



'FAKE MARRIAGE' FOR RESIDENCY SCAM UNCOVERED
The case goes back to 2002 when a mainlander obtained a Macau ID through property, divorced his wife and married his sister-in-law

P4 CRIME



MUST, ZHUHAI PARTNER ON TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT
MUST signed a cooperation agreement with the Zhuhai municipal gov't to jointly promote innovation in science and technology in the GBA

P6



EUROPE-WIDE VOTE FRAGMENTS CENTER AS FAR RIGHT, GREENS GAIN

P15



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AD

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MSARG Dengue Fever Prevention Working Group

AL PLENARY

Rights for security

P2-3

WORLD BRIEFS



NORTH KOREA

President Donald Trump said yesterday he is not "personally" bothered by recent short-range North Korean missile tests and doesn't believe they violated U.N. Security Council resolutions, breaking with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who is hosting the president on a four-day state visit full of pageantry and pomp.

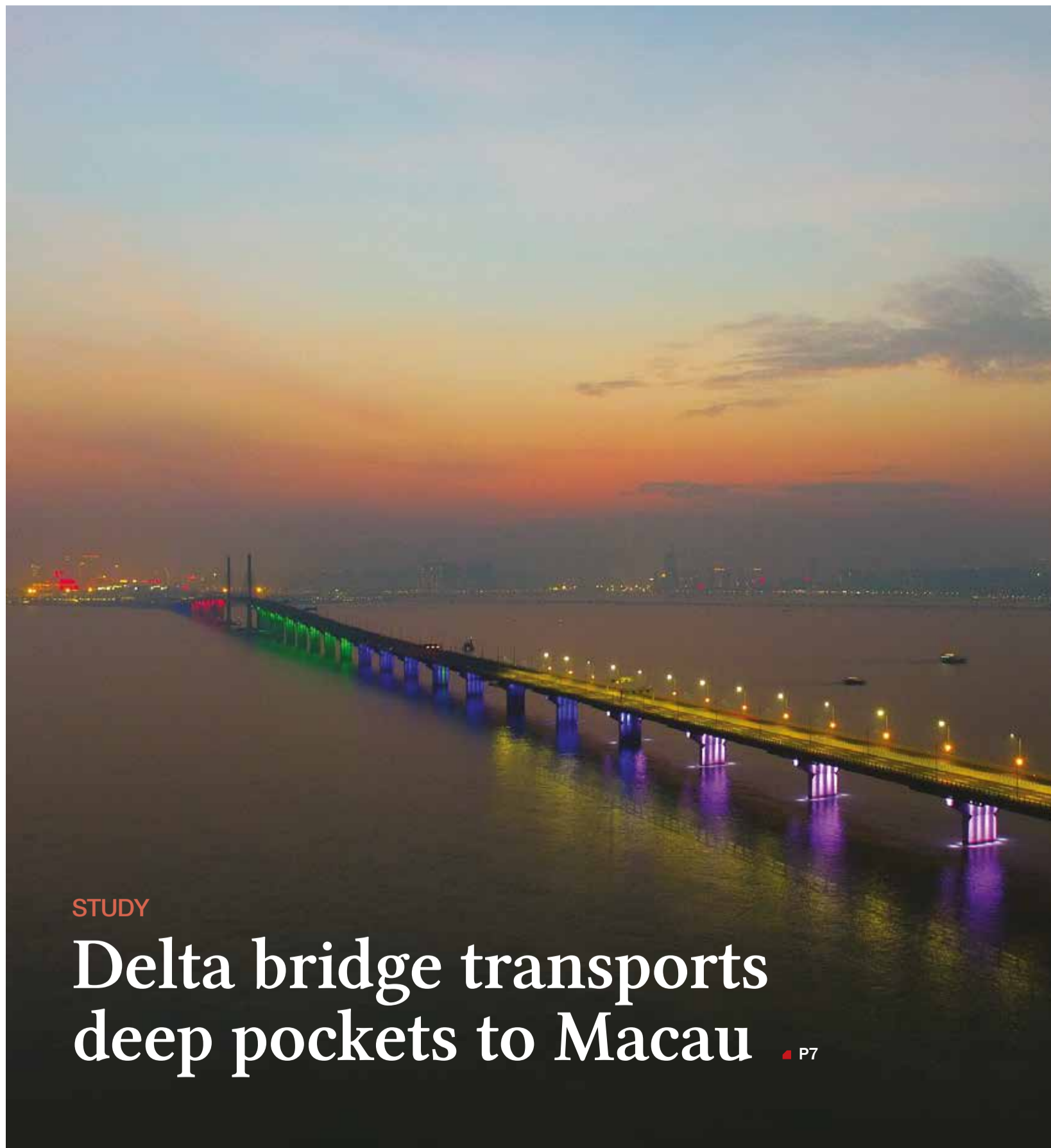
BANGLADESH

A global monitoring group said the Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for an explosion targeting a police van in Bangladesh's capital, but police said yesterday they were not sure who was behind it.

IRAQ

A Baghdad court yesterday sentenced another former French fighter with the Islamic State group to death — the fourth Frenchman to get the capital punishment so far in Iraq — and postponed the verdict for a fifth man after he testified to being tortured in detention.

More on backpage



STUDY

Delta bridge transports deep pockets to Macau

P7

SME association says minimum wage increased too fast

A representative for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) at Sunday's Macau Forum has complained that the city's minimum salary increase has been adjusted too rapidly. The representative, Lei Kuok Fai, who is vice president of the Federal General Commercial Association of Macau Small and Medium Enterprises, proposed that the city should consider improving the service quality of building staff and building security. He worries that the increase will result in inflation and that, eventually, residents will be the ones bearing the consequences of the increase. The Legislative Assembly proposed increasing the minimum hourly salary for cleaning staff and building security to 32 patacas (an increase of 2 patacas) starting from September 1.

Volleyball game broadcast wanted by residents

Yesterday, one listener of the TDM radio program Macau Forum asked the local government to resume the TV broadcast of FIVB Volleyball World Grand Prix for this year's edition. The listener hopes that the broadcast will allow people who cannot afford a ticket to watch the games on TV. Macau stopped broadcasting the games in 2018. Responding to the request, the Sports Bureau stated that TV broadcasting rights of the games belong to the International Volleyball Federation (FIVB), and that the Sports Bureau, as the local sponsor of the event, has no right to transfer the broadcasting rights to other TV stations.

E-payment to become bus fare payment option

Starting from June 7, e-payment will become available to passengers paying for bus fare, according to a dispatch published yesterday in the government's official gazette. Passengers who use e-payment launched by credit organizations that have been approved by the Macau SAR government can enjoy the same fare as those who use Macau Pass. Mpay users can use a QR code on their mobile devices to pay for the fare. The measure is said to tie in with the smart city development strategy of the SAR government.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Facial recognition cameras are

Staff reporter

LAWMAKER Lam Lon Wai said yesterday at the Legislative Assembly plenary that he believes data privacy laws are getting in the way of general law enforcement. Meanwhile, security authorities in the Macau SAR stressed that the implementation of surveillance cameras with facial recognition capability is on their agenda.

Yesterday's AL plenary session gathered interpellations on various topics, from unlawful immigration by Ella Lei and electronic payments by Ip Sio Kai, to students' wellbeing by Sulu Sou and interdepartmental cooperation by Lei Chan U.

Lawmaker Lam, whose interpellation closed yesterday's session on account of time constraints, mentioned that "the Personal Data Protection Law is somehow obstructing law enforcement."

Lam listed in his speech that last year police investigated into 14,108 criminal cases, a rise of 11.7% from the number in 2017. Task force investigations in criminal cases amounted to 5,998 cases, a rise of 8% year-on-year.

According to Lam, the increase in number of criminal cases and investigations is concerning to the public, and is contributing to a negative impact into the image of Macau.

Therefore, he asked the government about their review on the effectiveness and supervision of surveillance systems, of which the fifth and sixth phases are to be put into place soon. He also asked about the sharing of big data in Macau with law enforcement authorities in other jurisdictions.

In response, the Unitary Police Service (SPU), represented at the session by Mui San Meng, said that a total of 1,620 surveillance cameras were planned for installation across various locations in the city.

In the first three phases, 820 cameras were installed. Installation on the remaining 800 began in February last year and is expected to finish in first quarter of 2020.

Apart from mentioning that the SPU has already planned to install surveillance cameras on Reclamation Zone A starting from next year, the department also disclosed that it would roll out phases five and six of camera installation.

A total 980 cameras will be installed in the last two phases, bringing the total number of cameras to 2,600. The last two phases will focus on schools, public transport hubs, recreational facilities, and commercial districts. Some of the cameras will be equipped with facial recognition capability.

The SPU noted that in order for

RENATO MARQUES



inter-jurisdiction cooperation to be realized, technical and legal challenges must first be resolved.

Legal ones are more difficult, according to the police, as there are laws, including the Personal Data Protection Law, which prevent the authority from sharing

information between jurisdictions. The SPU acknowledged, however, that its work must be done in a legal manner.

This was when Lam described the Personal Data Protection Law as a hurdle to the work of law enforcement. "Maybe a

DSAL assures verification of non-resident employment

IN a reply to lawmaker Ella Lei regarding the hiring of non-resident workers who work contrary to what is stated in their work permits, the Labor Affairs Bureau (DSAL) reiterated that it verifies the information submitted by employers and that it still makes on-site visits to the locations for verification.

Acting director of the

DSAL, Ng Wai Han, said that the bureau also investigates cases sent by other departments to verify the existence of illegalities in the work places or positions.

The bureau said that when an irregularity is found, it will revoke the contract if the people involved have committed a crime such as the provision of false declarations

or use of false documents.

Ng added that the bureau maintains close cooperation with various public services such as the Social Security Fund to verify and confirm the employment relationship and the situation of non-resident workers with their companies through the exchange of information mechanism.

In order for the public to be aware of the legal consequences of false contracting, the DSAL said it would continue to raise awareness to remind the public of the violation of the region's employment law.

The query came after an accident occurred back in March when an illegal driver from the mainland killed a 22-year-old student in

a traffic accident, and comes in the context of Macau's mutual license recognition scheme with the mainland.

Lei previously requested that the government apply a heavier penalty in situations of illegal work and called for penalties to be put in place as soon as the illegal work is identified.

The DSAL also previously said that it would reexamine the administrative punishments for the illegal employment of drivers who are not allowed to drive in Macau. **LV**

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the ultimate goal, says police



change to the Personal Data Protection Law is needed to improve smart law enforcement, because it has been obstructing law enforcement in some ways.”

Leong Sun Iok was very concerned with casino security. He asked whether the SPU could take

advantage of the upcoming licensing period to require concessionaires to install facial recognition surveillance systems in their properties. Mui said his department will study the feasibility.

Wong Kit Cheng asked if there would be further upgrades to the

existing surveillance system. Mui answered that in the fifth phase, 50 car plate recognition and 50 face recognition capable cameras would be installed.

Both Wong and Sulu Sou asked if there would be a cap to the number of surveillance cameras.

Mui said he could not give a definite answer “because technology keeps improving; new cameras may be capable of taking 360 degree videos, then fewer cameras would be needed.”

