



MODERATE GROWTH INCOMING, SAY ANALYSTS
Analysts are forecasting growth of up to 4% this May as comparison months from last year normalize

■ P4 GAMING



ADVANTAGE, EAST ASIA
The China and Korea teams took the lead yesterday at the 2019 FIVB, earning 3-0 victories over Belgium and Thailand respectively

■ P6 VOLLEYBALL



GUANGZHOU REFLECTS ON DECADES OF CULINARY CURIOSITY

■ P8 GASTRONOMY



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“THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’”

WORLD BRIEFS



AP PHOTO

CHINA After more than a decade of rapid growth, Chinese travel to the U.S. is falling. And that has cities, malls and other tourist spots scrambling to reverse the trend. Travel from China to the U.S. fell 5.7% in 2018 to 2.9 million visitors.
More on p11



AP PHOTO

MALAYSIA will send back some 3,000 metric tons of non-recyclable plastic waste to countries such as the U.S., U.K., Canada and Australia in a move to avoid becoming a dumping ground for rich nations, Environment Minister Yeo Bee Yin said yesterday.

INDONESIA Four top officials, including two Cabinet ministers and the national spy chief, were targeted for assassination as part of a plot possibly linked to last week's election riots, police said yesterday.
More on p13



AP PHOTO

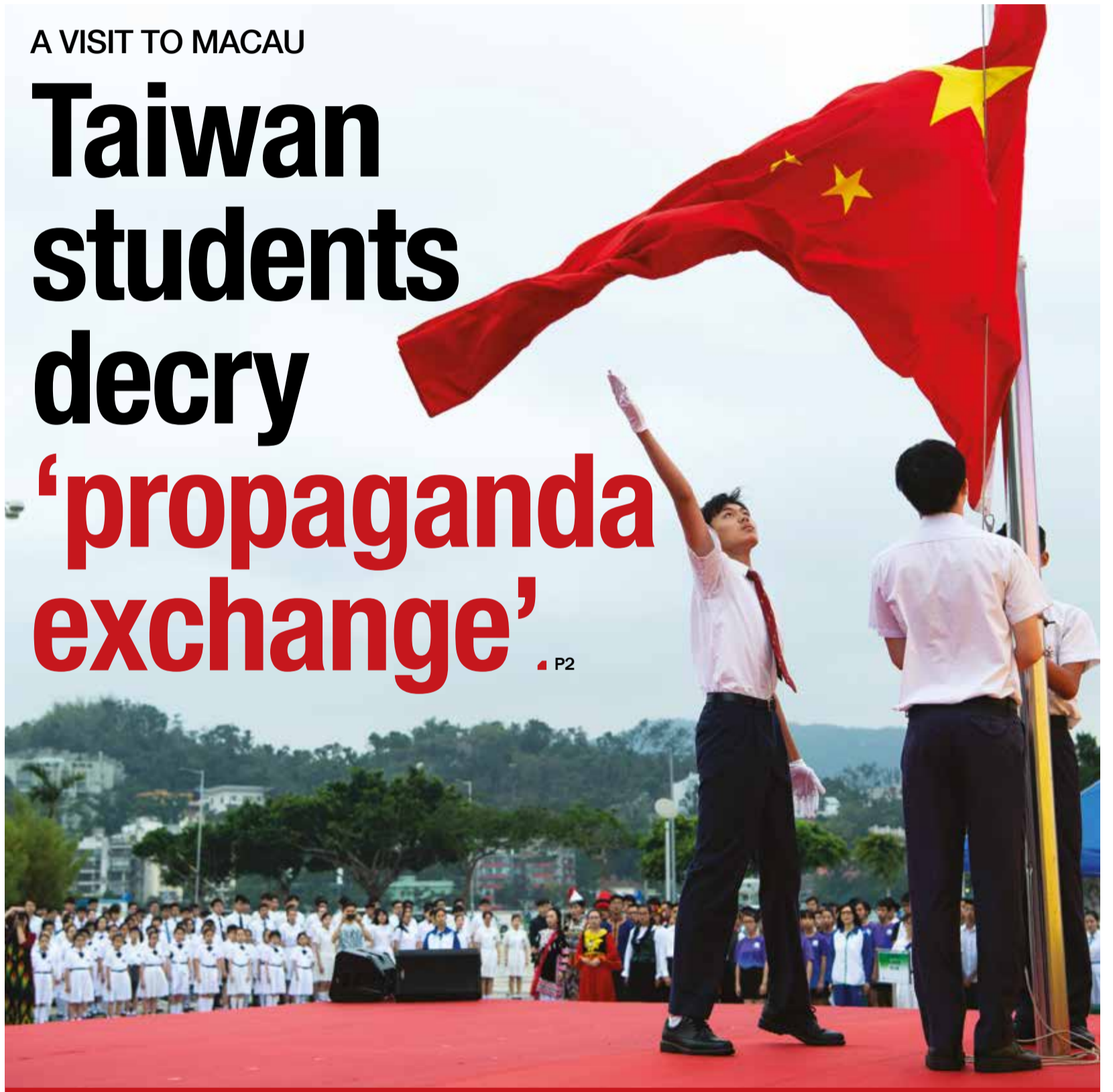
JAPAN A man carrying a knife in each hand and screaming “I will kill you!” attacked a group of schoolgirls near a school bus parked at a bus stop just outside Tokyo yesterday, killing two and injuring 17 before killing himself, officials said. More on p12

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A VISIT TO MACAU

Taiwan students decry

‘propaganda exchange’ .P2



APPOINTED IPIM PRESIDENT

Irene Lau reports 40 suspicious cases on first day .P3



An Fengshan, spokesman for the mainland's State Council Taiwan Affairs Office

Taiwan students decry propaganda exchange

STUDENTS from Taiwan have taken to criticizing exchange programs to mainland China and Macau for being merely propaganda aimed at reinforcing thoughts of unification between China and Taiwan, according to a report by the Taipei Times.

A group of former attendees of an inexpensive academic exchange program, which costs about NTD10,000 (MOP2,564), claimed they were dropped into a pro-unification propaganda program.

The exchange program included visits to Macau, Beijing and Inner Mongolia.

During their visit to Macau, the students were taken to an exhibition featuring the "successful implementation of the One Country, Two Systems framework."

While in Macau, they were constantly told about the advantages of the One Country, Two Systems framework.

When the students went to Inner Mongolia, the exchange program's organizers promo-

ted ethnic unity.

The exchange program also took the students to China's Taiwan Affairs Office and Beijing's Taiwan unification office.

Chen Ku-hsiung, president of Taiwan's National Cheng Kung University, who participated in this program, described the trip to Macau and other mainland cities as irrelevant to academic topics, mostly unification propaganda, as well as a veiled threat toward Taiwanese independence callers.

In Chen's opinion, the content included in the trips only served to separate the Taiwanese students further from China.

According to Chen, in a meeting with mainland government officials, those Taiwanese students were informed that Beijing would eliminate Taiwan separatists.

Chen said that these attempts to brainwash Taiwanese students into a pro-unification stance would not succeed because, in his opinion, the majority of the Taiwanese students on the exchange program already had a sense of Taiwanese identity.

However, despite his evaluation, Chen admits that the trips have influenced some Taiwanese students who turned to organizing activities involving mainland China and Taiwan upon their return to the island.

According to a report by Liberty Times Net, China has been offering free or low-cost exchange tours in an attempt to entice university students from Taiwan, especially student leaders of autonomous organizations in colleges and universities, to visit.

These exchange programs vigorously promote the thinking of the Chinese president Xi Jinping, the Belt and Road Initiative, and the One Country, Two Systems policy framework. **JZ**

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Sulu Sou appeal being considered

THE Legislative Assembly (AL) Rules and Mandates Committee has decided to accept and consider an appeal by lawmaker Sulu Sou regarding the dismissal of a written protest he had made following a July 2018 debate in the legislature.

At the time, the debate in the Legislative Assembly had centered on which government body ought to be notified of public demonstrations. The bill under discussion proposed that those wishing to hold a public demonstration should notify the Public Security Police Force (PSP), instead of the now-defunct Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau.

Sou made a last-minute proposal to amend the bill, replacing the PSP with the Macau Chief Executive.

AL President Ho Iat Seng admitted at the time to not knowing how to handle the proposal, but rejected it and accused Sou of disrespecting his peers by proposing the last-minute amendment.

The AL's Rules and Mandates Committee has since found that the proposal was legitimate.

Lawmaker Sou later submitted a written protest, which was not accepted because, according to Ho, it had not been delivered at the same meeting when the incident occurred.

The lawmaker disagreed and appealed Ho's decision. Sou now awaits his appeal's consideration by the Rules and Mandates Committee. **DB**

opinion

CONFRONTATION HURTS BOTH CHINA AND THE US

Gong Xin

This year, China's foreign trade, although confronted with a complex external environment and many uncertainties, has made progress while ensuring stability.

On the one hand, the gross value of Chinese imports and exports has scored steady growth. In the first four months, the total value of imports and exports of China's foreign trade of goods reached 9.51 trillion yuan, up 4.3% year on year. Among them, exports increased by 5.7% year on year to 5.06 trillion yuan, while imports went up by 2.9% to 4.45 trillion yuan.

On the other hand, high-quality development has made new progress. In the first four months, high-value-added exports have also registered steady growth, with mechanical and electrical exports of

2.97 trillion yuan, up 4.5%, accounting for 58.6% of the total exports. Private enterprises imported and exported 3.9 trillion yuan, up 11% year on year, and accounted for 41% of the total value of foreign trade, up 2.5% year on year.

Although faced with profound and complex changes, there are still many favorable conditions, as China is still in an important and strategic period of development.

First, both the quality and effect of development in China's foreign trade are increasingly enhanced. Currently, the import and export of China's foreign trade is more balanced, with more coordinated regional development and optimized product structure. The export of high-value-added mechanical and electrical manufacturing products has

maintained a good momentum of growth, and has greater competitiveness in the global market. In the first four months, China's exports of electric appliances and electronic products reached 1.33 trillion yuan, up 4.9% year on year, while the exports of mechanical equipment stood at 8.9 billion yuan, up 3.9% year on year.

Second, China's business environment is increasingly optimized. China has successively introduced a series of policy measures to reduce taxes and fees and optimize the business environment. According to the World Bank, China moved up 32 places in the ease-of-doing-business ranking in 2018, among which the ranking of cross-border trade jumped from 97 to 65.

Third, China has more diversified trading partners. In the first four months, China's

trade with the EU, ASEAN and Japan has all been increasing. Trade with Belt and Road countries totaled 2.73 trillion yuan, up 9.1% year on year, which was 4.8 percentage points higher than the overall trade growth over the same period, and the trade volume accounted for 28.7% of the country's total foreign trade, up by 1.3 percentage points year on year.

Since its initiation of Section 301 Investigation into China last year, the U.S. side has been frequently wielding the tariffs baton and continuously escalating trade frictions between the two countries. More recently, in disregard of the hard-won progress made in China-U.S. trade consultations during the past several months, Washington increased additional tariffs on 200 billion U.S. dollars' worth of Chinese goods, causing se-

rious setbacks in economic and trade relations between the two sides. Nonetheless, the Chinese market remains a hot spot for American companies.

