

# TSI DISMISSES APPEAL OVER TEENAGER SUICIDE

P2 COURTS



## END OF THE GREYHOUND ERA

The international campaign to adopt hundreds of greyhounds comes to an end today when the last three are sent to Australia

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## FOOTBALL TEAM THREATEN TO WALK OUT

Macau footballers have threatened to never again play for the SAR team if they remain barred from traveling to Sri Lanka for their match tomorrow

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

### WORLD BRIEFS

**CHINA** is creating a system to protect its technology, according to state media, as the U.S. restricts the access of Chinese companies to American technology in a spiraling trade dispute. More on p11



**CHINA** Six people have died and one is missing after heavy rains and flooding in southeastern China, the official Xinhua News Agency said yesterday.

**AUSTRALIA** Officials have seized the nation's largest haul of methamphetamine in Melbourne, nearly 1.6 metric tons of the illegal drug hidden in stereo speakers shipped from Bangkok.



**BHUTAN** A global rights group yesterday welcomed Bhutan's move toward becoming the latest South Asian nation to decriminalize homosexuality. More on p13

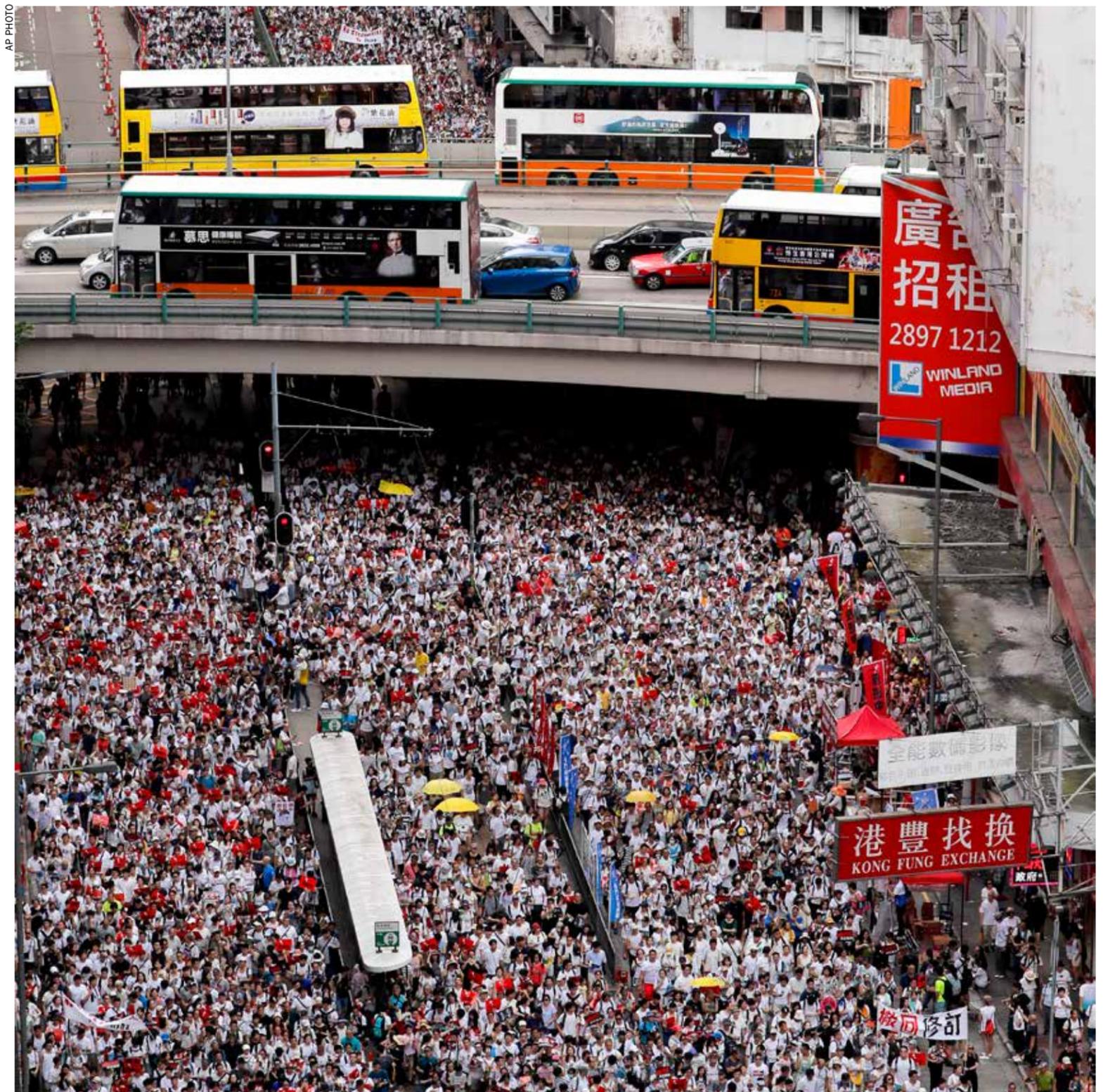
**IRAQ** The head of forensics administration says his office will begin DNA testing to identify the remains of 141 bodies found in mass graves, believed to contain the Yazidi victims of the Islamic State group's killing campaign five years ago.

More on backpage

### A CITY ON ITS STREETS

# ONE MILLION SAY NO TO EXTRADITION

P7 HONG KONG



## CHIEF EXECUTIVE ELECTION

# Surprise candidate emerges with grassroots platform

Staff reporters

**I**N a surprise announcement on Friday, a local businessman declared his intention to run for the city's top post. Concluding religious rituals at a Chinese temple near Kiang Wu Hospital, Leong Kuok Chao, a director at an investment consultancy firm, said he would stand on a grassroots platform.

Leong says he will become the second candidate in the race for Chief Executive. The incumbent president of the legislature, Ho Iat Seng, resigned from his post on the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress earlier in order to participate in the election.

Little is known about the surprise candidate, who has been out of the public eye for more than a decade, and has a light digital footprint.

According to the Chief Executive Election Law, to be admitted to the election a candidate needs to earn 66 nominations from the Election Committee. The committee consists of 400 members who will eventually decide the next CE.

Leong said he is confident about receiving sufficient nominations to actually run for the post. He also said it was his intention to participate in the election and that he made the decision out of his sen-



se of responsibility to Macau. He stressed that he is allowed to do so by law.

Leong pointed out that over the last 20 years, Macau has been held in the hands of the business sector. Leong, who says he is one of the common people, believes he can speak on behalf of the grassroots, so other potential candidates can become aware of the general public's needs.

Social affairs such as housing and transportation are the most pressing issues for him and Macau re-

sidents, he said.

In 2005, Leong ran on the legislative election in a list named Macau Association for Democracy and Social Welfare (ADBMSM) led by Wong Cheong Nam, who was a former lawmaker and ally of the late Alexandre Ho. The list received 4,358 votes, but not enough to win a seat.

The last time a Chief Executive election had more than a single candidate was Macau's first, in May 1999, in which Edmund Ho emerged victorious.

## COURTS

# TSI dismisses appeal over teenager suicide

Staff reporter

**T**HE Court of Second Instance (TSI) has dismissed an appeal request from the parents of a teenager found dead under the Governor Nobre de Carvalho Bridge 12 years ago.

The body of Luís Amorim was spotted on Avenida Dr. Sun Yat Sen, under the oldest bridge connecting Macau Peninsula and Taipa, at 3:40 a.m. On September 30, 2007. Doctors at Conde de São Januário Hospital believed, based on his post-mortem, that he had been killed by a torn aorta caused by falling from the bridge.

The Public Prosecution Office (MP) has conducted a total of three investigations into the case, but failed to determine the nature of Amorim's death.

When the MP closed its investigation for the third time in 2012, the parents of Amorim filed a lawsuit at the Adminis-

trative Court against the government for MOP15 million in emotional compensation.

They held the justification that the investigation had been mishandled, as the nature of death was hastily determined as suicide. Law enforcement agencies had refused to conduct further inspection and another post-mortem.

On September 29, 2016, the Administrative Court ruled against the plaintiff, noting that there was no legal ground to sue the MP for civil compensation as it had carried out its judicial responsibility.

An appeal was afterwards filed to the TSI, which held the same view that the legal ground to sue the government for compensation was absent. In addition, the Court couldn't see there were flaws in the investigative process. As a result, the TSI dismissed the request for appeal.

## ASK THE VET

by Dr Ruan Du Toit Bester



## REASONS YOUR CAT SHOULD BE AN INDOOR CAT

**A**n indoor cat has several advantages over cats that spend time outdoors too; indoor cats are not exposed to infections, parasites, traffic accidents or poisonous plants and foods. Indoor cats live a longer life, due to the lower incidence of illnesses and accidents.

### 1. No parasites

Skin and intestinal parasites such as fleas, tapeworms, hookworms are contracted from the outside, from other animals or the environment (by ingesting infected faeces or soil). Parasites cause vomiting, diarrhea, dry skin, dull coat, itchiness and scratching; parasites can be very stressful for a feline.

### 2. Fewer infections and diseases

Common infections and some of the most dangerous feline diseases such as rabies, the leukemia virus and cat AIDS are highly contagious. If your cat spends time outdoors, he may contract these diseases from infected felines or other animals. Cats like to chase mice and birds, which are carriers of numerous infections.

### 3. Prevent accidents

Traffic accidents are often the cause of death or severe damage in many cats. An indoor cat is not exposed to accidents, so he is safer.

### 4. Prevent poisoning

Outdoor cats may easily stumble on toxic plants and will chew on these out of curiosity, craving or hunger. Poisoning can be fatal in cats, especially if you don't get to the vet in time. You can eliminate the toxic plants, rat poison and other potential dangers from your home, so your cat will not be at risk.

### 5. Prevent animal fights

A cat spending time outdoors can get into fights with other cats, dogs, raccoons or skunks. These fights can result in severe injuries and even rabies, contracted from stray cats.

### 6. Cleaner home, lower risks for owner's health

If your cat doesn't wander outside, he won't bring dirt, dead animals and bacteria in your home, keep-

ing it cleaner. The bacteria brought in by the cat could affect the owner, especially if the cat likes to spend time on couches or in the owner's bed.

### 7. Reduce risks of inhalant allergies

Indoor cats that are sensitive will be less exposed to inhalant allergens such as pollens, so they have a lower risk of developing allergy symptoms.

### 8. Early detection of disease symptoms

If your cat is always at home, you will notice any abnormalities with his skin, coat, urine or faeces as soon as these occur. You can detect any symptoms of possible diseases and get veterinary help so as to avoid any possible complications.

