

TOMORROW



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GROSS GAMING REVENUE ROSE
5.9% LAST MONTH, A SIGN THE
INDUSTRY IS WEATHERING THE
TRADE WAR STORM ▶ P3

TWO SIX-YEAR-OLD CHILDREN RAPED LAST WEEK

4,500 MACAU RESIDENTS WERE GRANTED
TEMPORARY RESIDENCY IN TAIWAN,
ACCORDING TO THE LATEST STATISTICS
RELEASED BY THE ISLAND ▶ P4

AP PHOTO



China-US White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow insisted that President Donald Trump won't back off national security concerns after agreeing to allow U.S. companies to sell some components to Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei. Kudlow told Fox and CBS that Huawei will remain on an American blacklist as a potential security threat.

More on p11

AP PHOTO



Trump-Kim With wide grins and a historic handshake, President Donald Trump and North Korea's Kim Jong Un meet at the heavily fortified Demilitarized Zone and agree to revive talks on the North's nuclear program. Significant doubts remain, though, about the future of the negotiations.

AP PHOTO



China Apple Inc. will manufacture its new Mac Pro computer in China, moving production of what had been its only major device assembled in the U.S. The company will use Quanta Computer Inc. to make the USD6,000 desktop computer and is ramping up production at a factory near Shanghai, according to the person, who asked not to be identified speaking about Apple's decision-making.

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AP PHOTO



HANOVER CELEBRATION MARRED BY VIOLENCE

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GOV'T
RELEASES
SCHEDULE
FOR
HANDOUT

The schedule for the 12th annual Wealth Partaking Scheme, informally known as the 'handout', has been announced. Cash distribution will begin today and end on September 13

▶ P4

KEVIN HO'S NPC POSITION CONFIRMED

Kevin Ho has succeeded Ho Iat Seng in the National People's Congress (NPC) to become the 12th delegate of Macau in the Chinese NPC. Ho Iat Seng, the previous holder of the seat, resigned from the post to run for the position of Macau Chief Executive. Ho's priority is to ensure the success of Macau's participation in state level projects – in particular, the Greater Bay Area development. According to the ranking of Macau representatives in the 2017 NPC, Kevin Ho was ranked 13th. He moves into the 12th spot, following Ho Iat Seng's resignation.

NEW PLA POLITICAL COMMISSIONER APPOINTED

Chinese president Xi Jinping has issued an order to appoint Sun Wenju, the Deputy Director of the Political Work Department of the People's Liberation Army Hong Kong Garrison, as the new political commissar of the Macau Garrison. Sun joined the Chinese army in 1983 and joined the Chinese Communist Party in 1987. He served as deputy director of the Organization Department of the former General Political Department of the People's Liberation Army (PLA). According to a statement released by the PLA, Sun intends to adhere closely by the 'one country, two systems' policy framework, and to respect and support the Macau SAR government's administration in accordance with the law.

DISABILITY ALLOWANCE INCREASED TO 9,000 PATACAS

The allowance for people with disabilities will increase again this year, according to a Chief Executive order published in the Official Gazette. The amount for ordinary disability allowance has been raised to MOP9,000 starting from this year and the amount for the special disability allowance has been raised to MOP18,000. The Social Affairs Bureau (IAS) estimates that there are about 13,700 people eligible for the allowance. The budget for the allowance amounts to 169 million patacas. Eligible applicants who apply for the allowance before August 31 will be granted the allowance in October this year.

CRIME

Two six-year-olds raped last week

RENATO MARQUES

TWO schoolgirls were raped last week, the Judiciary Police (PJ) informed yesterday at the joint press conference for police authorities held at the Public Security Police Force (PSP) facilities. The cases, although unrelated, were reported at a similar period of time and each involved a six-year-old child.

The first case was brought to the police by the child and her father on June 30 when they filed a complaint.

According to the victim, the incident occurred a few weeks before, at a date she could not precisely recall, while returning home from school and urgently needing to use the bathroom. While entering the Patane-area apartment building where she lives, the child decided she could not wait to go up to her family's apartment and so decided to use the toilet located on the ground floor inside the janitor's room. A few moments later, she said that the janitor suddenly pushed open the door, entered the toilet and started to sexually harass her. She said that the man violated her genitalia, before she managed to flee from the place. She said she was very scared and in shock and could not resist the 55-year-old man, a non-resident worker and one of the people that usually performs security and cleaning duties in the building.

On June 30, she finally managed to break her silence and tell the story to the father that rushed to the PJ to file the complaint.

On the same day, around 5:30 p.m., PJ officers went to the location and detained the suspect for questioning. After the investigation, he confessed to having committed the crime and his case



was forwarded to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) under the accusation of aggravated rape, the spokesperson said, as the victim is a minor.

In the second case, reported on June 28, the PJ received a case forwarded by the PSP for investigation.

According to the initial report filed by the mother of the victim, on June 27 she had left her house at Estrada da Areia Preta as usual for work, leaving the daughter with her father, a 33-year-old local man.

On the following day, around 7:30 a.m., when the mother returned home from work, she wanted

to take the girl to school but her child said she was feeling unwell and had pain when urinating.

The mother tried to question her on what had happened and the girl said that the father had raped her while she was asleep.

The mother said she did not press charges immediately because it was school final exam day, so she took the girl to school. In the meanwhile, the suspect left Macau and traveled to mainland China.

After school, the mother then took the daughter to the police station where they filed the complaint.

On the morning of June 29,

while the suspect was reentering Macau via the Border Gate checkpoint, he was intercepted and taken into questioning.

During the investigation, he confessed to the crime claiming to have been under the influence of alcohol that night. Further medical examination also found that girl had some blood marks and her genitalia was swollen, reason considered, together with the confession from the father, as enough evidence of the rape.

Like in the first case, the case was also forwarded to the MP where the suspect was accused of aggravated rape.

Low possibility of escalating typhoon signal today

THE Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) said that the possibility of issuing a higher signal before 6 a.m. today is low.

Last night at 10 p.m., the SMG issued signal no. 1

as the low-pressure area over the northern part of the South China Sea was gradually developing into a tropical depression, moving towards Hainan Island.

Affected by the outer rainband, the bureau said

that showers may become more frequent today, and that it would become thunderous at times during the night.

Flooding may occur in low-lying areas during the morning to noon from to-

day until Saturday.

The SMG advised the public to pay attention to the latest weather information.

Due to the upcoming typhoon season, storm surge evacuation drills simula-

ting the evacuation of the populace from low-lying areas of the city have been held by government authorities for the public to be aware of orderly evacuations during typhoon and storm surges.

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**GAMING**

Revenue growth accelerates despite weak Chinese economy

DANIEL BEITLER

MACAU casino revenue in June surprised analysts by growing 5.9% year-on-year to reach 23.8 billion patacas (USD3 billion), according to data released yesterday by the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau. That was significantly better than the median analyst estimate of a 1.8% increase, according to Bloomberg sources.

The June result rounds out the first half of the year at MOP149.5 billion, just 0.5% lower than gross gaming revenue during the

first six months of 2018.

The growth, which follows a modest 1.8% year-on-year rise in the previous month, is a sign of market stabilization in Macau's formerly volatile gaming market. It is also evidence of the city's resilience to the ongoing effects of the China-U.S. trade war, which continues to gnaw at Chinese spending power abroad and tighten credit lines seen as essential for VIP play.

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. So far this year,

June has proven the second-weakest month, narrowly beating April's MOP23.6 billion.

Brokerage Sanford C. Bernstein forecast in a memo last week that Macau's June revenue would be between 1% and 3% higher year-on-year, maintaining a cautious view. The institution said at the time that it was sticking to its estimate due in part to a low hold rate for VIP baccarat during the month.

While the mass market segment has been strong in the past, Citi analyst Anil Daswani wrote in a note last month that some families may have deferred

their Macau trips in June due to their children's school exams.

Aiding year-on-year growth for the month may have been the subdued comparison period in the previous year, when the FIFA World Cup reportedly distracted gamblers from Macau tables. The absence of a major sporting event this month may have given the appearance of a lift.

However, some analysts maintain the view that there is little evidence to support the link between major football events and Macau gross gaming revenue.

Analysts at Sanford C.

Bernstein credited the growth to the final week of the month when average daily revenue accelerated.

"Average daily revenue (ADR) for June was MOP794 million (-5 percent versus May). While

GGR for the first three weeks of June was weaker due to low hold, GGR picked up in the last week," said the analysts, as cited by GGR Asia.

Year-on-year comparisons should continue easing into the summer months, the analysts said, adding that July was likely to grow by between 2% and 4% year-on-year.

JP Morgan Securities said that June had recorded the "best monthly growth so far this year," especially noteworthy since "June is seasonally the weakest month of the year."

June's results may help ease investors' concerns about another trend - the emergence of rival regional gaming spots in the Asia Pacific region that can lure the lucrative, yet volatile, VIP segment away.

The effect could be temporary, Andrew Lee, an equity analyst at Jefferies wrote in a June 24 note, with Macau retaining favor given its convenience and easy access for mainland gamblers.

Despite June's take, expectations remain subdued for the rest of the year as a whole, with analysts foreseeing a 1% median revenue decline.

Meanwhile, casino stocks have been rising, with a Bloomberg Intelligence index of Macau operators climbing 7.5% in June, after a 20% correction in May. The best performer in June was Melco Resorts & Entertainment Ltd., gaining 13%.

MONTHLY GAMING REVENUE

	Revenue*	Growth
Jan	24,942	-5.0%
Feb	25,370	+4.4%
Mar	25,840	-0.4%
Apr	23,588	-8.3%
May	25,952	+1.8%
Jun	23,812	+5.9%

*In MOP millions. Data provided by the Macau Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau

DICJ says casino facial recognition only for security

THE Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ) has said that casino artificial intelligence (AI) facial recognition systems will only be used for security purposes, according to a report by public broadcaster TDM.

A recent Bloomberg report revealed that some gaming operators in Macau have introduced

AI equipment to collect data through concealed closed-circuit television (CCTV) systems, facial recognition technology, RFID-enabled chips, and specially designed baccarat tables.

The DICJ stated that some equipment suppliers are testing facial recognition technology devices in casinos, but that the

suppliers did not install the equipment completely. The bureau clarified that the equipment should be used only for casino security purposes.

According to the DICJ, once installed, if the casinos use the devices for such purposes as collecting gamblers' information, they will be violating the law.

The bureau also reported that some of the city's casinos are currently only applying preliminary facial recognition technology, emphasizing that tests must strictly abide by the city's privacy protection law.

Earlier this year, the Four Seasons hotel casino was robbed by two criminals armed with pe-

pper spray. The heist took place inside the casino at a gaming table.

The Commissioner General of the Unitary Police Service Ma Io Kun said after the case that casinos are private buildings and there is little scope for the government to install CCTV surveillance. JZ



Macau, HK immigrants flocking to Taiwan at rapid pace

JULIE ZHU

FROM the start of 2016 until May of this year, 4,500 Macau residents have been granted temporary residency of Taiwan, according to the latest statistics released by the Ministry of the Interior National Immigration Agency of Taiwan. Some 600 Macau residents were granted permanent residency of Taiwan during the same period.

Considering the high number of Hong Kong residents also seeking

the right to abode in Taiwan, some on the self-governing island are beginning to take note of the SARs' emigration occurrence.

