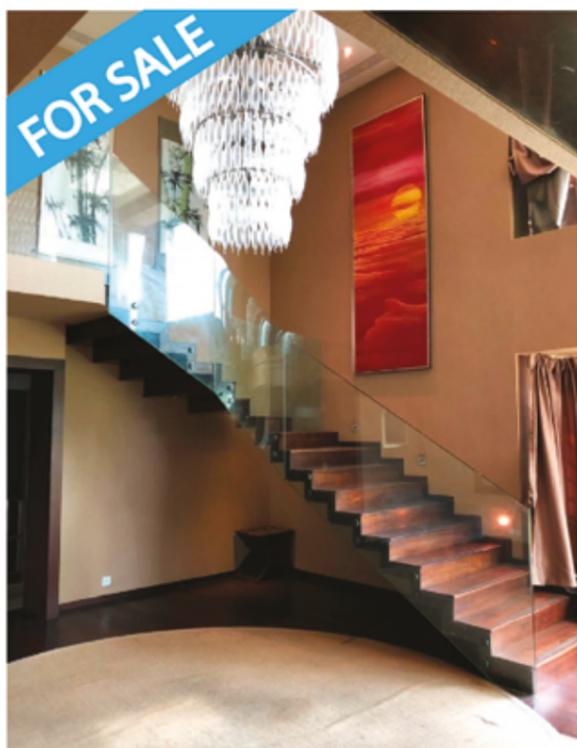


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Property of the Week



Pearl on the Lough
 Ground floor Duplex

HK\$39,000,000
 4,000 ft²
 3
 2



Rare ground floor duplex apartment with villa design, have private entrance, private car park entrance and private garden. Fabulous Sea Views across Macau. 3 bedrooms + 1 function room including maid's bedroom and big storage room. Well designed kitchen with well fitted appliances. Clubhouse facilities include swimming pool etc.

Property Hotlist



Nova City, Taipa

\$13,980,000
 1,494 ft²
 3
 2



Hellene Garden,
 Coloane

\$7,950,000
 1,663 ft²
 3
 2



Kinglight Garden
 Loft, Taipa

~~\$7,880,000~~
\$7,760,000
 800 ft²
 1
 1



More Listings

For Sale

- [Taipa] Nam Long 4 2 1,408 ft² **\$8,680,000** (ref: 19055005)
- [Taipa] Buckingham 2 2 1,439 ft² **\$11,770,000** (ref: 19045004)
- [Taipa] Nice Court 3 2 1,600 ft² **\$8,980,000** (ref: 19045002)
- [Taipa] Manhattan Carpark **\$1,580,000** (ref: 19045003)
- [Taipa] Kinglight Carpark **\$1,450,000** (ref: 19035001)

For Rent

- [Taipa] Nova Grand 2 1 986 ft² **\$16,000/mth** (ref: 19055007RT)
- [Taipa] The Manhattan 3 2 1,626 ft² **\$23,800/mth** (ref: 19030002)
- [Taipa] Nova Park 2 2 1,134 ft² **\$16,400/mth** (ref: 17020638)
- [Macau] Nam Long 1 1 720 ft² **\$12,300/mth** (ref: 17110658)
- [Macau] Macau CBD Office 1,813 ft² **\$21,000/mth** (ref: 19010699)

Recent Movements

- Sold** Nova Taipa Gardens, Taipa
 4 bed, 2,500 ft² (ref: 18115570)
- Rented** Office, Macau
 1,200 ft² (ref: 18090200)
- Rented** Houston Court, Coloane
 1 bed, 850 ft² (ref: 17090657)

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Cradle of Hope



Caritas Macau



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Guia Circuit association says headquarters, UNESCO are priorities

Staff Reporter

THE Macau Guia Circuit Promotion and Development Association (APDCGM) elected its new governing bodies for the upcoming three-year term (2019-2022) at an event last Saturday at the Military Club.

Reelected for another triennium, the Chairman of the Board, José Luís da Rosa Estorninho, said that the priorities of the Association continue

to be the pursuit of the ultimate goal of the APDCGM, which is to elevate the status of Macau's Guia Circuit to UNESCO heritage, including it in Macau's list of heritage sites. The Association continues to work on gathering support from several entities and government departments in relation to this work.

On the other hand, Estorninho noted that to be able to give the APDCGM an official venue for its headquarters is one of the priorities for the

near or mid-term.

"We have conducted several proceedings on this field in the past term, including a meeting that we have had with Secretary [for Social Affairs and Culture] Alexis Tam. At the time, he said that the topics related to assets and government-owned venues were under the Secretariat of Economy and Finance, and that he would pass on the request to such Secretariat, however, so far without any reply," he noted.

Another of the concerns ex-

pressed has to do with the financing and application for subsidies to run the association and finance its activities. "The support from the government is not something we can take for granted and we have seen this support shrinking," the Chairman noted, adding that the support from privately owned institutions is essential to guarantee that works and activities proceed without interruption.

The Chairman will be assisted by the Vice-Chairman, Hélder José Moura dos Santos. The Association also elected Guy Jean Henri Lesquoy for the role of General-Assembly President, assisted by the Vice-President Mário Manuel Franco Ornelas.

The President, Humberto Carlos Leitão Rodrigues, and Vice-President, Jorge Manuel de Senna-Fernandes, will fulfill the main roles on the Audit Committee.

ENVIRONMENT

Macau waste treatment poor, writes Agnes Lam

LAWMAKER Agnes Lam submitted an oral interpellation last month, inquiring as to why the government's efforts in waste treatment have not worked out.

Lam quoted data showing that the incinerator of Macau handled 504,000 tons of solid waste in 2016, an average of 1,377 tons per day – of which 38% was kitchen waste.

She also listed the recycling rates (as a proportion of recycled to non-recycled waste) of several places, finding Macau's was likely to be incredibly low compared with that of Taiwan (57%) and Hong Kong (34%).

The government has pledged to reduce daily waste

disposal from 2.16kg per person in 2016 to 1.5kg per person in 2026, by charging for waste creation, encouraging recycling, and investing in waste handling facilities.

However, a recent study showed that individuals and businesses were not aware of the various government incentives encouraging them to reduce, reuse, and recycle. The waste collected in 2016 was more than the government had expected. Therefore, the lawmaker inquires as to why this was the case.

In addition, Lam also questioned plans to impose a waste levy on waste makers, as well as to set up an environment fund to support recycling acts and facilities.

Octogenarian killed in car crash

An 80-year-old lady was killed on Saturday in a car crash at the parking lot next to the government's Maritime Training School, opposite the A-Ma Temple in Barra. The initial police investigation suggests the deceased was hit by a car while crossing the vehicle entrance of the parking lot. Upon police arrival, the woman was sent to hospital but did not survive. Comments from a witness suggested the driver did not realize she had crashed into the victim until pedestrians stopped her. Apart from surveillance recordings, police are also requesting witness testimony on the accident.

Entry to Sai Van Bridge from Barra complicated

Due to the construction of the Barra Station of the Light Rail System, some roads in the vicinity of the construction site have been closed. Some drivers regard the detours as too complicated, with motorcyclists reporting that the extensive signage is causing confusion. The three-week detour has left one lane open on the road, and the starting point of the motorcycle-exclusive lane of the bridge has been pushed 100 meters in the direction towards Taipa. A two-lane arrangement will be restored after the current phase, but other detours will then be put in action.

Kiang Wu reconstruction to start next year

Plans have been made to rebuild certain buildings at the Kiang Wu Hospital on the Peninsula. The hospital said it would tear down the oldest buildings, which include the outpatient building and the nursing school, and rebuild the two buildings in two phases. The hospital expects the project to take a relatively long time. Details of the plans have not been disclosed, but the hospital has already submitted drafts to the government seeking for permission. Work is expected to start in a year. The hospital says it will ensure all services remain unaffected during the work.

Typhoon workshop, drill conducted by PJ

THE Judiciary Police (PJ) and the Social Welfare Bureau have jointly organized a workshop and simulation drill to help better inform the public of the evacuation plan for low-lying areas of the city in the event of a typhoon.

During the workshop, representatives of the PJ explored the evacuation plan, evacuation routes, various categories of storm surge, warning and broadcasting systems and audio warning signals in detail.

The importance for the public to follow

police instructions to evacuate quickly and orderly was also emphasized and citizens were encouraged to take precautions against disasters in advance.

The workshop was also a chance for the PJ to collect public feedback on the evacuation process.

Meanwhile, the representative of the Social Welfare Bureau introduced the shelter centers of Macau to the workshop participants, including the facilities of the shelter centers, their resources and opening times. In ad-

dition, the Bureau reiterated the locations of assembly points for people in need and the emergency evacuation staying points.

