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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA yesterday launched a rocket from a mobile platform at sea for the first time, sending five commercial satellites and two others containing experimental technology into space.
More on p11

CHINA President Xi Jinping is talking up the Chinese economy's resilience as he heads to Moscow for a state visit affirming increasingly close ties between the former Cold War rivals.
More on p11



KOREA South Korea said yesterday the North has so far ignored its calls for joint efforts to stem the spread of highly contagious African swine fever following an outbreak near North Korea's border with China.

INDIA officials say they will airdrop mountaineers at a site on a Himalayan mountain where pilots spotted five bodies while searching for a missing team of foreign climbers.



AUSTRALIA Lawyers for the most senior Roman Catholic found guilty of child sex abuse argued in his appeal yesterday that he could not have molested two choirboys in an Australian cathedral undetected moments after Sunday Masses while he was dressed in an archbishop's robes.

More on backpage

China accused of 'fake news' in GBA coverage

P8 TAIWAN



LABOR LAW

Maternity leave extended to 70 days

P2 EXCO

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Proposal would extend maternity leave, resolve overlapping holidays

Julie Zhu

THE Executive Council has completed its discussion on the proposed amendments for the labor relations law and minimum wage law, deciding to establish paternity leave, holiday compensation for overlapping holidays, a minimum wage increase and more days of paid maternity leave, among other reforms.

Fathers can take five days of paid paternity leave before the birth of their child or within 30 days of their child being born. To be eligible, fathers must have been in an employment relationship with their employer for more than one year.

It has been suggested that maternity leave should increase from the current 56 days to 70 days. The regulation has a transitional period. Mothers who give birth to a child within three years of the law coming into effect and have been in an employment relationship with their employer for more than one year will be entitled to 56 days of paid maternity leave provided by their employer. The SAR government will compensate mothers for an additional 14 days maximum, providing mothers with 70 days of paid maternity



leave all together.

The government compensation will only be afforded to local residents. Employers will be responsible for all 70 days of maternity leave of non-local workers.

The amendment proposes that employers should compensate employees with a day of leave when a public holiday overlaps with a mandatory holiday. When a weekend and a public holiday overlap the day will be regarded

as just a mandatory holiday, in which case employees should be compensated with a day off within 30 days.

Furthermore, approximately 30,000 workers will benefit from the minimum wage increase. There are 55,400 people in Macau, including non-locals, who are earning less than the newly proposed minimum wage. Of them, about 25,400 are domestic helpers.

It has been proposed that com-

pensation for working on a mandatory holiday should be made within three months, instead of 30 days as it is currently.

Compensation for work on weekends or public holidays can also be decided based on written agreements between employers and employees. This compensation can either be financial or consist of compensation days.

Once the amendment is passed, it will come into effect as soon as it is published in the government official gazette.

It has been proposed that the minimum wage be increased to MOP32 per hour, or MOP6,656 per month, MOP1,536 per week, and MOP256 per day.

The hourly salary for overtime work is not allowed to be less than the minimum wage, according to the proposal.

Domestic helpers and workers with disabilities are, once again, noticeably excluded from the minimum wage policy. "The government, when reviewing domestic helpers' employment applications, will list requirements for the approval in view of the market situation, so that domestic helpers are [protected] with a salary criterion as well," said Ng Wai Han, deputy director of the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL).

According to Ng, the government, when reviewing a domestic helper's employment application, requires a minimum salary of MOP3,000 for employers. She also said that the median wage of Macau's domestic helpers is MOP4,100.

"Domestic helpers' employment is not like in other [industries] because it does not involve [business] operation," Ng said. She further said that domestic helpers' employment is not a business operation which makes profits.

"Some workers with a disability might have already been paid with a salary higher than the minimum wage," Ng added.

Most of the workers benefiting from the increase in minimum wage will be those working in the manufacturing industry.

"[The] manufacturing industry will see the greatest impact because the increase is 2.8 percent, followed by the catering industry, in which the increase is 1.93 percent. Wholesale and retail industry will see a 0.82 percent increase, whereas the hotel industry will see 0.05 percent," said Wong Chi Hong, director of the DSAL.

The bills will be voted on at the Legislative Assembly in the near future.

WE CORRECT

We refer to the news story with the headline "South Shore Holdings demotes CEO, said to be scouting buyer", published on the website of the Macau Daily Times on May 6, 2019, and on the print issue of the same date, regarding the re-designation of the corporate position of Mr. Walt Power at South Shore Holdings Limited, the owning company of the luxury Hotel "The 13" at the Macau Cotai Strip.

Our newsroom has recently been contacted by Mr. Walt Power with the aim of clarifying possible inaccuracies and misrepresentation of events due to a subjective narrative on such news story. Our newsroom has reviewed the events portrayed therein and, based on our findings, we would call our readers' attention to the following clarification:

1). "Many shareholders hold Power personally responsible for the delays and challenges that have affected the opening of The13."

The facts supporting of such affirmation, as far as Macau Daily Times is aware, may only be attributed to the source and author of the original news, divulged at www.calvinayre.com. Upon contacting Mr. Walt Power, he mentioned not to have been held personally responsible by any of its shareholders for the performance of South Shore Holdings Limited, but rather having received gestures of gratitude for his services as CEO of the company.

2). The use of the terms "removed" and "demoted" in the headlines and first sentence of the news story, while referring to Mr. Walt Power's re-

designation of corporate duties at South Shore Holdings Limited, were not the terms used on the press note which the company issued to the public.

Upon our review of the words on the news story which referred to the change of corporate positions of Mr. Walt Power in South Shore Holdings Limited, we found no other expression publicly used by such company other than "re-designation" – namely, the press release of May 2, 2019 is clear on the employment of such term. Therefore, the terms used on the original news story "removed" and "demoted" are viewed by the Macau Daily Times as a subjective qualification. Furthermore, upon contacting Mr. Power in this regard, he mentioned that the re-designation of his corporate position had been dis-

cussed and mutually agreed with the company.

3). "His influence on future decision-making is likely to be non-existent".

As Mr. Walt Power remains a member of the board of directors of South Shore Holdings Limited, and no claim to the contrary is known to have been made by any other corporate directors or shareholders of the same company, we repute the above quoted affirmation as an opinion of the original author of the news story at Calvinayre.

Considering the foregoing, we hereby address our sincere apologies to our readers and, particularly, to Mr. Walt Power, whose professional reputation was undeservingly questioned. **Paulo Coutinho**

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF (DIRECTOR) Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
MANAGING EDITOR Daniel Beitler daniel@macaudailytimes.com
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Eric Sautedé, Leanda Lee, Severo Portela

NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Emilie Tran, Irene Sam, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Joseph Cheung, Julie Zhu, Juliet Risdon, Linda Kennedy, Lynzy Valles, Paulo Barbosa, Paulo Cordeiro de Sousa, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Viviana Segui
DESIGNERS Eva Bucho, Miguel Bandeira | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES Associated Press, Bloomberg, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua
SECRETARY Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

SEND NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION AND PRESS RELEASES TO: NEWSROOM@MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM WEBSITE: WWW.MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM.MO

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

OFFICE MANAGER Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com
ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR
Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

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ENVIRONMENT

Gov't bureau displeased, foresees tougher time ahead

Staff reporter

THE Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA) issued the "Macau Environmental Condition Report 2018" yesterday, on World Environment Day.

In the report, the DSPA admitted that it was not satisfied with the environmental conditions of the city. As both the level of consumption and emissions rose, the Bureau foresees the city's environment facing mounting challenges.

The annual report documents the state of, and changes to, various aspects of the environment in Macau, including the air and water quality, and the volume of solid waste produced.

It concluded that the amount of solid waste had increased in 2018, compared with the data from 2017. However, as the population of the city rose, the average solid waste disposal amount was similar to that in 2017.

The DSPA noted that the scope of recyclable materials was expanded, while more locations for recyclable collection were added. The rate of recycling in

BLOOMBERG



2018 is 22.1%, the same as in 2017.

It should be noted that the DSPA has pledged to lower waste disposal amount per capita.

The land area of green spaces

managed by the Municipal Affairs Bureau stood unchanged in 2018 from the previous year. Last year Macau saw the addition of a piece of reclaimed land connecting the peninsula with the new Bridge, and so the

green land area per capita decreased slightly.

The number of tree and plant species on sidewalk recorded no change in 2018, but the number of trees recorded a rise, attributed to replanting efforts

following the passage of deadly Typhoon Hato in 2017. The number of trees has still not returned to its pre-Hato level.

Macau has also become a noisier city. Out of the six noise measuring stations citywide, three, namely the Shek Pai Wan, Rua Correia da Silva, and the Ecological Zone stations, recorded louder noise on average. There were more loud noise reports in 2018 than in 2017.

In terms of air quality, over 92% of all days last year recorded "Good" or "Fair" air quality. The main pollutant in 2018 was ozone, with the density of sulfur dioxide and of carbon monoxide recording a drop.

Additionally, the average density of nitrogen dioxide was above standard at both roadsides and residential areas. The DSPA attributed the poor quality to emissions from vehicles and power plants.

With regards to the greenhouse gas level, the emission estimate for 2017 was 11.4% higher than that for 2016. It was attributed to the 60% increase in local power production.

In contrast, the density of PM10 and of PM2.5 were averagely lower than the standard level.

Water quality and nutrition level were positive in 2018. Water in the Inner Harbor area recorded a higher nutrient level.

Educational and promotional activities on environmental protection decreased in number last year, but the overall number of participants grew.

CRIME

Casinos remain hotbed for smoking violations



THE Grand Lisboa casino was identified by the Health Bureau (SSM) as one of the sites with the highest number of infractions for alleged smoking rule violations last month, the bureau noted in a statement.

Data from the bureau showed that casinos were the biggest source of the city's reported smoking rule violations during the first five months of the year.

Regarding casinos' compliance with the law, from January 1 to May 31, 724 inspections were carried out jointly by the SSM and the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau. The number of joint inspections increased when compared to the same period of last year.

The joint patrols were conducted on the gaming floors of integrated resorts and resulted in hundreds of instances of alleged smoking rule violations which have already been acted upon. All individuals who smoked in forbidden places were prosecuted, the Health Bureau said.

In May alone, the most popular places for smoking infractions included the Grand Lisboa casino, Seaview Garden Leisure Zone and China Plaza.

At these sites, 530 inspections were carried out and 124 notices were issued, with a prosecution rate of about 23.4%.

In addition, 2,510 complaints were registered, of which 2,498

cases related to illegal smokers and 12 cases referred to illegalities regarding tobacco product labels.

Regarding the origin of offenders, 696 Macau residents were fined (27.9%), 1,718 tourists were fined (68.8%) and 84 offenses were committed by non-resident workers (3.4%).

Meanwhile, regarding the evaluation and approval of the smoking rooms of casinos, the SSM received requests from 35 casinos to license 597 smoking rooms, of which 556 smoking rooms were authorized in 31 casinos up until May 31.

The SSM has called on the staff of areas where smoking infractions are ongoing to exercise their powers under Law No 5/2011 (Smoking Prevention and Control Scheme), ensuring that the provisions on smoking prohibition are implemented by establishments. **LV**

CRIME

Man unhappy with renovation work stabs neighbor

A local man has been arrested after stabbing his neighbor because he was unhappy with his neighbor's renovation project, the Judiciary Police (PJ) reported yesterday.

The suspect is a 45-year-old Macau local resident and the victim is in his 60s. Both men live on Rua da Bacia Sul in Fai Chi Kei.

The victim sustained injuries to his head, arms and other places on his body.

According to the PJ, in August of last year while the victim's house was being renovated, the suspect, who lives one floor below the victim,

complained about the renovation work multiple times, even damaging the door of the victim's house. The victim reported the case to the police at the time.