According to the "American Business in China" annual white paper released by the American Chamber of Commerce in China on April 17, 98% of the surveyed American companies said they would continue to expand in the Chinese market and believed that there were important opportunities in the growing Chinese market. Nearly 42% of the surveyed companies ranked China as a top-three investment destination, up 5 percentage points from 2017. Among them, one in five listed China as the most important investment site, and 38% of the surveyed companies said that China's investment climate was improving. Notably,

in technology and R&D-intensive industries, above 63% of the surveyed companies ranked China as a top-three investment destination, while the figure in 2017 was 51%.

Cooperation is in the interests of China and the U.S., while confrontation hurts both. There is no better option than cooperation, and only a win-win approach will lead to a better future. For China, a country which has experienced numerous winds and storms, it is important to maintain strategic determination, strengthen confidence in victory and concentrate efforts on doing its own business, so as to overcome all the difficulties and obstacles lying ahead.

This article was commissioned by the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the PRC in the Macao SAR

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New IPIM head reports 40 suspicious immigration cases

Julie Zhu

THE Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) has spotted approximately 40 suspicious applications of major investment immigration and technical immigration, according to Irene Va Kuan Lau, the new chairman of the Board of Directors of IPIM.

On the sidelines of a ceremony yesterday inaugurating her as the new IPIM head, Lau told the media that the cases were discovered after IPIM conducted a review of immigration applications.

"We at IPIM have thoroughly revised and checked every document of these applications," said Lau.

According to Lau's explana-

tion, IPIM requires immigration applicants to submit the most updated documents in case the bureau deems that other documents were unclear.

When examining suspected fraudulent applications, IPIM first asks explanation from the relevant parties and only then proceeds to the concerned governmental department for a follow up if it is confirmed that there has been a criminal conduct.

Regarding the 40 cases, Lau noted that "some of the [concerned people] might not be suspects because they have difficulties explaining the reasons."

These cases are currently under investigation and no confirmed criminal cases have yet been registered, informed Lau.

"The main issue probably is

that they say they work in Macau, but we found out that they have never come to Macau," said Lau. "There are various other reasons."

"We will certainly not let them succeed," she added, pledging to fight against fake immigration applications.

Last year, in October, former IPIM chief Jackson Chiang, as well as two other high-ranking officials, were placed under a criminal investigation for alleged irregularities regarding the unlawful granting of residency statuses through an investment scheme.

Since then, Lau has been serving as acting chairman of IPIM.

Lau refused to comment directly on the matter when questioned about the clean-up within IPIM yesterday. Instead, she mentioned that IPIM adjusted

its structure in 2018, including adding new departments and divisions to the bureau.

"IPIM's functions change as society and the economy change, and when there is a change in the governance philosophy of the neighboring regions and the SAR government," said Lau. "We started [such] adjustments last year. The whole operation has been smooth."

Besides reporting statistics on the abovementioned matter, the new IPIM chairman promised to lead her department into developing works in several key aspects: convention and exhibition industry, cooperation of China and Portuguese-speaking countries, Belt and Road initiative, Greater Bay Area regional cooperation, and economic and trade service to investors and enterprises.

Sai Van wooden promenade proposal shelved

The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) has shelved Sai Van Lake's wooden promenade project amid great controversies among residents. According to a report by Cheng Pou, the IAM dropped off the proposal after receiving numerous disapproving comments from residents, as well as opposition from members of the IAM advisory committee. However, the halt is still temporary, and the bureau says it will continue discussions on the project. The vice chairman of IAM's administration committee, Lo Chi Kin, pledged to conduct a public consultation in residents ask for the promenade in the future.

UM installs surveillance cameras in more classrooms

The University of Macau yesterday backtracked on its plan to install CCTV surveillance cameras in all of its classrooms. The institution had originally claimed that the installation was for "protecting the safety of the employees and students" and "protecting the assets and facilities of UM." However, in response to negative public opinion on the matter, UM now says it will only install surveillance cameras in areas used for examinations. As of today, UM has a total of 19 classrooms where CCTV cameras are already installed.

COURTS

Former HK official says co-defendant was his Macau love interest

Lynzy Valles

A former Hong Kong government official, who is accused of acquiring over HKD500,000 in bribes from a Macau businesswoman, went to trial on Monday to defend allegations of misconduct.

Prosecutors allege that Wilson Fung, former deputy secretary of the Economic Development and Labour Affairs Bureau between 2003 and 2006, had concealed a conflict of interest by not declaring his personal dealings with Cheyanne Chan - Stanley Ho's sister-in-law - while he handled her companies' various applications with the government.

Fung is currently accu-

sed of two charges; a public servant accepting an advantage and misconduct in public office. He has denied both charges, arguing that he was in a relationship with Chan for over 12 years when he was arrested in November 2016.

According to reports, Chan was a former director and shareholder of three airline and helicopter companies. She is a defendant in the case and is also charged with offering an advantage to a public servant.

The former senior official said that he had been officially together with Chan since they confessed their feelings toward one another in Macau in December 10, 2003. He said that during this time

they had never discussed business dealings.

Since Fung was also married to a senior government official in Hong Kong, the couple went to Macau on 33 occasions and on five occasions to mainland China.

"Because I had a family, I didn't want people to see us so we went to Macau," Fung said, as cited in a report issued by the South China Morning Post.

Fung said he assisted Chan in negotiating prices and arranging commission discounts when Chan made her property purchases - which Chan had been doing since 1986.

"She wasn't very keen on making investments at first, she just wanted to see me longer," he said.

Fung was said to have hidden HKD510,000 given to him in September 28, 2004 as an initial deposit Chan paid to purchase his flat.

Chan had purchased three flats for the amounts of HKD6.1 million, HKD17.88 million and HKD10.2 million, all in 2004.

Fung said he received a call from Chan after buying the latter property, and supposed that Chan felt it was too risky to buy three properties within a short period of time. Thus, Fung decided to take over the purchases.

"I told Ms. Chan I would pay her back [the deposit] no matter what," Fung said.

Meanwhile, Fung tes-

tified that Chan offered to share half of the HKD1.2 million profit she earned from selling the first flat she purchased, which would offset the HKD510,000 initial deposit she paid for the HKD10.2 million property.

However, Fung says that he did not accept the money, also adding that he held a joint bank account with his wife and did not want to be suspicious of where the money came from.

Fung said that he was introduced to Chan by the chief executive of Helicopters Hong Kong, a company offering helicopter tours over the SAR, within a month of joining the bureau to oversee aviation matters.

International construction forum opens tomorrow

The 10th International Infrastructure Investment and Construction Forum (IIICF) will be held in Macau tomorrow and Friday. The event seeks to serve as a networking platform for Chinese companies in the construction sector to expand their business in overseas regions. According to a statement from the Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute, "after nine years of growth, the IIICF has built itself into an annual industrial gala on the international stage." In the past nine years, more than 90 co-operation agreements have been signed and put into action.

Art Macao to break ground as new type of festival

Staff reporter

A cooperation agreement on the multi-month Art Macao festival was signed by the six casino operators and the local government yesterday at a press conference, where the program was also announced in full.

In terms of scale, Art Macao is the largest art and culture festival Macao has ever seen.

Running until October, it will be staged at a total of 33 locations across the city and is counting the participation of more than a dozen public and private entities.

With a total duration of half a year, Art Macao is to become the longest running art and culture festival in Macao to date.

As introduced by the government, the festival was planned to promote cultural tourism and add tourism products, apart from bringing various styles of arts and culture to the local community. As a result, the festival is jointly organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau and the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO).

Even though it officially starts in June, some events have already opened as pre-shows, including the exhibitions of "Italian Renaissance Drawings from the British Museum" and "Beauty in the New Era – Masterpieces from the Collection of the National Art Museum of China" at the Macao Museum of Art.

The former showcases 52 drawings by 42 Italian masters, including Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo, made between 1470 and 1580. The latter celebrates the aesthetics of Chinese paintings, with works by influential Chinese artists, such as Qi Baishi and Zhang Daqian, shown.



"Good intentions" by U.S. artist and designer, KAWS

HOTELIER EVENTS

The peak of the entire festival is to be staged on June 6 at the Macao Museum of Art. This day will mark the opening of the Main Exhibition of the core event named "Art Macao: International Art Exhibition".

It features an array of precious works picked by participating hotel operators, ranging in form from paintings to sculptures to multimedia presentations.

Meanwhile, as part of the International Art Exhibition, Galaxy Macao has pre-launched the "Grace Kelly: From Hollywood to Monaco" exhibition;

a celebration of the life of Hollywood film icon Grace Kelly as an actress and later Princess of Monaco.

Six more exhibitions will be held at the other five resorts and the Riviera Hotel.

Melco is making use of its own collection, including the "Good Intentions" statue by KAWS and the "Fat Convertible" by Erwin Wurm shown at the Morpheus Hotel at the City of Dreams, to stage the "Unexpected Encounters" exhibition.

MGM is staging "Hua Yuan", an exhibition of contemporary art of ink painting, with a large-

scale multimedia installation A Metamorphosis: No End To End by Jennifer Wen Ma, and a series of other works including an one-act opera performance of Paradise Interrupted that features essential Chinese art and culture.

Sands China, living true to its Chinese name "Golden Sand", is presenting 90 ceramic masterpieces by 27 first-class ceramic artists. The works are themed "All That's Gold Does Glitter" and will make the largest international ceramic art exhibition within the Greater Bay Area this year.

Wynn Macao is presenting

"Wynn – Garden of Earthly Delights", which is an exhibition of modern and contemporary art pieces. These pieces have not been showcased in Macao. They will be shown in forms like painting, installation, and digital art.

SJM is commissioning artists to create a total of seven multi-dimensional exhibitions in various locations. It is a celebration of cultural heritage.

"Interspace", shown at the Riviera Hotel, features works by French sculptor Gabrielle Wambaugh, reflecting the integration of space and art.

Several consulates in Macao will also join the festival by holding their respective exhibitions, and the 2nd Annual Arts Exhibition between China and Portuguese-speaking countries is set to open in July.

A MUSICAL SCORE

Parallel to the exhibitions, scores of other performances will also be staged to enrich the festival, many of them musical in nature.

Both Chinese and Western music lovers will have the chance to savor their appetite for rhythms and symphonies, with performances scheduled from both the Macao Orchestra (OM) and the Macao Chinese Orchestra (OCM) to overlap with the Art Macao festival.

The OM is closing its 2018 season with renowned pianist Kirill Gerstein for a night of music of Romanticism. Schubert's "Ninth Symphony" will be performed. Meanwhile, the OCM will close the same season with a concert celebrating China. It will play music from literally all parts of the country.

In August, the OM will open its new season with Alban Gerhardt, internationally acclaimed cellist. The concert will feature masterpieces by Shostakovich, Dvorak, and Tchaikovsky.

Regular art festivals such as the International Youth Music Festival will also be part of Art Macao 2019. A series of exhibitions showing works from local higher education institutions will be held from June to October at respective institutions.

GAMING

Seeing activity uptick, analysts expect growth in May

GAMING analysts at Sanford C. Bernstein and Nomura are forecasting marginal gross gaming revenue growth of between 2% and 4% for May 2019, after data on the week ending May 26 showed increased activity compared with last year.

Last week recorded an average daily run rate of MOP814 million, according to unofficial channel

checks, approximately 5% higher than in May 2018.