The PJ carried out a drill after the workshop to simulate Macau being hit by a storm surge and civil protection entities activated the evacuation plan as directed. The police force evacuated specific areas, disseminated leaflets carrying disaster prevention measures, explained the locations and facilities of shelter centers and evacuation routes. **DB**



Thousands in Hong Kong commemorate 1989 Tiananmen protests

Katie Tam, Hong Kong

MORE than 2,000 people marched in Hong Kong on yesterday to mark 30 years since a pro-democracy protest in Beijing's Tiananmen Square ended in bloodshed.

Demonstrators took to the streets holding yellow umbrellas that read "Support Freedom, Oppose Evil Laws." Some people carried a black coffin, while others wheeled white crosses and the numbers 6 and 4 — a

nod to the day on June 4, 1989, when leaders of China's ruling Communist Party ordered the military to re-take Tiananmen Square from student-led protesters.

Hundreds, if not thousands, of unarmed protesters and on-lookers were killed late on June 3 and in the early hours of June 4 as a result of the martial action.

Commemorations of the historic event are strictly banned in mainland China, and those

who attempt to raise awareness of or merely discuss it are often punished by authorities. Groups such as the "Tiananmen Mothers" are pressured to stay quiet about the children they lost, while others are detained for making even subtle tributes to the occasion.

The semi-autonomous territory of Hong Kong, however, holds yearly vigils and other gatherings to remember the deceased and pay tribute to the spirit of the protests.

This year in Hong Kong, the march took on additional significance as opposition to changes to an extradition law widely seen as eroding the territory's independent legal system.

Revisions to the law would make it easier to send criminal suspects to mainland China, where critics say they could face vague national security charges and unfair trials.

"Recently, we are facing the challenge of this [extradition law], which affects our basic

freedom and liberty," said Albert Ho, who organized Sunday's march. He is chairman of the Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements of China.

"The dedication and the commitment to fight for democracy and human rights is the only way out," said Ho, who added that he hopes more people will become aware of the situation facing Hong Kong as legislators debate the proposed amendments. **AP**

HONG KONG

Carrie Lam protests over German asylum for dissidents

HONG Kong's leader summoned the German consul on Friday to complain about Germany granting political asylum to two Hong Kong political activists, in a rare case of diplomatic intervention by the government of the semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

Carrie Lam called the pair bail jumpers who were facing charges including rioting and assaulting police over a violent incident in February 2016.

She said Hong Kong courts would have granted the two a fair trial and Germany had "unjustifiably undermined



Pro-China protesters hold pictures of Hong Kong activists Ray Wong Toi-yeung and Alan Li Tung-sing

Hong Kong's international reputation in the rule of law and judicial inde-

pendence." Lam asked David Schmidt to convey "deep regrets and strong

objections" to the German authorities.

In interviews with The

Wall Street Journal and Financial Times published on Wednesday, Ray Wong Toi Yeung said he and fellow pro-democracy protester Alan Li Tung Sing were granted asylum last year.

Germany's Interior Ministry would not give names due to privacy regulations, but confirmed it had granted two people from Hong Kong asylum last year. Wong and Li are the only dissidents known to have been in Germany seeking protection.

Wong told the Journal he chose to reveal his asylum status now in response to a proposed Hong Kong law that would allow criminal suspects to be handed over to mainland China where they would likely not receive a fair trial.

That law is seen as part of a drive by Beijing to rein in Hong Kong's

freedoms, endangering its independent legal system which it was granted for 50 years after its 1997 handover from British rule.

Hong Kong authorities have generally taken a low-key approach to international disputes, mindful of the territory's reputation as a largely apolitical center of business and finance.

However, Germany's Foreign Ministry said Wednesday it was "increasingly concerned about the diminishing space for the political opposition" in the Chinese territory.

The Feb. 8-9, 2016, outbreak of violence in the city's working-class Mong Kok district between police, illegal street food hawkers and activists followed 2014's "Umbrella Movement" protests demanding greater democracy. **AP**

Starbucks will license Thai operations to focus on China

STARBUCKS Corp. agreed to license its Thailand operations to a partner, in the latest sign that the coffee behemoth is sharpening its focus on its key markets of China and the U.S.

The company entered into an agreement with Coffee Concepts Thailand, a joint venture between Maxim's Caterers Ltd. and Thai partner F&N Retail Connection Co., to fully license its retail business in Thailand. The deal is expected to close by the end of the month, the Seattle-based company said in a statement, without giving any financial details.

A transaction could value Starbucks's operations in the country at more than USD500 million, according to people with knowledge of the matter, asking not to be identified because the information is private.

The shift comes as Star-



bucks tries to remove distractions from Chief Executive Officer Kevin Johnson as he focuses on boosting performance in its two most important markets. Starbucks is betting on a massive expansion in China to drive growth amid concerns it's already saturated the U.S. But China presents its own hurdles,

with increased competition from local startups and an economic slowdown that's curbed the company's previous breakneck sales pace.

The company has made similar moves to cede control of its businesses in less important markets. Starbucks last year agreed to license its operations in France and other Euro-

pean countries, and before that in markets including Taiwan and Hong Kong.

Starbucks opened its first store in Thailand in 1998 and has since grown to 372 locations in the market. The Thailand licensee will "focus on accelerating new store development" in an important market, Starbucks said. **MDT/Bloomberg**

JAPAN

New bullet train model hits record speed

A new model of bullet train set to enter service ahead of the Tokyo Olympics hit a record speed of 360 kilometers (224 miles) per hour in a test run, operator JR Central said.

The N700s - the suffix stands for 'supreme' - is the first new model of bullet train on Japan's busiest line for almost a decade. The train is lighter and uses less energy than current designs, as well as boasting additional safety features in case of earthquakes.

The record was achieved late Friday on tracks linking Maibara and Kyoto, said Central Japan Railway Co., better known as JR Central. It's the fastest speed a commercial model of shinkansen bullet train has ever achieved, although the train is expected to run at the line's current top speed of 285 kph when it enters service.

JR Central is spending 240 billion yen (USD2.2 billion) on the introduction of the train series, and will continue tests at the top speed until mid June.

Japan's bullet trains, which debuted the same year as the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, are famed for their reliability and safety. Japan is pitching the trains for export, with JR Central aiming to sell the Supreme model to Texas and Taiwan.

Another JR company, East Japan Railway Co., is currently testing the Alfa-X, which will operate at 360 kph when it's introduced in 2030 on lines linking Tokyo to the northern island of Hokkaido. **Bloomberg**

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Beijing ramps up war of rhetoric in trade standoff with US

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

STEPPING up Beijing's propaganda offensive in the tariffs standoff with Washington, Chinese state media on Friday accused the U.S. of seeking to "colonize global business" with moves against Huawei and other Chinese technology companies.

There was no word from either side on progress toward resuming talks between the world's two largest economies, though President Donald Trump said he expected to meet with his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, next month at a G-20 meeting in Japan.

Negotiations over how to cut the huge, longstanding U.S. trade deficit with China and resolve complaints over Beijing's

methods for acquiring advanced foreign technologies foundered earlier this month after Trump raised tariffs on billions of dollars of imports from China.

At a daily briefing Friday, foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang accused American politicians he didn't name of "fabricating various lies based on subjective presumptions and trying to mislead the American people."

The China Daily, an English-language newspaper, said U.S. expressions of concerns about Chinese surveillance equipment maker Hikvision were for the self-serving aim of claiming the "moral high ground" to promote Washington's political agenda.

"In this way, it is hoping to achieve the colonization of the

global business world," the newspaper said.

Hikvision said in a statement Friday that it takes U.S. concerns about its business seriously and is working to ensure it complies with human rights standards.

Activists have been urging the U.S. and other countries to sanction China over repression of members of Muslim minority ethnic groups in the northwestern Xinjiang region, where an estimated 1 million people are being detained in re-education camps.

The New York Times reported the U.S. Commerce Department might put Hikvision on its "entity list," restricting its business with U.S. companies for its alleged role in facilitating sur-

veillance in Xinjiang.

In its statement, the company said it had "engaged with the U.S. government regarding all of this since last October."

Hikvision said it had retained former U.S. Ambassador-at-Large Pierre-Richard Prosper of the firm Arent Fox to advise the company regarding human rights compliance.

"Over the past year, there have been numerous reports about ways that video surveillance products have been involved in human rights violations," the statement said. "We read every report seriously and are listening to voices from outside the company."

