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THE SAR PASSPORT HAS SLIPPED SIX PLACES IN THE MOST POWERFUL PASSPORT INDEX, ACCORDING TO RESIDENCE ADVISORY FIRM HENLEY & PARTNERS P2

MACAU ROLLER HOCKEY TEAM INFLICTS PAINFUL 14-0 DEFEAT ON CHINA P3

CHRISTIANS FLEE MAINLAND CHINA FOR NEW LIFE IN TAIWAN FREE OF CONSTANT STATE SURVEILLANCE AND RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION P10

Cambodia Police said they have arrested two South Korean citizens who were found carrying USD2.2 million into the country without proper authorization.



South Korea The president said yesterday the country is committed to finding a diplomatic solution to a bitter dispute over tightened Japanese control of exports of high-tech materials used by South Korean companies to produce semiconductors and displays. More on p9



India A speeding bus smashed through the boundary wall of an expressway bridge and plunged into a drain in northern India early yesterday, killing at least 29 people on board, an official said.



UK The British government was hunting yesterday for the source of a leak of diplomatic cables from Britain's ambassador in Washington that branded President Donald Trump's administration "dysfunctional" and "inept." More on p15

HO IAT SENG TO FIGHT FOR ENTIRE ELECTORATE BACKING

The Chief Executive candidate says he welcomes competition, but will campaign for every one of the 400 electors to back him in the race. His rivals need a minimum of 66 to qualify as candidates P2



30,000 WORKERS TO BENEFIT FROM MINOR LIFT TO MINIMUM WAGE P5

THE STORY OF CHINA'S FIRST CEMENT FACTORY

New research from MUST sheds light on a little-known episode in Macau's history misremembered on both sides of the Pearl River Delta for decades

PROPERTY PRICES EDGE UP, LED BY MACAU PENINSULA

The overall residential property price index for the three-month period of March to May 2019 increased 0.9% from the previous period (February to April) to 268.3, according to the latest data from the Statistics and Census Service. The indexes for the Macau Peninsula (270.9) and Taipa & Coloane (257.5) rose by 1.1% and 0.2% respectively. Meanwhile, the index for existing residential units (288.7) went up by 0.9%, with the index for those in the Macau Peninsula (284.0) rising by 1.3% while the index for those in Taipa & Coloane (308.8) dropping by 0.4%. Analyzed by year of building completion, the indexes for residential units completed between 6 and 10 years ago and for those built between 11 and 20 years ago grew by 2.7% and 1.6% respectively, whereas the index for those completed in five years or less edged down by 0.1%. During the period, the index for pre-sale residential units (277.7) increased by 0.5%.

DRAINAGE INTERCEPTION TO START OPERATION IN AUGUST

A drainage filtration project is expected to be put into operation at Areia Preta in August in order to improve the region's water quality, according to Tam Vai Man, Director of the Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA). The DSPA head claimed that the bureau has already completed research on Areia Preta's coastal water environment pollution. According to Tam, the sewer system in Areia Preta was not correctly synchronized, resulting in sewage going directly into five to six rainwater drainage channels, and consequently affecting the water quality. The drainage interception project was completed in June and is currently being tested before it commences operation.

DSSOPT DRAFTS BILL ON SAFE USE OF ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES

The Land, Public Works and Transport (DSSOPT) is drafting a law on the safe use of electrical appliances, according to a report by Macao Daily News. DSSOPT Director Li Canfeng said that the existing law clearly stipulates that owners should carry out regular maintenance, repair and improvement works on buildings, including shared electrical facilities in the buildings to ensure that the buildings are maintained in good condition. After the bureau has completed the drafting of the law, it will continue to consult the local community.



HO IAT SENG

CE CANDIDATE PROMISES TO APPEAL TO ALL 400 ELECTORS

STAFF REPORTER

CHIEF Executive election candidate Ho Iat Seng told the media that he would not stop at the 66-nomination benchmark, pledging to work diligently to collect as many nominations as possible.

The candidate, who resigned from his post as president of the Legislative Assembly on Friday, obtained nomination forms at the Electoral Information Center at the Public Administration Building yesterday.

The commencement of the official nomination period began yesterday.

There are now seven contenders in the race. They are former Legislative Assembly President Ho Iat Seng, local businessman Leong Kuok Chao, infamous protester Hoi Weng Chong, self-described 'grassroots' candidate Choi Teng Teng, the honorary consul of Papua New Guinea

Steven Siu, the former head of an electrical engineering firm Chan Weng Fu, and Lei Oi Chi, who claims to have formerly been a spy.

However, in order to be accepted as an election candidate, each contender must obtain a minimum of 66 nominations from the 400-member Chief Executive Election Committee.

Most analysts expect that only frontrunner Ho Iat Seng will obtain the necessary backing from the Committee to stand in the election.

Nevertheless, Ho said that he is going to make full use of the coming two weeks to obtain as many nominations as possible. "Stopping once I reach 66 nominations is not part of my election [plan]," said Ho.

He said he will contact each of the 400 members of the Election Committee to hear their comments and suggestions. He said the electors were eager to hear his

plans and vision while he is eager to hear from them too.

When asked if he had already started discussions with electors, Ho said, "as the nomination period started today [yesterday], I have already talked on the phone with several electors."

"All of them are supporting me," he added.

Besides Ho, there are currently five other potential candidates.

When Ho was asked if he would leave some nominations for the other contenders, he said the other six should "collect nominations individually." He refused to comment further on the other contenders, but noted he believed it would make a better election to have more people running.

Some of Ho's competitors have already announced their manifestos, but Ho claims it was too early to do so, as well as illegal.

"I think announcing a manifesto at this stage is a violation of the law, because it is stated that only

during the election period can we announce our manifestos," he told reporters yesterday.

"At the current stage, we should listen to our electors regarding requests from the public. I can thus make a manifesto," Ho added.

However, he also noted that he was aware of the existing problems facing the general public, including those related to housing, transport and general livelihood matters.

Meanwhile, also on the starting day of the Chief Executive election nomination period, Chan Weng Fu, one of the announced potential candidates, obtained his copy of the nomination form.

The 68-year-old was spotted by Chinese online media "All About Macau" at the Public Administration Building. He told the outlet that he had yet to understand as to how the electors could be contacted, but he believes that after he releases his manifesto the electors will support him.

Macau passport drops on list of most powerful

THE Macau SAR passport ranked number 36 in the most powerful passport index analyzed by Henley & Partners, six places down from the previous report in the last quarter of 2018.

Currently, Macau SAR passports allow their bearers to travel to 139 countries and regions with a visa-free/visa-on-arrival entry condition.

The index includes 199 different passports and 227 different travel

destinations.

In December 2018, a Canada-based global financial advisory firm, Arton Capital, ranked Macau number 30 in the world, with passport holders able to travel to 129 countries visa-free.

Moving into the third quarter of 2019, Japan and Singapore hold the joint top spot on the Henley Passport Index with a visa-free/visa-on-arrival score of 189.

This latest ranking of

passport power and global mobility which is based on a data from the International Air Transport Association marks the culmination of an 18-month long winning streak for both countries after they unseated Germany from its long-held first position at the beginning of 2018.

Falling from the first place, a spot it shared with Japan and Singapore last quarter, South Korea now ranks second on the index along with Finland and

Germany, with citizens of all three countries able to access 187 destinations around the world without a prior visa.

With a visa-free/visa-on-arrival score of 183, the U.K. and the U.S. now share sixth place – the lowest position either country has held since 2010, and a significant drop from their first-place spot in 2014.