### 9. Reduced stress

An indoor cat is less exposed to stress, having a stable environment. Stress may also be caused by parasites or diseases; being less exposed to these, an indoor cat may live stress-free. Having a well established routine, cats live a happier life.



### 10. Longer lifespan

Indoor cats live more than stray ones, due to the lack of risks. A cat that spends all his life indoors lives up to 16 or 18 years, while feral cats hardly live 4 years. Cats that spend time both indoors and outdoors will live 12 to 14 years on average.

Hope this info helps  
Till next week  
Dr Ruan Bester

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# International campaign for greyhound adoption ends

**T**ODAY marks the end of Anima Macau's international greyhound adoption campaign, when three canines will be sent to Australia.

Speaking to the Times, President of Anima Macau Albano Martins said that it took the organization six months to get all the greyhounds adopted by local and international adopters, with the exception of five remaining canines who are still under Anima's care.

"In Macau, we have five more who are not capable of flying because they are sick, but later maybe two of them will be sent to the United States [...] we already agreed [to the adopters]. But officially the campaign and obligations of [the Macau Yat Yuen] Canidrome ends with us [today]," said Martins.

"I began fighting for this in 2011 and only in 2018 were we able to guarantee that those greyhounds could find a family and we



did it in only six months," he added.

In February of this year, Martins said that there were only 190 of 532 dogs remaining that were in need of adoption after the Canidrome closed on July 21, 2018.

Originally, Anima's adoption plan would have taken about three years to complete due to the financial support needed.

However, since an un-

likely partnership with the Canidrome owner and lawmaker Angela Leong was struck, the track pledged to pay for the expenses of the adoption processes, including the transportation of the canines.

Martins calculated that transportation expenses have cost MOP600,000 in total, aside from the other expenses the Canidrome incurred regarding

the greyhounds.

"One greyhound that was sent abroad would cost around MOP35,000, plus the fines they [the Canidrome] paid to the government, which were around MOP25 million," said Martins.

In 2017, the animal rights activist appealed to organizations around the world to volunteer to adopt the 650 greyhounds before the Canidrome closed.

The appeal, co-signed by the presidents of other greyhound activist groups, namely GREY2K USA Worldwide and Pet Levrieri, called on groups involved in animal protection and rehoming to step up and save the greyhounds.

The Canidrome was previously heavily criticized by Anima for not disclosing its plans for the adoption of the greyhounds and for claims that the greyhounds had been subject to cruel and inhumane conditions. **LV**

# Kim Jong Nam was CIA informant, according to new book

**T**HE older brother of North Korea dictator Kim Jong Un, who lived in Macau for about a decade before his assassination in a Malaysian airport, was a CIA informant according to a new book, which also claims he laundered counterfeit money through casinos and associated with gangsters.

According to those familiar with his lifestyle in Macau, the elusive Kim Jong Nam developed a reputation for living low-key despite being well-endowed financially. He was murdered at the Kuala Lumpur airport in February 2017 after being smeared with a deadly nerve agent by two Asian women, who said that they had been tricked into thinking it was a tele-

vision prank show.

According to Anna Fifield, a journalist at The Washington Post and author of the book, "The Great Successor: The Secret Rise and Rule of Kim Jong Un", the dictator's brother was killed because of the threat he posed of one day being parachuted in to replace Kim Jong Un.

The fear, writes Fifield, was accentuated by Nam's meetings with U.S. spies.

"Kim Jong Nam became an informant for the CIA, an agency with a track record of trying to bring down dictators it didn't like," Fifield writes in the book, according to New Zealand's Sunday Star Times.

She cites as her source "someone with knowledge of the intelligence." **DB**

# 'June - Month of Portugal' continues its tradition

Renato Marques

**N**OW in its fourth year, the annual "June - Month of Portugal in the MSAR" celebration continues to offer a series of activities and events to highlight the best of Portuguese culture in Macau.

As in other years, the celebrations will peak with the commemoration of "June 10 - Day of Portugal," a day traditionally celebrated by all Portuguese communities worldwide and that, in Macau, historically involves three major events.

The day starts with the traditional flag hoisting ceremony, which will take place at 9:30 a.m. today at the Portuguese Consulate in Macau with the Public Security Police Force Philhar-

monic Band present.

The program will continue with the traditional pilgrimage to Camões Grotto made by local students from different schools, followed by several Portuguese authorities in the SAR.

The pilgrimage to the poet's memorial in Macau usually includes several performances, from poetry recitation to traditional Portuguese folk dances.

The event aims to "open the doors" of Portuguese diplomacy and invite people from all communities to join and not only learn more about Portuguese traditions from the old days, but also contemporary Portugal.

The last activity closes the official ceremonies of the Day of Portugal, Camões, and the Portuguese Communities

in Macau, with a reception for the Portuguese community at the Consul-General's Official Residence.

As part of the event this year, an exhibition of works by Cristina Mio U Kit will be shown, featuring over 15 paintings painted with tempera over rice paper.

As gastronomy and wines are two important pieces of Portuguese culture that are locally appreciated, a 10-day Portuguese Gastronomy and Wines Festival will also kick off on the day.

The festival will be held at the Clube Militar de Macau, where Portuguese chef Vitor Matos will cook some of the star dishes from Antiquvm Restaurant, located in the city of Porto, Portugal.

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ART MACAO

# 'All That's Gold Does Glitter'

**S**ANDS China held an opening ceremony and gala dinner on Saturday at The Venetian Macao to launch a ceramics exhibition, which is being held concurrently across four of its properties until October 9.

"Sands China's All That's Gold Does Glitter – An Exhibition of Glamorous Ceramics" features over 90 ceramic masterpieces

from contemporary artists in 13 different countries and regions. Their works can be found at The Venetian Macao, The Parisian Macao, the Four Seasons Hotel Macao on the Cotai Strip, and Sands Macao. In addition, the exhibition is loaning four of its feature works to the Macao Museum of Art from June 6 to October 8 for display at Art Macao's main exhibition.

Sands China's exhibition was curated over the course of 10 months by internationally renowned ceramic artist Caroline Cheng, who convened a meeting of 27 artists from all over the world, including herself, to create ceramic works under the theme of 'All That's Gold Does Glitter.'

According to the gaming operator, it is the largest ceramic art exhibition in the Greater Bay

Area this year.

The majority of the works on display were created especially for the exhibition, and all contain elements of the color gold in line with the theme. Among them, three pieces are from three well-known late ceramic artists, whose works are part of Cheng's personal collection and are on loan for the exhibition.

"After visiting Macau and re-

flecting on the glittery feel of Sands China's integrated resorts, my team and I chose ceramic artists that could contribute to an exhibition theme that reflects Sands China, Art Macao and the call for creativity and innovation," said Cheng.

"We think visitors will be thrilled to see this material, precious and coveted throughout history, applied creatively to ceramic works by our artists, and will be surprised and amazed by what contemporary ceramics can be."

The exhibition website and mobile app also feature an audio guide. Scanning a QR code at each exhibit leads to the artist's page, which provides a voiceover introduction of the artist's biography and his or her creative concept behind the piece.

Meanwhile, two ceramic masterclasses at Macao Polytechnic Institute and the Macau University of Science and Technology have been organized by Sands China during the exhibition period, providing an opportunity for art students to learn from some of the participating artists.

The exhibition is part of Art Macao 2019, a multi-month mega international arts and cultural event organized by the Macau government, with the participation of hotels, integrated resorts, and foreign consulates. The event line-up features the International Art Exhibition and a variety of other events, including diverse musical, dance and theatrical performances, and art installations in outdoor public spaces. **DB**

**SUPPORTING** Art Macao, the city's mega international art and cultural event, MGM is presenting the Hua Yuan exhibition at MGM Cotai. An opening ceremony was held at the property's Spectacle on Friday.

MGM says that Hua Yuan stimulates interaction between art and the public. Through Hua Yuan, the essence of Chinese culture and art is preserved and progressed, allowing the public to experience the beauty of ink and wonder at its possibilities, the gaming operator noted in a statement.

Co-curated by Miriam Sun, Executive Director of the Shanghai Museum of Contemporary Art together with MGM, Hua Yuan is among the highlights of Art Macao. With the commissioned artworks of two contemporary artists, it unlocks a root-seeking journey in the art of ink painting.

"As Macau is pressing ahead with establishing itself as a base for multicultural exchanges and

ART MACAO

# MGM unleashes new ink interpretation with Hua Yuan



Pansy Ho



"No end to End"

cooperation with an emphasis on Chinese culture, Hua Yuan presents a modern artistic ink experience, which is an integral part of Chinese cultural legacy," said Pansy

Ho, Co-Chairperson and Executive Director of MGM China.

"We have invited two talented Chinese artists to create an extraordinary art experience by

using MGM Theater and the Spectacle as canvases to realize the reinterpretation of 'ink painting', giving arts and culture an interactive edge and at the same time, passing

on the Chinese cultural heritage."

In "Journey to the Dark II", Yang Yongliang harnesses technology and videography in a time lapse of Macau, projected

on the 28-million-pixel screen of the MGM Theater.

Meanwhile, Jennifer Wen Ma uses the intrinsic connectivity and diversity of ink to present "A Metamorphosis: No End to End", a large-scale immersive multimedia and art installation at the Spectacle.

Comprised of three garden landscapes, there are hints of color on the traditional black-and-white ink layout. Coupled with the use of laser technology and the art of Chinese paper flower, the installation brings the natural, sculptural and virtual textures together to demonstrate the versatility of ink.

At the end of August, the MGM Theater will also stage Paradise Interrupted, another ink rendition reinterpreted as a kunqu-inspired installation opera in one act.

Under the patronage of the Secretariat for Social Affairs and Culture, the inaugural Art Macao seeks to develop the city into a world-class exchange platform for culture and arts. **DB**

## FOOTBALL

# Macau players threaten to quit team after Sri Lanka withdrawal

Staff reporter

**T**HE Football Association of Macau (MFA) has decided not to depart for Sri Lanka to play their second-leg away match against the country, which was to be played tomorrow as part of the joint qualifier for the 2022 World Cup and 2023 Asian Cup tournaments.

The MFA announced the decision Saturday evening, claiming that it was made due to the state of emergency in Sri Lanka.

In response, several footballers on the team have threatened to never play again if they are not allowed to participate in the match.

A press conference was hosted by lawmaker Sulu Sou and the New Macau Association to draw attention to the issue.

