



MORPHEUS, MGM COTAI TO WATCH ON 2020 WORLD'S BEST ROOMS GUIDE

Filip Boyen, CEO of Forbes Travel Guide, told the Times that both properties had a lot of potential to make the World's Best Rooms list, which currently houses only Wynn Macau and Encore Macau from the SAR

P4 MDT INTERVIEW



CARRIE LAM SEEN IN RETREAT OVER FUGITIVE BILL

New measures announced by the Hong Kong government suggest it is taking a more lenient stance on the controversial legislation

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS



CHINA went into customary lockdown yesterday for the 30th anniversary of the bloody military crackdown on pro-democracy protesters, a telling reminder of the ruling Communist Party's emphasis in the ensuing three decades since on stability above all.

NORTH KOREA The powerful younger sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un attended a public event in Pyongyang for the first time in more than 50 days, casting further doubt on media speculation that he had ordered her to lay low over the failed nuclear summit with Washington. *More on p13*

AUSTRALIA A gunman was arrested after killing at least four people and wounding several others yesterday in the northern Australian city of Darwin, officials and media said.



AFGHANISTAN President Ashraf Ghani yesterday said he will visit Pakistan on June 27 to open a new chapter in his country's uneasy relationship with its neighbor and mend ties that are often characterized by mistrust and tit-for-tat accusations.

More on backpage

Lawrence Ho can see Japan from Australia

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MEMORY OF TIANANMEN KEPT ALIVE

Hundreds in Senado Square watched by police

P3



Power plant in safe state after anomaly

The units in operation at the Yangjiang Nuclear Power Plant in Guangdong are in a safe and stable state after an anomaly occurred on Saturday, Macau's Unified Police Services said in a statement. The Office of the Guangdong Provincial Nuclear Emergency Management Commission informed the local bureau that during a maintenance operation on unit 5 of the nuclear power plant, an anomaly occurred in the control mode of the steam turbine bypass system adjustment valve. According to the International Nuclear Event Scale, the incident was classified as a level 0 operational incident as it did not affect the operation of the power plant, the health of its operational personnel, or its environment.

Insurance company told to cover injured bus passenger

The Court of Final Appeal (TUI) has ruled that a local insurance company will pay compensation to a passenger who fell inside a bus and sustained injuries, according to a statement released by the TUI. The incident occurred back in October of 2015. Due to the accident, the injured passenger needed four to six months to recover from severe injuries. The concerned driver was accused of committing the crime of negligence that resulted in physical harm. In 2018, the Court of First Instance ruled the driver not guilty. However, it also ruled that the concerned insurance company should compensate the victim a total of MOP775,980.

Macau Inc. June edition released

The June 2019 edition of the Macau Inc. magazine features interviews with local lawyer Leonel Alves and international football star David Beckham, in addition to reviews on recent and upcoming events, such as G2E Asia and the Art Macao festival. Alves, a veteran lawyer who became a member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference in 2004, speaks about his views on the localization, progress, and integration of the legal system. Then, as a preview to the upcoming Londoner Resort, Beckham speaks to the magazine about his impression of Macau and subsequent love for the city – and its egg tarts. The magazine also looks back on how G2E Asia paved the way for the gambling industry of Macau, Asia, and the world.

Sulu Sou calls for lawmakers to vote sensibly on his appeal

Julie Zhu

SULU Sou has called the city's lawmakers to vote sensibly on his appeal regarding the decision on the Legislative Assembly's (AL) to reject and deny the publishing of his written protest. The lawmaker expressed his hope during yesterday's press conference. The vote has been scheduled for tomorrow.

Sou's written protest concerns the "inappropriate remarks" of the president of the AL, Ho Iat Seng, who is also at present the only declared candidate in the upcoming Chief Executive election. Sou's appeal emphasized that "no [extrajudicial] restrictions should be imposed on deputies' right to file a written protest."

The Executive Board of the AL, which is chaired by Ho Iat Seng, invoked "parliamentary practices" as one of the grounds for the rejection.



"Every student majoring in law in their first year - as well as legal advisers of the AL - are well aware that such parliamentary practices have no legal effect at all. These illegal practices, even though they have been repeated thousands, millions of times, are illegal after all, and should not be invoked to restrict fundamental rights," declared Sou during the press conference.

Sou hopes that during the up-

coming AL plenary meeting, all lawmakers will make a sensible decision based on the correct understanding of the Rules of Procedures and on relevant legal principles, to reject the illegal interpretation or instruction given by the AL organs, and to align with him in the defense of the fundamental rights of deputies.

The Macau AL is dominated by pro-establishment lawmakers, who tend to side

with the Assembly's president, meaning appeals such as Sou's are likely to fail.

Despite knowing that his appeal will be rejected in the AL plenary meeting, Sou expressed his preference to fight rather than to accept defeat.

"I can't accept being beaten-up. It's a principle of being a human being. When we know that we are justified but we choose not to talk - is that responsible?" posed Sou.

Tomorrow's vote will be the last chance for Sou's appeal, which will be voted on immediately after the lawmakers' inquiries.

In addition to his above statement, Sou commented that the appeal, which has been ongoing for approximately 11 months, shows "how old [conservative] Macau's AL is, and how old the mindset of people in the AL is."

"They [the AL] have no idea of how to handle things which they have not seen," said Sou.

Hong Konger denied entry to Macau

A former member of the Executive Committee of the Student Union of Hong Kong Polytechnic University (HKPUSU) was denied entry to Macau on Sunday. The Student Union said in a statement that the entry denial was likely because Macau immigration authorities suspect the traveler's desire to be involved in commemorations of the June Fourth anniversary in the city.

According to a HKPUSU Facebook post, the individual has no arrest record and had previously traveled unimpeded to Macau in May. The same post indicates that the June Fourth anniversary may be the reason behind the rejection.

"Around the time of June Fourth, when Macau refused the entry of the former member, it is inevitable that people will suspect the reasons. The committee expresses great concern about this matter. Hong Kong peoples' freedom of movement cannot be trampled. We condemn the Ma-

cau authorities for restricting the personal freedom of the former member on the groundless charge," the post reads.

"The association also expresses its deep dismay at the fact that Macau has collected information on the members of the committee. The association urges Macau to explain this to avoid the spread of 'white terror' in Hong Kong," the union writes.

According to the post, the concerned party was rejected entry by the Macau immigration authority on grounds of internal security.

A report by Stand News, citing Liu Kin Kwan, chairperson of the current HKPUSU Union Council, said that the articles given by the Macau immigration authority clearly stated that the Macau police authority has the right to reject entry to "unwelcome" non-local residents, those who "pose threats to Macau's internal security stability," or those who are "suspected of being involved in international terrorism." **JZ**

PSP officers found to have forged immigration records

Two police officers of the Public Security Police Force (PSP) were discovered to have illegally assisted a mainland man to overstay in Macau. According to the Judiciary Police, the two officers forged entry and exit records for the individual.

The two officers are surnamed Wong and Leong, and both joined the PSP in the 1990s. They were both working for the immigration department.

In addition to the two policemen, four other men were also arrested.

The mainlander who bribed the officers, surnamed Wu, is a

junket promoter in Macau.

The remaining three suspects, who acted as middlemen, consist of a businessman and an unemployed man, both local residents, and one businessman from the mainland. Wu is said to have reached the two police officers through these three middlemen.

Wu paid MOP100,000 and then MOP400,000 to different middlemen.

The two PSP officers received a total of MOP100,000 in bribes to assist the mainlander, who often overstayed in Macau, and helped the mainlander forge entry and exit records at least once. **JZ**

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Three hundred crowd Senado Square for vigil

Staff reporter

SEVERAL hundred people gathered in Senado Square last night to join the annual candlelight vigil held in memory of the June Fourth Incident that occurred three decades ago in Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

Organized by lawmakers Ng Kuok Cheong and Au Kam San, the vigil was held last night for the 29th consecutive year. In 1989, as many as 100,000 demonstrators flocked to area around the Ruins of St. Paul's to protest.

Macau authorities deployed several uniformed officers to the

area and around a dozen plainclothes officers with video-recording equipment. Participants in the event were filmed by the officers. Moreover, semi-concealed surveillance camera equipment in the nearby buildings could be detected from the street level.

Approximately 300 participants gathered in the area, with

hundreds more briefly pausing as they passed by. Last year, there were about 200 participants.

The vigil started with a speech by Ng introducing the background of the incident before Au's. Songs were sung and videos were played to remember the incident. Some participants volunteered to speak about the feelings with the incident and the vigil.

The Times spoke with several participants at the vigil.

Mr. Chan, a 39-year-old local, said that he had attended the vigil for the past two decades. "I was eight in 1989. It was my fa-

ther who took me to the first vigil. I was strongly moved at that time." He returned to the vigil when he was 19, and he has not missed a single one since then. He was not optimistic about having the incident being redressed by authorities, but he thought "we want them to face what they have done [to the people]."

Despite the economic development of China, Chan said he thought there are still a lot of problems in the country to be addressed. That sentiment was echoed by a tourist from China, who told the Times she had known nothing about June Fourth before witnessing last night's vigil in Macau.

"As teenagers, we should not hold the thinking that it has been so long so we need to forget it," she said. "Someone should keep reminding people about it."

A 17-year-old local high school student was also in sight, although standing at a distance from the vigil. He learned about the 1989 incident from online sources and word of mouth. He told the Times that he believes democracy is inevitable. "At the end of the day, any country will become a democracy," he said.

A young Taiwanese man who works in Macau said that, because there were casualties, it should be remembered. He stressed to the Times that people on both sides of the straits are ethnically Chinese.

MEANWHILE IN HONG KONG

Victoria Park swarmed and awash with rituals

PRO-DEMOCRACY activists in Hong Kong gathered last night to mark 30 years since China's bloody crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in Beijing's Tiananmen Square, underscoring continuing concern for Chinese human rights in the semi-autonomous territory, even as its own civil liberties are under threat.

The annual vigil at Hong Kong's Victoria Park near the bustling Causeway Bay shopping district appeared to draw tens of thousands of participants who filled several football fields and held candles in the sultry night air. Following an introduction of songs in the city's Cantonese dialect and traditional string music, a minute of silence was held for the Tiananmen crackdown victims.

"By being here, I'm standing for truth and justice, even though I've no hope the Chinese central government will ever do justice to the protesters," said participant Stanley Lui, 42.



Left: University students clean the "Pillar of Shame" statue, a memorial for those killed in the 1989 Tiananmen crackdown, at the University of Hong Kong. Right: A statue of the Goddess of Democracy is set up at Hong Kong's Victoria Park

Beijing transplant Jay Jiang, 16, said unlike many on the mainland, she knew about the crackdown even as a young child. The 10th grader was taking part in the Hong Kong vigil for the first time. "The bottom line is the government should not deceive the people about what happened," said Jiang, beads of sweat

dotting her cheeks.