In the hope of attracting tourists and boosting its struggling economy,

Pakistan now offers an ETA (Electronic Travel Authority) to citizens of 50 countries, including Finland, Japan, Malta, Spain, Switzerland, and the United Arab Emirates.

The weakest passports in Q3 of 2019 were Somalia, Pakistan, Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, ranked from 105 to 109 respectively. Afghani citizens are only able to access 25 destinations worldwide without a prior visa. LV

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RENATO MARQUES

ETERNAL World Television Network (EWTN) will start to broadcast in Macau through the Macau Cable Television Company Limited (MCTV) on channel 28 from August 15. The date marks the 38th anniversary of the channel's founding in Alabama, the United States.

At an event held yesterday at the MCTV headquarters where the EWTN and the MCTV formally signed the agreement, the International Marketing Manager of EWTN for Asia-pacific, Edwin Lopez, said that the company had already reached an audience of around 300 million television households.

In reply to the Times, Lopez explained that the idea of coming to Macau comes from an old wish of the founder, Mother Mary Angelica, a Saint Clare nun who expressed the desire to visit China in 2001.

"The idea [to start in Macau] came from José Miguel Encarnação," who will be the local coordinator of the project, said Lopez. "Today, we are here to sign this agreement and hope to be able to bring the Catholic faith to as many countries as possible," Lopez said.

Questioned also by the Times on how many viewers he expects to have in Macau, the TV executive said, "we don't know, we are solely relying on divine providence."

"We hope through the Macau Cable TV platform we can reach a fair number of Catholics who wish to be nourished with the

EWTN will start on Macau Cable channel 28 from August 15



Catholic faith."

EWTN is considered the largest religious media network in the world, broadcasting in 145 countries and territories in multiple languages with 24-hour-a-day programming. For the Macau operations, Encarnação told the Times that the channel will be initially broadcasting content in English but in the near future it was looking to the possibility of including content

also in Portuguese.

English would still be the main language, the EWTN Media Cooperator for Macau said, adding, "the content in Portuguese should have subtitles in English and there is also the idea of subtitled some of the English content in Chinese."

At the initial remarks, Lopez also noted the importance of a channel that is now a worldwide broadcast service but that was born in a ga-

rage with an initial budget of just USD200 (about MOP1,600).

Questioned on a separate issue, the Chief Commercial Officer of Macau Cable TV, John Chiang, said that following the renewal of the concession of the Macau Cable TV which was recently granted by the government for a further five years, the company will soon offer "new Japanese channels and even some from Turkey." Chiang

also remarked that most of the current offerings in pay-per-view channels would be maintained.

As for the possibility of including on the MCTV portfolio live streaming content over the Internet, commonly known as "Over the Top," Chiang said that such a possibility is being considered by the company.

"It is in our plans," said Chiang. "Let's see."

Macau roller hockey team beats China 14-0

RENATO MARQUES

THE Macau national roller hockey team inflicted a painful defeat on the Chinese National team when they met on Sunday at the World Roller Games 2019, which is currently being held in the Spanish city of Barcelona.

The teams for the senior men section of the Challenger's championship, met for a group match in La Maurina, a neighborhood part of the city of Terrassa in the suburbs of Barcelona.

The Macau players, led by coach Alberto Lisboa, showed their quality by scoring 14 goals unanswered by their opponents. The match highlight was Macau's Helder Ricardo who scored nine goals alone.

The other five goals were scored by captain Augusto Fernandes, Dinisio da Luz (2), Bruno Pereira and Sergio Costa.

This was Macau's first match



in the championship groups' phase where it is included in Pool B with teams such as the Netherlands, United States, India, and China.

Tomorrow at 4 a.m. local time, the Macau team will face India for the second match of the championship which

is running in the Spanish city until July 14 and that also includes several other competitions such as the World Championship (for men and women's senior category sections) as well as under-19s for men, and the Intercontinental Championship.

MACAU'S Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, recently led a delegation from the local government to attend the 43rd session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, where more than 30 applications for inclusion on the World Heritage List were reviewed.

The applications covered cultural landscapes, archaeological ruins, an industrial mine, an ancient tomb, an ancient city, and examples of 20th century architecture.

Secretary Tam and the delegation took the opportunity of the meeting to exchange views on cultural heritage protection with the delegation from the People's Republic of China, led by the Director of State Administration of Cultural Heritage, Liu Yuzhu.

According to a statement from the Office of

ALEXIS TAM LEADS DELEGATION TO UNESCO SESSION



Alexis Tam (right) and Liu Yuzhu

the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Liu acknowledged the work of the Macau government in the field of heritage protection.

Tam affirmed that the work to conserve the world heritage of Macau continues to be carried out under the supervision of China's State

Administration of Cultural Heritage. He also said that the government is accelerating the drafting of the "Plan for the Safeguarding and Management of the Historic Center of Macao" and preparations for the creation of a dedicated center to monitor the city's heritage sites. **DB**

NEW MUST RESEARCH SHEDS LIGHT ON HISTORIC CEMENT FACTORY IN ILHA VERDE

JULIE ZHU

THE story of Tong King-sing, a Chinese interpreter and businessman in the 19th century and the Ilha Verde Cement Company, the first cement company in Macau, has recently been unearthed and presented by the Research Office of Tong King-sing at the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST).

The new research sheds light on the factory, long considered a project of British businessmen, but in fact first launched by a Chinese businessman in Macau.

It was the Chinese interpreter and businessman Tong, key to the modernization of the country, who, after a visit to Macau to test the quality of the cement, returned to the mainland to set up the mainland's first such factory in what is today Hebei Province.

A DEEP CONNECTION TO MACAU

Born in Zhuhai in 1832 and passing away in 1892, Tong had a deep connection with Macau. During his tenure at Kaiping Mining Bureau of the Qing Dynasty, Tong communicated regularly with Macau's first cement company, the Ilha Verde Cement Company Limited, in order to open another factory on the mainland.

Tong's father, who was then a worker in Macau, seized the opportunity to send Tong and his brothers to the Morrison School in Macau, where Tong studied for six years and learned English.

After finishing his studies at the Morrison School, Tong worked as an interpreter in Hong Kong and Shanghai. In his later life, Tong worked as a comprador at Jardine Matheson, and was put into an important position by Li Hongzhang, who was a Chinese politician and diplomat in the late Qing Dynasty and served in the China Merchant

