



HEALTHCARE IN HENGQIN NOW OPEN TO MACAU

The local government says it will provide subsidies to Macau residents living in Hengqin to allow them to use Zhuhai's healthcare services

P2

IC BLAMES SITE OWNER IN CCAC INVESTIGATION RESPONSE

The Cultural Affairs Bureau appeared to deflect some responsibility yesterday, saying that it is the Ilha Verde Hill property owner who must arrange – and pay for – conservation work

P3 HERITAGE



COURT OVERTURNS EX-LEADER DONALD TSANG'S CONVICTION

P7 HONG KONG



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WORLD BRIEFS



NORTH KOREA said it won't surrender to U.S.-led sanctions and accused Washington of trying to "bring us to our knees." The statement is yet another reminder that North Korea keeps mistrust of the U.S. though its leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump recently exchanged letters. [More on p12](#)

PAKISTAN The Taliban stormed a police station in Pakistan's restive southwestern province of Baluchistan yesterday, triggering a shootout that killed a policeman and all three assailants, authorities said. At least one other policeman was wounded in the attack in the town of Loralai.



AFGHANISTAN U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo (pictured) said that Washington is hopeful a peace agreement to bring an end to the 17-year war in Afghanistan can be reached before Sept. 1. Pompeo, in a brief visit to Afghanistan, spoke just days before the start of a fresh round of talks between Washington's peace envoy and the Taliban in Qatar.

More on backpage

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

CASINOS WATCHING, LEARNING, PREDICTING

P4-5

Player Rating

T.Yuang (39 / m)

Won: 24
Lost: 17
+ 54,800

BLOOMBERG

PSP officers sentenced for malpractice

Two former Public Security Police Force (PSP) officers have been sentenced to 19 and 15 years in jail, according to a statement released by the Court of Final Appeal. Previously, the two officers were caught helping banned individuals to enter Macau. One officer assisted 17 times, while the second assisted 10 times. The Court of First Instance sentenced the two men to 21 and 19 years in prison. Later, after both appealed, the Court of Second Instance reduced the sentences to 19 and 15 years respectively. The TUI's final judgement considered the damage the two officers caused to the PSP's image.

Man falls to death in accident

A 59-year-old male employee of the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) was found dead after a suspected industrial accident. The accident took place on Monday afternoon. The deceased was found by the school's administrator, who heard a noise while on duty and then reported the incident to the police. After an investigation by the Judiciary Police, the authority believes that the man fell from a height during work and died upon impact.

Pac On land outsourced to CEM

The Macau SAR government has outsourced a land plot in Pac On to CEM, according to a dispatch published in the government's Official Gazette. The land, which is 2,887 square meters, has been outsourced to CEM to build an electrical substation which will have a construction area of 6,902 square meters. The final building will have four stories, including a basement. The concession, which was exempted from public tender, is valid for a period of 15 years. On an annual basis, CEM is obliged to pay the government a fee of MOP1.94 million.



Hengqin island seen under construction

HEALTH

Exclusive subsidies to be given to Hengqin's Macau residents

Julie Zhu

THE Macau SAR government has decided to provide subsidies to Macau residents who live in Hengqin to allow them to use Zhuhai's healthcare services, the Health Bureau (SSM) announced yesterday during a press conference.

During yesterday's press conference, the SSM revealed that starting from July 1 this year, Macau residents who live in Hengqin and have a mainland residence permit can join Zhuhai's basic medical insurance system.

A pilot period between six months to a year has been set for the policy to be implemented.

According to the policy, students and minors will pay RMB180 per year to obtain medical insurance, whereas other qualifying Macau residents will pay RMB410 annually to enjoy Zhuhai's medical insurance.

The Zhuhai government will provide RMB590 for each of the aforementioned Macau residents, the same amount given to Zhuhai residents.

Macau residents who do not have a mainland residence permit but own properties or rent offices in Hengqin can also join. However, these re-

sidents will bear all the costs of joining Zhuhai's medical insurance system.

On top of Zhuhai taxpayers' contribution of RMB590, the Macau government will also use a "small amount" of its own public money to further support some of those who have joined Zhuhai's medical insurance scheme.

For children aged 10 or below, primary and secondary school students, and people aged 65 or above, the local government will bear all the insurance fees.

Ho Ioc San, deputy director of the SSM, said that the government will publish the subsidy amounts in the government's Official Gazette.

Currently, 282 Macau residents are living in Hengqin with a mainland residence permit. There are also over 3,000 Macau residents who own properties or rent offices in Hengqin.

According to Ho, the local government has a budget of approximately MOP40,000 for annual subsidies.

When questioned by the media on whether it is fair for the government to provide subsidies to some Macau residents, while Macau residents who do not live in Zhuhai do not receive subsidies, Ho did

not give a straight answer.

"The budget depends on the number of participants. Twenty percent of the 282 people are aged 65 or above. Even if all the qualified people join the medical insurance, it will be approximately MOP40,000 each year. It's not a lot of money," said Ho, adding "the amount is really not that big."

"This is an experimental measure. In order to encourage Macau people to merge into Greater Bay Area [cities on the mainland], we hope that there are some protections for Macau residents. We hope that these measures can encourage them to go to GBA cities," said Ho.

In 2018, some 2,017 Macau residents and 351 Macau students joined Zhuhai's medical insurance system.

There were 349 registered uses of Zhuhai medical insurance by Macau residents and outpatient clinic service insurance was used 4,408 times.

In total, Zhuhai's basic insurance fund spent RMB3.63 million on Macau residents in 2018.

Cheng Zhitao, director of the Bureau of Healthcare Security of Zhuhai, said that currently, the benefits will only be given to Macau residents who live in

Hengqin but not to Macau residents who live in other parts of Zhuhai.

Cheng believes that China will launch more policies in 2019 to expand the medical insurance policy to more cities in the Greater Bay Area and other parts of mainland China.

Basic insurance covers 90% of patient costs during hospitalization. The maximum coverage is up to RMB720,000 per year.

In total, Zhuhai has approximately 1,500 medical service organizations. Basic medical insurance covers all of them.

The insurance allows Macau participants to be transferred to hospitals outside of Zhuhai but within Guangdong province.

Earlier this year, Li Nanhai, a representative of Zhuhai's National People's Congress, complained that healthcare development is unbalanced between the west and east areas of Zhuhai. Li accused Zhuhai's two major hospitals of being always packed with patients.

Macau residents who live in Hengqin can choose medical services from one of the 1,500 medical organizations across Zhuhai. At the current stage, however, there are not many choices in Hengqin.

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Times

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Cultural heritage site owner has legal duty of conservation, says IC

Staff reporter

THE Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) said yesterday that it is required by law that the owner of a cultural heritage site conserves their protected property at their own expense.

Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam told the media yesterday that he agrees with the Commission Against Corruption's (CCAC) report about Ilha Verde Hill and its neighborhood. He also said he has already ordered the IC to take the CCAC's comments seriously.

Hours later, the IC held a press conference to brief the media about its work since the publication of the CCAC report earlier this week.

In his opening note, acting director Chan Kai Chon stressed that the bureau will take the report seriously. It will study the suggestions set forth in the report with vigilance. It will also conduct and supervise its work according to the law.

The head of the Cultural Heritage Department Choi Kin Long listed the work the IC had conducted for the Ilha Verde Hill site, including pinpointing construction, surveying and mapping, as well as making records of aged trees on the hill.

The owner of the site, especially that of the monastery on the hill, had not conserved the area properly. Choi said that the bureau sent a letter two years ago to the buildings' owners regarding the necessary conservation. Survey diagrams were even provided to the ow-



ners following their requests.

The 2017 request made by the IC was mainly related to the restoration of the landscape of the hill.

There has not been much progress in the conservation. The owners have, in the previous two years, cited several reasons for deferring their duty to conserve the site.

Deputy Director Leong Wai Man referred to article 39 of the Cultural Heritage Protection Law, which inscribes the scope of authority designated to the IC regarding the inspection, evaluation and conservation of potential or existing cultural heritage sites.

Leong explained the IC had a meeting with the owners yesterday to discuss the conservation work. She said the bureau is going to issue a letter to the owners explaining their duty pursuant to article 39. The article states that if an owner fails to accomplish conservation work within a period deemed appropriate by the IC, the bureau can then lead the project and request the owner to reimburse it.

Considering the previous "request" was made in October 2017, concerns have been raised with the length of the period within which the owner must finish the work

of conservation.

"In many cases, owners need time to consult professional architects, surveyors and other consultants before they can actually start their work. Usually the length of the period is around several months," said the deputy director, adding the exact length of the period will be disclosed to the public soon.

The IC's work does not conclude with the issuance of the letter triggered by article 39 of the Cultural Heritage Protection Law. The bureau pledged that it would stay in regular communications with the owners.

Overall, the Ilha Verde Hill monastery is in an acceptable condition, but small cracks and flaws from depreciation do exist, the IC added.

Meanwhile, the CCAC also criticized the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) of flaws in its work related to Ilha Verde Hill.

The bureau's supervisor, Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo do Rosário said he was not able to answer media inquiries related to the CCAC report. The DSSOPT, on the other hand, made a similar pledge as the IC, promising to fulfill its role according to the law.

CE candidates to be finalized in July

Staff reporter

THE Chief Executive Election Commission has informed that the nomination period for Chief Executive candidates falls between July 8 and 23 this year. The promotion period for nominated candidates is between August 10 and 23.

The Commission has issued a schedule for the Chief Executive election, which is

available online.

As described by the schedule, interested parties can start obtaining nomination forms from the Commission's office personally or through a representative. The form distribution and collection period overlaps with the nomination period.

By August 9, all candidates will be confirmed. Certain legal processes may take place in between the closure of the nomi-

nation period and candidate confirmation.

The latest that a candidate can declare their withdrawal from the election is August 22.

Voting will be held on August 25, with ballot counting commencing immediately after. Results will be confirmed officially on September 2.

Currently, four people have declared their intention to run for the top post.

ART

Exhibiting pig sculptures in the year of the pig

Staff reporter

AN exhibition of painted life size pigs is being held by the Republic of Arts Association, with the support of the Cultural Affairs Bureau and the Municipal Affairs Bureau. This will be the fifth year the Chinese Zodiac-themed exhibition is held.