Estimates of the number of vigil participants varied widely, with police putting the figure at 37,000 and organizers at 180,000.

This year's vigil featured a replica of the "Goddess of Democracy," a plaster sculpture of a female figure holding a torch that was displayed in Tiananmen Square in the days leading

up to the crackdown, which took place on the night of June 3-4, 1989, and is believed to have killed hundreds and possibly thousands of people.

"That statue was crushed by tanks at the June 4 crackdown, the June 4 massacre. So we are rebuilding this here [...] to symbolize that we are still continuing to fight for de-

mocracy, and continue on the spirit of the '89 democratic protests," said Chow Hang Tung, vice chair of the Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements in China, which organizes the annual event.

Meanwhile, at the University of Hong Kong, a dozen students laid flower bouquets at the "Pillar of

Shame," a sculpture by Danish artist Jens Galschiot commemorating the crackdown's victims. Students later observed a minute of silence in remembrance of the crackdown's victims before scrubbing the pillar clean in an annual ritual.

Recent years have witnessed a generational divide about how best to memorialize the crackdown, and since 2015, Hong Kong university students have arranged their own commemorations separate from the main candlelight vigil.

Despite its pro-democracy theme, young Hong Kongers see the vigil as promoting Chinese nationalism, said Samson Yuen, a professor of political science at Hong Kong's Lingnan University.

"They argue that Hong Kong needs to determine its own future. Hong Kong may need to seek independence from China and they believe that June 4 is a battleground," Yuen said. **MDT/AP**



FORBES TRAVEL GUIDE

Morpheus, MGM Cotai expected to make 2020 'best rooms' list

Lynzy Valles

FORBES Travel Guide says it has high hopes for both Morpheus hotel and MGM Cotai to make its World's Best Rooms list next year. The list will be announced at the February 2020 global Star Awards.

This year, only two local hotel properties made it to the list, compiled by Forbes Travel Guide: Encore Macau and Wynn Macau. The functions and amenities provided in their rooms is "what continues to set them apart," Forbes Travel Guide notes. Additionally, the work that goes into maintaining their appearance plays a big role in their inclusion on the list.

Filip Boyen, CEO of Forbes Travel Guide, told the Times that the annual Guide has been evaluating hotels in Macau for more than a decade and that the evolution of the room product continues to set the bar for the global industry.

Questioned on whether new hotels would make it into the Guide next year, given that the number of hotels in the region is expanding, Boyen said, "we fully expect to see more additions to the Macau list of hotel winners next year, including the futuristic Morpheus hotel and MGM's



new property, MGM Cotai."

The verified lists are compiled from detailed data gathered by the company's incognito inspectors who stay at the properties and evaluate based on 900 metrics for the Guide's annual Star Ratings.

The World's Best Hotel Rooms list features properties with rooms and bathrooms that

are "exceptionally comfortable, functional and elegantly appointed with special touches" such as high-quality linens, an array of luxurious bath amenities and well-designed technology.

The 41 winners achieved perfect scores on guest room and bathroom standards related to elements of luxury and guest

comfort, and convenience. They also met core standards for cleanliness and maintenance.

According to Boyen, with the increasing trend for travel, particularly for affluent residents from mainland China, experiences need to provide instant gratification for this generation of travelers.

He added that these experiences can be achieved not only in design but also through service, food and entertainment.

"I think there has always been a desire to experience the newest, most forward-thinking hotel. We do not expect to see this change," said the CEO.

"And we also know that the newest generation of affluent travelers continues to push hotels to deliver a better product experience that goes beyond just style and design, but a full immersion into a lifestyle or culture that they want to be a part of and that they can share socially with others," he added.

Boyen said that Forbes maintains its standards annually to be globally relevant and culturally sensitive.

He explained that this is particularly important for the Guide as they are no longer a North American-based guide but now the only independent global rating system featuring more than 1,500 of the world's best hotels, restaurants and spas in nearly 80 countries.

"We would not say we have made the standards harder, but rather, continually reflective of the demands of today's luxury traveler. Though let it be no mistake that we recognize how exceptionally hard the properties work to provide outstanding experiences to achieve their Forbes Travel Guide awards," Boyen explained.

The CEO pledged that the Guide would continue to offer transparency to the industry on its standards.

Tourism authority participates in UNWTO conference

THE Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) participated in the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) regional conference in Thimphu, Bhutan, under the theme "Sustainable Development through Tourism."

The one-day conference opened with remarks from UNWTO Secretary-General, Zurab Pololikashvili, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bhutan, Tandi Dorji, among other officials.

The conference program included two other panel sessions, with one focusing on "Sustainable Development Goals, Sustainable Consumption and Production through Tourism," while the

other invited speakers to discuss Bhutan's philosophical stance on "Gross National Happiness through Tourism."

According to a statement issued by the tourism bureau, MGTO director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes presented information about Macau's tourism environment. She added that the SAR has developed an industry compatible with the wellbeing of the community.

Fernandes explained to the conference that exceptional development in tourism has also brought pressure upon residents, especially more recently, following the opening of the Hong Kong-

Zhuhai-Macau Bridge. Visitor arrivals for the first four months of the year have already surpassed 10 million, marking a 20% year-on-year increase.

Yesterday, Fernandes also presented a report at the 53rd UNWTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific on the state of tourism in Macau, pointing out new change factors including the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge and the Greater Bay Area plans.

As part of the conference, the tourism chief also participated in a regional dialogue session along with other government representatives from mainland China, Bhutan, Japan, India, In-

donesia, Bangladesh, Vanuatu, the Maldives and Nepal among others.

The speakers presented the current status of sustainable tourism policies and practices in their destinations in line with the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals, followed by discussions.

The conference was organized ahead of the 31st Joint Meeting of the UNWTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific and the UNWTO Commission for South Asia, and related events, which attracted the participation of top tourism officials and representatives from 25 countries and territories from across the region. **LV**

Economy shrinks 3.2%, ending 10 consecutive quarters of growth

THE economy of Macau contracted by 3.2% year-on-year in real terms during the first quarter of 2019, according to the latest data from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), ending an uptrend that lasted for 10 consecutive quarters.

Total demand weakened in the first quarter, leading to increased downward pressure on the economy.

Weak growth momentum led to a mediocre performance in the services trade. Despite a marked increase in visitor arrivals, exports of services reduced by 0.3% year-on-year as visitor spending slowed down. Exports of gaming services and other tourism services reversed from an uptrend, dropping by 0.6% and 0.3% respectively as compared to the respective growth of 6.7% and 1.4% in the previous quarter.

Domestic demand remained

sluggish, down by 9.4% year-on-year owing to a significant decline in investment in fixed assets. Private consumption expenditure and government final consumption expenditure rose by 2.1% and 4.1% respectively, offsetting part of the decrease which was seen during the economic downturn.

Imports of goods grew by 2% while imports of services declined by almost 21%. The implicit deflator of gross domestic product, which measures the overall changes in prices, increased by 3.2% year-on-year in the first quarter of 2019.

Meanwhile, government final consumption expenditure recorded sustained growth, up by 4.1% year-on-year, higher than the 3.4% rise in the previous quarter. Compensation of employees and net purchases of goods and services increased by 2.4% and 7.0% respectively. **DB**

LAWRENCE HO

Melco's investment in Australia aimed at 'taking Japan'

Paulo Coutinho

THE chairman and CEO of Melco Resorts and Entertainment said that the acquisition of a 20% stake in Australia's Crown Resorts is a leap in the global expansion plans of the Macau-based casino operator with Japan in mind.

In a media briefing held yesterday at hotel Morpheus, Lawrence Ho explained the enormous potential of the upcoming Japanese gaming market.

"They have now 35 million visitors per year" and forecasts indicate that visitors to Japan will increase to 80 million in the mid- to long- term. "And many of these visitors will come from Europe and the U.S."

In that sense, Ho views the Australian play via "the most prestigious gaming and hotels group in the country" in a highly regulated market as a "great



step" to compete for a license to operate in Japan, which is the ultimate goal of Melco's expansion, following projects in the Philippines and Cyprus.

"With this transaction we've gone suddenly from three countries to five, because it includes three properties in different Australian cities and also London. So I think from that perspective it really ticks all our boxes."

Last week, Melco announced that it had purchased a 19.99% stake in Australian gaming operator Crown Resorts for AUD1.75 billion (USD1.2 billion).

Acquiring a share higher than 19.99% would have "required a prolonged approval process with longer regulatory probity reviews," Ho said yesterday at the press meeting.

Ho noted the group welco-

mes such "extensive regulatory work," with him having already been subject to several probity reviews during the Melco Crown partnership with Australian tycoon James Packer, between 2004 and 2017.

Crown Resorts wholly owns and operates integrated resorts in Melbourne and Perth, plus the Crown London Aspinalls. The group is also developing a AUD2.2 billion Barangaroo project in Sydney Harbour with an estimated completion in 2021.

"Because there's three jurisdictions within Australia and in addition to London, we expect the approval process to take approximately 12 months. After we intend to continue to accrete up our shareholding in the company. It's a great company and we would love to be bigger shareholders," Ho said.

Ho thanked his friend James Packer for the opportunity to acquire this share in the group. Asked what role the Australian businessman, who still holds

26% in the company, would have in this new partnership, Ho said without hesitation, "it is really up to him."

Ho also said that he has known the executive chairman of Crown, John Alexander, and his senior management team since 2004, and was always "very comfortable" dealing with them.

Ho considered that Melco would be able to attract premium or VIP business from China and Asia to the Australian Crown properties, which have focused mainly on local players over the last two to three years, following the crackdown on Crown marketing efforts in China.

Notwithstanding their expansion drive, Lawrence Ho acknowledged that Macau continues to be Melco's "biggest market."

Big money comes at a cost.

"The good thing about Macau is that luckily we have the gaming facilities [revenue] which subsidizes non-gaming activities and helps diversify the industry. [...] It would be an insult to the government and to Macau not doing it," he said.

"Even though non-gaming ventures don't make money, we have to keep doing it. I think of ourselves as an entertainment company as much as a gaming company."

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Staff reporter

PHOTOGRAPHY

Exhibition celebrating Macau opens at Portuguese Consulate

THE Consulate General of Portugal in Macau is once again the stage for a photo exhibition featuring the works of 27 Portuguese-speaking photographers.

The exhibition, titled "A Look at Macau", is organized by the Casa de Portugal to reflect on the past two decades of the Special Administrative Region.

It takes place in June because the month is celebrated as "the Month of Portugal". It is also held as part of the inaugural "Art Macao" festival organized by the SAR government.

The exhibition started on a smaller scale, with the 'three 20s' concept: 20 pictures taken in 20 years by 20 individual photographers. But later the scale grew with more photographers showing an interest in joining the exhibition.

Currently, it shows 27 pictures that were taken in the 20 years since the transfer of sovereignty back to China. Some photos were taken exactly on the Handover Day in 1999.