In South Korea, officials said they were discussing security issues related to its 5G, or fifth

generation, cellphone networks with the U.S.

Officials in South Korea's Foreign Ministry and presidential office did not, however, confirm the report by the Chosun Ilbo newspaper that U.S. officials want Seoul to block a local wireless carrier that uses Huawei equipment for its 5G services from unspecified "sensitive areas."

Washington considers Huawei, the world's leading supplier of telecom gear and No. 2 smartphone maker, a security threat. Huawei has sought to alleviate those concerns and has rejected assertions that it would facilitate spying by Beijing.

It's unclear whether Seoul would accept potential U.S. demands to block imports of Huawei products at risk of triggering retaliation from China, its biggest trade partner.

A U.S. business group reported Friday that its members' operations in China are facing growing pressure from trade friction after the Trump administration imposed 25% tariffs on \$250 billion in Chinese imports, with plans to extend those duties to another \$300 billion — virtually all the goods America buys from China.

"The negative impact of tariffs is clear and hurting the competitiveness of American companies in China," the American Chamber of Commerce in China and AmCham Shanghai said in announcing the results of a survey of nearly 250 companies conducted May 16-20.

China has raised tariffs on \$110 billion of U.S. products and has said it's prepared to do more to defend its national interest.

The report said about 40 of the companies surveyed were being subjected to more inspections or slower customs clearance. Just over half have yet to experience any impact from such non-tariff retaliatory measures.

To cope, companies are focusing more on the China market, it said, rather than exporting to the U.S., and delaying or canceling investment decisions. **AP**

Taiwanese same-sex couples wed at vibrant banquet

Taijing Wu, Taipei

MORE than 1,000 people attended a mass wedding banquet in Taiwan's capital to celebrate the marriage of same-sex couples after a landmark decision legalizing the unions.

Taiwan became the first place in Asia to recognize same-sex marriage last week following a vote by the island's legislature.

LGBT couples clad in flowing white gowns and matching suits gathered

in Taipei on Saturday evening to walk down a red carpet flanked by cheering supporters. Taiwan's state Central News Agency reported that more than 1,600 guests were in attendance, including 20 same-sex couples who recently tied the knot.

"Never did we give up hope that we would one day get married," said Janet Hsu, a 38-year-old civil servant who married her partner.

They and other pairs were honored in a gala

that featured an emcee who wished them "100 years of happiness." A drag queen also performed with a group of scantily clad men.

The banquet seated 160 tables and served nine courses of traditional Taiwanese food, according to the Central News Agency.

Taiwan split with mainland China amid a civil war in 1949. China's ruling Communist Party considers the island part of its territory. **AP**



US ambassador raises concerns during rare Tibet visit

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

THE U.S. ambassador to China urged Beijing to engage in substantive dialogue with exiled Tibetan Buddhist leader the Dalai Lama during a visit to the Himalayan region over the past week, the U.S. Embassy said Saturday.

Terry Branstad also “expressed concerns regarding the Chinese government’s interference in Tibetan Buddhists’ freedom to organize and practice their religion,” an embassy statement said.

“He encouraged the Chinese government to engage in substantive dialogue with the Dalai Lama or his representatives, without preconditions, to seek a settlement that resolves differences,” it said.

Branstad also raised long-standing concerns about the lack of consistent access to the Tibetan Autonomous Region. The rare visit to the TAR and neighboring Qinghai province ran from Sunday through Saturday.

Hosted by the Tibet Autonomous Region government, Branstad was given access to important religious and cultural



sites, including the Potala Palace, Jokhang Temple, Norbulingka, and Sera Monastery in the Tibetan capital, Lhasa. He also met with senior Tibetan religious and cultural leaders, the embassy said.

China tightly restricts access to Tibet by foreigners, especially journalists and diplomats. In response to those restric-

tions, the U.S. Congress last year passed an act that would deny entry to the United States for those involved in formulating or enforcing such policies.

There was no immediate response from Beijing, although Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang last week said China welcomed Branstad to witness the “earth-shaking

changes in the people’s production and life since Tibet’s peaceful liberation more than 60 years ago.”

“I hope that this visit to Tibet can help Ambassador Branstad make a conclusion without prejudice in the spirit of respecting the facts [...] instead of being confused and disturbed by some long-standing hearsay

and defamatory speeches,” Lu said at a regularly scheduled briefing.

China says Tibet has been part of its territory for centuries, but many Tibetans say they were effectively an independent nation for most of that time. Beijing’s control was most recently asserted when the Communist Party’s military wing, the People’s Liberation Army, invaded the region in 1950.

The Dalai Lama fled to India amid an abortive uprising against Chinese rule in 1959 and calls for genuine autonomy for Tibet under Chinese rule. Beijing labels the 83-year-old cleric a dangerous separatist, has refused contacts with his representatives for more than a decade and objects strongly to any meetings between him and foreign politicians.

In recent years there has been a significant tightening of control over Tibetan Buddhism, use of the Tibetan language and traditional cultural expression. Following anti-government protests in 2008, Beijing imposed a policy of “grid policing” that substantially reduces travel and social life for Tibetans, even while China ramps up domestic tourism in the region.

Those methods have been subsequently imposed in the neighboring region of Xinjiang, where an estimated 1 million members of its native Muslim ethnic groups have been confined to detention centers. **AP**

Xi seeks global cooperation on technology after Huawei blocked

Venus Feng & Li Liu

COUNTRIES should cooperate in developing the Internet, big data and artificial intelligence, China President Xi Jinping said in a letter to the China International Big Data Industry Expo that started Sunday in the southwestern city of Guiyang, Xinhua reports.

China attaches great importance to the development of the big data industry and is willing to explore a growth path with other nations for new technologies, Xi said in the letter, according to Xinhua.

The conference, which runs through Wednesday, counts China tech giants including Alibaba Group Holding, Tencent Holdings and Huawei Technologies Co. among its exhibitors.



The U.S. government has announced a ban on exports from Huawei and barred the Chinese company from buying components from American firms. Washington also threatened to ban five other Chinese video-surveillance businesses.

Shares of semiconductor and chip suppliers have plunged over the past month amid trade-war tensions.

Raymond James analyst Chris Caso said in a note to clients this week that he expects “many, if not most,” chip companies may have to cut estimates.

“Negative total month-to-date returns for the investment-grade

technology sector have been primarily driven by a semiconductor selloff, a trend unlikely to reverse until trade uncertainties dissipate,” Robert Schiffman, a Bloomberg Intelligence analyst, wrote in his note on May 24.

The Huawei ban is a “rough” disruption to the market, Wang Zhijun, vice head of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, said in an interview on state broadcaster China Central Television. He urged the U.S. government to stop “unreasonable suppression” of China’s integrated circuit and electronic companies.

Data security, digital economy and technical innovation are the key topics at the China International Big Data Industry Expo, according to its website.

Bloomberg

Germany probes Chinese reporters for snooping around military

Arne Delfs

GERMANY’S military is investigating what information three Chinese reporters collected while Chancellor Angela Merkel visited a NATO unit, signaling heightened mistrust of the state-run Xinhua news agency.

The Xinhua reporters raised suspicion by filming military equipment and interviewing soldiers about their daily routines, according to a person familiar with the incident who asked not to be identified discussing security matters. They were accredited along with other journalists to enter the base and report on Merkel’s visit to the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force training area at Munster, Germany, on May 20.

A German intelligence official said Xinhua has been under observation for some time due to its links to China’s ruling Communist party. German intelligence views Xinhua reporters

as feeding Chinese propaganda efforts and helping collect data and information abroad that’s subsequently put to official use, the official said.

A representative for Xinhua’s foreign affairs bureau said its reporters aren’t under investigation and were carrying out normal on-site interviews in Germany. Phone calls to China’s foreign ministry outside of business hours were unanswered, and there was no immediate reply to a fax seeking comment.

The U.S. government ordered Xinhua and broadcaster China Global Television last September to register under the Foreign Agents Registration Act. As a result, Xinhua is required in the U.S. to disclose activities and spending and to introduce disclaimers regarding its journalistic content.

Germany doesn’t have such a classification for media organizations, though reporters are liable to prosecution if they commit a crime. **Bloomberg**



Trump defends Kim, downplays missile threat

Jill Colvin, Tokyo

IN an apparent contradiction of his national security adviser, President Donald Trump on yesterday downplayed recent North Korean missile tests, tweeting from Tokyo that they're not a concern for him in comments sure to unnerve Japanese leaders.

Trump also said North Korea's Kim Jong Un's criticism of one

of his Democratic rivals, former Vice President Joe Biden, had made him smile.