Furthermore, Sou and Pereira Coutinho were concerned with hackers gaining access to these cameras. Mui said his department was not aware of any vulnerability. He added that his team are confident in the IT professionals working with the SPU.

“**Maybe a change to the Personal Data Protection Law is needed to improve smart law enforcement.**

LAM LON WAI

E-PAYMENT A BRIDGE TO GBA

Ip Sio Kai’s interpellation on e-payments piqued lawmakers’ interest yesterday, with at least seven raising follow-up questions.

In response to Ip’s question on

the development of mainland e-payment systems in Macau, Chan Sau San, the president of the Monetary Authority of Macao, explained that UnionPay cards issued by several banks in Macau had been cleared for the UnionPay’s cloud payment system, which enabled local residents to make mobile payments in the Greater Bay Area (GBA).

Chan also disclosed that a “financial institution doing business mainly on online channels” has recently opened in Macau, and would soon release an e-wallet function.

Ip was also concerned with Macau residents not being able to open mainland bank accounts in Macau, while Hong Kong residents had been allowed to do so in Hong Kong. Chan pledged that his Authority would continue communicating with the mainland authorities concerned.

Song Pek Kei provided a simple solution to the deadlock. She said, “all problems can be solved by allowing Macau residents to use Wechat Pay [a mainland e-payment app] with their Macau bank accounts.”

Mak Soi Kun told his story that once he was not able to use the parking meter in the mainland because he did not have mainland e-payment apps. He thinks these financial differences are obstructing Macau’s integration with the GBA.

Angela Leong was concerned with supporting Macau entrepreneurs as she talked about a local e-payment system for Macau. Chan replied that his Authority encourages cross-border collaborations.

Renato Marques

MACAU’S local Mercedes-Benz car dealer, Zung Fu Motors, has officially brought to the local market two new models from the famous Stuttgart brand.

The two new models are the third-generation of the B-class, reviewed and enlarged, as well as a new “hot hatchback,” the A35 4MATIC, that comes to fill the gap between the existing A250 and A45 models.

As the public relations manager of Mercedes-Benz Hong Kong Ltd, Samson Leung, explained to the Times, the two models come to complete the local market in different ways.

While the A35 4MATIC offers, at a more inviting price tag, a high performing and agile vehicle directed at those who love sports cars, the new B-class breaks the stereotype of practical cars

Local dealer adds two new Mercedes-Benz models to the market



Samson Leung (left) and Michael Gu, General Manager of Zung Fu Motors (Macau)



serving only for the daily needs of “going shopping and taking the kids to school,” said Leung.

The B-class is longer and offers an added interior space, which besides

being very convenient for carrying large objects such as bicycles and golf bags, above all offers an added comfort to passengers on board with added legroom.

Another of the aspects that the B-class has seen improved is in interior flexibility, with the full folding down of the rear seats creating a space capable of accommodating

over 1,000 liters of cargo capacity.

Featuring Mercedes four-wheel drive (4MATIC) system, the A35 features a 2.0-liter turbo engine capable of deli-

vering 306 horsepower; matching with AMG improved suspension and brakes. The chassis was also reinforced to cope with the sporty performance.



THE RULE OF FUERZA BRUTA: THERE ARE NO RULES

"No photography." "Please remain seated." "No talking during the show". How many times have you been reminded of these show rules over and over again? When the whole idea of watching a performance is to be entertained and have fun, shouldn't you be allowed to relax and just do anything you like?

This is exactly what the sensational Argentinian production, Fuerza Bruta, invites their audience to do. Audience immersion is what it sets out to do. The show creators want you to forget everything you know about traditional show rules, and become a part of their production. No seats, no script, no boundaries — every performer, prop and scene are yours to reach out and touch. That's the raw and dynamic appeal of Fuerza Bruta, one of the most thrilling and inspiring performances created.

Fuerza Bruta means 'Brute Force' in Spanish, and this describes the sensory impact it unleashes. It's dance meet drama, acrobatics meet electronic, circus meet classical — in fact, it's more spectacle than a show. Fuerza Bruta is where worlds collide, and reality takes a back seat. The entire concept erases the boundaries of language, so the magic of imagination can take flight. The pounding music sets the stage for a mesmerizing performance, accentuated by mind-blowing visual effects and lighting. What's even more incredible is that there are no seats within the tent-set production. You're on your feet for the duration of the show, free to move around, take photographs and reach out to make contact with the sets and performers. And something important to remember: don't just look ahead because the best part of the show could be happening 360 degrees around you.

This extraordinary performance has stormed Broadway for nine years in a row, and has been seen by more than 900,000 people — and that's just in New York. Some of its famous fans spotted among the audience are Leonardo Di Caprio, John Legend, Neil Patrick Harris, Kanye West, Beyonce, Jay-Z, Bradley Cooper, Usher, Jim Carey and many more.



In fact, the jaw-dropping the jaw-dropping performance inspired Usher to record the music video for his hit single, 'Scream' which has seen been viewed over 34 million times on YouTube. Fuerza Bruta has travelled to more than 34 countries and 58 cities, making over 5,600 performances wowing more than 6 million spectators.

From the world over, the performance is now making its way to Macau. And where else will it take place than at where you'll find some of the city's most dazzling entertainment events, MGM COTAL. The show will be held inside a specially constructed tent — created just for this performance — and is due to run from June 14 till August 4. Tickets are on sale now, so don't miss your chance to catch one of the hottest shows in the world!



Only suitable for people over 13 years old



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MUST, Zhuhai government to partner on technology development

Julie Zhu

THE Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) signed a cooperation agreement with the Zhuhai municipal government to jointly promote the development of science and technology innovation in the Greater Bay Area.

An agreement signing ceremony was held yesterday at MUST in the presence of Ma Xingurui, Governor of Guangdong, Alexis Tam, the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture of Macau, and Guo Yonghang, Zhuhai Municipal Party Secretary, among other principal officials from Guangdong and Macau.

Under this agreement, the university will cooperate with the Zhuhai government with respect to research in 10 areas, including the internet, aerospace, and Chinese medicine.

To initiate the cooperation, MUST will open three branches of two of its faculties in Hengqin: the Zhuhai Academy of MUST in Hengqin new district; the Hengqin branch of State Key



Liu Liang, President of MUST

Laboratory of Quality Research in Chinese Medicines; and the Hengqin branch of State Key Laboratory of Lunar and Planetary Research.

“It is not just a plan for one or two years. We hope that, in the upcoming ten years, we can have a big cooperation project,” said Liu Liang, President of MUST.

Liang added that the governor of Guangdong had expressed his hope that MUST could participate more closely in aerospace research.

Under the articles of the agreement, Zhuhai and MUST will jointly build an innovative technology entity by “taking advantage of the geographical advanta-

ges of Zhuhai and of the resources of Macau’s talented people to fully deepen the cooperation between Zhuhai and Macau.”

The two parties will study the history and cultural ties between Zhuhai and Macau, hold a series of academic activities, and explore their respective cultural resources.

The university will also join hands with the Zhuhai government to carry out cooperation in the medical field, support medical research in both places, and to expand the health industry in the Greater Bay Area.

Moreover, a shared educational community is expected to be established based on this agreement. This community will focus on training talented people with innovative and entrepreneurial creativity in both places, with the purpose of better serving the Greater Bay project.

In addition, the MUST president revealed that the university’s medicine academy has been receiving positive feedback in terms of applicants, and that the quality of applicants is also high.

“We hope that Macau can have a medicine academy with great global influence and great quality, and that it can serve [local] residents,” said Liu. “Working with Zhuhai will certainly provide a good platform,” Liu added.

AD

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TOURISM

HKZMB brings high-value visitors, says study

A study conducted by a market research firm shows that visitors arriving in the Macau SAR via the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge spend over a third more than visitors arriving through seaports.

The study, conducted and released by CSG Research, revealed that visitors who travelled to the region via the bridge have spent MOP4,280 per head on average, 32% more than those who arrived through the city's two ferry terminals.

Shopping is the highest spend sector, as it found that visitors who travelled via the bridge spent double (117% more than visitors who travelled via ferry) on retail, as well as 40% more on entertainment, compared to those who traveled through seaports.

The study also found that 78% of visitors who travel-



led via the bridge expressed their intention to visit Macau more frequently while only 32% who travelled through seaports wanted to revisit Macau.

While 37% of visitors who travelled via the Bridge stated that they would stay longer in the city, only 17% of those who entered the SAR through seaports stated the same intention.

Derek Yu, research director

of CSG, commented, "The HZMB is yet to function to its full capacity, as it is presently limited to licensed vehicles only. But official data has already shown that visitors' numbers surged 21% yearly in the first quarter of 2019."

"From our study, it is estimated that the potential contribution of the bridge to the Macau economy is MOP16.4 million per day. Therefore, it is meaningful to study the

travel behavior of visitors arriving via the bridge and continuously monitor the impact of the HZMB on Macau," Yu added.

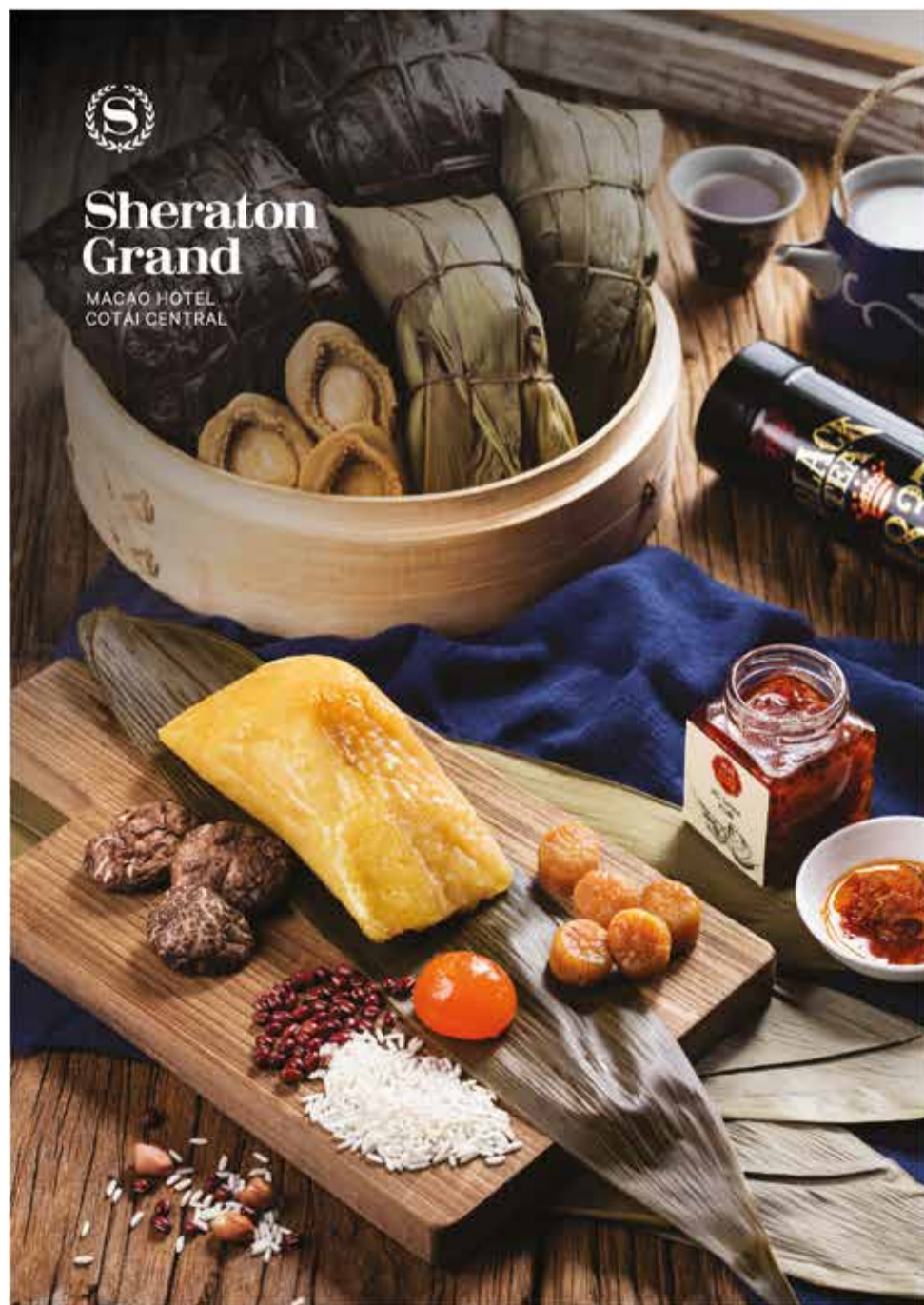
The study also noted that visitors who entered Macau via HZMB also traveled in larger groups and that an average group size of 2.6 persons was recorded, larger than the 2.2 persons per group of those arriving through the ferry terminals. **LV**