Gonçalo Lobo Pinheiro, curator-photographer of the exhibition, explained that the main challenge of organizing an exhibition of this scale was that, "I have my other jobs



Gonçalo Lobo Pinheiro



and could not dedicate more time for the exhibition." But he explained that he simplified the criteria for participating photographers. "As long as a photo was taken within the 20-year timeframe, it's qualified.

I don't care whether it's a portrait or scenery, greyscale or color."

Local karate athlete Paula Caron was spotted at the opening ceremony. She was there to support her many photo-

grapher friends participating. "It is a wonderful exhibition because it made a stage for the not-so-famous, but talented photographers. Also, it is a showcase of the change that Macau has undergone in these

20 years," she said. The exhibition starts today and will run until July 5, on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. After its closure in Macau, the exhibition will relocate to Porto, in Portugal.

AD

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opinion

THE BIG THREAT TO HK'S PROPERTY BILLIONAIRES

Nisha Gopalan, Bloomberg

Can Hong Kong's billionaire heirs keep their grip on the city? Given Beijing's increasing assertiveness in the territory, it's a question worth asking.

For the past five decades, Hong Kong's family dynasties have controlled the city's riches, largely thanks to their hold on some of the world's most expensive real estate. Hong Kong has more ultra-rich individuals than any other city in the world – and eight of its 10 richest men (yes, they're all men) are directly involved in the property sector.

The last of Hong Kong's "Big Four" property empires is now handing the reins to a younger generation, a cumulative transfer worth \$109 billion. Lee Shau Kee, the city's second richest man, said last week that he's passing the baton at Henderson Land Development Co. to his two sons, a year after Victor Li took over the empire of his father, and Hong Kong's richest man, Li Ka-shing. The Cheng family of New World Development Co. oversaw a succession in 2012. And at Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd., where 66-year-old Raymond Kwok is chairman, a younger generation took over in 1990 after the death of founder Kwok Tak-seng.

These families have long benefited from close ties to the Hong Kong government and the city's banks. But the younger set doesn't necessarily have the same political capital with Beijing.

That's why an extradition law in the works is currently making Hong Kong's business community particularly nervous. If passed, the legislation could transfer fugitives in the city to China, where courts are under control of the ruling Communist Party. Money hasn't helped multimillionaires caught up in President Xi Jinping's sweeping corruption crackdown. Last May, the former chairman of Anbang Insurance Group Co., billionaire Wu Xiaohui, was sentenced to 18 years in prison after a one-day trial, where he was convicted of fraud and embezzlement.

The head of Hong Kong's pro-business Liberal Party has criticized the proposed law, saying it would hurt foreign investment in the city. The silence from the city's developers, meanwhile, has been deafening.

A bigger threat to Hong Kong's property tycoons is perhaps growing competition from mainland developers, who stand to benefit from Beijing stretching further into Hong Kong. These firms ramped up their presence in the city three years ago as Chinese officials ratcheted up efforts to cool the domestic property market. Conglomerate HNA Group Co.'s ability to beat local players in its bid for four plots of land at the former Kai Tak airport came as a shock. Mainland developers have logged \$12 billion worth of land deals in Hong Kong in the last three years.

Over the past year, Chinese real estate firms, including HNA, have started to shrink their footprint in the city, as Beijing pressures debt-laden companies to lighten their load. But mainland developers still have massive balance sheets: Take China Vanke Co., which had total assets last year of \$222 billion, compared with just \$61 billion for New World Development. As soon as Beijing reopens funding taps, the city's developers could find themselves on the back foot once again.

There's a Chinese saying that "wealth never survives three generations." Educated at some of the world's most elite schools, many of Hong Kong's property heirs may be savvy enough not to fritter it away. They're still flush with cash and Hong Kong's record real estate prices are making them richer by the day.

But their dominance will fade. At the end of 1997, Chinese firms comprised just 16% of the market value of Hong Kong's stock exchange; now they account for around 68%. It's just a matter of time before the city's real estate goes the same way.

Hong Kong proposes safeguards to extradition law amendments

HONG Kong's government said that it was willing to raise the threshold for extraditing criminal suspects amid widespread concerns over moves seen as eroding the territory's independent legal system.

The proposals announced in a government news release appear to be an attempt to assuage critics from the business and legal sectors, as well as human rights and pro-democracy activists who have long opposed proposed amendments to the extradition law.

The amendments have been criticized as making it easier to send criminal suspects to mainland China, where they could face vague national security charges and unfair trials. Chinese President Xi Jinping has been seen as extending his crackdown on civil liberties to Hong Kong, threatening the territory's promised semi-autonomy.

The news release said additional safeguards in the amendments would include a requirement that extradition be permitted only for offenses punishable with prison sentences of seven years or more, rather than three years as before.

Governments requesting extradition would also have to provide assurances that the suspects would receive protections including the presumption of innocence, the right to an open trial, legal representation, the right to cross-examine witnesses, freedom from coerced confessions and the right to appeal. They must also show that the statute of limitations has not expired.



Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam (right) arrives for a meeting at the Legislative Council

Requests for extradition would only be processed if they come from a central authority such as China's Supreme People's Procuratorate, rather than a provincial or other local authority. The territory should also explore helping sentenced people serve their sentences in Hong Kong and negotiate arrangements for post-surrender visits by consuls or other officials, the government said.

Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam has "reflected the concerns of Hong Kong society to the Cen-

tral People's Government (CPG), which expressed understanding and will respect and support the (Hong Kong government's) various measures to take further measures to enhance protections and allay public concerns," the news release said.

Hong Kong was guaranteed the right to retain its own social, legal and political systems for 50 years following its handover from British to Chinese rule in 1997, the so-called "one country, two systems" framework. However, China's

ruling Communist Party has been seen as increasingly reneging on that agreement by forcing through unpopular legal changes.

Hong Kong's Legislative Council intends to vote on the amended Fugitive Offenders Ordinance and the Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Ordinance on June 12.

Hong Kong currently limits such extraditions to jurisdictions with which it has existing extradition agreements or to others on an individual basis under a law passed before 1997. **MDT/Bloomberg**

Nearly 7.5 tonnes of smuggled ivory tusks seized

POLICE and customs authorities in Guangdong Province have busted an ivory smuggling ring, arresting 20 suspects and seizing nearly 7.5 tonnes of ivory tusks.

Guangdong police were tipped-off in January and found a smuggling gang bring-

ing ivory tusks from Nigeria and other foreign countries and smuggling them into China.

On March 30, police and customs authorities captured 20 suspects in Beijing as well as in the provinces of Anhui, Shandong, Fujian

and Guangdong, and seized 2,748 ivory tusks weighing a total of 7.48 tonnes.

The smuggled tusks were declared as wood and stored in an abandoned factory.

After investigation, police found the gang suspected of smug-

gling a total of more than 30 tonnes of ivory tusks.

Guangdong established a specialized bureau this year as part of its efforts to step up the crackdown on smuggling, said Zhou Huashan, head of the anti-smuggling bureau of the

provincial public security department.

Customs authorities in Guangdong have busted 13,483 smuggling cases involving more than 20.5 billion yuan (MOP23.95 billion) in the first quarter this year, detaining 221 suspects.

The Chinese government suspended imports of ivory and all ivory products in 2015 and ended commercial processing and sales of ivory at the end of 2017. **Xinhua**

GAMING

Chicago will get a casino as part of Illinois gambling expansion

Christopher Palmeri
& Elizabeth Campbell

ILLINOIS legislators approved a giant gambling-expansion bill that allows sports betting and as many as six new casinos, including one in Chicago, one of the world's busiest tourism and convention cities.

The legislation, which still must be signed by Governor J.B. Pritzker, also lets the state's 10 existing casinos increase their slot machines and table games by almost 70%. And it allows the state's three horse tracks to offer slot machines and table games such as blackjack and craps. The ultimate recipient of the Chicago license will also be able to operate slot machines at the city's O'Hare International and Midway airports.

While casino gambling has expanded across the country in the past four decades, it's rare for a state to do so much all at once. It is very unusual to see a casino authorized in one of the country's largest cities.

"The next step here for the bill is for Governor Pritzker to sign it, and given he has been supportive of expanded gaming thus far, this is probably a done deal," Joseph Greff, an analyst at JPMorgan Chase & Co., said in a note. "Possible litigation can be filed as a way to delay, but it likely won't derail the bill's eventuality."



The legislation is expected to be a boon for makers of slot machines and suppliers of technology for online betting. It will mean more competition for the state's existing casinos, including ones operated by Caesars Entertainment Corp., Boyd Gaming Corp., Penn National Gaming Inc. and Eldorado Resorts Inc., which all derive between 10% and 15% of their revenue from Illinois or Indiana, according to John DeCree, an analyst with

Union Gaming in Las Vegas. Shares of slot-machine maker Scientific Games Corp. jumped as much as 9.4% on Monday, while rival International Game Technology rose 5.2%. Penn National fell as much as 5.8% over fears about the mounting competition.

Closely held Rush Street Gaming operates one of the closest casinos to Chicago: the Rivers Casino in Des Plaines, Illinois. A spokesman declined to comment on the

company's plans. Caesars operates the Horseshoe casino in nearby Hammond, Indiana. A representative there also declined to comment.

The legislation also allows for additional slot machines in truck stops throughout the state.

Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot, who took office in May, praised the bill, saying it would create jobs and "help shore up the city's seriously underfunded pension funds." **Bloomberg**

China's plan to boost baby formula output hits foreign suppliers

A2 Milk Co. led stock market losses of USD875 million among infant-formula providers in Australia and New Zealand after China unveiled a plan to boost local output and reduce reliance on imports.

Under the new program, China aims to exceed 60% self-sufficiency for baby formula and improve the quality of domestic brands in its \$27 billion infant-formula industry. Authorities are seeking to bolster consumer confidence following a deadly milk scandal in 2008.

"For A2 Milk Company and Bellamy's, the risks are that their effective addressable market in China will shrink," Morgan Stanley analyst Thomas Kierath said in a report.

After tainted baby milk in China killed six children and poisoned 300,000 others more than a decade ago, distrust of local producers sent demand for overseas brands soaring. A2 Milk is among those pouring resources deeper into China to tap demand from smaller cities. Nestle SA's share of China's milk-formula market has quadrupled since the scandal to make it the clear leader.

Chinese baby formula makers jumped on Monday after the government released an action plan, with Yashili International Holdings Ltd. surging as much as 16% in Hong Kong. Policymakers in Beijing are trying to reassure Chinese parents and boost local firms in the segment, which is expected to be worth about \$32 billion in 2023, according to Euromonitor International.

The newly announced plan doesn't entirely try to shut out foreign companies. It will support domestic dairy producers in acquiring or setting up overseas bases for milk supply, encourage foreign dairy firms to invest in China as well as tighten regulations on the milk-powder imports and online sales platforms. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

MGM WINS PRESTIGIOUS 'ASIA RESPONSIBLE ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARD'



MGM received the "Asia Responsible Entrepreneurship Award" (AREA) from Enterprise Asia, making it once more the only enterprise in Macau to have won this regional accolade, according to a statement from the gaming operator.