In 2012, Taiwan had 8,624 immigrants from Hong Kong and Macau. As of today, a total of 14,736 residents from the two Chinese

SARs are living in Taiwan, representing a 71% increase compared to that of 2012.

In the first five months of 2019 alone, 575 residents from Hong Kong and Macau were granted permanent residency of Taiwan, representing a 40% increase com-

pared to the same period of the previous year.

Political environment and living costs are two of the top factors contributing to these numbers, according to media reports from Taiwan.

Statistics from Numbeo, a crowd-sourced database of reported consumer prices, rental prices in Taipei, the capital of Taiwan, are about 53% lower, and restaurant prices in Taipei are 30% lower than in Macau. The price per square meter to buy an apartment in the city center of Taipei is 25% lower than in Macau.

The cost of gasoline in Taipei is 27% lower, while basic utilities including electricity, heating, cooling, water and garbage are on average 41% cheaper.

A monthly fitness club fee for one adult and a movie ticket in Taipei are 55% and 24% cheaper, respectively, than in Macau.

From the start of 2016 until May 2019, 13,417 and 3,763 Hong Kong residents also obtained temporary and permanent Taiwanese residency respectively.

In 2018 alone, 1,267 residents from the two SARs of China were granted permanent Taiwanese residency. This figure represents more than double the number of 2014.

The figure also doubled that of 2008.

According to the statistics, the number of Hong Kong and Macau residents moving to Taiwan began surging in 2014 after the Occupy Central Movement.

Gov't releases schedule for Wealth Partaking Scheme

RENATO MARQUES



STAFF REPORTER

THE schedule for the 12th annual Wealth Partaking Scheme, informally known as the 'handout', was released yesterday. Cash distribution will begin today and end on September 13.

Each permanent resident will receive MOP10,000 and each non-permanent resident will receive MOP6,000 this year.

Any person who met the residency requirements as of December 31, 2018 will be entitled to receive the handout.

Macau ID holders living abroad who are bedridden or suffering from paralysis are also entitled to the handout, provided that proof is submitted to the SAR government.

There are several ways in which local residents may re-

ceive their handouts. Most of them will receive the handout via bank transfer or cheque. Subsidy recipients, pensioners and civil servants will have their money directly deposited into their accounts by the government.

Meanwhile, the money for civil servants will be deposited together with their salary for July.

Each delivery period consists

of five weekdays. The schedule starts with eligible residents born in or before 1957, followed by irregular intervals of birth year. Eligible residents are reminded to update the Identification Services Bureau with any changes to their residential addresses.

Residents who do not receive their cheque during the delivery period can request its reissuance 10 working days after the end of their respective delivery period at the government service centers at China Plaza, Areia Preta and Taipa.

The first cash handout was distributed in 2008. MOP5,000 and MOP3,000 were distributed to each permanent and non-permanent resident respectively.

After the then-Chief Executive Edmund Ho announced the proposal, more than 11,000 people who had not renewed their Macau ID card rushed to the Identification Services Bureau to do so in order to secure their handout.

The 2011 handout was separated into two phases: in the first phase, MOP4,000 and MOP2,400 were given out, while in the second, MOP3,000 and MOP1,800 were given.

SPORTS

MACAU SWIMMING TALENT TO COMPETE IN SUMMER UNIVERSIADE

STAFF REPORTER

LAO Chon Pong, a Macau swimmer studying in the United States, will represent the SAR in the upcoming Summer Universiade between July 3 and 14 on the Italian island of Sicily.

The swimmer is now studying at the University of California in San Diego. Not only is he part of Team Macau for this Universiade, he is also in the university's swimming and diving team.

He will compete in the 100-meter breaststroke, his specialty style. His event will commence on July 4.

In 2013, Lao competed at the Fédération Internationale de

Natation (FINA) World Junior Swimming Championships for Macau.

Lao will also join the main 21-member Team Macau, which departed the SAR for Italy on Sunday. The team will compete in five categories: swimming, track and field, fencing, judo and taekwondo.

The Universiade, held every two years, is the world's top-tier multisport games event for university students.

This is the fifth time the Games will be held in Italy. The last Universiade was held in Taiwan's Taipei, and the next will be in Chengdu in mainland China.



TRANSPORTATION

New speed detection system on Amizade Bridge could be illegal

RENATO MARQUES

A new speed detection system has been put into operation on the Amizade Bridge starting yesterday, a Public Security Police Force (PSP) spokesperson warned during a press conference.

The system makes use of an average speed detection camera controlling the time each vehicle takes to complete the bridge route, from one side to another. From this data it calculates the average speed the vehicle traveled at during its crossing.

The purpose behind the new system is to deter drivers from speeding in between speed control traps.

The previous system monitored instant speed detection, or the speed a vehicle was traveling at a specific point. In theory, this allowed drivers to speed up until the speeding control point, when they drastically reduced their velocity to avoid detection.

However, upon reviewing Decree-law 70/95/M, which regulates the Nobre de Carvalho Bridge, Amizade Bridge, and access flyovers, the Times has learned that there is no provision allowing for average speed detection cameras. Accordingly, it is not known how the authorities can legally penalize speed limit violators.

"There has to be an act to define the prohibited practice and to sanction it," said lawyer Jorge Me-

nez. "Such an act has to come from the Chief Executive and by regulation, unless [the regulation] existed previously and was just not being enforced."

Article 6 of the aforementioned law states, "Vehicles in circulation on Bridges and Access Flyovers shall be subject to the following maximum and minimum instantaneous speed limits." This allows only "instantaneous" limits and, by non-mention, excludes the average speed system introduced by the authorities. For the legal expert the case is clear, "only what is included in legal provisions can be punishable. Therefore, if the [average speed control system] is not foreseen, it would be illegal to fine users using it."

Another lawyer presented a different perspective to the Times. José Alvares, said that in his opinion, no law amendments should be required in order to implement the new system.

"In my opinion that is legal," said Alvares, as the principle is based on the fact that, at some point, the speed limit would have been breached. "Thus no amendment [to the law] would be required to punish drivers for exceeding the speed limits based on a device that measures the average speed of any driver on any bridge in the Macau SAR," he added, as opposed to a system that detects the violation in a slightly different way.

"Given that crossing any bridge in Macau takes a maximum of

10 minutes - and that one cannot stop on the bridge - and that such crossing does not allow alternative routes, I believe the breach of the law would be clearly identified in terms of the perpetrator, time and location."

The lawyer also noted that in such cases, "what must be deemed proven is that a violation occurred."

In addition to the average speed detection system, the authorities have also started to enforce a new speed trap, of the instantaneous kind, at the entrance of the flyover that gives access to the same bridge on the Macau side. The circulation speed is limited to a maximum of 40km/h, according to Decree-law 70/95/M.

For drivers that exceed such speed limits (40km/h at the flyover and 80km/h on the bridge deck), there are fines established that range from MOP600 to MOP40,000, as well as penalties for other offences, including violating a driving ban. The Times requested further comment from the PSP, but it was not possible to obtain a response before press time.

Airport handles nearly 30,000 flights in first five months

STAFF REPORTER

THREE was a total of 29,590 flights to and from Macau during the first five months of the year, the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) announced yesterday, an increase of 18.8% over the equivalent period a year earlier.

The significant rise was released as part of the mon-

thly data on the state of Macau's transport sector.

Some 6,245 flights were handled by the Macau International Airport in May, up by 23.3% year-on-year. Trips between Macau and mainland China increased by 39.4%, to 2,722, while those between Macau and Taiwan increased by 7.2%, to 1,064.

The airport handled 3,119

tons of air cargo in May, a decrease of 9.4% year-on-year. Gross weight of outward cargo and transit cargo fell by 6.3% and 36.8% respectively to 2,134 tons and 417 tons, but inward cargo grew by 12.6% to 568 tons. In the first five months, air cargo dropped by 5.4% year-on-year to 15,240 tons.

For land traffic, the number of accidents rose by

6.1% year-on-year to 1,075 in May, involving 371 victims, one of which died. In the first five months, there were 5,191 traffic accidents and 1,799 traffic casualties.

The number of licensed motor vehicles stood at 238,010 as of the end of May, slightly more than that at the same point of the year in 2018. The number of light automobiles and heavy

motorcycles increased by 1% and 2% respectively to 107,929 and 97,819.

Meanwhile, the 887 new vehicle registrations in May this year represented a 16.6% drop over the same month a year earlier. Some 416 were light vehicles and 408 heavy motorcycles, marking decreases of 13.5% and 22% respectively. In the first five months of 2019, cross-border vehicular traffic grew by 7% year-on-year to 2.16 million trips.

new registrations of motor vehicles declined by 24.2% year-on-year to 4,887.

Vehicle crossings at the Cotai border rose 7.6% year-on-year in May. A total of 32,937 trips were recorded over the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge. In the first five months of 2019, cross-border vehicular traffic grew by 7% year-on-year to 2.16 million trips.

LABOR AFFAIRS

Former Dragone employee allegedly offered money to withdraw DSAL complaint

LYNZY VALLES

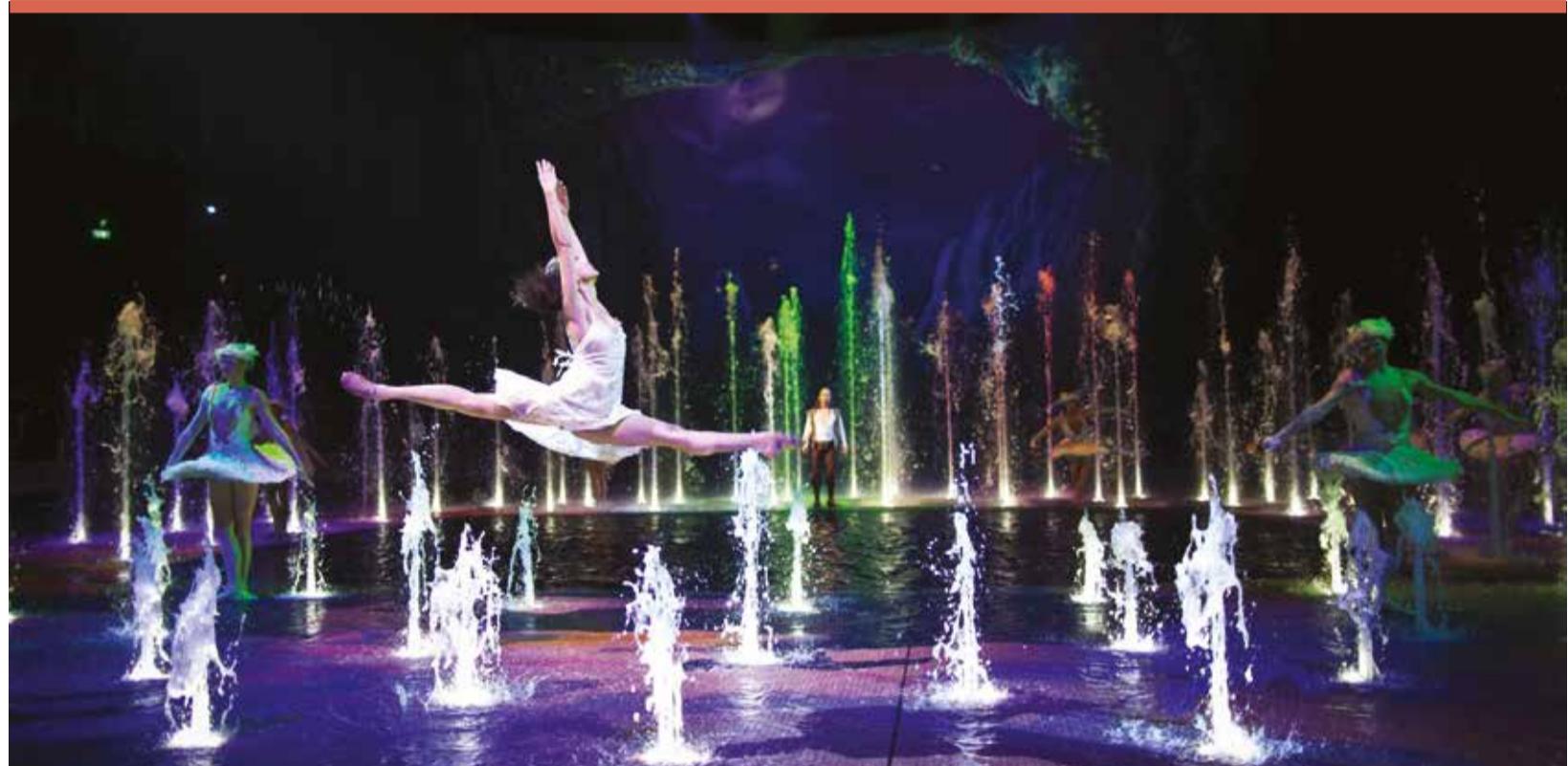
DRAGONE Macau, which operates The House of Dancing Water, allegedly offered a sum of money to a former employee to incentivize him to withdraw his complaint against the firm. The accusation, made by the employee in question, was revealed in an interview with state broadcaster TDM.