Ho Ion Sang asks about trash collection

Lawmaker Ho Ion Sang has asked government officials to be present at the Legislative Assembly to answer questions on Macau's automatic trash collection system. Ho's inquiry regards a specific case of an automatic trash collection system installed on Hac Sa Wan reclamation land. Since October 2018, this system has experienced malfunctions and its operations are currently suspended. However, the government has yet to announce further details on trash collection arrangements in the nearby community. The lawmaker wants the government to further explain its plan for Macau's automatic trash collection systems which have been experimentally operated for 10 years.

Unemployment holds steady at 1.7%

The general unemployment rate (1.7%) and the unemployment rate of local residents (2.3%) for the February-April 2019 period both held steady compared to the previous three-month period, January-March 2019. Meanwhile, the underemployment rate was 0.5%, up by 0.1 percentage point, according to the latest information from the Statistics and Census Service. The total labor force was 391,900, while the number of the unemployed was 6,600, up by 100 from the previous period. New labor market entrants seeking their first job accounted for 10.3% of the total unemployed, up by 1.8 percentage points.



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Sino-British Street on HK-Shenzhen border seeks new identity

CHUNG Ying Street, or “Sino-British Street,” straddles the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the neighboring mainland city of Shenzhen and has for decades been a special zone where local residents from both sides are allowed to cross the border freely.

It was once a boomtown popular among mainland visitors, who entered with a special permit to snatch duty-free goods from Hong Kong. But the conduit street fell into decline after travel to Hong Kong was made easier for mainlanders.

According to Chinese state media, authorities in the two cities are now hopeful that the Greater Bay Area project will help the street find a new identity, providing the impetus for the creation of a small-scale tourism attraction there.

The street is derived from a small village, which was divided by the Sino-British border after Hong Kong became British territory in the 19th century.

“When I was a child, there were only a few farmers and fishermen living on the mainland side of the street, while the Hong Kong side bustled with shops and businesses,” said Sha Jintao, a 73-year-old resident, who



remembers the street's humble beginnings.

But as Shenzhen rose as China's opening up began in the late 1970s, the street became the center of changes. New shops and factories popped up with the inflow of Hong Kong investments, and the fancy commodities from its Hong Kong stores attracted large numbers of

mainland tourists.

Historical records show the number of tourists flocking to the 250-meter-long street peaked at 100,000 a day in the 1980s.

That heyday was, however, short-lived. After Hong Kong returned to China in 1997, the street began to lose its appeal, as shopping in Hong Kong was

made much easier for mainland tourists. Its daily visitors dropped below 10,000 after 2003, when mainlanders were allowed to independently travel to Hong Kong.

Many stores closed due to a loss of customers, and some survived by selling fake jewelry, winning the street much notoriety, recalled Sha, who then

headed the local neighborhood committee.

Sha said the ephemeral boom was limited to the era when most Chinese had limited access to the outside world. As the country opened its door wider, the street's function as a “window” faced an inevitable decline.

“Now with a smartphone, a consumer could easily buy goods from across the globe,” he said, referring to China's cross-border e-commerce boom. “So, if it is just for the purpose of shopping, why take the trouble of traveling to the Chung Ying Street?”

The street is now more of a cultural site, dotted with relics and museums displaying its history, but locals are hopeful that the Greater Bay Area project will usher in a new period of economic development for their neighborhood.

Earlier this month, the city government of Shenzhen said it will upgrade its ports with Hong Kong to boost the Greater Bay Area development. The Shatoujiao Subdistrict, where the Chung Ying Street is located, was reserved for a new cooperation zone featuring tourism and consumption. **DB/Xinhua**

HONG KONG

Former ExCo member worries fugitive bill will entangle the city in the long term

A former member of the Hong Kong Executive Council (ExCo) has urged the Hong Kong government to decelerate the controversial fugitive bill to avoid entangling the city into “a lot of major controversies down the road,” according to a report by the South China Morning Post (SCMP).

This former executive councilor in question is Anna Wu Hung-yuk, who is currently chairman of the Competition Commission of Hong Kong.

In her interview with the SCMP, Wu proposed that Hong Kong adopt a one-time deal with Taiwan to hand over a Hong Kong resident who committed the crime of murder in Taiwan and is wanted by the Taiwanese government.

The Hong Kong government has been conti-



nuously using this case as legitimate ground to pass a controversial fugitive bill, which not only includes an extradition deal between Hong Kong and Taiwan, but would also cover an extradition arrangement between Hong Kong and mainland China.

Wu believes that there is no need to rush the bill. She believes that more

time and public consultation should be given to it. She believes that problems existing in the current fugitive bill amendment proposals can be fixed and society needs to engage in a calm and rational debate.

Besides proposing that the government decelerates work on the bill, Wu suggested that ensuring suspects' legal protection

at all stages of the extradition procedure may be one solution to appease the bills' critics.

These so-called legal protections include visitation rights, as well as serving jail terms in Hong Kong.

Wu refrained from cri-

ticizing mainland China's judiciary system, however, she stated that she had learned of a number of concerns from Hong Kong's local and foreign business groups regarding the bill amendment and regarding mainland China's legal system.

“I think we are better [...] looking at ways to deal with the isolated issue of the Taiwan murder case,” said Wu. “Then look at the long-term measures we have to build in for extradition or surrender arrangements for the mainland and Macau.” **JZ**

EU issues ‘demarche’ protest note

THE European Union Office in Hong Kong issued a formal diplomatic “demarche” protest note on Friday to the city's Chief Executive, Carrie Lam, over the proposed extradition law amendment.

On behalf of the governments, businesses and people of the European Union, the demarche expresses “concerns regarding the government's proposed amendments to Hong Kong's Fugitive Offenders Ordinance.”

The move represents a hardening of the

EU position and a bolstering of the city's opposition just days after Lam said the government would not back away from the bill.

Hong Kong's Chief Executive met with representatives of the European Union Office over the weekend to discuss the matter further. After the meeting, Lam said that the representatives were unable, unwilling or did not have time to detail their precise concerns about the legislation.



China's first bank seizure since 1998 shows hidden loan risk

CHINA'S first government takeover of a bank in more than two decades has underscored the potential for increased stress at regional lenders that piled into off-book financing in recent years.

Regulators said late Friday that they would assume control of Baoshang Bank Co. for one year because of "serious" credit risks. The Inner Mongolia-based lender, once seen as a model for funding regional economies, is one of many smaller Chinese lenders that used shadow-financing techniques to obscure their exposure to risky borrowers, according to analysts.

While China has been cracking down on such techniques, UBS

Group AG analyst Jason Bedford said the country is rife with regional banks that used special-purpose vehicles to circumvent lending restrictions and hide the true state of their bad loans. Shares of big Chinese lenders may be vulnerable to the fallout on concern they'll be asked to help resolve problems at smaller peers, according to Sanford C. Bernstein. Regulators face a difficult balancing act as they try to clean up risky lending practices without sinking the world's second-largest economy amid a trade war with the U.S.

The troubles at Baoshang stemmed in part from its heavy exposure to a small number of borrowers, said Bedford, executive director of Asian financials

research at UBS in Hong Kong. He added that there are other banks in similar situations.

Baoshang was part of the investment conglomerate led by financier Xiao Jianhua, known as the Tomorrow Group, which is being probed by Chinese officials, according to two people familiar with the investigation.

Officials arranged for a Shenzhen state-owned investment company to buy a significant stake in Baoshang last year, then realized that the lender's financial situation was more precarious than previously thought, the people said, asking not to be named as they're not authorized to talk to media. The deal didn't go through and regulators were forced to take over the bank ins-

tead, according to the people.

Xiao, who disappeared in early 2017, could soon face trial, the people said.

The People's Bank of China and China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

Regional banks in China's rust-belt provinces drove the rapid expansion of non-traditional lending that peaked in early 2018. Smaller firms, who used shadow-loan instruments to diversify from their struggling home provinces, exposed themselves to a much wider spectrum of Chinese corporate risk, according to a 2017 UBS report by Bedford and his colleagues.

Some banks are now getting

squeezed as Chinese companies default at a record pace and financing costs for shadow-lending activities increase.

As part of the government clampdown, banks have been forced to reclassify loans overdue for more than 90 days as non-performing, a move that led to a record surge in soured debt and wiped out capital at some small lenders.

China Construction Bank Corp., the nation's second-largest lender, will be responsible for managing Baoshang's business while it's under government control, regulators said on Friday.

Founded in 1998, Baoshang has more than 8,000 staff and reported total assets of 576 billion yuan (USD83 billion) at the end of September 2017 - a fraction of CCB's 23 trillion yuan last year. The smaller bank's so-called investment receivables, which analysts have said are often loans disguised as investments, stood at 153 billion yuan, accounting for more than a quarter of total assets.

Baoshang has more than 60 billion yuan of negotiable certificates of deposit and 6.5 billion yuan of subordinated bonds outstanding, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. Trading in the company's NCDs and other bonds was suspended yesterday, people familiar with the matter said.

Friday's announcement will put shares of other Chinese banks under pressure, according to Sanford C. Bernstein. A Bloomberg Intelligence index of Chinese lenders dropped 0.9% on Monday to a four-month low. Industrial & Commercial Bank of China Ltd., the nation's largest lender, slipped 0.5% in Hong Kong.

"Low quality, small regional banks are unlikely to pose systematic risks to the financial system or the operations of the big SOE and joint stock banks," analysts Linda Sun-Mattison and Jason Li wrote in a note on Monday. "However, the bail out of Baoshang Bank, a rare move by the government, and the involvement of CCB will no doubt heighten investor concerns over SOE banks' risk exposure to national service." **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

SANDS CHINA EMPLOYEES CAN NOW ENROL IN CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND



Sands China Ltd. has announced that its local resident employees can enrol in the govern-

ment-promoted Non-Mandatory Central Provident Fund (CPF) System beginning July 1, 2019.