However, on the night of June 3, the suspect, who was likely under the influence of alcohol, went to the victim's house with a knife and caused the injuries.

This is not the first time the suspect has committed a crime. The police authority's records show that he had previously been sentenced to several months jail time for drug consumption. **JZ**

Aerial drone crashes into St. Paul's

A small drone with a camera attached was found to have crashed into a stone arch of the Ruins of St. Paul's yesterday afternoon. According to the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), which dispatched a staff member to assess the situation, it was confirmed that the historical site had suffered no damage. No one was injured in the incident. The operator of the drone, a tourist, has been detained by police as he had not applied for a permit for the activity. Earlier this year a ban on the use of such drones was enforced in the vicinity of cultural heritage sites such as the Ruins of St. Paul's. The IC said it has also notified the Civil Aviation Authority about the incident.

Non-resident deposits slip 2.7%

Non-resident deposits fell 2.7% month-to-month to MOP251 billion in April, according to statistics issued by the Monetary Authority of Macao, while resident deposits grew slightly, up 0.5% from the preceding month to MOP648.5 billion. Public sector deposits with the banking sector increased 1% to MOP242 billion. As a result of these changes, total deposits in the banking sector dropped 0.1% from a month earlier to MOP1,141.4 billion. The shares denominated in MOP, HKD, RMB and USD were 18.9%, 50.9%, 4.1% and 23.7% respectively.

Pereira Coutinho proposes praise for former AL legal adviser

Renato Marques

LAWMAKER José Pereira Coutinho has submitted a proposal to the president of the Legislative Assembly (AL), Ho Iat Seng, asking for the plenary to approve a vote of praise regarding former legal advisor Paulo Taipa.

The proposal comes after the news on May 30 that the former legal advisor, who was dismissed by the AL at the end of last year in a case that gathered much attention, had been appointed as the representative of the Ministry of Internal Administration (MAI) at the National Elections Committee in Portugal.

The proposal from Pereira Coutinho was submitted yesterday as a matter of urgency.

In the proposal, Pereira Coutinho notes the importance of the new position and how the legal advisor has served the Special Ad-

ministrative Region and namely the AL for close to two decades. He highlighted Taipa's contribution to a large number of important laws, rules and regulations approved and enforced during the legal advisor's 17-year tenure.

The MAI is the Portuguese government department responsible for public security, civil defense, electoral administration, road traffic safety, and immigration and refugee affairs.

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.

It 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

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Standing Committee reviews severity of LRT fines

Staff reporter

THE Third Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL) yesterday discussed a petition submitted by six entities in regards to the Employment Agency Operation Law, as well as the penalty structure for violations under the Light Rail Transport System (LRT) Law.

During the meeting, committee members discussed the types of administrative violations that should be covered in the law, as well as their penalties.

The president of the committee, Vong Hin Fai, met with the media after the meeting, which took place behind closed doors.

Vong said that the committee met with the government last week, to discuss the LRT law for the third time. The next meeting will stage discussions between groups of consultants from both sides.

The main focus of committee members during this meeting was on penalties for adminis-



trative violations; specifically, the severity of the penalties. According to Vong, Article 8 in the "second working text," which is different from the "initial text" available to the public, sets forth penalties for passenger administrative violations.

There are seven types, including forcibly opening doors or gates of stations or trains, littering distributing leaflets, asking for donations, and "throwing any objects at operational areas of trains."

The government had propo-

sed that all violations carry a MOP10,000 fine, but the committee suggested these violations be categorized into three types, with each type warranting a different fine. For example, littering would be considered a more serious offense than the distribu-

tion of leaflets.

Vong stressed that the committee had not made any proposal as to how much the respective fines should be.

According to the latest information from the government, the LRT Taipa section is expected to open by the end of the year.

Meanwhile, regarding the employment law, Vong stated that on May 29, six entities connected to foreign labor in Macau co-signed and submitted a petition to the AL, with concerns about the Employment Agency Operation Law.

The government proposed all violations on the LRT carry a MOP10,000 fine

The committee listened to a group of consultants for comment on the technicalities of the petition. The petition was then accepted by the committee, which will meet with the six entities. Vong, in response to a question from the media, said that the committee had not met with any stakeholders in the industry.

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Matt Fleming

COULD Macau become a destination for religious tourism? The city's hallowed past may prove an important cog in its future development.

It's Saturday evening. Complimentary shuttle buses thrust wide-eyed patrons into a skyline of neon grandeur – preambles to the glitz and glamor of a seemingly endless array of entertainment complexes. Taxis take visitors to brightly lit hotels, while Chinese, Portuguese and Western restaurants are packed to the rafters, and there's an overall sense of excitement in the air.

Yet, this is not Macau's sole tourism offering. In fact, culturally, it could be argued that it's not even its most important. Far from the bustling crowds of the entertainment resorts that promise the possibility of good fortune in the future, there's a myriad of glimpses into the SAR's rich religious past – and some spiritual travellers, from across the globe, visit Macau for exactly this reason. Be it for the Catholic relics, the Buddhist temples or the Jesuit statues – the city, with its plethora of sacred attractions, is a place of reverence for visitors to enjoy the aesthetic and historically fascinating fruits of religion's long presence. Yet if it isn't already, can Macau become a destination for religious tourism?

A PRECIOUS HERITAGE

The Historic Centre of Macau is a UNESCO World Heritage site – the old-world architecture, cobbled streets and dynamic meeting of cultures serve to juxtapose the rampant consumerism of its famous entertainment resorts. The cultural heart of this city is a confluence of religious influence dating back to the 16th century when Catholic missionaries came to study at St Paul's College, the first higher-education institution founded by Jesuits serving the Portuguese empire. They imposed revelation on a Buddhist, Taoist, and folk religion-denominated populace and thus began the SAR's multi-colored, multi-cultural religious history.

Nowadays, Macau is perhaps more globally known for its bright lights than its religious enlightenment. And more attention than ever is being focused on the future of its tourism industry from an economic, cultural and spiritual standpoint, with the city attracting more visitors than ever last December with over 3.5 million people arriving – the most in one month on record.

The first quarter of 2019 saw 10.36 million visitors, a 21.1 per cent increase year-on-year, with numbers estimated to top 38 million tourists by the end of this year, which would also be the biggest on record. With the completion of the Hong Kong–Zhuhai–Macau Bridge last year, the influx will only continue to increase – as many as 40 million by the year 2025, according to the SAR's tou-

rism authorities.

Macau has a wealth of religious history and is a city full of believers today. It is home to more than 660,000 people, with around 80% practicing Chinese folk religions or Buddhism as of 2016. The same survey found about 30,000 Roman Catholics – most hailing from the Philippines or Portugal – and more than 8,000 Protestants, with smaller groups of Baha'is and Muslims.

Although many of Macau's significant religious fixtures and relics are denominationally Catholic, they undoubtedly hold a broader appeal as aesthetic and spiritual fixtures that would appeal to both secular and non-secular crowds. This could also be said for religious events in the city, such as the Procession of the Passion of Our Lord, the God Jesus, Easter and the Procession of Our Lady of Fátima. Each is recognized as a public holiday, situating Macau uniquely in all of China as the only city to observe such concessions.

This is a huge boon to religious participation – even in a periphery sense – for residents and tourists. Francisco Vizeu Pinheiro, architect and Associate Professor at the Faculty of Creative Industries at Macau's University of St Joseph, said: "Some come because it is a tradition. Others because of the Asian environment of traditions that were born in Europe, particularly in Portugal and Spain and Italy after the Catholic

Reformation, as an answer to the Protestant Reformation. For Catholics, this reaction is manifest in the baroque movement with exuberant architecture, sculpture, and painting."

A SPIRITUALLY UNIQUE CITY

A place's value for religious tourism is only as good as the richness of its history and what remains to observe this history as a living construct. Thankfully, Macau's is one of the most unique in this part of the world. While the city's Portuguese past is well known, the ancient A-Ma Temple stands as a testament to its Taoist roots. Built in 1488, it is dedicated to Matsu, the goddess of fishermen and seafarers. Legend tells that when the first Portuguese sailors landed near the temple and asked the name of the place, locals replied "A-Ma-Gau," meaning 'bay of the goddess A-Ma', leading to the Portuguese naming it Macau.

St Paul's College would soon cast its secular influence not just over Macau, but the entire continent as it became the Catholic epicentre of Asia. Macau's most famous attraction's origin is one that had far-reaching consequences that led the city becoming what it is today with Portuguese missionaries, merchants, and explorers – the first Westerners to reach the Far East – landing in Macau with the goal of creating a base from which to proselytize.

The adjacent Church of St Paul's – then one of the largest in Asia – was first laid down in 1580 and, after suffering fire damage, was subsequently rebuilt between 1602 and 1637 by Japanese craftsmen who had taken refuge in Macau after suffering persecution in their homeland. Although it was almost completely razed during a fire in 1835, the iconic ivory-colored stone facade survives to this day.

■ A place's value for religious tourism is only as good as the richness of its history

The ruins stand as one of the city's most enduring attractions among a litany of significant historical and religious fixtures. Such is the exquisite nature of the detail in this facade it offers a challenging landmark for tourists to dissect. During the 66-step ascent to the ruins – a pilgrimage in itself – St Paul's, for some tourists and locals, represents a history of enlightenment and a landmark that signposts Macau's rapid development from then on.

With regards to religious tourism, A-Ma Temple and St Paul's are wondrous constructs that ser-

ve to inform historical – and spiritual – context. However, they are far from all Macau has to offer. Loi Chi Pang, director of the Macau Museum, says: "The ruins of St Paul's and A-Ma temple are of course the most popular tourist sites for first-time visitors. But it's highly recommended that tourists wander along the Macau Historical Centre, which was added to the World Heritage List. They can also find many interesting religious sites such as Kun Iam Temple, Protestant Cemetery, St Joseph's Seminary and Church, and St Dominic's Church."

NEOCLASSICAL ATTRACTIONS

Some of the best examples of neoclassical architecture in all of Asia can be found in Macau: 16th-century St Lawrence's Church; the Holy House of Mercy's arcade, which was added to the centuries-old building in 1905; and St Joseph's Seminary and Church, whose elegant, grandiose baroque architecture accents the more simplistic stylings of the neoclassical seminary. One of the most popular tourist attractions in the city, Guia Chapel, which rubs shoulders with tourist attraction Guia Lighthouse, boasts beautiful frescoes which incorporate both Western and Chinese influences – a duality that is rare for any building originating in the 17th century.

Spiritual tourists also make pilgrimages to the St Joseph's Se-

The sacred SAR of Macau





The Festival of the Drunken Dragon, a traditional folk festival in the city started by local fishmongers



The customs and rituals of Na Tcha, seen practiced by adherents to Chinese folk beliefs



Catholic devotees participate in the Procession of the Passion of Our Lord in Macau in March

minary and Church, where some of the most important relics in Asian Christianity are housed. The crowning jewel in this collection is a bone from the arm of St Francis Xavier, the patron saint of missionaries and one of the founders of the Jesuit order. His work in India would see him become deeply admired due to his ability to work alongside the poor with respect and humility. He would go on to work in Japan, overseeing the translation of many significant religious texts before eventually dying of fever on the island of Shangchuan off the coast of Guangdong. His body was later moved to Goa, India.

St Francis Xavier is one of the most important religious figures in all of Asia and his bone in Macau has significance for many. Before being moved to St Joseph's, the relic was kept at the Chapel of St Francis Xavier, a beautiful baroque fixture that housed the bones of Christians and priests from Japan until they were moved to the Museum of Sacred Art and Crypt at the Ruins of St Paul's.