Moreover, due to more equal comparisons in the summer months, Sanford C. Bernstein analysts expect the year-on-year growth rates to pick up by June.

"Heading into late May and June, we expect year-on-year comparison to begin easing," wrote

Sanford C. Bernstein's analysts in a note reviewed by GGRAsia.

"We may see surprise on the upside if VIP rebounds (although not expecting a near-term rebound)," the analysts added. "One area of potential high-end GGR stabilization and renewed strength may come from a recovering credit cycle in China, which may support VIP

recovery in the second half."

Conversely, Citigroup said that gross gaming revenue amounted to approximately MOP22.35 across the first 26 days of the month, and that points to revenue reaching just MOP25 billion by month-end, a 2% year-on-year decline from the MOP25.49 billion in May 2018.

Meanwhile, Goldman Sachs said it expects Macao to see a delayed VIP recovery in the coming months, as well as a slower mass growth for the rest of 2019. Accordingly, it has revised its 2019 GGR growth forecast downward by 6 percentage points, from 3% to -3% year-on-year. Goldman Sachs expects the recovery in 2020,

when gross gaming revenue growth would be about 6% year-on-year.

Accumulated gross gaming revenue stood just shy of 100 billion patacas for the first four months of 2019, according to official data from the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau, tracking 2.4% lower than in the equivalent four-month period last year. **DB**

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Renato Marques

MOTORSPORTS

Local racers find podium finishes in Macau GP qualifiers

THE Macau Grand Prix qualification races began last weekend with a number of local drivers taking podium finishes at the first event of the 2019 Macao Racing Festival, held at the Guangdong International Circuit (GIC) in the city of Zhaoqing.

The erratic rainfall over the weekend added some challenge for drivers and their teams in the first event, resulting in neither dry, nor wet racing conditions.

The first event included three different racing categories; the 1600cc Turbo class, the above 1950cc class and Greater Bay Area GT cup (AAMC GT Challenge).

Hong Kong drivers were a highlight in the Macau Touring Car Series (MTCS) in their 1.6T cars with Paul Poon scoring very important points in the Macau Grand Prix qualifiers by winning the first race and finishing second in the second race of the weekend.

In the first race, Hong Kong drivers were in the spotlight as they took top three positions of the podium. The race was won by Alexander Fung.

Also scoring very important points in this event was Lo Kai Bong, who finished second in race 1 and third in race 2.

In the AAMC Challenge Above 1950cc Class, Macau's Kelvin Leong won race 1 over Sabino Osorio and Helder Assunção.

In Race 2, the final win went to another local driver, Delfim



Mendonça, who has been consistently performing with steady results in the past year. He finished in front of Lam Kam San and Summer Chan, who came in third.

In the inaugural new version of the Greater Bay Area GT Cup for GT4 category cars, the win-

ners' list was a little more disputed among several drivers.

In this category, the highlight was local driver Kevin Tse who was second in race 1 and first in race 2.

He was the only winner who stood on both podiums during the weekend. Hong Kong's Ale-

xander Au won race 1 while Macau's Martin Sou won in Group A. In race 2 of this Group A category, the second position went to Kenny Chung and third was Chan Hei.

In the Group B class of this same category, the winners were David Pun (race 1) and Lei

Kit Meng (race 2).

Drivers will take their time to adjust their tuning capacities and driving skills in their machines for the second and final weekend of these competitions which will be staged at the GIC circuit on June 21 to 23 for races 3 and 4.

VOLLEYBALL

China, Korea emerge as frontrunners after day one

Renato Marques

THE 2019 edition of the FIVB Women's Volleyball Nations League (VNL) kicked off yesterday, with the first two matches playing out victories for the Chinese and Korean teams.

The competition, held at the court of the Macau Forum, is being held for the second time this year in replacement of the former FIVB World Grand Prix.

The first match of the day saw Belgium pitted against Korea. The second match had China facing off Thailand, due to start only after the official kick-off ceremony had concluded.

In the first match, Korea claimed the first victory of the Macau part of the global competition, beating Belgium by an expressive 3-0 whitewash.



RENATO MARQUES

After the match, Korea's coach Stefano Lavarini said he was impressed by the positive mindset shown by Korean players as they scored a straight-

set victory (25-15, 25-17, 25-21) securing the team's first win in the 2019 VNL.

"To have received compliments from Gert, who is such a great coach, is

something that I am really proud of," said Lavarini at the press conference that followed the match. "I would like to congratulate my team. We played

with improved attitude and confidence, our serves are strong and, even though we lacked composure in some situations, it was important to start the match well."

"I feel the Belgium players were a little nervous today and made more mistakes than they are used to, but credit to our players that we played with an attacking mentality to achieve the positive result."

The comments were complemented by those from the Korea team captain, Kim Su Ji, who added, "we are maturing as a team and our players are adjusting to the coaching style of our coach. Our goal is to keep improving day by day."

From the Belgium side, team captain Ilka Van De Vyver said the team would study the loss and work

harder in the next match.

"It was a really hard game for us," she said. "We could not find our game, we could not score and we could have controlled the situation better. Every game is important for us, so we are going to work hard to prepare for the next game."

In the last match of the day, China beat Thailand with the same 3-0 result, but showing more consistency in their game and controlling the score progression during all the sets.

The most balanced score was achieved in the first set with China winning by a margin of just four points (25-21).

Today, Korea will face Thailand in the first match on the at 4:30 p.m., while in the evening match (7:30 p.m.) China will face Belgium.



HK's second-richest man joins aging tycoons in retirement

Shawna Kwan

HONG Kong's second-richest man, Lee Shau Kee, is stepping down as chairman of Henderson Land Development Co., joining the ranks of the city's aging tycoons handing the reins to the next generation.

The 91-year-old billionaire announced his retirement from the top post before the developer's annual meeting yesterday. While he remains as an executive director at the firm he founded 46 years ago, his sons Peter Lee Ka Kit and Martin Lee Ka Shing will take over as co-chairmen and oversee its mainland and Hong Kong businesses respectively.

His imminent retirement, which he flagged in March because of his advanced age, comes as other tycoons hand the baton to the younger generation. Li Ka-shing, the city's richest man, last year put his son Victor in charge of the family businesses, while David Li of the Bank of East Asia last week stepped down after a 38-year tenure as CEO, the longest for a major Hong Kong-listed company.

In a farewell interview, Lee said he was positive about the outlook for the property market in Hong Kong.

"The current market still enjoys substantial housing demand, mainly because interest rates are quite low, and also because Chinese people like to

have their own properties," said the nonagenarian, who is worth an estimated USD25 billion according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. "Therefore, investments tend to gear toward properties."

Home prices in the real-estate obsessed city are near record highs, having risen for the past three months. The rebound - fueled by low interest rates and the perennial shortage of housing - makes a sudden slide late last year look like a temporary blip in the relentless increase in property values.

Lee also cited close ties with mainland China as a favorable factor for the property market. UBS Group AG earlier this month forecast house prices will rise

for another decade, helped by an influx of residents to the Greater Bay Area - a project that integrates a group of mainland Chinese cities with Hong Kong.

Known as 'Uncle Four' due to being the fourth child in his family, Lee is part of a generation of Chinese tycoons who immigrated to Hong Kong in the mid-20th century, a period of turmoil on the mainland, and built companies that have grown to dominate the local business scene.

He has left his mark on Hong Kong. Henderson Land was one of the developers of the International Finance Centre, the city's second-tallest skyscraper. Among more than 100 residential projects, the firm built the

luxury 39 Conduit Rd. apartments, where in 2009 a unit sold for HKD439 million (\$56 million), a then-record price per square foot in the city, according to the New York Times.

In 2017, the company paid a record \$3 billion for a car park in Central, which is being developed into an office building.

Lee started his career in currency and gold trading before moving into property. In 1958, along with seven partners including prominent Chinese businessmen Kwok Tak Seng and Fung King Hey, Lee created a real estate business. Five years later, he founded Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd. - now the city's biggest developer - with Kwok and Fung but left in 1973 to start Henderson Land.

■ Lee is part of a generation of Chinese tycoons who came to Hong Kong in the mid-20th century, during a period of turmoil on the mainland

The city he helped build is in good shape, Lee said.

"Hong Kong still enjoys a good business environment. The tax system is simple and the tax rate is attractive," he said. "The comprehensive legal system and the cluster of talents enable Hong Kong to maintain its status as an international financial center."

"When I was young, I experienced the period of war and turmoil. Life was very hard back then, but I survived through the adversity and continued to build my career. Comparatively speaking, Hong Kong is already a paradise. I really have no fear nor worry," he said. **Bloomberg**

Property back in bubble territory, Reinhart says

NOTED economist and Harvard professor Carmen Reinhart has become the latest person to sound the alarm about Hong Kong, yesterday saying the city's property market is showing signs of a bubble.

"There are elements in the Hong Kong picture that are very reminiscent of Ireland, Spain, Iceland" before their crises, she told the Nomura Investment Forum Asia 2019 in Singapore.

House prices in the former British colony are within a whisker of their record high. UBS Group AG said earlier this month that values are set to rise for another decade, making it look as though a slide in prices from August through January was a temporary blip. Prices rose for a 13th straight week, data last Friday showed.

Nomura Holdings Inc. in September expressed its concern about runaway

price growth in the world's least-affordable housing market, saying prices could slump 13% after an almost 15-year bull run.

Reinhart's comments came less than a week after Kyle Bass, founder of Hayman Capital Management LP, said he's shorting the Hong Kong dollar against the greenback to express his view that Hong Kong's usable reserves for defending its currency peg are insufficient. **Bloomberg**



GASTRONOMY

Guangzhou food festival a reflection of China's culinary 'opening up'

BUILT in 1983, the White Swan Hotel in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou was one of the country's first domestically managed modern 5-star hotels. Over the past decades, the hotel has witnessed the transformation of the city of Guangzhou, especially when it comes to culinary culture. It was reportedly one of the first in the city to open a Japanese restaurant and embrace international cuisine.

The chance to study under foreign chefs was still considered a rare opportunity even as late as a few decades ago.

"For chefs to prepare authentic foreign cuisine, they must first have a deep understanding of a country's culinary culture," said Wen, a Guangdong local, who was among the first batch of apprentices to join the hotel 30 years ago and last week attended the Asian Cuisine Festival in Guangzhou.

"Take Tempura for example, you must guarantee the freshness of the food and take good control of the temperature of the oil. Using the right oil is also a key component to make crispy, delicious Tempura," said Wen.

However, since the reform and opening-up of China, local chefs all over Guangzhou are learning how to prepare international cuisine without leaving the city.

Krueawisen Kanyarat from Vietnam, leads the kitchen team of a Vietnamese restaurant "Vietmiam." She chose



to stay in Guangzhou due to a "love of Chinese cuisine." Telling Xinhua her favorite dish is malatang (hot spicy soup), she now prepares sweet, sour and spicy Vietnamese dishes alongside a team of local chefs.

Vietmiam is among a fleet of international restaurants that took part in the week-long festival. Featuring 40 events to showcase Cantonese and Asian cuisine, it took diners on a gastronomic journey around Asia.

Like many chefs in Guangzhou who have fused exotic cuisine with local dishes, Filipino

celebrity chef Michelle Adrillana, who came to participate in the festival, incorporated Chinese elements in her recipes. She even created Filipino-style dishes based around Chinese BBQ pork buns.