In a joint statement sent last night to the Macau Football Association, the Macau football team declared a waiver that they "are solely responsible for all the dangers to life, health, property and other related matters that occur in Sri Lanka, and have nothing to do with the Macau Special Admi-

MACAU SPORTS CHANNEL



nistrative Region Government and the Macau Football Association."

The MFA explained its decision, citing the several terror attacks that took place in the island-nation about two months ago, over Easter. There have been no new terror attacks in Sri Lanka since then.

About a dozen Team Macau players petitioned the MFA,

expressing their desire to play the match. They claimed that if the MFA would not listen to the players, each of them would never represent Team Macau again.

During the press conference yesterday, five team members said that the MFA had not discussed the decision with team members. They also recalled the fact that the team played

against Iraq on their home ground in 2002 and did not think Sri Lanka would be any more dangerous.

The local football management body said that it had been in touch with the Football Federation of Sri Lanka (FFSL), the Asian Football Association (AFA), and the International Federation of Association Football (FIFA)

to discuss the possibility of moving the match to neutral ground. According to the MFA, the FFSL, the AFA and FIFA turned down the suggestion.

The MFA decision has stirred up questions from both players and local citizens. Many citizens expressed on social media that there is no reason not to go, especially when the team is leading with one goal from their home match. A petition on social media was started, urging the AFA and FIFA to reschedule and relocate the match to neutral ground.

In response to the online petition, the FFSL issued an announcement over social media on Saturday night to explain that both the AFA and FIFA had approved the safety measures proposed by Sri Lanka. The country has also pledged to employ the highest security standards for Team Macau.

FIFA also provides insurance to teams playing in FIFA-accredited matches, which means a lack of insurance is not likely to be the cause of the MFA's decision, as some have suggested.

Four years ago, the Hong Kong football team played a match of a similar level in the Maldives, which had also declared a state of emergency. The team made special arrangements to play the match, such as arriving and leaving the country on the same day.

## INTERNATIONAL DRAGON BOAT RACES

# Thailand, China's NanHai Jiujiang crowned victors

Renato Marques

**T**HIS year's Macao International Dragon Boat Races grand final in the Open Category (500 meters) was won by the Thailand National Team in the men's category and China's NanHai Jiujiang in the women's category.

In the last races of a program that finished last Friday afternoon, China's NanHai Jiujiang women's team stepped up to win first place over the Myanmar and Thailand National Teams, who placed second and third, respectively.

The Chinese women's team won with a run that clocked in at 2:03.439 in a heated grand final race, with the Myanmar team finishing only 0.122 seconds behind the Chinese team.

In the men's category, the win went to the Thailand National Team, who clocked in with a time of



The Thailand National Team

1:53.114, with the advantage of a 0.436 second gap over China's NanHai Jiujiang, who came second. Third place in the men's category went to the SJM Golden Jubilee team, the only local team to score a podium position at the grand finals.

The finals were held over the Tuen Ng Festival, concluding a program

that started with the previews weekend, during which the local part of the competition was held.

The prizes were handed to winners by Chief Executive Chui Sai On in the presence of several other notable guests, including Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam and President of the Sports Bureau Pun Weng

Kun among others.

Meanwhile, in other parts of China, similar competitions were held Friday and through the weekend.

In Hong Kong, competitors took part in the races in Aberdeen Harbor. Accompanied by the beat of the drums, the boats raced against each other to the finish line, where the

winner received a victory flag. Afterward, competing teams used their paddles to splash water at each other, a way to share good fortune.

In Taiwan, dozens of teams took part in races in Taipei.

The Dragon Boat Festival commemorates the death of Qu Yuan, a Chinese poet and politician

who is said to have drowned himself more than 2,000 years ago to protest against government corruption.

Legend has it that locals wanting to prevent fish from eating Qu's remains splashed water and pounded drums to scare them away. They also threw rice dumplings in the water to feed the fish.

**H**UNDREDS of thousands of protesters marched through central Hong Kong yesterday protesting the government's intention to pass legislation that would allow people to be extradited to mainland China to face charges.

The massive protest came three days before the Hong Kong government's plan to bring the so-called extradition bill to the full legislature, bypassing the committee analysis stage, in a bid to win approval by the end of the month.

Observers were left stunned after hundreds of thousands filled the streets and brought the areas of Causeway Bay, Wanchai, and Admiralty to a halt.

Organizers said that more than 1 million people took to the streets, while the police estimate the crowd at about one-quarter of a million.

Police chiefs called for crowd control and restraint measures in some areas of the city. According to the city's public broadcaster RTHK, the Police mobilized over 2,000 officers in response to the march.

By organizers' estimates, it was the largest demonstration in Hong Kong since the mass rallies after the June Fourth Incident in 1989. Some media in the neighboring SAR are calling it the largest protest the city has ever seen.

Late last night, a group of demonstrators broke through barriers at government headquarters, where the march had ended. The crowd briefly pushed its way into the lobby, but police used batons and pepper spray, and the protesters were moved outside. Most had dispersed by 1 a.m.

People of all ages took part in the march, some pushing strollers and others carrying canes, chanting slogans in Cantonese in favor of greater transparency in government.

HONG KONG

# One million flood streets to protest extradition bill



Kiwi Wong, 27, was among the throng, a member of the younger generation who've grown up enjoying relative prosperity but also growing insecurity about what many see as an erosion of the rights Hong Kong residents have enjoyed.

"If I didn't come out now, I don't know when I would have the chance to express my opinion again," Wong said. "Because now we've got to this stage, if you don't come out to try to do what you can, then it will end up too late, you won't be able to say or do anything about it."

Alex Ng, a 67-year-old retiree, said he joined the protest because "I think that there was never any public consultation about this law, and there are a lot of uncertainties."

Hong Kong's leader, Carrie Lam, has pushed forward with the legislation despite widespread criticism from human rights and business groups. The amendments have been criticized as eroding Hong Kong's judicial independence by making it easier to send criminal suspects to mainland China, where they could face vague national security charges and unfair trials.

"What can we do to get Carrie Lam to listen to us, how many people have to come out to make her reconsider listening to the public?" said Miu Wong, a 24-year-old office worker who was among the protesters.

Tommy Lam, a 29-year-old who is working on his master's degree, said: "All these peo-

ple coming out and marching sends a definite message. If the government doesn't listen, there will be tension."

The Hong Kong government said in a statement that it respected the right of its opponents to protest.

"We acknowledge and respect that people have different views on a wide range of issues," the statement said. "The procession today is an example of Hong Kong people exercising their freedom of expression within their rights as enshrined in the Basic Law and the Hong Kong Bill of Rights Ordinance."

Hong Kong was guaranteed the right to retain its own social, legal and political systems for 50 years following its handover

from British to Chinese rule in 1997, the so-called "one country, two systems" framework. However, China's ruling Communist Party has been seen as increasingly reneging on that agreement by forcing through unpopular legal changes.

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

China was excluded because of concerns over its poor record on legal independence and human rights. In recent years, mainland authorities have gone after opponents by accusing them of dubious crimes such as tax evasion, crystallizing worries among critics and others.

Lam's government argued that the revisions were needed to close legal loopholes, while opponents say that is merely an excuse to pursue China's agenda of reducing Hong Kong's legal independence.

Hong Kong's Legislative Council will table the amendments on the bill on Wednesday.

"The people of Hong Kong want to protect our freedom, our freedom of speech, our rule of law, our judicial system, and also our economic foundation, which is welcome to international investors," activist Lee Cheuk-yan, a former Hong Kong legislator, said Sunday. "If international investors lose confidence in Hong Kong because of this evil bill, then Hong Kong, economically, would also be destroyed." MDT/AP

HONG KONG

# Four arrested after bombs set off near police

**H**ONG Kong police announced Saturday they have arrested four men in connection with two apparent gasoline bomb attacks on law enforcement.

The arson cases occurred Friday, first near a police vehicle and then by a police station, said the Hong Kong government.

The attacks came as police were bracing for yesterday's protest against proposed changes to Hong Kong's extradition law that would allow some suspects to be sent

to mainland China to face charges.

In the early hours of Friday, officers inside a patrolling police vehicle spotted a man holding an ignited glass bottle that he then threw toward the car before fleeing. In the afternoon, a man threw an ignited glass bottle toward the wall of a police station. It landed on the ground and erupted into flames.

The four men taken into custody are between the ages of 22 and 60, and the police may still make more

arrests, according to the Hong Kong government. No one was reported injured in either incident.

Under its "one country, two systems" framework, Hong Kong was guaranteed the right to retain its own social, legal and political systems for 50 years following its handover from British to Chinese rule in 1997. However, China's ruling Communist Party has been seen as increasingly reneging on that agreement by forcing through unpopular legal changes. MDT/AP





Jason Robins, co-founder and chief executive officer of DraftKings Inc.

# Billionaire wins, fantasy sports lose in Illinois gambling bill

Christopher Palmeri,  
Elizabeth Campbell & Mario Parker

**DRAFTKINGS** CEO Jason Robins typically reserves his Twitter feed for commentary about last night's game or a shout-out to someone he's met in his travels. Yesterday, he had an entirely different message.

"While it is good to see sports betting bills passed, excluding DraftKings and FanDuel is like passing a ride sharing bill that excludes Uber and Lyft," he wrote. "Very disappointing that Illinois customers will not have the best options available to them for 18 months."

The target of Robins's wrath was a bill that massively expands gambling in Illinois, especially in heavily populated Chicago, where residents are passionate about politics and sports in equal measure. Passed by the Democratic-controlled legislature last weekend, the package also gives a nearly two-year head start to local casinos and horse tracks in the emerging business of sports betting.

The legislation is a triumph for rookie Democratic Governor J.B. Pritzker - and for special-interest lobbying that yielded protections and opportunities for current gaming investors such as Neil Bluhm, a billionaire Chicago real-estate mogul and major donor to Democrats. He benefited along with casino operators, racetracks, professional sports leagues, stadium owners and even the proprietors of truck stops, who will be allowed to add more slot machines.

At the same time, the measure promises to transform the fan experience at the city's iconic sports venues, including the Chicago Cubs' Wrigley Field.

Also tucked into the 816-page bill is a provision that chilled good-government advocates in a state renowned for public corruption: It exempts some sessions of the Illinois Gaming Board, which will police six new casinos and the expansion of existing ones, from the Open Meetings Act.

After initially saying he didn't realize the provision was in the bill until after it passed, Illinois Senate President John Cullerton said through a spokesman that it was meant to encourage the board "do more in open session by reminding/spelling out the only reasons it could go to closed session."

## REVENUE PAYOFF

Lawmakers estimate that the expansion will give the perennially cash-strapped state an extra USD200 million a year from video-gaming terminals, \$150 million from casinos and \$60 million from sports betting. But some observers said the legislature was betting on too big of a payoff.