Father Luís Sequeira, a Jesuit priest in Macau, noted that there are "a great number of churches in this little territory" which are "old and beautiful buildings."

"From its beginning in 1557,

Macau's population deeply identified with the Christian faith and was even given the official name of 'City of the Name of God'. Since those days, no city in Asia or land of Taoism, Buddhism or Shintoism has such an abundant manifestation of Latin and Mediterranean Catholic churches."

MORE THAN CHURCHES

Catholic and Portuguese influence is obvious in Macau and its religious sites – but it's far from the whole story. Such is the city's potential for religious tourism, it offers insight into a pantheon of religious and folk history. There are more than 40 temples across the SAR, including Lin Fung Temple, which was built in 1592, its ornate facade framing a courtyard of writhing dragons. Then there is the temple of Shi Gandang, one of only two in the world, and Tou Tei Temple, a network of temples with shrines to a number of gods and goddesses.

Some of Macau's most popular events bear a religious foundation while broadly offering a flavor of local culture – and they are inclusionary, affording tourists an opportunity to get involved. The city's famous feasts range from the demure and serene, like Shi Gandang, a celebration for the family-orientated god Tou Tei

that sees Macau filled with the smell of barbecues and sound of firecrackers to the more raucous Feast of the Drunken Dragon, boasting lion dancing and plenty of eating and drinking.

"Many religious events and festivals are still persevering in Macau," said Loi. "One and a half centuries ago, an artist from Danzig – Eduard Hildebrandt – made a painting in front of A-Ma Temple: a Cantonese opera performed inside the shelter of bamboo. You can still enjoy this unique event at the same location nowadays. Also, you can attend the Procession of Our Lady of Fátima on the streets in May every year."

THE BENEFITS OF RELIGIOUS TOURISM

Tourism is a significant contributor to economic growth and development with more than a billion people make international trips every year, and religious tourism is one of the fastest growing travel segments. According to the UNWTO (UN World Tourism Organisation), tourists take 600 million national and international religious trips per year. While major religious destinations – such as Mecca in Saudi Arabia or the Wailing Wall in Israel – account for roughly half that number, less well-known sites and gatherings are increasing

in popularity.

Unlike some destinations, which restrict entry or participation, the religious relics, buildings, and events in Macau are all there for tourists to see, enjoy and discover. With so much to offer, it can be argued the city is already a religious tourism destination. But is it worth leveraging these assets and increasing the SAR's marketing like such a destination?

Edmond Eh, professor at the University of St Joseph's Faculty of Religious Studies, believes it is. Noting that Macau is "growing steadily as a tourist destination," with more than 35 million visitor arrivals in 2018, primarily from mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and South Korea, he argued that an increase in religious tourism would "greatly enhance Macau as a destination for cultural purposes."

"It would also help to attract people who do not visit for leisure or economic reasons," Eh said, "and provide an additional reason for people to extend their visit in Macau – and even to re-visit Macau."

"Macau has a bright future as a destination for religious tourism," he continued. "The majority of the squares and buildings found in its Historic Centre are associated with significant religious meaning. The city is able to pro-

mote greater historical and cultural understanding for the Chinese people. The public celebration of festivals from different religious traditions so closely with each other provide Macau with tremendous potential. The city is in a unique position to bear witness to the values of religious diversity and harmony in the world."

Father Sequeira focuses more on the religion aspect of religious tourism: "Although it is a source of attraction for many people and a source of income for Macau, in terms of the experience of faith, it is only a first step. The churches, the processions, the statues, and the paintings are simply the beginning. However, the Church in Macau is preparing tourist guides for many people coming from the mainland so they can use them in preparation for knowing and believing in God."

Loi looks beyond the Church to the diversity of religions represented in Macau. Religious conflicts occur in nations all over the world, he noted, "yet Macau is a very good example of religious harmony, where peoples of various races or religions live on harmonious terms. Here in Macau, such a small city, people respect each other. This is why Macau is so attractive as a great destination for religious tourism in the world." **MDT/Macauhub**

Guangdong governor trusts economy to resist trade war impact, analysts disagree

THE governor of Guangdong province, Ma Xingrui, has announced that he is prepared to enforce plans to further open the economy of the province in order to counter the negative effects caused by the China-U.S. trade war. Ma was speaking in Beijing during a press conference organized by the State Council on Monday, noting that Guangdong province has some contingency plans for the negative effects of the trade war that will certainly affect the southern province, a key manufacturing and hi-tech hub, Hong Kong's South China Morning Post reported.

Although the governor acknowledged the likely losses from the continuation of the trade war process, he insisted that such losses would be manageable, pledging to further open up the province to cope with the challenges. "Foreign trade makes up a significant part of Guangdong's economy. Guangdong contributes about one-fifth of China-U.S. trade," Ma said, adding, "It is inevitable that [the province] will be affected."

However, he said Guangdong, which has learned its lessons from the 2008 global financial crisis, has the tenacity to overcome the current difficulties.

"Having gone through the 2008 financial crisis, businesses in Guangdong have accumulated experience, and developed tenacity and risk control ability," Ma remarked.

"We are confident that the overall situation will be controllable and [that] our economy will not fluctuate significantly," Ma said. He refuted the accusations of his U.S. counterparts, namely regarding Huawei, saying, "The U.S. has, without reason, raised a lot of criticism [...] and barred [U.S. suppliers] from supplying Huawei."



Guangdong province governor, Ma Xingrui

"I have told our American friends [...] that we value the protection of intellectual property more than you do," he added, noting that intellectual property rights were crucial in Guangdong's efforts to develop its hi-tech sector and become an international hub for innovation.

Nevertheless, and despite the optimism expressed by Ma, analysts are far more cautious and have warned that there are limits as to how far the freewheeling province can go.

Analyst at The Economist Intelligence Unit in Hong Kong, Nick Marro, said on the topic,

"the governor needed to do more to convince foreign companies that Guangdong could take the lead in opening up the economy. We've seen numerous commitments from both central and local officials to continue opening up the market, with few actual concrete measures released in practice."

Marro added, "[some] measures that have been realized such as financial services or auto market openings are either phased in over several years, incomplete, or hobbled by other regulatory obstacles, such as restrictions on data

flows, which are a big headache for financial service firms." He noted that officials tend to always point to measures as evidence of opening up but because those measures are few and presented randomly, they have little to no impact on improving market sentiment, or even in addressing some of the U.S. market access concerns that underpin the trade war.

Tommy Wu, analyst from Oxford Economics in Hong Kong, said the Guangdong government was likely to make progress in fields such as intellectual property protection but said there were limits as to how

far China would be willing to go. "China's protectionism and state assistance to create global champions like Huawei is a problem that foreign businesses want China to address, so I am not sure how helpful opening up will be given the current backdrop," Wu remarked. He said that the hi-tech sector will continue to be an area of constant clashing between China and the U.S., as well as Europe.

Guangdong province has been China's leading exporter for over three decades, accounting for about a quarter of China's overall exports last year. **RM**

China accused of faking Taiwan media's GBA coverage

BEIJING-controlled media source ChinaTaiwan has been accused of making up statistics on the Greater Bay Area (GBA) for propaganda purposes, according to a report by the island's Liberty Times Net.

ChinaTaiwan is a national Chinese news website managed by the Taiwan

Affairs Office of the State Council of China.

ChinaTaiwan recently published a news story on Taiwanese media's coverage of the GBA, including statistics on the topics included in their coverage. In the report, Liberty Times Net was said to have covered the GBA 38 times, ranking

third out of nine Taiwanese media outlets included in the report.

However, the report did not mention that most of the Liberty Times Net's reports in May consisted of reminders to Taiwanese residents about China's propaganda surrounding the GBA and the 'one country, two sys-

tems' policy

Despite the fact that Liberty Times Net had been issuing alerts to Taiwan residents against GBA propaganda, ChinaTaiwan still mentioned the coverage as if Taiwanese media outlets were giving positive reports on the GBA, writing that "with the increasing fre-

quency of cross-strait exchanges, more and more Taiwanese media are paying attention to the development of [the] GBA."

The statistics in the ChinaTaiwan report selected the top five topics focused on by Taiwanese media: "GBA economy surpasses Tokyo and New York"; "Mainland invites Taiwanese businessmen to visit GBA"; "Fujian, Guangdong, Taiwan, Macau and Hong Kong to create the world's largest economic zone"; "Guangzhou GBA

5G port innovation center"; and "Dongguan robot industry base created by Guangdong and Hong Kong."

Liberty Times Net countered the statistics by showing that their own GBA-related reports in May included only negative reports against the mainland's government-backed media.

"It can be seen that China uses Taiwanese media as a propaganda tool and does not hesitate to make fake statistics," wrote Liberty Times Net. **JZ**

ENERGY

China Three Gorges mulls deal for EDP's Brazil assets

CHINA Three Gorges Corp. is weighing a deal to gain control of EDP-Energias de Portugal SA's Brazilian business, people with knowledge of the matter said.

State-owned Three Gorges is considering merging its own Brazilian assets with EDP's operations in the South American country, which are run through publicly-traded EDP-Energias do Brasil SA, according to the people. Three Gorges may seek a majority stake in the combined entity, the people said, asking not to be identified because the information is private.

Shares of EDP's Brazil unit had risen 33% this year through Monday. Three Gorges's deliberations are at an early stage, and the companies could opt to pursue other options, the people said.

EDP shares rose 1.6% to 3.32 euros in Lisbon, after earlier climbing as much as 3.9% on Tuesday. Shares in the company's Brazilian unit, after rising

BLOOMBERG



as much as 7.5%, closed up 4.8% to 20.56 reais in Sao Paulo trading, giving it a market value of about \$3.2 billion

In April, Three Gorges ended its 9.1 billion-euro (\$10.2 billion) takeover offer for EDP after the Portuguese utility's shareholders decided to keep a cap on voting rights. Three Gorges, which is already EDP's largest shareholder with a 23% stake, has said that it will remain a "long-term strategic investor."

Activist investor Elliott Management Corp. had said the Three

Gorges bid undervalued EDP and called for the Portuguese company to take steps including a sale of its Brazilian unit and a stake in some electricity distribution businesses. The New York-based hedge fund, run by billionaire Paul Singer, said in a February presentation that EDP's 51% stake in the Brazil business could fetch 2.3 billion euros in a sale.

A Beijing-based spokesman for Three Gorges didn't answer an email and phone calls seeking comment. A representative for

EDP in Lisbon declined to comment. EDP's Brazilian unit said in a statement that it isn't aware of any agreement about China Three Gorges taking control of the business.

Last month, EDP said it will work together with French utility Engie SA to develop offshore wind farms in the U.S. and Europe. They are targeting for their new venture to be one of the top five developers in the fastest-growing segment of the renewable energy market.

Bloomberg

Beverly Hills bans sale of tobacco

BEVERLY Hills City Council unanimously approved an ordinance to prohibit the sale of tobacco products in the California city.

Under the ban, which will come into effect on Jan. 1, 2021, hotels may only sell to guests. All other businesses "shall stop selling tobacco products," according to a statement on the City's website. The ordinance includes a hardship exemption provision for retailers that demonstrate the ban would cause undue hardship.

The regulation also includes a permanent exemption for existing cigar lounges and a City Council review of the impacts on tourism in three years.

Tobacco companies have been under pressure to boost their alternative products, including e-cigarettes and vaping devices, as consumers increasingly switch from cigarettes. The industry has been under pressure amid renewed calls by the Food and Drug Administration to reduce cigarette nicotine levels and calls to raise the minimum age for tobacco purchases, including e-cigarettes, to 21 from 18.