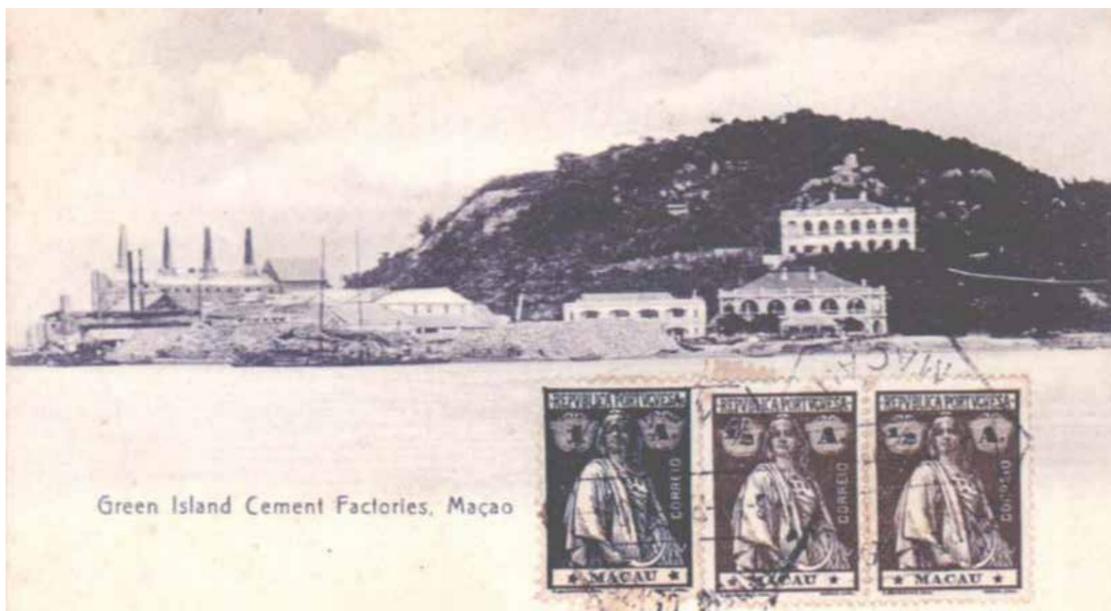
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Kaiping cement factory, 1889



Tong King-sing



Ilha Verde Cement Company, 1890

Steam Navigation Company and the Chinese Engineering and Mining Company.

During his tenure as the head of the Chinese Engineering and Mining Company, and in order to build a cement factory in mainland China, Tong was in regular communication with the Ilha

Verde Cement Company Limited in Macau.

QUALITY COMPARABLE TO BRITISH CEMENT

According to documents provided by the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM), the Ilha Verde Cement Limited was initially launched in

Macau by a Chinese businessman in either 1882 or 1883. It was the first cement company in Macau and also the first cement company in all of China.

In 1886, Ilha Verde Cement Company was sold to American company Russell & Co. Then in 1891, ownership of the Macau ce-

ment company was transferred to an English business operator. Originally, the factory was located in the former St. Joseph's Seminary and Church.

According to MUST's research, the cement produced by the factory was of excellent quality and was comparable to the famous British cement. That might be one reason that it was for a long time thought that the cement company had been created by British businessmen.

The cement was used frequently in big-scale projects in Macau, and was exported to several places including mainland China and the Portuguese colony in Timor.

In the 1920s, the Guangdong government restricted the export of stone from Zhaoqing, Yingde and other places into Macau, resulting in a shortage of raw materials necessary for the operation of the Ilha Verde cement factory.

But it was only in 1936 that the Macau cement company went bankrupt and relocated to Hong Kong.

During the late Qing Dynasty, China's military and civilian industries developed rapidly, resulting in a sharp increase in the demand for cement.

A SATISFACTORY VISIT

In 1887, Tong paid a visit to the the Ilha Verde Cement Company factory. The cement, based on the combination of two materials sourced from the mainland, satisfied Tong, who immediately reported the results to the Qing government, proposing to open a similar cement factory in mainland China.

In 1889, the first mainland cement factory was opened in Tang Shan, a city in what is today known as Hebei province. However, high costs and a lack of industrial innovation eventually led to its closure in 1893.

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Secretary for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong (center right) addresses the Legislative Assembly plenary yesterday

Minimum wage bill passes even with lawmakers divided

JULIE ZHU

THE minimum wage bill amendment to the city's labor laws was passed yesterday at the Legislative Assembly (AL), amid lawmakers' concerns for employees with disabilities and for domestic helpers, who are both excluded from the provision.

Once the law takes effect, the minimum wage will be increased to MOP32 per hour, MOP6,656 per month, MOP1,536 per week, or MOP256 per day.

Domestic helpers and workers with disabilities are, once again, notably excluded from the minimum wage policy.

Ella Lei and Agnes Lam proposed that the minimum wage policy should be applicable to employees with disabilities. In Lei's opinion, the Macau SAR government should also subsidize employers who hire people with disabilities so that they are not excluded from the bill. However, the two lawmakers did not express concerns for the exclusion of domestic helpers.

Previously, the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) explained that the decision to exclude domestic helpers from the minimum wage policy was because their employment did not involve profitable operations.

Sulu Sou expressed his concern for domestic helpers' wage conditions despite his opposition to including domestic helpers in the minimum wage policy. Sou hopes that the government can learn from Hong Kong and Taiwan in

establishing a special regime for domestic helpers' payment in order to increase equality and balance between the interests of both employers and employees.

Ip Sio Kai, speaking for both himself and the commercial and industrial sectors, said that the minimum wage policy will result in inflation and in other negative effects, such as bankruptcy of small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs). Ip said that his sector found that there is no urgent need for Macau to implement a minimum wage policy.

"It seems that there are only thousands of people earning below the minimum wage. Will the Secretary explain whether it is a [good] solution to, in view of such small number of people, to amend the laws and create inflation and affect other people's lives? Will SMEs be waived from the minimum wage?" Ip asked.

Song Pek Kei also worried about the survival of SMEs following the minimum wage increase as she fears the increase will bring a negative effect upon Macau.

Fong Ka Chio and Leong Sun

Iok applauded the minimum wage while Leong voiced anger towards lawmakers who were unhappy with the minimum wage increase.

"If the government proposes to increase the salary for civil servants, who among you will come out to oppose? When the salary of civil servants increases, you don't oppose, but when the workers' salary increases, you come out to complain. What kind of stance is that?" Leong questioned the lawmakers. "You don't question why it is as little as MOP32. [People complain]

about the low quality of Macau's service industry, but when you resort to such a price to hire people, how good do you expect their services to be?"

Mak Soi Kun also expressed his clear stance that domestic helpers should be included in the policy.

"Domestic helpers are even more important. It is not their business if the employers are making a profit or not hiring a domestic helper, because they [domestic helpers] need to earn money for themselves. They also contribute their labor, their youth, and their time. Should they also enjoy the economic achievement of Macau?" Mak asked the plenary.

The Secretary for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong responded to the lawmakers by saying the government will discuss with the lawmakers further details during the AL's standing committee meetings.

DOMESTIC HELPERS INSTRUCTIVE WAGE INCREASES TO MOP3,000

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

The Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) is requiring local employers of domestic helpers to increase the salary of their helpers to MOP3,000 by the end of this month.

Considering local families' financial capability and Macau's overall labor market situation, last year, DSAL decided to adjust the minimum requirement for salary of domestic helpers from MOP2,800 to MOP3,000.

Starting from this year, DSAL has been sending mail to the employers of approximately 6,000 domestic helpers, asking them

to make adjustments to the salaries before July 31.

If the employers fail to make the adjustment before the deadline, their employment contract with a domestic helper will not be automatically renewed.

According to DSAL, in the last week the bureau received approximately 1,000 adjustment applications made by domestic helper employers.

The MOP3,000 does not correspond to the actual salary of a domestic helper but instead the minimum amount that an employer should declare to DSAL when applying for a domestic helper.

According to statistics provided by the local government, the average salary of Macau's domestic helper is MOP4,100, excluding subsidies for accommodation. **JZ**

LABOR RIGHTS LAW AMENDMENT REFUSED

THE Legislative Assembly rejected Sulu Sou's proposal to amend Macau's employment policy and labor rights law.

Yesterday, Sou proposed to add articles to the bill which would allow workers to strike and to join trade unions in order to protect their rights.

Eight lawmakers voted in favor, while 17 voted against.