This year's exhibition is titled "AnnoPorcus," or "year of pig" in Latin. Twenty-five pig sculptures have been hand-decorated

by 25 different local artists, who are from various backgrounds, including art associations. Each artist has decorated an 80-cm tall fiberglass pig with a unique theme designed to inspire.

The 25 unique sculptures will be on display between June 25 and July 25 at Anim'Arte Nam Van, Nam Van White Tent and Tap Seac Square.

Said to be a blend of art and tradition by the organizer, the exhibition aims to contribute to the local

creative industry and foster exchange between local artists. The organizer aims to gather the help of 300 local artists by the 12th exhibition.

Previous editions were named AnnoEquitum2014, AnnoCaprum2015, AnnoSimius2016 and AnnoCaninis2018, where Art Horses, Art Goats, Art Monkeys and Art Dogs were displayed respectively, attracting locals and visitors to photograph themselves with the sculptures.

GAMING

Big brother casinos can spot who's most

THE house always wins - and now it has artificial intelligence on its side.

Some of the world's biggest casino operators in Macau are starting to deploy hidden cameras, facial recognition technology, digitally-enabled poker chips and baccarat tables to track which of their millions of customers are likely to lose the most money.

The new technology uses algorithms that process the way customers behave at the betting table to determine their appetite for risk. In general, the higher the risk appetite, the more a gambler stands to lose and the more profit a casino tends to make, sometimes up to 10 times more.

This embrace of high-tech surveillance comes as casino operators jostle for growth in a slowing industry that's under pressure globally from economic headwinds and regulatory scrutiny. In the world's biggest gaming hub, where expansion is reaching its limits, two casino operators - the Macau units of Las Vegas Sands Corp. and MGM Resorts International - have already started to deploy some of these technologies on hundreds of their tables, according to people familiar with the matter. Sands plans to extend them to an additional more-than 1,000 tables, said the people.

Three others, Wynn Macau Ltd., Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd. and Melco Resorts & Entertainment Ltd., are in discussions with suppliers about also deploying the technology, according to the people, who asked not to be identified because they're not authorized to speak publicly about the plans.

SERIOUS GAMBLERS

Macau junket operator Suncity Group Holdings Ltd., which is building a casino in Vietnam, said it is planning to deploy a system where RFID technology - which uses radio frequencies to attach tags to objects - is installed on chips and tables, storing data on players.

The gambling giants are motivated by the challenge of maximizing profits from the growing Chinese middle class, who stream into Macau en masse. More than 3 million people visit the territory every month, from wealthy and focused bettors, to families on short trips with grandparents and kids in tow. The advanced-surveillance technologies give casinos a way of easily separating who might become serious gamblers from those just having a fun weekend.

It's not unusual for casinos to have surveillance cameras for security and to detect cheating, with Las Vegas operators utilizing RFID-enabled chips that they can disable if they're stolen out of the casino. But these new technologies go a step further in tracking and rating every customer, building up a treasure trove of data.

Sands China, the Macau arm of the world's largest casino company, recently received approval from the territory's gaming regulator to deploy the technologies, said the people. One supplier, Regensburg, Germany-based Dallmeier Electronic, worked with casinos to re-design cameras so they could be embedded into columns and not visible to customers, said EP Smit, the company's senior enterprise solutions manager.



BLOOMBERG

Representatives for MGM, Galaxy Entertainment, Sands and Wynn didn't respond to requests for comment, while a spokesperson for Melco declined to comment on business matters that aren't public. Macau's regulator, the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau, didn't respond to emails and calls seeking comment.

In a recent product demonstration at a Macau industry conference by Walker Digital Table Systems - a Las Vegas-based company peddling technology to invisibly track chips, wagers and game outcomes - its vice president of Asia operations, John Orth, assured a potential buyer: "Your customers don't even realize they are being tracked."

AFFORD TO LOSE

The ability to identify customers with the potential to bet - and lose - big means that operators can offer special attention and targeted perks to keep them gambling. In Dallmeier's system, facial recognition alerts floor managers once a high-value customer walks into the casino or sits down at a table, allowing them to immediately dispatch staff to the customer's side.

"Those who can afford to lose, those who play even more when losing money, we can for sure offer them a free meal," Andrew Lo, executive director of junket operator Suncity's listed arm, said in an interview. Suncity will

use Walker Digital's technology at its new casino in Hoi An, Vietnam.

There are three major companies supplying casino operators with the A.I.-enabled technology: Walker Digital, Dallmeier, and Japan-based Angel Playing Cards.

While the companies differ somewhat in the technology that they offer, the general set-up is this: gamblers' betting behavior is tracked through high-resolution cameras and RFID-enabled poker chips and tables, with the intelligence gleaned flowing back into a centralized database where a risk profile of the individual is then created.

GAMING | ANALYSIS

June growth may find lift from 2018 FIFA World Cup

Daniel Beittler

HOLDING conservative expectations for June, analysts expect the month will round out the first half of 2019 slightly down on Macau's gross gaming revenue from last year. But the revenue might find a boost from the subdued comparison period in June 2018, when the FIFA World Cup reportedly distracted gamblers from Macau tables.

The first five months of 2019 saw 1.6% less in gambling revenue collected compared to the equivalent period last year, despite a 21% surge in the number of visitors to the city.

Analysts expect marginal growth in June, but not enough

to offset the year-on-year decline for the first two quarters.

Gross gaming revenue dipped 0.5% in the first quarter of 2019, despite strong support from the mass market segment.

Brokerage Sanford C. Bernstein notes that Macau casinos will find it easier to record year-on-year growth in both June and July, because of easing comparison periods last year. It is holding its June projection of between 1% and 3% year-on-year growth, revised from its 3% to 5% prediction from June 10.

Last year, some analysts suggested that June gross gaming revenue had been

dampened by the effect of the FIFA World Cup, which reportedly drew gamblers' attention away from Macau's baccarat tables to football wagering. The month saw revenues climb 12.5% over June 2017, but it still fell considerably short of analysts' predictions of between 17% and 21% growth.

The absence of a major sporting event this month may give a minor lift in year-on-year comparisons.

Other analysts maintain the view that there is little evidence to support the link between major football events and Macau gross gaming revenues.

However, it is perhaps worth noting that during the UEFA Euro 2016, which fell between

June 10 and July 10, Macau revenues hit their lowest point in the gaming recession, collecting just MOP15.88 billion.

The month of June has been a consistent poor performer in recent years, recording the second-lowest monthly take in both 2018 and 2017, and the lowest in 2016.

The recent performance of the gaming sector shows signs of stabilization after years of double-digit growth in the sector before a deep contraction starting in 2014.

Most analysts expect modest single-digit growth or a minor contraction for full-year gross gaming revenue growth in 2019. The sector should perform better in 2020, they said.

Goldman Sachs: VIP more resilient than thought

GOLDMAN Sachs says that VIP activity in the second quarter of 2019 has been more resilient than previously thought.

The investment bank said that Macau's VIP gaming market has not been hit harder than mass-market play by the ongoing trade tensions between the world's two largest economies.

Analysts have long feared that Macau, with its externally-exposed economy wedged between that of China and the U.S., would feel the impact

of worsening trade ties and a subsequent slowing of the Chinese economy. They argued that the VIP segment of Macau's gambling sector would be hardest hit, especially if the essential credit lines that facilitate their play dry up.

Goldman Sachs wrote in a note yesterday that it expects both VIP and mass flat or marginally down in the second quarter compared to the first, adding that neither segment has been hit harder than the other. **DB**

likely to lose big

DETECTING COLLUSION

The system can track individual gamblers down to how often they take "side bets" on a baccarat table - a bet on very unlikely events like a tie, which have higher risks and higher returns. Gamblers who favor side bets can mathematically yield around 10 times the profit for a casino compared to a gambler with an average risk appetite.

The technology can also help detect any dealer and player collusion, preventing fraud, and it can track the speed and accuracy of dealers, doubling as a performance management tool.

Ultimately, casino operators can rate each player with a combination of metrics they can tailor, such as the total time a player has spent in casinos, their betting volume, risk appetite, win/loss ratio, remaining chips, past dishonest behavior and net worth.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Operators themselves are wrestling with the implications of this advanced surveillance. In their discussions on whether to proceed with implementing the technology, senior management at Galaxy Entertainment voiced concerns at an internal meeting that high-spending customers probably wouldn't want to be watched, according to a person familiar with the matter.

They were also concerned that government and law enforcement authorities may want access to data that's collected, the person said.

A representative for Galaxy

Entertainment didn't respond to calls and emails requesting comment.

The speed with which Macau-based casinos are racing to implement the new technology speaks to a greater ease with data collection and sharing among Chinese consumers compared to those in Europe or the U.S. Chinese tech companies are at the global forefront of using consumer data for everything from designing new products to expanding health insurance. China's government also has a nationwide network of surveillance cameras that utilize facial recognition.

"This new technology certainly has the potential to infringe the law as it expands the scope of players whose breadth and range of activities would now be tracked," said Ben Lee, a Macau-based managing partner at Asian gaming consultancy IGamiX. He noted that sending collected data to casino company offices offshore for analysis could be breaking the law.

Suncity's Lo said consumers are used to being tracked. "I think customers expect that their bets are being watched, it's just whether the casino operator knows how to make use of the data," he said.

"Facial recognition is very mature in China: border customs has it, banks will soon have it, it's a trend," Lo said. "If you're afraid of this, then you're very likely a criminal and casinos won't do business with you anyway." **MDT/Bloomberg**

Macau SLOT records MOP224 million in profit last year

Staff reporter

LOTTERY and sports betting company Sociedade de Lotarias e Apostas Mútuas de Macau, yesterday released its financial report for last year. The company made more than MOP224 million in profit, up 22.1% compared to last year.

Management at the company attribute the profit to the introduction of more diverse types of betting, including betting on the number of corner kicks and bets relating to first-half results. It plans to invest in IT infrastructure upgrades and sports-related news services.

The company, more commonly known as Macau SLOT, published its balance sheet in the Official Gazette yesterday. It holds a little over MOP348 million worth of fixed assets, including MOP21.3 million in tangible assets and MOP17.7 million in intangible assets. The company also holds MOP309 million of long-term investments.