This year's Asia Responsible Entrepreneurship Award Ceremony was held in Taipei, Taiwan.

The award recognizes Asian companies that champion sustainable and responsible business practices. It brought together

top industry leaders in the region to celebrate outstanding achievements in the field of corporate social responsibility and to recognize enterprises at the forefront of sustainable and responsible entrepreneurship.

"At MGM, we believe that our future is being shaped by our own people, and therefore we are committed to investing in our team members and our community," said Grant Bowie, CEO and Executive Director of MGM China. "We [...] will continue to motivate them to reach their full potential through a variety of training and development programs, while finding innovative ways to give back to the community."

SANDS CHINA EMPLOYEES TAKE THE 'CLEAN PLATE CHALLENGE' FOR FIFTH YEAR



Sands China employees completed the Clean Plate Challenge between May 27 and 29, marking the fifth year in a row the company has held the sustainability campaign.

The three-day activity challenged employees at

the company's staff dining rooms to take only what they would eat and turn in a clean plate – a challenge that was completed a total of nearly 66,000 times.

An initiative of the Sands ECO360 global sustainability strategy, the Clean Plate

Challenge sought to encourage employees to reduce food waste and inspire them to live a sustainable and healthy lifestyle.

This year's campaign added the message of "eat healthy, eat with no food waste," and shared information on healthy diet habits with team members.

The company's food and beverage team supported the initiative by preparing meals with less sugar, salt and oil, and with a sample plate on display featuring the ideal proportion of grains, protein, fruit and vegetables for optimum health. Information was also given on healthy food preparation methods such as steaming, blanching and baking.

TESTIMONY

Tiananmen or when China shifted from solidarity to stability

Terril Jones, Claremont (Calif.)

THE young woman lay on a mat in the concrete hallway of a Beijing hospital on June 4, 1989. She weakly held up an X-ray showing a bullet in her shoulder. Knowing I was a journalist, she whispered something I had heard numerous times in the previous three weeks: "Report the truth."

She was among the tens and possibly hundreds of thousands of people on the streets of Beijing when soldiers from the People's Liberation Army shot their way through the heart of the Chinese capital and retook Tiananmen Square, the nexus of nationwide protests seeking social freedom and democracy.

The crackdown 30 years ago stopped in its tracks a slow opening to the world that senior leader Deng Xiaoping had launched a decade earlier. The U.S. and China formalized diplomatic ties in 1979, and reporting from China in the 1980s, I had written about investment and expansion by Disney, Coca-Cola and Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Foreign investment eventually returned and economic reforms continued, but a fundamental political change settled on China in the wake of Tiananmen, said Wang Chaohua, who in 1989 was a graduate student and No. 14 on a most-wanted list of 21 fugitives published by the government in the weeks after June 4.



"Before 1989 the official slogan was 'anding tuanjie' (peaceful solidarity)," Wang told me last week. "After the crackdown Deng emphasized 'wending yadaoyiqie' (stability over all else). The new slogan was no longer speaking to society, but to the (Communist) Party. And the roots are in Tiananmen."

The story of China's economic success is familiar. When I returned to China as a correspondent from 2010-2013, Chinese brands such as Baidu, Alibaba and Huawei were expanding aggressively overseas, and Apple, Nike, Nestle, Toyota and Mercedes-Benz were turning China into a critical market.

For a foreign correspondent,

there was far more access to information than in the 1980s. All ministries had spokespeople, albeit often elusive, and statistics were abundant, albeit often suspect.

But the government also tracked down and sent away reporters who went to Tibetan Buddhist areas of Sichuan province after a wave of self-immolation protests, and blocked the websites of major Western media, as well as Gmail, Whatsapp, Reddit, Tumblr and Pinterest and a host of others.

That pattern continues today in far-west Xinjiang, where authorities disrupt foreign journalists' attempts to report on the re-education camps that

have sprung up, housing up to an estimated million ethnic Uighurs.

This clampdown on information can be traced in large part to the government's failure to stop the news flow from the hundreds of journalists covering the Tiananmen protests in 1989. It was only at the end that authorities moved against journalists en masse.

As I went back to the Beijing Hotel to file updates and radio reports on the night of June 3, a plainclothes security official and three uniformed officers confiscated one of my videocassettes, filled with two hours of footage from the previous several days. They had been waiting

in the empty lobby, picking off journalists as they came in.

I was outside the hotel on June 5 when I saw people ducking and running toward me ahead of approaching tanks. I took one shot before hustling upstairs for a better view. It was only weeks or months later that I printed the photo and discovered the man who had stood in front of the tanks in what would become an iconic image of Tiananmen. My photo showed him waiting in apparent calm, moments before the confrontation.

The next day, I was — foolishly — taking photos of a column of soldiers marching straight at me. A commander barked orders while pointing at me, and two soldiers, their eyes on me, started running in my direction. I turned and ran, and heard two shots. Dropping to my knees behind a minivan, I furiously unwound my film, hid it in my sock, and waited for the soldiers to come.

They never did, and when I peeked under the van, I saw them walking away. After the column had marched past, I crossed a parking lot, hopped a wall and retrieved a bicycle I had borrowed. A group of onlookers, who had watched everything, burst into applause when they saw me.

In the ensuing years, the Chinese government has scrubbed virtually all mentions of the protests from textbooks, the media and the internet. Meaningful political reform seems unlikely as today's leader, President Xi Jinping, tightens his hold on power. And a commitment to transparency and accountability still seems a distant possibility. Only when that happens, though, will most Chinese learn the truth. **AP**

China issues US travel alert warning of official harassment

CHINA issued a travel warning for the U.S. yesterday, saying Chinese visitors have been interrogated, interviewed and subjected to other forms of what it called harassment by U.S. law enforcement agencies.

The warning urges Chinese citizens and Chinese-funded bodies in the U.S. to step up their safety awareness and preventative measures and respond "appropriately and actively." It was issued by the foreign ministry, as well as the Chinese Embassy and consulates in the U.S.

The warning comes amid an increasingly bitter trade dispute between Beijing and Washington and

tougher immigration enforcement by the Trump administration.

China's Ministry of Culture and Tourism issued its own travel alert for the U.S. on Tuesday, noting the high frequency of shootings, robberies and theft in the country. Chinese students abroad were urged on Monday to assess the risks involved given tightened visa restrictions.

The alerts are valid until Dec. 31.

Commenting on the warning issued to students, foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said the U.S. side had to be aware of the obstacles and impact they have created.

"For some time, the U.S. has politicized normal China-U.S. educational exchanges using the China threat and Chinese infiltration as excuses," Geng said at a daily briefing.

Chinese social media has been abuzz with talk of U.S. visa and green card denials and other travel, education and employment woes under Trump, who has sought to restrict the numbers of foreign visitors and others coming to the U.S. for what he claims are security and economic reasons.

One who did receive a visa, although not without a lengthy wait, was Cao Yue, a senior student majoring in aeronautics

at Beijing-based Beihang University.

After being admitted to the master's program in mechanical engineering and robotics at Columbia University, she applied for a visa at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing and was told it would take weeks to process.

Cao said she was asked questions about her parents' profession and what specific types of robots she planned to work on.

"I was expecting [to wait]. I knew what was going to happen. This major involves a sensitive field," said Cao, who received her visa after about six weeks.

Partly as a result of additional visa checks, Chinese



travel to the U.S. is falling after more than a decade of rapid growth, leaving 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.

China also issued a travel warning for the U.S. last summer, 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. **AP**

30 YEARS ON

China handles Tiananmen anniversary with usual silence

Ken Moritsugu, Beijing

DISSIDENTS silenced. Security tightened. References scrubbed from the internet.

China imposed an information lockdown yesterday on the 30th anniversary of its bloody crackdown on pro-democracy protesters at Tiananmen Square, a stark reminder that three decades later, the possibility of democratic change has all but evaporated.

Extra checkpoints and street closures greeted tourists who showed up before 5 a.m. to watch the daily flag-raising ceremony at the square in the center of Beijing. People overseas found themselves blocked from posting anything to a popular Chinese social media site.

China has largely succeeded in wiping the events of June 3-4, 1989, from the public consciousness at home, where the anniversary of the crackdown passed like any other weekday. To Western critics, who this year included U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, China has a simple answer: Our model works.

"The Chinese government has long had a clear conclusion about the political disturbance that occurred in the late 1980s," foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said in response to Pompeo. China's economic success "fully proves that the development path we chose is completely correct and has been firmly supported by the people."

The seven-week-long Tiananmen Square protests and their bloody end, in which hundreds if not thousands of people are believed to have died, snuffed out a tentative shift in China

AP PHOTO



toward political liberalization.

The mantra of the ruling Communist Party has become stability over all else, and the party says the stability it has delivered has been a necessary underpinning to the country's economic growth.

For many Chinese, life is better. Incomes have risen, and social restrictions such as family size and where people can live have been loosened. It's political freedom that remains strictly controlled.

Half a dozen activists could not be reached by phone or text. One who could, Beijing-based Hu Jia, said he had been taken last week by security agents to the northeastern coastal city of Qinghuangdao.

Chinese authorities routinely take dissidents away on what are euphemistically called "va-

cations" or otherwise silence them during sensitive political times.

"This is a reflection of their fears, their terror, not ours," Hu said.

Under current President Xi Jinping, the government has tightened control over everything from religion to the internet in an apparent bid to make the Communist Party central to the future of China.

"I don't think that in the foreseeable future there is the possibility for another mass movement against the regime, because the system of control is so complete," said Andrew Nathan, a professor of Chinese politics at Columbia University.

Chinese overseas reported on Twitter that they were blocked from posting on Weibo, a popular social networking site. Wei-

bo did not respond to phone and email requests for comment.

Even those who know what happened 30 years ago are reluctant to talk about it in public. A 24-year-old designer said last week in Beijing that he thought it was quite a pity when he learned that many had died.

"But it's really not convenient to talk about it," he said, giving only the name he goes by in English, Tony.

Any commemoration of the event is not allowed in mainland China, though thousands turned out for an annual candlelight vigil in Hong Kong. The Chinese territory has relatively greater freedoms than the mainland, though even there, activists are concerned about the erosion of those liberties in recent years.

Pompeo issued a statement Monday saluting what he called

the "heroes of the Chinese people who bravely stood up thirty years ago [...] to demand their rights." He said that U.S. hopes that China would become a more open and tolerant society have been dashed.

He and his European Union counterpart Federica Mogherini urged China to come clean on what happened and how many died.

"Acknowledgement of these events, and of those killed, detained or missing in connection with the Tiananmen Square protests, is important for future generations and for the collective memory," Mogherini said in a statement.