Wong Kit Cheng, one of those who voted against, explained that the Basic Law protects Macau residents' freedom to strike. She hopes that the SAR government can propose a trade union law to respond to the society's needs.

Ho Ion Sang and Song Pek Kei voiced a similar sentiment in calling the government to draft a trade union law. **JZ**

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" THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "



Riot police walk under an illuminated sign for a massage parlor as they stand off against demonstrators during a protest in the Mong Kok district of Hong Kong

Hong Kong police arrest five as latest protest march turns tense

ANNIE LEE, NATALIE LUNG & ALFRED LIU

HONG Kong police arrested five people while dispersing a protest in one of the financial hub's busiest tourist districts, the latest demonstration triggered by a proposed law that would allow extraditions of criminals to mainland China for the first time.

Thousands of marchers walked through the pedestrian-heavy Tsim Sha Tsui area on a rainy Sunday toward the city's new high-speed rail station to China. By evening they had reached the main entrance, which had been closed off by authorities, and began surrounding the building.

The crowd had largely dispersed by 9 p.m., but some people - wearing the black shirts that have become the protest movement's unofficial uniform - occupied Nathan Road in the commercial Mong Kok district, where they were confronted by lines of riot police.

Five people were arrested for assaulting and obstructing a police officer when action was taken to disperse protesters, police said in statement yesterday. Police made repeated warnings to the protesters that they were taking part in unlawful assembly and urged them to leave, it said.

Sunday's march follows weeks of demonstrations against the proposed extradition legislation. While Chief Executive Carrie Lam suspended the bill on June 15, protesters have continued pushing for its complete withdrawal, Lam's resignation and other demands.

Further protests are now being planned in neighborhoods across the city by civilian demonstrators organizing themselves online who vow to keep spreading the word to every district of the financial hub until Lam responds to their requests.

That includes using their checkbooks: some are calling for people who hold accounts with the local unit of Bank of China Ltd. to pull out thousands of dollars in cash and deposit it into non-mainland banks if there's no response from authorities by Friday night.

Ventus Lau, a protest organizer, said more than 230,000 people had joined Sunday's rally. Police - whose turnout estimates are generally lower - said 56,000 people had come out at the march's peak, according to Hong Kong broadcaster TVB.

The size of the protest "shows Hongkongers are very determined to fight until the very end," Lau said.

The end point was intentionally chosen to reach out to mainland travelers using the rail link, according to postings and leaflets

Further protests are being planned across the city by civilians organizing themselves online

distributed by organizers. Some protesters waved flags that flew when Hong Kong was a British colony, while others carried yellow umbrellas, the symbol of the city's pro-democracy Occupy Central protests in 2014.

It's not the first time Hong Kong

protests have reflected anxiety that mainlanders are overwhelming the city - and driving up the prices of goods for its residents. In 2015, demonstrators in Tuen Men and Tsim Sha Tsui scuffled with police as they rallied against traders who come to the city and purchase products to sell across the border.

Prominent activist Joshua Wong joined the demonstrators and said they hoped to impress on mainland visitors the importance of freedom and human rights.

"Even with the Great Firewall censorship, it's still a must for them to realize it's time to let Hong Kong people enjoy certain degree of autonomy, and that's the reason

for us to continue our strike," he said.

Lau said earlier in the day that barricades placed at the West Kowloon station could make it difficult for marchers to clear the streets at the end. "If any danger appears, it will be the full responsibility of the police," Lau said.

Last week, Hong Kong police began arresting suspects on charges related to the July 1 break-in of the Legislative Council, where protesters smashed glass windows and defaced walls, portraits of government officials and the Hong Kong emblem.

A 53-year-old part-time art teacher who goes by the name Perry Dino was painting an image of the protest on his canvas outside West Kowloon station on Sunday as people marched.

The government "used a lot of money to build this station, but few people and only the mainland Chinese tourists use it," he said. "Today may be the first day that a large amount of people came to this station. I wanted to come here and support the protesters."

BLOOMBERG

SINGER-PROTESTER FACES CHINA AT UN RIGHTS BODY

HONG Kong pop singer Denise Ho has taken a message of defiance against China to the U.N.'s top human rights body, denouncing "deceitful promises" by authorities and prompting a Chinese diplomat to interrupt her twice.

The "Cantopop" star asked the Human Rights Council yesterday whether it would suspend China as one of its 47 member states because of "abuses" by Beijing, and whether the rights body would con-

vene an urgent session to protect people in Hong Kong amid rising protests.

Chinese diplomat Dai Demao interrupted to complain, but the chair let Ho continue.

Ho, hosted by advocacy group UN Watch, criticized "years of deceitful promises" that fanned the anger of Hong Kong demonstrators who have taken to the streets since early June to protest extradition bills, among other things. AP

Shenzhen

ONE DEAD, THREE INJURED AFTER CONSTRUCTION COLLAPSE

One worker died and three were injured after a construction at a sports center collapsed in the southern Chinese municipality of Shenzhen, local authorities said yesterday. The construction in the Shenzhen Sports Center that was being dismantled collapsed at about 11:40 a.m., trapping four workers, according to the government of Shenzhen's Futian district. At about 12:30 p.m., two workers were rescued and sent to a hospital, but one died from injuries despite emergency treatment. At about 4:50 p.m., the two remaining trapped workers were rescued and rushed to a hospital. Investigations are underway.

Guangzhou

LITERARY UNION FOUNDED TO PROMOTE INTEGRATION

The Greater Bay Area Literary Union has been established in Guangzhou, in a bid to promote literary integration and development in the area. Representatives from writers associations of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau signed an agreement, pledging to cooperate in supporting the creation of bay area themed works, literary exchanges, and talent training. The literary union will contribute to the integrated development of the greater bay area, as well as enhance its cultural soft power and core competitiveness, said Zhang Peizhong with the Guangdong Provincial Writers Association. As part of the first Greater Bay Area cultural and arts festival, a literature week was launched last Saturday.

GUANGDONG FORMALIZES GBA PLANS IN NEW DOCUMENTS

STAFF REPORTER

THE Guangdong provincial government has recently released two documents on the direction of future Greater Bay Area (GBA) development, which outline the major objectives of the project and offer specific plans for its implementation over the next three years.

According to the documents, the foundation of the Greater Bay Area should be basically established by the end of next year. Then, by 2022, the daily routine aspects of the GBA should already be working.

By 2035, the Greater Bay should have become a leading bay area in global terms.

Nine major objectives were outlined in the documents. From innovative systems to environmental protection, the Greater Bay is imagined as the center for new technologies and a modernized infrastructure system encompassing communications, energy and water. The innovations will benefit the three regions of Macau, Guangdong and Hong Kong.



In order to secure the realization of these visions, the ensuring measures were set out to guarantee a favorable environment is built, including project coordination, policy making, and risk management and control, among others.

In the mean time, the "action plan" consists of 100 focused initiatives in nine areas. They help coordinate the mid-term development of the GBA, and quantify the targets at each stage.

For example, Macau, Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Hong Kong, being the four central

cities of the GBA, are considered the engine of the area. The four cities will be further connected to push forward scientific, creative and innovative development across the entire Greater Bay Area.

Cooperation of law enforcement bodies in the GBA will further deepen. A mechanism for exchange will be set up for such bodies in all 11 cities, while a connected action mechanism has also been proposed.

Infrastructure will also be upgraded. Train networks will continue to expand, while airports will join together under a cooperative

development strategy.