The remarks were the latest example of Trump's willingness to publicly undermine senior advisers, flout democratic norms and side with totalitarian leaders, even on the world stage. He did so this time during a four-day state visit to Japan where he'll become the first leader to meet with the country's new emperor.

"North Korea fired off some small weapons, which disturbed some of my people, and others, but not me," Trump tweeted in one of a flurry of early morning messages that suggested he'd spent little time sleeping after the lengthy flight to Asia.

"Some" of his "people" appear to include national security adviser John Bolton, who told reporters at a briefing Saturday ahead of Trump's arrival that a series

of short-range missile tests by North Korea earlier this month were a violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions.

"In terms of violating U.N. Security Council resolutions, there is no doubt about that," said Bolton, responding to the May 4 and 9 tests that ended a pause in launches that began in late 2017. Trump ignored a shouted question yesterday about whether he agreed with Bolton's assessment.

Trump and other administration officials have sought to downplay the significance of the tests, insisting they do not violate an agreement Trump reached with Kim for a moratorium on launches.

"The moratorium was focused, very focused, on intercontinental missile systems, the ones that threaten the United States," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a recent television interview. That raised alarm bells in Japan, where short-range missiles pose a serious threat because of the country's proximity to North Korea.

Unlike several other leaders in the region, Abe has yet to meet with Kim, leaving Japan to rely on the U.S. as an intermediary and advocate with North Korea. Abe recently offered to meet Kim without preconditions in an effort to restore diplomatic ties.

Trump in his tweet said he had "confidence that Chairman Kim

will keep his promise to me," while at the same time embracing Kim's recent attacks on Biden, whose name he misspelled. Trump said he "smiled" when Kim "called Swampman Joe Biden a low IQ individual, & worse."

"Perhaps that's sending me a signal?" Trump asked.

Trump later offered a new tweet with the correct "Biden" spelling.

North Korea this week labeled Biden a "fool of low IQ" and an "imbecile bereft of elementary quality as a human being" after the U.S. presidential hopeful accused Trump of cozying up to "dictators and tyrants" like Kim and Russian President Vladimir Putin during his campaign launch speech.

Biden's campaign would not comment on the record, but a spokesman for his campaign, Andrew Bates said Wednesday that, "Given Vice President Biden's record of standing up for American values and interests, it's no surprise that North Korea would prefer that Donald Trump remain in the White House."

The tweet came early before Trump left his hotel for a round of golf with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. He'll also be attending a sumo wrestling match and handing out a "President's Cup" to the winner as part of a visit meant to showcase the close ties between the nations. **AP**

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THAILAND

Former Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda dies at 98

Grant Peck, Bangkok

PREM Tinsulanonda, who as an army commander, prime minister and adviser to the royal palace was one of Thailand's most influential political figures over four decades, died yesterday at age 98.

His death in a Bangkok hospital was announced by the government's Public Relations Department. Never married, he leaves no family survivors. Thai Princess Sirindhorn will preside over his initial Buddhist funeral rites today.

Prem was best known for his long-standing devotion to the monarchy, especially the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who appointed him to his Privy Council immediately after Prem's eight years as prime minister, and named him head of that powerful advisory body in 1998, a position he held until his death.

Prem is credited by some scholars with establishing the unspoken primacy of the palace in Thailand's power structure, cementing a mutually beneficial alliance with the military.

He was prime minister from 1980 to 1988, and helped usher in a period of relative stability after a successful pro-democracy uprising against a military dictatorship in 1973, a counter-revolution and coup in 1976 and another coup in 1977, as well as edginess about communist takeovers in neighboring Indochina in 1975.



While most Thai army commanders came to the position through coups, Prem was elected constitutionally by parliamentary vote, though he never ran for office. As prime minister, he weathered two attempted coups and was reportedly the target of several assassination plots.

Critics questioned his devotion to democracy, and accused him of encouraging, if not engineering, the 2006 coup that ousted elected Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

He denied such allegations, but in the months preceding the military takeover, frequently talked about corruption and greed in

government — a major accusation against Thaksin by his critics — and strongly advised in public speeches to army and navy cadets that their loyalty was to king and country, not the government.

Ironically, Prem's barely veiled backing of the coup set in motion events that contributed to a decline in the near-universal respect for the monarchy, because of the perception among the popular Thaksin's supporters that the palace was taking sides in politics, something it publicly always denied doing under the system of constitutional monarchy.

"That coup was probably Prem's last major political intervention,

and it was one where he misjudged," Kevin Hewison, a professor emeritus at the University of North Carolina and veteran Thai studies scholar, said in an email interview yesterday. "He expected elation and praise for his open role in getting rid of Thaksin. Instead, his intervention lit the fuse of a political polarization that continues to haunt Thailand's elite."

The coup set off a sometimes violent battle for power between Thaksin's opponents and his political allies, who despite electoral victories, were forced time and again from office, culminating in another coup in 2014. An election in March this year is set to install

a government in the near future, but constitutional changes ensure the military will keep elected politicians on a tight leash.

Prem retained his role as a behind-the-scenes power broker after the 2006 coup, especially as King Bhumibol was in ill health for much of the decade before his death in 2016.

Prem, in apparently vigorous health for his age until recently, looked frail at two recent public appearances: voting in the March general election and the coronation of Bhumibol's son, King Maha Vajiralongkorn, earlier this month.

Prem was born in the major southern fishing port of Songkhla on Aug. 26, 1920. He attended the prestigious Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy in Bangkok and later U.S. Army schools. He began his military career in 1941 as a second lieutenant in a tank regiment.

He first achieved national prominence in 1974-77, when as regional army commander in Thailand's poor rural northeast he stressed rural development and civic action instead of military might in a successful campaign against communist insurgents. As prime minister, he continued using policies of amnesty and other political means to prompt defections from the communist guerrilla movement.

Junior officers pushed a reluctant Prem into taking the prime minister's job in 1980, when Thailand was facing an ailing economy and perils on the border with Cambodia, which had been occupied by Vietnamese forces who had driven out the communist Khmer Rouge regime but also sent hundreds of thousands of refugees into Thailand. At the same time, Thailand expanded ties with China and allies in the West, Japan and Southeast Asia. **AP**

NEPAL

Record-setting Everest guide returns hero

FAMILY, friends and supporters welcomed a veteran Sherpa guide upon his return to Nepal's capital on Saturday, days after his 24th climb of Mount Everest extended his record.

After flying back from Everest to Kathmandu, Kami Rita was greeted by the waiting crowd at the airport. His wife hugged him and the crowd covered him with a cream-colored scarf and offered him yogurt.

The brief celebration at the airport parking area with traditional drums was followed by Rita riding on a truck waving to supporters as they drove out of the airport.



He told reporters he was very happy but exhausted.

Rita reached Everest's 8,850-meter peak on Tuesday, the second time

he had climbed to the summit in a week. He also reached the top of the world's highest peak on May 15, then returned to base

camp before climbing again this past week.

The climbs bring Rita, 49, closer to his target of 25 ascents of Everest before he

retires from high mountain climbing. His two closest peers have climbed Everest 21 times each, but both of them have retired from mountain climbing.

There are 41 teams with a total of 378 climbers permitted to scale Everest during the spring climbing season. An equal number of Nepalese guides are helping them get to the summit.

About half a dozen climbers died this past week, most of them while descending from the summit during only a few windows of good weather each May. Most are believed to have suffered from altitude sickness, which is caused by low amounts of oxygen

at high elevation and can cause headaches, vomiting, shortness of breath and mental confusion.

Among the latest fatalities was British climber Robin Haynes Fisher, 44.

Murari Sharma, managing director of Everest Expeditions Pvt Ltd, said Fisher and his Sherpa guide reached the summit on Saturday and had descended 150 meters when he fell unconscious. A group of Sherpas changed his oxygen bottle and tried to give him some water but he could not be revived, he said.

Rita first scaled Everest in 1994 and has been making the trip nearly every year since. **AP**

AFGHANISTAN

UN says captives held by Taliban subjected to abuse

Rahim Faiez, Kabul

AFGHAN captives held by the Taliban have been subjected to abuse, ill-treatment and actions that may amount to torture, the U.N. said yesterday — a statement that comes as the U.S. is trying to find a negotiated solution to the country's protracted war.

The U.N. Assistance Mission in Afghanistan said it interviewed 13 detainees from a group of 53 recently rescued from the Taliban, mainly members of Afghan forces but also civilians and government officials captured by the insurgents.

The group was freed on April 25 when Afghan troops raided a Taliban-run detention facility in the Khas Uruzgan district in southern Uruzgan province.