Bernardo Graça, a former artist at The House of Dancing Water, filed a complaint with the Labour Affairs Bureau after he alleged his contract was terminated without cause back in November 2018.

The Portuguese artist joined the artistic team in April 2017 after being hired from Portugal.

However, he noticed irregularities in his working arrangements contrary to his employment contract.

Graça told TDM that fees for both medical and life insurance were deducted from his monthly payroll, and that overtime was not remunerated. He also noted that there was a lack of compensation for employees



working on mandatory and public holidays.

Last month, he explained that

Dragone Macau sent him an email, requesting a meeting to reach an agreement.

"In the meeting, they offered me money to give up the complaint, for this to be confidential and to settle

the issue. [...] I am not going to give up until justice is done," the artist told the state broadcaster.

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Graça had already consulted lawyers and brought the case to court on June 17, along with four other employees of the show, to be followed by 30 more people.

The artist shared his disappointment with the company's handling of the situation, noting that when he approached the human resources department, he was allegedly told to either stay or leave.

"Every time I tried to talk to the company about this problem, they said 'it's the way it is. You sign the contact and there's no change to be made, and if you're not happy you can leave.' It was very straightforward [...] it's something I never quite understood," said Graça.

"All these things were adding up and it came to a point where they said they think I am an amazing artist but they are going to have to dismiss me without cause," he said, because of the failure to reach an agreement.

Dragone Macau issued a letter to him titled "Termination of Contract Without Cause" on November 15, 2018.

The artist said that within the workplace, there were fears of speaking out, as the artistic world is small. He said that Dragone had many connections outside Macau.

He also shared that many of the employees are blue-card holders, which makes it easier for them to be fired.

"The message I had from other [employees] was that they were all oppressed," he said. "The oppression was brutal."

Meanwhile, Dragone argued that their contracts were reviewed by local legal experts.

Matthew Jessner, artistic director of Operations of Dragone, said that The House of Dancing Water is a unique show in Macau, and one that the labor law is not adapted to.

Although he admitted that certain aspects of the contract may not be in accordance with the labor law, he justified that the contract exceeds specific requirements stated in the local labor law.

"It was not our willful intention to transgress local labor code, which is evident. As a matter of fact, we spent a great deal of time reviewing some of contracts such that in many cases they go beyond the specific requirements of the labor code [...] in Macau or elsewhere," said Jessner. "We didn't just improvise. We consulted local legal counsel so that we weren't just reading things off the international scale," he added.

Jessner also believes that the local labor law is not taking into account the industry standards.

Melco Resorts and Entertainment, which operates the City of Dreams resort where the House of Dancing Water production is staged, told the Times that the company does not comment on employees' partners.

FORUM MDT/MACAUHUB

China-Portuguese language fund seeks São Tomé and Príncipe projects

THE China-Portuguese Cooperation and Development Fund is looking for projects in São Tomé and Príncipe, a country that re-established diplomatic relations with China in December 2016, said the secretary general of Forum Macau.

Xu Yingzhen said in an interview with Portuguese news agency Lusa that representatives of the Fund on July 8 and 9 will take part in the 14th China-Portuguese-Language Business Meeting, the first to be held in São Tomé and Príncipe, "to establish more contacts with entrepreneurs and gather more information on the projects, with the aim of accelerating investment."

"São Tomé and Príncipe is a country that joined Forum Macau at a late stage, so this business meeting is important, and the Permanent Secretariat devotes a lot of attention and importance to it," said the Secretary-General.

São Tomé and Príncipe was the last country to join the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Forum Macau), months after breaking off diplomatic relations with Taiwan in 2016.

Delegations of businesspeople from Portuguese-speaking countries, public institutions for trade and investment promotion, and businesspeople from municipalities and provinces in the interior of China were also taking part, said Xu Yingzhen.

Asked about the projects and the amount already applied by the USD1 billion fund managed by the China Development Bank, Xu said she didn't have "many details" as the Forum "cannot intervene in its management."

Xu Yingzhen said, however, that the Fund had so far invested \$120 million in five projects: four in Portuguese-speaking countries, which she did not specify, and one in Macau.

"I know that the management of this investment fund use meetings with businesspeople from Macau and mainland China and travel to Portuguese-speaking countries (Angola, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, São Tomé and Príncipe and Timor-Leste).

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HONG KONG

Protesters storm legislature spray-painting

KEN MORITSUGU

HUNDREDS of protesters in Hong Kong swarmed into the legislature's main building last night, tearing down portraits of legislative leaders and spray-painting pro-democracy slogans on the walls of the main chamber.

The sharp escalation in tactics came on the anniversary of the former British colony's return to China, a city holiday, and reflected mounting frustration with Hong Kong's leader for not responding to protesters' demands after several weeks of demonstrations.

The protesters whacked away at thick glass windows until they shattered and broke and pried open steel security gates and propped them open with barricades to get inside. Police in riot gear retreated as the protesters entered about 9 p.m., avoiding a confrontation and giving them the run of the building.

They stood on lawmakers' desks in the main legislative chamber, painted over the territory's emblem high up on a wooden wall and wrote slogans calling for a democratic election of the city's leader and denouncing now-suspended extradition legislation that sparked the protests. Many wore yellow and white helmets, face masks and the black T-shirts that have become their uniform.

Police announced about 10:30 p.m. that they would clear the area, asking protesters to leave and warning they would use "appropriate force" if they encountered resistance.

The actions prompted organizers of a separate peaceful march against the extradition bill to change the endpoint of their protest from the legislature to a nearby park, after police asked them to either call it off or change the route. Police wanted the march to end earlier in the Wan Chai district, but organizers said that would leave out many people who planned to join the march along the way.

Police estimated 190,000 people joined the peaceful march, the third major one in as many weeks.

Hong Kong has been wracked by weeks of protests over a government attempt to change extradition laws to allow suspects to be sent to China to face trial. The proposed legislation, on which debate has been suspended indefinitely, increased fears of eroding freedoms in the territory, which Britain returned to China on July 1, 1997.

Protesters want the bills formally withdrawn and Hong Kong's embattled leader, Carrie Lam, to resign.

Lam, who has come under withering criticism for trying to push the legislation through, pledged to be more responsive to public sen-

AP PHOTO



timent but has not responded directly to protesters' demands.

In an address after a flag-raising ceremony marking the anniversary of the handover, Lam said the protests and two earlier marches that attracted hundreds of thousands of participants have taught her that she needs to listen better to youth and people in general.

"This has made me fully realize that I, as a politician, have to remind myself all the time of the need to grasp public sentiments accurately," she told the gathering in the city's cavernous convention center.

She insisted her government has good intentions, but said "I will learn the lesson and ensure that

The extradition bill controversy has given fresh momentum to the pro-democracy opposition movement, awakening broader concerns that China is chipping away at the rights guaranteed to Hong Kong

the government's future work will be closer and more responsive to the aspirations, sentiments and opinions of the community."

Security guards pushed pro-democracy lawmaker Helena Wong

out of the room as she shouted at Lam to resign and withdraw the "evil" legislation. She later told reporters she was voicing the grievances and opinions of the protesters, who could not get into the event.

Mainland China's entirely state-controlled media made no mention of yesterday's protests. The main evening news broadcast carried video of the flag-raising ceremony, along with parts of Lam's address and shots

of Hong Kong residents praising displays put on by the People's Liberation Army garrison in the territory.

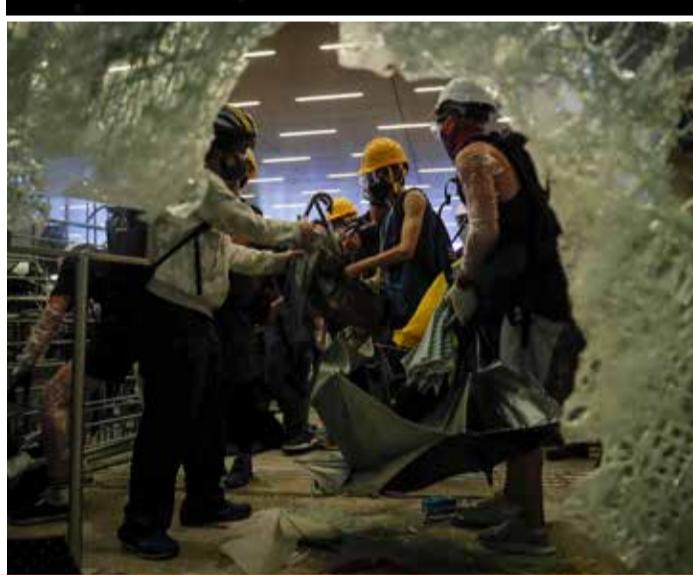
Chinese media outlets have barely reported on the protests since

they began last month, other than to blame foreign forces for stirring up unrest.

The extradition bill controversy has given fresh momentum to Hong Kong's pro-democracy opposition movement, awakening broader concerns that China is chipping away at the rights guaranteed to Hong Kong for 50 years under a "one country, two systems" framework. The two marches in June drew more than a million people, according to organizer estimates.

Jimmy Sham, a leader of the pro-democracy group that organized yesterday's march, told the crowd that Lam had not responded to their demands because she is not democratically elected. The leader of Hong Kong is chosen by a committee dominated by pro-China elites.

pro-democracy slogans



THE LATEST REACTIONS

DEMOCRATIC PARTY

The opposition Democratic Party urged Hong Kong Chief Executive Lam to meet with the crowds who had entered the legislature, "to have a dialogue with the protesters at the scene as soon as possible, to resolve a crisis that could lead to serious injuries and even death." Fernando Cheung, vice chairman of the Labour Party and a member of the Legislative Council, said the breaking and entering would play into the government's past categorization of the protesters as rioters. "You see the anger, the desperation these young people are experiencing. That's why they want to take anything they think is radical enough, escalating enough to make the government respond," he told journalists in the chamber. "This is really unfortunate... this is exactly what the government wants."