Financial services and products will be upgraded to transform the area into a hub for such products and services.

Work will also be done to enhance the quality of life for residents within the GBA. For example, Macau residents will continue to benefit from certain taxation privileges.

Plans to development second-tier districts in Guangzhou, Zhuhai and Shenzhen are also stated in the documents, even as they stress the importance of conserving the natural environment.

AD

2019 Seminar on Belt and Road and Macao's Development
The City of the World in the Belt and Road Initiative – Macao

Date: 9 July 2019 (Tuesday)
Time: 10:00 - 12:30
Venue: The Grand Hall, 4/F, Macau Tower

Organisers: Policy Research and Regional Development Bureau of the Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region, Macao Foundation and Grand Thought Think Tank

Moderator: Mr. MA Chi Seng, Member of the Legislative Assembly of the Macao Special Administrative Region and President of Grand Thought Think Tank

Moderator
Mr. MA Chi Seng

Keynote Speakers
Dr. XIANG Bing
Prof. HU Angang

Thematic Speakers
Mr. LI Guang
Mr. LAO Ngai Leong
Mr. MA Iao Lai
Prof. HAO Yufan
Mr. MOK Chi Wai
Mr. Jorge VALENTE

Agenda

- Opening remarks
- Keynote speeches
 - Dr. XIANG Bing, Founding Dean and Professor of China Business and Globalisation at Cheung Kong Graduate School of Business
 - Prof. HU Angang, Dean of the Institute for Contemporary China Studies at Tsinghua University, Professor and PhD Supervisor of School of Public Policy and Management at Tsinghua University
- Thematic speeches
 - Mr. LI Guang, General Manager of Bank of China Macao Branch
 - Mr. LAO Ngai Leong, President of Association of Returned Overseas Chinese Macao
 - Mr. MA Iao Lai, President of the Macao Chamber of Commerce
 - Prof. HAO Yufan, Director-General of Grand Thought Think Tank
 - Mr. MOK Chi Wai, President of the Macao Youth Federation
 - Mr. Jorge VALENTE, President of the Macanese Youth Federation
- Q&A session

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South Korean Instagrammers demand Japan boycott

ANGERED by Japan's move to restrict exports of vital manufacturing materials to the country, South Koreans have taken to Instagram and other social-media platforms to show their support for boycotts of Japanese travel and consumer products.

More than 2,400 public posts with hashtag #BoycottJapan have been shared on Instagram since the measures were imposed Thursday, with some including a picture using Japan's red rising sun icon as "O" in the word "No."

While support for any boycott so far appears limited, the push highlights the growing risk of open economic warfare between the two U.S. allies. Last week, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government announced the restrictions on sales to South Korea of materials necessary to produce vital components in high-tech manufacturing. South Korea is Japan's third-largest export market, worth 5.79 trillion yen (USD53.5 billion) in trade last year.

The latest flare-up amid decades of ill-will over Japan's past aggression came when South Korean courts seized assets belonging to Japanese companies they held liable for cases of forced labor during the 1910-1945 period of colonization. Although Abe has denied that the export controls are retaliation,



the spat has fanned nationalistic sentiments in both countries.

In recent days, South Korean internet users have been sharing cancellation confirmations for flights to Tokyo, Osaka and other popular travel destinations. South Koreans make up 13% of spending by foreign tourists in Japan, according to the Japan Tourism Agency, or 584.2 billion yen in 2018.

They've also circulated lists of "Korean alternative" products to replace Japanese goods. Koreans are being encouraged to shop at SPAO, Samsung C&T Corp.'s 8 Seconds or Top 10, instead of Fast Retailing Co.'s Uniqlo. They're also urging people to consider Able C&C Co.'s

Missha's beauty products instead those by Shiseido Co., as well as beer from Hite Jinro Co. but not Asahi Group Holdings Ltd.

Fast Retailing gets about 6.7% of its sales from South Korea, while a South Korean joint venture between Asahi and Lotte Chilsung Beverage Co. earned less than 1% of its revenue there, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

Je Hyun-jung, director of the Center for Trade Studies & Cooperation at Korea International Trade Association, said that while there's no ban that would impact most consumer products, the uncertainty could disrupt supply chains and increase the costs of doing business.

"This is something that should be resolved politically, not have a damaging impact on the industry," Je said.

Meanwhile, an umbrella association of South Korean mom-and-pop stores announced has announced its participation in the boycott.

The Korean Supermarkets Alliance, an organization representing more than 23,000 stores, said it would temporarily halt sales of Japanese products, including beers by Asahi and Kirin Holdings Co., and Japan Tobacco Inc.'s Mild Seven cigarettes. "We will fight Japan's attitude toward its wartime history and retaliatory measures," association President Lim Won-bae said in a statement.

BLOOMBERG

SINGAPORE SAYS IT'S WELL-PLACED TO RIDE OUT GLOBAL SLOWDOWN

TRADERELIANT Singapore is in a good position to ride out the global economy's slowdown, with the government on track to meet its foreign investment targets this year despite mounting risks, Minister for Trade & Industry Chan Chun Sing said.

Officials are "watching businesses' investment decisions very closely," Chan said in a prepared speech in Parliament yesterday, with the government expected to revise its 2019 growth forecast range of 1.5%-2.5% in August.

"While there are clouds looming, we believe we are well-placed to weather the storm," he said. "Our economic fundamentals are sound, we are in a strong fiscal position, and we are making good progress in restructuring our economy."

The Economic Development Board is still on track to achieve its foreign investment targets for 2019, he said. Some of the advantages Singapore has in attracting businesses include its stable political environment, rule of law, connectivity and infrastructure, and skilled workforce, he said.

Chan said while there are "pockets of strength" in the economy, including a robust information and communications sector and a rebound in construction, global challenges such as the U.S.-China trade dispute and Brexit will weigh on growth. Export demand has weakened in some critical sectors, including electronics, precision engineering and wholesale trade, he said.

Despite a restart in U.S.-China trade talks, Singapore is concerned that the two nations have fundamental disagreements that will put ongoing pressure on business and consumer confidence.

The minister also highlighted initiatives that will help Singapore's economy remain attractive:

They include the development of "additive" manufacturing and advanced materials, including to support the electric vehicles industry, as well as the recruitment of biotech firms from abroad to help develop precision medicine.

The government also wants to explore a tourism site at Jurong Lake District and developing Mandai and the Greater Southern Waterfront, and use a new "innovation park" in Sungei Kadut to explore agritech ambitions, including through indoor plant factories, insect farms, animal feed production facilities.

MDT/BLOOMBERG

CORPORATE BITS

Wynn again volunteers at Macau Holy House of Mercy's Welfare Shop



On July 6, Wynn Macau Ltd. visited and carried out voluntary work at the Holy House of Mercy's Welfare Shop located in Fai Chi Kei.

The company also donated MOP300,000 to the charity

for its Welfare Shop Project of Macau Holy House of Mercy (SCMM) and distributed food hampers to 365 underprivileged families. This marked Wynn's seventh consecutive year of su-

pport for the SCMM Welfare Shop Project.

The check presenting ceremony was officiated by Ms. Linda Chen, Vice Chairman and Executive Director of Wynn Macau, Limited and Mr. António José de Freitas, President of the Board of Trustees of SCMM, in addition to other guests of honor.

Wynn brought together 48 enthusiastic members from the Wynn Employees Volunteer Team to help prepare food hampers containing basic food and daily necessities and distribute them to the beneficiary families, helping ease their day-to-day cost of living. In addition, Wynn also gave out supermarket vouchers to each household.