"Chinese food is available all over the Philippines, open 24-hours everywhere because there is a very large Chinese community," said Adrillana. "There was once a Filipino restaurant in Guangzhou two decades ago. Hopefully, a new Filipino restaurant will open here in the future, and I'll be invited back as a consultant."

With ancestral ties to Fujian

Province, Ong Kian Tiong, 34, from Malaysia, is a foreign chef that now fries, dices, and slices in Guangzhou. As Executive Sous-chef at Conrad Hotel's buffet restaurant, he conducts market research with his Chinese colleagues once a month and has become a familiar face at the city's wet markets.

Ong told Xinhua he came to China 12 years ago with the aim of "eating his way across the country." But Guangzhou has, for the time being, become home. The Malaysian chef has even mastered several Cantonese favorites, including pork trotters.

Adrillana, who has visited China many times since 1999, was impressed by how adventurous the younger generation can be when it comes to trying new food.

"Some are quirky, some stick to basics. The very young are very adventurous, especially the well-traveled, regardless of age bracket," said Adrillana.

For her, participating in the festival meant more than just sharing her native cuisine. It was also about building bridges. "We call it cultural diplomacy, or gastro-diplomacy, which builds friendship ties." **DB/Xinhua**

Hengqin not ideal for investment, says Chan Chak Mo

LAWMAKER Chan Chak Mo indicated that Hengqin does not currently possess the proper conditions for investment - at least for his own businesses, according to a report by Hoje Macau.

Earlier, while talking to journalists in Lisbon, Chan revealed his fear that the project he planned for Hengqin will not go forward because the neighboring island

has not yet developed all of the aspects it had promised developers.

"The project we have on Hengqin is being developed at a very slow pace," said Chan, adding that he has been disappointed by the area's slow rate of population growth.

"The population has not increased as expected by the Hengqin and Zhuhai governments. It was

predicted that there would be 200,000 permanent residents in Hengqin, which is not happening," said Chan.

Chan explained that no people means there are no consumers.

Moreover, according to Chan, Hengqin's unsatisfactory population is the reason why his and other people's investments in Hengqin are suspended or maturing at a slow rate.

Besides the number of consumers, the free movement of people between Macau and its neighboring regions is another factor contributing to the unpromising business of his Hengqin investment.

"In order to have free circulation, it is necessary for policies to be changed, which has not happened in a long time," said Chan. "To invest in China, there must be business and people. If there is no purchasing power, it is not worth doing anything."

"I think Hengqin and Zhuhai have to look at the big picture and see what else they can do to attract people," said Chan. **JZ**

Macau submissions wanted for regional film fair

THE 2019 Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area Film Production Investment and Trade Fair, co-organized by Macau's Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), the Film Administration of Guangdong Province and Create Hong Kong, is calling for submissions of Macau film projects until June 14.

Co-organized by the film authorities of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau, the Fair has been held in Macau since 2014, with the aim of providing a convenient platform for film producers and investors from the three regions. Past editions of the Fair have attracted a total of 111 film projects from the three regions and approximately 210 representatives of investors.

According to organizers, the Fair has contributed to the development of an integrated film industry in the Greater Bay Area.

The adjudicating panel, composed of professionals from the film industry invited by the IC, will select a maximum of eight film projects based on four criteria: creativity of the story, experience and execution capability of the applicant and the production team, project feasibility and budget rationality.

The selected projects from Macau will then be assessed together with other projects from Hong Kong and Guangdong Province by judges from the three regions. A maximum of 15 projects will be selected to enter the Fair. **DB**

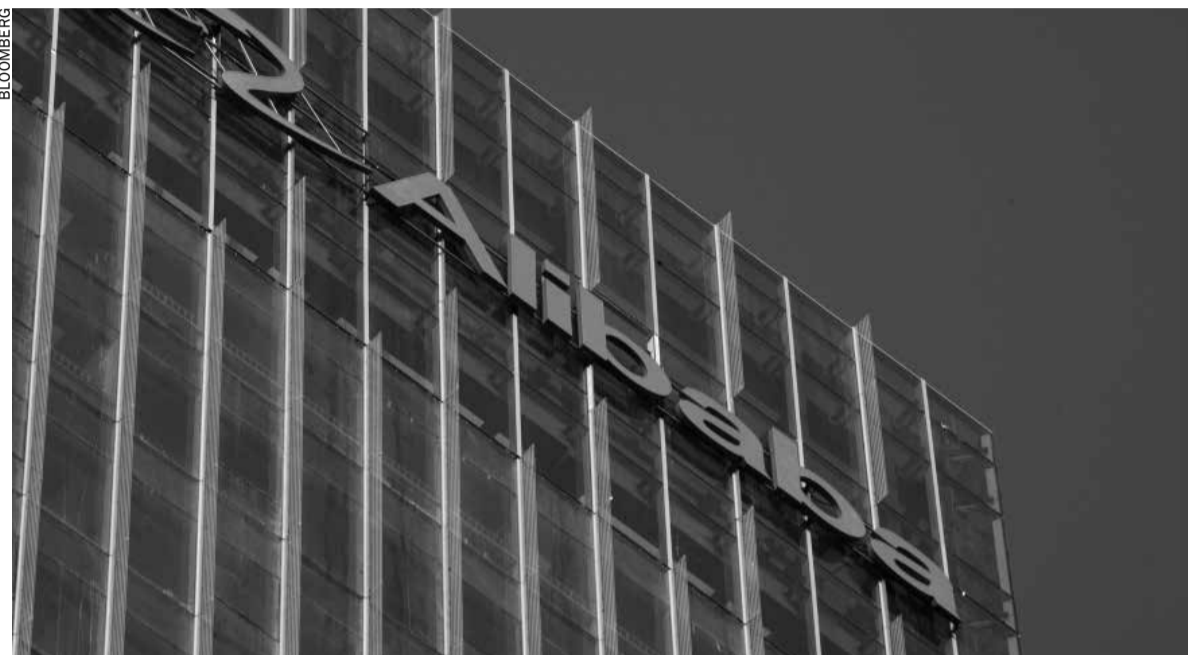
Hong Kong's Alibaba craze may finally pay off with mega-deal

HONG Kong is getting a second chance to land the record-breaking deal that got away.

Five years after Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. spurned the city's stock exchange for a USD25 billion initial public offering in New York, the Chinese e-commerce giant is said to be mulling a second listing in Hong Kong that would raise \$20 billion from investors.

The deal would mark a major victory for the Asian financial hub, which rewrote its stock-market rules after failing to attract Alibaba in 2014. The city is engaged in an increasingly crowded battle for technology listings as exchanges from Shanghai to Singapore ease their rules to attract fast-growing companies with dual-share classes and, in some cases, unproven business models.

Hong Kong's move to allow dual-class shares has already had an impact, helping the city lure two of last year's hottest tech IPOs. Xiaomi Corp. and Meituan Dianping, the third- and seven-



th-largest debut offerings worldwide in 2018, both went public in Hong Kong to much fanfare, though their shares have since tumbled.

Alibaba, which has a market value of about \$400 billion, has always been the biggest prize. Charles Li, the chief executive officer of Hong Kong Exchanges &

Clearing Ltd., has said repeatedly in recent years that he wanted the company to list in the city. It was under Li's watch that Alibaba opted for New York, which allows dual-class structures.

One development that could help Hong Kong is the fizzling of a mainland initiative to introduce so-called Chinese depository

receipts, which were meant to lure tech titans like Alibaba to Shanghai. The city is also home to a forthcoming new technology board, but that venue is mainly targeted at smaller homegrown companies.

Pursuing a Hong Kong listing could be a deft political move for Alibaba founder Jack Ma,

amid an increasingly tense relationship between the U.S. and China. With the CDR route closed - at least for now - having Alibaba's shares traded in Hong Kong may be the next best option. Starting in July, investors in China will be able to buy Hong Kong-listed companies with dual-class share structures via exchange links between the two markets.

Efforts to lure Alibaba went all the way to the top of Hong Kong's government, with Chief Executive Carrie Lam exhorting Ma to consider a listing in the city.

An Alibaba listing would be a catalyst for further tech companies coming to Hong Kong, Morgan Stanley analyst Anil Agarwal wrote in a note yesterday. It would also boost overall trading as investors prefer technology stocks to old economy firms, while raising earnings per share assumptions for HKEX, Agarwal said.

Hong Kong's adoption of structures that give founders disproportionate voting control came after years of debate, spurred in large part by the loss of Alibaba. Under new rules for secondary listings introduced last year, the company can apply for an exemption to standard restrictions in Hong Kong that bar governance models allowing certain key executives to nominate the board. **MDT/Bloomberg**

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Gov't deploys Confucius in bid to boost religion controls

CHINA has begun five-day Confucian culture immersion courses for religious leaders in the sage's hometown as part of a campaign to extend government control over faith communities through a process of sinicization.

The ruling Communist Party's United Work Front Department said in a news release issued Monday that the activity was designed to ensure the primacy of traditional Chinese values above all.

"To hold activities here [...] is a collective tribute to excellent traditional Chinese culture and a conscious identification and integration with Chinese culture," said the release, posted on the department's website.

Participants pledged to "cultivate the Chinese cultural character of our nation's religions so that our nation's religions are rooted in the fertile soil of excellent traditional Chinese culture, and to ceaselessly and deeply advance the Sinicization of our nation's religions," it said.

President Xi Jinping has launched the harshest crackdown in decades on religious practices, especially those viewed as foreign such as Christianity and Islam, while at the same time elevating home-grown Confucianism.

While for decades the officially atheistic Communist Party attacked Confucius as a symbol of feudalism, he has been thoroughly rehabilitated in recent



years as a means of rallying patriotism and countering foreign influences.

Confucianism's emphasis on strict social organization, advancement through study and exam taking, adherence to hierarchy and maintenance of social harmony appeals especially to the heavily bureaucratic party, which brooks no challenge to

its authority.

Xi has repeatedly called for religious leaders and believers to be guided by "socialist core values." Party bureaucrats overseeing religion have demanded that key religious tenets and texts such as the Bible and Quran be interpreted "in conformity with the demands of modern Chinese development and excel-

lent traditional Chinese culture."

That's been accompanied with a campaign of removing crosses and bulldozing many churches, destroying mosques and locking an estimated 1 million Chinese Muslims in camps where they are forced to renounce Islam and their cultural traditions.

Despite international condem-

nation, China claims it upholds freedom of religion and is seeking only to ensure regulations are followed while discouraging religious extremism and violence.

Those participating at the launch of the five-day course included the president of the Chinese Taoist Association, vice president of the Chinese Islamic Association, chairman of the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association and president of the Chinese Christian Association.

Despite international condemnation, China claims it upholds freedom of religion

Confucius was believed to have been born in the 6th century B.C. in the eastern town of Qufu. He is credited with authoring or editing key texts of statesmanship and social order, particularly the Analects that contain his key aphorisms and teachings.

The sage's legacy is also invoked in the name of the Confucius Institutes, quasi-academic bodies set up in colleges and other centers of education around the world.

Several U.S. universities have rejected offers to open Confucius Institutes on their campuses or declined to renew contracts over concerns about Chinese government political influence. **AP**

MILITARY DRILLS

Taiwan lands aircraft on highway as part of drill

Johnson Lai, Changhua

TAIWAN landed war planes on a normally busy highway yesterday to simulate a response to a Chinese attack on its airfields, part of annual drills designed to showcase the island's military capabilities and resolve to repel an attack from across the Taiwan Strait.

Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen presided at the exercise in the southern county of Changhua, not far from one of the island's main air bases at Taichung, which comes amid perceptions of a rising military threat from China, whose rulers claim the island as their own territory.

"Our national security has faced multiple challenges," Tsai said. "Whether it is the Chinese People's Liberation Army's long-distance training or its fighter jets circling Taiwan, it has posed a certain degree of threat to regional



peace and stability." "We should maintain a high degree of vigilance," she added. Aircraft deployed included U.S.-made F-16, French Mirage 2000 and

Taiwan-made IDF fighter jets and U.S.-made E-2K airborne early warning aircraft.

The drill marked the exercises debut of the first F-16 upgraded to the "V"

configuration, featuring advanced radar and other combat capabilities. The air force is spending about \$4.21 billion to upgrade 144 existing F-16A/Bs to the F-16V version under its "Phoenix Rising" project.

Taiwan is largely dependent on the U.S. for military hardware and has also asked to purchase entirely new F-16V fighters and M1 tanks.

American arms sales to Taiwan have long been a thorn in the side of U.S. relations with China, routinely drawing protests from Beijing that Washington was reneging on earlier commitments.

In a sign of growing security cooperation between Taiwan and the U.S. under the Trump

administration, National Security Council Secretary General David Lee met with his U.S. counterpart, National Security Adviser John Bolton, earlier this month, drawing a protest from China.

The visit was the first between national security chiefs from the two sides since the breaking off of formal diplomatic ties in 1979.

While no details were given, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang said Monday that China expressed its "strong dissatisfaction and resolute opposition to [the meeting]."

"We firmly oppose official exchanges in any form between the U.S. government and Taiwan on any pretext," Lu said. **AP**



Chinese tourism to US drops for first time in 15 years

Dee-Ann Durbin

AFTER more than a decade of rapid growth, Chinese travel to the U.S. is falling. And that has cities, malls and other tourist spots scrambling to reverse the trend.

Travel from China to the U.S. fell 5.7% in 2018 to 2.9 million visitors, according to the National Travel and Tourism Office, which collects data from U.S. Customs forms. It was the first time since 2003 that Chinese travel to the U.S. slipped from the prior year.

Friction between the U.S. and China is one reason for the slowdown. The Trump administration first imposed tariffs on Chinese solar panels and washing machines in January 2018, and the trade war has escalated from there. The U.S. now has a 25% tariff on USD200 billion worth of Chinese imports, while China has retaliated with tariffs on \$60 billion of U.S. imports.

Last summer, China issued a travel warning for the U.S., telling its citizens to beware of shootings, robberies and high costs for medical care. The U.S. shot back with its own warning about travel to China.

Wang Haixia, who works at an international trade company in Beijing, traveled to the U.S. in May for her sister's graduation. She and her family planned to spend 10 days in Illinois and New York.

Wang says she might have

stayed longer but doesn't want to contribute to the U.S. economy amid the trade war.

"I cannot cancel this trip because I promised my sister I would go to her commencement," she said. "My relatives will contribute more than 100,000 yuan to America just staying for 10 days, and that's enough."

There are other reasons behind the slowdown. Economic uncertainty in China has travelers at the lower end of the market vacationing closer to home, says Wolfgang Georg Arlt, director of the Chinese Outbound Tourism Research Institute, which found that 56% of travelers leaving China in the last three months of 2018 went to Hong Kong, Macau or Taiwan compared with 50% in 2017. Those who do travel farther are seeking out more exotic destinations like Croatia, Morocco and Nepal.

Chinese travel to the U.S. had already been moderating from its breakneck pace earlier this decade. In 2000, 249,000 Chinese visited the U.S. That tripled to 802,000 by 2010, then tripled again by 2015, in part because of higher incomes, better long-haul flight connections and an easing of visa restrictions, according to McKinsey, the consulting firm.

The U.S. welcomed more than 3 million Chinese visitors in 2016 and 2017. But year-over-year growth edged up just 4% in 2017, the slowest pace in more than a decade.

Most industry-watchers agree

that any downturn is temporary, since China's middle class will only continue to expand. The U.S. government forecasts Chinese tourism will grow 2% this year to 3.3 million visitors, and will reach 4.1 million visitors in 2023.

"Even if the Chinese economy cools, it's still going to continue to be a very good source of growth for the travel industry," said David Huether, senior vice president of research for the U.S. Travel Association.

In general, international travel to the U.S. has been declining. Overall data for 2018 hasn't been released yet, but international travel fell 2% in 2016 and was flat in 2017.

But because China commands some of the highest tourism traffic to the U.S., any falloff will be felt by destinations that have come to rely on Chinese spending power. In 2017, the country had the fifth highest number of U.S.-bound tourists, behind Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom and Japan. Ten years earlier, China wasn't even on the top 10 list, falling behind countries like Germany, France, South Korea and Australia, according to the National Travel and Tourism Office.

China didn't crack the top 10 list until 2011 and has been climbing ever since. Spending by Chinese visitors — which doesn't include students — ballooned more than 600% between 2008 and 2016, to nearly \$18.9 billion. In 2017, that fell by 1% to \$18.8

billion, or about 12% of overall tourism spending.

To lasso those dollars, experts say the tourism industry must do more to keep up with Chinese travelers and their changing needs.

Larry Yu, a professor of hospitality management at George Washington University, notes that Chinese tourists — particularly younger ones — are increasingly planning trips using social media apps like WeChat and are less likely to book through big tour groups. They have also rapidly adopted smartphone-based payment systems.

Those who do travel farther are seeking out more exotic destinations like Croatia, Morocco and Nepal

Destinations should invest in those technologies now if they want to continue attracting Chinese tourists, says David Becker, former CEO of Attract China, a New York-based travel consultancy.

"A lot of companies looked at the Chinese market as easy money, but we have to be relevant to the Chinese," Becker said.

Attract China, for instance, has helped luxury stores in Manhattan incorporate Jeenie, a live translation app, and add Alipay and WeChat Pay for mobile payments.

Others have also been stepping up their efforts. The Beverly Center mall in Los Angeles used to cater to busloads of Chinese tourists. Now, it's focusing on small groups of less than 10 VIP shoppers, says Susan Vance, the mall's marketing and sponsorship director. The mall has also pushed stores to offer China UnionPay, a digital payment service. More than 100 stores now have it, Vance says, up from three in 2014.

Tourism officials are also catching onto WeChat. In late 2017, Washington D.C. became the first U.S. city to launch an interactive guide in the app. Chinese travelers can use it to get directions to attractions, access audio tours in Mandarin and find dining and shopping. The city's marketing office has one staff member dedicated to WeChat.

Washington also recently launched a Welcome China program that teaches hotels, restaurants and other venues about Chinese customs and encourages them to offer things like Chinese-language menus or in-room slippers. Forty-four hotels and a handful of restaurants have signed on.

Elliott Ferguson, president and CEO of Destination DC, the city's marketing office, said the number of Chinese tourists visiting Washington doubled in the last five years before falling slightly in 2017. But Ferguson, who traveled to China last month to meet with tourism officials, said there's still significant interest in travel to the U.S.

"We're beefing up our efforts because we see there's so much potential for growth," he said. **AP**

REPORT

UN reveals rights abuse at thriving markets in North Korea

Hyung-Jin Kim, Seoul

NORTH Koreans working in hundreds of thriving markets that sprung up with the failure of the country's public system for distributing basic goods are often abused and forced to resort to bribery to survive, according to a U.N. report released yesterday.

North Korea is officially socialist but has overlooked some market activities since the public rationing system collapsed amid an economic crisis and devastating famine in the mid-1990s.

Poor state reform measures and a broadly worded criminal code, however, mean that officials are able to extort money and other favors from people working at the informal markets by using the threat of arrest and detention, the U.N. Human Rights Office said in a report.

"People in [North Korea] are trapped in a vicious cycle, in which the failure of the state to provide for life's basic necessities forces them to turn to rudimentary markets where they face a host of human rights violations in an uncertain legal environment," the U.N. office said



Human rights officer Daniel Collinge (right)

in a separate news release.

The U.N. office said its report is based on 214 first-hand accounts of North Koreans who escaped from their homeland and resettled in South Korea. It said a majority of its interviewees left North Korea after current leader Kim Jong Un took power in late 2011.

The U.N. office said it has no access to North Korea to independently investigate its human rights condition. North Korea is

extremely sensitive to any outside criticism of its rights record, calling it a provocation aimed at slandering its government, which has been run by the same family for about 70 years.

After its public distribution system broke down, North Korea took steps to legalize and regulate some of its thriving markets. The steps include charging rent for stalls, controlling prices and monitoring what products are for sale in markets.

The government steps have not been deep-rooted and lack adequate measures to accommodate market activities, enabling officials to use laws on managing the socialist economy to criminalize a wide range of commercial activities, according to the report. It said there is also an absence of the rule of law and due process guarantees in North Korea and that a justice system serves to legitimize human rights violations.

"The report finds that in effect, this threat of arbitrary arrests and harsh consequences that follow provide state officials with powerful means to secure bribes from a vulnerable population seeking to eke out the existence of rudimentary market activity," Daniel Collinge, a U.N. human rights officer, told reporters in Seoul. "The financial hardships of the struggling population are thereby compounded as money is extorted systematically to support state officials."

North Korea is extremely sensitive to any outside criticism of its rights record

The report said North Korean officials are increasingly using bribery to support their low or nonexistent salaries. Some North Korean refugees said they worked at markets after paying bribes to officials at their state-run companies, which are struggling to operate.

"The state is no longer able to supply the materials to factories or to distribute the manufactured goods, so they rely on people like myself to perform these functions," the report cited a former North Korean, one of its interviewees, as saying. **AP**

JAPAN

Knife-wielding man attacks schoolgirls, killing two

Mari Yamaguchi & Jae Hong, Kawasaki

A man carrying a knife in each hand and screaming "I will kill you!" attacked a group of schoolgirls near a school bus parked at a bus stop just outside Tokyo yesterday, killing two and injuring 17 before killing himself, officials said.

Most of the victims were students at a Catholic elementary school who were lined up at the bus stop near Noborito Park in the city of Kawasaki when a man in his 50s began slashing them with knives. City officials, quoting police, said the suspect was captured but died from a self-inflicted slash in his neck.

Witnesses described a hellish scene: children and adults falling to the ground, some with their shirts soaked with blood, dozens of children running and screaming for help, and



school bags and books scattered on the ground.

"I heard a scream so I stopped and turned around to see what happened. It was not a normal tone of voice," said Yasuko Atsukata. She said she saw one person collapse, and then another. "The color of their white shirts turned red after they collapsed, then I understood they got stabbed."

In a nearby parking lot, a frightened-looking boy was in shock with scratches on his face, hands and legs, apparently from falling to the ground as he ran for his life.

Police wouldn't confirm specifics about the attacker except that he died. His identity and motive weren't immediately known.

Kawasaki city official Masami Arai said most of

the injured were students at Caritas Gakuen, a local Catholic school founded by Soeurs de la Charite de Quebec, an organization of Catholic nuns in Quebec City in Canada. Arai said three of the injuries were serious.