CHRIS PATTEN

Chris Patten, the last colonial governor of Hong Kong, told BBC Radio 4 that the violent approach being used by demonstrators at the Legislative Council was "ill-advised." "I think that's very very unwise, it plays into the hands of the hardliners, and it's possible that it will detract from another peaceful march this afternoon which is a serious expression of Hong Kong's concerns," he said. Still, he said the government may have lowered tensions by engaging critics: "If you never actually have a dialog with people, then inevitably it helps to legitimize those do things in a more violent way."

EUROPEAN UNION

In a statement, the European Union said those who had forced their way into the legislature weren't representative of the majority of demonstrators and urged restraint. "In the wake of these latest incidents, it is all the more important to exercise restraint, avoiding escalatory responses, and to engage in dialogue and consultation to find a way forward," the body said.

THE STREET

One anonymous, mask-clad protester also said police should show restraint, saying some of the crowd inside the building was planning to leave before midnight.

One pro-Beijing lawmaker took the protesters inside the Legislative Council to task. "This is not a protest, this is vandalism," Alan Hoo, vice-chairman of the Liberal Party, said on CNN.

"We know that Carrie Lam can be so arrogant," Sham said, rallying the crowd under a blazing sun before the start of the march at Victoria Park. "She is protected by our flawed system."

The protesters are also demanding an independent inquiry into police actions during a June 12 protest, when officers used tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse a demonstration that blocked the legislature on the day that debate on the bill had been scheduled to resume.

The police say the use of force was justified, but since then have largely adopted softer tactics, even as protesters besieged police headquarters in recent days, pelting it with eggs and spray-painting slogans on its outer walls.

The area around Golden Bauhinia Square, where the flag-raising ceremony took place, was blocked

off from Saturday to prevent protesters from gathering to disrupt it. Before the morning ceremony, protesters trying to force their way to the square were driven back by officers with plastic shields and batons, the retreating protesters pointing open umbrellas to ward off pepper spray.

"We are horrified, this is our obligation to do this, we are protecting our home," said Jack, a 26-year-old office worker who would only give his first name. "I don't know why the government is harming us. It's harming the rule of law, the rule of law is the last firewall between us and the Chinese Communist Party."

The extradition legislation has drawn opposition from the legal profession, commercial groups and foreign nations, reflecting Hong Kong's status as an international

business center with a strong independent judiciary and high degree of transparency.

During a brief visit to Mongolia yesterday, U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton said Washington

expects "China like every other country to adhere to its international obligations" regarding Hong Kong.

China rejects all such statements as foreign interference. In Beijing,

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told reporters at a daily briefing that "Hong Kong affairs are purely China's internal affairs, and no foreign country has the right to intervene." AP

AN OBJECTION TO THE HANDOVER CELEBRATION

EARLIER in the day, protesters in Hong Kong pushed barriers and dumpsters into the streets early in an apparent bid to block access to a symbolically important ceremony marking the anniversary of the return of the former British colony to China.

Police in riot gear faced them in loose formation about 20 meters down the road. The area around Golden Bauhinia Square, where the ceremony takes place, had been shut down since Saturday.

In a counter-protest on Sunday, tens of thousands

of people rallied in support of the police, who have come under criticism for using tear gas and rubber bullets during a crackdown on a protest that left dozens injured on June 12.

The boisterous crowd, some carrying Chinese flags, filled a park in front of the legislature and chanted "thank you" to the police. Some had angry exchanges with anti-extradition law protesters, as officers tried to keep the two groups apart. Police estimated the turnout at 53,000.

OVERTOURISM

THE LONG, SLOW DEATH OF VENICE

BLOOMBERG



**CHIARA ALBANESE,
GIOVANNI SALZANO &
FEDERICO VESPIGNANI**

If you've been to Venice, you get it. Even the most jaded globetrotter can't help but do a double-take at the sheer originality—and beauty—of the centuries-old city built entirely on water.

Yet even the quickest visit reveals that Venice is no longer a living city, with scores more tourists than actual Venetians crowding its lagoon, bridges and walkways. The numbers bear that out. The city's population basically peaked in the 1500s, and though it rallied again to near 16th century levels in the 1970s, today there are just one third as many Venetians as 50 years ago.

Once the Mediterranean's paramount city state, Venice today seems powerless to arrest the trend of ever more tourists and ever fewer residents. When a mammoth cruise ship rammed into a boat packed with tourists earlier this month leaving four injured, civic associations and the dwindling number of Venetians were quick to remind what they have been saying for years: the lagoon is too small and too crowded to accommodate the jumbo cruise ships that appear daily in high season.

But Venice can't stop. More museum than modern city, it's addic-

ted to the cash the tourist hoards bring in. Traditional industries like chemicals and steel are disappearing and Italy's development ministry has even declared the region as in industrial crisis. With little left beyond tourism, the city known as the Serenissima appears to have little choice.

The accident was "a direct consequence of years of choices in the name of money," said Claudio Vernier, who heads the Piazza San Marco business association and manages an ice cream shop on the square. "The city is plagued by over-tourism. Services can't keep up with the increasing demand for fast-paced, cheap tourism."

Nearly 5 million tourists visited the city in 2017, compared with 2.7 million in 2002, according to data from the city's hotels, which do not take into account the thousands of bookings with Airbnb Inc. and similar services. Meanwhile, the resident population has shrunk below 60,000.

At street, or rather canal level, it's clear something needs to be done to keep the numbers under control. In the car-free historical center, the wait for a spot on a "vaporetto"—the canal-borne

local version of a bus—can be up to 20 minutes, despite the 6-euro (USD7) fare.

Elbow-to-elbow with sunburned souvenir hunters, residents say they're fed up with half-hour waits for a glass of prosecco at the city's signature "bacari" back-street bars.

And now they're being forced to pay up like tourists too. Many business owners have abandoned

association of local residents that seeks to give empty or abandoned houses back to people and families. While this is illegal, because the houses belong to a public group which manages them, it has also helped bring some abandoned areas in the city back to life. One of them is a very central neighborhood on the island of Giudecca.

Alessandro Dus, 34, another ASC member, pays 10 euros a month in rent for a one-bedroom flat just across San Marco. Every day he faces the risk of eviction, with a post-it on his fridge reminding him that the next police visit is coming up in September.

If the high prices and throngs of visitors weren't enough, climate change is also driving locals away. 2018 saw 121 days of high tides, with seawater rising 80 centimeters above sea level. Floods regularly wreak damage on lower floors of homes, restaurants and shops, and what was once a winter phenomenon is now happening more often, most recently on June 19 of this year.

If you chat with locals away from the hubbub along the main canals, talk invariably turns to flooding,

and the word on every Venetian's lips is "MOSE." Everyone has an opinion on MOSE, a system of mobile gates being built just outside Venice's lagoon to protect it from the impact of the Adriatic sea.

"MOSE has been a useless project," Ussi said. "That should have been clear already 15 or 20 years ago when the debate started, but it's now become a consensus view."

The project, already way over budget at 5.5 billion euros and counting, is also behind schedule, and won't be ready until at least 2022. Inspections found that hinges submerged since works began are already corroded. Some of the gates won't rise, others won't retract due to accumulated sediment. Some structural damage has even been blamed on colonies of local mussels.

Locals point to reports that corruption played a part in the system's delays, cost overruns and technical failings, a view that confirms Venetians' suspicion and resentment of money flowing in that's passing them by.

"Politics and money are killing Venice," said Alessandro Dus, a 34-year-old Venice activist. "A large vessel pays up to 30,000 euros a day to dock in the harbor; it's hard to turn that down. Venice is the goose that lays the golden egg."

Endemic corruption fuels Venetians' suspicion and resentment of money flowing in that's passing them by

the old two-tier pricing system that charged visitors more for food and services, meaning locals now pay the same inflated prices that outsiders do.

"Venice has become an impossible place to live," said Nicola Ussi, a street merchant of souvenirs. "It's too expensive and everything is designed to boost tourism." Ussi supports the idea of a booking system that caps daily entries.

He is also a member of ASC, or "assemblea sociale per la casa", an

BLOOMBERG

WHITE House economic adviser Larry Kudlow insisted Sunday that President Donald Trump won't back off national security concerns after agreeing to allow U.S. companies to sell some components to Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei.

Kudlow told "Fox News Sunday" and CBS' "Face the Nation" that Huawei will remain on an American blacklist as a potential security threat. He stressed that additional U.S. licensing "will be for what we call general merchandise, not national security sensitive," such as chips and software generally available around the world.

"What's happening now is simply a loosening up for general merchandise," Kudlow said. "This is not a general amnesty."

Trump made the announcement Saturday after meeting with China's Xi Jinping at the Group of 20 summit in Japan. Trump said U.S. companies could make the sales if the transactions don't present a "great, national emergency problem."

Several Republican senators immediately expressed concerns. In a tweet Saturday, Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida called the decision a "catastrophic mistake." Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., told CBS that Trump's agreement was "clearly a concession," and also said it would be a mistake if sales to Huawei involved "major technology."

Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo., described the Chinese company as a clear threat to U.S. national security. "To me, Huawei in the United States would be like a Trojan horse

Kudlow: US sales to Huawei won't imperil national security

AP PHOTO



ready to steal more information from us," he told NBC's "Meet the Press."

American officials accuse Huawei of facilitating Chinese spying, a charge the company denies, and

see it as a growing competitive threat to U.S. technology industries.

Huawei's founder, Ren Zhengfei, said earlier this month it has cut its project sales by USD30 billion over

the next two years due to curbs on access to American chips and other components. He said smartphone sales outside China will fall 40%.

Huawei's U.S. sales of network gear evaporated after a U.S. con-

gressional panel labeled the company a security threat in 2012 and told phone carriers to avoid it. The Chinese company still has a patent portfolio it licenses to manufacturers and carriers. AP

Beijing's new airport is completed, opens September

BEIJING'S second international airport has been completed - and it's expected to become one of the world's busiest.

Designed to take the pressure off the overcrowded Beijing Capital International Airport, the new site south of the city will be able to handle 72 million passengers a year by 2025, and 100 million by 2040.

Combined, the two airports will handle 170 million fliers annually by 2025, according to official estimates.

"The new airport is a landmark project for China's 70th anniversary of National Day, built to very high standards," said Ivan

Zhou, an analyst with BOC International Holdings in Hong Kong. "It'll help optimize flight schedules from Beijing and attract more passengers."

China's growing middle class is fueling a travel boom and the world's second-largest economy may displace the U.S. as the largest aviation market by 2022. With the new USD12.9 billion airport, Beijing is joining a short list of major cities such as London, New York and Tokyo that have multiple international airports.

Operations at the new Beijing Daxing International Airport will start by the end of September following six major test

runs, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. Road and rail links, including a high-speed subway line, are already in place.

Carriers such as China Eastern Airlines Corp. and China Southern Airlines Co. will start flying from the new facility later this year. The transition should be completed by the winter of 2021, according to the Civil Aviation Administration of China.