Even those who know what happened 30 years ago are reluctant to talk about it in public

Geng, the foreign ministry spokesman, said that "some people in the U.S. always regard themselves as others' teachers and interfere in other countries' internal affairs under the guise of so-called democracy and human rights, while turning a blind eye to problems at home. The Chinese people have seen through their hypocrisy and sinister intentions."

The crackdown set the Communist Party on a path of repression, Nathan said, adding that China would likely be a very different place if the nation's rulers had ended the protests peacefully through dialogue instead of by force.

"They embarked on a strategy of not dialoguing with the people," he said. "The party knows best, the party decides, and the people have no voice. So that requires more and more intense repression of all of the forces in society that want to be heard." AP

Pompeo vs Beijing: war of words

CHINA responded pointedly to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's comments on the 30th anniversary of the Chinese army's bloody suppression of student-led pro-democracy protests centered on Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

The dueling statements underscore the vast divide in perceptions of the events of three decades ago, which Beijing considers a taboo subject that the West only raises in

order to embarrass and de-legitimize China as part of a strategy to contain its development.

Excerpts from Pompeo's statement and the rebuttal issued by an unidentified spokesman from the Chinese Embassy in Washington:

— Pompeo: "We express our deep sorrow to the families still grieving their lost loved ones, including the courageous Tiananmen Mothers, who have never stopped seeking

accountability, despite great personal risk. The events of thirty years ago still stir our conscience, and the conscience of freedom-loving people around the world."

— Chinese Embassy spokesman: "Under the pretext of human rights, the statement grossly intervenes in China's internal affairs, attacks its system, and smears its domestic and foreign policies. This is an affront to the Chinese people

and a serious violation of international law and basic norms governing international relations.

— Pompeo: "Over the decades that followed, the United States hoped that China's integration into the international system would lead to a more open, tolerant society. Those hopes have been dashed."

— Chinese Embassy spokesman: "The Chinese government and people reached the verdict

on the political incident of the late 1980s long ago. Over the past four decades of reform and opening-up, China has enjoyed rapid economic and social development, continuous progress in democracy and the rule of law, flourishing culture and significantly improved standards of living. China's human rights are in the best period ever."

— Pompeo: "We salute the heroes of the Chinese people who bravely stood up thirty years ago in Tiananmen Square to demand their rights. Their

exemplary courage has served as an inspiration to future generations calling for freedom and democracy around the world."

— Chinese Embassy spokesman: "The Chinese people have the best say on China. Their pursuit of a better life cannot be stopped by any force. Whoever attempt to patronize and bully the Chinese people in any name, or preach a "clash of civilizations" to resist the trend of times will never succeed. They will only end up in the ash heap of history." AP

PHILIPPINES

US to launch new program to fight extremism

Jim Gomez, Manila

U.S. and Philippine officials yesterday were discussing a new program to thwart efforts by Muslim extremists to recruit and mobilize followers in the country's south after a bloody siege by jihadists aligned with the Islamic State group.

The three-year program involves helping local officials identify issues that foster extremism and find ways to address them, said U.S. Assistant Secretary Denise Natali of the State Department's Bureau of Conflict & Stabilization Operations.

American and Australian surveillance aircraft helped Filipino troops quell the disastrous 2017 siege by hundreds of mostly local militants in southern Marawi city, where the commercial and residential center remains in ruins and off-limits to the public. Despite the militants' defeat, Philippine officials say surviving militants have continued efforts to recruit new followers and plot new attacks.

More than 1,100 militants were killed and hundreds of thousands of residents were displaced in the five-month siege in the mosque-studded city, which renewed fears that the Islamic State group was stepping up collaboration with local jihadists to gain a foothold in the region.

"We are focusing on how to prevent further and future incidences of violent extremism and radicalization from occurring so that we don't have another Marawi ever again," Natali said at a



Denise Natali stands beside a wreath during a wreath-laying ceremony for the more than 17,000 U.S. troops killed during WWII at the American Cemetery in Taguig, Manila

news conference.

The State Department bureau and the Philippine government are finalizing details of the program to help provincial governments and nongovernment groups design and enforce effective projects to counter extremism, Natali said.

She said she was to meet President Rodrigo Duterte's national security adviser and other officials in Manila yesterday.

Natali emphasized the importance of basing such projects on facts and evidence instead of assumptions, citing a five-month survey commissioned by the U.S. last year in four southern Muslim provinces that showed which issues were helping spark extre-

mism and radicalization the most.

The survey showed that while some people may back local jihadists, there was significantly lower support for foreign militant groups such as the Islamic State group and the Al Qaida militant network. Religious intolerance, dire economic conditions and exposure to violence spark extremism more than religion, Natali cited the survey as showing. "It's not about religion; it is about living conditions. There is an economic component to this," Natali told reporters.

The survey also showed that there was strong public support for the government's effort to combat extremism, she said.

The Philippines has been one of Washington's strongest Asian allies in the fight against terrorism since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the U.S.

Duterte, who has been a vocal critic of U.S. security policies, said after taking office in mid-2016 that he wanted U.S. counterterrorism forces out of the southern Philippines while he rebuilt frayed relations with China.

The Philippine military, however, has maintained robust relations with the U.S. More than 100 U.S. military counterterrorism advisers and personnel remain in southern Mindanao region to help Filipino forces battling extremists on a string of impoverished islands. AP

INDIA

Officials looking to recover bodies on Himalayan mountain

Emily Schmall, New Delhi

INDIAN officials were working on a plan yesterday to retrieve five bodies believed to be mountaineers from a team of international climbers that went missing on a notoriously dangerous Himalayan mountain.

All eight of the climbers that disappeared May 26 on Nanda Devi East are presumed dead, and the five bodies photographed by air Monday are thought to be from the missing expedition, said Vijay Kumar Jogdande, an official in Uttarakhand state, where the mountain is located.

The mountaineers, led by veteran British climber Martin Moran, had hoped to chart a new route to the 6,477-meter peak, but lost contact with base camp after an avalanche swept through a section of the mountain.

Nanda Devi East is a twin peak of Nanda Devi, India's second-highest mountain, and the two are connected by a razor-sharp 2-kilometer ridge at an elevation of 6,666 meters.

Jogdande said state officials have devised a plan to use helicopters and a ground team to retrieve the five bodies, spotted at an altitude of 5,000 meters, and to search for the three mountaineers so far unaccounted for. He said the plan needs to be approved by the Indian government in New Delhi first because of the difficult terrain and the risk of another avalanche.

The team began its ascent May 13, according to Moran Mountain, Moran's Scotland-based company. The team includes four Britons, two Americans, an Australian and an Indian liaison officer.

Maninder Kohli, a mountaineer who runs a trekking company from New Delhi that has taken groups on treks to Nanda Devi East base camp, said the snow level in the Indian Himalayas this year has been "abnormally high."

According to Kohli, the typical route to the peak is along the southeast ridge, which Polish mountaineers used on the first documented ascent in 1939. AP

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NORTH KOREA

Kim's sister back in public eye at mass games

Kim Tong-Hyung, Seoul

THE powerful younger sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un attended a public event in Pyongyang for the first time in more than 50 days, casting further doubt on media speculation that he had ordered her to lay low over the failed nuclear summit with Washington.

North Korea's state media yesterday showed Kim Yo Jong clapping aside her brother, his wife and other top officials at the 150,000-seat May Day Stadium, where thousands of gymnasts, dancers and flip-card-wielding spectators worked in precise unison to perform "The Land of the People."

The official Korean Central News Agency said the performers on Monday showed "beautiful and graceful rhythmic movements, high-spirited gymnastics, interesting national emotion and rich artistic depiction," but also that Kim Jong Un was quite unhappy about their display. He seriously criticized the creators for their "wrong spirit of creation and irresponsible work attitude" and set forth "important tasks" to correctly



Kim Yo Jong (left)

implement the country's revolutionary policy on literature and art, KCNA said.

State media often reports on Kim scolding factory officials, educators and others perceived as not performing to his standards. The mass games events were once routine in North Korea but were on hiatus for several years during the mourning for Kim's father and only return-

ed last year.

Kim Yo Jong is a senior official of North Korea's ruling party and is believed to be her brother's closest confidant. She had accompanied him to his summits with President Donald Trump and South Korean President Moon Jae-in and had joined other dignitaries in the stands at last year's Winter Olympics in South Korea.

But speculation about her status grew after she was left out from her brother's trip to Vladivostok, Russia, in April for a summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin. North Korean media had last shown her at a meeting of the North's rubber-stamp parliament on April 12.

South Korea's conservative Chosun Ilbo newspaper last week cited an unidentified source

in reporting that Kim Jong Un had ordered his sister to lay low following the collapse of his summit with Trump in February over mismatched demands in sanctions relief and nuclear disarmament. The newspaper also reported that Kim had punished his former top nuclear envoy, Kim Yong Chol, who North Korean media showed at the mass games and at a weekend concert of military wives.

Senior envoy Kim Hyok Chol, who the Chosun reported had been executed along with four Foreign Ministry officials for betrayal, has not been seen by the media since the end of the Trump-Kim summit in Hanoi, Vietnam, in February.

South Korea's government and media have a mixed record on tracking developments among North Korea's ruling elite, made difficult by Pyongyang's stringent control of information about them. Although North Korea has previously banished or executed scapegoats to atone for major political flops, experts doubted the recent reports, saying such extreme punishments were unlikely unless Kim Jong Un was abandoning negotiations with the United States.

Cheong Seong-Chang, an analyst at South Korea's Sejong Institute, said Kim Yo Jong would not have been seen at the Supreme People's Assembly meeting in April had she been disciplined over the summit failure. Cheong said it's more likely she was reappearing after a period of rest. **AP**

AUSTRALIA

Cardinal set to appeal child sex convictions

Rod McGuirk, Melbourne

THE most senior Catholic found guilty of child sex abuse will ask an Australian appeals court today to reverse convictions on charges of molesting two choirboys in a cathedral more than 20 years ago as hundreds of worshippers streamed from Masses.

Australian Cardinal George Pell, 77, has applied to attend the Victoria state Court of Appeal in person for the hearing that is set to be heard by three judges today and tomorrow.

But he is not required to come to court and could remain in the Melbourne prison where he has been held in custody since he was sentenced in March to six years in prison. He is held in special protective custody because pedophiles are regarded as being



at higher risk of harm from other prisoners.

Court orders had prevented publication for months of the details of that trial and an earlier trial on similar charges that had ended in September with a deadlocked jury.

Pell was initially spared prison when he was convicted so that he could

have both knees surgically replaced at a Sydney hospital.

Prof. Jeremy Gans, who heads Melbourne Law School and is an expert on Victoria criminal law, said Pell had a strong chance of winning the appeal on the ground that the verdicts were "unreasonable." Pell's lawyers will argue that

the jury could not have been satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that Pell was guilty based on the word of the surviving victim against "unchallenged exculpatory evidence" of more than 20 prosecution witnesses.

One of Pell's victims died of a heroin overdose in 2014 at the age of 31, apparently without making any accusation of abuse. State law prevents victims of sexual assault from being publicly identified.