"Demand is not as endless as the legislature would like to believe," Instinet analyst Harry Curtis wrote in a research note, calling the Chicago market already "saturated."

In an interview with Bloomberg News on Tuesday, Pritzker rejected suggestions that the expansion could worsen the state's

corruption problem. And, he noted, no one is forcing people to gamble. "We're not imposing a confiscatory tax on people when we do this," he said. "This is something people choose to do."

At Wrigley Field on Wednesday night, the reception to the bill was decidedly mixed. Brandon Schmitt, 35, a crane operator from Erie, Pennsylvania, who was attending his first game at the storied park, said sports betting might boost attendance at some venues. "Any kind of options to get people to the stadium is a good thing," he said.

Standing in Wrigley's concourse, David Fullerton, a cardiac surgeon from Denver, declared the prospect of sports betting "terrible," as he watched the Rockies lose by one run.

"I've got to believe that all the bad things about gambling will leach into the sports world," said Fullerton, 66.

## DUELING INTERESTS

Controversy isn't limited to the fans. The bill prompted a battle between Bluhm and DraftKings and FanDuel, the two leaders in daily fantasy sports that have been expanding into traditional sports betting. Bluhm, an investor in the Rivers Casino in the Chicago suburb of Des Plaines, pushed to keep the daily fantasy sports operators out of the market because they'd operated for years while barred by Illinois law.

One of the bill's sponsors, Senator Napoleon Harris, a former NFL linebacker, defended the

delayed entry for DraftKings and FanDuel as punishment for just that reason.

The battle got so intense that the governor had to ask DraftKings and FanDuel to stop running an ad campaign critical of Bluhm's efforts.

Sports betting has exploded in the 13 months since the U.S. Supreme Court allowed states to legalize it. More than a dozen, including New Jersey, Mississippi and West Virginia, have done so. In most cases, casino and racetrack owners have become the gatekeepers, with politicians requiring anybody who wants to be in the business to partner with a land-based operator.

That's usually been enough for DraftKings, a privately held business based in Boston, and FanDuel, a division of Irish gambling giant Flutter Entertainment Plc. In New Jersey, FanDuel operates under a license granted to the Meadowlands Racetrack, while DraftKings partnered with Atlantic City's Resorts Casino. Thanks to mobile betting and their established base of daily fantasy customers, the two claimed almost 80 percent of the sports-betting revenue in New Jersey in April.

The Illinois sports betting law has several unusual features. Online sports-betting operators won't be able to apply for the three available licenses until 540 days after the casinos get their approvals. And a \$20 million fee for the online licenses is at least twice what the casinos must pay.

## FAVORED CASINOS

The state's casinos are allowed to partner with other operators to offer sports betting, but only the casino brand can be advertised. If another brand is used, the casino has to own 80% of the business, a benefit for Bluhm's Rush Street Gaming as well as Churchill Downs Inc., which both have mobile-betting subsidiaries.

"It clearly favors the existing operators and makes it difficult for people like us who want access and want to use our brands," said Scott Butera, who heads sports betting for MGM Resorts International, the Las Vegas casino company, which doesn't own a property in Illinois.

Greg Carlin, the CEO of Rush Street Gaming, said he thought the legislation should've been tougher on the daily fantasy companies who operated in the state without permission. "We welcome fair competition, wherever it comes from, and the sports-betting framework provides for a robust market for Illinois sports fans and gamers," Carlin said.

Owners of stadiums with more than 17,000 seats will be able to offer sports betting within a five-block radius of their properties. Betting operators are also required to use official data from the sports leagues, a nod to organizations like the NBA, which have been pressing for a piece of the action.

Now the question in some people's minds is whether other states will follow Illinois's lead and grant windows of opportunity to the incumbents or go in the opposite direction and let online operators into the sports-betting business without any local partners.

## Sports betting has exploded in the 13 months since the US Supreme Court allowed states to legalize it

James Kilsby, who follows the industry for Gambling Compliance, a research firm in Washington, said the Illinois legislation illustrates several trends. Tennessee recently approved sports betting with the requirement that operators use data from the leagues. The District of Columbia allows stadium owners to offer betting, and New York added a similar component to its pending legislation.

It's no secret where DraftKings's Robins stands.

"Imagine if your entire competitive strategy was to lobby to keep the best products out of the market," he wrote on Twitter. "How bad must you think your own product is?" **AP**

GAMING

# Caesars is in advanced talks to merge with Eldorado Resorts

Scott Deveau & Christopher Palmeri

**C**AESARS Entertainment Corp., pushed by activist billionaire Carl Icahn to consider a sale, is in advanced discussions about merging with casino rival Eldorado Resorts Inc., according to a person familiar with the situation.

Caesars could fetch more than USD11 a share in the transaction, said the person, who asked not to be identified because the discussions are private. That would value the company at more than \$7.4 billion. A deal could still be weeks away and may fall apart if financing can't be lined up, according to the person.

Caesars shares rose as much as 6.5%, the most since March, to \$9.72 in New York trading Friday. Eldorado, which had a market value of \$3.9 billion at the close Thursday, gained as much as 4.3% to \$51.93. The talks were initially reported last week by the Wall Street Journal.



Eldorado wasn't Caesars' only suitor. Golden Nugget owner Tilman Fertitta proposed merging his restaurant and casino

empire with Caesars last year, but was rejected by Caesars. He was still interested in a deal as of this spring.

Caesars, whose properties include the flagship Caesars Palace and the Harrah's chain, is still coping with the

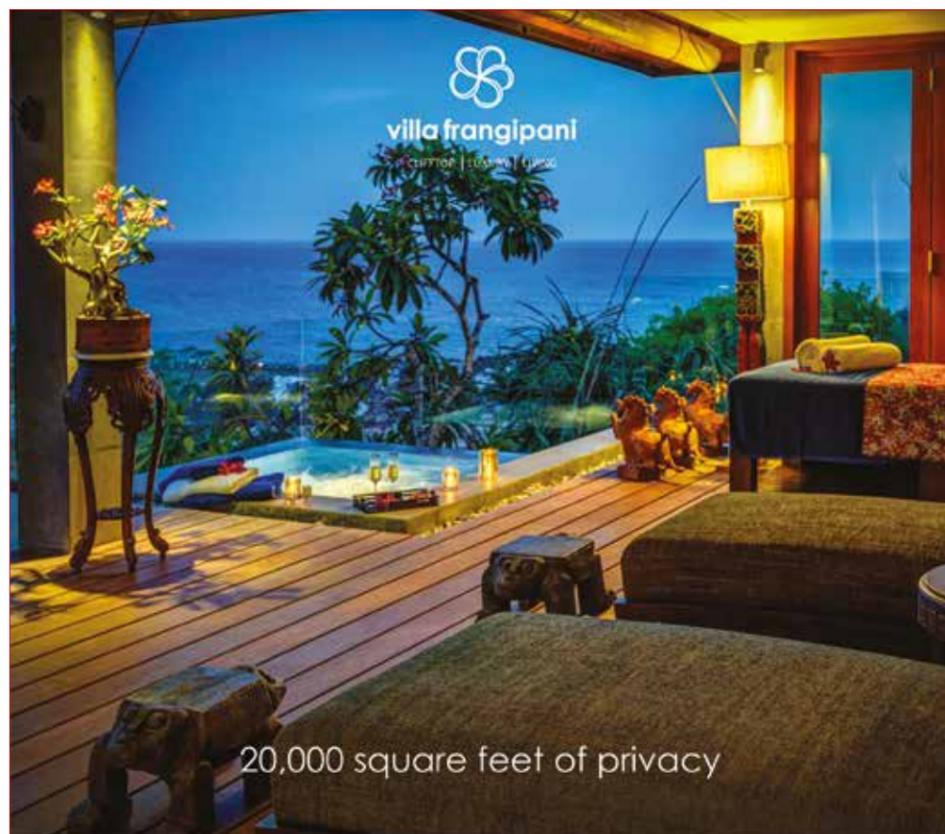
fallout of a 2008 leveraged buyout led by Apollo Global Management and TPG that left it with a mountain of debt. The company completed a bankruptcy of its largest unit two years ago that brought in new board members and shareholders, including distressed-debt investors. Apollo and TPG have sold their shares.

Caesars named casino-industry veteran Anthony Rodio as its chief executive officer in April. Icahn, who has an 18% stake, reached an agreement with Caesars this year that granted three seats on the board. Additionally, Caesars hired advisers to weigh expressions of interest to acquire the Las Vegas-based company.

Eldorado, which dates back to a single casino opened in Reno, Nevada, in 1973, has grown exponentially in recent years under the direction of Tom Reeg, who is now CEO. The company in recent years acquired MTR Gaming Group and Isle of Capri Casinos, and last year added Tropicana Entertainment, which was controlled by Icahn.

The business, which still counts the founding Carano family as its largest shareholder, now has 26 casinos in 12 states. **Bloomberg**

AD



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Ken Moritsugu, Beijing

SPAIN has extradited 94 Taiwanese to China to face telephone and online fraud charges, drawing protest from Taiwan's government.

The suspects arrived Friday morning at Beijing airport on a chartered flight. Footage on state broadcaster CCTV showed uniformed officers escorting them off the China Eastern plane one-by-one.

Taiwan's Foreign Ministry expressed "serious concern and strong regret," according to the island's official Central News Agency.

The extraditions are the latest stemming from a 2016 investigation into Spain-based scam operations that targeted victims in China. Police from both countries raided 13 sites in Madrid, Barcelona and elsewhere in Spain in December of that year, the Chinese Public Security Ministry said.

The amount of money involved totaled 120 million yuan, the ministry said in a statement on its website.

Similar scams operate from several countries and usually prey on Chinese. The callers typically masquerade as Chinese authorities and pressure or persuade the victims to transfer money to the scammers' accounts.

Spain has extradited 225 suspects to date, including 218 Taiwanese.

Taiwan split from China in 1949 during a civil war, but China still considers Taiwan part of its territory. The two sides agreed in 2009 to fight crime jointly, but Beijing broke off contacts after the election of Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen, who is less friendly to China than her predecessor.

# Spain extradites 94 Taiwanese to China on phone scam charges



Shortly before she took office, Beijing began demanding that Kenya, Malaysia, Spain and other countries send phone and computer fraud suspects to China, where they face almost certain conviction and stiff sentences.

Taiwan's Foreign Ministry called on Spain on Friday to uphold the spirit of humani-

ty and the principle of human rights and to cooperate with Taiwan in the fight against transnational crime, the Central News Agency reported.