Sands China, SKH educate on financial management



A group of 50 Sands China team members, including some of the company's Responsible Gaming Ambassadors, learned about financial planning on June 26 at a workshop at The Venetian Ma-

cao's Adelson Advanced Education Centre.

Co-organized by Sands China Ltd. and the Sheng Kung Hui Social Services Coordination Office, the Responsible Gaming Workshop

— Financial Ability 2.0: Financial Management, was led by Hong Kong Certified Financial Planner May Wong and two Certified Financial Social Work Counsellors from Sheng Kung Hui.

During the workshop, team members learned about the concepts of financial management, including personal financial risk assessment, savings, and investment, and discussed responsible gaming in the context of the financial risks associated with gambling.

They learned to recognize credit card payment types and interest rates, and were introduced to some of the financial management service resources available to them.

AP PHOTO



TAIWAN

CHRISTIAN FAMILY DETAILS CRACKDOWN ON CHURCH

MICHELLE YUN, TAIPEI

THE Sunday service this week at an unassuming church in Taiwan was especially moving for one man. It was the first time Liao Qiang had worshipped publicly since authorities shut down his church in China seven months ago.

The 49-year-old arrived in Taiwan last week after fleeing China with five family members. He and his 23-year-old daughter, Ren Ruiting, described living under constant surveillance for the past seven months after authori-

ties detained them and dozens of other members of their prominent but not government-sanctioned church in December.

China's ruling Communist Party has carried out a widespread crackdown on all religious institutions in recent years, including bulldozing churches and mosques, barring Tibetan children from Buddhist religious studies and incarcerating more than a million members of Islamic ethnic minorities in what are termed "re-education centers." President and party leader Xi Jinping has ordered that all re-

ligions must "Sinicize" to ensure they are loyal to the officially atheistic party.

In contrast, Taiwan's democratically elected government has long taken a hands-off approach to religion on the island, where most follow Buddhism and traditional Chinese beliefs, but where Christianity and other religions also thrive.

Liao and Ren's account is the first detailing what has happened since the detentions began at the Early Rain Covenant Church. It shows the determination of the Chinese government — and the

lengths it has gone — to eradicate a congregation that has long been a thorn in its side.

Early Rain's pastor, Wang Yi, who remains detained, has been critical of Xi and the party. He has made a point of holding a prayer service on June 4 each year to commemorate the 1989 bloody crackdown on democracy protesters in Beijing's Tiananmen Square, an anniversary that China's government has sought to wipe from memory.

Ren told The Associated Press that she had to report her whereabouts to police using social media whenever she went out. She was told her safety couldn't be guaranteed if she disobeyed.

"That's when I knew it was no longer safe for us here, and that my children were most in danger," Liao said after Sunday's service, attended by about 30 people, at the small Reformed Pres-

byterian Xinan Church in Taipei. Government officials in China did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

China's government requires that Protestants worship only in churches recognized and regulated by the officially sanctioned Three-Self Patriotic Movement, although many more are part of independent congregations.

More than 100 members of Early Rain were taken into custody from the church or their homes on Dec. 9 and 10, according to Human Rights Watch. Those detained included Wang, the pastor. His wife, Jiang Rong, was released on bail last month.

Liao said the police tried to force him to sign a statement renouncing his church, but he refused.

"If our elders decided to break up the church, then I can accept it," he said. "But it's not up to you to say it's evil or illegal."

Liao and his family hope to stay in Taiwan while they seek asylum in the United States, but with a 15-day tourist visa, their future is unclear.

"I'm not sure whether they can stay beyond the visa, unless the Taiwanese government is willing to make it a humanitarian case on the basis of religious persecution," said Chiu Ling-yao, secretary-general of the Taiwan Association for China Human Rights, which is trying to help the family find a solution.

The spokeswoman for the American Institute in Taiwan — the de facto U.S. embassy — could not be reached for comment.

Ren hopes that one day she can return to her home.

"One day when China opens up, we'll go back," she said. "Whether it's five years, or even 10 years, we'll eventually make our way back to where God wants us to serve." **AP**

Lawyer says Beijing prevents Australian resident from leaving

ROD MCGUIRK,
CANBERRA

A detained Chinese-Australian writer's wife has been refused permission to leave China six months after her husband was taken into custody, their lawyer said yesterday.

Yang Hengjun, a 53-year-old visiting scholar at Columbia University in New York and a former Chinese diplomat, has been detained since Jan. 19, when he arrived at China's Guangzhou Airport with his wife, Xiaoliang Yuan, and his 14-year-old stepdaughter.

Yuan, an Australian resident, had been prevented from flying to Australia from Beijing airport on Thursday,

Australian lawyer Rob Stary said.

"There's an exit ban on her leaving. She was escorted to a hotel and interrogated for a couple of hours but is not formally in detention," Stary said.

"We don't know what the nature of the interrogation was; we assume it's in relation to her husband, who has been described as a democracy activist and journalist," Stary added.

China in January said Yang had been detained for allegedly "endangering China's national security," a vague charge frequently leveled at critics of the ruling Communist Party.

Yuan and her daughter have been living with rela-

tives in China since he was detained.

Foreign Minister Marise Payne yesterday released a statement on Yang's case, but did not comment on his wife's plight.

"The Australian government has raised Dr. Yang's case regularly with China at senior levels," Payne said.

"We have requested his case be treated fairly, transparently, and expeditiously," she added.

Australia continued to have consular access and had asked that Yang be granted immediate access to his Chinese lawyers, Payne said.

"Australia has asked for clarification regarding the reasons for his detention

and we have said that if he is being detained purely for his political views, then he should be released," she said.

Stary said Australia should be doing more to get Yuan and her child out of China, despite them being Chinese and not Australian citizens.

Yang's six-month detention order expires on July 27. He could then be charged, which could "make her capacity to travel even more restrictive," Stary said.

"She's completely the innocent party. Her movements have been curtailed really because of her relationship with her husband," Stary said.

Stary described as "curious" Australia's qui-

ck success in getting North Korea to release Australian Alek Sigley released last week after Sigley was accused of spying while in Pyongyang.

Australia had abrogated its responsibility to an Australian resident by failing to persuade China to let Yuan leave after six months, Stary said.

Yang's friend, University of Technology Sydney academic Feng Chongyi, said he was disappointed that the Australian government had not publicly called for Yuan's release from China.

Feng, who was detained for two weeks in 2017 while visiting China to research human rights lawyers, said Yuan was suffering depres-

sion. Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs of Trade's refusal to offer her the same level of help as it would an Australian citizen was a "great disappointment," Feng said.

"She's a brave woman, but six months living with this kind of fear it's horrible," Feng said.

Yuan told Australian Broadcasting Corp. in April while she was living with her parents in Shanghai that she had no idea whether her husband "is well or even if he is alive or not."

"It gets harder as time passes, mainly because I can't see him. I would have felt better if the lawyers could see him and verify that he is all right," Yuan said. **AP**

ISIS ALMEIDA
& MARIO PARKER

THE world's top agricultural-commodity traders have for months stuck to the mantra they'll benefit from a deadly pig disease roiling global markets. Just how much they'll profit depends on the location of their assets.

Success will hinge on whether the firms have plants that process soybeans into meal for pig feed in nations where meat-export demand is set to rise. That's as China seeks more protein from overseas, with African swine fever expected to wipe out a third of its hog herd. The trade war between Washington and Beijing will also play a role, hampering U.S. meat shipments to the benefit of South America and Europe.