Macau SLOT holds nearly MOP614 million worth of current assets, of which approximately MOP584 million is liquid.

Meanwhile, it has slightly more than MOP600 million in rights and interests. Its debts totaled MOP361 million.



MELCO promoting life values through volunteerism

Supporting, encouraging and facilitating events for employees and their family members to volunteer for the community, Melco Resorts and Entertainment has developed the Teaching Children Values program to nurture important life values for children through the act of volunteering, and for them to gain meaningful experiences through devoting their personal time and energy to the community.

"Enabling volunteerism is one of the cornerstones of Melco's commitment to society as a responsible corporate citizen," said Ms. Akiko Takahashi, Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff of Melco Resorts and Entertainment. "The Melco-developed Teaching Children Values initiative enables us to introduce and promote the benefits of volunteering to the younger generation through collaborative events co-hosted with our trusted community partners. Participants learn important values such as the virtues of respect for the elderly, how to foster empathy, social skills and a sense of responsibility; and are provided with the chance to make a positive difference to the lives of others. We look forward to developing more in-depth events under the Teaching Children Values program in the coming months to benefit the local community."

One such event within the program was "Find the Little Angel Drama and Workshop", which was shown to an audience of over 30 Melco employees and their children last month. "Find the Little Angel" is a poignant drama which aims to foster empathy within the community. Through a lively performance, the drama aims to teach children to build inclusive values and empathy, and to create a caring environment. The workshop also included a parent-child interaction session.

"Find the Little Angel" is sponsored by the Social Welfare Bureau and produced by the Macau Autistic Association, with whom Melco collaborated for this performance. In October 2018, the drama had toured fifteen schools and two nurseries with a total of 22 showings. The production aimed to encourage ordinary students to become little angels to those with learning obstacles; to care for, cooperate with and appreciate those classmates and friends in need.

"The drama has been seen by over 3,000 students in Macau and has been positively received by both educational institutions and their students. We are grateful and pleased to be invited by Melco Resorts and Entertainment to perform for their Teaching Children Values corporate social responsibility initiative. We are appreciative of the company's help to further promote compassion and empathy across a wider audience for positive impact," Ms. Nicole Chan, Director General of Macau Autistic Association said.

Another event was the "Big Mouse Kids Drama Group Storytelling Workshop," which aims to instill positive moral values in children and to encourage children to learn about self-growth and their personal sensory development, as well as to enhance parent-child communication. "This has been a great opportunity for parent-child bonding. My son had a wonderful time learning through fun-filled sessions of painting and play," one Melco employee participant said. "I am pleasantly surprised by how meaningful this event has been, and I'm really glad we signed up," another Melco colleague added.

With the drama workshops proving popular among both parents and children, Melco will be announcing further activities under the Teaching Children Values initiative in collaboration with its local community partners in the forthcoming months to continue contributing to the development of the community.

This article is sponsored by Melco Resorts & Entertainment.



TRANSPORT

Bus companies report combined MOP110m in profit

Renato Marques

LOCAL bus companies have registered a total profit of MOP110.9 million after taxes in 2018. The final results from the audited accounts were published yesterday in the government's Official Gazette.

According to account reports from three companies, Transportes Urbanos de Macau SA (Transmac), Sociedade de Transportes Colectivos de Macau SA (TCM) and Macau Nova Era de Autocarros Públicos SA (New Era), the company that profited the most was Transmac, reporting a total of MOP41.4 million, followed by TCM with MOP36.2 million and New Era, registering MOP33.3 million.

New Era's results were reported up until July 24, being the date that the company officially ceased operations, after which it merged with TCM.



According to the reports, Transmac carried a total of 97 million passengers in 2018, or an average of 257,000 passengers per day, a figure which represented a 4.3% increase compared with the previous year.

Transmac controls about 36% of the market share, while TCM now runs a total of 57 bus routes, after the incorporation of New Era, representing 64% of the market share.

At the end of the year, TCM

reported carrying a total of 330,000 passengers on a daily basis after the merging with New Era.

Transmac attributes the increase in the number of passengers carried in 2018 to the opening of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge in October, noting that between that period and the end of the year, they recorded an 8.1% increase in the rate of the passengers carried, almost double the average annual increase.

They also noted soliciting the government to replace a large number of buses, including 62 buses affected by flooding during the passage of Typhoon Hato in 2017, as well as another 85 buses that have served for over 10 years, which the company planned to replace with updated models.

Another issue addressed by the company was their contract as a service provider to the government, which is set to expire October 31.

According to the company, Transmac is "following up closely on the negotiations with the government on the renewal of such contract."

As for TCM, the company noted in the report the benefits that have been given to staff members, which include a 6% pay rise to all staff and the reimbursement of Social Welfare payments for the workers who are mainland residents. This reimbursement amounts to as much as RMB700.

Fishing vessel up in flames in Inner Harbor



A fishing vessel in the Inner Harbor area caught fire yesterday afternoon, videos circulating online showed, before the flames spread to a second vessel in the area.

The Fires Services Bureau, the Marine and Water Bureau and the Macao Customs all dispatched response teams to bring the situation under control.

The Fire Services Bureau told Radio Macau that there were no injuries reported yesterday.

They said that the cause of the fire remains unknown, but is being investigated.

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

Katie Tam, Hong Kong

Protesters urge discussion of Hong Kong issues at G-20

HONG Kong activists opposed to contentious extradition legislation yesterday called on leaders of the U.S., the European Union and others to raise the issue with Chinese President Xi Jinping at this week's G-20 summit in Japan.

Beijing has strongly opposed such a development, saying Hong Kong matters are strictly an internal Chinese affair.

Groups of protesters gathered outside the U.S. and EU consulates yesterday morning to deliver petitions stating their requests.

Opponents say changes to the Chinese territory's legislation could expose citizens of all nationalities to being extradited to China for unfair trials and possible torture, reducing Hong Kong's judicial independence and the civil liberties it retained after the handover from British rule in 1997.

Hong Kong is an international city whose residents will all be affected by the legislation, regardless of their country of origin, said protester Mandy Wong, a college student.

"That's why this is necessary for other countries or overseas people to pay attention to this extradition bill," said Wong, 25.

Activists held up placards attacking the legislation and



A protester passes a letter to a representative from the British Consulate in Hong Kong yesterday

chanted slogans including "Free Hong Kong."

Protesters aimed to present petitions at 19 consulates in total yesterday and planned further protest actions leading into the evening.

Lam's push to pass the extra-

dition bills has prompted hundreds of thousands of people to fill Hong Kong's streets in protest marches, while smaller groups have surrounded government offices, the legislature and police headquarters. They are demanding the total with-

drawal of the legislation and accountability for heavy-handed police treatment of protesters at a protest earlier this month during which tear gas and rubber bullets were fired.

Lam has shelved the legislation and apologized for not better handling the matter but has declined to respond to other demands.

Several foreign governments, along with legal, commercial, human rights and media groups in Hong Kong, have expressed concern about the legislation as well as the Hong Kong government's handling of the protests.

In a statement Tuesday in the House of Commons, British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said he raised the issue with Lam on June 12.

Britain urges Hong Kong to establish a "robust, independent investigation" into the violence against protesters, and will not issue further export licenses

for crowd control equipment to Hong Kong "unless we are satisfied that concerns raised on human rights and fundamental freedoms have been thoroughly addressed," Hunt said.

China says it fully backs Lam's administration's and has rejected foreign commentary over the protests and the extradition issue as interference in its internal affairs.

At a briefing in Beijing Monday, Zhang Jun, an assistant foreign minister, said, "I can tell you that for sure the G-20 will not discuss the issue of Hong Kong and we will not allow the G-20 to discuss the issue of Hong Kong."

Hong Kong's government "has taken a series of measures to safeguard fairness and justice of society and to block loopholes in the legal system. We believe what they have done is completely necessary and the central government supports these measures," he said. AP



HONG KONG

Court throws out ex-leader's misconduct conviction

AHong Kong court yesterday threw out former Chief Executive Donald Tsang's conviction for misconduct relating to a property deal while in office.

Tsang was released in January after serving a 12-month sentence for failing to disclose plans to rent a luxury apartment from a businessman granted a government broadcasting license.

A panel of five judges on the Court of Final Appeal

ruled that the judge at Tsang's trial had not given jurors sufficient directions on assessing whether he had deliberately concealed information before finding him guilty in 2017. The judges also ordered that no retrial be held.

Tsang, 74, served as Hong Kong's chief executive from 2005 to 2012 and is the highest-ranking former or current official sent to prison for wrongdoing in the Asian financial hub.

His conviction marked a dramatic turn in a lengthy civil service career that spanned both British colonial rule and Hong Kong's handover to China in 1997.

Tsang, known for his bow ties and natty attire, was not in court to hear the judgment. But in an interview with Hong Kong Cable TV, he said he and his family were "touched, thrilled and thankful" for the ruling and thanked the court for "giving me justice."

"I thank in particular the citizens who have always supported me. Their trust in me and support motivated me to continue fighting to defend myself for all these years," Tsang said.

Tsang's successor C.Y. Leung also became embroiled in a corruption scandal for failing to report a 50 million Hong Kong dollar (USD6.4 million) payout from an Australian engineering firm but was not prosecuted. MDT/AP



Former Hong Kong Chief Executive Donald Tsang

GUANGZHOU

Couriers join 'war on drugs' with technology

AFTER receiving a parcel, courier Wang Xiangjun would spend less than one minute verifying the customers' ID cards, checking the things inside, and uploading the information to a system connected to local police authorities.

Wang's store, which has been open for three years, is located in an area inhabited by a large number of migrant workers in Baiyun District of Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong Province. On its walls are anti-drug slogans and pictures as well as signs telling people to register real name information and open the parcel for check-ups.

The routine process is repeated every day in thousands of logistics outlets in the district. Like Wang, many of the local 38,000 couriers are anti-drug volunteers, reports state media agency Xinhua.

Over the years, the rapid deve-

lopment of the courier industry has brought not only economic benefits but security risks concerning the transporting of contraband goods and drugs.

At the end of 2015, Baiyun District was listed by the China National Narcotics Control Commission as one of the areas with the most prominent drug trafficking problems. Local police then devised a system named Yundi'an (literally Cloud Courier Security) in 2016 to strengthen the supervision of the courier industry.