This case is China's first joint operation with a European country against telecom fraud and its largest international one to date against such crime, the Public Security Ministry said.

Liu Zhongyi, the deputy director of the Chinese Criminal Investigation Bureau, said that the joint operation was challenging because of major differences in the law and law enforcement concepts between China and Spain.

"We have overcome various difficulties," he told CCTV, adding that the operation has

laid a foundation for future cooperation with other police forces.

Liu said that there are still many criminal gangs in the China-Myanmar border area and in Southeast Asia that are trying to scam Chinese. He pledged to "find the suspects, no matter to which country or which place they have fled." AP

## TECH

# Facebook stops Huawei from pre-installing apps on phones



Kelvin Chan, London

FACEBOOK said Friday it has stopped letting its apps come pre-installed on smartphones sold by Huawei in order to comply with U.S. restrictions, a move that deals a fresh blow to the Chinese tech giant.

The social network said it has suspended providing software for Huawei to put on its devices while it reviews recently introduced U.S. sanctions.

Owners of existing Huawei smartphones that already have Facebook apps can continue to use them and download updates.

Facebook said people who have Huawei phones or buy new ones will still be able to download Facebook on their own.

Facebook's move is the latest fallout in the escalating U.S.-China tech feud.

The Commerce Department last month effectively barred U.S. companies from selling their technology to Huawei and other Chinese firms without government approval. China's Commerce Ministry responded this week by warning it would release its own list of "unreliable" foreign companies in the near future.

U.S. officials are pressing their global campaign to blacklist Huawei, the world's No. 1 network equipment provider and second-largest smartphone maker. They say Beijing could use the com-

pany's products for cyberespionage, though they haven't presented evidence of intentional spying.

"We are reviewing the Commerce Department's final rule and the more recently issued temporary general license and taking steps to ensure compliance," Facebook said, referring to a 90-day grace period allowing continued support of existing Huawei equipment.

Huawei declined to comment.

Google, which makes the Android operating system used by Huawei, has already said that while it would continue to support existing Huawei phones, future devices won't come with its flagship apps and services, including maps, Gmail and search. Only basic services would be available for future versions of Android. AP

# Beijing may restrict tech access in spiraling US trade dispute

Ken Moritsugu, Beijing

**C**HINA is creating a system to protect its technology, according to state media, as the U.S. restricts the access of Chinese companies to American technology in a spiraling trade dispute.

The People's Daily newspaper said yesterday that the system will build a strong firewall to strengthen the nation's ability to innovate and to accelerate the development of key technologies.

"China [...] will never allow certain countries to use China's technology to contain China's development and suppress Chinese enterprises," the main paper of the ruling Communist Party said, without directly referring to the United States.

No details have been released about what China is calling a national technological security management list. The plan was announced Saturday evening in a brief three-paragraph dispatch by the official Xinhua News Agency.

The aim is to forestall and defuse national security risks more effectively, Xinhua said, adding that detailed measures would be unveiled in the near future.

The initiative follows U.S. mo-



AP PHOTO

ves to restrict sales to Huawei Technologies and other Chinese tech firms on national security grounds.

The U.S. Commerce Department last month added Huawei to its list of entities that are engaged in activities contrary to U.S. national security or foreign policy interests.

As such, any sale of U.S. technology to Huawei will require Commerce Department approval.

China responded by saying its Commerce Ministry would develop its own list of foreign entities that it regards as "unreliable."

This weekend's announcement of plans for a technological security management list is clearly related to the unreliable entities list, the state-owned Global Times newspaper said in an editorial posted online yesterday.

It said the act would provide a legal basis to manage technolo-

gy exports and counter American supply cutoffs to some Chinese companies.

"Since 2018, the U.S. has repeatedly drawn on its domestic law to exert pressure on Chinese high-tech enterprises," the English-language editorial read in part. "China's countermeasures against the U.S. require more legal weapons."

The two largest economies appear as far apart as ever in their dispute, though U.S. Treas-

ury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said he held a constructive meeting yesterday with the head of China's central bank.

In a Twitter post, Mnuchin said he and Yi Gang, governor of the People's Bank of China, had a "candid" discussion about trade issues. The post showed the two shaking hands and smiling.

They met on the sidelines of the G-20 finance meeting in Fukuoka, Japan.

**China [...] will never allow certain countries to use China's technology to contain China's development and suppress Chinese enterprises.**

THE PEOPLE'S DAILY

Mnuchin earlier urged China to rejoin talks on the dispute that have stalled after 11 rounds of negotiations. He said no talks were scheduled, however, and that major progress on the stalemate would likely have to wait for a meeting of Presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping later this month. **AP**

# With Mexico deal done, US urges China to resume trade talks

Elaine Kurtenbach, Fukuoka

**O**NE down, still others to go. President Donald Trump claimed a victory after Washington and Mexico agreed on measures to stem the flow of Central American migrants into the United States.

Trump called off plans to impose a 5% tax on Mexican exports, and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, speaking to reporters Saturday in Fukuoka on the sidelines of a meeting of financial leaders of the Group of 20 major economies, urged China to follow suit and return to stalled negotiations.

Mnuchin said he planned to have a private conversation with the head of China's central bank, Yi Gang. In a G-20 group meeting later in the day, the two were seen exchan-



China's Central Bank Governor Yi Gang shakes hands with U.S. Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin

ging friendly remarks, but there were no fresh signs Beijing is ready to compromise in the dispute over trade and technology.

"From our perspective of where we are now, it is a result of them backtra-

cking on significant commitments," Mnuchin said. "I don't think it's a breakdown in trust or good or bad faith. [...] If they want to come back and complete the deal on the terms we were negotiating, that would be great."

Mnuchin said he had no direct message to give to Yi, who has participated in the 11 rounds of talks so far on resolving the dispute between the world's two largest economies over technology and trade.

He said there were no plans for trade talks in Washington or Beijing before Presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping are due to meet in Osaka for the G-20 summit on June 28-29.

"This will be a one-on-one with Gov. Yi to talk alone about the trade issues," Mnuchin said. But he added, "I would expect the main progress will be at the G-20 meetings of the presidents."

The Trump administration began slapping tariffs on imports of Chinese goods nearly a year ago, accusing Beijing of using

predatory means to lend Chinese companies an edge in advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotics and electric vehicles. Those tactics, the U.S. contends, include hacking into U.S. companies' computers to steal trade secrets, forcing foreign companies to hand over sensitive technology in exchange for access to the Chinese market and unfairly subsidizing Chinese tech firms.

The deal with Mexico helps alleviate uncertainty over the deal Washington recently reached on revising the North American Free Trade Agreement. The new U.S.-Mexico-Canada deal has been heading toward a vote in Congress and might have been stymied by new tariffs. But the U.S. is still negotiating new trade deals with Japan after withdrawing from a Pacific Rim arrangement, the Obama-era proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership.

America's huge trade

deficit with China — a record \$379 billion last year — is one factor driving Trump's frustrations with Beijing.

The United States now is imposing 25% taxes on \$250 billion in Chinese goods. Beijing has counterpunched by targeting \$110 billion worth of American products, focusing on farm goods such as soybeans in a deliberate effort to inflict pain on Trump supporters in the U.S. heartland.

The U.S. side has been preparing to expand retaliatory tariff hikes of 25% on another \$300 billion of Chinese products, and Mnuchin indicated it was prepared to take that step if negotiations with Beijing fail. But he said Trump had not yet made a decision on that, suggesting room for further delays depending on the outcome of his discussion with Xi later this month.

"As the president has said, if we can get the right agreement, that's great. If we can't, we will proceed with tariffs," he said. **AP**



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**Property of the Week**



**Pearl On The Lough, Taipa HK\$4,580,000**

2,055 ft<sup>2</sup> 3 2

High-end 3+1 bedroom waterfront apartment in quiet location. Panoramic views of Macau skyline and harbour from the living room and bedrooms and balcony. Beautiful bay window in Master Bedroom. Quality finishes in marble & granite. Clubhouse facilities: outdoor swimming pool, gymnasium, childrens playground. 24hr security. Carpark available seperately.



**Property Hotlist**



**The Buckingham, Taipa**

**\$11,770,000**  
 1,439 ft<sup>2</sup>

2   
 2



**Nam Long, Taipa**

**\$8,680,000**  
 1,408 ft<sup>2</sup>

4   
 2



**Cheoc Van House, Coloane**

**\$28,000/mth**  
 2,000 ft<sup>2</sup>

3   
 2



**More Listings**

**For Sale**

[Taipa] Kinglight Garden Loft	1  1	800 ft <sup>2</sup>	<b>\$7,380,000</b>	(ref: 190550055T)
[Coloane] Hellene Garden	3  2	1,663 ft <sup>2</sup>	<b>\$7,950,000</b>	(ref: 190550065C)
[Taipa] Nice Court	3  2	1,600 ft <sup>2</sup>	<b>\$8,980,000</b>	(ref: 19045002)
[Macau] Lakeview Tower	2  2	1,497 ft <sup>2</sup>	<b>\$11,826,300</b>	(ref: 19015572)
[Taipa] Ocean Garden	4  4	3,700 ft <sup>2</sup>	<b>\$32,000,000</b>	(ref: 19015576)

**For Rent**

[Taipa] Soi Cheung Studio	1  1	660 ft <sup>2</sup>	<b>\$9,000/mth</b>	(ref: 18040675)
[Taipa] Soi Cheung	2  1	750 ft <sup>2</sup>	<b>\$11,500/mth</b>	(ref: 16040575)
[Taipa] Vai Fat	1  1	800 ft <sup>2</sup>	<b>\$11,950/mth</b>	(ref: 17110659)
[Taipa] Nova Grand	2  1	986 ft <sup>2</sup>	<b>\$16,000/mth</b>	(ref: 19055007RT)
[Taipa] Ocean Garden	4  4	3,700 ft <sup>2</sup>	<b>\$35,000/mth</b>	(ref: 18040674)

**Recent Movements**

**Sold** Va Fat, Taipa  
 1 bed, 580 ft<sup>2</sup>

**Sold** Pacifica, Taipa  
 4 bed, 1,226 ft<sup>2</sup>

**Rented** Manhattan, Taipa  
 3 bed, 1,626 ft<sup>2</sup>



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DIPLOMACY

# Modi promotes 'neighborhood first' policy in Sri Lanka visit

Bharatha Mallawarachi, Colombo

**I**NDIAN Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid a visit to Sri Lanka yesterday as part of his first overseas tour since being reelected this spring, emphasizing India's "neighborhood first" policy.