MDT/Bloomberg

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PORTUGAL

As big as its world-leading car market is, China has decided that 486 aspiring electric-vehicle companies are too many.

The country is considering rules to raise the barrier to entry for electric-vehicle makers and nurture fewer but more competitive players, according to people familiar with the matter. Specifically, China plans to clamp down on EV startups who farm out their manufacturing, the people said, asking not to be named as the rules are still being drafted.

After hundreds of startups rushed into the electric-car business in the past decade, the government wants to prevent a crash akin to that of dot-com companies two decades ago. China's electric-car makers have raised \$18 billion since 2011, BloombergNEF estimates, but the market is in its infancy and foreign competition from the likes of Tesla Inc. is intensifying.

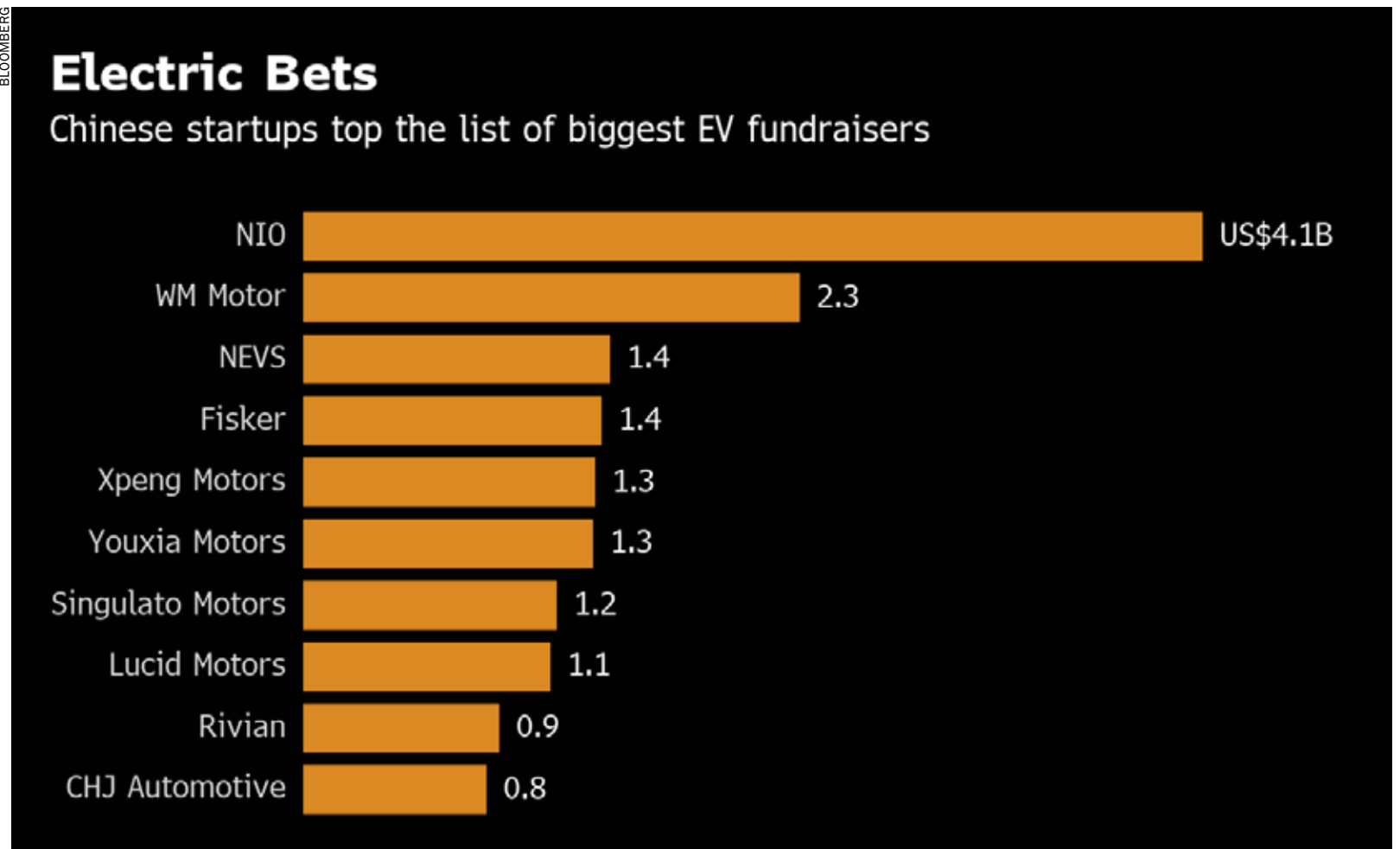
The new draft rules supplement regulations that took effect this month and only allow "eligible" companies to outsource production to other automakers. As of now, the regulations don't spell out what "eligible" means.

According to the planned additions, new-energy vehicle makers that want to tap other companies' production capacity need to have research-and-development investment in China of at least 4 billion yuan (\$580 million) over the past three years, global sales of pure-electric passenger vehicles of at least 15,000 units over the past two years, and paid-in capital of potentially billions of yuan, they said.

The new rules also call for manufacturing contracts to run for at least three years with annual production of at least 50,000 units at one location, the people said. Startups will be allowed to sign manufacturing agree-

AUTOMOBILE

Beijing moves to stop a crash in booming electric-car industry



ts with no more than two automakers, they said.

The regulations are still subject to changes, according to the people. The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, in charge of drafting the new rules, said they are still being revised, without commenting on specifics. As a next step, the ministry will solicit views from the public, it said in an emailed response to questions.

Shares of some established EV

makers rose. BAIC Motor Corp, the country's biggest maker of pure electric cars, climbed by as much as 3.9 percent in Hong Kong yesterday. Geely Automobile Holdings Ltd. advanced as much as 4.2 percent. NIO Inc., the leading electric car startup traded in U.S., rose 2.7 percent overnight in U.S. trading.

Outsourcing production has been a quick way for young electric-car companies to bring out their models while they plan for their own factories, which can

cost hundreds of millions of dollars.

Electric-car maker NIO Inc., often hyped as a competitor to Tesla in China, has tapped Anhui Jianghuai Automobile Group to assemble its vehicles while it plans for a manufacturing facility in Beijing. NIO started accepting orders in late 2017 and had sold 16,461 vehicles as of the end of April.

Xpeng Motors, an electric-SUV maker backed by e-commerce giant Alibaba Group

Holding Ltd. and Taiwan's Foxconn Technology Group, has contracted production to Haima Automobile Group Co. while it constructs its own factory. Xpeng has handed over about 4,700 vehicles since starting deliveries in December.

A large portion of China's electric-car startups have yet to introduce their first commercial product. Total sales in China, the world's largest electric-car market, topped 1 million for the first time last year. **Bloomberg**

Japanese police arrest 7 Chinese in mass drug smuggling

Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

JAPANESE authorities have arrested seven Chinese men on suspicion of smuggling what was believed to be a record amount of stimulants by ship-to-ship transfers.

Tokyo police said yesterday that seven Chinese aged 24-40 were arrested this week on suspicion of illegally possessing "large amounts" of stimulants on the Izu coast, west of Tokyo.

They allegedly smug-

gled nearly 1 ton of amphetamines, a record one-time seizure in Japan estimated to be worth USD550 million, according to Japan's NHK broadcaster. The drug was believed to have been smuggled from Hong Kong, NHK said.

The amount of the stimulant is about the same as an annual total in the last three years. Last year, Japanese authorities seized 1.1 tons of smuggled stimulants, according to the National Police Agency.

Police on a stakeout arrested the men while they were unloading bags from their boat on the coast, Kyodo News reported.

The arrests were part of an ongoing investigation into international drug rings and gangster groups following reports of suspicious ships spotted in the area.

The previous record one-time seizure was about 600 kilograms of stimulants on a boat docked at a port on Okinawa, southern Japan. **AP**

Gov't plans to store remaining US soy purchases amid trade war

CHINA plans to store cargoes of American soybeans bought earlier this year that are yet to be delivered, as the trade war between Washington and Beijing escalates, according to people familiar with the matter.

The soybeans will be sent to boost state stockpiles rather than being processed, said the people, who asked not to be identified as they aren't authorized to speak publicly. While the majority of the purchases were already destined for state

reserves, some were being crushed.

China has put further purchases of American supplies on hold after trade talks reached a standstill, but the world's largest importer of soybeans doesn't plan to cancel the cargoes it had already bought, people familiar with the matter said earlier this month. The nation is yet to receive about 6.9 million metric tons of American supplies, according to data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

China purchased U.S. soybeans from December to March after the two nations had reached a temporary trade truce. Since talks soured, Chinese buyers have turned to South American supplies and state-run companies don't expect to receive any further orders to buy U.S. soybeans.

Nobody answered a call to state stockpiler Sino-grain. A fax sent to China's commerce ministry wasn't immediately responded to. Reuters reported the news earlier. **Bloomberg**

AP PHOTO



Amid trade war, Xi talks up economy, heads to Moscow

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

CHINESE President Xi Jinping is talking up the Chinese economy's resilience as he heads to Moscow for a state visit affirming increasingly close ties between the former Cold War rivals.

In interviews published yesterday, Xi told Russian journalists Chinese consumer demand is driving growth despite the trade war with the United States.

"Looking into the future, a number of factors will support the steady, healthy and sustainable growth of China's economy, including abundant human resources, strong internal driving forces, growing development dynamism and mobilization capability," Xi said.

"Therefore, China has all the necessary conditions, capability and confidence to deal with any risks and challenges," he said without referring directly to the United States and the dispute with Washington over Chinese trade and technology policies.

The trip to Moscow highlights Beijing's efforts to drum up support both at home and abroad as the President Donald Trump's administration pushes China to do more to redress a huge perennial trade surplus and end policies that U.S. and other foreign companies and governments say violate Beijing's market-opening commitments.

While Russia has relatively little leeway in global trade, Xi can be assured of a friendly audience when he defends China's position in the dispute.

Elsewhere, China's diplomats abroad have been meeting with reporters, academics and government officials to press China's argument that it is being bullied by the U.S. and that Washington's dialing-up of trade tensions spells trouble for the world economy as a whole.

On Sunday, the Commerce Ministry issued a lengthy report defending China's position and stating that Beijing won't back down on "major issues of principle."

It followed that by issuing a pair of travel warnings for the U.S., while the Foreign Ministry accused the U.S. of acting in bad faith in trade negotiations and said any attempts to interfere or undermine China's stability would be "doomed to fail."

Xi has not shown much public involvement in the trade dispute, leaving the task of negotiations to his chief economic adviser, Vice Premier Liu He. But Xi has a final say on any agreement and experts believe that his objections to U.S. proposals Beijing considers excessively invasive may have led to the breakdown of trade talks last month.

Officials have not yet announced any breakthroughs after 11 rounds of talks. In recent days, the two sides have traded jibes over who is to blame for the stalemate, while expressing a willingness to hold more talks but determination to resist unreasonable demands.

In all, the Trump administration has imposed up to 25% tariffs on USD250

billion in imports from China and is preparing to increase import duties on another \$300 billion.

China has hit back with tariff hikes of its own.

The next step could come when President Donald Trump and Xi attend a meeting of the Group of 20 leading economies planned for Osaka, Japan, later this month.

The Chinese leader's trip to Moscow is his eighth to Russia since he became president six years ago.

China and Russia have aligned their foreign policies and other positions at the United Nations on major issues such as Venezuela's economic and political crisis, the Syrian civil war and Iran's nuclear program, usually in direct opposition to the stance taken by Washington.