Legions of couriers handle the parcels with the system's mobile phone app, facilitating the supervision of the whole process of the express delivery business.

"The strict management can reduce the outflow of drugs and other illegal goods, and also safeguard our own security," said Wang. "Customers have also gradually become accustomed

BLOOMBERG



to the real-name system and opening-up of parcels for inspections."

Every week, anti-drug volunteers like Wang would spend one hour on anti-drug training and security education organized by local police.

In recent years, the Internet and the courier industry have become a new channel for drug trafficking.

According to a report released by the China National Narcotics Control Commission last week, some suspects buy and sell drugs and chemicals used for illicit

drug manufacturing via the Internet and use courier services to transport drugs without offering their real names.

Authorities in Baiyun have attempted to curb local drug trafficking after promoting the Yundi'an system among a large number of couriers.

Over the past three years, the system has helped police uncover over 600 drug users and traffickers, bust 34 drug trafficking cases and seize 1.33 tonnes of drugs.

Other measures, including a "smart door system" and face

recognition technology, have helped tackle the once prominent drug trafficking issue and improved social security, said Zhao Yanchun, deputy director of the Baiyun district public security bureau.

According to Xinhua, more than 150 teams from around the country and further abroad have come to the Baiyun district to learn from the area's experience. "We have come up with an anti-drug solution that can be copied and promoted in the logistics sector," said Zhao.

MDT/Xinhua

AD



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BLOOMBERG



Dubrovnik has Game of Thrones fame but all it wants is the euro

Andrea Dudik
& Jasmina Kuzmanovic

TUCKED inside the medieval city walls in the Croatian port of Dubrovnik, Mara Pezo's leather bag store is perfectly placed for the thousands of tourists disembarking from cruise ships every day. Now all she needs is their euros.

The European Union's newest member aims to transition to what's called ERM-2 – effectively a waiting room for membership of the common currency – as soon as next year. For businesses like Pezo's, efforts by the government and central bank to prepare can't come quick enough.

Tourism accounts for about

a fifth of the economy, making Croatia as dependent on foreigners spending their cash as places like Greece and Malta, but small retailers risk fines if they accept euros. Ditching the local money, the kuna, is vital, said Pezo, especially as Dubrovnik cashes in from its role as a filming location for "Game of Thrones."

"Visitors, especially those who come for a short visit from cruise ships, don't know we aren't allowed to take euros," said the 32-year-old. "We do accept credit cards, but often people want to pay with cash, and they expect to be able to pay with euros in a European Union country."

Croatia's embrace of all things euro, both in commerce and politics, contrasts with an attitude

that ranges from lukewarm to downright hostile in countries not far away.

The populist government in neighboring Italy, a core euro member, has sought to challenge the European hierarchy over limits to its budget spending. Around the coast in crisis-hit Greece, remaining in the euro region came with a huge political and financial bill. Meanwhile, the more nationalist leaderships in Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic are in no rush to follow other former communist countries Slovakia, Slovenia and the Baltic states in adopting the single European currency.

For Croatia, the switch makes sense because the economy in the former Yugoslav state is highly geared to the euro while

the relative value of the kuna is tightly managed by the central bank.

"We have kept the exchange rate stable for 25 years, we can continue to do it for the next 25 years, but what's the point?" said central bank Governor Boris Vujcic. "It's easier to get into the euro zone to have that risk premium removed. Risks will further be compressed, interest rates will further come down, and this is the road on which we have now embarked."

That road has been a long one since Croatia gained independence following the bloody break-up of Yugoslavia 25 years ago. It dropped the dinar for the kuna, a currency it first pegged to the German mark and then to the euro. EU membership came

in 2013.

The journey is evident in Dubrovnik, a place that's been battered by the tug-of-war between east and west for centuries, not to mention an earthquake in 1667 that all but leveled the city. More recently, it was shelled by the Yugoslav army in the 1990s Balkan wars.

Most of that destruction has been fixed, though some scars are visible in the polished sandstone sidewalks. What's more striking is that the war is mentioned only as an afterthought in Dubrovnik, while elsewhere in the Balkans the violence remains a cause of many a conversation. Pezo, who manages her family's leather bag business, was four during the shelling. All she remembers is being given candy in the shelter her family used because she was the youngest.

Vujcic, the governor of the central bank, is convinced the nation will be absorbed into the eurozone, a goal that enjoys rare support across the political spectrum and is backed by 52% of the public. The only difference among parties is the timing of when to join.

The last thing that stands in the way is removing fears among Croatia's 4.2 million population that prices will shoot up after the switch, he said.

"The fear is not that we will lose monetary policy tools, or kuna, or sovereignty, or our emblem," he said. "The main worry is that it may negatively affect our standard of living. Available evidence, however, shows that surge in prices because of euro entry is a myth, not reality. We will have to continue to explain that."

While some are wary of the effect the euro will have on the cost of their daily lives, there's no question about what the future should look like in Modni Kantun clothing store, where Senka Kusovac sells colorful shirts and dresses made by Croatian designers for as much as 2,000 kuna (USD310).

"We live on tourism," she said. "The euro would make life easier for everyone."

corporate bits

GEG ORGANIZES RESPONSIBLE GAMING ROADSHOWS



Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) recently organized Responsible Gaming Fun Day Roadshows and a visit to the Macao Gaming Industry Employees Home's offices, where its employees learned about

gambling addiction from representatives of the association.

The GEG Responsible Gaming Team's mission is to engage GEG employees on responsible gaming to ensure

a wholesome and positive work environment and encourage team members to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

This year's Responsible Gaming Fun Day Roadshows featured interactive games and display boards as well as consultation booths to provide immediate assistance to any employee in need. A total of six roadshows were conducted across GEG's properties, with 1,200 employees participating in various games and reading information display during their break time.

Additionally, 20 employees learn about gambling disorder through a board game developed by the Macao Gaming Industry Employees Home.

SANDS CHINA PRESENTS LIGHT THE NIGHT RUN DONATION CHEQUES TO LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS



Sands China Ltd. presented ceremonial donation cheques totalling MOP200,000 to two local nongovernmental organizations on June 19 at The Venetian Macao integrated

resort in Cotai.

The funds were raised at April's Light the Night Run charity event at The Parisian Macao, with Sands China topping up the total donation amount with its

own contribution.

Macao IC2 Association and Caritas Macau each received a cheque for MOP100,000 yesterday, presented by representatives from Sands China. The donations will be used by Macao IC2 Association to sponsor its upcoming Art for Community event, and by Caritas Macau to allow its users with restricted mobility gain free access to its stair climber service.

It is the second year in a row for the Light the Night Run to raise funds to donate to local nongovernmental organizations as part of Sands China's corporate social responsibility efforts.



ANALYSIS

Possible outcome of Trump-Xi meeting: A truce in trade war

Paul Wiseman, Washington

AMERICAN businesses are bracing for a painful escalation in President Donald Trump's trade war with China.

Yet they might just get a reprieve.

If history repeats itself — and most analysts are betting it will — Trump and President Xi Jinping will agree to some kind of cease-fire when they meet late this week at a Group of 20 international summit in Osaka, Japan.

Indeed, a senior administration official sought to downplay expectations yesterday [Macau time] by suggesting that the primary goal for the Trump-Xi meeting is simply an agreement to restart negotiations. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the hard work of finalizing the complex details of any broad new accord would come later, when negotiating teams for the two sides meet.

Under the cease-fire scenario, the two sides' existing tariffs and counter-tariffs on many of each other's goods would remain in place. But no additional import taxes would take effect. This would buy time for U.S. and Chinese officials to restart talks that stalled last month after 11 rounds of negotiations.

The last time Trump and Xi met — in early December at a

G-20 gathering in Buenos Aires, Argentina — they called a truce. That cease-fire injected some new momentum into the talks between the world's two biggest economies.

"Ideally, results at this summit could match the last summit in Argentina," said Tu Xinquan, director of the Institute for WTO Studies at the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing. "That is, to prevent the trade war from escalating."

The stakes are even higher now. Trump has ordered U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer to prepare import taxes on USD300 billion in Chinese goods — which would extend U.S. tariffs to everything China ships to the United States. The administration has already imposed 25% tariffs on \$250 billion in Chinese imports. Beijing has retaliated by taxing \$110 billion in goods from the United States.

"What I'm hoping is that two leaders will recommit to fully engage on the trade talks," said Myron Brilliant, head of international affairs at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, a traditional Republican ally that has been sharply critical of Trump's use of tariffs. "There's too much at stake in the bilateral relationship for the two governments not to try to work out the final parts of

the trade agreement."

The administration accuses Beijing of using predatory tactics in a pell-mell push to give Chinese companies an unfair competitive edge in such advanced technologies as artificial intelligence and driverless cars. In particular, Trump officials allege that Beijing forces American companies to hand over technology in exchange for access to China's market, unfairly subsidizes Chinese tech companies and sometimes resorts to outright cyber-theft to pilfer U.S. trade secrets.

Beijing denies the charges and contends that the administration is simply trying to suppress a rising competitor in global trade.

If Trump did expand his tariffs to the final \$300 billion in Chinese imports, it would amount to a significant escalation in the U.S.-China trade war. The earlier rounds of U.S. tariffs mostly spared consumers by targeting industrial goods, not everyday staples. Higher taxes on the rest of Chinese imports — from alarm clocks and baby carriages to contact lenses to Christmas ornaments — are "finally going to get into the average guy's pocket. It's all been hidden up to now," said Jeff Moon, a former China hand with the U.S. State Department and the Trade Representative who runs the China Moon Strategies LLC consultancy.

When Lighthizer's office ran seven days of hearings this month on the expanded tariffs, the message from American businesses was fairly uniform: Don't do it. Indeed, economists warn that additional higher tariffs — effectively, a tax increase on consumers and companies — would hurt a U.S. economy that already appears to be weakening.

China seems willing to offer Trump many concessions to de-escalate trade tensions.

ESWAR PRASAD
ECONOMIST

Consider Celestron, a telescopes and optics company with 80 employees at its offices in Torrance, California, that moved most of its manufacturing to China years ago. Trump's earlier tariffs hit only about 10% of what Celestron brings in from China. The next round would cover the remaining 90% — and it might force company to lay off manufacturing and assembly workers it still employs in California.