According to a statement issued by the gaming operator, local employees who join the company from July 1 onward will have the option to sign up for the retirement savings scheme, while current local employees can choose to transfer to the new CPF system or remain in the company's current provident fund scheme.

The gaming operator said that the scheme is part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen the company's comprehensive benefits scheme by enhancing employees' retirement protection.

ILCM RAISES MOP700,000 FOR CHARITY



The International Ladies Club of Macau held a charity ball earlier this month featuring an evening of food, wine and entertainment, as well as auctions.

Held at the Aster Ballroom at the St. Regis Macau, the organization transformed into "romantic Spain for Una Noche de Flamenco," and raised some MOP700,000 to support over 19 charities in Macau.

"The ILCM wishes to extend heartfelt thanks to our sponsors, prize donors and guests who helped make this magical evening a success," the organization said in a statement.

State TV carries Daily Show spot on Huawei lead in 5G

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

CHINA has deployed an unlikely voice in its trade war with the U.S.: Trevor Noah of Comedy Central's The Daily Show.

A brief clip from the comedian's "If You Don't Know, Now You Know" segment on Chinese equipment maker Huawei's dominance in next-generation 5G mobile technology ran on state broadcaster CCTV's national lunchtime news on yesterday.

It was part of a barrage of stories and commentaries attacking the U.S. stance in the standoff between the world's two largest economies.

Washington says Huawei, the leading supplier of telecom gear and No. 2 smartphone maker, is a security threat and is obliged to do the ruling Communist Party's bidding. U.S. officials have provided no evidence for their assertions that the company, based in southern China's Shenzhen, may use its equipment for espionage.

CCTV ran a Daily Show clip that highlighted Huawei's lead in 5G technology. It did not include parts of the segment featuring concerns over China's potential ability to spy using Huawei-equipped 5G networks.

"Recently, famous American talk show host Trevor Noah expressed his views on America's relentless suppression of Huawei," the CCTV host said. "He says the reason for the suppression is because Huawei possesses advanced 5G technology, while American 5G lags far behind."

It then ran the Daily Show clips where Noah states, "And right now, the best 5G technology is made by a Chinese company called Huawei."

AP PHOTO



"While America is developing its own 5G, China's 5G is so far ahead. They're basically going to set the trends," Noah says. "So, this is a race many people are already saying America has lost."

A Comedy Central spokeswoman for The Daily Show was unavailable because of the Memorial Day holiday.

Washington has ordered restrictions on U.S. technology sales to Huawei, subject to a 90-day grace period for Huawei smartphone owners and smaller U.S. telecoms providers that rely on its networking equipment, but only for existing hardware and software. The government said that grace period could be renewed.

In its broadcast yesterday, CCTV also carried an interview with Huawei founder Ren Zhengfei, whose daughter, company CFO Meng Wanzhou, is under house arrest in Canada awaiting extradition hearings for U.S. fraud charges.

Huawei is prepared for an extended conflict, he said.

"This is likely to be long-term. We are prepared for a long-term battle, we don't prepare for a short-term fight," Ren said. "We fight a protracted war, and ... we might actually emerge stronger."

Asked whether, with Meng detained in Vancouver, Huawei was now facing its "most dangerous moment," Ren answered no.

"Before we had been suppressed by the U.S. and the occurrence of the Meng Wanzhou incident, our company was at its most perilous," Meng said.

"Laziness. Everybody had money in their pockets and disobeyed assignments and were unwilling to work in places where conditions are tough. It was a dangerous state."

"Now the entire company is galvanized, and combat power is booming. How is this the most dangerous time? It should be in the best state," Ren said.

Meng is accused of lying to banks about Huawei's dealings with Iran in violation of U.S. trade sanctions. Ren said

she was using her time in house arrest to study for a PhD and remains "very optimistic."

U.S. officials say the sanctions are unrelated to the trade war with China, but many analysts see them as a way to pressure U.S. allies to abide by Washington's entreaties to exclude Huawei equipment from their next-generation 5G wireless networks.

It did not include parts of the segment featuring concerns over China's potential ability to spy using Huawei equipped 5G networks

Huawei Technologies relies on Google's Android operating system and U.S. components suppliers for its smartphones, but Ren said last week that it has "supply backups" if it loses access to American components.

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

Despite that, Huawei's business elsewhere has been expanding, with global sales up 19.5% last year to USD105.2 billion.

President Donald Trump's administration has imposed 25% tariffs on \$250 billion in Chinese goods and is preparing to hit another \$300 billion worth. That would extend the higher tariffs to just about everything China ships to the United States.

China has ordered higher tariffs on \$60 billion worth of American goods, among other retaliatory tactics. AP

Beijing backs Yale stance on foreign students, rips US actions

Karen Leigh & Dandan Li

CHINA said it was "very regrettable" that the U.S. and some American institutions have imposed restrictions on humanities exchanges, after Yale University's president pledged support for international students

amid growing tensions between the two countries.

Personnel and cultural exchange "should not be politicized and interfered with," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said at a briefing in Beijing yesterday. "This is inconsistent with the as-

pirations of the two peoples and has caused widespread concern among the academic circles of China and the United States and all sectors of society."

Lu was responding to a question about an open letter Yale president Peter Salovey sent to stu-

dents and faculty last week affirming the Ivy League school's "steadfast commitment" to its foreign talent. U.S. concerns about technology and intellectual property theft by China have been at the center of the deepening trade war between the two countries.

"In recent weeks, tensions in United States-China relations and increased scrutiny of academic exchanges have added to a sense of unease among many international students and scholars here at Yale and at universities across the country," he wrote.

Salovey's letter came as Emory University terminated two Chinese-American professors, Li Xiao-Jiang and his wife Li Shihua, for failing to disclose ties to China.

The couple, professors of human genetics at Emory's School of Medicine, didn't disclose research funding from China and their work for Chinese universities while receiving federal grants, the Atlanta college said last week.

Emory said it began an investigation in response to a letter sent to U.S. universities from the National Institutes of Health raising concerns about foreign influence on research. **Bloomberg**

TARIFF WAR

US 'not ready' to make a trade deal with China, Trump says

Shannon Pettypiece & Iain Marlow

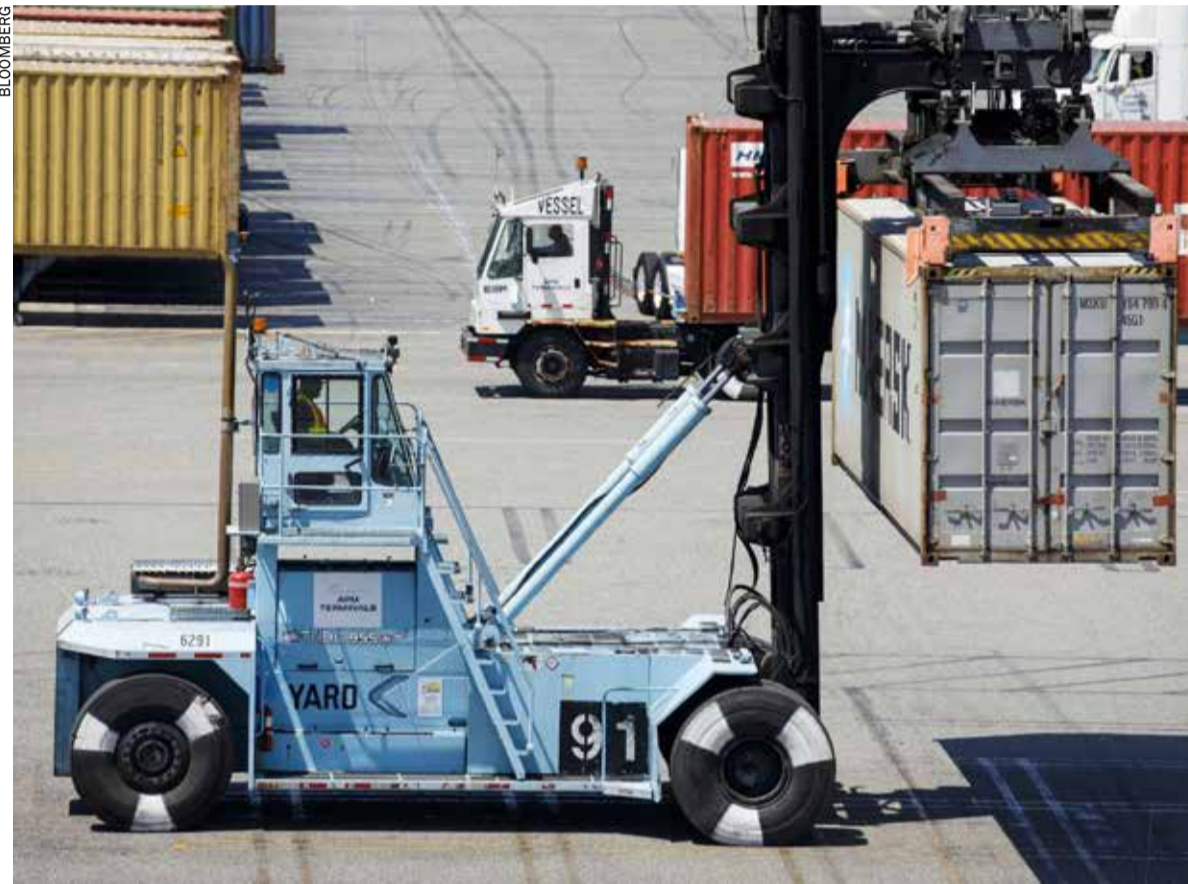
THE U.S. isn't ready to make a trade deal with China, President Donald Trump said while on a state visit to Japan.

"I think they probably wish they made the deal that they had on the table before they tried to renegotiate it," Trump said yesterday at a joint press conference in Tokyo alongside Japanese leader Shinzo Abe. "They would like to make a deal. We're not ready to make a deal."

Trump said American tariffs on Chinese goods "could go up very, very substantially, very easily." His comments came after trade talks between the two countries stalled earlier this month. Each side has since blamed the other, and Trump has threatened billions more in tariffs.

Trump said businesses were leaving China for countries without tariffs, including the U.S. and Asian neighbors including Japan. Still, he also expressed optimism that the world's biggest economies would eventually reach an agreement.

"I think sometime in the future China and the United States will absolutely have a great trade deal, and we look forward to that," Trump said. "Because I don't believe that China can continue to pay these, really,



hundreds of billions of dollars in tariffs. I don't believe they can do that."

NEW RHETORIC

For some time, the U.S. "has had various voices on China-U.S. trade talks. Sometimes it is said that an agreement will be reached soon, and someti-

mes that it is difficult to reach an agreement," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said in Beijing yesterday when asked about Trump's comments.

"In the same period of time, China's position has always been the same," Lu said. "China has always believed that the

differences between any two countries should of course be resolved through friendly consultations and negotiations."

Over the weekend, China pushed back at the perception that Trump's tariffs are hurting its economy.