If the appeal judges rule that the verdict is unsafe on the evidence, Pell would be acquitted and would not have to be retried. But Gans suspects the case could end up in the High Court, Australia's final appeals court.

"I think he's likely to win on the unsafe verdict ground," Gans said yesterday. "I'm sure whoever loses in the Court of Appeal

is going to try to appeal in the High Court. Once it gets to the High Court, things get really unpredictable. They're the least predictable court in Australia."

Pell's lawyers have also said they will argue that the trial judge erred in not allowing them to use a video graphic in their closing address. They said the graphic would demonstrate that the crimes that were alleged would have been impossible.

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

A victory on either of those grounds could result in Pell being retried. But he would likely be freed on bail until his third trial. The Court of Appeal hears more challenges to

the severity of sentences than applications like Pell's to have convictions overturned.

The Sentencing Advisory Council, a state government-funded advisory body, found last year that of the 230 appeals heard against Victoria court decisions in the 2013-14 fiscal year, only 49 were lodged by defendants solely against verdicts. The research did not show how many of those appeals against convictions succeeded.

In appeals against the severity of sentences, 29% of defendants succeeded, while 70% of prosecution appeals convinced the Court of Appeal to deliver tougher sentences.

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

EID AL-FITR

Faithful Muslims around the world begin celebrating end of Ramadan

Zeina Karam, Beirut

MUSLIMS across the Middle East and beyond began marking the Islamic holiday of Eid al-Fitr, one of the most celebrated holidays for the world's 1.5 billion Muslims and traditionally a time for family and festivities.

The holiday marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan, when devout Muslims have been fasting from sunrise to sunset.

But the start of the holiday varies from country to country — with splits even within the same country — because the start of Eid is traditionally based on sightings of the new moon.

As with everything else in the Middle East, politics often plays a part.

Ordinarily a festive occasion, this year's Eid comes amid war and turmoil in more than one area. In Afghanistan, the Taliban insurgent group has said it will not mark Eid with a cease fire, as they did last year. Yemen has been mired in war and famine for



years, while in Sudan, the ruling military just conducted a deadly crackdown on Monday against pro-democracy protesters, killing at least 35.

Sudanese protesters have camped for months outside the military's headquarters as the two sides negotiated over who would run the country after longtime strongman Omar al-Bashir's ouster in April. On Monday, the military had had enough and moved to crush the protest movement, overrunning the main sit-in site in the capital, unleashing furious

volleys of gunfire, beating protesters with sticks and burning down tents.

At night, the state-run SUNA news agency announced that the country will celebrate the first day of Eid today, but the Sudanese Professionals' Association, which has spearheaded the protests, declared yesterday was the first day of Eid according to astronomers in the Khartoum University — apparently in defiance to the military council.

The SPA urged people across the country to hold Eid prayers, "pray

for the martyrs" and take to the streets to protest.

Mohammed Yousef al-Mustafa, a spokesman for the SPA, said the military authorities has announced yesterday as a fasting day in efforts to keep people in their homes after Monday's "massacre."

In Yemen, the internationally recognized government said yesterday is the first day of Eid, while the Shiite Houthi rebels who control much of the country including the capital, Sanaa, announced that Eid starts today.

It is the first time in Yemen's modern history that its people were split over celebrating Eid.

Muslim Sunni powerhouse Saudi Arabia, as well as Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, started celebrating on yesterday, whereas Egypt, Syria, Jordan, the Palestinian territories and others said the Shawwal crescent moon was not visible across the country and won't start till today.

In Lebanon and Iraq, Sunnis began celebrating yesterday whereas Shiites will celebrate today.

Pakistan, which is mostly Sunni, traditionally celebrates a day after most of the Muslim world. Pakistan is also split within the country along geographical lines, with residents of Khyber Pukhtunkhwa province, located on the border with Afghanistan and dominated by ethnic Pashtuns, celebrating Eid yesterday. The new moon was apparently spotted in North Waziristan, while the rest of Pakistan will celebrate today.

In Afghanistan, Shiites were told by clerics that the moon was not seen so Ramadan would not begin for them today. Sunnis however were celebrating yesterday. The Taliban, which are Sunni hardliners, have said there will be no end to fighting while U.S. and NATO troops are still in Afghanistan.

The holiday traditionally lasts one to three days and is eagerly anticipated after the month of fasting. During Ramadan, the faithful refrain from eating, drinking, smoking or sexual activity from dawn to dusk. AP

AD

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Trump turns from pomp to business in UK visit

Jonathan Lemire & Kevin Freking, London

MOVING from pageantry to policy during his state visit to Britain, President Donald Trump yesterday urged embattled Prime Minister Theresa May to "stick around" to complete a U.S.-U.K. trade deal, adding to this recent chapter of uncertainty in the allies' storied relationship.

The president, whose praise for May follows his touting of her possible successors, met with the prime minister and corporate executives from the United States and United Kingdom as part of a day of negotiations on Trump's second day on British soil. The leaders' top priority is a possible bilateral trade deal to be negotiated once - or if - the U.K. leaves the European Union.

May has been dogged by her failure to secure Brexit. She plans to resign Friday, days after Trump departs England, as

head of the Conservative Party but remain as prime minister until her successor is chosen. Trump has been sharply critical of May in the past but only had warm words for her as he urged her to stay to "get this deal done."

"I think we'll have a very, very substantial trade deal," said Trump, extolling its virtues for both nations. "I think that this is something we both want to do [...] we're going to get it done."

After Trump suggested May stay on, most in the room chuckled. The two leaders later warmly chatted during a tour of 10 Downing St., the prime minister's office, as May pointed out a copy of the American Declaration of Independence. They also planned a joint news conference.

Traditionally, U.S. presidents avoid interjecting themselves in the domestic politics of other nations. But Trump is far from traditional.

Trump told the Sunday Times

in an interview before arriving that Britain should "walk away" from talks and refuse to pay a 39 billion-pound (USD49 billion) divorce bill if it doesn't get better terms from the EU.

That move, known as a "hard Brexit," could have a devastating impact on the U.K. economy, according to many experts, and stands in contrast to a previous White House position that the departure should be as painless as possible. Others in the U.K. are pressing for a second referendum that could keep the EU intact.

The president has also opined that Brexit party leader Nigel Farage, an outspoken advocate of leaving the EU without a deal, should be given a role in the negotiations. Farage, a divisive figure in Britain, has long been a Trump supporter. And while Trump has avoided criticizing May on this visit, unlike a year ago when he blistered her in a newspaper interview just before landing in London, the president has touted her rival,



Conservative Party leadership candidate Boris Johnson, as an "excellent" leader for the U.K.

The economic meeting at St. James's Palace brought together 10 leading companies - five from the UK and five from the United States. CEOs and senior representatives from BAE Systems, GlaxoSmithKline, National Grid, Barclays, Reckitt Benckiser, JP Morgan, Lockheed Martin, Goldman Sachs International, Bechtel and Splunk were listed as attending.

While the business leaders gathered, protesters began to assemble across London, some of whom had the now-infamous Trump baby balloon bobbing in the air near Parliament Square. Leaders of Britain's main opposition party are due to join demonstrators at a rally in Trafalgar Square, just up the street from May's Downing Street office. Also in Trafalgar Square: a 16-foot robotic likeness of Trump seated on a golden toilet. **AP**

AD



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what's ON



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ADMISSION: MOP100, MOP140, MOP180

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2870 0699

TICKETING SERVICE: (853) 2855 5555

STROLLING AND FEELING: WATERCOLOUR
PAINTINGS OF LAI IENGTIME: 10am-7pm (No admittance after 6:30pm;
closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: June 16, 2019

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

Offbeat

DAVID LYNCH, WES STUDI AMONG
HONORARY OSCAR RECIPIENTS

David Lynch

The first Oscar winners of the season are already here. Groundbreaking filmmaker David Lynch, Cherokee-American actor Wes Studi director Lina Wertmüller and actress Geena Davis will all be receiving honorary Oscar statuettes at the Governors Awards in October, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences said this week.

Davis will receive the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award for her work advocating for gender equality in media as the founder of a non-profit organization, the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media, and the female-focused Bentonville Film Festival. The 63-year-old actually has won an Oscar before, for her supporting performance in "The Accidental Tourist," and was also nominated for "Thelma & Louise."

The three other honorary Oscars are intended to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the industry, but have not yet taken home Oscar gold.

Lynch, 73, is a four-time Oscar nominee for "The Elephant Man," in which he was nominated for what is now known as adapted screenplay and best director. His other nominations are for best director for "Blue Velvet" and "Mulholland Dr."

Studi, 71, has never received an Oscar nomination, but has been part of a number of Oscar-nominated and winning films like "Dances with Wolves," "The Last of the Mohicans," "The New World," and "Geronimo: An American Legend."

At 90, Wertmüller is perhaps unfairly the least famous of the recipients, but broke enormous ground for women in the industry when she became the first woman to get a best director nomination for the film "Seven Beauties" in 1976. Wertmüller lost out to John G. Avildsen, who won for "Rocky." Only four other women have followed in getting that best director nomination: Jane Campion, Sofia Coppola, Kathryn Bigelow and Greta Gerwig, and Bigelow is the only woman who has won.

The film academy's board of governors voted on this year's recipients Saturday, months earlier than usual to accommodate the shortened awards calendar this year.

"These Governors Awards given by the Academy each year recognize individuals who have devoted themselves to a lifetime of artistic accomplishment and brought outstanding contributions to our industry, and beyond," said film academy President John Bailey in a statement.

The 11th annual ceremony will be held on Oct. 27, a month earlier than usual, at the Ray Dolby Ballroom in Hollywood just steps away from where the Oscars will take place on Feb. 9 2020.

TV canal macau



13:00 TDM News (Repetição)

13:30 Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)

15:00 Agua de Mar

15:45 Zig Zag

16:20 Santos de Portugal

16:50 Quem Quer Ser Milionário

17:45 Palcos Agora

18:15 Amor Maior (Repetição)

19:00 Linha da Frente

19:35 Os Nossos Dias Sr.2

20:30 Telejornal

21:15 Montra do Lilau

21:50 LiteraturAqui

22:15 Amor Maior

23:15 TDM News

23:50 5 Para a Meia-Noite

01:30 Telejornal (Repetição)

02:15 RTPi Directo

cinema



CINETEATRO

03 - 05 Jun



GODZILLA II: KING OF THE MONSTERS

ROOM 1

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

Director: Michael Dougherty

Starring: Kyle Chandler, Vera Farmiga, Millie Bobby Brown

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 131min



DOG'S JOURNEY

ROOM 2

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

Director: Gail Mancuso

Starring: Josh Gad, Dennis Quaid, Kathryn Prescott

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 109min



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

1989 ELECTION BOOST
FOR SOLIDARITY

Solidarity, Poland's anti-communist party, looks set to claim a remarkable success in the country's elections, with initial results suggesting it has done much better than predicted.