"These skilled positions will be imperiled by the proposed tariffs, because the parts and equipment these workers need to do their jobs are sourced in China," Celestron said in a filing with the government.

Until last month, the Trump administration and Beijing seemed to be edging toward an agreement to end the trade war. Then Trump officials accused China of backpedaling on commitments it had made in earlier negotiations. The talks stopped. Trump raised tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese imports from 10% to 25% — the sanctions he had suspended after he met with Xi in December — and threatened to tax the \$300 billion in Chinese goods he hadn't already hit.

A key reason why analysts say the best to expect from the Trump-Xi meeting is an agreement to resume talks is that a substantive deal remains enormously difficult. The Trump side is demanding concessions that would require China to scale back its aspirations as a global technological powerhouse.

The differences between the two countries' political and economic systems — America's free-market capitalist economy versus China state-driven Communist model — are so vast that a resolution to the dispute likely would amount to "a pause in a broader conflict over trade and technology," said James Green, a former U.S. trade official in Beijing and now senior adviser at McLarty Associates consultancy.

A few months after any deal, Green said, "we will be back talking about this."

The administration will insist on a means to enforce any agreement, reflecting its contention that Beijing has violated past promises. It will likely insist on retaining some tariffs as leverage. Yet Beijing will want to eliminate all the U.S. tariffs.

"China seems willing to offer Trump many concessions to de-escalate trade tensions," said Eswar Prasad, a Cornell University economist and former head of the China division at the International Monetary Fund. "But it is unlikely to cave in to demands that it change its economic model or industrial strategy. Such actions would go against the grain of Chinese leaders and their vision of China's economic future."

The senior Trump administration official suggested that the negotiations could go on for "months and months," noting that both sides have a "long view" about what's in their best interests.

"Solutions to the outstanding remaining issues can be found as long as both sides have the political will to do so," said Wendy Cutler, a former U.S. trade negotiator who is now vice president at the Asia Society Policy Institute. "It's not entirely clear if that political will is there." **AP**

China renews demand on Canada for Huawei executive's release

CHINA renewed a demand that Canada release a top executive of tech giant Huawei a day after announcing a suspension of all imports of Canadian meat products in an apparent bid to increase the pressure on Ottawa.

Foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told reporters at a daily briefing yesterday that Canada should "take seriously China's concerns" and immediately release Meng Wanzhou, Huawei's chief financial officer and the daughter of the company's founder.

The Chinese Embassy in Ottawa said in a statement on its website earlier that the move to suspend meat imports follows Chinese customs inspectors' detection of residue from a restricted feed additive, called ractopamine, in a batch of Canadian pork products. It is permitted in Canada but banned in China.

"China has taken urgent preventive measures and requested the Canadian government to suspend the issuance of certifi-



AP PHOTO

cate for meat exported to China," the statement said.

Meng Wanzhou, the Huawei CFO and daughter of the company's founder, was arrested Dec. 1 in Canada at the request of U.S. authorities, who want to try her on fraud charges.

China then detained two Canadians and sentenced another to death in an apparent attempt to pressure for her release.

The latest action against Canada comes as Prime Minister Justin Trudeau heads to Japan for the G-20 summit. U.S. Pre-

sident Donald Trump is expected to meet with his Chinese counterpart amid trade talks.

Meng's arrest set off a diplomatic furor among the three countries, complicating high-stakes U.S.-China trade talks and severely damaging Beijing's relations with Ottawa. Canada wants Trump to speak on behalf of Canada to Chinese President Xi Jinping. The Chinese have refused to talk to senior Canadian government officials, including Trudeau and Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland. Trudeau had

hoped to meet with Xi at the G-20 but that appears unlikely.

Before acting against Canadian meat, China previously stopped importing certain Canadian products like canola.

Justine Lesage, a spokeswoman for Canada's agriculture minister, said in a statement that the Canadian Food and Inspection Agency identified an issue involving inauthentic export certificates that could affect the export of pork and beef products to China.

She said the agency has "taken

measures to address this issue and is continuing to work closely with industry partners and Chinese officials."

"The Canadian food system is one of the best in the world and we are confident in the safety of Canadian products and Canadian exports," she said.

Last year, Canada's shipment of just pork to China was worth about 500 million Canadian dollars, or about USD380 million.

Guy Saint-Jacques, a former Canadian ambassador to China, said Beijing is clearly putting additional pressure on Canada.

"It is quite disturbing," said Saint-Jacques, who estimated Canada's meat exports to China this year would exceed 1 billion Canadian dollars (\$760 million).

Saint-Jacques said if someone in Canada falsified documents under this kind of scrutiny from the Chinese it needs to be investigated.

"In normal times this would not happen, but in these times China gives Canada no leeway," he said. **MDT/AP**

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KOREAS

Seoul says US, NK in talks to set up third Trump-Kim summit

Adam Schreck, Hyung-Jin Kim & Kim Tong-Hyung, Seoul

NORTH Korean and U.S. officials are holding "behind-the-scenes talks" to arrange a third summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on the fate of the North's expanding nuclear arsenal, South Korea's president said, four months after a second meeting between the leaders in Vietnam collapsed without any agreement.

There have been no public meetings between Washington and Pyongyang since the breakdown of the Vietnam summit. But the prospects for a resumption of U.S.-North Korea diplomacy have brightened since Trump and Kim recently exchanged personal letters. Trump called Kim's letter "beautiful" while Kim described Trump's as "excellent," though the contents of their letters have not been disclosed.

In a response earlier this week to questions by The Associated Press and six other news agencies, South Korean President Moon Jae-in said that Trump's and Kim's "willingness to engage in dialogue has never faded" and that their recent letter exchanges prove that.

Moon, a liberal who met Kim three times last year, has made dialogue with the North as a means to forging peace on the Korean Peninsula a centerpiece of his presidency. He has played a central role in facilitating U.S.-North Korean negotiations, even if those efforts have at times been overshadowed by the Trump-Kim talks that he helped broker.

Moon said he doesn't see the Vietnam summit as a failure. He said he thinks the meeting served as a chance for both Washington and Pyongyang to better understand each other's positions and "put everything they want on the negotiating table."

"The success of denuclearization and the peace process on the Korean Peninsula cannot be determined by a summit or two," Moon said, adding that the discussions in Vietnam will form the basis for future talks. "Both sides clearly understand the necessity for dialogue," he added.

Despite the deadlocked nuclear negotiations, both Trump and Kim have described their personal relationship as good. When asked whether Kim's recent letter included a mention about another summit, Trump said, "Maybe there was."

"But we, you know, at some point, we'll do that," Trump told

AP PHOTO



reporters at the White House. "Getting along very well. He's not doing nuclear testing," he said.

In yet another reminder of North Korea's continued mistrust of the United States, its foreign ministry said earlier yesterday it won't surrender to U.S.-led sanctions and accused Washington of trying to "bring us to our knees."

Kim has said North Korea will seek a "new way" if the United States persists with sanctions and pressure. Following his setback in Vietnam, Kim traveled to the Russian Far East in April for his first summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Kim also hosted Chinese President Xi Jinping in Pyongyang last week for their fifth summit since March last year, and experts say the North's outreach to its traditional allies is aimed at strengthening its leverage with the Trump administration.

Moon said he views the North's expanding diplomacy with Beijing and Moscow as a positive development in efforts to resolve the nuclear standoff.

"China and Russia have continued to play constructive roles so far to peacefully resolve the Korean Peninsula issue," he said. "I hope that China and Russia will play specific parts in helping the North resume dialogue at an early stage."

Moon didn't elaborate whether U.S. and North Korean officials had face-to-face meetings and if so where they took place. He also didn't clarify who were interlocutors or how close they were in setting up a third Kim-Trump summit.

Trump's top envoy on North Korea, Stephen Biegun, is to vi-

sit South Korea on Thursday, and some experts said he may use his trip as a chance to meet North Korean officials at a Korean border village. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Sunday the U.S. was prepared to resume talks with North Korea "at a moment's notice" if the North signaled it wanted discussions about denuclearization.

Despite a possible restart of negotiations, it's still unclear whether Washington and Pyongyang can eventually achieve agreements that can satisfy both sides. The Vietnam summit fell apart after Trump rejected Kim's calls for major sanctions relief in return for dismantling his main nuclear complex, something that U.S. officials see as a partial denuclearization step.

Kim has since fired missiles and other weapons into the sea and asked Trump to work out mutually acceptable agreements by the end of this December. U.S. officials maintain sanctions on North Korea would remain in place until North Korea takes significant steps toward nuclear disarmament.

North Korea has long bristled at the significant U.S. military presence in South Korea, and wants assurances it will not be targeted by the U.S. and South Korea. It sees its pursuit of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles as an insurance policy against military action.

In his written replies, Moon said he has found Kim to be a "flexible yet resolute person" during their talks. He said he believes that Kim's "unequivocal resolve is to move from the past to the future" by pursuing economic growth over building up a nuclear arsenal.

The South Korean leader repeated that Kim has never linked denuclearization with South Korea's military alliance with the U.S. or a pullout of American troops when they met.

Separately from the unofficial Washington-Pyongyang talks, Moon said the two Koreas have also been holding dialogue via unspecified "diverse channels" and repeated that he's ready to meet Kim again at any place and time.

■ Moon, a liberal who met Kim three times last year, has made dialogue with the North a centerpiece of his presidency

"It depends on Chairman Kim Jong Un," Moon wrote. "I am prepared to meet with Chairman Kim in person at any given moment without being restrained by time, place or formalities."

Last year saw a flurry of inter-Korean exchanges and cooperation programs between the Koreas, which have been split along the world's most heavily fortified border since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War. But North Korea has significantly reduced its dialogue and engagement with South Korea since the end of the Vietnam summit.

South Korea is now solely proceeding with a search of Korean

War dead at the border, which it was supposed to jointly conduct with North Korea. North Korea has also ignored South Korean proposals for joint efforts to stem the spread of highly contagious African swine fever following an outbreak in the North.

Moon, who has stressed that South Korea should be in the "driver's seat" in international efforts to deal with North Korea, reiterated his view that the resumption of inter-Korean economic projects currently held back by the U.N. sanctions would help induce further denuclearization steps from the North. Following the Vietnam summit, Moon had said Seoul would "consult" with Washington on resuming operations at an inter-Korean factory park in the North Korean border city of Kaesong and restarting South Korean tours to the North's scenic Diamond Mountain resort.

