



TAXI DRIVER ACCUSED OF 'HIT-AND-RUN'
A 73-year-old driver stands accused after hurriedly driving off as his passenger was still exiting the vehicle

▲ P2 CRIME



VISITOR SURGE PERSISTS INTO DRAGON BOAT HOLIDAYS
Average daily arrivals during the Dragon Boat Festival numbered 130,000, about 20,000 more than the "optimal maximum"

▲ P4 TOURISM



EXTRADITION BILL SHOWDOWN TO ENTER NEXT PHASE TOMORROW

▲ P3,7 HONG KONG



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CIVIL PROTECTION LAW

Wong refutes idea Macau is undemocratic

▲ P3 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA Some exporters are going to extreme lengths to avoid the hit from Donald Trump's tariffs. Vietnam said that it found dozens of fake product-origin certificates and illegal transfers by companies trying to sidestep U.S. tariffs on everything from agriculture to textiles and steel. *More on p11*

JAPAN Nissan chief executive Hiroto Saikawa criticized the Japanese automaker's French alliance partner, Renault, yesterday for trying to block changes to strengthen corporate governance following the arrest of former Nissan Chairman Carlos Ghosn.



JAPAN With its bare cells, the Tokyo Detention House looks much like a high-security prison, but most of those who get incarcerated here have not been convicted of any crime. *More on p12*

'King of protesters' Hoi Weng Chong becomes third CE candidate

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Commentator disagrees with 'closed-minded' assessment

Deputy Director-general Johnson Ian of the Association of Synergy of Macau has disagreed with the government's accusation of local people not being sufficiently open-minded about accepting professionals from other places. "The government's policies are conflicting because it simultaneously pushes local people to the north[ern district] and complains that Macau has no professionals," Ian said, adding that it's the loophole in the system that local people oppose. The anti-corruption commission revealed last year that many fraudulent professionals were approved to work in Macau. Ian finds it unfair to blame local people when the government has done nothing to close the loopholes that allowed this to happen.

15 charged with new taxi law

Police have revealed that since June 3, when the new taxi law was enacted, there have been 15 drivers charged with overcharging, rejecting passengers, covering working permits, etc. Police pledged that they would employ all means, including spot checks, video retrieval, and statements from witnesses, to gather evidence. Meanwhile, the new law imbues Transport Bureau personnel with the same authority as police in terms of investigating and charging drivers. The Transport Bureau head said 350 taxi stands were set up across the city following a request from the industry, to better enable the city's 1,900 taxis. Both the police and Transport Bureau are authorized to enforce the new law.

Gov't invites opinions on proposed undersea tunnel

The government has proposed building a fifth passage connecting the Macau Peninsula and Taipa, which will be an undersea tunnel running parallel to the Governor Nobre de Carvalho Bridge. As the authority in charge of the project, the Land, Public Work and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) is inviting comments from the public about its preliminary plan. The proposed tunnel will likely be 2,400m long. There are six lanes in total, three in each direction. The speed limit is expected to be 60km/h. It will connect future Reclamation Zones B and D. It will not take motorbike traffic, as disclosed by the government earlier.

CRIME

Taxi driver accused of 'hit-and-run' involving his passenger

RENATO MARQUES



Renato Marques

A 73-year-old taxi driver stands accused in a case of "hit-and-run" involving a female tourist from the mainland that he had just transported from Taipa to Rua de 5 de Outubro in the Peninsula, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) spokesperson revealed yesterday during the joint press conference held at the Judiciary Police (PJ) headquarters.

According to the report of the incident, two women entered into the taxi in Taipa on June 6 at around 7 p.m. and were taken to the destination point in the Peninsula. After arriving at the location the first woman got out of the car, but while the second passenger was only part of the way out, the taxi driver suddenly drove away, hitting the second passenger's foot and ankle with the back wheel.

The woman then fell on the

ground while her friend hit the window of the taxi with her hands, trying to make the driver stop.

A man that was nearby also witnessed the incident, later telling the responding police officer that the taxi, after hitting the passenger, stopped for a few seconds but then took off at high speed, leaving the passenger on the floor crying.

Later that day, the police found and questioned the driver about the incident. The man acknowledged not having paid enough attention when dropping off the passengers, assuming that they had both left the vehicle when he began to drive off.

He also told the police that he noticed the other woman hitting the window of the car but he did not bother to stop and check if anyone was hurt.

ACCUSED OF RAPE

A 32-year-old woman from the mainland is accusing a

33-year-old man, also from the mainland, of rape in a strange case that was reported yesterday by the PJ spokesperson.

According to the complaint filed by the victim to the PJ on April 28, it all started around 3 p.m. on that day after the woman lost all her money at the casino tables.

She then invited the man to the room in a hotel in Cotai where she was staying, with the purpose of discussing the details of a loan she wanted to get from him, she said.

After a brief talk, the man told her that she did not fulfill the conditions for the loan but he proposed a different deal involving favors of a sexual kind. The woman refused to agree to such conditions, informing the man that she was on her period.

Later, with the pretext of checking again on the pos-

sibility of providing the loan, the man inspected the woman's mobile phone and found out she was married. He then changed strategy, threatening to reveal to her husband her casino losses in an attempt to blackmail her in order to obtain her consent for sex.

According to the PJ report, the man began to sexually assault the victim but she again refused his attempt. Then she said she called on a friend for help when the man left room to get some food.

On June 6 the suspect in the case was intercepted while playing in a casino in Cotai and delivered to the PJ for investigation.

The man denied the accusations, saying that all that happened inside the room was done with the woman's consent. Still, the PJ forwarded the case to the Public Prosecutions Office under the charge of rape.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Secretary Wong refutes claims Macau is undemocratic

Julie Zhu

THE Civil Protection Law was approved in general terms during yesterday's Legislative Assembly (AL) plenary session, amid some lawmakers' worries against the advent of a new crime of "false social alarm." Responding to enquiries during the session, Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak refuted the suggestion that Macau was not democratic, calling the notion an "unfair accusation."

Under the Civil Protection Law, those who spread false rumors during "crisis periods," such as catastrophes, accidents, disease outbreaks or terrorist attacks, might be sentenced to between six months and three years of imprisonment. It is among the most controversial aspects to a law that has been long-criticized in Macau by various elements in society.

"The public is afraid that, during a civil protection operation, the government might intentionally restrict freedom of speech," said lawmaker Ng Kuok Cheong.

Lawmaker Pereira Coutinho criticized article 25 of the bill, which is related to the definition of false alarm. Lawmakers Au Kam San and Sulu Sou also criticized this article, which specifically uses such terms as "for other purposes" and "without evidence."

"If you [the government] do a good job in releasing information, the society will not need to spread information. But the government is not doing well, therefore it [the government] can only approach the bottom line by using criminal accusations in order to inhibit these people who spread false information," said Pereira Coutinho. "Article 25 contains big problems."

"There will be great doubts if the government can't effectively explain and clarify this article. These words are vague. Is the



government hoping that this article can suppress circulation of information?" asked Au Kam San.

Following these lawmakers, Sulu Sou accused the government of taking an inappropriate step by establishing the crime of false alarm.

Regarding the phrase "for other purposes," Sou asked the security authority, "I don't understand how these words could be used in a law bill. Is the mainland using them?"

"Who will set up the grounds for the definition of a rumor? If it is the government, then there will be big problems," he added.

In addition to article 25, the bill also proposes that the government authority has the authorization to call off an ongoing

event when a civil protection operation is initiated.

"Will the Civil Protection Law [supersede] the Basic Law to suspend a legal demonstration?" Sou questioned.

Before Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak responded to the lawmakers, others, including Mak Soi Kun and Ip Sio Kai, addressed, to some degree, the aforementioned lawmakers' doubts aimed at the Secretary, having mentioned that the article, overall, has legal grounds and that it will only be applicable when an issue occurs during a civil protection crisis.

In particular, Pang Chuan strongly endorsed the establishment of the article.

In response to the lawmakers, Wong Sio Chak noted that 13 ar-

ticles (the bill has 29 articles in total) are regulations on the government, while two are related to the public.

"It is not just to the public, it is also applicable to civil servants," said Wong. "Regarding the part related to media, if a media [outlet], including [public broadcaster] TDM, is a member of the civil protection structure, then it needs to obey the law and fulfill its service for civil protection. Regarding other media, the government will encourage them to release the correct information."

"Regarding article 25, in France, Korea, Switzerland and mainland China, there are punishments of imprisonment for spreading rumors. The most superior status of a society occurs

when such laws are not needed. It is possible, in the future, but I don't know when, although I look forward to it," said Wong.

The Secretary claimed that all articles have legal grounds in light of the city's criminal law.

Furthering his comments on freedom of speech, Wong gave two examples as evidence that some statements do not correspond to freedom of speech.

"[Rumor has it that] the People's Liberation Army is robbing and killing people. What is that? How is this possible?" asked Wong. "These [words] are all badly intended to harm the reputation of the Liberation Army. How can this be considered freedom of speech?"

Those who spread false rumors during 'crisis periods' might be sentenced to between six months and three years of imprisonment

In addition to his response to lawmakers, Wong said he considered himself and the security authority were "brave to dare" to raise the article within the Civil Protection Law.

In regard to suspending demonstrations during a civil protection crisis, Wong said, "not every time should we put civil protection and demonstration against each other. We want to protect the safety and the order of society."

Following Wong's answers, Pereira Coutinho noted that in the developed countries mentioned by Wong, there are other laws to protect people because those are democratic countries.

"You say that Switzerland is a democratic country. Are we a democratic society? [You cannot] say that Macau is not democratic when the law has loopholes. This is an unfair accusation against Macau's democracy and rule of law. I absolutely disagree with your statement," said Wong.

Sulu Sou: long-standing discontent behind Sunday's HK demonstration

THE over one million Hong Kong demonstrators in Sunday's demonstration are believed by lawmaker Sulu Sou to have been motivated by long-standing discontent toward the

Hong Kong government. "Hong Kong's social activities have been in a low valley for several years. I think that many people came out this time due to their long-time unhappiness. They didn't come out

solely because of the extradition bill. There is more to [do with] their dissatisfaction towards the Hong Kong government," said Sulu Sou in an interview with the Times.

"I think we need to see

what happens on the upcoming Wednesday [tomorrow]. Then we will be able to judge if Hong Kong's social activities are bouncing back," said Sou, adding that "Macau can't live out of this. Once re-

gional integration policy is implemented, these bills, which involve the entire regions, will worry the public more."

"At the end of 2015, the Macau government delivered a [similar] bill to the

AL. But right before the bill was distributed [to the lawmakers], the government withdrew the bill abnormally. The government explained that the withdrawal was because of [the bill's] technical changes. However, the entire thing was abnormal," said Sou.