The results, if confirmed, will be even more notable because this is the first election in which the Solidarity movement has been permitted by the Soviet-controlled government to campaign against the Communist Party.

But however large its success, the communists will remain in control, as the opposition has been allowed to contest only one third of the seats.

The best Solidarity can hope for is a majority in the senate.

Incomplete results suggest the government will be disappointed by its performance.

Despite a low turnout, Solidarity candidates appear to have exceeded their expectations.

A Solidarity spokesman said: "The electorate simply showed that we need reforms, the party should reform itself too and the whole result of the election is a big boost to go on."

Polling stations have been closed for more than 12 hours, but a final announcement will have to wait until all 2000 electoral districts have completed their counts and delivered their results.

The likelihood of Poland experiencing institutionalised opposition for the first time under communism has excited many Poles, who regard the contest as a test for freedom.

One man said: "It's one step in our escape from serfdom and communism."

A woman described Solidarity's expected victory as "enormous".

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The first-round result saw Solidarity, led by shipyard worker Lech Walesa, win between 70 and 80 per cent of the vote in most of the country. Solidarity began as a trade union organisation in 1980, but soon evolved into an effective political movement.

Following its shock landslide win over the ruling communists in 1989, the Solidarity movement splintered into various groups.

But the effects of the election on Poland were lasting, and soon demands for reform and democratisation became overwhelming.

Following the dissolution of the communist party, Walesa was elected Poland's first non-communist President in 1990.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You're almost compelled to move forward, even though success seems unlikely.

Taurus April 20-May 20 If ever there was a day to take things personally, this is it. There's plenty to hurt your feelings and ruffle your feathers over.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You're not feeling the ripple effect so much as the hint of dangerous undercurrents. You want to keep your finger on this.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 These days, you can't afford to put anything off for later. You need to deal with things as they come up.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You're the financial butcher today. It's hard to muster much gusto for what you have to do.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You don't have anything left over to put on any finishing touches. In fact, you need to remove some, not add them.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 If being at home only reminds you of better times, then it's not a good place to be in.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Some are hunkering down, staying safe until conditions improve, but that's not how you choose to wait for the storm to pass.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Being focused on money is certainly not unusual. If anything, it has only intensified with time.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 If you've been working hard and results have been good, the money should follow. Right? Well, maybe.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Wallowing in your woes becomes more tempting by the day. Don't give in to it.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You need to find some direction. Your efforts are like seeds blowing in the wind.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

Easy Sudoku grid with numbers 7, 9, 3, 6, 8, 7, 6, 9, 8, 5, 3, 5, 7, 7, 6, 9, 3, 4, 1, 2, 6, 5, 2, 2, 5, 9, 1.

Easy+

Easy+ Sudoku grid with numbers 9, 5, 1, 4, 8, 5, 2, 7, 7, 8, 2, 7, 5, 9, 6, 3, 4, 8, 9, 1, 6, 7, 1, 3, 6, 4, 2, 8, 7.

Medium

Medium Sudoku grid with numbers 7, 5, 3, 2, 1, 9, 6, 4, 9, 7, 5, 3, 9, 8, 7, 9, 2, 8, 6, 4, 2, 1, 9, 5, 4, 3, 3, 1, 8, 5.

Hard

Hard Sudoku grid with numbers 7, 1, 8, 7, 1, 3, 7, 1, 1, 2, 4, 8, 6, 5, 8, 7, 9, 2, 6, 3.

WEATHER

CHINA

Weather table for China with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Rows include Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, Urumqi, Xi'an, Lhasa, Chengdu, Chongqing, Kunming, Nanjing, Shanghai, Wuhan, Hangzhou, Taipei, Guangzhou, Hong Kong.

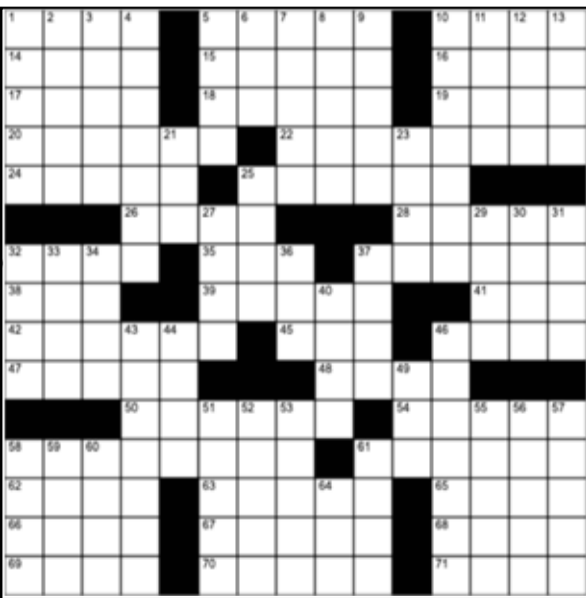
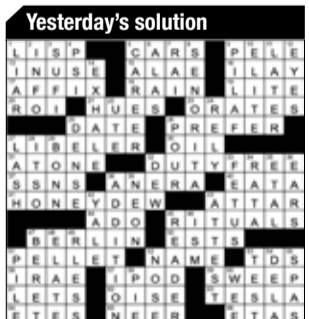
WORLD

Weather table for World with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Rows include Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1-Not fem.; 5- Not hollow; 10- Jet-assisted takeoff, acronymically; 14-Choir member; 15- Lying flat; 16- "The Good Earth" heroine; 17- Carrier to Ben-Gurion; 18- Blood line; 19- Vogue rival; 20- Calfskin parchment; 22- Vigorous exercises; 24- Conger catcher; 25- Wind off a spool; 26- Wraps up; 28- Tiny amounts; 32- Playwright O'Casey; 35- Agent, briefly; 37- Continuously; 38- Funnyman Philips; 39- Specific geographical places; 41- Asian occasion; 42- Wall opening; 45- L.A. hours; 46- Make the grade; 47- Crockpot concoctions; 48- Hobby shop inventory; 50- Keys; 54- Hay bundles; 58- Hooded cloak worn by Arabs; 61- Slanted; 62- Cornerstone abbr.; 63- Sailing the waves; 65- Woody plant; 66- It holds the line; 67- I cannot ___ lie; 68- ... saw Elba; 69- Gds.; 70- Makes well; 71- Take it easy;

DOWN: 1- "Circle of Friends" author Binchy; 2- Tree-lined walk; 3- Stable compartment; 4- An Irish girl; 5- Junk e-mail; 6- Spanish gold; 7- Navigation acronym; 8- Lay to rest; 9- The Wreck of the Mary ___; 10- John Doe; 11- ___ want for Christmas...; 12- Baby powder; 13- Singles; 21- Coffee container; 23- Trompe l'___; 25- Manipulative one; 27- Sketch; 29- Toodle-oo; 30- Pro votes; 31- Grounded fleet; 32- Does some mending; 33- Give off; 34- Bang-up; 36- Get-up-and-go; 37- Italian wine town; 40- Inquires; 43- Diminish; 44- ___ buco (veal dish); 46- Book of hymns; 49- Atlanta-based cable channel; 51- Reluctant; 52- Lauder of cosmetics; 53- Physicist Nikola; 55- Mr. Moto portrayer; 56- Tools for duels; 57- Now you ___; 58- Narrow ledge; 59- Took advantage of; 60- AAA recommendations; 61- Small batteries; 64- Building extension;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
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IACM 28 387 333
Tourism 28 333 000
Airport 59 888 88



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FOR SALE [Taipa] Nova City 3 beds 2 baths 1,494 ft² \$13,980,000 (ref: 17050001RT)

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FOOTBALL | NATIONS LEAGUE

Ronaldo's Portugal looks for another title



Tales Azzoni, Porto

Thursday, 2:45am
Portugal v Switzerland
H 1.7, D 3.92, A 6

THE inaugural UEFA's Nations League reaches its conclusion this week with the competition's Final Four in Portugal, when Cristiano Ronaldo will try to lead the hosts to another European title.

For England, it's a chance to lift an international trophy for the first time since the 1966 World Cup, while a revamped Netherlands squad and Switzerland will also be fighting for the title.

Portugal meets Switzerland in the first semifinal today [Thursday, 2:45am] in Porto, while England takes on the Dutch on Thursday in the nearby city of Guimaraes in northwestern Portugal. The winners play the final on

AD



Working Lunch

Thursday 6 June
with

Guest Speaker: Andrew Leung

International and Independent China Strategist

Andrew Leung International Consultants & Investments Limited

How China Connects the World: Creation of Sino-centric or more inclusive World Order?

Since joining the World Trade Organization, China has become the central hub of the world's supply and value chain. Its outbound investments have overtaken inward foreign direct investments. Its infrastructural building is ubiquitous, including Africa and Latin America. Its ambitious Belt and Road Initiative covers the four continents, including an "Arctic Silk Road". It partners with Hollywood to make films with international appeal. Chinese studies and Chinese culture are attracting increasing interests. Is this a Chinese plot to conquer the world?

What are the problems and fears of China's global ascendance?

Is China caught in a "Thucydides Trap" with the United States?

Is there any substance in Beijing's avowed aim of building a global "Community of Common Destiny"?

Amber Room, Level 5

St Regis Cotai

12:30 Drinks

13:00 Lunch

13:20 Presentation

14:00 Close

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Sunday in Porto, with the losers meeting in the third-place match in Guimaraes.

Ronaldo, who led Portugal to its first major title at the 2016 European Championship, took some time off from the national team after its elimination in the round of 16 of the World Cup last summer, but he is back at full strength for the inaugural Nations League at home. He didn't play in any of the team's matches in the competition last year, though he was back for the European qualifiers earlier this year.

UEFA launched the Nations League to try to give national teams more meaningful games and reduce the number of friendlies. The creation of yet another UEFA competition attracted a lot of criticism at first but eventually it produced some exciting games.

With a format in which only the group winners advanced, and which included relegation between leagues, there were several matches with high stakes involved, especially in the final rounds. England

needed a late winner by Harry Kane against Croatia to eliminate Spain and seal the team's spot in the Final Four.

"Some people were skeptical against the Nations League, especially the clubs. They didn't think this could be an interesting competition," Switzerland coach Vladimir Petkovic said, through a translator. "But it's the contrary. Every single team in every single league wanted to win. We are happy to be here, and I think in the future we will see that this competition might become even more interesting."

The tournament also gave smaller nations a better chance of qualifying for the 2020 European Championship, as all group winners in the four leagues were guaranteed a place in a qualifying playoff.

For a team like England, though, the competition is mainly another opportunity to win an official title, something it hasn't done in more than five decades since that World Cup at home.

The Englishmen have been on a roll recently,

having made it to the semifinals of the World Cup last year. They followed that up with convincing wins over Spain and Croatia in the Nations League, and began the year with a 5-0 rout of the Czech Republic and a 5-1 victory over Montenegro in European qualifying.