While acknowledging that the resumption of such joint inter-Korean projects would depend on a substantive progress in U.S.-North Korea talks, Moon said improved economic relations between the Koreas would be "conductive" to the larger nuclear negotiations.

"History has shown that North Korean nuclear threats diminish when inter-Korean relations are good," Moon wrote.

He said that the dismantling of the Yongbyon nuclear complex, which Kim offered in Vietnam, could mean that the North's denuclearization process has entered "an irreversible stage" if it's completely demolished and verified. He said "substantive process" in U.S.-North Korea diplomacy could also help the international community seek a partial or gradual easing of the U.N. sanctions.

Yongbyon has facilities to produce both plutonium and highly enriched uranium, two key nuclear ingredients. North Korea has called the complex "the heart" of its nuclear program, while many outside experts say it's an aging facility and that North Korea is believed to have additional multiple secret uranium enrichment facilities.

Moon repeated earlier claims that Kim has genuine willingness to trade his nuclear weapons for economic and security benefits, but that it would be important to create an environment where the North could focus on taking relevant steps toward disarmament.

"Chairman Kim should be helped along the path toward that goal in a way that sustains his commitment to nuclear dismantlement," Moon wrote. "I think creating a security environment where Chairman Kim can decisively act on nuclear dismantlement without worries is the fastest way to achieve denuclearization diplomatically," Moon added, without specifying the security concessions Washington and Seoul could make. **AP**

SRI LANKA

President orders execution of four drug convicts

Bharatha Mallawarachi, Colombo

SRI Lanka's president said yesterday that he has ordered the executions of four drug offenders who will be hanged in prison soon, amid alarm over drug-related crimes in this Indian Ocean island nation.

The executions if carried out will end a 43-year moratorium on capital punishment.

President Maithripala Sirisena told a media discussion on Wednesday that he has signed the death warrants including the days of the executions and sent them to prison authorities.

He said narcotic drugs have become a serious menace across the country with 300,000 addicts. According to Sirisena, 60% of 24,000 inmates have been jailed for drug-related offenses. Sri Lanka prisons are built to accommodate 11,000 people.

Sri Lanka last executed a prisoner in 1976. Currently, 1,299 prisoners are on death row, in-

AP PHOTO



Sri Lanka President Maithripala Sirisena

cluding 48 convicted of drug offenses.

Prison authorities are now in the process of recruiting two hangmen after two others quit without executing anyone.

At present, 26 people have been shortlisted for training, which ends on Friday, after which two will be selected, said Bandula Jayasinghe, an official at the Justice and Prison Reform

ms Ministry.

Drug trafficking is a capital offense in Sri Lanka, which authorities believe is used by peddlers as a transit hub.

Rights groups and foreign go-

vernments including the EU have previously criticized Sirisena's suggestions to revive the death penalty, saying there is no perfect criminal justice system and the risk of executing an innocent person can never be eliminated.

Sirisena, who visited the Philippines in January, praised President Rodrigo Duterte's crackdown on illegal drugs as "an example to the world." Thousands of suspects, mostly urban poor, have been slain since Duterte took office in 2016. Rights groups have denounced what they say are extrajudicial killings. Police say most of the suspects were killed in encounters with officers.

Sri Lanka is predominantly Buddhist, a religion that advocates non-violence. Sirisena has previously said the country has had positive influences from all religions but tough law enforcement is necessary to curb crime and maintain order.

In April, police publicly destroyed 770 kilograms of drugs seized in 2016 and 2017. Police have seized 731 kilograms of heroin, 1 kilogram of cocaine and 1,607 kilograms of marijuana so far this year.

Marijuana is the most widely used illegal drug in Sri Lanka, followed by heroin and cocaine. Drug-related arrests rose 2% in 2017 from the previous year to 81,156. AP

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USA

Robert Mueller to testify publicly before two House committees

SPECIAL counsel Robert Mueller has agreed to testify publicly before Congress on July 17 after Democrats issued subpoenas to compel him to appear, the chairmen of two House committees announced.

Mueller's unusual back-to-back testimony in front of the House Judiciary and Intelligence committees is likely to be the most highly anticipated congressional hearing in years, particularly given Mueller's resolute silence throughout his two-year investigation into Russian contacts with President Donald Trump's campaign. Mueller never responded to angry, public attacks from Trump, nor did he ever personally join his prosecutors in court or make announcements of criminal charges from the team.

His sole public statement came from the Justice Department podium last month as he announced his departure, when he sought to explain his decision to not indict Trump or to accuse him of criminal conduct. He also put lawmakers on notice that he did not ever intend to say more than what he put in the 448-page report.

"We chose those words carefully and the work speaks for itself," Mueller said May 29. "I would not provide information beyond what is already public



Mueller (above) never responded to angry, public attacks from Trump

in any appearance before Congress."

Those remarks did little to settle the demands for his testimony. The two committees continued negotiations that had already been going on for weeks, saying they still wanted to hear from Mueller no matter how reluctant he was.

"When you accept the role of special counsel in one of the most significant investigations

in modern history you're going to have to expect that you're going to be asked to come and testify before Congress," House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, D-Calif., told reporters shortly after the announcement.

Trump himself simply tweeted, "Presidential Harassment!"

In the report issued in April, Mueller concluded there was not enough evidence to estab-

lish a conspiracy between Trump's presidential campaign and Russia, which was the original question that started the investigation. But he also said he could not exonerate Trump on obstruction of justice. The report examined several episodes in which Trump attempted to influence the investigation.

Democrats say it is now the job of Congress to assess the report's findings. Lawmakers are

likely to confront Mueller on why he did not come to a firm conclusion on obstruction of justice. They are also likely to seek his reaction to a drumbeat of incessant criticism from the president and ask for his personal opinion about whether Trump would have been charged were he not the commander-in-chief.

Schiff and House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler said they issued the subpoenas yesterday [Macau time], and Mueller agreed to testify pursuant to those subpoenas. In a letter to Mueller accompanying the subpoenas, the committee chairmen said "the American public deserves to hear directly from you about your investigation and conclusions."

Schiff said there will be two hearings "back to back," one for each committee, and they will also meet with Mueller's staff in closed session afterward.

The Justice Department declined to comment.

Republicans have criticized Democrats for their continuing investigations of the president. House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., questioned why they would still want to hear from Mueller after the lengthy report was issued. "He said he didn't want to talk to us anymore, didn't he?"

But Georgia Rep. Doug Collins, the top Republican on the Judiciary panel, has said he has no objections to Mueller's testimony.

"May this testimony bring to House Democrats the closure that the rest of America has enjoyed for months, and may it enable them to return to the business of legislating," Collins said. **AP**

HOT SUMMER

European heat wave sees Germany put speed curbs on autobahn

LARGE parts of western and central Europe sweated under blazing temperatures yesterday, with authorities in one German region imposing temporary speed limits on some stretches of the autobahn as a precaution against heat damage.

Authorities have warned that temperatures could top 40 degrees Celsius in parts of the continent over the coming days as a plume of dry, hot air moves north from Africa.

The transport ministry in Germany's eastern Saxony-Anhalt state said it has imposed speed limits of 100 kph or 120 kph on several short stretches of highway until further



Lake Walensee in Walenstadt, Switzerland

notice. Those stretches usually have no speed limit.

Yesterday, German railway operator Deutsche Bahn called rescue ser-

vices to Duesseldorf Airport station as a precaution because two trains' air conditioning systems weren't working properly, but neither had to be

evacuated.

In Paris, authorities banned older cars from the city for the day as a heat wave aggravates the city's pollution.

Regional authorities estimate the measure put into place affects nearly 60% of vehicles circulating in the Paris region, including many delivery trucks and older cars with higher emissions than newer models. Violators face fines.

Around France, some schools have been closed because of the high temperatures, which are expected to go up to 39 degrees Celsius (102 Fahrenheit) in the Paris area later this week and bake much of the country, from the Pyrenees in the southwest to the German border in the northeast.

Such temperatures are rare in France, where most homes and many buildings do not have air conditioning.

French charities and local officials are providing extra help for the elderly, the homeless and the sick this week, remembering

that some 15,000 people, many of them elderly, died in France during a 2003 heat wave.

Prime Minister Edouard Philippe cited the heat wave as evidence of climate destabilization and vowed to step up the government's fight against climate change.

About half of Spain's provinces are on alert for high temperatures, which are expected to rise as the weekend approaches.

The northeastern city of Zaragoza was forecast to be the hottest at 39 C, building to 44 C on Saturday, according to the government weather agency AEMET.

In southwestern Europe, however, some people had other reasons to complain during their summer vacation: the Portuguese capital Lisbon, on Europe's Atlantic coast, awoke cloudy and wet yesterday. **AP**

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Speaker: Ms. Flur Roberts, Head of Luxury Goods Research, Euromonitor International

Introduction:
Consumer activism and technology-driven behavioral changes are forcing luxury marketers to look anew at sustainable manufacturing, digital marketing, ecommerce and mobile, targeting millennials and Gen Z without alienating baby boomers and Gen X, as well as at the resale and rental markets. How are these factors to change their way of doing business in the year ahead?

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1st floor, Ocean Room

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what's ON



WYNN PRESENTS: GARDEN OF EARTHLY DELIGHTS

TIME: 10am-10pm

UNTIL: October 6, 2019

VENUE: Wynn Macau and Wynn Palace

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 6882 2839

ITALIAN RENAISSANCE DRAWINGS FROM THE BRITISH MUSEUM

TIME: 10am-7pm (No admittance after 6:30pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: June 30, 2019

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

MASTERPIECES FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF CHINA

TIME: 10am-7pm (No admittance after 6:30pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: July 28, 2019

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

SEE SAW ZINE?

TIME: 12pm-8pm (Closed on Tuesdays)

UNTIL: July 12, 2019

VENUE: Taipa Village Art Space

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2857 6212/ 2857 6118

Offbeat

MALAYSIA DETAINS FOUR INDIANS, SEIZES DRUGS, 5,255 TURTLES



Malaysia authorities have arrested four Indians and seized more than 14 kilograms of drugs and over 5,000 turtles from their luggage at the Kuala Lumpur airport.