"We have sad news that one of our students was killed in the attack," school director Hiroaki Takamatsu said at a news conferen-

ce, choked with emotion. "I don't know what to say to our students and their parents."

Kanagawa prefectural police confirmed 17 people were injured and three others had died, including a man "who is not a victim but linked to the case." Police identified two of the dead as 11-year-old Hanako Kuribayashi and Satoshi Oyama, a 39-year-old government employee who was taking his child to the bus stop.

Hospital officials said both had been slashed in the head, chest and face.

Witnesses said that as the attack unfolded, the bus driver shouted at the attacker, and as he was running away he cut his own neck, collapsing in a pool of blood as police seized him.

Japanese media including public broadcaster NHK said he was a 51-year-old resident of the city and that police found two more

knives in his knapsack in addition to the two he was holding.

Television footage showed emergency workers giving first aid to people inside an orange tent set up on the street, and police and other officials carrying the injured to ambulances.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said he was outraged by the attack.

"Many small children were victimized, and I feel strong resentment," Abe said as he was hosting President Donald Trump on a four-day state visit, which yesterday. "I will take all possible measures to protect the safety of children."

Although Japan has one of the lowest crime rates in the world, it has had a series of high-profile killings, including in 2016 when a former employee at a home for the disabled allegedly killed 19 people and injured more than 20 others. **AP**

INDONESIA

Police allege plot to kill top officials

NinieK Karmini, Jakarta

FOUR top Indonesian officials, including two Cabinet ministers and the national spy chief, were targeted for assassination as part of a plot possibly linked to last week's election riots, police said yesterday.

National police chief Tito Karnavian told reporters that details of the plot were obtained from interrogations of six arrested individuals.

Seven people died in two nights of rioting last week in Jakarta after official election results confirmed that President Joko Widodo had won a second term. Police say the riots, which broke out during peaceful protests by supporters of the losing candidate Prabowo Subianto, were planned.

The rioting followed an election that highlighted Muslim-majority Indonesia's religious divides. Subianto, who allied himself with groups that want Islamic law to replace secular government, won heavily in conservative provinces but was defeated nationally by Widodo's coalition of moderate and minority voters.



AP PHOTO

Karnavian said the officials targeted for assassination included top security minister Wiranto, who uses a single name, and his predecessor, Luhut Binsar Panjaitan, who is currently maritime minister and seen as close to Widodo.

The two others were National Intelligence Agency chief Budi Gunawan and the head of the presidential special staff for intelligence and security, Gories Mere. A fifth person, the head of an opinion polling company,

was also a target, Karnavian said, without naming the person.

"We have arrested all the perpetrators who were ordered to carry out the executions, we have also confiscated four weapons, and we are developing the mastermind who gave the order to them who will be legally processed shortly," Karnavian said at a joint news conference with Wiranto.

The security minister said the assassination plot aimed to

instill fear in the officials and weaken the government.

Subianto, a former special forces general linked to past human rights abuses in Indonesia, has refused to accept results of the April 17 election. He has alleged massive fraud but provided no convincing evidence. His campaign team filed a legal challenge to the result at the Constitutional Court on Friday.

Separately, local media reported that an American man who is a longtime resident of Indone-

sia has been arrested for spreading hoaxes online. In a YouTube video, the man says he's a Subianto supporter and claims communists are infiltrating Indonesian society, a frequent allegation of hard-line Widodo critics.

On Monday, national police spokesman Muhammad Iqbal said police had seized two bullet-proof vests with "Police" written on them, imitating official police gear, a rifle modified to hold a scope, along with two guns similar to those issued by the Indonesian military.

Iqbal said the six suspects are from a different group than the alleged militants arrested earlier in the month.

Before election results were announced on May 21, counterterrorism police arrested more than 30 suspected militants from Jamaah Ansharut Daulah, an Indonesian extremist group affiliated with the Islamic State group.

Iqbal said one of the six suspects was arrested at a hotel in Jakarta after participating in the riots, another was arrested at Jakarta's airport and others in locations around Jakarta and nearby Bogor. **AP**

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IRAN

Guard talks tough, says it has no fear of war with US

Nasser Karimi, Tehran

IRAN'S influential Revolutionary Guard said yesterday it doesn't fear a possible war with the United States and claimed that America hasn't grown in power in recent years — the latest tough talk from Tehran amid escalating regional tensions and a crisis with Washington.

"The enemy is not more powerful than before," said the Guard spokesman, Gen. Ramazan Sharif.

Tensions between Washington and Tehran soared recently over America deploying an aircraft carrier and B-52 bombers to the Persian Gulf over a still-unexplained threat it perceives from Tehran. The U.S. also plans to send 900 additional troops to the Mideast and extending the stay of another 600 as tens of thousands of others also are on the ground across the region.

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

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



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

Speaking at a press conference in Tehran, Sharif said the Guard doesn't "support engaging in any war" while at the same time it doesn't "fear the occurrence of a war."

"We have enough readiness to defend the country," he said, adding that Iran has boosted its military power over the past 30 years.

Meanwhile, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif appeared unimpressed with Japan's offer to mediate in the crisis, saying Trump should make his intentions clear about any talks with Iran through ac-

tions, not words.

In Japan on Monday, Trump said he'd back Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's efforts to open a communication with Iran. "I do believe Iran would like to talk and if they'd like to talk, we'll talk also," Trump said.

Iran has said it has no interest in negotiations with Washington following Trump's pullout from the nuclear deal and the

re-imposing of sanctions on Iran. Zarif in his tweet also blamed Trump's economic pressure on Iran for the regional tensions.

However, Iran's foreign ministry spokesman, Abbas Mousavi, tempered his minister's remarks by saying that Iran would "wait and see" before deciding on any offers of negotiations.

Japanese media have reported that Abe is considering a visit to Iran next month. The Kyodo News agency, citing unidentified government sources, said Friday that Abe's visit would be likely in mid-June. Earlier this month, Zarif visited Tokyo.

The U.S. also has accused Iran of being behind a string of incidents this month, including what officials allege was sabotage of oil tankers off the coast of the United Arab Emirates and a rocket that landed near the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, while Yemen's Iranian-aligned Houthi rebels launched a string of drone attacks targeting Saudi Arabia.

A Dubai-based, government-aligned newspaper criticized Zarif in a rare front-page editorial yesterday.

The Gulf News piece, headlined "No thank you, Mr. Zarif," dismissed his recent offer of forming a nonaggression pact with Gulf Arab nations and said the countries are not buying Zarif's "nice neighbor routine."

The paper says Iran "continues to call for the overthrow of Arab governments, sends its agents to spy and sabotage, aiming at spreading chaos in Gulf countries, such as Bahrain and Kuwait and more recently off Fujairah and in Saudi Arabia." **AP**

SERBIA

Troops placed on alert after Kosovo police arrests

Dusan Stojanovic, Belgrade

SERBIA put its troops on full alert yesterday after heavily armed police in northern Kosovo entered Serb-populated Mitrovica, firing tear gas and arresting nearly two dozen people.

It was the latest flare-up in long-simmering tensions between Serbia and its former province, which declared independence from Belgrade in 2008 after a bloody 1998-99 war that ended only with NATO intervention. Ninety percent of population in northern Kosovo are Serbs who don't want to be part of independent



Kosovo. Action by Kosovo special police there is rare and always triggers Serb anger.

Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic said Kosovo police arrested 23 Serbs

and Bosnians after "bursting" into the northern area with armored vehicles. He said he had seen video of the police firing "live ammunition" over the heads of unarmed Ser-

bs, and said the operation was designed to intimidate minority Serbs in Kosovo, whose population is mostly ethnic Albanians.

Vucic said he has ordered soldiers near the border to be on "combat alert" to protect Serbs if tensions escalate.

"Serbia will try to preserve peace and stability, but will be fully ready to protect our people at the shortest notice," Vucic told parliament.

Serbian state TV reported movements of Serb troops stationed near the border. Any Serbian armed incursion into Kosovo would mean a direct clash with NATO-led pe-

ckeepers there.

Kosovo's prime minister, Ramush Haradinaj, confirmed on Twitter that police had carried out "an anti-smuggling and organized crime operation." President Hashim Thaci called on the ethnic Serb minority to remain calm and support the police.

"Those involved in illegal activities will go behind bars," he wrote on his Facebook page, insisting that the police operation was not targeting people from specific ethnicities.

The spokesman for the NATO peacekeeping mission, Col. Vincenzo Grasso, said the force is monitoring the situation and

coordinating with authorities.

Serbia, and its allies Russia and China, do not recognize Kosovo's 2008 declaration of independence. The United States and most other countries do. The dispute has stalled both countries' efforts to become members of the European Union.

The two sides had been participating in an EU-facilitated dialogue, but Serbia walked away in November after Kosovo slapped a 100% tax on Bosnian and Serbian imports, saying it will be lifted only when the two countries recognize Kosovo's sovereignty. **AP**

EU ELECTIONS

Salvini vows to unite EU populists, lacks willing partners

Colleen Barry, Milan

ITALY'S victorious right-wing leader, Matteo Salvini, says the European elections have created "a new geography" of anti-elite sentiment in the EU. But it is far from certain that he will be able to forge a bloc from parties who are united around a strict euroskeptic, anti-migrant, anti-Islam platform, but little else.

Salvini — who saw his once-regional League surge to 34 percent of the vote in Italy — is hoping for 100 to 150 EU deputies to fight back against deeper EU integration in the 751-seat legislature. He is likely to have many fewer.

The Europe of Nations and Freedom group that includes Salvini's League among its eight official members, along with the far-right leaders of France, Germany and the Netherlands, can claim 58 seats following the four-day parliamentary vote. National Rally leader Marine Le Pen,

AP PHOTO



who narrowly the French polls, brings 22 seats to add to Salvini's 28, making them the dominant players in the group.

Salvini is looking to fiercely euroskeptic leaders in Poland, Hungary and Britain — all top vote-getters in their countries — to fill out the ranks.

Their victories mean "there is a desire for future, there is a desire for change, there is a desi-

re for work, there is a desire for dignity," Salvini said Monday.

But so far, there is no evidence that leaders from other populist parties will respond to Salvini's call.

Nigel Farage, the leader of the Brexit Party, doesn't appear to want any alliances in a political union that he is planning on abandoning. Poland's Law and Justice party has balked at

Salvini's and Le Pen's sympathies for Russia, Warsaw's old nemesis. And Hungarian leader Viktor Orban is showing no signs of abandoning the European People's Party that has been his party's home, despite being suspended over concerns that he has made Hungary less democratic.

Analyst Peter Kreko said Orban risks losing influence in Europe if he steps out of the protective umbrella of the EPP.

"There was no breakthrough of the populist, right-wing immigration forces," said Kreko, executive director of Political Capital, a Budapest research and consulting firm. "The big dreams of a huge euroskeptic group seem to have been rather idealistic."

Salvini also wants to bring in parties from the Czech Republic, Sweden and Spain, after receiving pre-election pledges from the Finns party and the Danish People's Party. But again, even among parties with lower Euro-

pean profiles, there have been no eager takers.

Whether he can overcome what he called "jealousies, sympathies, antipathies" will be the real test of his leadership on the European stage.

"We have to create an alternative, and to do so, you have to get in the game. You don't do it by turning up your noses," Salvini said Monday.