"I don't think there is a necessity for Macau to have such a fugitive bill," he added. **JZ**

Sabrina Ho given HKD500m house for engagement

SABRINA Ho, daughter of local gambling tycoon Stanley Ho and lawmaker Angela Leong, recently held her engagement party. The engagement itself was announced in March on social media platform Instagram, and is due to be held next year in Portugal.

Instagram photos posted by Sabrina's younger brother Mario showed that she was dressed in an traditional Chinese-style red gown for the engagement party. Reports say she was offered a HKD500-million house and HKD100-million in golden jewelry as gifts.

Her fiancé is Thomas Xin, a student at Harvard University, where Ho also studied. Xin is reported to be the second generation of a business family.

On March 7, Ho wrote in a social media post that she had been preparing to surprise her parents.

Her mother, Leong, has disclosed that her daughter hinted at a "surprise," which she immediately understood.

Sources say the 28-year-old has been pregnant for six months now.

TOURISM

Dragon Boat Festival visitors 60% higher than last year

Staff reporter

THE police released immigration figures yesterday for the three-day weekend holiday period of the Tuen Ng Festival. The preliminary figures showed that Macau had taken in almost 60% more tourists than the same holiday period last year.

The Public Security Police Force (PSP), which is responsible for immigration controls, conducts headcounts at the border every day. According to its data, nearly 620,000 people entered Macau through the Border Gate. Almost the same amount of people exited the city via this particular border. As usual, it proved the busiest crossing.

More people are flying directly out of Macau during holidays. The number of passengers using the airport increased 17% in the



first quarter this year, while the airport handled a total of 78,276 passengers over the three-day period.

The world's longest sea-crossing bridge handled 147,189 users in total –

around 73,000 respectively for arrivals and departures – during the festival.

All eight border checkpoints in Macau handled approximately 1.74 million crossings in total over the three days.

The sharp rise in visitors has been a pressing topic in Macau for both the public and lawmakers, who have suggested that the city is reaching its visitor capacity. According to a study conducted by the Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT), the "optimal" daily tourist figure stands at 110,000.

The average number of tourists per day was about 130,000 over the three-day Tuen Ng Festival holiday, considerably above the suggested limit.

Lawmaker Ella Lei previously said at the Legislative Assembly that the government must take other measures to better manage local tourism.

The Macau Government Tourism Office is currently studying the feasibility of introducing a visitor levy as one way to resolve the so-called 'overtourism' problem.

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FOOTBALL

Sri Lanka says FIFA confirmed match cancelations



Staff reporter

THE Football Federation of Sri Lanka (FFSL) announced on its social media page that FIFA has officially cancelled Team Macau's away match in the Indian Ocean island nation, which was originally scheduled for 6 p.m. this evening, Macau time.

The match is the second leg of the first-round qualifiers for the 2022 World Cup and 2023 Asian Cup tournaments, which will be held in Qatar and mainland China respectively. Macau beat Sri Lanka by 1-0 in the home match.

A football official familiar with international rules told the Times that a cancellation prior to the match is possible, provided that the relevant football association submits an official application to their regional governing body, which in this case

is the Asian Football Confederation (AFC).

The official noted that there have been other similar situations before, where matches were played between countries that had no diplomatic ties. Those matches were played as scheduled without being relocated elsewhere.

Yesterday afternoon, the FFSL told a press conference that it had not received communications regarding any cancellation from FIFA or the AFC, or a withdrawal from the game from the Macau Football Association (MFA). The Sri Lankan side said they were still expecting Team Macau.

Hours later, the FFSL posted the online announcement about "the FIFA decision".

About two dozen Team Macau players have voluntarily signed a waiver, explaining

that they are willing to be responsible for the risks that might incur from the trip. Earlier, they threatened that they would never represent Team Macau again if the MFA did not change its mind.

Nonetheless, the MFA remains rigid in its stance.

Leong Ka Heng, Team Macau member and footballer at a Hong Kong club, said, after the Sri Lankan announcement, that he won't be representing Team Macau in the near future.

The current situation will not only eliminate Macau from the joint qualifiers, but will also entail possible punishment for the team. Both FIFA and AFC have rules governing these kinds of situations.

Last Saturday, the MFA announced locally that it had decided not to bring the team to the island country, where a state of emergency is still in place from the aftermath of terror attacks that occurred over Easter.

The country has not recorded any terror attack since then. The football governing bodies FIFA and AFC have approved the security measures proposed by Sri Lanka.

'King of protesters' becomes third CE candidate

FOR the first time in its post-handover history, Macau will be fielding three candidates in the upcoming Chief Executive election.

The latest contestant is 79-year-old Hoi Weng Chong, dubbed Macau's 'king of protesters', and best known for his outrageous street presence.

For more than a decade, Hoi could be spotted protesting in central Macau, wearing red or yellow outfits, bearing large placards and broadcasting via a megaphone. He would often stand on Avenida da Praia Grande,

or in Senado Square.

He was formerly a newspaper publisher, but is also known for working for an insurance company.

Hoi's manifesto includes measure to redress miscarriages of justice for members of the public, as well as the establishment of an anti-corruption office, according to public broadcaster TDM.

Having protested for many years, Hoi said he is familiar with the problems faced by the public on a day-to-day basis.

At present, Hoi joins local businessman Leong

Kuok Chao and Legislative Assembly President Ho Iat Seng in the race. Both candidates also say their primary concern in the coming years will be issues of social welfare.

Announcing his candidacy on Friday, Leong said that as one of the common people, he believes he can speak on grassroots issues that concern the public at large. Social affairs such as housing and transportation are the most pressing issues for him and Macau residents, he said.

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.

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

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. **DB**



Hoi Weng Chong (right)

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CHRISTIANSCHEID

Guangdong aims to bolster ties with San Francisco Bay Area



The western section of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge in California

CHINA'S Guangdong Province wants more cooperation with the San Francisco Bay Area on scientific innovation and the low carbon industry, a senior provincial official from the mainland said.

Ouyang Weimin, vice governor of the Guangdong Province, said the San Francisco Bay Area, a world-renowned innovation hub, has made tremendous achievements in information technology, energy conservation, artificial intelligence, medicine and cultural innovation.

The Chinese province has a lot to learn from the San Francisco

Bay Area in its efforts to build the Greater Bay Area, particularly related to technological innovation and the advanced manufacturing industry, he said.

Ouyang made the remarks after a major business and investment conference aimed at promoting economic and trade ties between Guangdong and San Francisco.

"It's impossible for a bay area to remain permanently dynamic, maintain its sustainable development and grow with a long-lasting driving force without innovation and scientific technology," Ouyang said.

The San Francisco Bay Area is

home to more than 20 world-esteemed universities such as Stanford University and the University of California, Berkeley, as well as more than 700 research institutes, he noted, adding that this is "where we can learn while we are building our own first-class universities."

Ouyang said he hoped the universities, research institutions and high-tech enterprises in the San Francisco Bay Area would cooperate with their counterparts in the Greater Bay Area to establish a high-end industrial innovation platform and venture capital institutions in order to facilitate the flow

of high-caliber innovation talents and commercialize their research results.

Guangdong welcomes unicorns in Silicon Valley and Fortune 500 companies to invest in China's Greater Bay Area and work with Guangdong enterprises to foster future growth, said the Guangdong vice governor.

Ouyang mentioned the similar assets of both bay areas. For example, they have similar eco-systems and beautiful sprawling coastlines.

He underscored the need for the two sides to cooperate in drafting programs for developing a low-carbon economy, energy conser-

vation and highly efficient green energy to push for more green, sustainable development.

Ouyang led a Guangdong economic and trade delegation to attend the 2019 investment cooperation conference between China and the United States in downtown San Francisco, which drew more than 400 people, including entrepreneurs, business leaders and government officials from both countries.

The Chinese provincial delegation has wrapped up a tour in Los Angeles where it participated in the 2019 China-California Business Forum. **DB/Xinhua**

Macau gov't announces GBA annex for 5-year plan

THE Macau government says it has formulated an annex for the city's Five-year Development Plan, covering its participation in the construction of the Greater Bay Area.

Officially titled "The Macao Special Administrative Region's Participation in the Construction of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area," the annex represents the Macau SAR government aligning itself closer with the national master plan.

According to a statement from the government, the annex sets out the basic principles for Macau's Five-year Development Plan and combines them with the eight major development strategies for the territory. Containing more than 11,000 words, the annex is composed of several parts covering issues such as improving overall living

standards, jointly boosting economic development, and enhancing the coordination mechanisms between Macau and the other jurisdictions of the Bay Area.

The annex also covers Macau's major duties for participating in various aspects of Greater Bay Area construction. It covers obligations from fostering education development; employment of young people; facilitating innovation and entrepreneurship; constructing green, livable cities; establishing a base for cultural exchange; building conditions for travel and entertainment; and the promotion of interconnectivity across borders.

The promotion of interconnectivity across the jurisdictions of the Greater Bay Area will involve allowing local residents to work in the region and helping small and me-

dium-sized enterprises from the territory to explore their neighboring markets.

In August last year, the Central People's Government established the Leading Group for Development of the Greater Bay Area, with the Chief Executive of the MSAR as one of its members. The local government then set up a working committee in November, which oversees Macau's participation in the construction of the Greater Bay Area and facilitates the development of related systems and mechanisms.

The public may now browse and download the electronic version of the annex of Macau's Five-year Development Plan from the official websites of the Chief Executive's Office (www.gce.gov.mo) and the Committee for Development of the World Centre for Tourism and Leisure (www.ccmtl.gov.mo). **DB**

Shenzhen to microchip all dogs

THE southern Chinese city of Shenzhen plans to begin injecting microchips into all dogs from the second half of this year to better manage the pets, according to the city's Urban Administration and Law Enforcement Bureau.

The microchip is about the size of a grain of rice and inserted underneath the dog's skin right between the shoulder blades, according to Feng Zengjun, deputy director of the bureau. "The chip can migrate on the pet's body and poses no harm to the dogs."

"The basic information of each dog can be scanned, which can help lost dogs be easily identified and returned to their owners. It can also help remind owners to better discipline their pets," Feng added.

Shenzhen will also borrow experience from Hong

Kong to establish pet corners across the city for dog lovers to communicate with each other.

Stricter law enforcement on dogs will also be implemented. "All dogs must be walked on leashes in the open air and dog droppings must be immediately cleaned to avoid pollution," said Zeng. "We will have a more specific regulation on the length of the leashes and how to walk the dogs. Violators will be put on a blacklist."