Daxing will add flight routes at a faster pace than the existing airport, Zhou said. The new airport will allow China Eastern and China Southern to increase their presence in Beijing, he said.

BLOOMBERG

US-CHINA TRADE DEAL NO MORE LIKELY AFTER TRUCE, CHINESE ADVISER SAYS

THE trade truce reached over the weekend between China and the U.S. doesn't make a final deal any more likely, according to academic Zhu Ning, who advises the Chinese government and central bank.

"With Donald Trump in office I don't think it makes any difference," Zhu said on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Dalian yesterday. Zhu is a professor at the PBOC School of Finance at Tsinghua University in Beijing who advises the central bank and a number of economy-related ministries.

The dispute between the two countries could stretch out like the Japanese invasion of China or the conflicts in Korea or Vietnam, according to Zhu. "It could drag on and there could be no declaration of war but the skir-

BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



mishes keep going," he said.

Comparing the two sides' statements over the past six months, we're not any closer to having a deal, Zhu said, adding that he thought both seemed to be more optimistic or cooperative after the truce in Argentina in December compared to now.

Even so, the truce that Presidents Xi Jinping and

Trump agreed to in Japan comes at a good time for the slowing Chinese economy, according to Zhu. "I think any sign of truce or negotiation is always promising - promising to show there is hope, to show we can still engage with the U.S., and to boost exports, which are an important part of China's growth." **BLOOMBERG**

APPLE WILL MOVE PRODUCTION OF MAC PRO TO CHINA AMID TRADE WAR

MARK GURMAN

APPLE Inc. will manufacture its new Mac Pro computer in China, moving production of what had been its only major device assembled in the U.S., according to a person familiar with the company's plans.

The company will use Quanta Computer Inc. to make the USD6,000 desktop computer and is ramping up production at a factory near Shanghai, according to the person, who asked not to be identified speaking about Apple's decision-making. The Wall Street Journal earlier Friday reported the manufacturing move.

The news comes as China and the U.S. are embroiled in a trade war, with the Trump administration having imposed billions of dollars in tariffs on Chinese-made goods, and threatening more tariffs that would hit Apple products. Chinese President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Donald Trump were scheduled to discuss the tariffs at a highly anticipated meeting Saturday during the Group of 20 summit in Japan. Trump has called out Apple specifically in the past asking it to move more of its production from China to the U.S.

The iPhone maker announced late Thursday that Jony Ive, its chief designer associated with the company's iconic products including the smartphone, Mac compu-

BLOOMBERG



ter and Apple Watch, would soon be leaving the company.

"Like all of our products, the new Mac Pro is designed and engineered in California and includes components from several countries including the United States," Apple said in a statement. "We're proud to support manufacturing facilities in 30 U.S. states and last year we spent \$60 billion with over

9,000 suppliers across the U.S. Our investment and innovation supports 2 million American jobs. Final assembly is only one part of the manufacturing process."

By producing the Mac Pro at Quanta's facility, which is close to other Apple suppliers around Asia, it will allow Apple to take advantage of lower shipping costs than if it shipped components to the U.S.,

the Journal said.

For the last Mac Pro introduced in 2013, Apple Chief Executive Officer Tim Cook made a show of manufacturing the computer in Austin, Texas, as part of the company's \$100 million Made-in-the-USA push. Apple announced late last year it would invest \$1 billion to expand its operations there with a new employee campus.

But the Mac Pro caused production headaches, which slowed manufacturing and constrained Apple's ability to make enough computers to meet demand. Three years later, some Apple engineers raised the possibility of moving production back to Asia, where it is cheaper and manufacturers have the required skills for ambitious products, a person familiar with the discussions told Bloomberg at the time.

The Mac Pro is Apple's lowest-volume product, however the decision on where to make it comes at a particularly sensitive time. For more than a year, Apple avoided major damage from the U.S. trade war with China, thanks in part to a White House charm offensive by Cook. But the recent round of tariffs proposed by the U.S. includes mobile phones, such as the iPhone, Apple's most-important product that is made almost entirely in China. Laptops and tablets may also be encumbered with the 25% import levy.

Cook urged the Trump administration not to proceed with the latest round of tariffs, saying it would reduce the company's contribution to the U.S. economy.

Apple spent decades building one of the largest supply chains in the world. The company designs and sells most of its products in the U.S., but imports them from China after assembly. That makes it one of the most exposed companies to tariffs. The company may also be evaluating moving some production out of China to elsewhere in Asia, according to a recent Nikkei report. **BLOOMBERG**

ECONOMY

Growth likely to stick to 6%, PBOC adviser says

BLOOMBERG



People's Bank of China adviser Ma Jun

PEOPLE'S Bank of China adviser Ma Jun said the Chinese economy will probably maintain an expansion of at least 6% in 2019, as the trade truce with the U.S. over the weekend removes the biggest uncertainty to growth.

The meeting between Presidents Xi Jinping and Donald Trump is supportive for the yuan, and also adds certainty to the outlook for China's economy in the second half, Ma told Bloomberg on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Dalian yesterday.

Ma, a member of the PBOC's monetary policy committee, said policy makers won't need to introduce any new massive stimulus measures to reach China's goals of achieving at least 6% gross domestic product growth and keeping

the jobless rate below 5.5% in 2019.

"Broader expansionary policy won't be needed as long as the job market is basically stable" and people should be more patient in waiting for earlier easing measures such as tax cuts to

feed through, he said, adding that tax breaks usually achieve their maximum effect nine months after being introduced.

With the trade ceasefire "a supportive factor" for the yuan exchange rate, the country's trade balance probably

won't worsen further because of the trade spat, possibly bringing more capital inflows as the brighter trade outlook lifts the stock market.

POSITIVE SURPRISE

The agreement to resume trade talks and refrain from

further escalation of retaliatory measures for the time being has been welcomed by Chinese investors, with some seeing Trump's decision to ease restrictions on Huawei Technologies Co. as a positive surprise.

The Shanghai Composite Index closed 2.2% higher yesterday. Rare earth shares, which had benefited from speculation China would hike prices to retaliate against the U.S., were among yesterday's biggest decliners. The yuan climbed 0.3% to 6.8458 per dollar at 3:05 p.m. local time.

Ma said China can't afford going back to building leverage, and excessive liquidity would refuel asset bubbles rather than help the real economy. Funding costs can be guided lower via a long-awaited interest rates overhaul to let policy

rates better feed into the lending rate of enterprises, rather than by cutting the lending rates directly, he said.

At the same time, the global tilt toward easing and a temporary stabilization in foreign exchange sentiments do give the PBOC room to introduce further easing measures, should trade tensions rise again.

If the Federal Reserve decides to cut interest rates, it is possible for the PBOC to reduce its benchmark rate, according to Zhu Ning, a professor of finance at Tsinghua University and the author of "China's Guaranteed Bubble."

"Even though they say they have prudent and balance policy, it's still fairly loose -- they just don't want to say that out loud. But if the Fed is cutting, it gives them just the right opportunity to say OK, if the Fed is doing that, if the whole world is doing that, then why don't we," Zhu said in Dalian. **BLOOMBERG**

TRADE

Japan to restrict exports to South Korea, citing less trust

YURI KAGEYAMA
& HYUNG-JIN KIM, TOKYO

JAPAN is imposing restrictions on exports to South Korea, citing a decline in “relations of international trust” between the Asian neighbors.

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry said a review soliciting public comments started yesterday on the move to effectively remove South Korea from a list of so-called “white nations,” like the U.S. and European nations, that have minimum restrictions on trade.

Starting Thursday, Japanese manufacturers must apply for approval for each technology-related contract, such as sales of fluorinated polyimides used for displays, the ministry said.

The statement did not say what exactly was behind the decision. But relations have soured since South Korea’s Supreme Court ordered the seizure of local assets of a Japanese company after it refu-

AP PHOTO



Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry building in Tokyo

sed to compensate forced laborers during World War II.

South Korea’s trade ministry said yesterday it will “sternly” deal with the Japanese move, calling it an “unjust” action that violates rules of the World Trade Organization. The trade minister, Sung Yun-mo, said the government in Seoul planned to file a WTO complaint.

South Korea “thinks this Japanese measure is regrettable,” Park Tae-sung, a senior official at the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy, told reporters in South Korea.

He said a thorough analysis is required to study what impact the Japanese measure would have on South Korean exports of semiconductors.

The change would mean the approval process will be delayed for such products, where Japan is a significant supplier.

South Korean technology companies including Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix say they are assessing how the Japanese import restrictions could possibly impact their business.

Before the latest move, the exports required only a single encompassing approval process. Now the ministry approval will be delayed on average by 90 days, a ministry official said, speaking on customary condition of anonymity.

In a landmark ruling in October, South Korea’s top court ordered Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corp. to pay 100 million won (USD88,000) each to four plaintiffs forced to work for the company when Japan colonized the Korean Peninsula from 1910-45.

But the company refused, siding with Japan’s long-held position that all colonial-era compensation issues were settled by a 1965 treaty

that restored diplomatic relations between the two governments. Japanese government officials have also rejected the ruling.

The Supreme Court in South Korea also issued a similar verdict on Mitsubishi Heavy Industries to financially compensate 10 Koreans for forced labor.

Other exports affected by Tokyo’s decision are what is called “resist” for making semiconductors and hydrogen fluoride used for semiconductors, pharmaceuticals and polymers, including nylon and Teflon.

Japan’s longtime position is that all historical compensation issues were settled when Tokyo and Seoul signed a treaty in 1965 that restored diplomatic ties.

The trade tensions developing between the Asian neighbors seem to undermine the message of free and open trade that leaders endorsed at the Group of 20 summit in Osaka last week.

But the Japanese ministry said the latest move comes after overtures to patch up relations with South Korea failed at the Group of 20 summit in Osaka last week.

“It is not a retaliatory measure,” Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasutoshi Nishimura said, noting the measure came about because of overall difficulties in “maintaining a relationship of trust with South Korea in carrying out export controls.” AP

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BIRDS AT BORDER PROMPT S. KOREA TO LAUNCH JETS, ISSUE ALERT

HYUNG-JIN KIM
 & KIM TONG-HYUNG, SEOUL

ENDING a brief media frenzy, South Korea's military said it turned out to be a flock of birds that prompted it to launch fighter jets and alert journalists that it had detected an unidentified object flying near the border with North Korea yesterday.

The South's earlier announcement on the flying object left many media outlets scrambling, with the incident coming a day after U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un met at a different portion of the heavily fortified Korean border.

South Korea's military has been under fire for a possible security gap after a boat carrying four North Koreans arrived undetected recently at a South Korean port. Observers say the South's military had likely released the inconclusive information about the flying object to media to avoid similar criticism of its surveillance posture.

The South's Joint Chiefs of Staff had said earlier yesterday that its radar found "the traces of flight by an unidentified object" over the central portion of the Demilitarized Zone, a de facto border between the two Koreas.

South Korean media, citing unidentified military officials, quickly speculated that it was likely be a North Korean helicopter flying across the border into South Korea. But pilots of the several fighter jets deployed to the area later found that the object was a group of about 20 birds, a South Korean military official said, requesting anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak to reporters on the issue.

South Korea sent North Korea a message about its fighter jets' laun-

AP PHOTO



ches to avoid unnecessary tensions, the official said.