Most of the captives were held since 2018, with three since 2016, the UNAMA statement said, adding they were kept in poor conditions and subjected to forced labor. It cites the detainees as saying that the Taliban killed some of their captives.

"I am gravely concerned about



these serious allegations of ill-treatment, torture and unlawful killing of civilians and security personnel, as well as the deplorable conditions of detention," said Tadamichi Yamamoto, the head of UNAMA.

The detainees were shackled while in captivity and almost all said they were beaten. The Taliban told them it was punish-

ment for supporting the government, working with the Americans or fighting the insurgents.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid condemned the U.N. statement as "untrue propaganda" and claimed it was "baseless."

Mujahid criticized what he said was ill-treatment of Taliban prisoners held in secret detention

centers by the Afghan intelligence service, which he claimed was being ignored.

The U.N. statement comes as Washington's peace envoy, Zalmay Khalilzad is pressing ahead with talks with the Taliban, who refuse to negotiate directly with the Kabul government.

The talks so far have focused on a timetable for U.S. troop

withdrawal as well as Taliban guarantees that they won't harbor terrorist groups or allow Afghanistan to be used as a staging ground for global terrorist attacks.

The conflict in Afghanistan has cost more than 2,300 American lives and hundreds of billions in taxpayer dollars. As the war approaches its 18th year, 14,000 U.S. troops are still in Afghanistan, and senior intelligence officials have repeatedly warned that the country remains fragile and could once again become a terrorist haven.

They were kept in poor conditions and subjected to forced labor

"The United Nations reminds the Taliban that international humanitarian law applicable to international and non-international armed conflicts provides that all persons who do not take direct part in hostilities, or who have ceased to do so, must always be treated humanely," said Richard Bennett, UNAMA's chief for human rights.

Since 2011, UNAMA has monitored and reported on the treatment of conflict-related detainees. **AP**

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18h30 - 21h30**

total: 09 horas/hours
03 sessões/sessions

início/starts: 11/06/2019
fim/finishes: 25/06/2019

propina/fee: **MOP 360 ***

lingua/language: Português e Inglês/Portuguese and English **

local/venue:
Avenida do Dr. Francisco Vieira Machado n° 431- 487 Edf. Industrial Nam Fung 8° andar B, sala 1, Macau

número máximo de participantes/maximum number of participants:
10 (Será respeitada a ordem de inscrição sendo esta efetiva mediante o pagamento de propina).
10 (The registration order will be respected and registration is considered when payment is done).

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EU ELECTIONS

Europe's voters elect new parliament as nationalism mounts

Mike Corder, Brussels

PIVOTAL elections for the European Union parliament reached their climax yesterday as the last 21 nations went to the polls, with results to be announced in the evening in a vote that boils down to a continent-wide battle between eurosceptic populists and proponents of closer EU unity.

Right-wing nationalists who want to slash immigration into Europe and return power to national governments are expected to make gains, though mainstream parties are tipped to hold onto power in the 751-seat legislature that sits in both Brussels and Strasbourg.

Leading the challenge to the established order is Italy's hard-line interior minister, Matteo Salvini, head of the League party, who is assembling a group of like-minded parties from across Europe.

"We need to do everything that is right to free this country, this continent, from the illegal occupation organized by Brussels," Salvini told a rally in Milan last weekend that was at-



tended by the leaders of 11 nationalist parties.

As he voted in Budapest on yesterday, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban said he hopes the election will bring a shift toward political parties that want to stop migration.

The migration issue "will reorganize the political spectrum in the European Union," said Orban, who recently met with Sal-

vini but has not yet committed to joining the Italian's group.

Projections released by the European Parliament last month show the center-right European People's Party bloc losing 37 of its 217 seats and the center-left S&D group dropping from 186 seats to 149. On the far right flank, the Europe of Nations and Freedom group is predicted to increase its bloc

from 37 to 62 seats.

Proponents of stronger EU integration, led by French President Emmanuel Macron, argue that issues like climate change and reining in immigration are simply too big for any one country to tackle alone.

Macron, whose country has been rocked in recent months by the populist yellow vest movement, has called the elections "the most important since 1979 because the [European] Union is facing an existential risk" from nationalists seeking to divide the bloc.

In Austria, Chancellor Sebastian Kurz said yesterday that he hopes the elections will strengthen the center rather than parties on the far right and left.

Austria is one of the countries where the vote has increasing importance to national politics, serving as a first test of support ahead of a national election in September following the collapse of Kurz's governing coalition a week ago.

Spanish caretaker Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, who is currently trying to form a government at home, said as he voted in Madrid that he hopes

the outcome of the vote will lead to stability in his country.

He added that the elections are "to decide the future of progress and wellbeing for the entirety of our country and Europe."

In Belgium, a general election is taking place alongside the European vote, while Lithuanians will vote in the second round of their presidential election.

Yesterday promises to be a long day and night for election watchers — the last polls close at 11 p.m. (2100 GMT) in Italy but the European Parliament plans to begin issuing estimates and projections hours earlier with the first official projection of the makeup of the new parliament at 11:15 p.m. (2115 GMT).

As the dust settles on four days of elections, European leaders will begin the task of selecting candidates for the top jobs in the EU's headquarters in Brussels. The leaders meet for a summit over dinner Tuesday night.

Current European lawmakers' terms end July 1 and the new parliament will take their seats in Strasbourg the following day. **AP**

GULF TENSIONS

Iraq offers to mediate in crisis between its allies Iran, US

Qassim Abdul-Zahra & Nasser Karimi, Baghdad

IRAQ offered yesterday to mediate in the crisis between its two key allies, the United States and Iran, amid escalating Middle East tensions and as Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers steadily unravels.

Iraqi foreign minister, Mohammed al-Hakim, made the offer during a joint news conference in Baghdad with visiting Iranian counterpart Mohammad Javad Zarif.

"We are trying to help and to be mediators," said al-Hakim, adding that Baghdad "will work to reach a satisfactory solution" while stressing that Iraq stands against unilateral steps taken by Washington.

In recent weeks, tensions between Washington and

Tehran soared over America deploying an aircraft carrier and B-52 bombers to the Persian Gulf over a still-unexplained threat it perceives from Tehran. The U.S. also plans to send 900 additional troops to the 600 already in the Middle East and extending their stay.

The crisis takes root in President Donald Trump's withdrawal last year of America from the 2015 nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers that capped Iran's uranium enrichment activities in return to lifting sanctions. Washington subsequently re-imposed sanctions on Iran, sending its economy into freefall.

Trump has argued that the deal failed to sufficiently curb Iran's ability to develop nuclear weapons or halt its support

for militias throughout the Middle East that the U.S. says destabilize the region, as well as address the issue of Tehran's missiles, which can reach both U.S. regional bases and Israel.

Zarif, who was been on a whirlwind diplomatic offensive to preserve the rest of the accord, insisted that Iran "did not violate the nuclear deal" and urged European nations to exert efforts to preserve the deal following the U.S. pullout.

Speaking about the rising tensions with the U.S., Zarif said Iran will be able to "face the war, whether it is economic or military through steadfastness and its forces." He also urged for a non-aggression agreement between Iran and Arab countries in the Gulf.

The Shiite-majority Iraq

has been trying to maintain a fine line as allies Tehran and Washington descended into verbal vitriol. The country also lies on the fault line between Shiite Iran and the mostly Sunni Arab world, led by powerhouse Saudi Arabia, and has long been a battlefield in which the Saudi-Iran rivalry for regional supremacy played out.

The mediation offer by al-Hakim, Iraq's foreign minister, echoed one made Saturday by Mohammad al-Halbousi, the Iraqi parliament speaker. Al-Hakim also expressed concern for Iran's spiraling economy.

Iranians make up the bulk of millions of Shiites from around the world who come to Iraq every year to visit its many Shiite shrines and holy places and their purchasing power has slumped after



Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohamed Alhakim (right) and Iranian counterpart Mohammad Javad Zarif

Trump re-imposed the sanctions.

"The sanctions against sisterly Iran are ineffective and we stand by its side," al-Hakim said.

Meanwhile, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani suggested the Islamic Republic could hold a referendum over its nuclear program. The official IRNA news agency said Rouhani, who was last week publicly chastised by the country's supreme leader, made the suggestion in a meeting with editors of major Iranian news outlets on Saturday evening.

Rouhani said he had previously suggested a referendum to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in 2004, when Rouhani was a senior nuclear negotiator for Iran.

At the time, Khamenei approved of the idea and though there was no referendum, such a vote "can be a solution at any time," Rouhani was quoted as saying.