Shenzhen has rolled out a series of regulations seeking to improve pet management since 2019. The city initiated an electronic system in May that allows citizens to apply for a certificate to have a dog online. It also plans to eliminate stray dogs via the Trap-Neuter-Adoption plan in the next three years. **Xinhua**

HONG Kong's Chief Executive Carrie Lam indicated yesterday that her government will go ahead with proposed amendments to its extradition laws, despite a massive protest against them that underscored fears about China's broadening footprint in the semi-autonomous territory.

Chief Executive Lam told reporters that the legislation is important and will help Hong Kong to uphold justice and fulfill its international obligations. In the same statement, she noted that safeguards were added to the bill in May in order to ensure that the legislation protects human rights.

In what was recorded as Hong Kong's largest protest since the 1997 handover, over 1 million protesters marched through central Hong Kong on Sunday, three days before the Legislative Council is slated to take up the bill.

Tensions are only heating up, with demonstrators vowing to surround the city's Legislative Council tomorrow, when lawmakers debate scores of proposed amendments.

HER OWN MANDATE

Hong Kong currently limits extraditions to jurisdictions with which it has existing agreements, or to others on an individual basis under a law passed before the handover. China was one of the jurisdictions excluded in the law due to concerns over its poor legal independence and human rights records.

The extradition bill amendments would allow Hong Kong to send people to mainland China to face charges, spurring criticism that defendants in the Chinese judicial system would not be granted the same rights as they would in Hong Kong. Opponents contend that the proposed legislation could make Hong Kong residents vulnerable to vague national security charges and unfair trials.

Critics have accused Lam of ignoring widespread opposition to the extradition law amendments.

The city's Beijing-backed leader, Carrie Lam, defended the bill in a 45-minute news briefing yesterday, saying it was necessary to prevent the city from becoming a "haven" for fugitives and vowing to press ahead with its passage. China endorsed her government's efforts later in the day.

She said that Sunday's protest shows Hong Kong's enduring commitment to its people's freedoms. She denied that she is taking orders from the central government in China's capital.

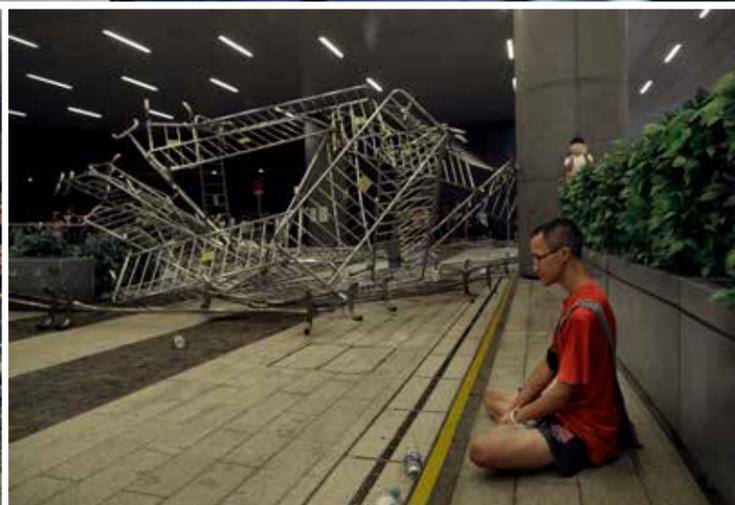
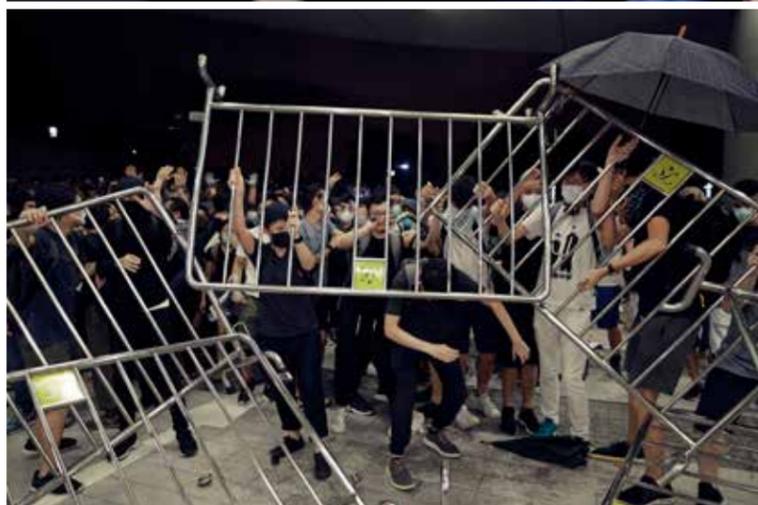
"I have not received any instruction or mandate from Beijing to do this bill," she said. "We were doing it - and we are still doing it - out of our clear conscience, and our commitment to Hong Kong."

Many residents aren't buying it, though. The bigger problem is the slow, but steady transformation of Hong Kong into just another Chinese city. And for many, now is the time to take a stand.

ONE MILLION MARCH

China faces showdown in HK amid mass protests

AP PHOTO



COLLISION COURSE

The Chief Executive took the opportunity to criticize the opposition and the methods they have used. "There is very little merit to be gained by delaying the bill," she said.

While Sunday's demonstration was mostly peaceful, there were some late-night clashes between remaining protesters and police, with Hong Kong media reports stating that three police officers and one journalist had been injured in such quarrels.

Lam said that the government, "could see people are still concerned about the bill," while continuing to express the commitment of her government to approve it as fast as possible.

Opposition lawmakers and pro-democracy groups pushed back following her comments.

"Carrie Lam is provoking us. I

don't understand why a government doesn't want us to live a comfortable life but to challenge us to see what price we can pay," said Jimmy Sham of the Civil Human Rights Front, the organizer of Sunday's protest. The group said it planned to hold another assembly outside the legislature tomorrow, when the second of three required readings of the bill will take place.

"We don't need any more written or verbal safeguards. We want the bill to be scrapped altogether," said opposition lawmaker Claudia Mo.

"The two sides seem to be on a collision course, so it is hard to see a satisfying conclusion," said Jeffrey Wasserstrom, professor and China historian at the University of California, Irvine. "Whether or not the new law is enacted, the people of Hong Kong have made an important statement."

THE OPPOSITION REAWAKENS

The march signals a reawakening of a protest movement that fractured after the government successfully resisted the democracy demands of student-led demonstrators who occupied city streets for 79 days in 2014. Since then, the Chinese government and its handpicked local leadership have faced little resistance to their efforts to rein in dissent, including barring more radical activists from seeking elected office, prosecuting protest leaders and banning a pro-independence political party.

But now the extradition bill could potentially affect any of the city's 7.5 million residents, including employees of the almost 1,400 multinational companies with regional headquarters there.

The legislation would allow Hong Kong to enter one-time extradition agreements with jurisdictions where it lacks formal agreements, including mainland China - which often hands down lengthy prison terms to non-violent criminals such as activists and drug offenders.

Participants in Sunday's protest were hoping for a repeat of 2003, when a demonstration of about half a million people led the city to scrap a controversial national security proposal and contributed to the eventual resignation of then-Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa. Nine years later, mass gatherings led by high school students pressured the government to reconsider a proposal mandating a history curriculum lauding the ruling Communist Party. **RM/Agencies**

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TOURISM

Thomas Cook surges after confirming talks with China's Fosun

Alex Longley, Jinshan Hong & Andrew Noël

THOMAS Cook Group Plc shares and bonds surged after the troubled British tourism group confirmed it received an offer for its tour-operator business from Chinese investor Fosun International Ltd.

Hong Kong-listed Fosun, already Thomas Cook's biggest shareholder with a stake of about 18%, has submitted a preliminary approach and talks are underway, the U.K. company said in a statement yesterday. Sky News reported on June 8 that negotiations were being held.

Shares of Thomas Cook, the world's oldest travel agency, rose 21% to 19.54 pence as of 8:38 a.m. in London, while its bonds posted their biggest gain on record. Fosun's tourism arm is a division of billionaire Guo Guangchang's drugs-to-insurance conglomerate, which owns the luxury resort brand Club Med. The Chinese company jumped 3.8% in Hong Kong yesterday, the biggest gain since March 29.

Thomas Cook has been grappling with dwindling bookings and uncertainty related to the U.K.'s departure from the European Union. Selling at least part of the operation is crucial to the company's survival because a new 300 million-pound (\$382 million) loan announced last month is conditional on making pro-



gress with a disposal.

An acquisition of the world's oldest travel agency would help the Chinese conglomerate gain control of a business that serves 11 million customers and reported 7.4 billion pounds (\$9.4 billion) in revenue last year. It would also give Fosun a say in the future of Thomas Cook, whose shares and bonds have tumbled amid concerns over the company's ability to return to profit and avoid being crushed under a pile of debt.

Thomas Cook said there's no certainty of a formal offer from Fosun. The board will consider any proposal alongside "the other strategic options" that the company has. Heading into the peak summer period, the British

travel agency needs to maintain consumer confidence to avoid any further weakness in bookings and hotel partners tightening their payment terms, Citigroup said in a recent report.

A deal, if completed, could also benefit from booming travel demand out of China. Mainland travelers completed 150 million visits overseas last year, almost 15% more than in 2017, according to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. In 2016, Thomas Cook and Fosun set up a travel agency partnership to cater to the wealthiest 20% of tourists.

Fosun Tourism Group is following recent developments at Thomas Cook and maintaining "normal communication" with its board of

directors, it said in an emailed statement, adding that there's currently no further information to disclose.

Fosun Tourism Chairman and CEO Qian Jiannong said in a May 28 interview that acquisitions as well as organic growth would be part of the company's business model. Fosun is well placed to take advantage of the European and Asian markets, he said.

"We do believe we have synergies with this company because the European market is still the largest in the leisure holiday business," he said of Thomas Cook last month. "If you combine the market of these two continents together, it will make a very, very interesting business." **Bloomberg**

Bank of Japan appoints first female PR head

The Bank of Japan announced the appointment of its first female head of media relations, in one sign that long-closed doors are beginning to open for women at the central bank. Mikari Kashima, previously head of the Financial Infrastructure Studies Division, was appointed to the position yesterday, meaning women now hold the position of chief spokesperson at both the BOJ and the Ministry of Finance. In 2014, the BOJ followed Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's lead and said it would try to hire women for 30% of career-track positions. It said it topped that goal in fiscal 2016, when a third of such new positions went to women, after achieving a similar rate the previous year.

City Developments to buy Millennium at \$2.8 billion

Singapore's second-largest property developer is offering to buy out shareholders of Millennium & Cophorne Hotels Plc in a deal that would value the company at USD2.84 billion. City Developments Ltd. said in a statement that it has made a final offer for the London-traded hotel chain at 685 pence per share, representing a 37% premium to the June 6 closing price of 500 pence. That's up from a previous offer of 620 pence per share. City already owns 65.2% of the shares in the company, and the final offer is conditional on more than half of the remaining shareholders accepting, according to the statement.