Higher tariffs will have a "very limited" impact, and would hurt

the U.S. about as much, according to Guo Shuqing, head of China's banking and insurance regulator. Guo is the highest-ranking Chinese financial official to publicly comment on the trade standoff since talks deteriorated.

A commentary published by the official Xinhua News Agency accused the U.S. of "scapegoating" China for its trade imbalance and even some domestic economic issues, as Chinese state media urges unified resistance to foreign pressure.

I don't believe that China can continue to pay these, really, hundreds of billions of dollars in tariffs.

DONALD TRUMP

"The United States is attempting to squeeze an unequal trade deal out of China, using measures such as tariff hikes and targeting its tech companies," it said, while praising Beijing's "utmost sincerity" in the negotiations.

China has escalated its anti-U.S. discourse since the talks faltered and Trump blacklisted Huawei Technologies Co. and scores of its affiliates earlier this month in a bid to stymie its access to the U.S. market. His administration is considering restrictions on as many as five other Chinese tech companies. **Bloomberg**

Regulator warns traders of 'huge loss' if they short the yuan

CHINA advised traders against shorting the yuan, after a recent slide took the currency to the brink of the critical 7 per dollar level.

Guo Shuqing, head of China's banking and insurance regulator, said in a speech that speculators "shorting the yuan will inevitably suffer from a huge loss." The speech, delivered by a spokesman for the agency on Saturday in Beijing, also included comments on the trade war, making Guo the highest-level financial official to publicly comment on the issue since tensions between China and the U.S. escalated this month. Most local media ran front-page articles on the speech.



The broadside comes as bearish sentiment on China's currency ratchets up, thanks to trade tensions and signs of a stuttering economy. The offshore

yuan, which briefly strengthened yesterday past 6.9 per dollar for the first time in eight days, had weakened about 2.6% this month. A gauge of traders'

willingness to bet on further declines has surged to the highest level among Asian currencies.

When it comes to burning speculators, China

has a good track record. In January 2017, when officials grew upset about the yuan's weakness, they choked cash supply in Hong Kong and sent the currency's deposit rates to record highs. That helped drive a rally in the offshore yuan.

Traders have turned more bearish on the yuan in recent weeks. The offshore currency's three-month risk reversal - which measures the extra cost of bearish options over bullish ones - has increased five-fold this month, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

China doesn't want "too crowded trades" betting on a one-way movement of the yuan, as its main concern is growth and a stable yuan is important to achieving it, Alicia Garcia Herrero, chief economist for Asia Pacific with Natixis wrote in a note last week. Should investors speculate on one number,

the central bank is likely to make them pay as it has done so in the past, according to the note.

The central bank can use instruments ranging from Counter-Cyclical Factor in the yuan's fixing exchange rate to reserve requirements for yuan deposits offshore to defend the currency, according to Bloomberg economists David Qu and Chang Shu. It fixed the reference rate at a level that was slightly stronger than expected on Monday.

In the speech, Guo also said the yuan's weakness caused by the trade war makes the U.S. government worried about the diminishing effects of higher tariffs. The speech also said it was "ridiculous" that developed countries have long asked for more currency flexibility, but when the yuan's rate become more market oriented, some of them showed fear. **Bloomberg**

AUSTRALIA

Cardinal won't fight sentence if he loses appeal

Trevor Marshallsea, Sydney

DISGRACED Australian Catholic cardinal George Pell will not fight for a reduced jail sentence if he fails in his appeal of his conviction for molesting two choirboys in the 1990s, a court spokesman said yesterday.

The 77-year-old Pell — the most senior Catholic convicted of sex abuse — was sentenced in a Melbourne court in March to six years in prison. He must serve at least three years and eight months of the term.

Pell will appeal his conviction next month. His lawyers have filed an application arguing it should be overturned on three grounds.

But the application does not include an appeal of the length of the sentence, Andre Awadalla, a spokesman for the Court of Appeal in Victoria state, told the Associated Press.

“The only appeal application filed on the matter is an appeal against conviction,” Awadalla said. “His lawyers haven’t filed an appeal in relation to sentence.”



AP PHOTO

In sentencing Pell in March, Victorian County Court Chief Judge Peter Kidd acknowledged that there was a real chance that Pope Francis’ former finance minister could die in jail.

Pell was convicted by a unani-

mous jury verdict in December on one charge of sexual penetration of a child and four charges of committing an indecent act with or in the presence of a child.

He was found guilty of raping

a 13-year-old choirboy and sexually molesting his 13-year-old friend in the sacristy of St. Patrick’s Cathedral in Melbourne in 1996, months after he became archbishop of the city. He molested the first boy again about a

month later. One of his victims later died of a heroin overdose at the age of 31.

Pell’s appeal application is set down for hearing on June 5 and 6, with three judges to first decide whether he should be granted leave to appeal.

His legal team will first argue that the verdicts were “unreasonable” since the jury could not have been satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that Pell was guilty based on the word of the surviving victim against “un-challenged exculpatory evidence” of more than 20 prosecution witnesses.

Pell’s lawyers are also expected to argue that Judge Kidd erred in not allowing them to use a video graphic in their closing arguments, which they said would demonstrate the offending that was alleged would have been impossible.

The third ground details an alleged “fundamental irregularity” in the trial in that Pell was not arraigned — asked if he pleaded guilty or not guilty — in front of the chosen jury.

If the judges accept the first ground, Pell’s conviction will be overturned and he will be released.

A new trial could be ordered if they accept the second or third grounds.

While Pell remains Australia’s highest-ranking Catholic, the Vatican has launched its own investigation into his convictions. **AP**

AD

ANIMAS HERES DE PORTUGAL

EXPOSIÇÃO DE PINTURA de Cristina Mio U Kit

10/06/2019 17h30

11-23/06/2019 13h-19h

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North Korea calls Bolton 'war monger' over missile comment

Kim Tong-Hyung, Seoul

NORTH Korea yesterday called U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton a "war monger" and "human defect" after he described its recent tests of short-range missiles as a violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions.

The statement by an unidentified North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesperson came as President Donald Trump visited Japan for meetings with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at which the nuclear standoff with North Korea was expected to be high on the agenda.

Bolton told reporters in Tokyo on Saturday that there was "no doubt" that North Korea's recent missile launches violated U.N. resolutions, and that sanctions against the North must be kept in place. Trump later

downplayed the missile tests, tweeting, "North Korea fired off some small weapons, which disturbed some of my people, and others, but not me."

North Korea tested short-range ballistic missiles on May 4 and 9, ending a pause in launches that began in late 2017. The tests were seen as a way for North Korea to pressure Washington to soften its stance on easing sanctions against it without actually causing negotiations to collapse.

In the statement carried by the North's Korean Central News Agency, the North Korean spokesperson said the North was exercising its right of self-defense with the launches. North Korea has never recognized the U.N. Security Council resolutions, which it views as denying its "rights to existence and development of a sovereign state," the statement said.

"If any object is launched, it is bound to fly in trajectory," the statement said. It said a demand that North Korea ban all launches that use ballistic technology regardless of the range is the same as asking it to relinquish its right to self-defense.

The spokesperson said Bolton was an "ignorant" hard-liner who throughout different U.S. administrations pushed provocative policies against North Korea including endorsements of pre-emptive strikes and regime change.

The spokesperson also said that Bolton's "hammer act" was responsible for the collapse of a major nuclear deal between the countries reached in 1994, when North Korea agreed to halt its nuclear program in exchange for U.S. fuel aid. The deal broke down in 2002 after U.S. intelligence agencies said North Korea was continuing its pursuit

of bombs with a secret uranium enrichment program.

"It will be fit to call Bolton not a security adviser striving for security but a security-destroying adviser who is wrecking peace and security," the spokesperson said. "It is not at all strange that perverse words always come out from the mouth of a structurally defective guy, and such a human defect deserves an earlier vanishing."

Experts say the weapons North Korea tested this month are new solid-fuel missiles that are potentially nuclear capable and would strengthen the North's ability to strike targets throughout South Korea.

South Korea has expressed concern that the launches may run against the spirit of an inter-Korean military agreement reached last year to reduce tensions, but has been eager to downplay the significance of the

tests as it tries to keep a positive atmosphere for dialogue alive. South Korea's presidential office and military have refused to call the launches outright provocations, and have yet to confirm that the missiles were ballistic weapons, although most experts say they clearly were.

"There's no way for us to know why National Security Adviser Bolton made such comments," said a South Korean presidential official, who asked not to be named during a background briefing of reporters yesterday. "There's no change in our official stance that the South Korean and U.S. militaries under coordination are continuing to analyze the missiles."

Negotiations between the U.S. and North Korea have been at a standstill since February, when a summit between Trump and leader Kim Jong Un broke down over what the United States described as excessive North Korean demands for sanctions relief in exchange for only a partial surrender of its nuclear capabilities. Kim since then has said the United States has until the end of the year to come up with mutually acceptable terms for a deal to salvage the negotiations.

Bolton acknowledged that the United States has not been "hearing much from North Korea" since the summit in Hanoi, Vietnam. The U.S. special envoy to North Korea, Stephen Biegun, "can't wait to talk to his North Korean counterpart, but they haven't responded," Bolton said, adding that Biegun was "ready at any point to get on a plane and go anywhere."

The North Korean comments on Bolton came as South Korea began annual summertime defense drills involving thousands of civilians and troops. Although the drills have been modified to exclude large-scale military exercises with the United States that were suspended to create space for diplomacy with the North, KCNA described them as "provocative" in a separate statement yesterday.

The four-day Ulchi Taeguk exercises will include massive civilian evacuation drills and a South Korea-only military drill aimed at preparing for war situations and disasters. **AP**

Nepal on high alert for general strike after explosions

SECURITY forces in Nepal were on high alert yesterday amid a general strike called by an outlawed communist group suspected in a series of explosions that killed four people and wounded seven more in the capital.

Schools and main

markets remained closed yesterday in Kathmandu while traffic was thin during rush hour.

The group had called for a nationwide general strike to pressure the government in releasing their detained members.

Police official Shyam Lal Gyawali said autho-

rities were investigating Sunday's blasts. The first two explosions occurred within minutes apart in two Kathmandu neighborhoods, while the third one was a few hours later.

Police said they suspect that a group that once split from the ruling

Communist party was responsible for the blasts because its members have been protesting the arrests of their supporters.

The first explosion occurred in northern Kathmandu, killing two people and wounding five, police said. The second

blast was in a house in the central part of the city, killing one and wounding one.

Police believe the men in the house are linked to the outlawed group, which is known for violence. They said they found pamphlets from the group at the second explosion site.

The areas around the two blast sites were quickly closed by police and the wounded were taken to hospitals.

Police said a third explosion wounded two people who they believe were members of the group transporting the explosive device. **AP**

USA

A hefty donation to Trump's inaugural comes under scrutiny

Richard Lardner, Washington

REAL estate mogul Franklin Haney contributed USD1 million to President Donald Trump's inaugural committee and all he's got to show for the money is the glare of a federal investigation.

The contribution from Haney, a prolific political donor, came as he was seeking regulatory approval and financial support from the government for his long-shot bid to acquire the mothballed Bellefonte Nuclear Power Plant in northeastern Alabama. More than two years later, he still hasn't closed the deal.