Senior customs official Zulkurnain Mohamed Yusof said yesterday that agents found a total 5,255 red-ear slider baby turtles kept in small baskets from the luggage of two Indian nationals who flew in from Guangzhou, China on an AirAsia flight on June 20.

He said the men had no permits for the turtles and told investigators that the terrapins, estimated to be worth USD12,700, were meant to be sold as pets in India. The men, aged 30 and 42, are expected to be charged and could face up to five years in jail and a fine, he said.

The red-ear sliders are one of the world's most commonly traded turtles meant for the pet and meat markets. Permits are required as young turtles are susceptible to carrying salmonella and pose health concerns.

Separately, Zulkurnain said officials also found a total of 14.34 kilograms of methamphetamine worth 717,000 ringgit (\$174,000), hidden in special compartments in boxes that were hand-carried by two men. One of them flew in from Hyderabad, India on June 19 and another on June 20 from Bengaluru, he said in a statement.

The men, both aged 30 and believed to be drug mules, are expected to be charged and face the death penalty if convicted.

TV canal macau



| | |
|-------|--|
| 13:00 | TDM News (Repetição) |
| 13:30 | Telejornal RTPi (Diferido) |
| 15:00 | Agua de Mar |
| 15:45 | Zig Zag |
| 16:20 | Santos de Portugal |
| 16:50 | Quem Quer Ser Milionario |
| 17:45 | Moda Portugal Sr.4 |
| 18:20 | Amor Maior (Repetição) |
| 19:05 | Volta ao Mundo |
| 19:35 | Os Nossos Dias Sr.2 |
| 20:30 | Telejornal |
| 21:15 | TDM Talk Show |
| 21:50 | Livros com João Guedes |
| 22:00 | Todas as Palavras |
| 22:25 | Amor Maior |
| 23:15 | TDM News |
| 23:50 | O Ocidente no Oriente - A Alma Lusa de Hong Kong |
| 01:25 | Telejornal (Repetição) |
| 02:10 | RTPi Directo |

cinema



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28 Jun



SPIDER-MAN: FAR FROM HOME

ROOM 1

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

Director: Jon Watts

Starring: Zendaya, Angourie Rice, Tom Holland

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 129min



UGLYDOLLS

ROOM 2

2:30, 4:15, 6:00, 7:45pm

Director: Kelly Asbury

Starring: Kelly Clarkson, Nick Jonas, Janelle Monáe

Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 87min

MEN IN BLACK: INTERNATIONAL

ROOM 2

9:30pm

Director: F. Gary Gray

Starring: Chris Hemsworth, Tessa Thompson, Liam Neeson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 109min

THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 2

ROOM 3

2:30, 4:15, 6:00, 7:45pm

Director: Chris Renaud, Jonathan del Val

Starring: Patton Oswalt, Kevin Hart, Harrison Ford

Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 86min

ALADDIN

ROOM 3

9:30pm

Director: Guy Ritchie

Starring: Will Smith, Mena Massoud, Naomi Scott

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 109min

this day in history



1963 WARM WELCOME FOR JFK IN IRELAND

The US President John F. Kennedy has received a rapturous welcome on an emotional visit to his ancestral homeland in County Wexford, Ireland.

On the second day of his four-day trip to Ireland, the president travelled by helicopter this morning to County Wexford.

Hundreds of wellwishers cheered and waved flags on his arrival at Wexford town and a choir of 300 boys greeted him singing "The Boys of Wexford", a ballad about an insurrection in 1798.

The president left his bodyguards to join them in the second chorus, prompting one American photographer to burst into tears.

Once the singing was over, Mr Kennedy shook hands with as many schoolchildren as he could reach.

He was then driven to the nearby port of New Ross from where Patrick Kennedy, his great-grandfather, had set sail for a better life in America back in 1848 during the potato famine.

In a speech at the quayside he said: "When my great-grandfather left here to become a cooper in East Boston he carried nothing with him except two things - a strong religious faith and a strong desire for liberty.

"I am glad to say that all of his grandchildren have valued that inheritance."

At Dunganstown, five miles (8kms) south of New Ross, President Kennedy visited his ancestral homestead, a small croft building and farm.

The president and two of his sisters who accompanied him on this trip met 15 of their cousins, including the current owner of the homestead, Mary Ryan who welcomed him with a kiss on the cheek.

Tea had been laid out on trestle tables in the yard and a banner declared "Welcome home, Mr President".

America's first Catholic president spent about an hour chatting with his Irish family, cut a large cake and with teacup in hand said: "I want to drink a cup of tea to all those Kennedys who went and all those Kennedys who stayed."

He was then driven to Wexford town where he made much of Ireland's subjugation and religious persecution by the British.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

In Dublin the following day, President John F. Kennedy made a point of acknowledging Ireland's struggle for freedom from the British during a speech to the joint sessions of the Irish Parliament.

He received the freedom of the cities of Limerick and Galway before leaving for Britain and a meeting with the British Prime Minister, Harold Macmillan.

Four months later, in October 1963 Irish PM Sean Lemass made a state visit to the United States to strengthen ties with America, where some 38 million citizens claim to be of Irish descent.

On 22 November 1963, John F. Kennedy was assassinated, shot in the head as he drove through Dallas, Texas, on his way to a political festival. His ancestral homestead in Dunganstown was turned into a museum in 1999.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You're sleepwalking, and it's not all bad. Sometimes not having an independent thought in your head is a benefit. Just do as you're told today if you want to be rewarded by those doling out the directions.

Taurus April 20-May 20 If you're a risk-taker, you may throw caution to the wind when romance is involved, or put all of your chips on 'Red 17.' But when it comes to other people's money, you owe them a bit of prudence. Take this as a warning.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Getting into a groove with your colleagues is much easier than you imagine. You don't have to have long lunches together or socialize after work. In fact, 'good time' extremes are counterproductive.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 A big part of being professional is looking professional. Don't show up at work looking like something the cat dragged in, no matter how rough your private or social life is.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Adventure and excitement is vital. The office may seem a bit dull, but you don't need a fiery steed and a pole to do some jousting. The competition is all around you, so venture out of your cubicle and explore.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 When you rush forward but get nowhere, part of you wants to say 'just forget it.' But listen to your other half, instead. Sometimes making progress is as easy as going with the flow, so force yourself to slow down.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 A coworker is communicating, but you're just not getting it. Pay attention, today. Once you learn their secret code you'll see they're being quite expressive.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Your shrewdness at work is having an effect on your personal life. Where you used to get whipped into a frenzy, you now take a cooler look. Marketing is but one example.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You can only learn so much from watching. If you tend to be an observer, you're missing out on a lot of good feelings. Mix and mingle a bit more, today. It will boost your confidence.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Be realistic, of course, but don't let that stop you from being idealistic. That innocent glow will combine nicely with some discipline and structure to help you succeed.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You can be friends with people who are similar to you, but when it comes to the office, you have to get along with everybody. Try to see what you have in common because you both must contribute to work.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Your boss may think they know best, but when it comes to your own conscience, don't let anybody else be in charge. Some decisions will stay with you long after you forget about the job. Do the right thing, today.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



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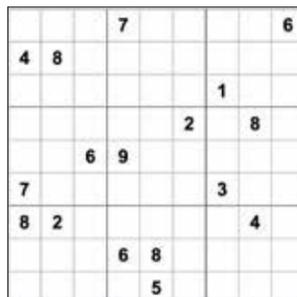
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Hard



WEATHER

Table with columns: CHINA, MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Lists weather for cities like Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- ___ browns; 5- Showy action; 10- Pouches; 14- Water; Sp.; 15- Hindu loincloth; 16- Reverberate; 17- Gull relative; 18- Photographic tone; 19- Threesome; 20- Earphone; 22- Shield; 24- ___ -de-sac; 25- One in a suit; 26- Come afterward; 29- Neighbor of Braz.; 32- Greek fabulist; 36- Foliage unit; 37- Without principles; 39- Song syllable; 40- Obvious; 43- Ox tail?; 44- Choose; 45- Ashtabula's lake; 46- Soothers; 48- Jargon suffix; 49- "Goodnight" girl; 50- Was printed; 52- Negative conjunction; 53- Peeved; 57- Flesh of a deer; 61- Propagative part of a plant; 62- Delhi dough; 64- String tie; 65- Understood; 66- Made a choice; 67- Cut of meat; 68- Grounded fleet; 69- Sings; 70- Feminine suffix;

DOWN: 1- Hell ___ no fury...; 2- "Let Us Now Praise Famous Men" author; 3- Chapter of the Koran; 4- Shackle; 5- Henry's son; 6- Newscaster Huntley; 7- Cut off; 8- Take ___ from me; 9- Jewelled crown worn by women; 10- Parlor piece; 11- Ranch unit; 12- Fashionable; 13- Smoke deposit; 21- Bring civil action against; 23- Florida's ___ National Forest; 26- Borden cow; 27- ___ lift?; 28- Shops want to achieve high ones!; 29- Sufficient; 30- Play parts; 31- Elegance; 33- Grocery, e.g.; 34- Hatch on the Hill; 35- Check recipient; 37- Chopping tool; 38- Pantry invader; 41- Composition; 42- Awful; 47- Wears away; 49- Electrically charged atom; 51- Peter and a Wolfe; 52- Calls for; 53- Warts and all; 54- Capone's nemesis; 55- Depilatory brand; 56- Delude; 57- Change direction; 58- Before long; 59- Actor Ken; 60- Fourth little piggy's share; 63- School gp.;



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FOOTBALL | WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

Italy beats China 2-0, reaches first quarterfinal since 1991

Joseph Wilson, Montpellier

ITALY made its case to be considered a contender in the Women's World Cup after a convincing 2-0 win over China yesterday [Macau time].

Coach Milena Bertolini believes Italy is set to play in its first quarterfinal since 1991 because her players are striving for a goal that goes beyond the final result.

"They have a mission. Their mission is to try and have the Italian public to discover and appreciate the women's game,"

Bertolini said. "This aspect helps you because it allows you to find that extra energy and motivation. I really believe this side has allowed the women's game to break new ground back home."