The DMZ, which was created after fighting ended in the 1950-53 Korean War, is peppered with an estimated 2 million mines and guarded by combat troops, razor wire fences, anti-tank traps and guard posts on both sides. The two Koreas have occasionally traded exchanges of gunfire there, though animosities have eased since North Korea entered talks on its nuclear program.

Sunday's meeting between Trump and Kim, their third, took place at the border village of Panmunjom, located inside the DMZ.

Trump stepped across Panmunjom's military demarcation line into North Korea with Kim, becoming the first sitting U.S. president

hoped the diplomatic momentum created by the latest Trump-Kim meeting would help revive inter-Korean dialogue and engagement

that stopped amid an impasse in nuclear negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang.

"Since it's expected that the nuclear negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang would bounce back, the government will [...] strengthen

its efforts to create a virtuous cycle between inter-Korean relations, denuclearization and North Korea-U.S. relations," Lee Sang-min, spokesman for South Korea's Uni-

The [South Korean] government will strengthen its efforts to create a virtuous cycle between inter-Korean relations, denuclearization and North Korea-US relations

LEE SANG-MIN
 SPOKESMAN FOR SOUTH KOREA'S UNIFICATION MINISTRY

to set foot in North Korea. He and Kim then turned back to Panmunjom's southern part before sitting down for a meeting.

South Korea's government said it

fication Ministry, told reporters.

North Korea's state media described Kim's meeting with Trump as "an amazing event" and that both leaders expressed great satisfaction over the result of their talks.

The latest Trump-Kim meeting may have created momentum for further diplomacy, including working-level talks aimed at hammering out the terms of a mutually acceptable deal. But experts say it remains unclear whether the negotiations would successfully address the fundamental differences between Washington and Pyongyang that were exposed in a previous summit in Hanoi in February.

North Korea significantly reduced diplomatic activity and exchanges with the South following that summit. North Korea conducted tests of short-range missiles that could potentially threaten the South and demanded that Seoul break away from Washington and resume inter-Korean economic projects held back by U.S.-led sanctions against the North.

Last month, South Korean Defense Minister Jeong Kyeong-doo issued a public apology amid criticism that the country's military failed to detect a North Korean fishing boat that crossed deep into South Korean waters, about 130 kilometers south of the maritime sea border, before reaching a port in Samcheok uninterrupted. South Korea sent two of the four North Korean fishermen aboard the boat back to the North, while the other two stayed in the South after expressing their desire to defect.

Some experts say the incident occurred because South Korea's security posture has been weakened under the current liberal government of President Moon Jae-in, which seeks greater rapprochement with North Korea. But others note similar incidents, such as North Korean soldiers fleeing undetected to South Korea via the DMZ, had occasionally happened when South Korea was ruled by conservatives before Moon's inauguration in 2017. AP

DRUG TRADE

India seizes narcotics worth USD390m smuggled from Pakistan

CUSTOMS officials in northern India have seized narcotics worth USD390 million that were smuggled from neighboring Pakistan, in the country's largest seizure of illegal drugs, officials said yesterday.

Top customs official Dipak Kumar Gupta said 586 kilograms of narcotics, mostly heroin, were hidden in 15 bags among 600 sacks of rock salt imported from Pakistan and were seized Saturday in Punjab state.

He said two men including the importer of the salt have been detained and are being questioned.

Gupta said officials became suspicious when they found one bag containing a white granular substance. After sifting through the hundreds of sacks, they found 534 kilograms of heroin and 52 kilograms of mixed narcotics, he said.

Another customs official, Bopal Singh, said it was the biggest seizure of narcotics in India by any go-

vernment agency.

Officials called it a major success in their fight against drugs in the state, where addiction rates are high. Punjab is a major transit point for drugs and has become a major consumer base as well. Smuggling of drugs and goods is common along Punjab's 553-kilometer border with Pakistan.

In the past, dozens of police and paramilitary officials guarding border areas have been arrested on suspicion of helping smugglers. AP



Facebook to make jobs, credit ads searchable for US users

FRANK BAJAK, BOSTON

FACEBOOK says it will make advertisements for jobs, loans and credit card offers searchable for all U.S. users following a legal settlement designed to eliminate discrimination on its platform.

The plan disclosed in an internal report yesterday [local time] voluntarily expands on a commitment the social media giant made in March when it agreed to make its U.S. housing ads searchable by location and advertiser.

Ads were only delivered selectively to Facebook users based on such data as what they earn, their education level and where they shop.

The audit's leader, former American Civil Liberties Union executive Laura Murphy, was hired by Facebook in May 2018 to assess its performance on vital social issues.

Murphy has consulted with dozens of civil rights groups on the

AP PHOTO



subject as part of her yearlong audit, assisted by lawyers from the firm Relman, Dane & Colfax. The 26-page report, which also deals with content moderation and enforcement efforts to prevent meddling in the 2020 U.S. elections and census, was her second update.

The searchable housing ads database will roll out by the end of 2019, Facebook says, and Murphy said she expects the employment and financial product of

ferings databases to be available within the next year.

Murphy said she's "very excited" about the move she believes will positively impact the social mobility of millions in the United States.

Targeted ads tailored to individuals are Facebook's bread and butter — accounting for all but a sliver of its more than \$50 billion in annual revenues last year. It's unlikely that making the ads searchable would have a significant effect on Facebook's business. Analysts have cautioned, however, that any restrictions on Facebook's ability to target ads could scare off advertisers.

The move is likely part of Facebook's strategy to show regulators that is doing a good job policing its own service — putting it in compliance with existing anti-discrimination law — and doesn't need a heavy-handed approach from lawmakers. It comes as the company is facing increasing regulatory pressures.

As part of the settlement with plaintiffs including the ACLU and the National Fair Housing Alliance, Facebook agreed in March to stop targeting people based on age, gender and zip code and to also eliminate such categories as national origin and sexual orientation.

The groups had sued claiming Facebook violated anti-discrimination laws by preventing audiences including single mothers and the disabled from seeing many housing ads — while some

job ads were not reaching women and older workers.

Galen Sherwin, senior staff attorney at the ACLU and the group's lead attorney in the case, said making the three Facebook databases searchable by anyone "definitely creates greater access to information about economic opportunities."

Civil rights groups are concerned that the secretive, proprietary algorithms that govern how the company steers ads — even when not consciously targeting specific groups — could still be discriminatory.

"I wish we could see into the black box," Sherwin said.

Facebook still faces a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development complaint over housing ad-targeting and delivery. Murphy, the auditor, said she thinks the company understands it's "going to have to look at the algorithms" behind them.

The company also faces privacy and anti-trust investigations in the U.S. and Europe over its invasive data collection practices and struggles to police hate speech globally with sometimes lethal repercussions.

Facebook is currently in talks to create an external oversight board to monitor such issues and its level of independence is one subject of debate. AP

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what's ON



GRACE KELLY: FROM HOLLYWOOD TO MONACU

TIME: 10am-10pm (Sundays to Thursdays)

10am-2am (Fridays to Saturdays)

UNTIL: August 28, 2019

VENUE: Galaxy Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8883 3998

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

ONENESS: CALLIGRAPHY BY PROFESSOR JAO TSUNG-I

TIME: 10am-6pm (No admission after 5:30pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: September 30, 2019

VENUE: Jao Tsung-I Academy

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRY: (853) 8598 6718

STAMPS AROUND THE WORLD -

LIECHTENSTEIN, KINGDOM OF STAMPS

TIME: 9am-5:30pm (Closed on public holidays)

Until: August 31, 2019

VENUE: Temporary Gallery, Communications

Museum

ADMISSION: MOP10

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2871 8063

Offbeat

BEAGLES SNIFF OUT SNAILS IN LUGGAGE AT ATLANTA AIRPORT



Two dogs, part of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's "beagle brigade," sniffed out two Giant African Snails in the luggage of a passenger arriving at Atlanta's airport from Nigeria.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reports the beagles, named Candie and Chipper, were alerted to the passenger's checked bags at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport on Friday. A Customs agriculture specialist found the snails in a suitcase, along with prohibited fruits and vegetables.

The snails were turned over to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, while the food was destroyed. The USDA's website says such snails are illegally imported for classroom exhibits as pets or for food. They're also described as "one of the most damaging" in the world because they consume at least 500 types of plants, reproduce quickly, and can cause meningitis.

TV canal macau



13:00 TDM News (Repetição)

13:30 Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)

15:00 Agua de Mar

15:45 Zig Zag

16:20 OndEstá o Tesouro

16:45 Quem Quer Ser Milionário

17:45 Amor Maior (Repetição)

18:15 TDM Sports (Repetição)

19:35 Os Nossos Dias Sr.2

20:30 Telejornal

21:15 TDM Entrevista

21:50 Filhos da Nação Sr.3

22:25 Amor Maior

23:15 TDM News

23:50 Motel Bates Sr.2

00:35 Telejornal (Repetição)

01:20 RTPi Directo

this day in history



1964: PRESIDENT JOHNSON SIGNS CIVIL RIGHTS BILL

The Civil Rights Bill - one of the most important pieces of legislation in American history - has become law.

US President Lyndon B Johnson signed the bill creating equal rights in voting, education, public accommodations, union membership and in federally assisted programmes - regardless of race, colour, religion or national origin.

The bill has caused much controversy since it was introduced last year by President John F Kennedy.

It was signed tonight in the White House five hours after the House of Representatives passed it by 289 to 126 votes.

After the signing, President Johnson shook hands with civil rights leader Dr Martin Luther King.

In a television address to the nation he called on US citizens to "eliminate the last vestiges of injustice in America".

"Let us close the springs of racial poison," he said.

Parts of the bill take immediate effect, including the "public accommodations" element which means black people can no longer be excluded from restaurants, hotels, bars, cinemas, sports stadia and other public facilities.

Sections on voting rights and desegregation of schools are also enforceable from now and give the Attorney General more power to intervene where necessary.

The section on equal opportunity in employment will not begin to operate for another year and will not be fully effective for five years.

During the debate on the bill, segregationist politicians from America's deep south expressed their disappointment and anger.

Congressman Howard Smith of Virginia called it a "monstrous oppression of the people".

Civil rights activists have welcomed the new law. Roy Wilkins, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People described it as "the Magna Carta of human rights".

He applauded the appointment of former governor of Florida Leroy Collins as director of the new Community Relations Service, set up to deal with issues arising from the desegregation of public facilities and institutions.

The Civil Rights Commission has announced a campaign to implement the law.

And Dr King said he would be seeking commitments from businesses and community leaders all over the south to respect the new law under a campaign called Operation Dialogue.

Courtesy BBC News

cinema



CINETEATRO

28 Jun - 04 Jul



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

IN CONTEXT

Extra civil rights measures were introduced in the following years.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 aimed at removing the rights of states to introduce restrictions to stop certain people voting.

The 1968 Civil Rights Act outlaws discrimination in the sale or rental of housing.

Many states acted quickly to circumvent the law which led to a great feeling of injustice and resentment in the inner cities and the rest of the decade was marred by race riots and assassinations.

Black leader Malcolm X was shot in 1965 and Martin Luther King was killed in 1968.

The black ghetto riots between 1964 and 1968 marked the most prolonged period of unrest in the United States since the American Civil War. They were finally suppressed when tens of thousands of National Guardsmen were sent in to quell them.