His tale is a familiar one in Washington, where lobbyists and wealthy donors use their checkbooks to try to sway politicians. It's a world Haney is accustomed to operating in and one that Trump came into office pledging to upend. Yet Trump has left in place many of the familiar ways to wield influence.

Haney's hefty donation to Trump's inaugural committee is being scrutinized by federal pro-



Two cooling towers can be seen outside of the Bellefonte Nuclear Plant, in Hollywood

secutors in New York who are investigating the committee's finances. Their probe is focused in part on whether donors received benefits after making contributions.

Trump's former personal attorney, Michael Cohen, has given prosecutors information regarding Haney, his son and business associate, Frank Haney Jr., and the nuclear plant project, according to a person familiar with what Cohen told the authorities.

The person was not authorized to speak publicly and requested anonymity.

Haney had briefly hired Cohen to help obtain money for the Bellefonte project from potential investors, including the Middle Eastern country of Qatar. Cohen is now serving a three-year prison sentence for tax evasion, lying to Congress and campaign finance violations.

Haney and his attorney did not respond to interview requests.

Prosecutors also are examining whether foreigners unlawfully contributed to the committee. Federal prosecutors in Manhattan issued a subpoena last year seeking a wide range of financial records from the committee, including any "communications regarding or relating to the possibility of donations by foreign nationals."

The inaugural committee has denied wrongdoing and said its funds were fully accounted for.

Haney, 79, has previously faced accusations that his political gift giving is aimed at cultivating influence. An investigation by House Republicans in the late 1990s alleged that Haney's money and his political pull with senior Clinton administration officials helped him to get the Federal Communications Commission to move into an office building that he had a major stake in. Haney denied any wrongdoing and the Justice Department declined to pursue the matter.

But he was charged in 1999 with funneling about \$100,000 in illegal contributions to President

Bill Clinton, Vice President Al Gore and other politicians, then acquitted. A federal prosecutor described Haney as a sophisticated fundraiser who hoped to impress potential business clients with his access to elected officials, like Clinton and Gore.

Haney's family-owned real estate business donated thousands of dollars in 2013 and 2015 to political action committees that supported Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley, who later recommended that the nuclear plant Haney wanted to buy be put up for sale. Haney also contributed to a nonprofit created to promote Bentley's agenda. The Republican governor resigned in 2017 as he faced impeachment proceedings after an alleged affair with an aide.

In addition to the investigation into Haney's contribution to the Trump inaugural committee, Haney is in an unrelated legal battle with the nuclear plant's owner, the Tennessee Valley Authority. Another Haney company, Nuclear Development LLC, has filed a lawsuit in federal court accusing the TVA, the nation's largest public utility, of illegally blocking the plant's sale to him at the last minute. The utility has argued it couldn't complete the transaction because Haney failed to get the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's approval for transfer of the construction permits. **AP**

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EU ELECTIONS

Europe wakes up to climate concerns after green wave in vote

Frank Jordans, Berlin

GREEN parties in Germany, France, Britain and elsewhere celebrated big gains in elections for the 751-seat European Parliament amid growing voter concerns over climate change, expressed in large-scale student protests over recent months.

Provisional results yesterday showed the left-leaning Greens' bloc coming fourth in the election with 69 seats, an increase of 17 compared with 2014. If confirmed, the results could put the Greens in a position to tip the scales when it comes to choosing the next head of the European Commission.

The rise of the Greens, with their distinctly pro-European Union stance, marks a counterpoint to that of the far-right, anti-migrant parties that have been growing in popularity across Europe in recent years.

"Whoever wants legitimacy from us and the legitimacy of the many who went onto the streets



will need to deliver now," said Sven Giegold, a leading candidate for the German Green party that scooped up more than 20% of the vote nationwide, an increase of almost 10% compared with 2014.

The drift from the traditional heavyweight parties to the Greens in Germany was particularly pronounced in large cities such as Berlin, Munich and Hamburg, and among young voters, where the party beat its bigger rivals among all voters under 60, according to the Infratest dimap research institute.

Armin Laschet, the governor of Germany's most populous state, North Rhine-Westphalia, and a member of Chancellor Angela Merkel's center-right Union bloc, called the outcome "a wake-up call for politics."

In neighboring France, 25% of voters aged 18-25 voted for the Greens, compared with 15% for the far-right National Rally and 12% for President Emmanuel Macron's Republic on the Move, according to the Ifop polling organization. Overall, the French green party EELV received al-

most 13.5% of the vote, coming third.

Yannick Jadot, lead candidate of EELV, welcomed the "great green wave" in Europe.

"The French sent us a very clear message: they want environment to be at the heart of our lives, at the heart of the political game and that message has been spread across Europe," he said.

"The very good score of the greens in Germany, Luxembourg, Belgium and France sends a signal that the center of gravity of the European politics is shifting, that in addition to the populists and the pro-business (parties), there are the Greens," Jadot said.

Green parties also polled strongly in Austria, Sweden, Ireland, Denmark and the Netherlands. In Britain, the Greens — a largely insignificant force nationally — took 11 seats in the European Parliament vote.

"This was kind of a vote for all europhile and pro-integration positions the Greens have championed," Martin Florack, a politi-

cal scientist at the University of Duisburg-Essen, told German public broadcaster ARD.

Green lawmakers in the European Parliament plan to scrutinize the bloc's 200 billion euro (\$223.7 billion) agriculture budget, which environmentalists say places too much emphasis on large-scale farming and not enough on eco-friendly agriculture, he said.

The Greens also want every law passed at the EU-level to undergo a climate check. The party has strongly backed scientists' calls for the bloc to end all greenhouse gas emissions by mid-century.

Achieving this goal would require a drastic shift in Europe's economy, away from fossil fuels to clean energy and low-carbon lifestyles. Some measures proposed for cutting emissions have already faced strong headwind, including Macron's plan for a fuel tax hike in France that triggered protests from workers even as environmentalists accused the president of not doing enough for the climate. **AP**

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what's ON



FIVB WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL NATIONS LEAGUE - MACAU 2019

TIME: 3:30pm & 7:30pm (May 28)
4:30pm & 7:30pm (May 29 & 30)

VENUE: Macau Forum

ADMISSION: MOP150 (one-day ticket); MOP315 (three-day ticket)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2823 6363

MASTERPIECES FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF CHINA

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

UNTIL: July 28, 2019

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art

ADMISSION: Free

Offbeat

BECKHAM SCORES AS UNITED FACES BAYERN 20 YEARS AFTER CL WIN



Ole Gunnar Solskjaer wound back the years as the Manchester United manager came off the bench to score for Alex Ferguson's side against a Bayern Munich team in the "Treble Reunion" match — 20 years to the day after United won the 1999 Champions League final.

Fans young and old descended on Old Trafford on Sunday to see some of the club's greatest players — including David Beckham — as Manchester United Legends beat Bayern Munich Legends 5-0.

Solskjaer again started on the bench but made an impact far quicker than that night at the Nou Camp in Barcelona, where his goal deep in stoppage time sealed a 2-1 victory over Bayern and the treble for United on May 26, 1999. United also won the FA Cup and the Premier League that season.

This time Solskjaer came on for Andy Cole shortly after kickoff and produced a smart finish inside four minutes to put United Legends on course for a comprehensive win.

Dwight Yorke gave the hosts a two-goal cushion at the break, before man-of-the-match Nicky Butt, substitute Louis Saha and returning favorite Beckham completed a rout in front of 61,175 fans at Old Trafford, raising 1.5 million pounds for the Manchester United Foundation.

With the teams led out by Ferguson, supporters were treated to the familiar sight of Beckham firing cross-field balls, Jaap Stam showing no mercy at the back and Paul Scholes bossing the midfield.

After a difficult season — with United finishing sixth in the Premier League — Sunday's match brought a feel-good factor back to Old Trafford.

"I've got to thank the supporters again for supporting us and the money will be well spent," Solskjaer told MUTV. "I think everyone knows how much it means to play for Manchester United and this match, for everyone, means so much more than just turning up because it was such a big part of our lives."

"We have a big job getting back to these moments. We want to have moments to celebrate and that's what we're trying to do."

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Agua de Mar
15:45	Zig Zag
16:20	Portugueses Sem Fronteiras
16:50	Quem Quer Ser Milionario
17:45	Amor Maior (Repetição)
18:30	TDM Desporto (Repetição)
19:35	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	TDM Entrevista
21:50	Filhos da Nação Sr.3
22:25	Amor Maior
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Uma História de Autonomia
00:45	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:30	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 Skarsgard, Andy Serkis

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 94min



ALADDIN

ROOM 3

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

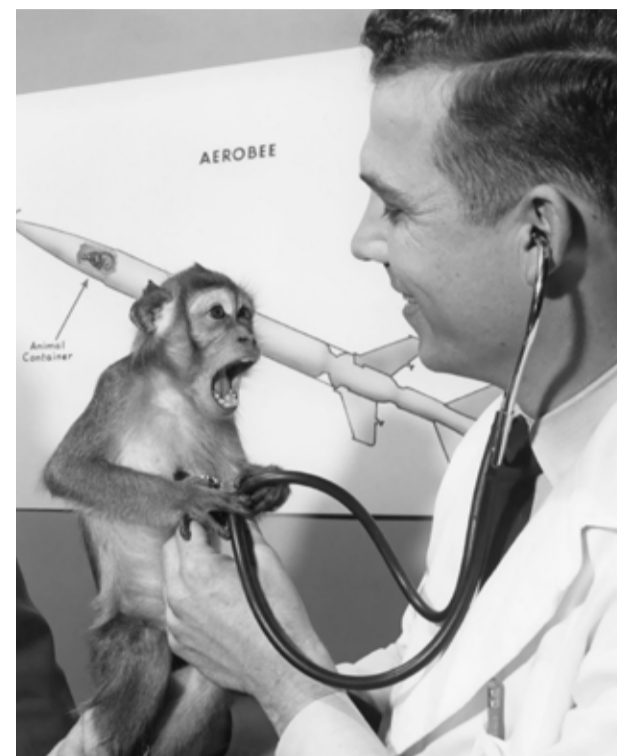
Director: Guy Ritchie

Starring: Will Smith, Mena Massoud, Naomi Scott

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 109min

this day in history



1959 MONKEYS SURVIVE SPACE MISSION

Two monkeys have become the first living creatures to survive a space flight.

Able, a seven-pound female rhesus monkey, and Baker, a one-pound female squirrel monkey, were fired 300 miles into space in the nose-cone of a Jupiter missile AM-18 from Cape Canaveral in Florida.

The flight, which reached speeds of up to 10,000 mph (16,090kmh) lasted 15 minutes and the monkeys were recovered 1,500 miles (2,413km) away in the South Atlantic near Puerto Rico.

The pair, who were weightless for nine minutes, were monitored throughout the flight for changes in their heart beats, muscular reaction, pulse velocity, body temperature and rate of breathing.

A spokesman from the Medical Research and Development Command of the US Army said the monkeys were in "perfect condition" on their return. Data recorded throughout the flight will be analysed over the next two weeks.

Although regarded as a success by space experts, the mission has been heavily criticised by animal welfare groups.

The American Embassy in London received protests from the League Against Cruel Sports and the Conference of Anti-Vivisection Societies, which is made up of 29 animal welfare groups.