Trade between the two hit \$100 billion last year, with major transactions and cooperation projects in military hardware, energy, transportation, agriculture, aviation and space. **AP**

Xi says China's economy noticeably improving, can manage risks

BLOOMBERG



PRESIDENT Xi Jinping said China's economy is stabilizing and has improved noticeably, giving an upbeat assessment of the nation's health despite the worsening trade war and recent weak data.

While the global economy and trade have slowed down, China's economy has stayed in a reasonable range in 2019, with stable growth, increasing employment, rising incomes and stable prices, Xi said in an interview with Russian media including Tass. The interview was carried in the People's Daily ahead of Xi's visit to Russia, which started yesterday. China has "sufficient conditions, ability and confidence" to cope with various risks, Xi said.

The comments are the latest in a series of statements from the government that the economy is strong and can overcome any fallout from the prolonged trade tensions with the U.S. Xi's government is grappling with slowing growth and fragile financial markets as well as the dispute with the U.S., which has damaged trade and confidence.

Some economists are not so sanguine about the long-term health of the economy, with Bank of America Merrill Lynch analysts cutting their forecast for 2020 growth yesterday due to the trade war.

"In view of higher risks of trade shocks, we lower our China GDP growth forecast for 2020 to 6.0%, from 6.2% previously," said Helen Qiao and Zhi Xiaojia in a note. "We expect the PBOC to cut interest rates twice in 2019 and once in 2020," following on from expected cuts by the Federal Reserve, they wrote.

The World Bank also cut its forecast for 2020, and now expects the economy to expand at 6.1%, down from the previous 6.2% estimate. Growth will be 6.2% this year, according to the bank's estimates released last week, but the "outlook is subject to greater downside risks than previously." **Bloomberg**

1st rocket from mobile platform in Yellow Sea launched

CHINA has for the first time launched a rocket from a mobile platform in the Yellow Sea, sending five commercial satellites and two others containing ex-

perimental technology into space.

The Long March 11 rocket blasted off yesterday off the coast of Shandong province, marking the 306th launch of a rocket in

the Long March series, but the first time one has occurred at sea.

Sea launches offer advantages such as the ability to position closer to the equator,

requiring less fuel to reach orbit and thereby lowering overall launch costs. They also reduce the possibility of damage on the ground from falling rocket debris.

The official Xinhua News Agency cited experts saying sea-borne launch technology will meet the growing demand for launches of low inclination satellites.

THAILAND

Parliament convenes for vote likely to keep Prayuth PM

Kaweewit Kaewjinda
& Pitcha Dangprasith, Bangkok

THAILAND'S Parliament convened yesterday for a vote that is expected to keep Prayuth Chan-ocha as prime minister five years after he seized power in a military coup.

Prayuth was nominated by the military-backed Palang Pracharath party and faces a sole opponent representing a coalition of anti-military parties, Thanathorn Juangroongruangkit of the Future Forward party.

Although a vote was expected to take place yesterday, its timing became uncertain because of the open-ended debate with the two sides touting the merits of their candidates and the weaknesses of their opponents. It was a novelty for Thais to see parliamentary battling, after five years of army rule in which there was only a tame rubberstamp assembly.

While the formation of a government will finally return Thailand to civilian rule, it will be done under a new political system enacted by the junta Prayuth leads and its appointees. It's a system that critics say is meant to prolong rule by the military and its allies in the conservative establishment, rather than reflect the will of everyday Thais.

The military-backed party that nominated Prayuth for prime minister won the second-highest number of seats in the House of Representatives in the March general election. But Prayuth is virtually assured to remain in office because the prime minister



is chosen jointly by the 500-seat House and the 250-seat Senate, whose members were appointed by the junta and include members of the military.

The military-backed party, Palang Pracharath, holds 116 House seats, as well as pledges from lawmakers from smaller parties.

Prayuth did not run for a seat, and the constitution enacted under the junta does not require the prime minister to come from parliament. Laws passed under his government handicapped established political parties, raising concerns of fairness in the election.

Palang Pracharath member of parliament Koranis Ngamsukonrattana praised Prayuth for his character and his vision.

"He's patient and sacrificed himself so much for the country," he said during the debate. "He's the savior who came in and saved the country when all hope was lost."

For their part, Thanathorn's partisans attacked Prayuth as a destroyer of democracy.

Prayuth's bid for power got a major boost late Tuesday, when the Democrat party — the country's oldest — said it would join the coalition government he

aims to lead. The decision led Democrat former Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva to resign from Parliament. He had promised during the election campaign to not support Prayuth's bid to continue in the prime minister's office.

The Democrats' support also aided the chances of Palang Pracharath holding a majority in the lower house, which is necessary to pass legislation and approve budgets.

The Democrats and the Bhumjai Thai party, the fourth- and fifth-place finishers in March, together hold more than 100

House seats, and reportedly had been bargaining hard with Palang Pracharath over Cabinet positions in a coalition government.

The Palang Pracharath coalition is opposed by the self-styled "Democratic Front," comprising seven anti-military parties led by Pheu Thai, which headed the government ousted in the 2014 coup and won the most House seats in March.

The coalition announced Tuesday it was supporting Thanathorn, the charismatic young leader of the Future Forward Party, as its nominee for prime minister.

Future Forward's strong election performance drew a raft of legal challenges from the military's supporters, and Thanathorn himself has been suspended from Parliament until the Constitutional Court decides whether he violated election law by allegedly holding shares in a media company.

Neither candidate was present for yesterday's debate. Prayuth attended to official government business, while Thanathorn, due to his suspension, addressed reporters in the parliament building but outside the assembly hall to give his vision of the kind of country he would like to see.

"If you want Thailand to belong to a certain group of people who have the right to decide the life or death fate of others by the whims of their own desires without having to adhere to any principles of justice, then you do not need to hear what I have to say," he said.

"But if you want to see Thailand belong to everyone and become a society where you can puff out your chest and say Thai society respects everyone's rights, a country which has plans and is filled with opportunity and creative ideas, then you and I think similarly, and we have similar dreams," he said. **AP**

AUSTRALIA

Police raid public broadcaster over Afghan leak

AUSTRALIA'S Federal Police raided the offices of the national public broadcaster yesterday in connection to a 2017 story based on leaked military documents that indicated the country's military forces were being investigated for possible war crimes in Afghanistan.

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation said the raid, the second in as many days by police investigating government leaks, raised questions about media freedom in the country.

"It is highly unusual for the national broadcaster to be raided in this way," ABC managing director David Anderson said in a statement. "This is a serious development and raises legitimate concerns over freedom of the press and proper public scrutiny of national security and defense matters."

The raid in a suburb of Sydney came a day after federal police searched the Canberra home of Annika Smethurst, the political editor of The Sunday Telegraph of Sydney, over a 2018 story

detailing an alleged government proposal to spy on Australians.

News Corp. Australia, the parent company of The Sunday Telegraph, said the raid "demonstrates a dangerous act of intimidation towards those committed to telling uncomfortable truths".

There were no arrests in either raid.

Australian law forbids officials from disclosing secret information, and the police warrants in both raids were based on a law enacted in 1914.

The police said in a sta-

tement that the two raids were not linked.

Anderson said ABC stood by its journalists, would protect its sources and continue to report "without fear or favor" on national security and intelligence issues.

"We will be doing everything we can to limit the scope of this and we will do everything we can to stand by our reporters and as a general observation, we always do whatever we can to stand by our sources of course," ABC Editorial Director Craig McMurtrie said. **AP**



Travel agencies say N. Korea planning to suspend mass games

Kim Tong-Hyung, Seoul

NORTH Korea will temporarily suspend the latest edition of its famous mass games, which involve thousands of performers working in precise synchronization, after the premiere drew strong criticism from leader Kim Jong Un, international travel agencies said yesterday.

Simon Cockerell, general manager of Beijing-based Koryo Tours, said it was informed by its North Korean partners that the show, titled "The Land of the People," will be suspended for days or weeks starting next Monday while its creators make adjustments. Rowan Beard, a tour manager at Young Pioneer Tours, said his company heard the same information and that no dates were given for when the show



would resume.

"We assume it will halt so some tweaks and improvements can be made to the performance," Beard said in an email.

North Korea's official Korean

Central News Agency said Kim seriously criticized the creators for a "wrong spirit of creation and irresponsible work attitude" following Monday's opening performance at Pyongyang's 150,000-seat May Day

Stadium. KCNA said Kim set forth "important tasks" to correctly implement the country's revolutionary policy on literature and art. It did not provide further details.

The North's Rodong Sinmun newspaper published photos of Kim waving to clapping spectators while flanked by senior officials, including his powerful sister, Kim Yo Jong, and crowds in the stands using colored cards to spell out "To the eternity of Korea, hurrah!" as fireworks exploded over the stadium.

South Korea's Unification Ministry, which deals with inter-Korean affairs, said it couldn't confirm whether North Korea was pausing the mass games.

State media often report scoldings by Kim of military officials, factory operators, educators and others perceived to be not performing to his standards. The mass games — propaganda spectacles that feature thousands of gymnasts, dancers and flip card-holding spectators moving in coordinated perfection — were once routine in North Korea. But the performances went on a hiatus for several years during the mourning for Kim's father and only returned last year. **AP**

INDIA

Authorities continue search for air force plane lost near China

INDIAN authorities are continuing to search for an air force plane that went missing on Monday near the border with China.

The navy tweeted yesterday that it has deployed long-range aircraft using infra-red sensors to search dense forest. The air force said on Twitter that it is using satellites to take pictures of the terrain during the day and ground teams with night-vision goggles to search by night.

Officials say the AN-32 plane was scheduled to land at 1:30 p.m. Monday at a high-altitude airstrip in Mechuka, a small town in the state of Arunachal Pradesh about 30 kilometers from the India-China border.

Arunachal Pradesh administrator Swatika Sachan says the plane last had contact with the ground at 1 p.m. **AP**

AD



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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"?

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D-DAY

Queen, world leaders honor veterans on anniversary

Danica Kirka, John Leicester & Jill Lawless, Portsmouth

WORLD leaders including U.S. President Donald Trump gathered yesterday on the south coast of England to mark the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings. But the stars of the show were the elderly veterans of that campaign who said they were surprised by all the attention: They were just doing their jobs.

The Royal British Legion has brought about 300 veterans, aged 91 to 101, to the ceremonies in Portsmouth, where many of the troops embarked for Normandy on June 5, 1944. After a flyover by the Royal Air Force and a salute from the Royal Navy, the veterans will return to the landing beaches overnight, just as they did 75 years ago.

One of those veterans was Harold Wilson who was startled when a young French family stopped to thank him for liberating their country when the old soldiers visited Dunkirk on Tuesday.

"I think it's amazing after all these years," Wilson said before the ceremony, proudly wearing the tartan-trimmed cap of his old unit, the Fife and Forfar

Yeomanry. "It makes it clear to me how useful it was."

Queen Elizabeth II is set to join British Prime Minister Theresa May, other world leaders and the hundreds of veterans in Portsmouth on England's south coast to honor the Allied soldiers, sailors and airmen who risked and gave their lives in the invasion that helped liberate Europe from Nazi Germany.

Britain has promised "unprecedented commemorations," involving testimony from veterans and military spectacle, including a flyby of 24 vintage and modern military aircraft.

Les Hammond, 94, who landed at Juno Beach with the Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineers, said he wasn't worried that the presence of Trump — on the final day of a three-day state visit to Britain — and the other world leaders might take some of the focus away from the veterans.

"I don't feel in any way like we're second class," he said.

"What happened to me is not important," he added. "I'm not a hero. I served with men who were. I'm very lucky. I'm a survivor."

The event, which kicks off two days of D-Day anniversary ob-

servances, is intended as a tribute to the troops who shaped history during the dangerous mission to reach beachheads and fight in German-occupied France.