Black people continued to remain at a disadvantage when looking for work, and programmes of "affirmative action" were introduced during the 1970s under President Nixon.

The Civil Rights Act of 1991 encouraged positive discrimination and allowed lawsuits against employers if their hiring had a "disparate impact" on women or minorities, even if there was no proof of discriminatory intent.

YOUR STARS**ARIES**

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Being intrigued by new people and new cultures will energize you to a point that you might finally understand what you really need to be doing with your life. The blinders are coming off.

**TAURUS**

Apr. 20-May. 20

Step back, slow down, and try to keep yourself busy just having a good time. Take a long lunch or a long walk - whatever will keep you peacefully distracted.

**GEMINI**

May. 21-Jun. 21

Go ahead and take the good advice of friends and associates. Who cares if that means they'll know how much influence they have over you?

**CANCER**

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Eloquence is right up there, too: The right words will always be right at the tip of your tongue, and you will be in plenty of situations to make the most of your wit.

**LEO**

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Your brain is a big and vital organ - and it's nowhere near even half full! Spend some time learning something new today, and you'll be doing something very good for yourself.

**VIRGO**

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Too many variables are at play, and the chances that you will emerge from the arrangement without losses are very slim. Define your boundaries today.

**SCORPIO**

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

All you need to do is avoid conflict. So try to resist your natural urge to go against the crowd, because it could ruffle a few feathers. Just go with the flow and play nice.

**CAPRICORN**

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

A door is opening in your career, but it might require you to leave your family for a while. Travel is something that you usually enjoy quite a bit, but this time it could be a lot more work than you were expecting.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Today, despite the tension that you can sense brewing under the surface, you should just focus on having fun. The impending drama is not something you created, and it is absolutely not your responsibility.

**AQUARIUS**

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

The patterns you have developed in your social life are becoming a little bit boring - what you need right now is a new cast of characters, and a new agenda for fun.

**PISCES**

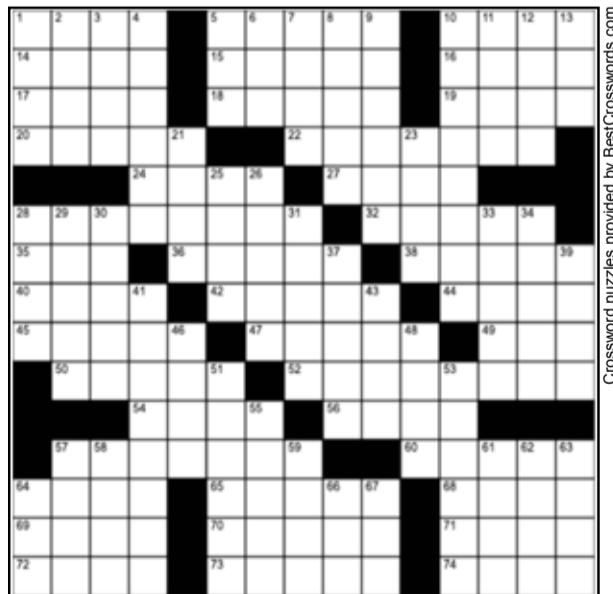
Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Today, if you let yourself get drawn into a mystery, you will be giving this mystery power over you. Don't try to figure out why things are happening the way they are happening.

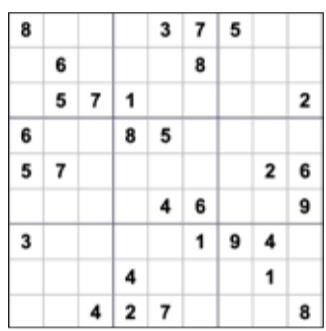
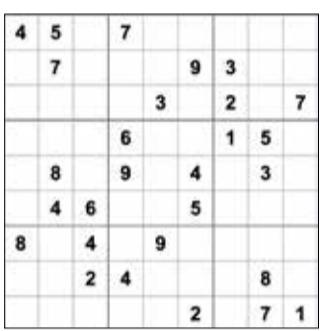
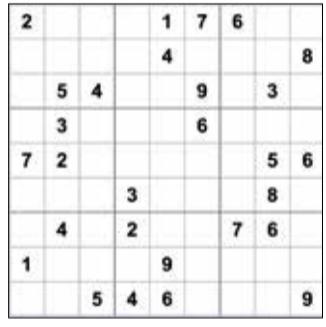
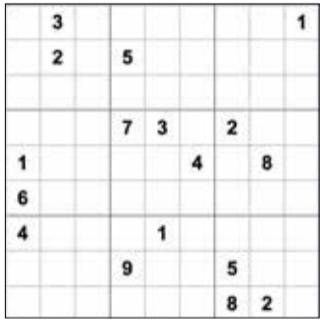
CROSSWORD

ACROSS: 1- Cinema canine; 5- Coherent light beam; 10- Israeli guns; 14- Practice punching; 15- Dried plum; 16- Seed containers; 17- Illustrious warrior; 18- Shorthand pro; 19- Digits of the foot; 20- Tomato blight; 22- Certificate; 24- Zone; 27- Propagative part of a plant; 28- Baffle; 32- Cool; 35- Black bird; 36- Swagger; 38- Play for time; 40- Hastens; 42- Goes it alone; 44- Scat queen; 45- Of service; 47- Breadth; 49- Texas tea; 50- Sarcastic; 52- Rapid breathing; 54- colada; 56- Scotch partner; 57- Pacific; 60- Marsh bird; 64- Telegram; 65- Strength; 68- Swearword; 69- Scent; 70- Mystery writer's award; 71- Take a meal; 72- Catch a glimpse of; 73- Hotelier Helmsley; 74- According to the Bible, he was the first man;

DOWN: 1- 1975 Wimbledon winner; 2- Went over the limit; 3- Shipping deduction; 4- Pleasant smells; 5- CD forerunners; 6- This was produced by Van Gogh, for example; 7- Took action against; 8- Bandleader Skinnin...; 9- Start again; 10- Modern; 11- Kind of lens; 12- Notion; 13- Draft letters; 21- Venus de Milo's lack; 23- Wine sediment; 25- Greasy spoon sign; 26- Shaft shot from a bow; 28- Main Hawaiian island; 29- Military groups; 30- Marketing connection; 31- Bell-shaped flower; 33- Claw; 34- Stan's partner; 37- Flaps; 39- Singer's syllables; 41- Lubricous; 43- Normandy battle site; 46- Ms. Adams; 48- London's Park; 51- Tooth covering; 53- Temple of the Far East; 55- Out of the way; 57- Gives a hand; 58- Support; 59- Frozen waffle brand; 61- Surprise attack; 62- Sicilian volcano; 63- Not us; 64- Tribulation; 66- Solo in space; 67- Lilt; 68- Syllable;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom**SUDOKU****EASY****EASY+****MEDIUM****HARD****WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	22	35	cloudy
Harbin	16	28	cloudy
Tianjin	26	35	overcast
Urumqi	23	35	clear
Xi'an	21	36	cloudy
Lhasa	15	28	cloudy
Chengdu	23	28	clear
Chongqing	24	35	cloudy
Kunming	18	27	cloudy
Nanjing	23	31	cloudy
Shanghai	23	27	drizzle
Wuhan	23	33	cloudy
Hangzhou	24	28	drizzle
Taipei	26	30	heavy rain
Guangzhou	27	33	moderate rain
Hong Kong	26	30	moderate rain

WORLD

Moscow	16	24	cloudy
Frankfurt	18	26	clear
Paris	17	26	clear
London	14	21	clear
New York	19	33	cloudy

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283

Fire department 28 572 222

Water Supply – Report 2822 0088

PJ (Open line) 993

Telephone – Report 1000

PJ (Picket) 28 557 775

Electricity – Report 28 339 922

PSP 28 573 333

Macau Daily Times 28 716 081

Customs 28 559 944

S. J. Hospital 28 313 731

Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333

Commission Against

Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300

IAM 28 387 333

Tourism 28 333 000

Airport 59 888 88

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 [Taipa] Kinglight Garden Loft 1 ½ 1 800 ft² \$7,380,000 (ref: 19055005ST)
 [Taipa] Pearl on the Lough 4 ½ 2½ 2,055 ft² \$16,980,000 (ref: 19055005PB)
 [Taipa] Nova City 3 ½ 2½ 1,494 ft² \$13,980,000 (ref: 17050001RT)

FOR RENT

[Coloane] 4 storey commercial building 4,003 ft² \$108,000/mth (ref: 17040646)
 [Coloane] Cheoc Van House 3 ½ 2½ \$28,000/mth (ref: 19055009RC)
 [Taipa] Pacifica Gardens 3 ½ 2½ 1,317 ft² \$15,000/mth (ref: 17050649)
 [Taipa] Manhattan 3 ½ 2½ 1,720 ft² \$23,800/mth (ref: 18110695RT)

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AP PHOTO



IF WE ONLY HAD THEM...

GARDEN CONSERVANCY LETS YOU PEEK AT SOME PRIVATE GARDENS

WHAT are your plans for the weekend? Consider garden hopping To some special private gardens.

An organization called The Garden Conservancy makes it easy to find and visit them.

Each year, the Garden Conservancy puts out a booklet called the Open Days Directory, with descriptions of about 300 private gardens that are opened to the public on specified dates.

In each directory, you can look gardens up by state or

location. If you're looking for gardens to visit on, say, July 22, you could find all of them, near and far, that can be visited that day. This year, that day's offerings include two gardens in New Jersey, eight in New York, two in Pennsylvania and six in Washington state.

The Garden Conservancy began with the vision of Frank Cabot and the garden of Ruth Bancroft.

Money from memberships, directory sales and garden visits help support the Garden Conservancy's efforts.

www.gardenconservancy.org

AP PHOTO



TAYLOR Swift is not staying silent over the sale of her masters to Scooter Braun.

In a scathing Tumblr post, the pop superstar writes she is sad and grossed out that her music catalog now belongs to Braun, whom she accuses of subjecting her to years of incessant and manipulative bullying, referencing

clashes with Kim Kardashian and Kanye West.

"This is my worst case scenario," Swift writes.

Braun's Ithaca Holdings announced Sunday that it is acquiring Big Machine Label Group, which released all of Swift's studio albums and owns her masters. Swift says she learned of the sale yesterday [Macau time].

WAIKIKI

FAMILY SAYS GOODBYE TO WIFE OF 'DOG THE BOUNTY HUNTER'

ABOUT 500 people watched from the shore and the waters off a beach as family and friends held a memorial service to say goodbye to reality-TV star Beth Chapman, who rose to fame as the wife of "Dog the Bounty Hunter," the Honolulu Star Advertiser reports.

The service was held last weekend at Fort DeRussy Beach Park in Waikiki, the newspaper says.

Chapman, 51, died Wednesday at Queen's Medical

Center in Honolulu after an almost 2-year battle with cancer.

The Star-Advertiser says that after a short prayer circle on a grassy stretch at Fort DeRussy Beach Park, a flotilla of outrigger canoes, stand-up paddle boarders, surfers and several large boats, including a catamaran, headed out in tribute. They were later joined by her husband Duane "Dog" Chapman and other family members.