That's good news for crop giant Bunge Ltd., which has the majority of its soy-processing assets in South America. Rival Archer-Daniels-Midland Co. may for now be hobbled by the Chicago-based company's stake in a major soybean crusher in China, where demand for the oilseed is forecast to drop for the first time in 15 years as the pig disease spreads.

"It comes down to who the favored trade partners are, and Brazil is best placed to supply all meats and then the EU for pork," Will Sawyer, an animal protein economist at the \$138 billion rural lender CoBank ACB, said, referring to the areas that could export meat to China. "So in the short-term, South American soybean crush assets are favorable."

Bunge has 33% of its oilseed crushing capacity in South America, 26% in Europe and 27% in North America. That will help the White Plains, New York-based trader meet rising demand for animal feed in countries such as Brazil, where shares of top meat company JBS SA have almost doubled this year.

"We like the fact that only 15% of our crushing is in China today," Bunge Chief Executive Officer Greg Heckman said at the BMO conference in New York in May. "There will be fewer beans going to China. There will be more beans to crush in the rest of the world."

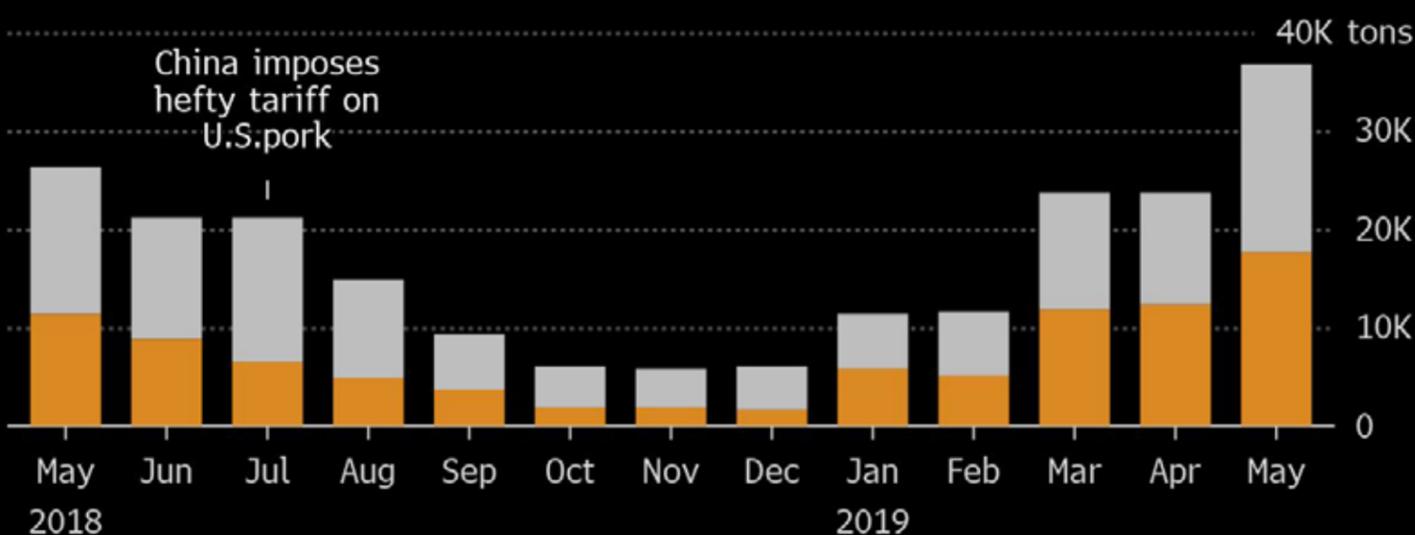
ADM, meanwhile, may take an initial hit from the disease, according to Patrick Yau, an analyst at Citigroup Inc. That's due to its 25% stake in Wilmar International Ltd., which vies with top Chi-

In the pig plague, it pays to be a crop giant in the right place

Pork Lover

China's U.S. pork imports rise despite high tariff

■ Pork ■ Swine offal



Source: General Administration of Customs

Bloomberg

nese food company Cofco Corp. for the spot of the Asian nation's largest soybean processor.

Singapore-based Wilmar flagged negative margins and weak results from its crushing business in the quarter to March 31 due to African swine fever. Cargill Inc., the U.S.'s largest privately held firm, said earnings from animal nutrition and Chinese oilseed crushing were hit by the virus in the period ended Feb. 28.

While the U.S. would normally be one of the most competitive meat suppliers, the trade war between the administrations of Donald Trump and Xi Jinping is hurting American competitiveness as Chinese tariffs on pork are still in place, CoBank's Sawyer said. There's also a long-standing ban on poultry shipments.

That means America can probably only fill the gap in the global

market left by other nations that are exporting to China, said Joe Sanderson, chief executive officer of Sanderson Farms Inc., the U.S.'s third-largest chicken producer.

Still, as China steps up meat imports in the months and years to come, it will need to turn to the U.S. South America alone won't be able to fill the Asian nation's shortfall and capacity in Europe isn't as big. That will be a boost for companies like ADM, whose filings show that a majority of its oilseeds crushing capacity is in North America.

"As China steps up their meat imports, North American assets will also benefit," said CoBank's Sawyer. "And should there be an arrangement with China, the dynamics for U.S. meat producers and therefore soy meal suppliers would be very good," he said, re-

ferring to a potential trade deal between Washington and Beijing.

Minneapolis-based Cargill said it's well-positioned to benefit. The company has five plants in China, accounting for about 20% of its total soybean crushing capacity, according to a person familiar with the matter, who asked not to be identified because the information is private. A spokeswoman for the company declined to comment on its soybean processing capacity.

"We've got a very well-developed asset footprint and trade flows that are designed to respond to rapid shifts in global trade," said John Fering, managing director for Cargill's premix and nutrition business in China. "We've only seen a kind of mid-single digits decline in demand in China for soybean meal until now." The company, the U.S.'s third-largest

beef producer, can also benefit from its animal protein business.

Getting rid of the disease and rebuilding the herd in a nation that consumes half the world's pork is expected to take three to five years as the structure of China's hog industry, with many small backyard operations, makes it almost impossible to contain the spread of the virus. But longer-term, a consolidation of the pork sector will end up benefiting crushers in the country.

"These big companies are going to be raising pigs or chicken or whatever -- they are a little bit more sophisticated and they will feed technical rations, having more soybean meal," Juan Luciano, ADM's chief executive officer, told the BMO conference in May. "We see the benefit into rationalization of the industry."

BLOOMBERG

Beijing blames US for Iran crisis

CHINA has expressed regret over Iran's breaching of the 2015 nuclear deal and blamed the United States, saying "maximum pressure" from the Trump

administration, which withdrew from the accord last year, is behind the crisis.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang described the comprehensive agree-

ment as the only realistic and effective way to resolve the Iranian nuclear issue and ease tensions.

Tehran says it is now enriching uranium at a higher le-

vel than is allowed under the 2015 agreement with world powers.

Geng said at a daily news briefing that "maximum pressure" imposed by the

U.S. was the "root cause" of the crisis. Since withdrawing from the accord, the U.S. has imposed heavy economic sanctions on Iran.

Geng called for a diploma-

tic solution, saying "it has been proven that unilateral bullying has become a worsening 'tumor' and is creating more problems and greater crises on a global scale."