Italian viewers have had good reason to tune in. While the men's team failed to qualify for last summer's World Cup in Russia, the women are proving to be a revelation in France.

China had only allowed one goal in its three group stage games but the talented Italian attack broke down the vaunted defense.

Valentina Giacinti scored in the 15th minute. Aurora Galli's long strike put the result beyond doubt four minutes after half-time at the stiflingly hot Stade de la Mosson.

Italy will play the Netherlands on Saturday in Valenciennes after the Dutch beat Japan 2-1. Germany and Sweden will meet in the other quarterfinal on Italy's side of the bracket.

China coach Jia Xiuquan seemed to put his future in doubt after his team exited with just one goal scored in the tournament, saying "maybe it is time

to take a break."

"I believe the World Cup is a big stage and it makes us realize our shortcomings," Jia said through a translator. "To improve Chinese football it requires generations. It can't only depend on myself."

Playing its first World Cup in 20 years, Italy had already surpassed expectations by winning its group ahead of Brazil and Australia before topping China with relative ease.

The Italians have advanced in style, deploying an attack with three forwards that hasn't cost

it at the back. Italy has scored nine goals in its three wins in the tournament, while the only two goals it has conceded have come on penalties.

Giacinti said the secret to Italy's success is in the smallest of gestures.

"This win was absolutely crucial as a squad as a whole," Giacinti said. "We try to have a smile on our face regardless of the circumstances. I think it is important to help one another on the pitch without shouting. Catching someone's eye or smiling can produce those fine margins" needed for victory.

There was nothing subtle about Giacinti in the early stage of the match.

The forward was a force as she threatened on two occasions before she sparked the chance that ended in her goal.

After pressuring to win a ball near the touchline, she raced down the flank and found Barbara Bonansea, who waited to find left back Elisa Bartoli joining the move. Bartoli's shot was blocked by China goalkeeper Peng Shimeng but Giacinti pounced on the loose ball and drove it home.

China midfielder Wang Yan did manage to make goalkeeper Laura Giuliani palm her effort over the bar in the 28th.

But Peng then had to dive to parry a powerful strike from Valentina Bergamaschi as Italy looked close to a quick second goal against a China team that couldn't handle its press and its trio of attackers.

Once China settled down and eliminated sloppy passes, the action tilted momentarily to the other half. Forward Li Ying gave Bartoli fits with her dribbling and she made the Italian defenders work with her dangerous crosses.

Italy suffered a bigger blow when striker Cristiana Girelli had to walk off the field with an apparent leg injury in the 39th.

She was replaced by Galli, who surprised Peng with a right-footed strike that went skimming over the turf and beyond the goalkeeper's reach.

It was Galli's third goal of the tournament, all as a substitute. **AP**

AD



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opinion

World Views
Bobby Ghosh, Bloomberg

G-20 GIVES TRUMP A CHANCE TO CLARIFY HIS IRAN POLICY

When President Trump arrives at the Group of 20 summit in Osaka on Friday, many of his peers will want to discuss bilateral crises with him: China's Xi Jinping about their trade spat, Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan about the purchase of Russian missile-defense systems, Japan's Shinzo Abe about Trump's bizarre notion about ending their bilateral defense pact. They will also want to hear from him about a crisis that affects them all: the confrontation with Iran.

That crisis has grown more acute since the group last gathered. Neutral shipping has been attacked, oil installations bombed, an American drone shot down, a Supreme Leader placed under sanctions. Despite protestations from Washington and Tehran that neither side wants war, the conclave in Osaka will rightly be anxious about the enormous human cost and great economic harm of such a conflict.

At their December meeting in Buenos Aires, Trump would have struggled to get a patient hearing about his position on Iran. He had only recently pulled the U.S. out of the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, and the other signatories—the European Union, Germany, France, China, Russia and Britain—were still reeling from that move. Meanwhile, Iran was still abiding by the bargain, allowing for hope that the deal could yet be salvaged without the U.S.

The other signatories can now harbor no illusions that they can keep the JCPOA alive without the U.S.: no company in Europe, China or Russia dares to brave American sanctions. More important, Iran's recent reckless behavior has alarmed the Europeans—they have officially warned Tehran that breaking its JCPOA commitments would have serious consequences. They are not pleased with attacks on oil tankers, either.

So Trump may arrive in Osaka as close as he will ever be to having a sympathetic audience. That makes it a good time to explain what his Iran policy is—and, just as important, what it isn't.

He should start by clarifying his ultimate objective. It can't be about regime change: something that economic sanctions rarely achieve, and nobody wants a war. Nor can it be simply about getting a better nuclear deal than the Obama administration—by extending the uranium-enrichment embargo by, say, 15 years.

If Trump wants to improve on Obama's deal, he must insist on a genuinely comprehensive pact, extending beyond Iran's potential nuclear threat to include its ballistic-missile program, its promotion of terrorist groups and proxies across the Middle East, and other bad behavior. In exchange for such a grand bargain, he should offer more than Obama did—the removal of all sanctions, and the prospect of favorable trading terms with the U.S. and its allies.

He should add that compliance by Tehran would earn full Western backing for a pact between Iran and its regional rivals, Saudi Arabia and Israel, with the aim of ending their mutual hostility, and perhaps even incorporating voluntary arms-limitation treaties. (Serendipitously, the 2020 G-20 summit will be in Riyadh.)

To receive a sympathetic hearing, Trump should show some sympathy, too—toward the millions of Iranians who share the pain of American sanctions. He can point to the targeted sanctions on Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and top military commanders as proof that his main goal is to hurt the regime. To underscore this, he must announce full U.S. backing for a Swiss channel to deliver medical and other humanitarian goods to Iranians. And, if he is really serious, he could lift the ban on Iranians traveling to the U.S.

Will Iran go along with any of this? Not anytime soon, to judge by Khamenei's rejection of recent offers of mediation and negotiation. But with every passing month that the sanctions hurt the Iranian economy, the ayatollah's position can only weaken. Trump should make it clear that he's in no hurry, and that the U.S. will not in the meantime respond unilaterally or disproportionately to the Islamic Republic's provocations. If Iran goes too far, he should tell his audience, it will deserve a response from them all.

THE AMNESTY WANTS IMPARTIAL PROBE OF INDONESIA POLICE VIOLENCE

Amnesty International is calling for an independent investigation into allegations of police brutality and unlawful killings during post-election riots in the Indonesian capital last month.

The rights organization said yesterday in a publicly released letter to President Joko Widodo that it has credible evidence of a range of grave violations by paramilitary police, who it alleged were responsible for 10 unlawful killings.

Officially, nine people died in what police said were orchestrated riots in Jakarta after results released May 21 confirmed Widodo was re-elected president with 55.5% of the vote.

Police have acknowledged disproportionate violence by some officers.

Amnesty International said at least four other men were beaten in the same incident and one was so badly injured he was admitted to an intensive care unit.

Cryptocurrencies need close scrutiny, monitor warns

David McHugh, Frankfurt

An international financial monitor warned world leaders that wider use by retail shoppers of cryptocurrencies like Libra, unveiled last week by Facebook, would need "close scrutiny" by regulators.

The chief of the Financial Stability Board made the statement in a letter to the heads of state and government who will gather at the Group of 20 summit on June 28-29 in Osaka, Japan.

Finance officials are debating how to regulate cryptocurrencies after Facebook unveiled Libra, a digital form of cash linked to existing currencies. Cryptocurrency is a form of digital money that uses encryption technology to make it secure. Cryptocurrencies exist not as physical bills or coins but rather as lines of digitally signed computer code.

FSB chair Randal K. Quarles, whose letter doesn't mention Libra by name, said technological innovation could make the financial sector more efficient and inclusive and that cryptocurrencies do not at the moment pose a risk to global financial stability.

He warned, however, that "a wider use of new types of crypto-assets for retail payment purposes would warrant close scrutiny by autho-



rities to ensure that that they are subject to high standards of regulation."

"Though crypto-assets do not currently pose a risk to global financial stability, gaps may occur where crypto-assets fall outside the scope of regulators' authority or from the absence of international standards," he wrote in the letter.

Leaders of the G-20, whose countries represent more than 80% of the global economy, only made a one-sentence mention of cryptocurrencies at their 2018 summit in Buenos Aires.

Their closing statement said they were concerned about the use of cryptocurrencies in money laundering and financing terrorism and would "consider other responses as needed."

At the time, cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin were not considered a threat to financial stability because the amounts of money involved were tiny compared to the

size of the global financial system.

Libra would be aimed at being a global currency used by billions of people, including those who have no bank account or other access to the financial system.

Facebook played a key role in creating the underlying technology for Libra but after the launch in 2020, the currency will be overseen by a nonprofit organization, the Libra Association. Other members of the association include MasterCard, PayPal, Visa, Spotify AB, Vodafone Group, venture capital firms and nonprofits.

In addition to chairing the FSB, Quarles sits on the board of governors of the U.S. Federal Reserve, where he is vice chair for regulation. The FSB is an international body that monitors and makes recommendations about the global financial system. It aims to coordinate national financial authorities and standard-setting bodies. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Kamil Zihnioglu



European heat. A woman sunbathes along the Seine river in Paris. High temperatures are expected to go up to over 40 degrees Celsius later this week and bake much of the country, from the Pyrenees in the southwest to the German border in the northeast.

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

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS



AUSTRALIA's three largest media organizations joined forces to demand legal reforms that would prevent journalists from risking imprisonment for doing their jobs. The demands came after unprecedented raids against media organizations by police searching for leaked documents that some say were deeply embarrassing to the government.



USA Former special counsel Robert Mueller has agreed to testify publicly before Congress on July 17 after Democrats issued subpoenas to compel him to appear, the chairmen of two House committees announced. More on p14

GERMANY Large parts of western and central Europe sweltered in scorching weather, with German authorities imposing autobahn speed limits amid fears of buckling road surfaces and some French schools staying closed as a precaution. Temperatures could top 40 degrees C in parts of the continent over the coming. More on p14



TENNIS Roger Federer (pictured) has been seeded above Rafael Nadal for Wimbledon, despite the Spaniard being higher in the rankings. Top-ranked Novak Djokovic is seeded No. 1, with Federer second and Nadal third — a reverse of their rankings. Kevin Anderson, a Wimbledon finalist last year, is fourth.