Before commencing official talks, Modi visited St. Anthony's Church in Colombo, one of three churches targeted by Easter Sunday suicide bombers. The bombings on three churches and three luxury hotels left 258 people dead. The attacks also dealt a severe blow to Sri Lanka's economy, hitting the Indian Ocean island nation's vital tourism industry particularly hard.

"I am confident Sri Lanka will rise again. Cowardly acts of terror cannot defeat the spirit of Sri Lanka. India stands in solidarity with the people of Sri Lanka," Modi tweeted after visiting the church.

Photos with the tweet showed him in discussion with Catholic priests and viewing images of attack victims and renovation work on the church. Sri Lanka's navy is handling the church's renovation, which is expected



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (center)

to be completed this week.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the April 21 attacks, which were carried out by a local radicalized Muslim group known as National Thowheed Jammath.

Modi was to hold talks with Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena and opposition

leader Mahinda Rajapaksa. He was also scheduled to meet with the Indian community in Sri Lanka before returning home yesterday.

India has been concerned with Sri Lanka and the neighboring Maldives leaning toward China, which is seeking more influence in the Indian Ocean region.

Modi arrived in Sri Lanka from the Maldives, where the archipelago nation's new president, Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, pledged closer ties with New Delhi in a departure from his predecessor's pro-Beijing policy.

Sri Lanka leased a Chinese-built port located near the pla-

net's busiest east-west shipping route to a Chinese firm in 2017 for 99 years in a bid to recover from the heavy burden of repaying a loan the country received to build the facility.

The port is part of Beijing's so-called string-of-pearls plan for a line of ports stretching from Chinese waters to the Persian Gulf. In March, China agreed to provide a loan of \$989 million to Sri Lanka to build an expressway that will connect the island nation's tea-growing central region to the China-run seaport on the southern coast.

China's influence in Sri Lanka makes neighboring India anxious because it considers the Indian Ocean region to be its strategic backyard.

Sri Lanka's government has been trying to balance both Asian giants. Sri Lankan officials have reiterated that the port's security will be handled by the government in an attempt to allay fears that the port could be used by China as a military hub.

In an apparent bid to offset Chinese influence, India has been helping Sri Lanka fund the building of houses and university facilities, as well as a free island-wide ambulance service. India also has extended credit to develop rail transport and a water project.

Since first becoming prime minister in 2014, Modi has stressed a "neighborhood first" policy for the South Asian region, promising neighbors prioritized benefits of India's economic growth. **AP**

LGBT

# Rights group cheers Bhutan's move toward legalizing gay sex

**A** global rights group yesterday welcomed Bhutan's move toward becoming the latest South Asian nation to decriminalize homosexuality.

The tiny Himalayan kingdom's lower house of Parliament voted overwhelmingly on Friday to repeal provisions that said "unnatural sex" is illegal. The bill still needs to be passed by the upper chamber before being sent for royal assent.

"Taking steps to end the criminalization of same sex relationships is a welcome and progressive step by Bhutan," Meenakshi Ganguly, South Asia director at New York-based Human Rights Watch, said in an email.

Bhutanese Finance Mi-

nister Namgay Tshering had proposed to repeal the penal code provisions, saying the law, despite never being used, had become "a stain" on the country's reputation.

The minister said he was optimistic that the upper house in the nation of 750,000 people would back the lower house decision when it votes on Monday.

Ganguly said the campaign for wider acceptance of gay rights should get more attention in South Asia, which is conservative and culturally and religiously diverse with major religions such as Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism.

Bhutan's move follows India, whose Supreme Court last year decriminalized

homosexuality by declaring related British-era laws unconstitutional.

Ganguly said that Nepal has made "some good efforts" as well.

"The rest of South Asia, including Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan, should follow suit and outlaw these legal provisions that are a part of their colonial past," she said.

In Bangladesh and Pakistan, both Muslim-majority nations, gay relationships are illegal, and gay rights activists routinely face discrimination.

In a report last year, Human Rights Watch urged Buddhist-majority Sri Lanka to follow India and decriminalize colonial-era laws that had criminalized gay sex. **AP**

# Strong winds delay retrieval of climbers' bodies in India

**R**ETRIEVING the bodies of five climbers of an international team from a notoriously dangerous Himalayan mountain isn't immediately possible because helicopters are having difficulty operating due to strong turbulence, an Indian official said Saturday.

Uttarakhand state Magistrate Vijay Jogdande also said the Indian Mountaineering Foundation could launch a ground expedition to help evacuate the bodies, which have been spotted at an altitude of 5,000 meters.

He was responding to a statement by the foundation Saturday that it was ready to launch an expedition. The foundation complained that it has been waiting for the permission of state authorities for the past three days.



Veteran British mountaineer Martin Moran led the team of four Britons, two Americans, an Australian and an Indian on the expedition on Nanda Devi East. Moran's Scotland-based company said the climbers set out May 13. Contact with a separate trekking team at base camp was lost May 26

following an avalanche. Five bodies have been spotted, but all eight missing climbers are feared dead.

The foundation said its team of highly experienced mountaineers was standing by to move while it had a window of 15-20 days to complete the operation before monsoon rains arrive. **AP**



## SUDAN

# Protesters launch general strike after crackdown

Bassam Hatoum  
& Samy Magdy, Khartoum

**S**HOPS were closed and streets were empty across Sudan yesterday, the first day of a general strike called for by protest leaders demanding the resignation of the ruling military council.

The Sudanese Professionals Association had called on people to stay home starting yesterday, the first day of the work week, in

protest at the deadly crackdown last week, when security forces violently dispersed the group's main sit-in outside the military headquarters in the capital, Khartoum.

The protesters say more than 100 people have been killed since the crackdown began last Monday.

The protesters hope that by bringing daily life to a halt they can force the military to hand

over power to civilians. The military overthrew President Omar al-Bashir in April after four months of mass rallies but has refused demonstrators' demands for an immediate move to civilian rule, instead pushing for a transitional power-sharing arrangement.

An Associated Press journalist saw heavy deployment of troops from the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces in several parts of the capital, Khartoum, and its

sister city of Omdurman.

Security forces removed barricades from the main roads and opened the sit-in area outside the military's headquarters for the first time since the dispersal. The SPA urged protesters to avoid clashes with the RSF.

Protesters have accused the RSF, which grew out of the notorious Janjaweed militias used by al-Bashir in the Darfur conflict in the early 2000s, of leading the nationwide crackdown. The SPA has called for the force to be disbanded.

The Sudan Doctors' Committee, the medical affiliate of the SPA, said at least three people were killed yesterday including a young man who was shot dead by the RSF in Khartoum's Bahri neighborhood. The other two died of their wounds after RSF forces beat them in Omdurman, it said. The committee says 117 people have been killed since Monday.

The opposition Sudanese Congress Party posted video of what it said was a funeral in Bahri. "Blood for blood. We do not accept blood money," the mourners chanted.

Other videos circulated online showed offices and businesses closed and light traffic, in both Khartoum and the Red Sea city of Port Sudan.

"The peaceful resistance by civil disobedience and the general

political strike is the fastest and most effective way to topple the military council.... and to hand over power to a transitional civilian authority," the SPA said. It called on international agencies to refrain from dealing with the military council.

The SPA posted photos it said were of an empty Khartoum International Airport. It said airport workers and pilots are taking part in the civil disobedience.

The SPA said security forces have arrested and intimidated activists, bankers, doctors, air traffic workers and other professionals in recent days.

"Dozens of airport workers have been arrested by intelligence and the RSF since Monday. We do not know their whereabouts. New workers have been seen in the past days to replace those who took part in the strike," an airport worker told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity, fearing reprisal.

The state-run SUNA news agency cited authorities as saying the airport was functioning normally and that all workers had reported for duty yesterday.

The leading opposition Umma party said Saturday that security forces had arrested one of its leaders, Adel al-Mufti, along with other opposition figures, including Mohammed Esmat, a negotiator for the protesters. **AP**

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G-20

# Finance officials pledge to protect global growth

Elaine Kurtenbach, Fukuoka

**F**INANCE ministers and central bank chiefs from the Group of 20 major economies wrapped up a meeting in Japan on yesterday with a pledge to use all the policies they can to protect global growth from disruptions due to trade and other tensions.

The G-20 finance leaders said in a joint communique that risks from trade and geopolitical tensions were "intensifying." They did not refer directly to the tariffs war between the United States and China, though leaders participating in the meetings indicated it was the No. 1 concern.

"We will continue to address these risks, and stand ready to take further action," the statement said. "We reaffirm our commitment to use all policy tools to achieve strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth, and safeguard against downside risks."

Global growth appears to be stabilizing and is expected to

pick up later this year and next year, the statement said.

But there was an evident rift between most participants in the meeting and the U.S., which has shifted away from support for tackling issues in multilateral forums such as the World Trade Organization in favor of a country-by-country "America First" approach.

French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said the current global slowdown was linked to political issues, "especially trade tensions."

"So it's high time that we put an end to those tensions and we should avoid trade wars which would have real deep negative impact and long-term impact on global growth," he said.

He urged China and the U.S. to resolve their disputes through the WTO, saying it "is only within the multilateral framework that we can find long-term solutions for present trade tensions."

Christine Lagarde, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, likewise was

blunt in warning of the potential toll from the tit-for-tat tariff hikes and other retaliatory moves between Washington and Beijing with talks on resolving their dispute in a stalemate, saying that the "road ahead remains precarious."

"The principal threat stems from continuing trade tensions," said Lagarde, adding that the IMF estimates the tariffs could reduce the level of global GDP by 0.5 percent in 2020, or about \$455 billion.

"To mitigate these risks, I emphasized that the first priority should be to resolve the current trade tensions — including eliminating existing tariffs and avoiding new ones — while we need to continue to work toward the modernization of the international trade system," Lagarde said.

Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso appeared to have wearied of the issue by the end of the meetings.

"The China-U.S. issue is all you ask about. We have plenty of other issues that we need to



G20 finance ministers and central bank governors

consider," he said.

While they urged the U.S. to stick to the international rules that it spent decades promoting before President Donald Trump took office, the officials both in the southern Japanese city of Fukuoka and at parallel talks on trade and the digital economy in Tsukuba, near Tokyo, said there is a consensus on the need to revamp the WTO to bring it more in line with the digital economy realities of the 21st century.

Trump has said he prefers deal-making on a country-to-

country basis. While there is no sign Beijing and Washington are ready to resume trade talks that stalled last month after 11 rounds of negotiations, U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said he had a constructive meeting yesterday with China's central bank Gov. Yi Gang on the sidelines of a financial leaders' meeting in Fukuoka.