China copper imports drop

China's imports of unwrought copper and products weakened in May as concerns over the global economic outlook weighed on sentiment and lower domestic prices made imports less attractive. Imports of unwrought copper and products slumped to 361,000 tons in May, down 23% from a year earlier and 11% lower than April, according to China's General Administration of Customs. Copper concentrate imports rose to 1.84 million tons, the highest since February and up 17% from a year earlier. The International Monetary Fund this month trimmed its forecasts for economic growth in China, and said the trade war with the U.S. is tilting the balance of risks to the downside. The Asian nation is the world's biggest copper buyer and the metal is often considered a barometer of economic activity.

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Made-in-China? Iceland's sweater-knitters are unhappy

Egill Bjarnason, Reykjavik

TROUBLE is rattling one of Iceland's most distinctive industries: the production of the thick, hand-knitted "lopi" sweaters adored by tourists and worn with pride by locals.

The individually produced, very warm sweaters have become a symbol of Iceland. But local knitters are upset at seeing their profit margins diminished by the appearance of sweaters actually made in China, albeit from authentic Icelandic wool.

The practice was started by some local manufacturers who have successfully outsourced the labor to China. Containers full of local yarn are shipped from the North Atlantic island nation, made into sweaters, then shipped back again, labeled as "hand-knitted from Icelandic wool."

Knitting co-ops around Iceland, struggling to compete, last month urged the government to ban companies from branding woolen sweaters as "Icelandic" unless they are made locally.

"People buy the imported sweaters as the real thing," said Thuridur Einarsdottir, founder of the Handknitting Association of Iceland. "But it is not."

The "lopi" yarn comes from Iceland's 500,000 sheep, which have a fleece adapted to a rugged landscape with widely fluctuating temperatures.

The thick sweaters are impossible to make by machine. One adult-size sweater takes be-



tween 14 and 25 hours to knit, depending on the numbers of colors used and extra features like zippers and buttons.

Icelandic women have traditionally subsidized household income with the work, and today many sweeten their retirement years with the extra cash.

With Chinese imports grabbing an estimated two-thirds market share — particularly among tourists — knitting co-ops around the country worry about the future.

"The trade thrives on tourists because most locals already own a sweater and they are very durable," said Einarsdottir, who founded the Handknitting Association in the 1970s to increase women's bargaining power against retailers.

The quality of each garment

ultimately comes down to the skill of the individual knitter, raising the question of what actually makes the sweater "Icelandic."

"What if the sweater is made by a Polish resident in Iceland?" asked Bjarni Jonsson, owner of Nordic Store, a company that makes roughly 20,000 sweaters a year in China for its local retail business in Iceland. "When does the sweater start — or stop — being Icelandic?"

To domestically produce the number of sweaters it produces in China, Nordic Store estimates it would need 200 to 250 people working full-time, in a country of 350,000 people.

"We don't have that many knitters," Jonsson said.

Locally made sweaters retail for about \$200, while the Chi-

nese ones sell for around \$170, reflecting the wage gap between the two nations.

Chinese knitters are, according to Nordic Store, paid \$3 to \$5 per hour, depending on their skill and experience. The number could not be verified and the company declined to identify the location of its operation, beyond that it is in southern China.

In Iceland, competitive pressures have pushed the knitting rate far below the hourly \$14.50 minimum wage. Knitters, who are self-employed and often retired, claim the practice is a lifestyle as much as labor.

"It gives me something to do while watching television or drinking coffee with friends," said Heiddis Gunnarsdottir, a local knitter. The repetitive

practice is taxing on the body, however, often leading sore wrists and shoulders.

Gunnarsdottir is about to complete a green sweater with a rainbow-colored pattern surrounding the neck opening; the circular yoke is the defining feature of the "lopi" sweaters.

Contrary to popular belief, the sweater is not a tradition, but entirely modern.

"No one really know where it

■ **With Chinese imports grabbing an estimated two-thirds market share, knitting co-ops around the country worry about the future**

comes from," said Vedis Jonsdottir, a clothing designer who writes and edits "Lopi", a best-selling magazine with wool sweater knitting recipes.

The method spread around knitting groups in the 1960s after the arrival of the circular needle made the defining pattern possible. The design was most likely inspired — or plagiarized — from neighboring Greenland where the female national dress has a beaded collar similar to the "lopi" yoke pattern.

"It is amazing how quickly it began to resemble national pride and unity," said Jonsdottir. "To us, the sweater is like a flag." **AP**

Natalie Obiko Pearson

FOR months, Canadian defense lawyers for Huawei Technologies Co.'s chief financial officer have been gearing up to battle a U.S. extradition request they'd said would be "exceptionally" complex involving reams of documents. It turns out it's just 33 pages long.

The Canadian proceedings, in other words, are unlikely to shed much more light on what kind of evidence exactly the U.S. has amassed against Meng Wanzhou, who is also the daughter of Huawei's billionaire founder Ren Zhengfei and is sought by the U.S. on fraud charges.

In a preliminary hearing last week, the Supreme Court of British Columbia laid out a road map for Meng's case, ordering the start of extradition hea-

Huawei CFO's 'complex' extradition request is just 33 pages

rings on Jan. 20 — the day when crown prosecutors will also present for the first time the full U.S. request, known as the record of the case.

"It would be helpful to have them well in advance," Associate Chief Justice Heather Holmes told the crown prosecutors. "I understand they're quite complex."

Not as complicated as her defense describes them, responded crown lawyer John Gibb-Carsley. When asked how long the request was, he said, "The record of the case is 25 pages and supplement is eight pages." Just a tad more than the 25-page U.S. indictment already

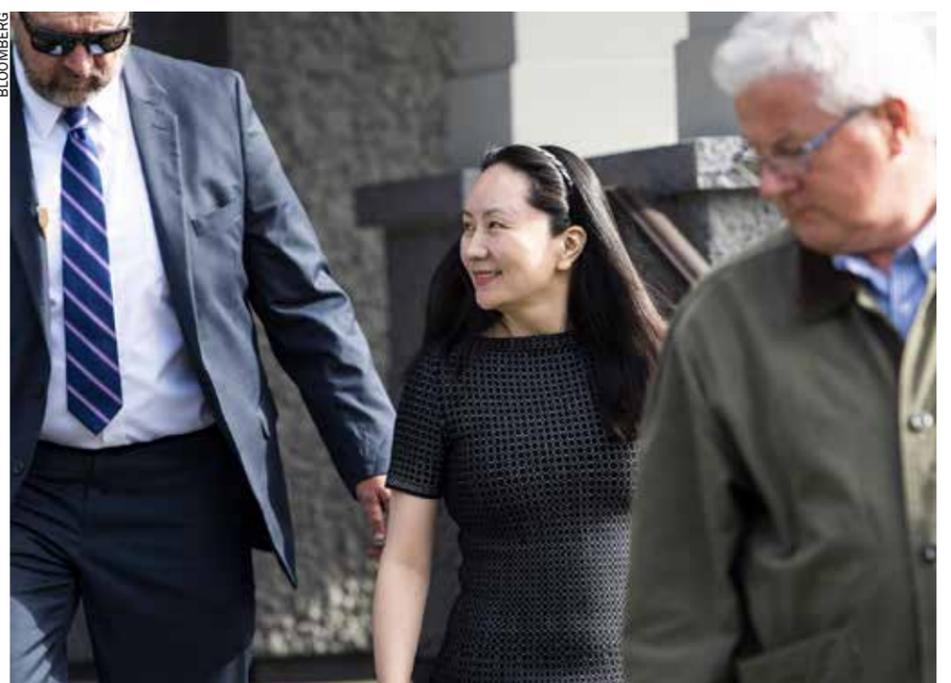
filed in January.

The U.S. accuses Meng of tricking banks into conducting transactions for Huawei that may have violated U.S. sanctions on Iran. The main pillar of the U.S. case appears, so far, to be a PowerPoint she presented at a huddle in a Hong Kong teahouse with an HSBC Holdings Plc banker about six years ago.

Since her arrest last December, Meng has been living under house arrest in Vancouver. Another round of preliminary hearings is set to start on Sept. 23.

Below is the timeline set by the court on Thursday and is subject to change.

Bloomberg



TRADE WAR

Chinese exporters dodge tariffs with fake Made-in-Vietnam labels

Mai Ngoc Chau & John Boudreau

SOME Chinese exporters are going to extreme lengths to avoid the hit from Donald Trump's tariffs.

Vietnam said on Sunday that it found dozens of fake product-origin certificates and illegal transfers by companies trying to sidestep U.S. tariffs on everything from agriculture to textiles and steel. It was one of the first times an Asian government has publicly alleged such misbehavior since trade tensions between the world's two biggest economies escalated this year.

The statement from Vietnam, which pledged to increase penalties on trade-related fraud, adds to concerns that some Chinese exporters are illegally rerouting orders after Trump imposed tariffs on USD250 billion of Chinese goods and threatened to target an additional \$300 billion. U.S. trading partners including Vietnam face growing pressure to stop on illicit exports as they seek to avoid being hit by tariffs themselves.

"It's always a cat-and-mouse game," said Fred Burke, managing partner at law firm Baker



& McKenzie (Vietnam) Ltd. "As long as people are willing to take risks in search of those arbitrages of say 25 percent duties, it's very difficult to enforce."

Vietnam is concerned it may be punished by the U.S. for allowing mislabeled Chinese products to flow to America, Do Van Sinh, a standing member of the National Assembly's economic committee, was quoted as saying in the government's statement.

The Southeast Asian country's reported shipments to the U.S. have jumped this year as China's have slumped. While there's evidence that some of those gains are due to shifting supply chains, analysts have questioned how much of the recent surge is legitimate.

Fraudulent cases discovered by Vietnam's government include packaging on Chinese goods being changed to say "Made in Vietnam" before certificates of

origin are processed. The government cited an example of U.S. customs officials uncovering Chinese plywood being shipped to America through a Vietnamese company.

"A cottage industry for circumventing U.S. tariffs will likely bloom, given the high tariff rates and huge potential profit," said Chua Hak Bin, a senior economist at Maybank Kim Eng Research Pte. in Singapore. "ASEAN governments will likely

crackdown on such re-routing for fear of being seen as a backdoor," Chua said, referring to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Questionable shipments are likely to be a "relatively small" portion of China's total exports to the U.S., said Rahul Kapoor, a senior analyst at Bloomberg Intelligence in Singapore. "There will always be leakages and work arounds to avoid tariffs, but we do not see it as a widespread phenomenon," Kapoor said.

Vietnam already faces scrutiny from the U.S. after the Treasury Department added the country to a watchlist for currency manipulation last month.