A statement from the League Against Cruel Sports read: "Such action as this falls within the category of scientific devilry rather than scientific research."

It added: "In the name of humanity we beg of you to drop these vile experiments."

The statement from the Conference of Anti-Vivisection Societies had the same tone. It read: "Cowardly acts such as this can never be justified on the grounds of expediency and all thinking people will be disgusted to learn of this latest misuse by scientists of defenceless animals."

Able and Baker are due to return to Washington from Puerto Rico in a military transport aircraft.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Able died from the effects of anesthesia given for removal of electrodes implanted for the historic mission.

A subsequent post mortem examination revealed she had suffered no adverse effects from her flight into space.

Baker survived a similar operation and lived until 1984.

Able and Baker were not the first animals sent into space. On 3 November 1957 the Russians sent a dog Laika, which was mostly Siberian husky, into orbit. But days into the flight the dog died.

Between 1957 and 1961 13 dogs were sent into space by the Russians, five of whom died.

On 13 December 1958 the Americans sent the first animal, a squirrel monkey named Gordo, into space aboard a Jupiter AM-13 booster rocket. The monkey survived the flight but after landing a flotation device in the nose cone failed and Gordo died.

On 18 October 1963 the first cat, Felix, was sent into space by the French and survived.

Since then animals including frogs, fish, crickets and even worms have been sent into space.

YOUR STARS

Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Avoid the temptation to do your own thing today — even if it's the hottest thing ever! Your friends or family (or maybe coworkers) need you more than you realize, and that karma is irreplaceable.

Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

Is romance in your future — or your present? If today's energy is any indication, the answer is yes! Just look around if you're single, as someone right for you is tantalizingly close.

Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Today is all about activity, and you need to make sure that you're not just sitting around. Your social energy is lively and vibrant, so make the most of it and meet some new people or go on a date.

Libra

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Your energy levels are super-high today, and you may find that your friends and family are riding your draft and enjoying every second of it. It's a good day to get out there and mix it up with new people!

Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Your great social energy guarantees fun almost all day long — or at least a better mood than you think you deserve. It's a great time to reach out to friends who are going through hard times.

Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Try something different today — routines don't work for you, at least not right now. Your great mental energy makes you more prone to boredom, and that's something you just can't tolerate!

Taurus

April 20-May 20

Your health may need some adjustment — so get to a gym, see a nutritionist or find a way to think positive thoughts even during that dreaded performance review. It all helps in the long run!

Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Today is all about partnership — but that can be hard to deal with. You should find out if you can get your mate or your business associates to see things your way, but the road is long and hard for now.

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

You are having a hard time figuring out what you want to do next — but you're not the only one! Make sure that your people know your quandary, as you and a friend can help each other in a big way.

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

It's a good day to hang out on your own and try to do things quietly. Loud parties and raucous meetings just aren't your style now, so try solitary activities and see what new ideas you can come up with.

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

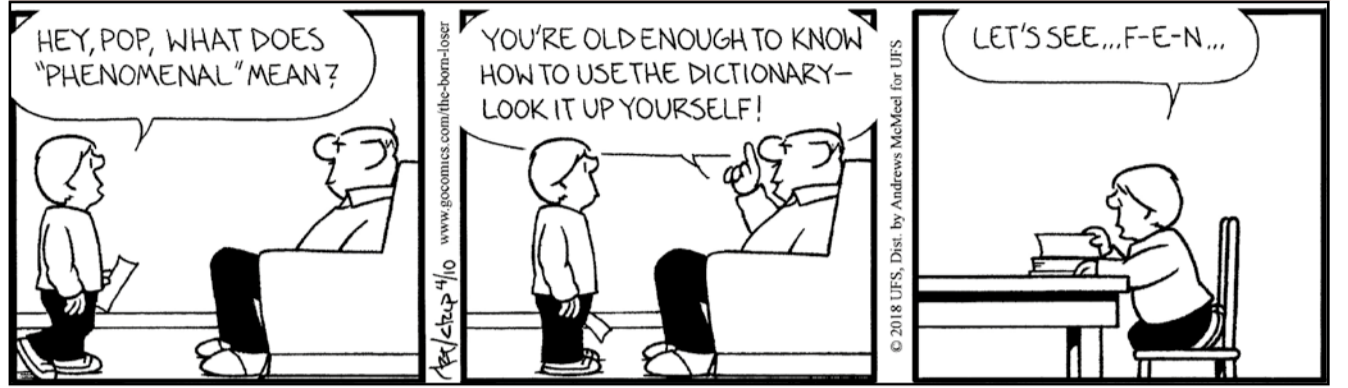
Try not to worry too much when your plans are challenged today — that's just nature's way of testing your willpower. If you can meet this stress with good humor, you are sure to do well all year!

Pisces

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Are you having cash flow issues? Now is the time to deal with them — before they deal with you! Your great energy is perfect for handling all kinds of financial burdens, so get on it ASAP!

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
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CHINA

Beijing	12	27	clear
Harbin	7	16	cloudy
Tianjin	13	26	clear
Urumqi	12	22	moderate rain
Xi'an	13	26	overcast
Lhasa	8	20	cloudy
Chengdu	16	24	drizzle
Chongqing	18	29	cloudy
Kunming	14	22	shower
Nanjing	15	23	clear
Shanghai	14	23	cloudy
Wuhan	15	26	cloudy
Hangzhou	15	25	cloudy
Taipei	19	25	heavy rain
Guangzhou	21	28	cloudy
Hong Kong	24	27	shower

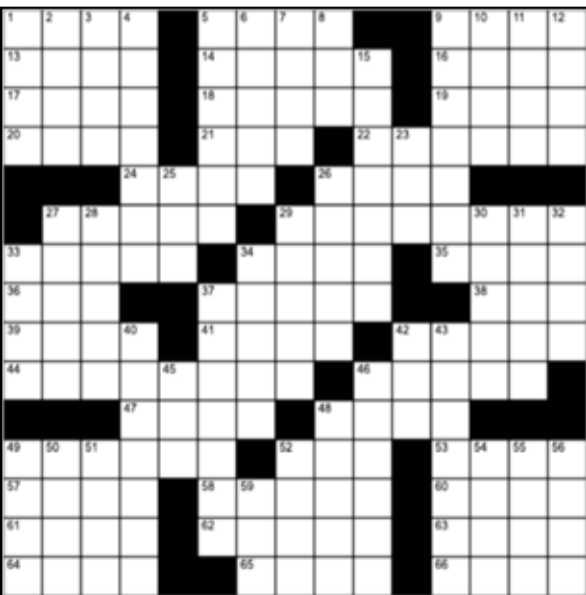
WORLD

Moscow	2	12	cloudy
Frankfurt	9	20	drizzle
Paris	7	18	drizzle
London	5	16	overcast
New York	8	17	drizzle

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- ____ - a -Sketch; 5- Designer Cassini; 9- Fly high; 13- Part; 14- Comic O'Donnell; 16- Brit's exclamation; 17- Length x width; 18- Not a soul; 19- Alda or Ladd; 20- Separate by a sieve; 21- Nincompoop; 22- Branching; 24- Diminutive ending; 26- Subordinate staffer; 27- Trio; 29- Kitchen sideboards; 33- Vice follower; 34- Honey producers; 35- Zeno's home; 36- Cry of surprise; 37- Explosion; 38- Antiquity, in antiquity; 39- Discounted; 41- Monetary unit of the Netherlands; 42- Golfer Palmer, to his army; 44- Precedent setter; 46- Sir ____ Newton was an English mathematician; 47- Swear words; 48- In the thick of; 49- Fame; 52- Econ. yardstick; 53- Bit of gossip; 57- Lone Star State sch.; 58- Angry; 60- Swiss river; 61- ____ majeste; 62- Massage; 63- Speaker of note; 64- Cornerstone abbr.; 65- Cut-price retail event; 66- Sicilian spouter;

DOWN: 1- Historic periods; 2- Actress Spelling; 3- Musical staff sign; 4- Radiators; 5- Elaborately adorned; 6- Not tied down; 7- Those, to Juan; 8- Martini liquor; 9- Like some cats; 10- Sorja Henie's birthplace; 11- Small batteries; 12- Baseball's Sandberg; 15- Most strange; 23- Classified items; 25- Crumpets partner; 26- You ____ right!; 27- Little laugh; 28- ____ Perot; 29- The Wreck of the Mary ____; 30- Actress Verdugo; 31- Museum artifact; 32- Marquis de ____; 33- Electrical unit; 34- To redden; 37- Unconventional person; 40- Bent forward; 42- Just ____ thought!; 43- Proceed in rays; 45- Cornfield cry; 46- Obstruct; 48- Conductor Dorati; 49- Govern; 50- French summers; 51- Treehouse used by birds; 52- Earth goddess; 54- Fruit-filled pie; 55- ____ Brockovich; 56- Big butte; 59- Hosp. workers;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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



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[Taipa] Buckingham 2 2 2
1,439 ft² **\$11,770,000** (ref: 19045004)

[Taipa] Nice Court 3 2 2
1,600 ft² **\$8,980,000** (ref: 19045002)

[Taipa] Manhattan Carpark
\$1,580,000 (ref: 19045003)

FOR RENT

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1,626 ft² **\$23,800/mth** (ref: 19030002)

[Taipa] Nova Park 2 2 2
1,134 ft² **\$16,400/mth** (ref: 17020638)

[Taipa] Nova Grand 2 1 1
986 ft² **\$16,000/mth** (ref: 19055007RT)

[Macau] Nam Long 1 1 1
720 ft² **\$12,300/mth** (ref: 17110658)

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TENNIS

Wozniacki goes from perfect in 1st set to French Open loss

Howard Fendrich, Paris

CAROLINE Wozniacki went from playing a perfect set to start her French Open campaign to quickly fading away against an opponent who had never previously won a Grand Slam match.

In a performance emblematic of a difficult season, Wozniacki, a former No. 1 and last year's Australian Open champion, lost yesterday in the first round at Roland Garros 0-6, 6-3, 6-3 to 68th-ranked Veronika Kudermetova of Russia.

"Definitely wasn't the best match I've ever played," said the 13th-seeded Wozniacki, who had only 15 winners to Kudermetova's 40.

The way-up-then-way-down showing by Wozniacki stretched her losing streak to four matches and dropped her 2019 record to 9-8.

Another past Grand Slam champion dropped out of the field when two-time Wimbledon winner Petra Kvitova withdrew from the French Open because of an injured left forearm.

The left-hander said the arm had been bothering her for some time and during practice Sunday, "suddenly I felt the pain."



AP PHOTO

"I went to have an MRI, and, yeah, unfortunately I have a tear in my forearm, which is not great," said Kvitova, who hopes to be ready for the start of Wimbledon on July 1.

In other action earlier, No. 32 men's seed Frances Tiafoe of the U.S. lost to Filip Krajinovic

of Serbia 6-2, 4-6, 6-3, 3-6, 6-0, and No. 18 women's seed Julia Goerges of Germany was beaten 7-5, 6-1 by Kaia Kanepi of Estonia. Other winners in the women's draw included No. 4 Kiki Bertens, No. 8 Ash Barty and No. 26 Johanna Konta.

Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic

and Serena Williams — owners of a combined total of 55 major championships — were scheduled to play, one after another, on Court Philippe Chatrier.