A referendum could provide political cover for the Iranian government if it chooses to increase its enrichment of uranium, prohibited under the 2015 nuclear deal. **AP**

what's ON



STAMPS AROUND THE WORLD – LIECHTENSTEIN, KINGDOM OF STAMPS
TIME: 9am -5:30pm (Closed on public holidays)
UNTIL: May 31, 2019
VENUE: Temporary Gallery, Communications Museum
ADMISSION: MOP10
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2871 8063

MACAU GIANT PANDA PAVILION AND PAVILION OF RARE ANIMALS
TIME: 10am-1pm & 2pm-5pm daily
VENUE: Seac Pai Van Park
ADMISSION: MOP10 (Pavilion of Rare Animals)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0087

MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE
TIME: 10am-6pm daily (Except on Thursdays; open on public holidays)
VENUE: Macau Science Center
ADMISSION: MOP25 (Exhibition Centre)
MOP60 (Planetarium 2D dome or 2D sky shows)
MOP80 (Planetarium 3D dome or 3D sky shows)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

MANDARIN'S HOUSE
TIME: 10am-6pm daily (Last admission at 5:30pm; closed on Wednesdays, open on public holidays)
ADDRESS: No. 10, Travessa de António da Silva
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8820

TREASURE OF SACRED ART OF ST. JOSEPH'S SEMINARY
TIME: 10am-5pm daily (Closed on Wednesdays, open on public holidays)
VENUE: St. Joseph's Seminary and Church, Rua do Seminário
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

SEE SAW ZINE?
TIME: 12pm-8pm (Closed on Tuesdays)
UNTIL: July 12, 2019
VENUE: Taipa Village Art Space
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2857 6212/ 2857 6118

Offbeat

POLICE: MYSTERY MAN PULLING EMERGENCY BRAKES ON SUBWAYS

New York City police have been searching for a person who has been intentionally pulling the emergency brakes on subway cars for no legitimate purpose.

Police on Thursday released images and video of a man they say rode on the outside of a car for several stops before entering the car and pulling its emergency brake and fleeing.

It happened on a northbound 2 train at the 14th Street and Seventh Avenue station during the Tuesday evening rush hour.

Police say there have been about 40 similar incidents. They began in February, continued in March and increased in frequency in April and May.

Police believe the brake pulling prankster is using a key to gain access to an unoccupied motorman car, where he is able to engage the emergency brake.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Água de Mar
15:45	Zig Zag
16:20	T2 para 3 Remodelado
16:50	Quem Quer Ser Milionário
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



CINETEATRO

24 - 31 May

POKEMON: DETECTIVE PIKACHU

ROOM 1

2:30, 4:30pm

Director: Rob Letterman

Starring: Ryan Reynolds, Justice Smith, Kathryn Newton

Language: Cantonese

Duration: 104min

MAYDAY LIFE

ROOM 1

7:30, 9:30pm

Director: Muh Chen

Starring: Monster, Stone, Masa, Guan You, Ashin

Language: Putonghua (Chinese)

Duration: 101min



LONG SHOT

ROOM 2

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

Director: Jonathan Levine

Starring: Charlize Theron, Seth Rogen, Alexander Skarsgård, Andy Serkis

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 94min



ALADDIN

ROOM 3

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

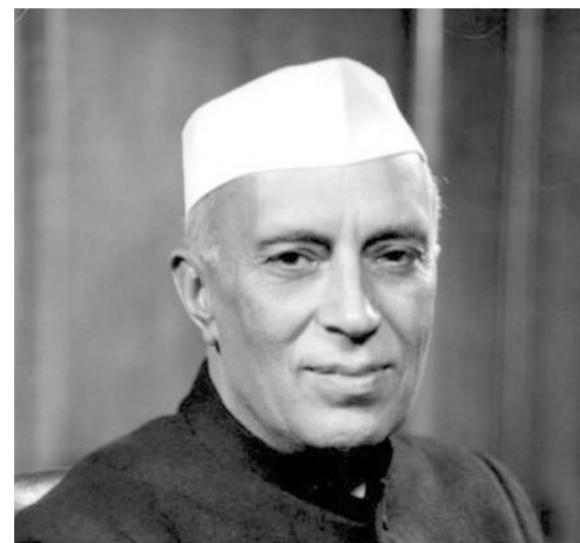
Director: Guy Ritchie

Starring: Will Smith, Mena Massoud, Naomi Scott

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 109min

this day in history

**1964 LIGHT GOES OUT IN INDIA AS NEHRU DIES**

Jawaharlal Nehru, founder of modern India and its current prime minister, has died suddenly at the age of 74.

He was taken ill in the early hours of this morning at his house in New Delhi. He had returned from holiday at a hill station near the capital the previous evening, apparently in reasonable health.

It is believed he suffered a heart attack, and although specialists fought to save him for much of the day, he passed away early this afternoon with his daughter, Indira Gandhi, by his side.

News of his death was broken to the lower house of parliament, the Lok Sabha, at 1400 local time (0830 GMT), by cabinet minister C Subramaniam.

In a broken voice, he told colleagues, "The prime minister is no more. The light is out."

Politicians openly wept as party leaders paid tribute to the man who has led India since independence from Britain 17 years ago.

The news spread quickly through the streets, and thousands of ordinary Indians began to converge on Mr Nehru's mansion in New Delhi.

Within two hours of the announcement, tens of thousands of people had gathered, and truckloads of police took up positions outside the grounds to control the rapidly growing crowd.

Mr Nehru's body was moved from his first-floor bedroom down to a makeshift bier in front of the house.

Then began a long procession which lasted through the rest of the evening and into the night, as nearly 250,000 men, women and children filed past to pay their respects.

The Home Minister, Gulzarilal Nanda, was sworn in as interim prime minister at midnight, although it is being emphasized that the appointment is temporary.

Pandit Nehru had not indicated who he would prefer to succeed him.

When the subject was raised just five days ago at a news conference, he said that although he had given some thought to the suggestion that he should retire, "my lifetime is not ending so very soon."

The man thought most likely to succeed him is Lal Bahadur Shastri, a Minister without Portfolio in Mr Nehru's cabinet with a reputation for moderation. He was a close political confidant of Mr Nehru.

Other possible candidates are Mr Nehru's daughter, Indira Gandhi, and the former finance minister, Morarji Desai.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Lal Shastri emerged as the compromise candidate to succeed Nehru after none of the other contenders could find enough support within the Congress Party.

He took office on 9 June 1964, but served for less than two years until he also died of a heart attack in office in January 1966.

Lal Shastri was succeeded by Pandit Nehru's daughter, Indira Gandhi. This began the long Nehru-Gandhi dynasty which has dominated the top echelons of Indian politics to this day.

Jawaharlal Nehru, the son of a lawyer, was a key figure in the struggle for independence from Britain.

He was a confidant of Mahatma Gandhi, and was imprisoned several times.

Independence was finally granted to India in 1947, and Nehru became India's first prime minister.

Over the next 17 years he took India along a socialist path, although he refused to align the country to either the Soviet Union or the United States in the Cold War.

Although some of his policies have been discredited in recent years, he remains a legendary and much-loved figure in his country's early history, and is justifiably known as the architect of modern India.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 The deluge of details crossing your desk today seems infinite. Share the load - you'll do the same for your coworkers when the time comes. If it gets to be too much, remember you're not alone.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Be fair, but circumspect if everyone is turning to you for advice in an interoffice conflict. Don't choose sides. Instead, give them every reason to trust you.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Proving your competence should be a breeze if someone calls your abilities into question. No, it's not fair, but you're on the hook, at least for now.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Take your time and get the best deal. Don't let a pushy sales rep or client convince you to sign when you aren't ready. The ball's in your court, after all.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Plow through the heavy work now and take some time off later. Sure, you're feeling a little low-energy these days, but that's no reason to slack off. You'll only regret it later if you let the tasks pile up.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Your current assignment won't get done without an ample amount of compromise, so suck it up, at least for the time being. You'll be able to show off your solo skills on down the line.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You won't get far by issuing ultimatums today. So you're better off sitting back and waiting for the rewards to come your way. You have a strong sense of what you want, but are you willing to let it happen organically?