D-Day saw more than 150,000 Allied troops land on the beaches of Normandy in northwest France on June 6, 1944, carried by 7,000 boats. The Battle of Normandy, codenamed Operation Overlord, was a turning point in the war, and helped bring about Nazi Germany's defeat in May 1945.

"The Normandy landings 75 years ago were a moment of historic international cooperation," May said. "And it is right that at the heart of today's commemorations are the veterans who fought to secure the liberty and the peace that we now enjoy."

Planning to attend are presidents, prime ministers and other representatives of the countries that fought alongside Britain in Normandy: the United States, Canada, Australia, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Luxembourg, Denmark, France, Greece, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway and Poland.

The leader of the country that

was the enemy in 1944, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, is also attending.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, who attended 70th anniversary commemorations in France five years ago, has not been invited. Russia was not involved in D-Day but was instrumental in defeating the Nazis on the Eastern Front.

In Portsmouth, dignitaries plan to read from historical documents linked to D-Day. In May's case, it's a letter written by Capt. Norman Skinner of the Royal Army Service Corps to his wife, Gladys, on June 3, 1944, a few days before the invasion. It was in his pocket when he landed in Normandy.

"I can imagine you in the garden having tea with Janey and Anne getting ready to put them to bed," wrote Skinner, who was killed the day after D-Day. "Although I would give anything to be back with you, I have not yet had any wish at all to back down from the job we have to do."

On Thursday the focus shifts to France, where commemorations will be held at simple military cemeteries near the Normandy beaches.

Events in France began early morning with U.S. Army Ran-

gers climbing the jagged cliffs of Normandy's Pointe du Hoc to honor the men who scaled them under fire 75 years ago.

Elderly veterans looked on as members of the 75th Ranger Regiment started mounting the limestone promontory at dawn, pulling themselves up on ropes one by one, seagulls swooping above.

They were recreating a journey taken by the U.S. Army's 2nd and 5th Ranger Battalions to destroy Nazi guns atop the cliffs. The operation helped prepare the way for Allied troops landing on beaches up a few kilometers up the coast to break Hitler's stranglehold on France.

Of the 235 men who took on the cliffs in 1944, only 90 were fit for battle two days later.

Elsewhere in Normandy paratroopers were jumping from C-47 transporters in World War II colors and other aircraft, aiming for fields of wild flowers on the outskirts of Carentan, one of the early objectives for Allied troops.

Among the jumpers will be American D-Day veteran Tom Rice, 97. He jumped into Normandy with thousands of other paratroopers in 1944, and recalled it as "the worst jump I ever had."

Like many other veterans, Rice said he remains troubled by the war.

"We did a lot of destruction, damage. And we chased the Germans out and coming back here is a matter of closure," he said. "You can close the issue now." **AP**

GERMANY

Nurse accused of 100 deaths says sorry to families

David Rising, Berlin

A former nurse on trial on allegations he killed 100 patients at two hospitals in northern Germany apologized to his victims' relatives in a final statement to the court yesterday, saying he realized how much pain and suffering he had caused with his "terrible deeds."

"To each and every one of you I sincerely apologize for all that I have done," Niels Hoegel, 42, told the Oldenburg regional court after his defense attorneys had made their closing arguments, according to the dpa news agency.

His defense attorneys argued for acquittals in 31 of the 100 counts of murder against him, suggesting there was not enough evidence in those cases.

In total, the deaths — which took place at a hospital in Oldenburg between 1999 and 2002 and another hospital in



nearby Delmenhorst from 2003 to 2005 — are thought to be the largest string of serial killings in post-war Germany. Hoegel's alleged victims ranged in age between 34 and 96.

"Neither we nor Mr. Hoegel deny that he is the perpetrator

in many cases," one of his defenders, Ulrike Baumann told the court. "But he can only be convicted for crimes he committed and not for crimes he could have committed."

Hoegel was convicted in 2015 of two murders and two attempt-

ted murders. He said at his first trial that he intentionally brought about cardiac crises in some 90 patients in Delmenhorst because he enjoyed the feeling of being able to resuscitate them. He later told investigators that he also killed patients in Oldenburg.

■ In total, the deaths [...] are thought to be the largest string of serial killings in post-war Germany

Authorities subsequently investigated hundreds of deaths, exhuming bodies of former patients.

Pleas are not entered in the German legal system but during

the seven-month trial, Hoegel admitted to 43 of the killings, disputed five and said he couldn't remember the other 52.

Both the defense team and prosecutors have asked for a sentence of life in prison, but prosecutors have also asked the court to recognize the "particular seriousness of the crime," making it likely he'd have to serve more than the standard 15-year sentence.

Prosecutors are asking for a conviction on 97 counts of murder, saying that in three cases insufficient evidence was presented.

During the trial, Hoegel testified that he had a "protected" childhood, free of violence. He said his grandmother and his father, who were both nurses, had been his role models for going into the profession.

"Now I sit here fully convinced that I want to give every relative an answer," Hoegel said during the trial. "I am really sorry."

But Christian Marbach, a spokesman for the affected families whose grandfather was among the victims, doubted Hoegel's sincerity.

"Hoegel is and remains a liar," Marbach said. "He tactically only admitted what could already 100 percent be proven against him."

A verdict is expected today. AP

AD

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what's ON



FIVB WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL NATIONS LEAGUE - MACAU 2019
TIME: 4:30pm & 7:30pm
VENUE: Macau Forum
ADMISSION: MOP150 (one-day ticket); MOP315 (three-day ticket)
ORGANIZERS: Sports Bureau of Macau SAR; Volleyball Association of Macau, China
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2823 6363

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

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

STROLLING AND FEELING: WATERCOLOUR PAINTINGS OF LAI IENG
TIME: 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

2019 BRAND STORY - MACAU ORIGINAL FASHION EXHIBITION II
TIME: 10am-8pm (Closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)
UNTIL: June 23, 2019
VENUE: Macau Fashion Gallery
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 3341

Offbeat

EXPLOSION ON 'BOND 25' SET CAUSES INJURY, DAMAGE TO STUDIO

AP PHOTO



Bond, Daniel Craig

An explosion on the set of the new James Bond movie has injured one crew member and damaged a stage at Pinewood Studios.

The film's official Twitter account said the accident this week came from a "controlled explosion." No one was injured on set but a crew member outside the stage sustained a minor injury. The exterior of a stage was also damaged at the studio facilities outside London.

This is the second production incident on the untitled 25th installment in the 007 franchise. Shooting was set back in late May after Daniel Craig hurt his foot while performing a stunt in Jamaica. He underwent minor ankle surgery that required two weeks of rehabilitation.

Representatives for the film did not immediately respond to messages on the explosion Tuesday.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Agua de Mar
15:45	Zig Zag
16:20	Portugueses Sem Fronteiras
16:50	Quem Quer Ser Milionario
17:45	Moda Portugal Sr.3
18:15	Amor Maior (Repetição)
19:00	Montra do Lilau (Repetição)
19:35	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	TDM Talk Show
21:50	Livros com João Guedes
22:00	Todas as Palavras
22:25	Amor Maior
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Resumo Liga dos Europa 2018/2019
00:10	O Ocidente no Oriente - Macau e o Testamento de Robert Ho Tung
01:05	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:50	RTPi Directo

cinema



CINETEATRO

06 - 12 Jun

X-MEN: DARK PHOENIX

ROOM 1
2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30pm
Director: Simon Kinberg
Starring: James McAvoy, Michael Fassbender, Jennifer Lawrence
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 113min

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



1975 UK EMBRACES EUROPE IN REFERENDUM

British voters have backed the UK's continued membership of the European Economic Community by a large majority in the country's first nationwide referendum.

Just over 67% of voters supported the Labour government's campaign to stay in the EEC, or Common Market, despite several cabinet ministers having come out in favour of British withdrawal.

The result was later hailed by Prime Minister Harold Wilson as a "historic decision".

For him the victory came after a long and bruising campaign against many in his own party, following Labour's promise to hold a vote in its general election manifesto last October.

Faced with the referendum question, "Do you think the UK should stay in the European Community (Common Market)?" Britons voted "Yes" in most of the 68 administrative counties, regions and Northern Ireland. Only Shetland and the Western Isles voted against the EEC.

When the result was beyond doubt, the leaders of the pro-Europe camp emerged from private celebrations to thank campaign workers for their efforts.

Home Secretary Roy Jenkins said: "It puts the uncertainty behind us. It commits Britain to Europe; it commits us to playing an active, constructive and enthusiastic role in it."

The Conservatives were also campaigning to stay in the Common Market. Margaret Thatcher, elected Tory leader last February, said the "Yes" vote would not have happened without the Opposition's support for it.

Former Prime Minister Edward Heath said: "I've worked for this for 25 years, I was the prime minister who led Britain into the community and I'm naturally delighted that the referendum is working out as it is."

Members of the "No" campaign accepted their defeat and promised to work constructively within the EEC.

Industry Secretary Tony Benn, who had come under criticism from the prime minister during the campaign, said: "When the British people speak everyone, including members of Parliament, should tremble before their decision and that's certainly the spirit with which I accept the result of the referendum."

The trade union movement led by the TUC was also opposed to remaining in Europe and had boycotted key advisory positions in Brussels and Luxembourg since Britain joined in 1973.

TUC General-Secretary Len Murray said the boycott would be lifted but he remained adamantly opposed to the EEC. "Many of the most important decisions about our future can only be taken here in Britain," he said.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Britain under Prime Minister Edward Heath had joined the EEC in January 1973 when the Treaty of Rome was signed.

Labour's general election manifesto of October 1974 committed Labour to allow people the opportunity to decide whether Britain should stay in the Common Market on renegotiated terms, or leave it entirely.

In the run-up to the referendum the prime minister announced that the government had decided to recommend a "yes" vote. But it emerged that the cabinet had split, with seven of its 23 members seeking withdrawal. The "no" faction included Michael Foot, Secretary of State of Employment and Tony Benn, Industry Secretary.

In 1996 billionaire businessman Sir James Goldsmith, who was against the Maastricht Treaty, set up the Referendum Party to campaign for a referendum on the European Union.

He spent £20m on the 1997 general election campaign but only managed to achieve 3% of the vote.

In 2005 the state of the European Union reached a critical point in its history after referenda in France and the Netherlands saw voters reject the latest EU constitution.

YOUR STARS



Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

You're heading home in one way or another. You may be on your way to a reunion, or you may just be finding a place that is more comfortable and will work better for you in the long run.



Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

You are having a hard time coping with the pace of change today — but it's not as bad as you think! You just need to find one safe place and stick to it for the day, as things should settle down soon.



Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

You really just want people to get along together — why does it have to be so hard? You can hardly believe the lengths people go to when they want to keep fighting, but you can calm them down.



Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

You need to deal with today's situation with a little more flexibility than you may realize. Try not to just fall back on your old standby routines, or you could find yourself extremely confused!



Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You can't quite come to terms with that one person who's almost always on your side — sometimes it's just not a good match. That doesn't mean it's worth throwing out, though, so just move on for a bit.



Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Your health is all-important, so make the most of today's willpower and start on a new health kick. It could just be a dedication to whole grains and fresh fruit, or a whole new way of living.



Taurus

April 20-May 20

Your transportation issues come to a head today — and while it may be frustrating, it's for the best. If your car breaks down, just remember that you do have other options. Make the most of them!



Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

You are so sure that you've got what it takes that you may find it easier to convince others. You've got twice the energy of anyone else in the room, so make the most of it and shine!



Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

You need to help out today — someone really needs you, and your energy is just better spent on outside activities. You may want to volunteer, ring up an elderly neighbor or just clean house.



Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

You need to travel — but even if you're stuck at home for a while, you can still dream and make plans. Your great energy needs exposure to new things and new people, and you can make it happen.



Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Your people are all freaking out over something that seems trivial to you, but you can tell that they are just enjoying a little drama — there's no reason for you to join them. Just watch and wait.

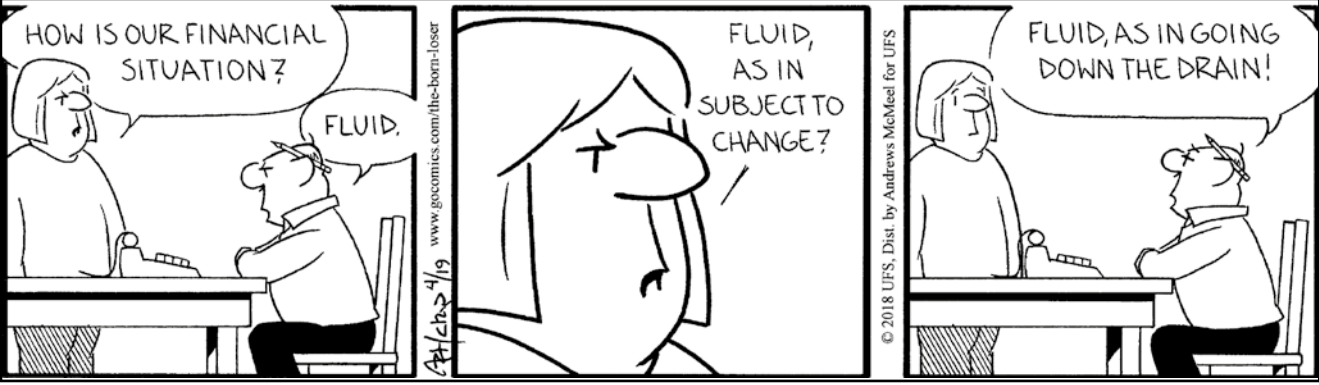


Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

You need to express yourself today in the best way you know how. That could mean freestyle poetry or something softer and more direct, but you should know when it works for you.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom

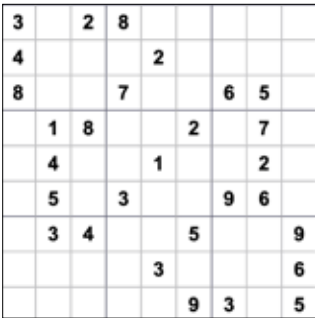


SUDOKU

Easy



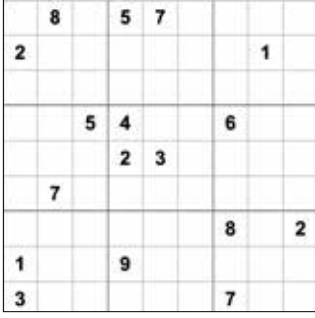
Easy+



Medium



Hard



WEATHER

CHINA

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

WORLD

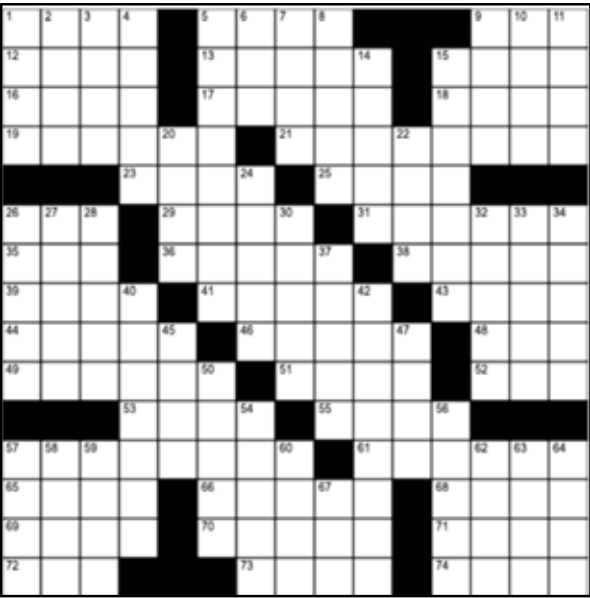
Moscow	2	12	cloudy
Frankfurt	9	20	drizzle
Paris	7	18	drizzle
London	5	16	overcast
New York	8	17	drizzle

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Offers a price; 5- Grate; 9- Rental agreement; 14- Mine entrance; 15- K-12, in the ed biz; 16- Mote; 17- Attentive; 19- Less loony; 20- Followed; 21- Bust maker; 23- Lamb's dam; 24- Declares; 26- Phobia; 28- Some Celts; 30- Inventor Otis; 34- Bar bill; 37- Patriarch; 39- Buck ender; 41- Sheep talk; 42- Ethereal: Prefix; 43- Accountable; 48- Went first; 49- Canal site; 50- Dens; 52- Arm or leg; 54- Clawed; 57- Tic ____ Dough; 60- Peachy-keen; 62- Usual; 64- Replay option; 66- Endurable; 68- Parting word; 69- Some nest eggs; 70- This can be guilty or not guilty; 71- Talks wildly; 72- Young goats; 73- Pianist Myra;

DOWN: 1- Milhouse's pal; 2- Thoughts; 3- Toe or finger; 4- "Hogan's Heroes" setting; 5- Cervus elaphus; 6- Politico Landon; 7- Avoid; 8- Rice dish; 9- Milan opera house; 10- 7th Greek letter; 11- Top-drawer; 12- Diving duck; 13- Jane ____; 18- Price twice; 22- Ridge of rock; 25- Thick slices; 27- Actress Hayworth; 29- Slowpoke; 31- Author Silverstein; 32- In this place; 33- Parched; 34- Field cover; 35- Half the base times the height, for a triangle; 36- Cap'n's underling; 38- Sponge gently; 40- Fall birthstone; 44- Foreboding; 45- Reputation; 46- Pride woman; 47- Mistake; 51- Angel of the highest order; 53- It's a dyeing art; 55- Mosey; 56- Stories; 57- Old autocrat; 58- Alan of "M*A*S*H"; 59- Quarter, e.g.; 61- Actress Spelling; 63- Meadowlands; 65- Ran into; 67- Youth;

Yesterday's solution



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency calls 999

Fire department 28 572 222

PJ (Open line) 993

PJ (Picket) 28 557 775

PSP 28 573 333

Customs 28 559 944

S. J. Hospital 28 313 731

Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333

Commission Against

Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300

IACM 28 387 333

Tourism 28 333 000

Airport 59 888 88

Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283

Water Supply – Report 2822 0088

Telephone – Report 1000

Electricity – Report 28 339 922

Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



AD

FOR SALE



Va Fat, Taipa HK\$4,580,000
550 ft² 2 2

FOR RENT



Soi Cheong, Taipa Village
750 ft² 2 1 \$11,500/ mth

FOR SALE

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

[Taipa] Kinglight Garden Loft 1 1
800 ft² \$7,380,000 (ref: 19055005ST)

[Taipa] Hellene Garden 3 3
1,663 ft² \$8,800,000 (ref: 19025577)

[Taipa] The Manhattan Car Parks
\$1,480,000~\$1,580,000 (ref: 18095560)
(ref: 19045003)

FOR RENT

[Taipa] Vai Fat 1 1
800 ft² \$12,300/mth (ref: 17110659)

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

[Taipa] Ocean Garden 4 4
3,700 ft² \$35,000/mth (ref: 18040674)

[Coloane] Commercial Building 4 Storey
4,003 ft² \$108,000/mth (ref: 17040646)



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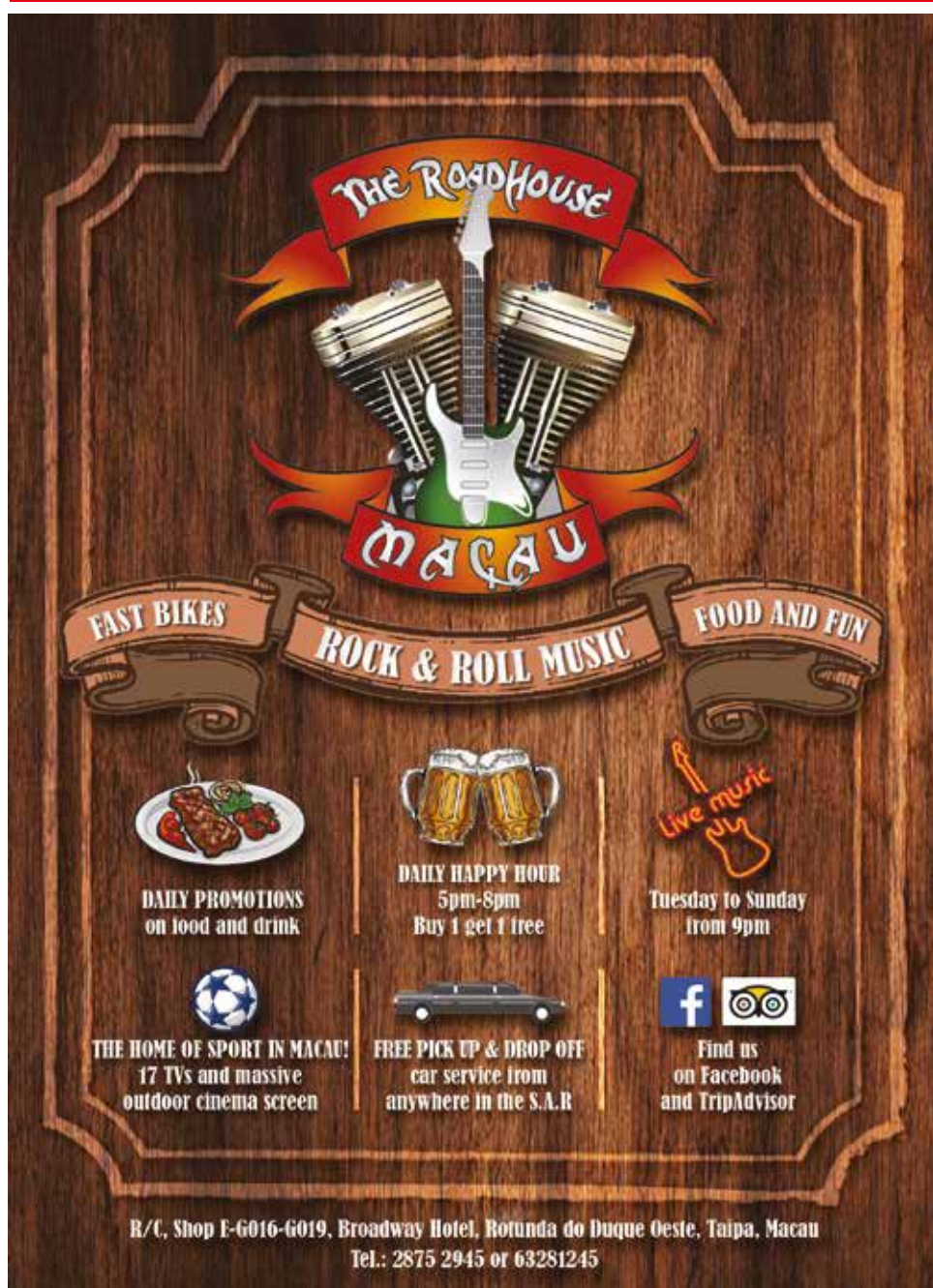
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FOOTBALL

Atletico leads Spanish challenge to Champions League revamp

Rob Harris, Paris

SEVEN Spanish soccer teams have protested against a plan to transform the Champions League into a largely closed competition, openly opposing the European Club Association ahead of emergency meetings in Malta.