In a Twitter post that showed the two clasping hands, Mnuchin said he and Yi "had a candid discussion on trade issues." He gave no details. **AP**

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## what's ON



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10am to 12am (Fridays to Saturdays)

UNTIL: August 28, 2019

VENUE: Galaxy Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8883 3998

MACAU GIANT PANDA PAVILION AND PAVILION OF RARE ANIMALS

TIME: 10am-1pm & 2pm-5pm daily

VENUE: Seac Pai Van Park

ADMISSION: MOP10 (Pavilion of Rare Animals)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0087

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TIME: 10am-6pm daily (Except on Thursdays; open on public holidays)

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ADMISSION: MOP25 (Exhibition Centre)

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MOP80 (Planetarium 3D dome or 3D sky shows)

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ADMISSION: Free

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## Offbeat

## NO MORE BABIES: APRIL THE GIRAFFE IS GOING ON BIRTH CONTROL



There will be no more babies for April, the giraffe that enthralled viewers worldwide with two livestreamed pregnancies and births.

Jordan Patch of Animal Adventure Park in Harpursville, New York, says Thursday that 17-year-old April will start contraceptives on Friday and retire from the park's breeding program.

Patch announced on Facebook that the park's care team decided to retire April following the birth of her fifth calf, Azizi, in March. More than 300,000 people watched the birth live on YouTube.

April drew more than 232 million views on the site during a seven-week period in 2017 before she gave birth to another calf, Tajiri.

Patch says the zoo's breeding program will continue with a new female, Johari, and April's former mate, Oliver. April will be housed with Tajiri and Azizi.

## 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



## 1999 NATO CALLS OFF AIR WAR ON KOSOVO

Nato has called off its 11-week air war against Kosovo following the beginning of the withdrawal of Serb troops.

Secretary General Javier Solana announced a halt to the 79-day bombing campaign three hours after the first Serb convoys were seen leaving the province.

The Serb leader Slobodan Milosevic finally agreed to the pull out last night after first winning a concession from Nato for extra time to complete the withdrawal.

Thousands of Nato troops are now preparing to enter the Yugoslav province.

Lieutenant General Sir Michael Jackson, Nato commander for Kosovo, has refused to confirm when the first soldiers will arrive - but troops have already been moved close to the Kosovo border.

Belgrade now has 11 days to move its 40,000 security forces out of Kosovo.

First reports say 150 Yugoslav army trucks, armoured vehicles and cars carrying soldiers and anti-aircraft weapons have crossed the border into Serbia.

The air war began on 24 March after Mr Milosevic refused to sign an international peace plan for Kosovo which called for the withdrawal of Yugoslav security forces.

Violence against the minority ethnic Albanians had been growing, leading to a steady stream of refugees fleeing their homes.

Within days of the first air strikes reports of atrocities and forced evictions by Serb forces on Kosovo Albanians sent the number of refugees soaring.

It is estimated about one million Albanians have left Kosovo in the past 15 months.

US President Bill Clinton last night referred to the "brutal systematic effort" by the Belgrade regime to remove the ethnic Albanians.

He said: "In the past few months we have seen some of the worst inhumanity in our lifetime. But we have also seen the bravery of troops, the resolve of our democracy, the decency of our people and the courage and determination of the people of Kosovo."

As news of the Serb withdrawal spread through the refugee camps, most Kosovars appeared eager to return home.

Aid agencies hope to spread their return over several months.

Under the terms of the ceasefire agreement the Yugoslav forces are to suspend hostilities immediately. A detailed plan has been drawn up for their withdrawal - which includes the removal of mines and unexploded bombs on their way.

The biggest task facing the Nato peacekeeping force is to begin rebuilding Kosovo.

War crimes investigators will also head into Kosovo hunting for evidence of massacres, ethnic cleansing and torture.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The vast majority of refugees returned home within the first year - but fearing reprisals some 200,000 Kosovo Serbs left the province. Violence continued between Albanians and Serbs. Estimates of the number killed varied greatly, but it certainly ran into the hundreds in the first year after the ceasefire.

The separatist Kosovo Liberation Army was disbanded and transformed into a civil defence force - but the Kosovo Protection Corps has been blamed for many appalling attacks on Serbs.

War crimes investigators uncovered many mass graves and consistent accounts of killings, atrocities and forced expulsions.

Former President Slobodan Milosevic and four senior members of his government have been charged with war crimes. Mr Milosevic's trial began in 2002 and ended when he died in 2006.

Several rounds of UN-mediated talks have been held, without any significant breakthrough. The UN wants to find a solution for Kosovo's disputed status by the end of 2006.

The state union of Serbia and Montenegro is all that remains of the federation of six republics that made up former Yugoslavia - but in a referendum on 21 May 2006, Montenegro narrowly voted for independence from Serbia.

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.

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!

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.

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!

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.

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.

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!

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.

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.

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.

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.

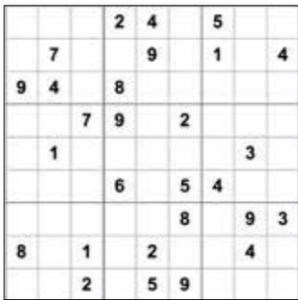
Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You need to express yourself today in the best way you know how. That could mean freestyle poetry or something softer and more direct, but you should know when it works for you.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom

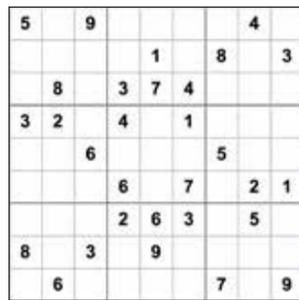


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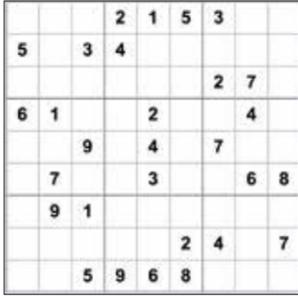
Easy



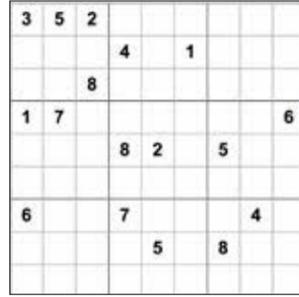
Easy+



Medium



Hard



WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Rows include CHINA (Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, Urumqi, Xi'an, Lhasa, Chengdu, Chongqing, Kunming, Nanjing, Shanghai, Wuhan, Hangzhou, Taipei, Guangzhou, Hong Kong) and WORLD (Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York).

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1-Toasty; 5- George of "Just Shoot Me"; 10- Crash wherever convenient; 14- Twistable cookie; 15- Australian marsupial; 16- Amo, amas, \_\_\_; 17- Steven Chu's cabinet dept.; 18- Man and Wight; 19- Zhivago's love; 20- Mirthless; 22- Pain and fever tablet; 24- It's nothing; 25- ET transports; 26- Spanish Miss; 30- Make \_\_\_ at; 35- Thurman of "Pulp Fiction"; 36- Plop preceder; 37- Slow, musically; 38- Lock of hair; 41- Fast time; 43- Instrument for threshing grain; 44- Actress Lupino; 45- Road map abbr.; 46- Kind of question; 47- Absence of light; 50- Abominable snowman; 53- Pass away, perish; 54- Third day of the week; 58- Vacillates; 62- Tsp. and tbsp.; 63- Doofus; 66- Shaving cream additive; 67- Small blemish; 68- Hip joint of cattle; 69- Arab sailing vessel; 70- IRS IDs; 71- Letter cross-line; 72- Points to; DOWN: 1- Troubles; 2- River under the Ponte Vecchio; 3- It holds the line; 4- "West Side Story" Oscar winner; 5- Dermoid; 6- Goddess of the dawn; 7- Lass; 8- Shake like \_\_\_; 9- Rope; 10- Mustachioed artist; 11- Bridge expert Sharif; 12- Delhi wrap; 13- Spider-Man creator Lee; 21- Old space station; 23- Sacred song; 25- Nasser's org.; 26- Like rolling water; 27- Novelist Zola; 28- Grannies; 29- Hanoi holiday; 31- Pod occupant; 32- Previn or Watts; 33- Data; 34- Loudness units; 39- Pink lady ingredient; 40- Christopher of "Back to the Future"; 41- Nutritional abbr.; 42- Striped, hyenalike mammal; 44- A mean Amin; 48- Korean auto; 49- Gambling state; 51- Some bridge players; 52- Greek goddess of fortune; 54- Soviet news service; 55- Strike callers; 56- Thames town; 57- Retired fliers; 59- K-12; 60- Board's partner; 61- Does some mending; 64- Ben-\_\_\_; 65- Hosp. picture;

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## TENNIS

# Dirty dozen: Nadal beats Thiem for 12th French Open title

Howard Fendrich, Paris

**F**OR a few, fleeting moments yesterday, Rafael Nadal found his French Open supremacy seemingly threatened by Dominic Thiem, a younger, talented opponent challenging him in the final for the second consecutive year.

A poor game from Nadal allowed Thiem to break him and even things at a set apiece. That development brought fans to their feet in Court Philippe Chatrier, roaring and clapping and, above all, wondering: Was this, now, a real contest? Could Thiem push Nadal more? Could he make this surge last? Would Nadal falter?

That the questions were raised at all was significant. The answers, perhaps not surprisingly, arrived swiftly. Nadal reasserted himself, as he usually does at Roland Garros, by grabbing 16 of the next 17 points and 12 of the remaining 14 games, pulling away to beat Thiem 6-3, 5-7, 6-1, 6-1 for his record-extending 12th championship at the French Open.

"I gave everything I had," Thiem said. "It's amazing: 12 times here. It's unreal."

No one in tennis ever has won any major tournament that many

times. Then again, no one ever has been as suited for success on any of the sport's surfaces as this 33-year-old Spaniard is on red clay: Nadal is 93-2 for his career at Roland Garros, winning four in a row from 2005-08, five in a row from 2010-14, and now three in a row.

Looking at the bigger picture, Nadal is now up to 18 Grand Slam trophies, moving within two of Roger Federer's men's record of 20.

Thiem, a 25-year-old Austrian who was seeded No. 4 and upset No. 1 Novak Djokovic in the semifinals, was eyeing his first major title in this rematch of the 2018 final in Paris. But again, he couldn't solve Nadal.

"First thing that I want to say is congrats to Dominic. I feel sorry, because he deserves it here, too," Nadal said during the trophy ceremony. "He has an unbelievable intensity."