Even when Salvini has cemented his bloc — be it 58, 100 or 150-strong — it will still lack the power to make legislative change, with power still concentrated in mainstream parties that will have to work with liberal parliament members to create a working majority.

While Salvini is promising to restore sovereignty in policy areas as diverse as agriculture, finance and commerce, the reality is policies would be set by treaties and would require votes in each national parliament to undo, said Eleanor Spaventa, a professor of European law at Milan's Bocconi University.

"The real impact will be to block any European legislation they don't like," she said. "What they can do is to be very destructive."

Or, as Teneo analyst Wolfango Piccoli put it: "Populist parties will use their European Parliament representation to create noise." AP

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what's ON



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

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

3RD MACAU PRINTMAKING TRIENNIAL
TIME: 10am-9pm
UNTIL: May 31, 2019
VENUES: Tap Seac Gallery
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

MIXING THIS MATCHING THAT
TIME: 9am-10pm
UNTIL: June 2, 2019
VENUE: Team Building, IFT Main Campus
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2856 1252

Offbeat

BRITNEY SPEARS FAMILY SEEKS RENEWED ORDER BARRING EX-FRIEND



A Los Angeles judge will consider whether to extend a temporary restraining order today [Macau time] that keeps a former associate of Britney Spears away from her and her family.

Sam Lutfi, 44, a onetime Spears confidante who has said he once acted as the pop star's manager, was ordered on May 8 to stay at least 200 yards from Spears, her parents and her two sons, and to refrain from contacting or disparaging them. The order could be extended later today. Spears, 37, is unlikely to appear.

Lutfi was a major presence in Spears' life at the height of her fame, leading up to her public meltdown in 2008.

The petition Spears' attorneys filed for the order alleged Lutfi had been sending harassing and threatening texts to Spears' family and disparaging them on social media.

Lutfi's attorney Marc Gans said the restraining order is overly broad and violates his client's civil rights. Gans said he and Lutfi looked forward to fighting the order at the hearing.

It's the second time the family has received a restraining order against Lutfi, who has been in legal battles with them for a decade. He sued them in 2009, alleging Britney Spears had breached a contract with him, her father punched him and her mother defamed him in a memoir. The suit was settled in 2016.

The petition for the latest restraining order alleged that Lutfi's "unjustified interference in her life" threatens Spears' "safety and well-being" and have caused her "severe mental trauma" at a time when stress and the poor health of her father have prompted her to put her career on hold indefinitely.

It also alleges that Lutfi has sought to undermine the conservatorship that for 11 years has kept her affairs almost entirely under the control of her father.

The status means a judge is unlikely to require Spears to appear at the hearing.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Agua de Mar
15:45	Zig Zag
16:20	T2 para 3 Remodelado
16:50	Quem Quer Ser Milionario
17:45	Moda Portugal Sr.3
18:20	Portugal de... Ricardo Costa
19:00	Montra do Lilau (Repetição)
19:35	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	TDM Talk Show
21:50	Livros com João Guedes
22:00	Todas as Palavras
22:20	O Pátio das Cantigas
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Resumo Liga dos Campeões 2018/2019
00:10	Ocidente no Oriente - Macau nos Cantos da Memória
01:25	Telejornal (Repetição)
02:10	RTPi Directo

cinema



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



1968 MANCHESTER UTD WIN EUROPEAN CUP

Manchester United have become the first English club to win the European Cup beating Portuguese side Benfica by four goals to one.

Ten years after the Munich air crash, which killed eight of Matt Busby's young team, Manchester United have reached the pinnacle of European football.

Celtic became the first Scottish and British club to win the cup the previous year.

United's star player, George Best, was named European Footballer of the Year - just a fortnight after being named the football writers' Footballer of the Year.

Tonight's match at Wembley was watched by a crowd of 100,000 and an estimated 250 million TV viewers. It was the biggest television audience since the World Cup final two years before.

As both teams wear red kit, United opted to play in their blue away strip for the game.

The first half passed in a flurry of fouls before Bobby Charlton headed the opening goal in the second half to make it 1-0.

With only 10 minutes left to go, Benfica scored the equaliser - and very nearly won the match when their feared striker Eusebio broke away from Nobby Stiles, the player tasked with marking him, and blasted the ball towards the net.

But it was saved by keeper Alex Stepney and the game went into extra time.

Two minutes into extra time Best put United ahead again, slipping round the keeper and gently tapping it over the line.

It was followed by two more United goals, from 19-year-old Brian Kidd and captain Bobby Charlton, taking the final score to 4-1.

Manager Matt Busby said: "They've done us proud. They came back with all their hearts to show everyone what Manchester United are made of. This is the most wonderful thing that has happened in my life and I am the proudest man in England tonight."

Busby was seriously injured in the crash which claimed the lives of his so-called Busby Babes and there was speculation at the time that the club had been so badly damaged it would have to fold.

But they struggled on to complete the 1958/59 season and when Busby returned to the manager's role the following season he began the task of rebuilding the side.

The club won the league in 1965 and 1967, but today's win marks the pinnacle of the club's achievements.

Charlton and Bill Foulkes were the only survivors of the crash who played in today's final.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The European Cup marked the highlight of Matt Busby's long career at Manchester United and he later received a knighthood. He retired after the following season to become the club's general manager.

For George Best it was the highlight of his footballing career. The same year he was also named European Footballer of the Year.

He was regarded by many as one of the greatest footballing talents in the world, ranked alongside the Brazilian great Pele.

He was the first footballer to gain superstar status - but his fame led him into a life of womanising and alcohol.

By 1972 he had announced his retirement from the game - he returned to United a year later but by early 1974 he had left for good.

In 2002 he had a liver transplant. He died in November 2005.

Bobby Charlton had a distinguished playing career for England and Manchester United. He scored 48 goals for England, a record which still stands. He was knighted in 1994.

YOUR STARS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

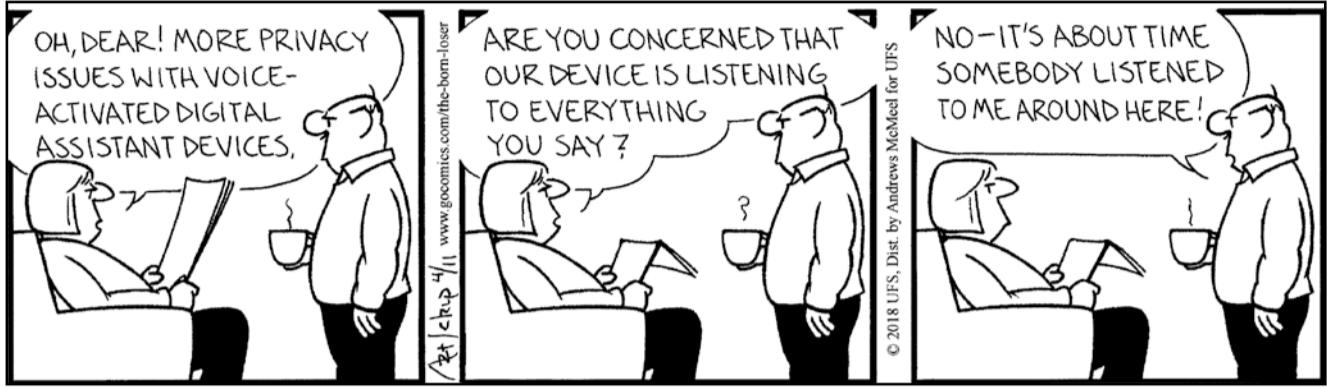
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 People are not to be trusted today - though that's not to say they are actively trying to stab you in the back!

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

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

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

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

Crossword puzzle with clues for 'ACROSS' and 'DOWN'. Includes a 'Yesterday's solution' grid and a list of crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

List of useful telephone numbers including Emergency calls, Fire department, PJ (Open line), PJ (Picket), PSP, Customs, S. J. Hospital, Kiang Wu Hospital, Commission Against Corruption (CCAC), IACM, Tourism, and Airport.



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FOOTBALL

Clouds hang over Neymar as Copa America looms in Brazil

Mauricio Savarese

UNDER a wave of suspicion and criticism, Neymar will start his Copa America preparations today [Macau time].

The 27-year-old striker arrived at Brazil's training ground outside Rio de Janeiro on Saturday, but today will mark his first day of full training with the national team.

The clouds hovering over the Brazilian are many, and the main one is medical.

Once again, Neymar is recovering from a fifth metatarsal injury in his right foot, the same injury that slowed his runs and dribbles at last year's World Cup. After 70 days off, the Brazilian returned to training at the beginning of April but only played four matches for Paris Saint-Germain.

Brazil fitness coach Fabio Mahseredjian said Neymar should be fully recovered after a pair of friendlies against Qatar and Honduras in early June.

"He will be in better shape than in the 2018 World Cup," the fitness coach said.

The Copa America starts on June 14 with host Brazil facing Bolivia in the opening match at Morumbi Stadium in Sao Paulo. Venezuela and Peru are



also in the same group.

Brazil's coaching staff was also optimistic about Neymar's recovery for the World Cup in Russia, but the striker instead made news for his splashy dives rather than his once frequent dashing performances.

Neymar is also heading into the Copa America, a tournament Brazil hasn't won since 2007, with a disciplinary problem.

Besides being banned for three matches in France after an altercation with a fan following the French Cup final, Neymar also publicly criticized some of his teammates — a move that Brazil coach Tite doesn't like.

In response, Neymar has been replaced as captain by veteran defender Dani Alves. The Brazilian soccer confederation said Tite made the decision on Saturday after a one-on-one conversation with Neymar.

Cafu, a former Brazil captain who led the team to the World Cup title in 2002, said Neymar was not showing enough respect for the arm-band.

"Being captain is a big responsibility," Cafu said. "It is more than being the team's star."

Adoration at home has also suffered because of political reasons.

Neymar recently showed su-

pport for far-right President Jair Bolsonaro, who has made a series of racist, misogynistic and anti-gay statements.

Weeks later, as Neymar prepared for his return after the injury, Brazilian media reported his father had met Bolsonaro and Economy Minister Paulo Guedes to discuss the player's tax problems.

The Copa America will mark Neymar's fourth tournament played at home. He won the 2013 Confederations Cup and the gold medal at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics, but his team was eliminated in the semifinals of the 2014 World Cup. Neymar was injured and didn't play in the 7-1 loss to Germans. **AP**

pport, including those who loyally and ordinarily go to all home, away and European matches," Chelsea's supporters trust said last week.

If English fans don't arrive in large numbers, Wednesday's final could help highlight just how international a competition the Premier League has become.

As of yesterday, most of the Chelsea fans in bars near the official seafront "fan zone" were from Russia, the home country of club owner Roman Abramovich.

Fans from Thailand, Singapore and Iran are also in town, many flying in thanks to Baku's strong transport connections with Middle Eastern destinations like Doha, Abu Dhabi and Dubai. **AP**

FOOTBALL

Baku quiet as Europa League fans struggle with travel

Thursday, 3:00am
Chelsea v Arsenal
H 2.45, D 3.44, A 3.12

AS Arsenal and Chelsea fans scramble for flights and buses to get to the Europa League final, Baku's streets are quiet.

On the main shopping street, only soccer-shaped plant pots indicate there's a game on at all. Of the foreign fans scattered around the city yesterday, many were from Russia or other Asian countries.