Reality-TV star Beth Chapman

AD

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TALES AZZONI, SAO PAULO

Wednesday, 8:30am
 Brazil v Argentina
 H 1.9, D 3.5, A 5

AFTER producing some uninspiring soccer in the group stage and quarterfinals, the Copa América reaches the last four with a blockbuster matchup between host Brazil and Lionel Messi's Argentina.

It will be the "Superclásico de las Américas" deciding one of the finalists, and the "Clásico del Pacífico" the other as two-time defending champion Chile takes on surprising Peru, which on Saturday ousted continental powerhouse Uruguay from the decisive stage of the South American competition.

Peru eliminated Uruguay in a lackluster quarterfinal round in which three of the four matches ended in penalty shootouts after scoreless draws, with the exception being Argentina's 2-0 win over Venezuela.

The quality of soccer in the group stage also disappointed, with a series of poor performances even by the favorites. Brazil struggled and was booed by the home crowd in a couple of matches, while Argentina barely escaped early elimination. Uruguay and Colombia were among the teams that impressed the most, but both failed to advance past the last eight.

Bad field conditions at several of the stadiums in Brazil also didn't help, with Messi and several other players and coaches loudly complaining.

"The ball looks like a rabbit," Messi said.

With expensive tickets and uninteresting matchups early on, many games had extremely low attendances. The smallest crowd came to the match between Ecuador and guest team Japan at the 62,000-capacity Mineirão Stadium, when only about 2,100 fans paid for tickets. The final attendance was 7,623 because of gratuity entrances.

There were no tickets left for tomorrow's much-anticipated game between Brazil and Argentina, the

FOOTBALL

Brazil vs Argentina is highlight of Copa América semifinals

AP PHOTO



longtime South American rivals who will arrive in Belo Horizonte under heavy pressure to succeed. Playing at home, only the title will satisfy Brazil fans and ease the pressure on coach Tite, while failure for Argentina will extend the team's winless run without a trophy with Messi in the squad.

"Argentina will always be Argentina, even if it's not going through a good moment," Brazil defender Thiago Silva said. "We have a lot of respect for them."

The high-profile match will take place at the Mineirão, the same venue where Brazil was stunned 7-1 by Germany in the World Cup semifinals in 2014.

"Nobody will forget what ha-

ppened then. That match against Germany was horrible for us," Silva said. "But that was a different situation. Now we are facing Argentina and we need to focus on playing our game. We will need to be careful because it's a team that has the best player in the world."

Brazil's last match at the Mineirão was against Messi and Argentina in qualifying for the 2018 World Cup, and that time the hosts easily won 3-0 with one of the goals scored by Neymar, who missed this year's Copa América because of an ankle injury.

Brazil, seeking its first South American title since 2007, is unbeaten against Argentina in official matches at home.

"They have players who can make the difference up front," Messi said of Brazil after Argentina defeated Venezuela to reach the semifinals. "We thought we would finish first in the group and be on the other side of the draw, but we are in semifinals and only the best teams are here."

Argentina needs to get past Brazil to keep alive its hopes of ending a 26-year title drought for the senior squad. It lost the last two Copa América finals on penalty shootouts against Chile, which will face Peru Thursday (Macau time) at the Arena Grêmio in Porto Alegre.

Led by Manchester United forward Alexis Sánchez, Chile will be trying to reach its third straight

Copa América final and win its third continental title. It can become the first nation to win three consecutive Copa titles since Argentina in the late 1940s.

Peru, led by veteran striker Paolo Guerrero, also is a two-time South American champion, but its last title was in 1975. It reached the semifinals in two of the last three tournaments, finishing third both in 2011 and 2015.

"We are used to being the underdogs," Guerrero said. "We've showed that we have heart and courage."

Guerrero and Chile's Eduardo Vargas are the Copa América's all-time leading scorers among active players with 12 goals each. AP



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OPINION
Our Desk

Lynzy Valles



**ON RAPE TALK STIGMA
 IN THE CITY**

The two cases of rape of minors reported by the Judiciary Police yesterday can be described as nothing short of appalling, especially as one of the little girls was raped by her own father.

Talk of rape is considered a taboo in Macau, and the problem with that is it shuts down important conversations.

I think society still believes that rape is a topic that should be avoided, but in reality, there is so much more damage to the victim when the matter is left unspoken about.

I would agree that there is no amount of precautionary measures that could guarantee the prevention of such a sickening act.

According to data from the Public Prosecutions Office, of the 25 reported allegations of sexual abuse against children under 14 years old, only three proceeded to court. Of these, only one resulted in official charges.

Sexual assault cases involving minors are not new. Last year, a non-resident worker who allegedly sexually molested students at a local kindergarten was investigated, and another domestic worker was charged with sexually assaulting a young boy while bathing him.

Rape in general, whether it involves a minor, an adult, or marital rape, is something that society is still not comfortable discussing.

In Macau and elsewhere, I generally think that victims or families of the victims rarely come forward with these allegations.

The fact that the mother of the little girl who was raped by his father waited until exams were over before filing a complaint against her husband shows firstly, the mother's priorities, which I think is so normal within traditional families as they really prioritize the studies and high grades of their children amongst all things, and secondly, that maybe she had second thoughts about reporting the rape to the PJ out of embarrassment.

But delaying the filing of a complaint seems so unreasonable and as if it was dismissing the gravity of the sexual act that occurred to her child.

The Macau Penal Code states that anyone who commits an act of sexual intercourse with or under the age of 14 shall be punished by imprisonment of one to eight years.

Although the cases were submitted to the Public Prosecution Office, it always remained unknown how long these cases would take to be resolved.

For the two children to recall the sexual acts of the perpetrators in court is also a difficult process – which I think is also one of the reasons that many would prefer to keep silent, as the process of revisiting the incidents is not easy.

In Hong Kong, a similar case recently occurred, and the father was sentenced to 16 years in jail for raping and molesting his daughter 12 times over nearly a decade.

According to Hong Kong reports, the 12 incidents took place in the family flat when the victim was aged between nine to 17 years old.

I think there is a need to break this kind of taboo in the city, and elsewhere.

The stigma and shame that lies around the word “rape” remains so present that it seems as if remaining silent or belittling such an act would be better.

However, it should also be acknowledged that part of breaking the silence around these rape cases mostly affects the victims as they may have already suffered from traumatic stress, shame and embarrassment, which, I think, are unavoidable.

OPEC WEIGHS EXTENSION OF OUTPUT CUTS AMID SLACKENING DEMAND

OPEC looked set to extend its current deal to cut production for nine months as the oil cartel faces a weakening outlook for demand because of waning global growth.

Member country representatives were meeting yesterday at the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries' headquarters in Vienna and will hold talks with non-member producing states today.

The decision is complicated by tensions between the non-

OPEC country U.S. and Iran that have sent prices higher.

Several key representatives said group members were falling into line behind a nine-month extension as opposed to a six-month extension. Saudi Arabia's Energy Minister Khalid Al-Falih said “we will not know for sure until tomorrow” but that most countries “want nine months.”

And Iraq's oil minister Thamir Ghadhban said nine months was “mostly likely.”

IRAN BREACHES URANIUM STOCKPILE LIMIT SET BY NUCLEAR DEAL

AP PHOTO



A part of Arak heavy water nuclear facilities, near the central city of Arak, 250km southwest of Tehran

IRAN has broken the limit set on its stockpile of low-enriched uranium by its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, international inspectors and Tehran said late yesterday, marking its first major departure from the unraveling agreement a year after the U.S. unilaterally withdrew from the accord.

The announcement by Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and later confirmation by the U.N. nuclear watchdog puts new pressure on European nations trying to save the deal amid President Donald Trump's maximalist campaign targeting Tehran. Iran separately threatens to raise its uranium enrichment clo-

ser to weapons-grade levels on July 7 if Europe fails to offer it a new deal.

It also further heightens tensions across the wider Middle East in the wake of Iran recently shooting down a U.S. military surveillance drone, mysterious attacks on oil tankers that America and the Israelis blame on Tehran, and bomb-laden drone assaults by Yemen's Iranian-backed rebels targeting Saudi Arabia.

Britain urged Iran to reverse course and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called the action “a significant step toward making a nuclear weapon.” Iran long has insisted its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes, despite Western fears about it.

Though Trump pulled back from airstrikes targeting Iran after the U.S. drone was shot down, Washington has rushed an aircraft carrier strike group, nuclear-capable B-52 bombers and thousands of additional troops to the region. That's raised fears that a miscalculation or further incidents could push the two sides into an armed conflict, some 40 years after the Islamic Revolution and the takeover of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.

Speaking to journalists in Tehran, Zarif acknowledged Iran had broken through the limit set by the accord.

“We had previously announced this and we have said it transparently what we are going to do,” Zarif said. “We

“**We had previously announced this and we have said it transparently what we are going to do.**”

MOHAMMAD JAVAD ZARIF
 IRAN'S FOREIGN MINISTER

are going to act according to what we have announced and we consider it our right reserved in the nuclear deal.”

The U.N. nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, later said its director general had informed officials that it verified yesterday that Iran had broken through the limit.

Under terms of the nuclear deal, Iran agreed to have less than 300 kilograms (661 pounds) of uranium enriched to a maximum of 3.67%. Pre-

viously, Iran enriched as high as 20%, which is a short technical step away from reaching weapons-grade levels. It also held up to 10,000 kilograms of the higher-enriched uranium.

Neither Zarif nor the U.N. agency said how much uranium Iran now had on hand. Last week, an Iranian official in Vienna said that Tehran was 2.8 kilograms away from the limit. Iran previously announced it had quadrupled its production of low-enriched uranium, which at under 3.67% is enough to power a nuclear reactor to create electricity, but is far below weapons-grade levels.

However, Iran could have chosen to mix the low-enriched uranium with raw uranium, diluting it and bringing it down under the cap. Pushing past the limit served as a notice to Europe, Zarif said.

The “actions of the Europeans have not been enough so the Islamic Republic will move ahead with its plans as it has previously announced,” Zarif said. “We are in the process of doing our first phase of actions both on increasing our stockpile of enriched uranium as well as our heavy water reserves.”

Breaking the stockpile limit by itself doesn't radically change the one year that experts say Iran would need to have enough material for an atomic bomb, if it chooses to pursue one. AP



Venice If you've been to Venice, you get it. Even the most jaded globetrotter can't help but do a double-take at the sheer originality—and beauty—of the centuries-old city built entirely on water. Yet even the quickest visit reveals that Venice is no longer a living city, with scores more tourists than actual Venetians crowding its lagoon, bridges and walkways. More on p10



Facebook says it will make advertisements for jobs, loans and credit card offers searchable for all U.S. users following a legal settlement designed to eliminate discrimination on its platform. The plan expands on a commitment the social media giant made in March when it agreed to make its U.S. housing ads searchable by location and advertiser. More on p15



USA The Roman Catholic Diocese of Providence released a list of clerics, religious order priests and deacons it says have been credibly accused of sexually abusing children. The list of 50 names posted on the diocese website includes 19 priests and deacons who are still alive, although nearly all have been removed from ministry.



Israel The Falic family of Florida, owners of the ubiquitous chain of Duty Free Americas shops, funds a generous and sometimes controversial philanthropic empire in Israel. The family has donated at least USD5.6 million to settler groups in the West Bank and east Jerusalem over the past decade, funding synagogues, schools and social services along with far-right causes considered extreme even in Israel.