Atletico Madrid, second to Barcelona in the Spanish league, is the leading club to complain to the ECA leadership about its vision for launching a "frontal attack" on the stability of the European game in a letter obtained by The Associated Press yesterday.

Barcelona and Real Madrid, whose officials sit on the ECA executive board, are not among the signatories.

But Spain's other seven members of the ECA have broken rank to express concern to the organization about a lack of consultation and openness about plans they say represent "the biggest threat in the history of European football in recent years."

The ECA, which is led by Juventus chairman Andrea Agnelli, has pushed a vision presented by UEFA that wants 24 out of 32 teams in the group stage returning the following season regardless of where they finish in their domestic leagues. That would involve promotion and relegation with the Europa League, which would have similar locked-in places and movement with a new third competition.

"The new European Club Com-

AP PHOTO



Liverpool: the latest European Champions

petitions model proposed by UEFA and the Executive Board of the ECA represents a potential great threat, not only to national leagues and the great majority of clubs, but for all European football, representing a frontal attack to the competitive balance and to the stability of domestic competitions," Athletic Bilbao, Atletico Madrid, Malaga, Sevilla, Real Sociedad, Valencia and Villarreal wrote to the ECA leadership.

"We sincerely believe that we are facing the biggest threat in the history of European football in recent years for clubs and national leagues."

The status of competitions like the Spanish league could

be diminished without the four Champions League spots to play for each season.

"We firmly believe that European competitions should be a reward for excellence," the Spanish clubs wrote, "in which the best teams participate in a competition open to all, based on the principles of sporting merit, solidarity among clubs, fair distribution, etc."

Currently, only the Europa League winner is promoted to the Champions League and the Champions League victor is ensured of a return the following season.

"Access should always be achieved, with only the exceptions that apply in the current

format, through domestic competitions," the clubs wrote.

The seven teams threatened to end their membership of the ECA, which holds a special assembly in Malta on Thursday and Friday to discuss the competition format changes.

"We are very concerned about the way these drastic changes are being proposed," the clubs wrote. "The lack of transparency, with negotiations led by a few that have become representatives of European clubs, leads to many of us no longer feeling represented by the Executive Board of the ECA."

"Proof of this is that the new model has not been shown to us at any time."

On Tuesday, French President Emmanuel Macron joined the resistance against changes to the Champions League format. The intervention in a speech at a FIFA event in Paris angered UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin, who told the AP it was a "clear interference of politics in sports."

French soccer federation president Noël Le Graët tried to smooth relations yesterday in an address to the FIFA Congress.

Le Graët said he was "delighted to work alongside" Ceferin, and that while France's voice should be heard in the debate "there shouldn't be interference from anybody else." **AP**

TENNIS

Rain won't go away at Roland Garros, delaying quarterfinals

A steady rain delayed the start of play in the last two French Open women's quarterfinals for at least two hours yesterday.

Defending champion Simona Halep of Romania was scheduled to face 17-year-old Amanda Anisimova of the United States in Court Philippe Chatrier, and No. 8 Ash Barty of Australia was supposed to meet No. 14 Madison Keys of the United States in Court Suzanne Lenglen.

The winners of those two matches would, in theory,

play each other in the semifinals today, but that could change if they are unable to get the quarterfinals done earlier.

The other women's semifinal is set: No. 26 Johanna Konta of Britain vs. unseeded 19-year-old Marketa Vondrousova of the Czech Republic.

The temperature was below 60 degrees F (15 degrees C) and the forecast predicted showers all day. Roland Garros is the only Grand Slam site without a covered court; a retracta-

ble roof is expected to be added to the main stadium before next year's tournament.

It's all a bit of bad news for the players who had yet to play their quarterfinals.

On the men's side, that includes No. 1 Novak Djokovic, who is attempting to win a fourth consecutive Grand Slam title. His match against No. 5 Alexander Zverev was scheduled to follow Halep-Anisimova in the tournament's main stadium.

The other remaining sin-

gles match, No. 4 Dominic Thiem vs. No. 10 Karen Khachanov, was to come after Barty-Keys.

The winners of those men's quarterfinals will square off in the semifinals, which are planned for Friday. The other semifinal will be between Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal, who advanced with victories Tuesday.

Anisimova is the first tennis player born in the 2000s to reach the round of eight at any major tournament. **AP**

AP PHOTO



opinion

Made in Macao

Jenny Lao-Phillips



SWIMMING IN 'DRAGON BOAT WATER'

I have written a lot about stories and legends relating to the coming Tuen Ng Festival, better known as the Dragon Boat Festival, which is tomorrow, Friday, 7 June. However, as I was going through my writings, I had missed one important custom that we used to practice when I was young. That is swimming in the "Dragon Boat Water." Although the direct translation of the term is "swimming in the Dragon Boat Water," it actually does not really require swimming. The custom is merely to get into the water on Dragon Boat Day.

Every year at Tuen Ng Festival we are already in the summer season, so it is understandable that it is also swimming season. But why do we specifically have to go swimming during Tuen Ng Festival? And what is considered "Dragon Boat Water"?

First, can you guess why we have to swim in Dragon Boat Water? Of course, the superstition is that Dragon Boat Water can help wash away bad luck. We Chinese have a strong tradition of relating most of our customs to gaining good luck or preventing bad luck. But there is also a belief that swimming in Dragon Boat Water can heal skin diseases. I read somewhere that it actually has a scientific foundation. Especially in the South China Sea, during the time of June the water level is higher, diluting the saltiness of the sea water. So the quality of the water during this period of time used to be good for the skin and may heal some simple skin diseases. However, that was before our beaches in Macau were seriously polluted. Nowadays, we may need to beware of getting skin problems when swimming in the polluted ocean. So where should we swim this Friday to wash away bad luck?

Technically, getting into a swimming pool does not fulfill the practice. To qualify as Dragon Boat Water, the basic assumption is of course that dragon boats have passed through the body of water: usually the river or sea in most parts of China. In Macau, before the sea was reclaimed into land and lakes, the dragon boat race was held in the sea, so the whole sea surrounding Macau was considered Dragon Boat Water. Every Tuen Ng Festival, the first thing that comes to my mind reminiscing over a long-gone swimming area.

When I was a kid, the most crowded place on Tuen Ng Festival was a swimming area somewhere around Avenida da Amizade. It disappeared so many years ago, I cannot even recall its exact location. I have the fading memory of a small bamboo-built structure where we left our clothes and belongings and just jumped into the water. For sunbathing, one needed to swim out to a large floating board some two hundred meters away from the bamboo structure. Those who did not swim well would have to go to the two beaches in Coloane, just to dip in the water. Going to Hac Sa Beach or Cheok Wan Beach was not as easy as it is nowadays. Coloane was considered very far away at the time, because not many people had cars and buses were not as frequent. That is why the beaches were not as crowded.

Over the years, as the population increases and the swimming area in Amizade has disappeared, we have moved to swimming pools. The truth is we can no longer swim in actual Dragon Boat Water, which is now a lake not fit for swimming, so any water will do, I guess. This may or may not still wash away bad luck, but surely will not heal skin diseases.

THE BUZZ RAPE CASE AGAINST CRISTIANO RONALDO IN US DROPPED

A rape lawsuit against Juventus star Cristiano Ronaldo in the US that made headlines last year has been dropped.

A notice of voluntary dismissal was filed in Nevada state court in Las Vegas. The filing did not say whether the accuser had reached a settlement with the Portuguese soccer player, media reported yesterday.

The New York Times reported in March that Juventus, the Italian league champions, wouldn't participate in the International Champions Cup in the US this summer to avoid the risk that Ronaldo would be detained by authorities as part of a rape investigation.

Ronaldo publicly denied the allegations and never filed a response to the lawsuit.

A five-time winner of soccer's most prestigious award, the Ballon d'Or, Ronaldo is also the sport's most popular player on social media.

Macau Film Festival invited to 'Fantastic 7' squad



THE world-renowned Cannes Film Festival of France has invited the International Film Festival & Awards - Macao (IFFAM) and six famous film festivals from different regions of the world to become the co-operation of film festivals known as the "Fantastic 7".

Fantastic 7 is a newly launched project of Cannes Film Festival, counting the participation of seven other film festivals from different regions of the world.

During the 72nd Cannes Film Festival, each participating entity showcased a start-up project to film industry professionals from around the globe. Representing IFFAM, a local film project "Wonderland", which received the Macau Spirit Award at IFFAM last year, was presented at the pitching session. Director of the Macau film project, Chao Koi Wang, producer Tingting Huang, together with IFFAM Head of Industry Office, June Wu, and member of the International Advisory Board, Michael J. Werner, participated in the related activities during the Cannes Film Festival.

The other six film festivals invited for Fantastic 7 this year are Sitges-International Fantastic Film Festival of Catalonia, Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival, Cairo International Film Festival, Festival Internacional de Cine de Guadalajara, SXSW South by Southwest Film Festival, and the Toronto International Film Festival TIFF.

Meanwhile, the Macau Films & Television Productions and Culture Association, one of the co-organizers of IFFAM, is partnering with the world-famous TorinoFilmLab (FL) this year to launch a Macao-TorinoFilmLab training program, "Script & Creative Production Workshop". Local young film talents who have the potential to create outstanding film projects are invited to join the film program, which provides opportunities for participants to exchange and interact with international film professionals.

Macau joins seven famous film festivals in the Cannes-led project

In April, the organizer of the program openly recruited new film projects in Macau, finally selecting "Falling King of Jai-Alai" (Director/Screenwriter: Oliver Fa /Producer: Fernando Lourenço), "The Big Circle" (Director/Screenwriter: Maxim Besemrnyi /Producer: Jorge Cordeiro dos Santos) and "The Rainbow Sky" (Director/Screenwriter: David Tan /Producer: Chan Pou Sam). The three selected teams are entitled to take the join the program's two

phases in Italy from June 7 to 11, and from November 18 to 23.

The first phase of the training includes script creation. During the writing process, the teams will be able to discuss their works with film industry experts in order to develop their skills. The main content of the second phase includes creative development and production, pitching, audience design, sales and distribution, financing and post-production.

The 4th edition of the International Film Festival & Awards - Macao will be held from December 5 to 10, 2019.

Since its launch in 2016, the Organizing Committee has been striving to attain international status for the film festival and establish it as a world-renowned event. The Committee said it continues to work toward forging IFFAM into a prestigious brand in the world and introduce world-class exchange opportunities to local cultural and creative industry professionals.

Through these efforts, the Committee also hopes to steer the city's tourism industry development, and further raise Macau's international profile.

"It is a great honor for IFFAM to be invited to be part of Fantastic 7," a statement from the Organizing Committee read. "This opportunity promises to enhance the strengths of IFFAM continuously and fuels its progress on the international stage." **DB**

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	20-40 Good	
High Density Residential Area	15-35 Good	
Ambient	20-40 Good	

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS



SUDAN Protest leaders dismissed a call yesterday for talks with the ruling generals, saying the military cannot be serious about negotiations while troops keep shooting and killing protesters. The military's violent crackdown has already claimed 60 lives this week.

GERMANY A former nurse on trial on allegations he killed 100 patients at two hospitals in northern Germany apologized to his victims' relatives in a final statement to the court yesterday, saying he realized how much pain and suffering he had caused with his "terrible deeds."

More on p15



UK World leaders including U.S. President Donald Trump gathered yesterday on the south coast of England to mark the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings. But the stars of the show were the elderly veterans of that campaign who said they were surprised by all the attention: They were just doing their jobs. **More on p14**



USA San Francisco officials decided yesterday (local time) to force some people with serious mental illness and drug addiction into treatment, even if it goes against the spirit of a city known for its fierce protection of civil rights.