Fans from London have been deterred by high travel costs and

both Arsenal and Chelsea have reportedly failed to sell their full allocations of 6,000 tickets for today's game. That number was already unusually low for a major final in a 68,000-seat stadium. Neither UEFA nor Azerbaijani authorities have said how many tickets have been sold.

Ian and Sarah McGregor, Arsenal fans from Kent in southeastern England, are among the few fans already in Azerbaijan. To get around what Sarah McGregor called "barking" travel costs, they took a whole week off, flew

through Dubai and turned the Europa League final into a family vacation.

"The people are really friendly. The food's fantastic," Ian McGregor said. "Can't ask for any more, really."

Other English fans have shelled out for official club-backed charter flights — part of a travel package costing 979 pounds (USD1,240) from official travel partners — or are trying more roundabout methods. Azerbaijani authorities have arranged for extra buses from Tbilisi in Georgia, an eight-hour drive away,

where many English fans plan to arrive on cheaper flights.

Kick-off is set for 11 p.m. local time (1900 GMT) on Wednesday, ideal for Central European TV viewers but a challenge for fans to get to hotels from the stadium after the game.

Arsenal has criticized the choice of Baku and called on UEFA to prioritize traveling fans when it picks future hosts.

"The combination of cost, complexity in regard to travel arrangements and time off work has massively reduced the traveling su-

FOOTBALL

Spanish police arrest players for match-fixing

Several soccer players in Spain have been arrested for suspected match-fixing, the league said yesterday. The Spanish league said the arrests were carried out by the National Police as the result of an investigation it instigated. The league said it contacted authorities about possible match-fixing involving a match in May 2018, but it did not provide details about the teams or players involved. The league said during the 2018-19 season it informed police of eight suspected cases of "acts related to match-fixing in lower, non-professional divisions and international friendlies." Spanish news agency Europa Press said two of the players arrested play for first-division teams, though none of the country's top clubs were apparently involved. The league said it also "sent alerts" about 18 matches in which players possibly placed bets on the outcomes of games in lower and non-professional divisions. The league thanked the National Police for the "extraordinary work done to dismantle what appears to be an organized criminal group dedicated to obtaining economic benefits through the predetermination of soccer matches."

HOCKEY

Finland, US, Russia in same group at 2020 worlds

The United States, Russia and defending champion Finland will join host Switzerland in an eight-team group based in Zurich at the 2020 hockey world championships. The International Ice Hockey Federation announced the groups yesterday, two days after Finland beat Canada in this year's title game in Slovakia. Top-ranked Canada heads the other eight-team group, which also includes 2017 and '18 champion Sweden, in Lausanne. The venue is being built for the 2020 Youth Winter Olympics. The 2020 worlds will be played from May 8-24.

TENNIS

No. 1 Naomi Osaka finally starts her French Open on Day 3

Naomi Osaka's bid for a third consecutive Grand Slam title finally gets started on Day 3 of the French Open. The No. 1-seeded Osaka never has been past the third round in three previous appearances at Roland Garros. She carries a 14-match winning streak at majors to today. The Japanese star plays 90th-ranked Anna Karolina Schmiedlova in the second match on the Court Philippe Chatrier. Osaka won the U.S. Open last September and then the Australian Open in January. Also in first-round action are 2009 U.S. Open champion Juan Martin Del Potro and No. 5 seed Alexander Zverev. A quarterfinalist last year in Paris, Zverev plays John Millman in the first match on Chatrier. Del Potro plays Nicolas Jarry on Court Suzanne Lenglen.

opinion

Macau Matters

Richard Whitfield



A CARBON NEUTRAL MACAU

As I have previously stated in these articles, the science underpinning our understanding of climate change is irrefutable. Only the most selfish and pathological Luddites can believe, or act as if, human action is not increasing global atmospheric carbon and that this is not significantly altering our planet's environment so as to make it hugely expensive, if not impossible, to maintain most human existence. Clearly, our actions are making our Earth much less habitable for humanity which is a global Tragedy of the Commons, whereby a relatively few short-sighted, anti-social people are over-exploiting and destroying our environment, which shared by the whole of humanity.

At least one city, Copenhagen, is trying to shine a light and show the way forward in how to avoid this tragedy and has committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2025. Over 70 other cities around the world have made similar pledges to reach carbon neutrality by 2050. However, we must be clear that to resolve our climate change problem in the longer term we actually need to have cities become carbon negative.

Because cities are now home to over 50% of the world's population, and consume more than 65% of global energy production and account for 75% of all carbon emissions they are central to reducing global warming. Generally, these carbon neutral focused cities are trying to greatly reduce the amounts of energy that they need and to make what they do need in renewable ways. They are closing down their fossil fueled power stations and replacing them with batteries, solar panels and wind farms, and hydroelectric and tidal power generators. They are changing building codes to make their new, and existing, built environments more energy efficient. They are reorganizing their cities to be more livable and more suited to walking and cycling. They are encouraging or mandating electric vehicles, wider use of electric public transport and ride sharing to minimize car and truck emissions. Very importantly, these cities are leading by example by upgrading their own government buildings and vehicle fleets and running strong community and school education campaigns to explain what they are doing, and why they are making these changes.

China and other Asian countries are recognizing the problems of global warming and starting to take initiatives, but more examples of strong leadership and benchmarks to show what can be achieved in this field are needed. As a compact, wealthy city that hosts a large number of tourists Macau has a great opportunity to show how the region can become carbon neutral and can effectively "spread the word" of what we achieve. I strongly believe that technological and social pathfinder cities can gain great direct benefits. They can also gain important indirect benefits in terms of reputation and the ability to give advice and assistance to others that later want to follow a similar path.

Currently, we are falling behind many Chinese cities that have partially, or fully, electrified their buses and mandated only electric scooters. China has also established targets and incentives for a large proportion of its private vehicle fleet to become electric. It is also building many nuclear power stations to reduce its overall carbon emissions, albeit creating other potentially severe environmental problems.

If Copenhagen, a city of about 800,000 people spread out over 180km², can soon become carbon neutral, why can't Macau? It just takes a bit of vision, and the will to make changes.

THE AVENATTI PLEADS NOT GUILTY TO DEFRAUDING STORMY DANIELS

The embattled attorney Michael Avenatti has pleaded not guilty to accusations that he defrauded his most famous client, porn star Stormy Daniels.

Avenatti appeared before a federal judge in New York yesterday on charges of wire fraud and aggravated identity theft.

Bail was set at USD300,000. Avenatti agreed to have no contact with Daniels.

Prosecutors say Avenatti pocketed money

Daniels was supposed to get from a book deal.

Later Tuesday, Avenatti is scheduled to appear before two more judges, including one handling separate charges that Avenatti tried to extort money from Nike, the sportswear company.

Avenatti rose to fame representing Daniels in her battle to be released from a nondisclosure deal she'd signed regarding an alleged affair with President Donald Trump.

US

Tornadoes carve a path through Ohio and Indiana; one killed



A swarm of apparent tornadoes so tightly packed that one crossed the path carved by another tore across Indiana and Ohio overnight, smashing homes and blowing out windows. One person was killed and dozens were injured.

The storms were among 52 twisters that forecasters said may have touched down Monday across eight states stretching eastward from Idaho and Colorado.

The winds knocked homes off their foundations, toppled trees and hurled so much debris that it could be seen on radar, and highway crews had to use snowplows to clear an interstate.

Some of the heaviest damage was reported just outside Dayton, Ohio.

"I just got down on all fours and covered my head with my hands," said Francis Dutmers, who with his wife headed for the basement of their home in Vandalia, about 10 miles (16 kilometers) outside Dayton, when the storm hit with a "very loud roar" Monday night. The winds blew out windows around his house, filled rooms with debris and took down most of his trees.

In Celina, Ohio, 81-year-old Melvin Dale Hannah was killed when winds blew a parked car into his house, Mayor Jeffrey Hazel said yesterday.

"There's areas that truly look like a war zone," Hazel said.

Storm reports posted online by the National Oceanic

and Atmospheric Administration's Storm Prediction Center showed that 14 suspected tornadoes touched down in Indiana, 10 in Colorado and nine in Ohio. Six suspected tornadoes were reported in Iowa, five in Nebraska, four in Illinois, three in Minnesota and one in Idaho.

Thunderstorms that spun off the Colorado tornadoes dropped hail as large as tennis balls, with pea-size hail reported in the Denver area.

A large tornado struck near Trotwood, Ohio, eight miles (12 kilometers) from Dayton, and Mayor Mary McDonald reported "catastrophic damage" in the community of 24,500 people. Several apartment buildings were damaged or destroyed, including one complex where the entire roof was torn away, and at least three dozen people were treated at emergency rooms for cuts, bumps and bruises.

The mayor said five busloads of displaced residents were taken to a church that opened as a shelter.

Just before midnight, about 40 minutes after that tornado cut through, the weather service tweeted that another one was crossing its path, churning up enough debris to be visible on radar.

In Brookville, west of Dayton, the storm tore roofs off schools, destroyed a barn and heavily damaged houses.

In Dayton, only a few minor injuries were reported.

Dayton Fire Chief Jeffrey Payne called that "pretty miraculous," attributing the good news to people heeding early warnings about the storm. Residents said sirens started going off around 10:30 p.m. ahead of the storm.

Mayor Nan Whaley urged people to check on their neighbors, especially those who are housebound. A boil-water advisory was issued after the storms knocked out power to Dayton's pump stations, and Dayton Power & Light said 64,000 customers were without electricity.

Many roads in the Dayton area were impassable. A high school gymnasium in Dayton was designated an emergency shelter until authorities realized it was unusable.

In Indiana, at least 75 homes were damaged in Pendleton and nearby Huntsville, said Madison County Emergency Management spokesman Todd Harmeson. No serious injuries were reported.

Residents in Pendleton, about 35 miles (56 kilometers) northeast of Indianapolis, were urged to stay in their homes yesterday because of downed trees, power lines and utility poles.

"People are getting antsy. I know they want to get outdoors, and I know they want to see what's going on in the neighborhood, but we still have power lines down, we still have hazards out there," Harmeson said. **AP**

Station	Air quality
Roadside	35-55 Good
High Density Residential Area	30-50 Good
Ambient	30-50 Good

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

NORTH KOREA People working in hundreds of thriving markets that sprung up with the failure of the country's public system for distributing basic goods are often abused and forced to resort to bribery to survive, according to a U.N. report released yesterday. [More on p12](#)



NEPAL's reluctance to limit the number of permits it issues to scale Mount Everest has contributed to dangerous overcrowding, with inexperienced climbers impeding others and causing deadly delays, seasoned mountaineers said.

AFGHANISTAN Officials say two Taliban attacks targeted Afghan security checkpoints in the country's west and east, killing at least 23 members of the security forces.



BRAZIL Forty-two inmates were killed at three different prisons in the capital of Brazil's northern Amazonas state, authorities reported, a day after 15 died during fighting among prisoners at a fourth prison in the same city.



EUROPEAN UNION leaders are converging on Brussels to haggle over who should lead the 28-nation bloc's key institutions for the next five years after weekend elections shook up Europe's political landscape.

USA A rapid-fire line of apparent tornadoes tore across Indiana and Ohio overnight, packed so closely together that one crossed the path carved by another. The storms strew debris so thick that at one point, highway crews had to use snowplows to clear an interstate.