This one began on a cloudy afternoon, with the temperature in the low 60s (mid-teens Celsius) and only a slight breeze. In the initial game — interrupted briefly by a baby wailing in the stands, drawing a laugh from other spectators and prompting Nadal to back away from the baseline between serves — three of the five points lasted at least 11 strokes.

And, thereby, a pattern was established: By the end of the 3-hour, 1-minute match, a total of 46 points went 10 strokes or more. Each man claimed half.

Both men would station themselves along the baseline and sprint, scramble, slide, stretch to somehow reach just about each and every ball that came their way, not merely putting a racket on it but responding with a booming reply. It was an impressive display of athleticism, skill and will, with Thiem managing to give just as good as he got, particularly with his ferocious backhand.

From the get-go, it was such a physical grind that Nadal was soaked with sweat and changed neon yellow shirts after seven games and 45 minutes, eliciting some whistles and catcalls from the crowd.

Early on, there were no signs of fatigue for Thiem, even though he was competing for a fourth straight day, because of rain that jumbled the schedule. Nadal, meanwhile, entered Sunday having played just once in the previous four days.

Not only that, but while Nadal dismissed Federer with relative ease in a straight-set semifinal that concluded Friday, Thiem was forced to work overtime, eliminating Djokovic in a five-set-

ter that wrapped up less than 24 hours before the final began.

Thiem showed he can play defense. Showed he can flip to offense in a blink. Showed power off both sides. Showed precision, too, making only three of the match's first 12 unforced errors.

Indeed, it was Thiem who nosed ahead first, closing a 12-stroke exchange by ripping a forehand winner to earn the first break point of the final, then converting it with an overhead to cap a 20-stroke point for a 3-2 edge. He turned with a clenched right hand to face his guest box, where all of his supporters were on their feet, yelling and shaking fists, too, including his girlfriend, French tennis player Kristina Mladenovic, who won the women's doubles championship earlier in the day on the same court.

Not so fast.

Nadal snapped to, immediately. He grabbed 13 of the set's last 18 points, and its final four games, doing so with elan, using a drop shot to help him break Thiem for a 5-3 lead, then a serve-and-volley to help hold for the set.

That must have been demoralizing for Thiem. How couldn't it be?

To play as well as he did, for as long as he did, going toe-to-toe with — by any measure, objec-

tive or subjective — the greatest clay-court performer ever, and even taking the lead, yet end up with absolutely zero to show for it?

At the ensuing changeover, Thiem didn't whack a ball toward the stands, as Roger Federer memorably did during his semifinal loss to Nadal. He didn't spike a racket or kick a tennis ball. He casually sat in his gray sideline seat, bounced his legs and chewed on an energy bar, furtively glancing to his left at Nadal.

Perhaps Thiem was thinking: Is there anything I can do?

The answer, it turned out, was "Yes." But only briefly.

They appeared headed for a tiebreaker in the second set when Thiem broke to take it. Talk about a stunning shift: Nadal had a run in which he took 25 of 26 points on his serve, before a loss of focus, perhaps, did him in. With spectators trading between-point chants of nicknames — "Ra-fa!" and "Do-mi!" — Nadal pushed a backhand long. That gave Thiem the first set he'd managed to steal from Nadal in four career meetings at Roland Garros.

But Thiem, put simply, wilted a bit. He made three unforced errors in the fourth set's first game to get broken at love. Thiem created an opening and Nadal barged through. By now, Nadal was creating magic at the net, and he won the point on 23 of 27 times he went forward. One drop volley was spun so marvelously that it landed on Thiem's side, then bounced back toward the net. All Thiem could do was watch — and offer an appreciative thumbs-up. **AP**

opinion

**Rear Window**

Severo Portela



**DOOMED TO FAIL**

The 30th anniversary of the bloody crackdown in Tiananmen Square, perhaps the most worrying of 2019 ephemerides, went by without so much as an unpredictable event, without too much of an ado other than an understandable media surge fueled by the round date. The two-hundred strong crowd had a mourning sit-in in the Macau Senado/Saint Dominic square. Across the Pearl River Delta tens of thousands again lit up Victoria Park.

Nevertheless, 2019 looks likely to establish a turning point in the assessment and political evaluation of the original student movement; a movement eager for freedom and democracy that went on to occupy that Square in the heart of Beijing. A brief Spring that ended in tragedy when the army tanks were sent in.

Wei Fenghe, the Chinese Defense Minister, finally came somewhat clean about the 4th of June, thus far treated as a taboo. Speaking in a Forum (Dialogue) in Singapore, General Wei displayed a circular argument to justify the decision, deemed "correct" and justifiable because of its outcome: economic development and stability. Ends that justify means, but with a twist.

This assessment strips the issue of its political and democratic watermark. Back then students were called counter-revolutionary, not democracy pushers since that word was present in Deng Xiaoping ideas. Now, since Wei Fenghe's evaluation, they are (were) nothing but troublemakers who could bring disorder, chaos (luan) to China. And what causes troublemakers? The answer is compatible with the circular argument: "social turbulence".

Thus we upturn the 30-year-old 4th June on its axis. The mourning and iconography will go on forever, be it through vigils, the brave mothers of Tiananmen or the courage which defies description shown by the Tank Man. But, since we now have the kind of official assessment as summarized above, no apology will come...soon.

At this point, indeed, one should turn Leninist to ask what to do? The assessment points to social, institutional, and - as the concept looks to be in line with General Wei's reasoning, we dare add - scientific means.

As we are penning this column, the Hong Kong Legislative Council is to vote on the amended Fugitive Offenders and Mutual Assistance on Criminal Matters Ordinances. Supposedly, amendments were made to soften the threat to autonomy and to its status as an international trade hub: raising the minimum required sentence to 7 years and slashing some crimes; extradition requests are only to be processed if they are made by the central authority, such as China's Supreme People's Procuratorate, rather than handing it to provincial or local authorities.

Besides, in what could almost be seen as an overall policy suggestion to the mainland jurisdiction, the HKSAR could also explore having people serve their sentences in Hong Kong, negotiate arrangements for post-surrender visits by consuls or other officials, and governments requesting extraditions would have to provide assurances that suspects are granted protections including the presumption of innocence, the right to an open trial, legal representation, the right to cross-examine witnesses...and the right to appeal.

Why is it that the business and legal sectors, as well as human-rights activists, are deeply suspicious? Even after the reading of the proposed amendments, Hong Kong residents suspected of crimes could easily be sent to the mainland to face vague charges, and worse, retrospective charges for crimes yet to evolve. There you go statute of limitations.

As we said...the zeitgeist is one of the turning points.

**THE BUZZ** A MUSICAL SET IN HELL IS THE SHOW TO BEAT AT TONY AWARDS

The big question at this year's Tony Awards is whether hell can triumph.

The arty and original "Hedestown," which takes place in the underworld of Greek mythology, has a leading 14 Tony nominations going into Sunday night's CBS telecast.

That's followed by the jukebox musical "Ain't Too Proud," built around songs by The Temptations, which received a dozen nominations.

The other best musical nominees are the stage adaptations of the hit movies "Tootsie" and "Beetlejuice," and the giddy, heartwarming "The Prom."

James Corden, host of "The Late Late Show With James Corden" and a Tony winner in his own right, will be the host of the 73rd annual Tony Awards, which start at 8 p.m. Sunday at Radio City Musical Hall in New York.

**Kamala Harris says prosecutor past will help defeat Trump**



Democratic presidential candidate, Sen. Kamala Harris

**Meg Kinnard, West Columbia**

**D**EMOCRATIC presidential candidate Kamala Harris says her experience as a prosecutor has given her insight into trying to improve the criminal justice system and distinguishes her among the crowded field taking on President Donald Trump.

"We've got to hold this guy accountable by prosecuting the case in front of the American people against four more years of this administration," Harris told a gathering of the state conference of the NAACP on Saturday night. "And I've prosecuted a lot of cases. But rarely one with this much evidence."

In addition to portraying her ability to take on Trump directly, Harris aimed to use the speech in this early-voting state, where the Democratic primary electorate is primarily African American, as a way to explain her prosecutorial experience to anyone potentially skeptical of her background as a district attorney and state attorney general who was tough on crime.

In her campaign rollout earlier this year, Harris said she was ready to defend vulnerabilities related to her legal career. Criticized by some criminal justice advocates as being too tough on the accused during her tenuous as the San Francisco district attorney and California attorney general, Harris answered those criticisms by saying "too many black and brown Americans are locked up" and suggesting she supports major changes.

Echoing that sentiment Saturday, Harris said her motivations have been questioned in the election.

"But my mother used to say, 'Don't let people tell you who you are,'" she said. "You tell them who you are." So that's what I'm gonna do."

Noting that her love for the law came from an attorney uncle, Harris said that, like him, she "wanted to be the person who people called for help, to solve their problems, to protect people, and to fix what is wrong." Harris noted that some within even her own family questioned her decision to be-

come a prosecutor, saying she "had to defend that decision like one would a thesis."

In that, Harris said she knew prosecutors had not always treated black people the same as white people and "looked the other way in the face of police brutality."

But on the job, she said, she saw firsthand that her presence and perspective helped white colleagues see issues more fully.

"So I knew I had to be in those rooms," she said. "We have to be in those rooms even when there aren't many like us there."

Harris also addressed black voters directly, saying that she hears their concerns about both safety and criminal justice.

"Everyone wants the police to respond when their home gets burglarized. Everyone wants accountability when a woman is raped, when a child is molested, and when one human being kills another," Harris said. "What we do want is a justice system where no one is above the law, not even the president of the United States." **AP**

Station	Air quality
Roadside	20-40 Good
High Density Residential Area	10-30 Good
Ambient	20-40 Good

SOURCE: DSI/MG

**WORLD BRIEFS**



**SUDAN** Shops were closed and streets were empty across Sudan on yesterday, the first day of a general strike called for by protest leaders demanding the resignation of the ruling military council.

More on p14



**ISRAEL** The military says naval forces boarded a cargo ship off the coast that had been set on fire. The military says it was alerted early Sunday to an anchored ship off northern Israel whose hull was ablaze.



**VATICAN CITY** Pope Francis yesterday lamented what he called a "culture of insults" enabled by social media and warned against nationalism and other "exclusivist ideas" that he said contrast with a Christian mission to foster harmony.



**PORTUGAL** Authorities are monitoring hooligans who are in Portugal for the UEFA Nations League. Officials said Saturday some fans known to have caused problems in soccer matches in the past are in the country but are being monitored by police and by Portuguese and English "spotters."