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Your talents are vast but severely undervalued. It's time to make sure your boss is aware of exactly what you have to offer. After all, there's no shame in self-promotion.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You have every reason to feel confident, but don't get arrogant. Even if you're well on your way to completing a tough assignment, and the hardest part is behind you, the process isn't over just yet.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Take a little time to pore through the pile of paperwork on your desk, or you could end up misplacing an important document. Don't be a victim to your own sloppiness.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Do your research and it'll pay off big time. The minutiae may be tedious, but it is the defining element that will put this project or proposal over the edge and make it a reality.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Make sure you're not missing any crucial details here -- run it by a trusted peer. Your quick-fix solution looks great on paper, but it may not hold up long term.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

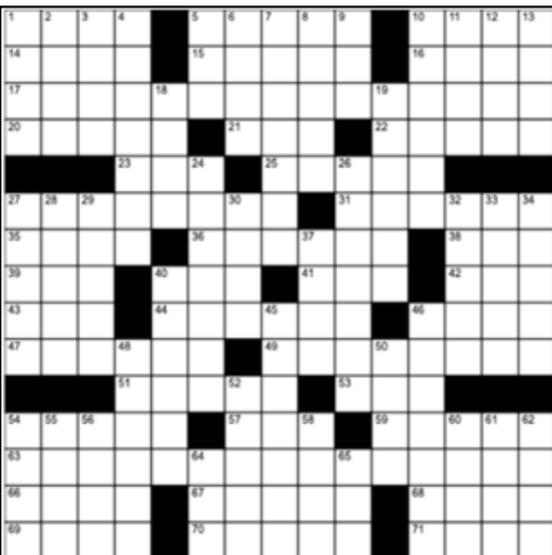
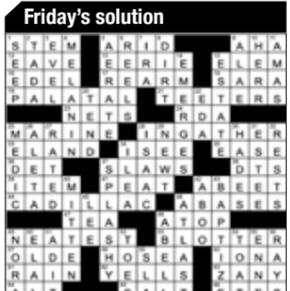
WEATHER

Table showing weather conditions for various cities in China and the World, including temperature ranges and conditions like clear, cloudy, rain, etc.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Questions; 5- Swagger; 10- Farming prefix; 14- Bed support; 15- Keep an ___ the ground; 16- Nevada senator Harry; 17- School VIP position; 20- Little laugh; 21- That, in Tijuana; 22- Tatum or Ryan; 23- Fond du ___, Wisconsin; 25- Hotpoint rival; 27- Leftover; 31- Confer; 35- Folies Bergère designer; 36- African fly; 38- Hockey's Bobby; 39- Italian TV channel; 40- Half of MCII; 41- Hi-___ graphics; 42- DI doubled; 43- "You've got mail" co.; 44- Dines at home; 46- Long time; 47- Understands; 49- About to take place; 51- Chavez or Romero; 53- Ambient music composer Brian; 54- Monument; 57- '... man -- mouse?'; 59- Clear; 63- Sending signals everywhere; 66- Average guy?; 67- Gaw; 68- Mormon state of western USA; 69- ___ to My Lou; 70- Men; 71- Rani's garb;

DOWN: 1- Kind of prof.; 2- Swing around; 3- 11th letter of the Hebrew alphabet; 4- Metal marble; 5- Cinque follower; 6- Decline; 7- Gallery event; 8- Water vapor; 9- Sweetie pie; 10- Places of contest; 11- Basic unit of heredity; 12- Costa ___; 13- Pastoral poem; 18- Interpret; 19- Gift recipients; 24- Curved sword; 26- Failure to attend; 27- Price twice; 28- Diamond flaw?; 29- Stone marker; 30- ___ were (so to speak); 32- Marisa of "My Cousin Vinny"; 33- The Hunter; 34- Twist forcibly; 37- Stumble; 40- Rely; 45- Fantastic; 46- Disposed to love; 48- Economize; 50- Dedicated to the ___ Love; 52- Main artery; 54- Hustles; 55- Wild; 56- Cross inscription; 58- 160 square rods; 60- Organization to promote theater; 61- River to the Moselle; 62- K-12; 64- Belief; 65- French possessive;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

Hamilton wins Monaco GP to extend lead over teammate Bottas

Jerome Pugmire, Monaco

LEWIS Hamilton won the Monaco Grand Prix on Sunday to extend his championship lead over Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas.

Hamilton struggled with grip in the latter stages and was under constant pressure from Red Bull's Max Verstappen.

But Verstappen had earlier picked up a five-second time penalty. So even though he finished just behind Hamilton, Verstappen was fourth overall behind Bottas in third and Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel in second.

Vettel's Ferrari teammate Charles Leclerc started 15th, after his team bungled qualifying, and retired after 19 laps.

Leclerc damaged his right rear tire trying a bold overtaking move on Nico Hulkenberg's Renault, scattering debris over the track and forcing the safety car to come out.



Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain drives in the pits during the Monaco Formula One Grand Prix race

Hamilton extended his lead over Bottas from seven to 17 points, and it is now 14 ra-

ces since Vettel's last win for Ferrari at the Belgian GP last August. Vettel's second-place

finish vaulted him past Verstappen into third in the season standings.

Earlier, drivers wore red caps for a minute's silence that was held before the race

AD

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Attention
No admission under 18

in memory of three-time F1 champion Niki Lauda, who died on Monday at the age of 70.

As the race neared the end, Verstappen tried one final daring move to overtake Hamilton on Lap 76 of 78 and they bumped tires. They were both investigated by stewards over the incident but no further action was taken.

Hamilton dedicated his 77th career win, and third at Monaco, to Lauda.

As he climbed out of the car, Hamilton removed his race helmet and pointed to Lauda's name on the back.

"I was fighting with the spirit of Niki," the British driver said. "I was just trying to stay focused and make him proud."

Mercedes head of motorsport Toto Wolff certainly felt he did just that.

"He drove an incredible race, I think only he can drive like that," Wolff said. "A race from a world champion who's no longer with us."

Hamilton's ability to hold off Verstappen on degrading tires was impressive, even though it was on one of the most

difficult tracks for overtaking and even if he did have the cushion of a five-second penalty on Verstappen, had he got past him.

"It was a very good race, it was a shame we got the penalty. But the pace we had was the most important," Verstappen said. "I tried everything but it's very hard in Monaco."

Hamilton kept complaining about the state of his front left tire, but his team decided against a tire change because Verstappen — even though he was going faster — had little chance to pass on the sinewy 3.3-kilometer (2-mile) track.

"We're going to lose this race," a panicky Hamilton said on Lap 56.

Hamilton was losing grip and slipping around, but his team effectively made the right call in overruling him and keeping him on track.

Verstappen was given the penalty by race officials after his unsafe release from the pits earlier in the race.

When Leclerc's crash sent the safety car out, drivers came into the pits to change tires. But Verstappen's Red Bull was

released too soon and he clipped the side of the Mercedes driven by Bottas as it drove past.

The incident had bumped Verstappen up to second place, Vettel into third, and Bottas down to fourth.

It was the first time in six races that Mercedes has not finished 1-2.

Leclerc made a thrilling start from the back of the field, overtaking the Haas of Romain Grosjean with a brilliant attacking move coming out of the turn at La Rascasse.

But one lap later the driver from Monaco tried the same move on Hulkenberg and it backfired.

"It was not easy, because of where we started from. We had to take a risk — maybe a little bit too much on my part," Leclerc said. "It's a weekend to forget apart from the support which I received here, which was heart-warming."

The only driver from Monaco to win the race was Louis Chiron in 1931.

Although the 21-year-old Leclerc has time well on his side, he now must wait at least another year. AP

TENNIS

3-time Grand Slam champion Kerber loses opener in Paris

Samuel Petrequin, Paris

ANGELIQUE Kerber won't complete a career Grand Slam this year.

Still hampered by a right ankle injury, the three-time Grand Slam winner lost in the first round of the French Open on Sunday as the clay-court major began with an upset.

The fifth-seeded German lost 6-4, 6-2 to an 18-year-old Roland Garros beginner, Russian Anastasia Potapova, on Court Philippe Chatrier.

Kerber's preparations for Roland Garros, where she never advanced past the quarterfinals, were hampered by the injury she suffered at the Madrid Open last month.

"Of course this is not my excuse and everything," Kerber said. "I tried my

best. I know that there is still a little bit of work to do to be really playing matches 100 percent."

The 81st-ranked Potapova sealed the opening set with a crosscourt backhand winner and broke twice at the start of the second. Kerber saved two match points before shanking a forehand wide sealing her fate.

"The clay season is over now for me. Yeah, I'm happy about that, that I can now look forward to playing on grass," added Kerber, who won the Australian Open and US Open in 2016 and Wimbledon in 2018.

Among other seeded players in action, 2016 champion and 19th-seeded Garbine Muguruza advanced to the second round with a 5-7, 6-2, 6-2 win over American Taylor Townsend at the tournament's newest

stadium, Court Simonne Mathieu. No. 11-seeded Marin Cilic of Croatia defeated Thomas Fabbiano of Italy 6-3, 7-5, 6-1.