Vietnamese authorities have said the exchange rate won't be used to create an unfair trade advantage, even as they've grown concerned that the U.S.-China conflict will hurt economic growth. Deputy Prime Minister Pham Binh Minh told the National Assembly last week that gross domestic product could drop 6 trillion dong (\$256 million) in the next five years because of the trade war. **Bloomberg**

CURRENCY

Central banker says no specific yuan level important

PEOPLE'S Bank of China Governor Yi Gang said last week that no specific level for the yuan is important, and indicated confidence it will continue to be "relatively strong" once the noise of the trade war subsides.

"There is obviously a link between the trade war and the movements of renminbi," Yi said in an exclusive interview in Beijing, using the official term for China's currency. "Recently, it's a little bit weaker, because of the tremendous pressure from the U.S. side."

Yi said that yuan's depreciation has come thanks to market forces -- it is "basically determined by supply and demand of the market force, so that it's basically a market mechanism." Policy makers including President Xi Jinping himself have emphasized that China won't pursue a policy of currency depreciation that hurts others.



Some market participants have speculated that China has sought to prevent the yuan from sliding past 7, in part out of concern about a resumption of the kind of capital outflows in 2015-16 that forced officials to draw down the nation's foreign-exchange reserves. During trade tensions last year, the yuan approached but didn't drop past 7.

STABILIZING FORCE

The offshore yuan was at 6.9482 per dollar as of 9:46 a.m. Hong Kong time, adding 0.1% to losses from Friday in the wake of Yi's remarks. Onshore, the yuan dropped 0.3% to 6.9301.

"I don't think along this mathematical scale, any number is more important than other numbers," Yi

said when asked if there was a red line for the yuan. He also said that "a little flexibility" in the yuan was good for the economy, as it acts as stabilizer for the balance of payments.

Read here about market strategists' reaction to Yi's comments

Goldman Sachs Group Inc. strategists are among those seeing a break of 7

per dollar, though they anticipate China will tap the brakes to ensure against disorderly, one-directional trading. "Any move through 7.00 is likely to happen in a managed and gradual fashion, with steps backwards and forwards across" that level, Goldman strategists led by Zach Pandl wrote in a June 8 note.

A cheaper currency typically helps to bolster export competitiveness, and the yuan's 7 percent-plus decline against the dollar over the past year has helped to offset some of the impact of President Donald Trump's tariff hikes on Chinese goods.

"The People's Bank of China, is already pretty much not intervening in the foreign-exchange market for a long time, and I hope that this situation will continue - not intervene," Yi said in the interview.

The PBOC chief also said that while "the trade war would have a temporary depreciation pressures on the yuan, but you see after the noise, renminbi will continue be stable and relatively strong compared to emerging market currencies, and even compared to convertible currencies, renminbi is a very strong currency."

Among the assets in China's toolkit to combat the impact of the trade war are monetary and fiscal policy, and job training, Yi said. As for the exchange rate, "we will continue to have this market-oriented mechanism," he said.

"I'm very confident renminbi will continue to be stable at a more or less equilibrium level," the governor said. He later repeated those comments at the Group of Twenty meeting in Japan over the weekend. **Bloomberg**

JAPAN

Bare detention center holds many without convictions

Yuri Kageyama, Tokyo

WITH its bare cells, the Tokyo Detention House looks much like a high-security prison, but most of those who get incarcerated here, including former Nissan Chairman Carlos Ghosn, have not been convicted of any crime.

Japan's system of refusing bail while suspects await trial, often for months, has drawn international criticism as "hostage justice."

Foreign media got a rare tour of the austere, drab but orderly facility yesterday, but only of floors without inmates.

Each solitary cell has only a toilet, folded bedding, a shelf and a sink. A window looks out into a bit of sky. Simple meals of rice and soup with a tiny portion of meat or fish are served from a sliding window.

Ghosn, who spent 130 days at the facility over two separate detention periods, says he is innocent of financial misconduct allegations.

He is out on bail, but 1,216 of the 1,758 current inmates have not been convicted and are awaiting trial.

The solitary cells measure 7.5 square meters. Yesterday's tour also included a small concrete exercise area, covered with fencing, where inmates can go just 30 minutes a day.

There is also a small store where visitors and inmates can buy snacks like canned fruit



AP PHOTO

and cookies.

Many nations have harsh detention conditions. In Thailand, for example, suspects can be held in chains as they await trial. Detentions can become long in the U.S., especially for people suspected of serious crimes such as terrorism. But generally, a person is presumed innocent, has the right to have an attorney present and is freed within 72 hours if there is no charge.

Suspects in Japan are routinely questioned by prosecutors without a lawyer present and can be held up to 23 days per possible charge without possibility of bail. Prosecutors can add charges to prolong the detention.

The interrogation rooms, where prosecutors grill the suspects,

were not shown during the tour.

There are no TV sets. Inmates listen to the daytime radio news in the evening. Bathing is allowed three times a week in the summer, and twice in the winter. Daily schedules are regimented, starting at 7 a.m., followed by roll call. Bed time is 9 p.m.

Warden Shigeru Takenaka acknowledged there was room for improvement, but stressed public opinion would not allow a fancy lifestyle.

The extensive measures to prevent suicides were telling.

All corners in the cells, such as shelves, are rounded, faucets in sinks turn on and off with a button, and hooks slide off easily so no rope can be hung.

"The three big accidents in Ja-

panese prisons are fires, escapes and suicides," Takenaka said.

He did not know how many suicide attempts had occurred at his facility, but noted proudly that a guard was recently given a special award for preventing an attempt.

The social ostracism that follows in conformist Japan for those suspected of a crime, and their families, means few people speak out.

Those who do say they felt utterly hopeless at the Tokyo Detention House.

Yuji Hosono, a former representative partner at auditing company KPMG Japan, who was detained for 190 days on allegations he window-dressed the financial records of a company

he audited, said he felt it would never end.

But he continued to assert his innocence, clinging to the idea that it was "being human," he said in a recent interview. Hosono was eventually convicted after taking his six-year legal battle to the Supreme Court.

He said some workers at the Tokyo Detention House were nice and whispered to him as he headed to the prosecutors' interrogation, "Hang in there."

Foreigners make up 14% of those at the detention house, about a third of them from China, followed by Vietnam and South Korea. Americans make up 4% of the foreign inmates.

■ The social ostracism that follows in conformist Japan for those suspected of a crime, and their families, means few people speak out

By type of offense, the most common is theft, at about a fifth of the allegations, followed by stimulant drug use, fraud and robbery.

Takenaka stressed that, unlike U.S. prisons, where violence might be common, his inmates were safe.

"They don't have to defend themselves as in the West. They are protected," he told reporters. "I believe conditions are more than adequate." AP

INDIA

Court convicts 6 in rape, killing of girl in Kashmir

Aijaz Hussain, Srinagar

A court yesterday convicted six Hindu men, including four police officials, in connection with the rape and murder of an 8-year-old Muslim girl in Indian-controlled Kashmir, a case that has that has exacerbated communal tensions in the disputed region.

Judge Tejwinder Singh found at least some of the six guilty of rape and murder, but it was not immediately known if all of them were. The judge acquitted another defendant due to lack of evidence.

The girl, who was a member of the nomadic tribe, was grazing her family's ponies in the forests



Kashmiri activists hold torches and march in a protest against the rape and murder of an 8-year-old girl in Srinagar in April.

of the Himalayan foothills when she was kidnapped in January 2018. Her mutilated body was found in the woods a week later.

The case sparked protests across Kashmir, a Muslim-majority region where rebels have been fighting for years for in-

dependence or unification with Pakistan and there is great distrust of the government. Thousands of members of a radical

Hindu group, meanwhile, had demanded the release of the defendants, saying that they were innocent.

The trial was shifted to neighboring Punjab state following accusations that local Hindu leaders and politicians were trying to block the investigation into the case.

The prosecution said the girl was raped in captivity in a small village temple in Kathua district after having been kept sedated for four days before she was bludgeoned to death.

The girl's father, Mohammed Akhtar, told The Associated Press by phone that the men should be "punished speedily, not just convicted."

"Our family has gone

through hell," he said. "Our hearts are bleeding. These beasts should be hanged."

The men were expected to be sentenced later yesterday.

India has been shaken by a series of sexual assaults in recent years, including the gang rape and murder of a student on a New Delhi bus in 2012. That attack galvanized a country where widespread violence against women had long been quietly accepted.

While the government has passed a series of laws increasing punishment for rape, it's rare for more than a few weeks to pass without another brutal sexual assault being reported. AP

NEW ZEALAND

Kim Dotcom fights US extradition in top court

Nick Perry, Wellington

INTERNET entrepreneur Kim Dotcom and three of his former colleagues yesterday took their fight against being extradited to the U.S. to New Zealand's top court. The Supreme Court began hearing arguments in the seven-year-old case after Dotcom and the others lost several previous court rulings.

But even if the men lose their latest appeal, they have legal options, which could keep their case alive in the New Zealand court system and delay any extradition for several more years.

U.S. authorities in 2012 shut down Dotcom's file-sharing website Megaupload and filed charges of conspiracy, racketeering and money laundering. If found guilty, the men could face decades in prison.

Megaupload was once one of the internet's most popular sites. U.S. prosecutors say it raked in at least USD175



million, mainly from people using it to illegally download songs, television shows and movies.

Ira Rothken, one of Dotcom's lawyers, said in an interview that if anyone did something illegal in relation to Megaupload, it was the users.

"This case is all about trying to hold Megaupload and Kim Dotcom and the others responsible

for the acts of users," Rothken said. "And we're saying you can't do that. You can't do that in the United States and you can't do that in New Zealand."

The Supreme Court has scheduled five days to hear the appeal. After that, it could take them several months to issue their decision.

Should the Supreme Court uphold the earlier court rulings

and find the men are eligible for extradition, then New Zealand's Justice Minister Andrew Little would need to make the final decision on whether the extraditions should proceed. And Little's decision could also be appealed in the courts.

Dotcom, who was arrested in 2012 during a dramatic police raid on his mansion and incarcerated for a month, was released on bail more than seven years ago.

In addition to Dotcom, who founded Megaupload and was its biggest shareholder, the U.S. is also seeking to extradite former Megaupload officers Mathias Ortmann, Bram van der Kolk and Finn Batato. The indictment was filed in the U.S. District Court in eastern Virginia.

Dotcom did not attend yesterday's hearing, although the other three men did. Rothken said Dotcom was at his home in Queenstown and was being kept informed of developments.

Dotcom said his wife was helping the defense team.

"My wonderful wife Elizabeth has graduated law school to become a lawyer this year and today she's fighting alongside my legal team for our future," Dotcom wrote on Twitter. "Frankly if it wasn't for Liz I don't think I could have made it this far." **AP**

PAKISTAN

Court rejects ex-President Zardari's bail request

A Pakistani court has rejected a request by former President Asif Ali Zardari and his sister for an extension of their bail that would allow them to remain free despite facing a multimillion-dollar money laundering case.