Wozniacki's preparation for Paris had been hampered by an injured left calf, which was heavily wrapped yesterday, but

she said that was not an issue against her 22-year-old opponent. The Danish player also said she was not bothered by her rheumatoid arthritis, an autoimmune condition that can cause pain and swelling in the wrist and other joints.

"I played really well in the first set. I played aggressive. I played the way I wanted to play. And then I think she got very lucky at the start of the second set and took advantage of the opportunities she got," Wozniacki said, her chin resting on her left hand. "And then I think I just lost a little steam in the end."

She made only three unforced errors in that opening set, but 18 over the last two.

Wozniacki's results have not been the sort she is accustomed to. She made it to the quarterfinals and the fourth round in Paris in the last two years.

"You want to win, you're competitive, you work hard and you want to see results. So, it hasn't been a great year for me so far. And I'm just going to try and work hard and try to turn that around. Right now, there's not much I can do about the first six months of the season. I had some good weeks where I felt great, and then I've had some weeks where I've been sick and some weeks where I've been injured," Wozniacki said.

"I just have to try and stay positive, and obviously it's not as easy to stay positive when things aren't going your way. But I think that's when you really need to — and you need to just keep grinding." AP

SUPER RUGBY

South African conference teams taking command

TEAMS from the South African conference teams have taken command in the late race for playoffs positions in Super Rugby, exposing the limitations of their Australian and New Zealand opponents.

Meanwhile, Argentina's conference-leading Jaguares are being criticized from fielding what is in effect the national team.

With three rounds remaining in the regular season, teams from the South Africa conference occupy four of the top-eight places on the overall championship table while a fifth African team, the Stormers, are just outside the eight on point difference.

In contrast, New Zealand has only two teams in the playoffs zone — the first-place Crusaders and fourth-place Hurricanes. Aus-



AP PHOTO

Crusaders Jack Goodhue (right) fends off Blues Akira Ioane during their Super Rugby match in Christchurch, New Zealand

tralia has two more in the third-place ACT Brumbies and fifth-place Melbourne Rebels.

Teams currently outside the top eight still have

a chance of making the playoffs, but those chances diminish as teams become dependent on other results to reach the quarterfinals.

In New Zealand, the Dunedin-based Highlanders are only a point outside the eight but their run to the playoffs was made more difficult after they

failed to take a point from two losses in South Africa. They have matches remaining against the Pretoria-based Bulls and New South Wales Waratahs, teams that need to win to keep alive any playoff chance.

The Hamilton-based Chiefs beat the Queensland Reds in the weekend's 15th round to just sustain their playoff chances while likely eliminating the Reds from contention. The Auckland-based Blues' loss to the Crusaders leaves them 13th on the table and with only the slimmest mathematical chance of making the top eight with matches left against the Reds and Hurricanes.

The ACT Brumbies ended the 15th round atop the Australia conference after Friday's win over the Bulls in Canberra. That

also ensures them third place in the overall table as one of the three conference leaders. They are 19 points behind the Crusaders and four points short of the fourth-place Hurricanes.

The Australia conference has been hard-fought all season with the lead regularly changing hands. The Brumbies and Rebels, separated by a single point, will likely continue to vie for first place while the Waratahs are barely hanging on to the tail of playoffs field after Saturday's loss to the Jaguares.

Argentina's Jaguares went clear atop the South Africa conference with that win, moving three points ahead of the Durban-based Sharks, which beat the Johannesburg-based Lions, beaten finalists in each of the last three years. AP

opinion

Our Desk
Renato Marques



THE NON-(EXISTENT)-GAMING

The term “non-gaming” has been included for a while in the local vocabulary, especially among government officials.

The term, imported all the way from Beijing, seemed to be the Central Government’s response to the “need” to transform Macau into a World Centre of Tourism and Leisure, and aims to clarify that by ‘tourism and leisure’ they mean “family friendly” tourism and leisure.

Well, the fact is that it does not matter how many times we open and close the same textbook, it will always state the same thing. The same happens with “Macau Tourists.” It does not matter how many times we say, “we want more international tourists,” and “we want more culture-related tourism” and other jargon, the fact is our tourists:

Come from Mainland China, almost exclusively from Guangdong province,

Come to gamble, buy cosmetics and personal hygiene products, and gamble (did I mention the gambling yet?) and that,

Eventually, have to eat and we have been telling them we are a very good place to get food.

Looking at this phenomenon, most of the gaming concessionaires (which is not to say all) did the obvious. They built casinos, shops, and restaurants. Problem solved! In my opinion, to treat retail shops or restaurants as “non-gaming elements” is as effective as using chewing gum to repair a punctured tire - it might hold for a while, but it is certainly not the right thing to do in the long run.

But, in reality, what is the obligation of the gaming industry to offer services other than gaming? The answer is simple: none!

Apparently, this “obligation” is about to change under the new gaming laws that the government keeps saying it’s preparing, although very little has surfaced about what would be included.

Still, (let me be a bit optimistic) I do think this would be a great opportunity for the Macau SAR government to clearly establish rules on so-called “non-gaming” and, furthermore, clarify exactly to what extent the gaming concessionaires are liable for regarding their (famous) corporate social responsibility.

In my perspective, I see non-gaming in a very simple way: tourists come to gamble, we cannot change that and we do not want to change that! There is nothing wrong in assuming this, the same way that there is nothing wrong with saying, “Let’s target the non-gaming (mostly) to locals.” Why not?

I know what you are thinking right now. How can the “non-gaming” survive just on “very few locals?” My answer to that is to “extend” the concept of “locals.” You see, instead of considering “just” the 600,000 Macau inhabitants, we should also include the “pushed-back” neighbors from Hong Kong. We easily come up with some 8 million potential (and easy) consumers of our “non-gaming activities.”

With this problem solved, (the who) and without “messing up” with our region’s most precious income source, we are left with only two more issues to solve. The what? And how much (幾錢)?

I think I am not exaggerating if I say that it has become a common practice in Macau in recent years to “offer too little at a high cost.” However, in order to have a sustainable non-gaming sector we cannot continue to treat people (locals or visitors) as idiots and we need to start to pay serious attention to match “what we give” to “what we get.”

The fact is that these “extended locals” make a living mostly from their work and they can only do “the extravaganza” of attending a show or some other kind of event once or twice a month.

In this sense, I think we need to stop leveling for the rich and start aiming for the “average (GBA) citizen.”

And do not get tricked by this; the “non-crazy rich” are demanding, and to attract them we must certainly stop copying what they already have and search creatively and critically for novelties. That should be the task!

THE BREXIT PARTY WINS, CONSERVATIVES BASHED IN UK’S EU VOTING

Britain’s governing Conservative Party was all but wiped out in the European Parliament election as voters sick of the country’s stalled European Union exit flocked to uncompromisingly pro-Brexit or pro-EU parties.

The big winners were the newly founded Brexit Party led by veteran anti-EU campaigner Nigel Farage and the strongly pro-European Liberal Democrats.

With results announced yesterday for all of

England and Wales, the Brexit Party had won 28 of the 73 British EU seats up for grabs and almost a third of the votes. The Liberal Democrats took about 20% of the vote and 15 seats — up from only one at the last EU election in 2014.

Labour came third with 10 seats, followed by the Greens with seven. The ruling Conservatives were in fifth place with just three EU seats and under 10% of the vote.

Bolivian women fight gender-based violence through theater



Paola Flores, La Paz

ON stage, amid the hubbub of a Bolivian street market, women recount their stories of abuse at the hands of men.

But the violence depicted in the play isn’t just make-believe for the 22 indigenous actresses: It’s based on their own real-life experiences.

“Kusisita,” a work that seeks to raise awareness about violence against women and mobilize people to fight it, has been drawing large audiences in Bolivia, which has one of South America’s highest rates of femicides.

In the theater, Maria Luque portrays a woman who asks her drunken husband to stop abusing her. In her own history, she said, she was so brutally beaten by the father of her four children that she was left partly paralyzed. Even after more than a decade, she still has trouble moving some of the muscles in her face.

“I’ve suffered discrimination since birth,” she told The Associated Press. “My mom was very poor and she escaped violence. For some, [violence] might be normal, but we want to show that it shouldn’t be that way.”

“Kusisita” is one of two plays offered by the Kory

Warmis — Women of Gold in the Aymara language — troupe, and both focus on the problems of gender violence and convincing women to reject it.

“I was quiet, submissive, but I left that behind on stage. Theater is now my life,” said Luque, 56, who immigrated to the city of El Alto from a rural community in search of work opportunities.

The plays, presented in Aymara, are also aimed at indigenous communities where nearly half of all reports of gender-based violence takes place, according to 2017 figures from the National Statistics Institute. Those communities make up roughly a fifth of Bolivia’s population.

About 40% of the country’s police cases involve family violence and alcohol is involved in 90% of cases, according to a government report last year on gender-based violence.

“It’s a very high and alarming rate,” said government minister Carlos Romero, who helped write the report.

Actress Gumercinda Mamani, an artisan and shepherd, recalled how the body of a friend was found on the outskirts of La Paz with marks from a rope that her partner had used to

choke her.

“It’s hard to understand how the man that you give your life to is the one who takes it away,” said Mamani, a former representative for female farmers. “I’m fighting against this.”

Carmen Aranibar, another actress, joined the group in the hopes that her story would encourage other women to leave abusive relationships.

“We can’t wait until they kill us or we want to take our own lives out of the desperation caused by violence,” said Aranibar, a mother of two boys who sells diapers for a living. She said she endured beatings by her partner for more than 10 years before finding out that he was cheating on her with a younger woman.

“I nearly killed myself,” she said. “I put up with everything he did because I was afraid that he’d leave me. But then I realized that it wasn’t worth it and I left him. I’m happy here and that’s what I tell in the play.”

The theater group, which was founded in 2014, finds itself gaining an audience as waves of women mobilize to fight gender violence across the world. In neighboring Argentina, a grassroots movement known as “Ni Una Menos,” or Not One Less, emerged in 2015 and drew thousands to hold massive demonstrations in support of women’s rights. But while movements in Bolivia have lacked the impact of Ni Una Menos or the #MeToo movement in the United States, some say the plays have had impact.

“It’s a success, 100% percent,” said Paola Ricalde of the La Paz mayorship’s directorate for equality policies. AP



Station	Air quality
Roadside	25-45 Good
High Density Residential Area	35-55 Good
Ambient	25-45 Good

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS



KENYA A growing number of Kenyan farmers are turning to silk production, in a move away from traditional cash crops such as coffee, maize, sugarcane and cotton.



SYRIA White Helmets say at least six people were killed and 10 remain under rubble following government air raids on a town in the rebel’s last stronghold.

MEXICO Prosecutors say three police officers have been killed and eight others wounded in a large-scale shooting attack in western Mexico.



POLAND The ruling Law and Justice party has emerged as the big winner in the country’s European Parliament election, taking over 45% of the votes following an aggressive campaign against a united opposition in a year of key elections.



ITALY The League party of Italy’s hard-line interior minister, Matteo Salvini, was one of the biggest winners in the European elections, with skyrocketing support that bolsters his role as the flagbearer of the nationalist and far-right forces in Europe and could also shake up politics at home.