The main talking point at Roland Garros on the opening day is Roger Federer's return in action following a three-year absence.

Returning to play at the French Open for the first time since 2015, Federer opens against 73rd-ranked Lorenzo Sonego in the third match on Court Philippe Chatrier.

Also Sunday, sixth-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas, who beat Federer at the Australian Open, plays Maximilian Marterer. Others in action include: seventh-seeded Kei Nishikori; last year's semifinalist Marc Cecchinato; last week's Italian Open champion Karolina Pliskova, Venus Williams and Sloane Stephens. AP

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opinion

Rear Window
Severo Portela



WOLF LAW IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING

Media organizations, and journalists, mainly through the Macau Portuguese and English Press Association (AIPI), have of late been voicing a degree of concern about the freedom of expression and journalistic independence in the Special Administrative Region. To clarify the context, it is one which encourages amendments to the new government proposals, definitely not a revisionist look at the integrity of the Press Law under which the local news apparatus has been operating since the inception of the MSAR.

To simplify and address the concerns prompted by the new government regulations mentioned above, we perceive a downwards scale or spiral of opacity beginning from the uncharted realm of the Cybersecurity Law, to a Civil Protection Law in which we may consider grey areas which are up to interpretation (the devil is in the detail; we have to look into the details to grasp the menacing elements hidden within), and then deep down to the boldness of an alleged directive that Secretary Wong Sio Chak gave to local media in the drive for positive editorial while covering the Greater Bay Area.

As we "speak", both laws and the alleged directive have something in common, perhaps to some relief, they are still not in force, so there is still time to convince Chui Sai On's government to ponder the consequences on the freedom of expression granted by article 27 of the Basic Law... if the proposals are enforced.

The fact is the proposed civil protection act is under consultation till mid-August; time enough to make the case against the idea of imposing sentences up to three years for somebody found guilty of spreading rumors. Not only is the felony poorly limited, its rationale ignores intentionality and it seems to call upon the wisdom of the courts to assess social stability. What is a rumor but a vague and hazy inconvenience to both the simple as well as the legal mind?

Anyway, when we address the issue of the civil protection framework we are talking about law. But what looks on the surface to be an additional set of editorial recommendations around the responsibility of the media and the Greater Bay Area project, could be menacing constraints to the freedom of speech and the independence of journalism... beyond of the law.

Representing the Chief Executive in the opening of the First Media Summit of the GBA, held in Guangzhou, Wong Sio Chak called on the media, "especially the main ones", to take advantage of this historic opportunity and actively participate in its promotion. Up to this point, the Secretary for Security would have remained within the boundary of the politico; but he went further into the domain of journalism when he dared to present two (2) ways for the media to embrace the initiative. In the promotion of "this era", the first one included news materials on which the media would achieve positive dissemination of the story. The second one did not mention news materials but recommended cooperation, innovation and joint presentation of ideas. We would say that despite the relevance and size of the GBA... perhaps it would be better to let journalists and media organizations decide for themselves the coverage of the GBA... untainted by propaganda.

A final note, on the departures of journalist João Fernandes, the unavoidable veteran of the printing media of the 80 and 90s in Macau, and the gentleman architect I.M. Pei who left us peacefully over 100. Macau owed him an explanation as to why it decided to waste Pei's enormous talent on that modest Science Centre. And a final appropriate quote on freedom by Ai Weiwei: without freedom of speech there is no modern world, just a barbaric one.

THE BUZZ NOAH'S ARK OWNERS SEEK COMPENSATION AFTER HEAVY RAINS DAMAGE

In the Bible, the ark survived an epic flood. Yet the owners of Kentucky's Noah's ark attraction are demanding their insurance company bail them out after heavy rains caused nearly USD1 million in property damage.

The Ark Encounter says in a federal lawsuit that rains in 2017 and 2018 caused a landslide on its access road. The Courier Journal reports the attraction's insurance carriers refused to cover the damage.

The 510-foot-long wooden ark has been a popular northern Kentucky attraction since its 2016 opening. The lawsuit says the road has been rebuilt. The ark was not damaged.

The suit names Allied World Assurance Co. Holdings of Switzerland, its use company and three other insurance carriers.

Ark Encounter seeks compensatory and punitive damages. The Swiss company hasn't responded in court filings.

US sanctions on Iran felt in Iraqi Shiite tourist districts



Bassem Mroue, Baghdad

FOR years, Karar Hussein has sold sweets in his shop near the entrance to one of Shiite Islam's holiest shrines, accepting whatever currency was offered to him by his clients, many of them religious tourists from neighboring Iran. But lately, when Iranian pilgrims ask about prices, he tells them he can only sell if they pay in Iraqi currency. They often walk out, disappointed.

Hussein and many other shop owners in Baghdad's northern Shiite holy neighborhood of Kadhimiya have seen sales drop sharply over the past year since President Donald Trump began re-imposing sanctions on Iran, home to the largest number of Shiite Muslims around the world.

The value of Iran's currency, the rial, has decreased almost fourfold, pushing the price of nearly everything beyond the reach of ordinary Iranian consumers in Iran and abroad.

Standing in his shop wearing jeans and a T-shirt, 27-year-old Hussein said his sales have dropped 30% since last year, but he still prefers not to be paid in Iranian rials because the currency's value keeps depreciating. "Their currency is crashing," he said.

Millions of Shiites from around the world come to Iraq every year to visit its

many Shiite shrines and holy places, including the holy cities of Najaf and Karbala in southern Iraq and the central city of Samarra, home to the revered golden-domed al-Askari shrine. They bring large amounts of money into the country, where tourism is the second biggest source of income for state coffers after oil exports.

Since the fall of Saddam Hussein's government in 2003, Iranians have made up the majority of religious tourists to Iraq, although tens of thousands come from other countries.

But tensions have been rising recently in the Middle East between the United States and Iran and there have been concerns that Iraq, whose government is allied with both Tehran and Washington, would become caught in the middle, likely increasing pressures on Iraq's tourism sector.

A favorite tourist destination is the Kadhimiya district in north Baghdad, typically bustling with Iranians shopping for clothes, sweets and trinkets. The area is home to the al-Kadhimayn shrine, known for its two domes and four minarets draped with gold and contains the tombs of Imam Moussa al-Kadhim and his grandson Mohammed al-Jawad, two of Shiite Islam's most revered figures.

On a recent afternoon in

Kadhimiya, hundreds of Iranian pilgrims entered and left the shrine, passing by scores of a pedestrian street leading to the holy site without buying anything.

"Money is a big problem for us. This is really hurting us," said Iranian citizen Hussein Fazeli, as he left the shrine. Fazeli, who brings pilgrims from Iran to Iraq, said the number of Iranian visitors has dropped because many cannot afford to travel now.

Speaking in broken Arabic, Fazeli said Iran will end up victorious no matter how long the crisis takes, adding that "Trump will go, and Iran will stay."

Mohammed Saadi Hadi, who inherited his tiny clothes stand outside the al-Kadhimayn shrine from his father, says sales have dropped by 70%. Prayer gowns for women now cost four times what they cost last year in Iranian currency. He used to sell 60 gowns a day but today he sells less than 10.

Thamer Jabbar, owner of a perfume store, said Iranian tourists now not only abstain from buying, but some of them bring with them items such as saffron spice and stone rings to sell in Iraq, hoping to make up for some of their trip's cost. "Today I barely sell anything to an Iranian tourist," he said.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	25-25 Good
High Density Residential Area	25-25 Good
Ambient	25-25 Good

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS



IRAQ offered yesterday to mediate in the crisis between its two key allies, the United States and Iran, amid escalating Middle East tensions and as Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers steadily unravels. More on p15

PAPUA NEW GUINEA Prime Minister Peter O'Neill has resigned after seven years on the job. His announcement yesterday follows weeks of high profile defections from his government to the opposition.



PERU A powerful magnitude 8.0 earthquake struck a remote part of the Amazon jungle in Peru yesterday collapsing buildings and knocking out power to some areas but causing only one reported death.

EU Across Europe, anti-EU populists and proponents of closer unity made a final push for support yesterday as 21 nations went to the polls in a continent-wide battle for influence at the European Parliament.



US A former business manager of Stan Lee was arrested Saturday on elder abuse charges involving the late comic book legend. Keya Morgan was taken into custody in Arizona on an outstanding arrest warrant after being charged by Los Angeles County prosecutors earlier this month.

US An apparent tornado killed at least two people as it destroyed a motel, roared through a nearby mobile home park and caused other significant damage in the Oklahoma City area, officials said yesterday.