The decision paves the way for the country's anti-graft body to arrest the two, perhaps within hours.

Zardari, currently a lawmaker in Parliament, and his sister Faryal Talpur, also a politician, are accused of having dozens of bogus bank accounts.

The two attended the court hearing but were not arrested at the scene.

The anti-graft body has arrested several politicians on corruption charges since Prime Minister Imran Khan took office last year. Khan's predecessor, Nawaz Sharif, was removed from office by the Supreme Court over corruption allegations. **AP**

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GULF TENSIONS

Top Iran diplomat warns US it cannot 'expect to stay safe'

Amir Vahdat
& Jon Gambrell, Tehran

IRAN'S foreign minister warned the U.S. yesterday that it "cannot expect to stay safe" after launching what he described as an economic war against Tehran, taking a hard-line stance amid a visit by Germany's top diplomat seeking to defuse tensions.

A stern-faced Mohammad Javad Zarif offered a series of threats over the ongoing tensions gripping the Persian Gulf. The crisis takes root in President Donald Trump's decision over a year ago to withdraw America from Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers. Trump also reinstated tough sanctions on Iran, targeting its oil sector.

"Mr. Trump himself has announced that the U.S. has launched an economic war against Iran," Zarif said. "The only solution for reducing tensions in this region is stopping that economic war."

Zarif also warned: "Whoever starts a war with us will not be the one who finishes it."

For his part, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas insisted his country and other European nations want to find a way to salvage the nuclear deal, which saw Iran limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions. But he acknowledged there were limits.

"We won't be able to do miracles, but we are trying as best as we can to do prevent its failure," Maas said.

However, Europe has yet to be able to offer Iran a way to get around the newly imposed U.S. sanctions. Meanwhile, a July 7 deadline — imposed by Iran — looms for Europe to find a way to save the unraveling deal.

Otherwise, Iran has warned it will resume enriching uranium closer to weapons-grade levels.

Though Zarif made a point to shake Maas' hands before the cameras, his comments marked a sharp departure for the U.S.-educated diplomat who helped secure the nuclear deal, alongside the relatively moderate President Hassan Rouhani. They came after Maas spoke about Israel, an archenemy of Iran's government.

"Israel's right to exist is part of Germany's founding principle and is completely non-negotiable," Maas said. "It is a result of our history and it's irrevocable and doesn't just change because I am currently in Tehran."

Zarif then grew visibly angry, offering a list of Mideast problems ranging from al-Qaida to the bombing of Yemeni civilians he blamed on the U.S. and its allies, namely Saudi Arabia.

"If one seeks to talk about instability in this region, those are the other parties who should be held responsible," Zarif said.

Zarif's sharp tone likely comes from Iran's growing frustration with Europe, as well as the ever-tightening American sanctions targeting the country. Iran's national currency, the rial, is currently trading at nearly 130,000 to USD1. It had been 32,000 to the dollar at the time of the 2015 deal. That has wiped away people's earnings, as well as driven up prices on nearly every good in the country.

■ Zarif's sharp tone likely comes from Iran's growing frustration with Europe, as well as the ever-tightening American sanctions targeting the country

European nations had pledged to create a mechanism called INSTEX, which would allow Iran to continue to trade

for humanitarian goods despite American sanctions. However, that program has yet to really take off, something Iran's foreign ministry spokesman noted before Zarif and Maas spoke to reporters.

"We haven't put much hope in INSTEX," spokesman Abbas Mousavi said, according to Iranian state television. "If INSTEX was going to help us, it would have done so already."

Trump, in withdrawing from the deal, pointed that the accord had not limited Iran's ballistic missile program, or addressed what American officials describe as Tehran's malign influence across the wider Mideast.

Back when the deal was struck in 2015, it was described it as a building block toward further negotiations with Iran, whose Islamic government has had a tense relationship with America since the 1979 takeover of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and subsequent hostage crisis.

Some members of Trump's administration, particularly National Security Adviser John Bolton, previously supported the overthrow of Iran's government. Trump, however, has stressed that he wants to talk with Iran's clerical rulers.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will arrive in Tehran on Wednesday as an interlocutor for Trump.

Japan had once purchased Iranian oil, but it has now stopped over American sanctions. However, Mideast oil remains crucial to Japan and recent threats from Iran to close off the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth through which a third of all oil traded by sea passes, has raised concerns.

The semi-official Tasnim news agency reported that Ali Asghar Zarean, deputy head of Iran's nuclear department, said Tehran had increased the number of its centrifuges to 1,044 at the Fordo underground facility.

Without elaborating on the model of centrifuges in Fordo, Zarean added it was 720 centrifuges before the 2015 nuclear deal.

The head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, Ali Akbar Salehi, said last month that Iran had begun installing a chain of 20 IR-6 centrifuges at its underground Natanz enrichment facility. Iranian officials say the IR-6 can enrich 10 times faster than an IR-1.

In late May, the U.N. nuclear watchdog said that "up to 33" more advanced IR-6 centrifuges have been installed and that "technical discussions in relation to the IR-6 centrifuges are ongoing."

Under terms of the nuclear deal, Iran is allowed to test no more than 30 of the IR-6s once the deal has been in place for 8 1/2 years. The deal is murky about limits before that point, which will arrive in 2023.

A centrifuge is a device that enriches uranium by rapidly spinning uranium hexafluoride gas. Under the atomic accord, Iran has been limited to operating 5,060 older models of IR-1 centrifuges. **AP**

POLITICS

UK nominations closed in race to be next leader

Jill Lawless, London

NOMINATIONS closed yesterday in the Brexit-dominated race to become Britain's next prime minister, a contest that will be decided by lawmakers and members of the governing Conservative Party.

With a 12 a.m. (local time) deadline to submit nomination papers, almost a dozen contenders were already battling it out over tax policy, past drug use — and, of course, Britain's stalled departure from the European Union.

The winner will face the challenge of breaking Britain's impasse over Brexit, an issue that has bedeviled politicians for three years and ultimately defeated outgoing Prime Minister Theresa May.

May stepped down Friday as Conservative leader after failing to secure Parliament's backing for her EU withdrawal

deal. She will remain caretaker prime minister until the party picks its new leader, a process expected to take until late July.

Eleven candidates have declared they are running, including former Cabinet minister Boris Johnson, Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt and Environment Secretary Michael Gove.

For all of them, the key issue is Brexit. The Conservatives have been hammered in recent European and local elections as voters punish the party for failing to leave the 28-nation EU.

"Our failure to deliver Brexit has put our country and party in grave peril," Hunt said as he officially launched his campaign yesterday. "Without Brexit there will be no Conservative government and maybe no Conservative Party."

The candidates divide into those, including Hunt, who say they will prioritize finding

a divorce deal that's acceptable both to the EU and to Parliament, and hard-core Brexit backers such as Johnson who say the U.K. must leave on the scheduled date of Oct. 31. — with or without a deal.

Gove, one of the front-runners, is trying to limit fallout from his admission of long-ago cocaine use, which has brought allegations that the former justice secretary — who oversaw a system that sends drug users to prison — is a hypocrite.

The other contenders have also confessed to past use of drugs, in most cases marijuana.

The contest's winner will be chosen in a two-stage process. First, the 313 Conservative lawmakers will vote in a series of rounds starting Thursday, with the worst performers dropping out until only two candidates remain. The final two will be put to a postal vote among the 160,000 Conser-



AP PHOTO

vative Party members in the country.

The favorite on betting markets is Johnson, a former foreign secretary with an instantly recognizable mop of blond hair and a knack for entertaining the public.

He says he will take Britain out of the bloc without a deal if necessary, and promised a tax cut for millions of middle- and high-income Britons.

Unlike the other candidates, Johnson hasn't given television interviews or held any public events, as his campaign

team tries to avoid gaffes that could spoil his front-runner status.

Several candidates appeared to take aim at Johnson in comments yesterday.

"We won't deliver Brexit with bluff and bluster," said former Brexit Secretary Dominic Raab, who is competing with Johnson for the support of hardcore Brexiters.

Hunt said the party needed a "serious leader."

"We need tough negotiation, not empty rhetoric," he said. AP

AD

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what's ON



REMINISCENCES OF THE SILK ROAD -
EXHIBITION OF CULTURAL RELICS OF THE
WESTERN XIA DYNASTY
TIME: 10am-6pm (No admission after 5:30pm;
closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: July 1, 2019
VENUE: Macau Museum
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

Offbeat

SEAGULL PHOTOBOMBS, STEALS
WOMAN'S LOBSTER ROLL

Alicia Jessop knew Friday was going to be a memorable day, but she didn't realize it would be one she'd never forget.

The 34-year-old Pepperdine University professor planned to finally visit New England, hitting some of the last seven states she'd never been to, and try her first-ever lobster roll. What she didn't plan for was capturing a now-viral photo of the moment a seagull tried to snag her pricey sandwich as she was lining up the perfect shot.

"I was really embarrassed. You hear stories of people taking crazy Instagram pictures and hurting themselves and I was like, 'Oh my God, you are now that person. You just wasted \$21.50 for a picture.'"

Jessop started her lobster roll quest Friday afternoon, renting a car after wrapping up a work conference in Vermont and beginning her New England road trip. After a few Google and Yelp searches, she made her way to Fox's Lobster House in York, Maine, buying her \$21.50 lobster roll and walking over to the water to take a picture.

"It was the most picturesque place," Jessop said. "You're standing on the seashore overlooking the lighthouse. I don't really take a lot of food pictures, but I knew this needed to be documented."

She spent about 20 seconds framing her Instagram shot, maneuvering her hands holding the lobster roll in the perfect position so her phone could capture the sandwich and the Nubble Lighthouse in the background.

Jessop said as she took the picture, she felt something rustle her hand. She immediately thought she dropped the lobster roll.

"That's when I realized the seagull had swooped in and I hadn't even seen it coming," she said. "It's a really smart bird and it all happened so fast."

Before she had time to shoo the bird away, Jessop said it was already feasting on the lobster roll with "all of his friends."

As she walked back to the lobster shack to get another roll, she flipped through her camera roll and burst into laughter, realizing the only photo she had was the exact moment the seagull had swooped in to steal her sandwich. She posted the picture on Twitter, saying, "This is why we can't have nice things."

Within a half an hour, thousands of people had liked her post, which now has more than 191,000 likes on Twitter.

Jessop went back to Fox's and paid for another \$21.50 lobster roll, but this time sat in a different area to enjoy the sandwich, which she said "was an awesome treat and well worth the money." She asked another customer to snap a photo of her so she had proof she actually ate a lobster roll.