Switzerland is yet to win an international trophy, and the Netherlands hasn't won a title since the 1988 European Championship when current coach Ronald Koeman still played for the national team.

"You are playing for a trophy," Dutch forward Memphis Depay told UEFA's website. "That's very important for us. We need to try to get used to winning trophies if we want to be a successful team, because that's what successful teams do. And when you're this close, two games away from the prize, then that's a great goal."

The Nations League winner will be taking home a prize of 10.5 million euros (USD11.7 million), with 9 million euros (\$10 million) going to the runner-up. **AP**

UEFA plots 2022 World Cup qualifying path via Nations League

EUROPEAN teams will get a qualifying path to the 2022 World Cup via the Nations League competition.

UEFA is preparing a qualifying format that should see teams earn places in the playoffs by winning a Nations League group in 2020.

It would fulfil UEFA's pledge when creating the competition five years ago to make it feed into major tournaments.

"It will be part of the plan that the Nations League will fit in," UEFA's competitions expert Giorgio Marchetti told The Associated Press yesterday.

This week, the first Nations League champion will be crowned at a final four mini-tournament in Portugal. The host nation is joined by England, the Netherlands and Switzerland, which all won top-tier groups last year.

Group winners in all four Nations League tiers are also assured of a place in the 2020 European Championship qualifying playoffs next March, if they don't advance directly. The playoffs will decide the last four entries in a 24-team lineup at Euro 2020.

The 55 European national teams will compete for 13 places in the 32-team World Cup lineup in Qatar. Ten places will be earned by winners of the traditional qualifying groups played in 2021.

That leaves three World Cup entries to be allocated in playoffs.

"Obviously we will have to include in the playoffs all the runner-up in the 10 groups," Marchetti said.

One option is adding two teams based on their Nations League results to create a 12-team playoffs with two knockout rounds, whe-

re three winners advance to the 2022 World Cup.

"I think it's good to give it [Nations League] that status," said Gijs de Jong, secretary of the Netherlands soccer federation. The Dutch failed to qualify for the 2018 World Cup and Euro 2016, but returned to form in the Nations League.

Marchetti said UEFA expects to finalize its World Cup qualifying format in September. The national team competitions panel is scheduled to meet before a UEFA executive committee session on Sept. 24 in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

"The Nations League is already very important by itself," said Marchetti, who is one of UEFA's deputy general secretaries. "There are objectives and incentives for all. And teams can be involved to the end." **AP**

AD



CASA DE PORTUGAL
EM MACAU 澳門葡人之家協會

Escola de Artes e Ofícios
School of Arts and Crafts

Montagem de Acessórios
Accessories Assemblage

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cód. 1810300738-0
monitora/monitor:
Cristina Vinhas

Sábado/Saturdays
15h00 - 18h00

total: 09 horas/hours	início/starts: 15/06/2019	fim/finishes: 29/06/2019	propina/fee: MOP 360 *
-----------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------	------------------------

lingua/language: Português e Inglês/Portuguese and English ** patrocínio/sponsor: **Fundação Macau**


local/venue:
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número máximo de participantes/maximum number of participants:
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opinion

Animal Farm

Albano Martins



2019: MACAO INFLATION WILL BE LOWER!

The rate of inflation gives us a rough idea of the loss in our purchasing power. It is risky to trust these indicators too much as translating averages do not really reflect the state of our purchasing power.

My first article on inflation written in the 1990s was called "A basket that smells old."

At the time, I pulled apart the entire process of calculating inflation and explained how a sample of expenditures was used, collected well over ten years ago, full of products that no longer existed or did not already translate the true weight of family consumer spending.

That was how it was done then. And everything has been changed! The article stirred something up!

During the golden age of the real estate bubble, I repeatedly criticized an inflation indicator that showed the values of rents going down as housing prices increase.

Of course, there is always a "lag" in this relationship, but the correlation is always positive. That is, when the value of houses increases in general, the value of rents accompanies this movement, because rent is no more than the interest on the capital (the value of the house) applied in the real estate market, at a rate of remuneration that compensates for the loss of liquidity. That is, this rate of interest must be much higher than the interest rate that applies to a term deposit!

Now, if the capital value (the value of the house) goes up, even if the interest rate is maintained, the rent must rise as well.

In Macao, only a short time ago this phenomenon began to change in inflation statistics.

Despite increases in the value of homes, rents fell, pulling down inflation because these costs comprised about 20 percent of family expenses! And that decline continued until April 2018, to which point real estate prices had been reaching colossal values for many years!

The inflation indicator completely distorted the erosion of purchasing power in Macao, due to the weight of the rents in the shopping basket of homeless people!

I was saying in an article earlier this month that "in January, February and March inflation was at 3.11, 3.09 and 3.10 percentage points! Today (...), I still believe that everything leads one to believe that the economy will continue to slow and this includes inflation as well. Inflation figures for April will only be officially known on May 21 or 22, but I predict it will be around 3.08 or a maximum of 3.09 percentage points on that downward path!"

What were the figures from DSEC published few days ago? 3.09 percentage points!

And what will they be in May?

At the end of January I said: "(...) last year Macao's official inflation was around 3.01 percent and by 2019 it should be 2.93 percentage points ... for me, the CPI will grow less, but who doesn't know may think that this will happen in the first months of the year. No, in those first months we should still see inflation grow ... and only after May will we begin to see inflation begin to fall."

And then for May, what will be the inflation measured by the average variation over the last twelve months? It will be 3.07 percent!

Look at that fall I was referring to. Year-on-year changes in May will be 2.67 or at most 2.76 percentage points.

Conclusion, I can assure you, inflation at the end of the year will be much lower than the 3.01 percentage points of last year!

THE BUZZ PAULO TAIPA APPOINTED TO PORTUGAL'S NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION

Former Macau Legislative Assembly adviser Paulo Taipa was appointed to the National Electoral Commission (CNE) in Portugal by the Portuguese government, the Times has learned.

Taipa was sworn in last week to the ten-member-strong commission by the president of the Portuguese parliament, Ferro Rodrigues, representing the homeland security ministry where he has served as political and legal adviser since April 2.

The CNE is an independent body of the Electoral Administration comprising a judge appointed

by the Superior Council of Magistrates, six elected MPs, and three government-appointed officials.

The CNE supervises the procedures of the registration of voters and of the national and local elections during its tenure, namely the next legislative election which will be held later this year on October 6.

Paulo Taipa worked in Macau where he served for 17 years as legal adviser at the AL until December 31, following his and colleague Paulo Cardinal's controversial dismissal by Ho Iat Seng.

CHAMBOIS

South of D-Day beaches, another slaughter is remembered

John Leicester, Chambois

In the spring that followed the terrible D-Day battle, the grass grew especially thick and green, fertilized by thousands of corpses that had been plowed into mass graves.

It's hard now — 75 years later, overlooking wheat fields spotted with blood-red poppies and with skylarks singing overhead — to imagine that it was here in 1944, on a wide, open plain that soldiers nicknamed "the Corridor of Death," that Adolf Hitler's armies in Normandy were all but destroyed, clearing the path for the liberation of Paris.

With the eyes of the world again turning to Normandy this week for the 75th anniversary of the June 6, 1944, landings that launched the Allied campaign to liberate Europe, a commemoration yesterday in the small village of Chambois well south of the beaches served as a reminder that D-Day marked only a beginning.

It took many more weeks of vicious fighting to bring the Battle of Normandy to a decisive and bloody conclusion, in mid-August 1944 around the ruins of Chambois and surrounding villages where tens of thousands of German soldiers became trapped in a noose of Allied armor and fire.

Gerard and Paulette Gondouin, teenagers then, but 90 and 88, respectively now, were forever scarred by witnessing the destruction unleashed by Canadian, British, American, Polish and French forces that squeezed and bombarded the encircled Germans, cutting off their routes of escape. Allied planes and artillery rained down death.

Every August, like a ghost, the slaughter comes back to haunt them.

"In the month of August, both of us, we don't sleep, even at night. We talk, 'Do you remember this. Do you remember that?'" Gerard Gondouin said.

"And it's been like that for 75 years," Paulette Gondouin interjected.



Tens of thousands of German soldiers were killed, injured and captured. Roads became clogged with smashed tanks, other destroyed military hardware and bodies. German losses were so massive that Hitler's forces in France never recovered. And even in their agony, some German troops sought to leave nothing of use for their enemies.

It was here in 1944, on a wide plain that soldiers nicknamed 'the Corridor of Death,' that Hitler's armies in Normandy were destroyed

"They destroyed everything they could: their tanks, their lorries, everything. They killed their horses," Gerard Gondouin recalled.

After the battle, villagers buried rotting corpses in mass graves — men and farm animals all interred together.

The stench of decay "stuck to us for months," Paulette Gondouin recalled. "We were afraid of epidemics. It was a very, very, very hot August."

The following spring, "in the fields, the grass was thick

and a very deep green," she added.

German bodies were later dug up from around the village in the 1960s and reburied with others in a cemetery for thousands of dead.

For the Allies, trapping, killing and capturing so many Germans in one place was cause for celebration, a milestone in the Battle of Normandy that had been harder and longer than D-Day planners had anticipated.

William Tymchuk, 98, fought with Canadian forces around Chambois and still speaks about the battle with pride. Back in the village for the ceremony and the unveiling of a monument, Tymchuk stood to attention with other World War II veterans, their chests full of medals, as a military band played.

Making a pincer movement with his hands, Tymchuk demonstrated how Allied forces closed in on all sides on the Germans.

"We closed the gap from this side, with the Poles, and the Americans came from the other side," he said. "It was a very decisive battle."

Before the final escape routes were squeezed shut, thousands of German troops did manage to throw off the noose. Paulette Gondouin recalled how they slipped away under cover of night. Watching from a roadside bank, fighting not to slip down and be squashed, she saw tanks, halftracks, horses and carts and thousands of troops flee, "everything you need to make an army."

"Every August, I find myself back on that bank," she said. "It's a recurrent nightmare. It was atrocious." AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	20-40 Good
High Density Residential Area	20-40 Good
Ambient	20-40 Good

WORLD BRIEFS



SUDAN Thousands of Sudanese pro-democracy protesters remained defiant of the country's military rulers yesterday, a day after security forces violently cleared away their main sit-in site in the capital. Protest organizers say 35 people died in the crackdown.



MIDDLE EAST Muslims across the Middle East and beyond began marking the Islamic holiday of Eid al-Fitr, one of the most celebrated holidays for the world's 1.5 billion Muslims and traditionally a time for family and festivities.

HUNGARY Two bodies found in the Danube River have been confirmed as South Korean victims of last week's sightseeing boat accident in Budapest.



UK Thousands of protesters greeted President Donald Trump's U.K. visit with anger and British irony yesterday, crowding London's government district while the U.S. leader met Prime Minister Theresa May nearby.



SWEDEN WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange should not be extradited to Sweden for a revived rape investigation, but should still be questioned in the case while he is imprisoned in Britain, a Swedish court ruled.