Aside from the funny story and laughter she personally got from her lobster roll mishap, Jessop said the experience has shown her "people just need a laugh."

She is also embracing the possibility of being known as the seagull picture woman for the rest of her life.

"There's a lot worse things I could be known for, and if that means I get free lobster rolls and bring a little bit of laughter into people's lives, I think that's a good thing," she said.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Agua de Mar
15:40	Zig Zag
15:55	Santos em Portugal
16:30	Quem Quer Ser Milionario
17:25	A Capella
18:15	Contraponto (Repetição)
19:35	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	TDM Desporto
22:20	Amor Maior
23:15	TDM News
23:50	3 Mulheres
00:40	Resumo Liga das Nações 2018/2019 - Fim
01:35	Telejornal (Repetição)
02:20	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

1955 LE MANS DISASTER CLAIMS
77 LIVES

Seventy-seven people have been killed and 77 others injured when two cars collided on the race track and crashed into the spectators' stand at Le Mans in north-west France.

The Mercedes-Benz being driven by Pierre Levegh hit the bank by the grandstand and immediately exploded. Parts of the wreckage were blown into the enclosure, killing scores of mostly-French spectators.

The accident happened about two hours after the 24-hour race began at the Le Mans circuit. There was no official announcement of the disaster and the race was allowed to continue.

Pierre Levegh was speeding down the straight in front of the pits when he clipped the Austin-Healey driven by British driver Lance Macklin.

The Mercedes, which was travelling at over 150mph (240kmh), flipped over and flew through the air and hit the bank by the spectator enclosure.

Levegh was killed outright. Macklin's car spun wildly before coming to rest in the middle of the track, but he was unharmed.

The race had promised to be one of the fastest and most keenly contested ever held at Le Mans.

The three teams competing were Ferrari, Jaguar and Mercedes-Benz. Shortly after the crash the Mercedes manager instructed the two remaining Mercedes to withdraw from the race as a mark of respect to those killed in the disaster.

It was several hours before spectators on the far side of the track knew of the crash. The first sign something was wrong was when the Mercedes team pulled out.

The British consulate in Paris has confirmed there were two British victims among the dead.

Jack Diamond, aged 24, from London and Robert Loxley, of Worcester, who according to French official records was celebrating his 24th birthday.

This is the biggest disaster at a motor racing circuit.

Previously, 13 people were killed and 27 injured at Weyberg in Germany when a German car left the track during a race.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The number of those who died in the Le Mans tragedy rose to at least 80. Officials pointed out that security measures at Le Mans went beyond standard requirements.

There was some criticism of the decision to complete the race, but the organisers claimed stopping the race would have alarmed spectators and hampered rescue efforts.

The race was won by the British Jaguar team, drivers Ivor Bueb and Mike Hawthorn who reached a record average speed of 106 miles an hour (170.5 kmh).

The French cabinet concluded race security should be further improved and the distance between the track and spectators increased.

Mercedes-Benz withdrew from all motor racing at the end of the 1955 season and did not return until 1987.

Switzerland banned all racing on motor circuits following the tragedy, a ban that was only lifted in June 2007.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Use your smiles and charm to get your way today – people are much more likely to pay attention if you just quietly ask them if they'd mind obliging you than if you issue demands.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
Too much of a good thing is still too much, so make sure you don't overdo it today. Your energy is perfect for balancing between a range of activities, so enjoy your time and then move on.

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
Stray thoughts are winners right now – make sure you've got some way to record them. A simple voice message on your phone may be good enough, or you could scribble it all down on a Post-It.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
You can't rely on other people to the same extent as usual today – so make sure that you're watching out and checking up on them. You are sure to find at least one mistake or mishap.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Your romantic side is out in force right now, so make a play for someone new or let your sweetheart know how you really feel about them. Things are good, but they could always be better!

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Impulse buying can be dangerous today, so see if you can get your friends to restrain you if you end up at a mall or some other money extraction venue. Your resistance isn't quite enough on your own!

Libra
Sep.23-Oct. 22
Art and design are highlighted today, so you should either hit a museum or check online for some new way to spruce up your pad – or blog. You can make things much more beautiful.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
Your eyes open to something – or someone – with more aspects than you had previously believed. You don't need to act on this knowledge yet, but you ought to at least mull it over for a while.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
You may have to deal with a lawyer – but with luck, it's just a formality. If not, your social energy is just right for dealing with big issues in a way that is beneficial to most parties concerned.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Your ability to push things forward is making life move faster – and your initiative is sure to make life a lot more appealing! You may find that things are much simpler by this time tomorrow.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
You hit it off with someone you don't usually see much of – or maybe someone you'd normally avoid! Your terrific energy makes it much easier to forge new connections and friendships.

Pisces
Feb.19-Mar. 20
Your active social life is finally more or less balanced – but it may not stay that way for long! Enjoy the variety for now and see if you can reach out to folks you don't hear from all that often

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

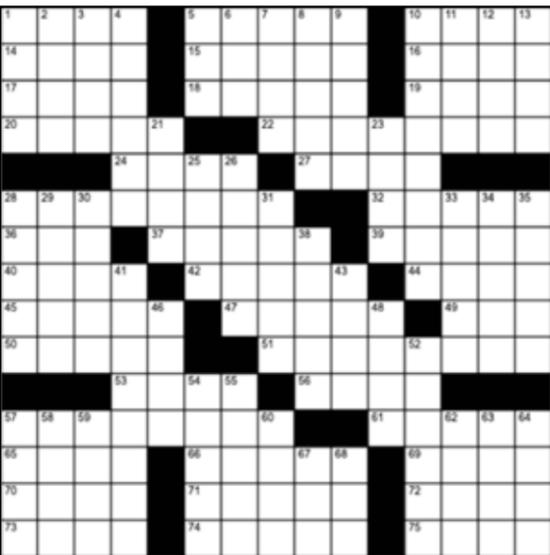
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	12	27	clear
Harbin	7	16	cloudy
Tianjin	13	26	clear
Urumqi	12	22	moderate rain
Xi'an	13	26	overcast
Lhasa	8	20	cloudy
Chengdu	16	24	drizzle
Chongqing	18	29	cloudy
Kunming	14	22	shower
Nanjing	15	23	clear
Shanghai	14	23	cloudy
Wuhan	15	26	cloudy
Hangzhou	15	25	cloudy
Taipei	19	25	heavy rain
Guangzhou	21	28	cloudy
Hong Kong	24	27	shower
WORLD			
Moscow	2	12	cloudy
Frankfurt	9	20	drizzle
Paris	7	18	drizzle
London	5	16	overcast
New York	8	17	drizzle

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Poems, often used to praise someone or something; 5- Mrs. Gorbachev; 10- Food fish; 14- Aquatic vertebrate; 15- Part of ICBM; 16- Roofing item; 17- Greek cheese; 18- Units of computer memory; 19- Director Kazan; 20- Kick off; 22- Distance measuring instrument; 24- Active one; 27- Break sharply; 28- Ponder; 32- Purple Heart, e.g.; 36- Tap output; 37- Actor Lorenzo; 39- United; 40- Workers' rights org.; 42- Like a he-man; 44- Large marine food fish; 45- Some designer dresses; 47- Unskilled workers; 49- Partially opened flower; 50- Approvals; 51- Newly; 53- Girl; 56- Russo of "Ransom"; 57- Rump; 61- Single piece of information; 65- Slangy suffix; 66- Engine; 69- Demolish; 70- Ballet skirt; 71- Satirical dialogue; 72- A Great Lake; 73- Let it stand; 74- Slow-witted; 75- Writing table;

DOWN: 1- Switch positions; 2- Intake; 3- This, in Tijuana; 4- Broken fragments; 5- Curved bone; 6- Whichever; 7- Sock ___ mel; 8- Sows; 9- Bad lighting?; 10- Most precipitous; 11- Sword handle; 12- That's ___!; 13- Precious; 21- Work hard; 23- Baby's cry; 25- Yellow cheese coated with red wax; 26- Chart anew; 28- Confection; 29- Stan's partner in comedy; 30- Peter and a Wolfe; 31- Speed demon; 33- Distrust; 34- Cancel; 35- Dull; 38- Blacksmith, at times; 41- Escape; 43- Not a second time; 46- Grounded fleet; 48- Transport, mail; 52- Got close to; 54- Shy; 55- Worship; 57- Cave dwellers; 58- Stuck in ___; 59- Sheep shelter; 60- It's across the Thames from Windsor; 62- Shipping deduction; 63- Israeli guns; 64- Overly submissive; 67- Switch settings; 68- The Catcher in the ___;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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1,439 ft² **HK\$11,770,000**

FOR RENT

Cheoc Van House, Coloane
2,000 ft² 3 1/2 2 1/2 **\$28,000/ mth**

FOR SALE

- [Taipa] Kinglight Garden Loft 1 1/2 1 1/2
800 ft² **\$7,380,000** (ref: 19055005ST)
- [Coloane] Hellene Garden 3 1/2 2 1/2
1,663 ft² **\$7,950,000** (ref: 19055006SC)
- [Taipa] Nice Court 3 1/2 2 1/2
1,600 ft² **\$8,980,000** (ref: 19045002)
- [Macau] Lakeview Tower 2 1/2 2 1/2
1,497 ft² **\$11,826,300** (ref: 19015572)

FOR RENT

- [Taipa] Soi Cheung Studio 1 1/2 1 1/2
660 ft² **\$9,000/mth** (ref: 18040675)
- [Taipa] Soi Cheung 2 1/2 1 1/2
750 ft² **\$11,500/mth** (ref: 16040575)
- [Taipa] Vai Fat 1 1/2 1 1/2
800 ft² **\$11,950/mth** (ref: 17110659)
- [Taipa] Nova Grand 2 1/2 1 1/2
986 ft² **\$16,000/mth** (ref: 19055007RT)

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AP PHOTO



FOOTBALL

Ronaldo's Portugal wins 1st Nations League title

Tales Azzoni, Porto

THREE years after conquering European soccer for the first time, Portugal and Cristiano Ronaldo are celebrating another international title.

Portugal won the inaugural UEFA Nations League tournament on Sunday, beating the Netherlands 1-0 to lift its first trophy since the 2016 European Championship.

"It's a great achievement, indisputable," Portugal coach Fernando Santos said. "These victories will be part of Portuguese soccer forever."

Ronaldo, coming off a hat trick in the semifinals, lifted the winners' trophy but wasn't much of a factor in Sunday's final, with the only goal coming from midfielder Gonçalo Guedes early in the second half at the Estádio do Dragão.

"Things have been going well for Portugal in recent years," Ronaldo said. "The national team has won some important titles."

The hosts' victory in UEFA's newest competition, created to give national teams more meaningful matches than just friendlies, denied the Netherlands its first trophy since the 1988 European Championship. The revamped Dutch team was seeking some redemption after

failing to qualify for the 2018 World Cup and the 2016 European Championship.

After the match, the Portuguese squad went to a public plaza in Porto where several thousand fans celebrated the win. Santos, Ronaldo and other players addressed the fans from a balcony.

"We couldn't have done this without you," Ronaldo told fans.

Ronaldo couldn't do much against Dutch defender Virgil van Dijk in the matchup of likely contenders for the player of the year award, but Guedes couldn't be stopped when he hit a powerful right-footed shot from outside the area in the 60th minute.

Guedes started the build-up to the goal with a pass to Bernardo Silva, receiving the ball back at the top of the area and firing a firm low shot past Dutch goalkeeper Jasper Cillessen, who touched the ball but couldn't parry it away.

"It was a hard shot," said Cillessen, who was making his 50th appearance with the Netherlands. "I saw it late."

The Dutch had impressed in the group stage of the Nations League by eliminating the last two World Cup champions — France and Germany. It made it to the final after beating England 3-1 in the semifinal on

Thursday.

"At the start of this tournament I don't think anyone would have believed us if we'd said we'd reach the final," said Van Dijk, who hadn't faced Ronaldo since the 2018 Champions League final between Liverpool and Real Madrid. "We've made a lot of progress. We have to be very proud of ourselves. Now disappointment is in our heads but we have to keep heads up. It's been a good season."

Portugal, which eliminated Italy and Poland in the group stage and defeated Switzerland in the semifinals, had lost the 2004 European Championship final at home to Greece, but this time it got to celebrate the title

in front of its fans after a scrappy match in Porto.

The hosts were in control most of the match but struggled to get past the stout Dutch defense led by Van Dijk and Matthijs de Ligt.

Ronaldo's best chance was a header that went straight to Cillessen's hands about 30 minutes into the first half.

The Dutch improved after halftime but couldn't create many significant scoring chances, with Memphis Depay coming closest with a 65th-minute header saved by goalkeeper Rui Patrício.

The Netherlands kept pressing but Portugal was able to hold on to clinch the first Nations League title.

"It was a bit better in the second half, and then the goal was [scored] and it became even more difficult because they are masters in defending when they are ahead," Netherlands manager Ronald Koeman said. "We were not good enough tonight." Santos made changes from the

team that defeated Switzerland 3-1 in the semifinals, taking out 19-year-old Joao Felix from the starting lineup and adding Guedes to the attack. He also used Danilo in midfield and Jose Fonte to replace the injured Pepe in the middle of the defense.

Koeman, a player for the Netherlands at the 1988 European Championship, kept the same squad that defeated England in the semifinals.

Some of the loudest chants at the stadium came from English fans who likely had expected their national team to reach the final. England ended third after defeating Switzerland 6-5 in a penalty shootout earlier Sunday in Guimaraes.

Portugal defender Ruben Dias earned the man of the match award. Ronaldo ended top scorer in the Final Four with three goals, and teammate Silva was named best player. Netherlands midfielder Frenkie de Jong earned the best young player award for the finals. **AP**

Netherlands defender De Ligt courted for Juventus

NETHERLANDS defender Matthijs de Ligt says Cristiano Ronaldo wants him to become his new teammate at Italian club Juventus.

Dutch media are reporting that De Ligt said Ronaldo asked him if he was "coming to Turin" after they faced off in the UEFA Nations League final on Sunday. Portugal beat the Netherlands 1-0.

De Ligt says he laughed off the comment, adding that so shortly after losing the final "you are disappointed that you have lost and that is the only thing you are thinking about."

The 19-year-old De Ligt is one of soccer's top prospects for the transfer window after helping Ajax reach the Champions League semifinals. He also scored in the Netherlands 3-2 win over England in the semifinals of the Nations League.

Barcelona is reportedly also interested in De Ligt. The Spanish club has already signed midfielder Frenkie de Jong, De Ligt's teammate with both Ajax and the Netherlands.

De Ligt, who is under contract with Ajax until the end of the 2020-21 season, has not said what his plans are. **AP**

opinion

Our Desk
Lynzy Valles



ON DRIVING ARTSY MACAO

“See things, travel, build up experiences and [bring them] back to the work. If you don’t see enough, haven’t traveled enough and haven’t tried to invest in new things, you cannot [evolve] as an artist.”

I was speaking with an artist – based in China – and asked what advice she would give to those emerging artists that are making their way into the art scene, and that was what she replied.

These invited artists, who are currently in Macao, have nothing but good words about Art Macao, with one noting that the large-scale exhibition has become an example for China.

When the artist spoke on China, I asked whether there was a significant difference in terms of artistic freedom and expression, given the strict limitations that the country has in many aspects. All she answered was, “Macao and Hong Kong are freer.”

The ongoing mega-project of the Secretariat of the Social Affairs and Culture has paved the way for artists from around the globe to visit Macao and take in what the city has to offer.

The artists from Macao and neighboring regions alone are not enough to complete this MOP34.6 million project, making it necessary to invite a number of global artists – many of which I suppose were invited by the gaming operators themselves.

It isn’t a secret that local artists – at least those with whom I have spoken – are finding it challenging to make their way into the scene given the limited platform we have in Macao.

Establishing themselves in the art world has been tougher due to the growing competition between artists and the high costs of the region, hence the rent for gallery spaces.

In China, one of the main problems that evolving artists have, according to the artist I spoke to, is a lack of creativity, as technical skills and historical background can be taught but creativity is harder to learn.

“A lot of Chinese artists’ skills are very good, but creativity is very hard because in creativity you have to talk about research – [which is limited] in China.”

That’s when I thought that maybe emerging artists in Macao are still much more privileged to have wider and easier access to this industry, with still less competition compared to the city’s neighboring region.

Art Macao has given gaming operators a convenient opportunity to invest a significant amount of their resources in a bid to promote the arts, contributing MOP3 million each.

Macao has long been aiming to promote arts of different mediums, but for some reason many of its attempts didn’t really work. That’s despite huge investments into the area, as mentioned by Secretary Tam during an official opening ceremony of an exhibition at a local hotel property.

The city has to admit that the gaming operators play a huge part in this festival, with one gaming operator bringing in over 20 artists from different regions in a bid to create an exchange with local art enthusiasts.

As the Secretary previously expressed that culture and art will be important elements that will drive the city’s tourism sustainability growth – I think that so far, Art Macao is a good example of ways to bring that growth in.

In the meantime, what we could do is support emerging local artists to “see things, travel, build up experiences,” so that the next time we see their works, not only do we have the usual and more common Macao, China or Portuguese-influenced art, but broader artworks that are rooted in an assortment of different cultures.

THE BUZZ INDIAN THEATER AND FILM PERSONALITY GIRISH KARNAD DIES AT 81

Girish Karnad, a top Indian playwright, actor and director and a rights activist, died yesterday after a prolonged illness. He was 81.

India’s president and the prime minister expressed their condolences over Karnad’s death at his home in Bangalore, the capital of southern Karnataka state. The family did not elaborate on his illness.

A renowned theater personality, Karnad worked predominantly in South Indian cinema and in Bollywood. He was a Rhodes scholar in the 1960s and earned a master of arts

degree in philosophy, political science and economics.

Karnad received India’s top literary prize, the Jnanpith Award, and two national awards, the Padma Shri in 1974 and Padma Bhushan in 1992, for his body of work. His plays, written in the Kannada language, were translated into English and several Indian languages.

He championed freedom of expression and condemned violent attacks on journalists or critics of religious superstition and extreme Hindu nationalist politics.

Police detail man’s threat behind panic at DC LGBTQ parade

Michael Balsamo

A man threatened another person with a BB gun during an LGBTQ pride parade in the nation’s capital and set off a panic that sent hundreds of people, who mistakenly believed gunshots were fired, running in fear, police said.

Aftabjit Singh, 38, was arrested on weapons possession and disorderly conduct charges after Saturday evening’s incident in the Dupont Circle neighborhood of Washington, D.C., where thousands of people packed the streets to celebrate in the city’s annual pride parade.

Although no gunshots were fired, hundreds of people ran from the area, knocking down metal police barricades and running into stores, fearing that a gunman had opened fire on the crowd of revelers. Seven people were taken to local hospitals for injuries they suffered while fleeing the area, authorities said.

Inside a small park in Dupont Circle, Singh pulled the BB gun on another person who was “hitting his significant other,” according to a police report. People began running from the area and police officers who were keeping watch over the festivities heard revelers shouting that there was a man with a gun.



As the officers got closer, someone in the crowd pointed to Singh and said he had a gun in his bag. An officer stopped Singh and noticed what appeared to be a silver handgun sticking out of his brown bag that was underneath a tree, the report said. The weapon turned out to be a BB gun, police said.

As he was led away in handcuffs, Singh vowed to come back and shoot the person whom he had threatened, police said. Organizers decided to shut down the parade for the night after the incident but said they would not allow the scare to ruin the weekend pride celebrations. The group that organizes the event said it spends extensive time planning security procedures.

Guillermo Rivera, a commander with the Metropolitan Police Department, said the department had an “adequate amount of resources on the ground, which is why we were able to respond so quickly.”

It was not immediately clear whether Singh had an attorney who could comment on the allegations. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Xinhua/Wen Xinnian



A platform for kung fu. Students perform Chinese kung fu to celebrate the Chinese Dragon Boat Festival at the Confucius Institute of Aveiro University in Aveiro, Portugal.

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	30-50 Good	
High Density Residential Area	15-35 Good	
Ambient	30-50 Good	

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

INDIA A court yesterday sentenced three Hindu men, including a police officer, to life imprisonment for kidnapping, raping and murdering an 8-year-old Muslim girl in Indian-controlled Kashmir, in a case that has exacerbated tensions in the disputed region. More on p13

UAE Amnesty International says a young Saudi man, arrested when he was 13, could get the death sentence for taking part in protests by minority Shiites demanding greater rights.

GREECE Arsonists targeted two vehicles owned by Turkish nationals, one of them a diplomat, in the northern Greek city of Thessaloniki early yesterday, destroying the cars and damaging another four.



SWEDEN Police officers shot and wounded a man who was banging a bag on the ground and claiming to have a bomb at a train station yesterday, authorities and a witness said.

UK Senior royals are congratulating Prince Philip as the husband of Queen Elizabeth II celebrates his 98th birthday in private. The British Army plans to fire gun salutes in Philip’s honor. The Army tweeted that it is “determined to make it a good one.”



HAITI Protesters denouncing corruption blocked roads and paralyzed much of Haiti’s capital as they demanded the removal of President Jovenel Moise, while police reported two people killed and five injured.