AP PHOTO

SON OF PROMINENT SOUTH KOREAN DEFECTOR MOVES TO NORTH KOREA

HYUNG-JIN KIM, SEOUL

The son of the highest-profile South Korean to defect to North Korea has arrived in the North to permanently resettle, North Korean state media said. If confirmed, it would be an unusual case of a South Korean defecting to the impoverished, authoritarian North.

The state-run Uriminzokkiri website reported that Choe In-guk, about 72, arrived in Pyongyang, North Korea's capital, on Saturday to dedicate the rest of his life to Korean unification at the guidance of leader Kim Jong Un. The website published photos and a video showing a bespectacled Choe in a beret reading his arrival statement at Pyongyang's airport.

Choe said he decided to live in North Korea for good because it was his parents' "dying wishes" for him to "follow" North Korea and work for its unification with South

Korea, according to a written statement published on the website.

Choe is the son of former South Korean Foreign Minister Choe Dok-shin, who defected to North Korea with his wife in 1986, years after he was reportedly embroiled in a corruption scandal and political disputes with then-South Korean President Park Chung-hee. He died in 1989.

Some analysts say North Korea accepted Choe In-guk so it could use him as a propaganda tool to tell its citizens its system is superior to South Korea's. North Korea is struggling to revive its moribund economy and improve people's livelihoods, since the United States has not agreed on major sanctions relief until it takes significant steps toward nuclear disarmament.

South Korea's Unification Ministry said Choe In-guk was in North

Korea without special permission from the Seoul government to visit the North. Ministry spokesman Lee Sang-min told reporters yesterday that authorities were trying

Some analysts say North Korea accepted Choe In-guk so it could use him as a propaganda tool

to determine details about Choe's travel to North Korea.

The two Koreas, split along the world's most heavily fortified border for about 70 years, bar their citizens from visiting each other's territory and exchanging phone calls, letters or emails without special permission. Under a South Korean security law, people who

secretly visit North Korea can face up to 10 years in prison.

Since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War, more than 30,000 North Koreans have fled to South Korea to avoid political repression and economic poverty. South Koreans have occasionally defected to North Korea in the past, but it has become a rarity in recent years, especially since the North suffered a crippling famine in the mid-1990s that is estimated to have killed hundreds of thousands of people.

A small number of South Koreans suffering economic hardship at home have gone to North Korea to live in past years, but North Korea is known to have repatriated such people. The Unification Ministry said North Korea returned two South Koreans who entered North Korea last year, but it didn't elaborate.

Before his 1986 defection to North Korea, the senior Choe had lived in the United States for about a decade and was a vocal critic of Park, who ruled South Korea with an iron fist from 1961 to 1979. He was previously Park's foreign minister and ambassador in West Germany.

In North Korea, he was made vice chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, which deals with relations with South Korea, and chairman of the Central Committee of the Chondoist Chongu Party, a political group affiliated with a Korean native religion called "Chondo." He once headed the Chodo church in South Korea.

His wife, Ryu Mi Yong, also took a series of high-profile jobs, including membership in the presidium of the North's rubber-stamp parliament and chairwoman of the Central Committee of the Chondoist Chongu Party. When she died at the age of 95 in 2016, a public funeral was organized and her body was buried along with her husband's at Pyongyang's Patriotic Martyrs' Cemetery.

According to South Korea's Unification Ministry, Choe In-guk was allowed to make 12 authorized trips to North Korea since 2001 for events such as visiting his parents' cemetery and attending a death anniversary for his mother.

It wasn't immediately known how he went to North Korea, but South Korean media speculated he flew from Beijing with a North Korean government-issued visa.

Choe was a member of the Chondo church in South Korea and worked for a church-affiliated organization focusing on inter-Korean engagement, according to church official Na Han Yub, who said met Choe once or twice a year.

Na said Choe rarely talked about his personal life and didn't participate much in church activities. Na said he didn't know what motivated Choe to go to North Korea but could confirm that he is the person shown in North Korean state media photos. AP

Parts of southern India facing acute water shortage

ASHOK SHARMA,
NEW DELHI

WITH the government able to meet only 40% of the water requirement, millions of people in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu are depending on water tank trucks because of an acute shortage caused by drying lakes and depleted groundwater.

Sekhar Raghvan, a water expert, said yesterday that taps were running dry, but that meteorologists expect

rain in the state this week and people are pinning their hopes on that. It rained for a while in the state two weeks ago, but not enough to replenish water bodies.

Gauri Shankar, a hotel general manager, said he was running his hotel in Chennai, the state capital, by hiring two tank trucks to bring water every day at a cost of 4,000 rupees (USD57) each.

"There has been no improvement in the situation in the past month," Shankar said, adding that some com-

panies have asked employees to work from home, and that some restaurants are closing early.

Apart from people hiring private water tank trucks, the state government has deployed 900 water trucks in Chennai to distribute water free to the poorest, Raghvan said. Those who can afford it can also buy water from the tankers.

Television images showed people lining up for water cans in Chennai and other cities and towns in the state.



AP PHOTO

PHILIPPINES

Amnesty seeks international probe to end killings

JIM GOMEZ, MANILA

AMNESTY International urgently called for international pressure and an immediate U.N. investigation to help end what it says are possible crimes against humanity in the Philippine president's bloody anti-drug crackdown.

The London-based rights watchdog said in a study released yesterday that extrajudicial killings in President Rodrigo Duterte's 3-year-old campaign remain rampant and the scale of abuses has reached "the threshold of crimes against humanity."

About 6,600 people, most of them accused of petty drug crimes, have been killed in the crackdown Duterte launched as his centerpiece project when he took office in mid-2016. But nongovernment groups claim a much higher death toll, including many suspects killed by motorcycle-riding gunmen human rights groups suspect were financed by police officers.

Duterte and the police have de-



AP PHOTO

nied any authorization of extrajudicial killings. Duterte, however, has repeatedly threatened drug suspects with death in televised speeches and encouraged law enforcers to shoot suspects who fight back. He has warned that the crackdown will be more dangerous for suspects in the final three years of his six-year term.

Amnesty said Bulacan province

north of the capital has become "the country's bloodiest killing field" after some officers involved in the crackdown were transferred there from the Manila metropolis, which used to be the "epicenter of killings."

"The reliance on violent and repressive policies continues to perpetuate human rights violations and abuses in the country," Amnesty said in its study.

Nicholas Bequelin, Amnesty's regional director for East and Southeast Asia, said Duterte's campaign "continues to be nothing but a large-scale murdering enterprise for which the poor continue to pay the highest price."

Philippine National Police chief Oscar Albayalde said such claims were "allegations that have never been proven." All police actions, he said, have been done within the bounds of the law and the constitution, which guarantees the protection of human rights.

Amnesty said it investigated 20 drug-related incidents in which 27 people were killed across Bulacan from May 2018 to last April by interviewing witnesses, families of the dead, local officials and rights activists.

Amnesty concluded that half of the incidents "appear to have been extrajudicial executions" based on witnesses' accounts and other information. The others were murky due to difficulty in obtaining information about the killings "although their broad outlines were

consistent with patterns of previous extrajudicial executions," the group said.

Slain suspects who struggled to earn a living were accused of being "big-time" drug dealers, Amnesty said, citing interviews with families of suspects. Police officers always justified the deaths by claiming that suspects fought back during so-called "buy-bust" operations, where undercover agents posed as drug buyers, but Amnesty said it doubted the police reports, saying they did not "meet the feeblest standards of credibility."

Some suspects who police claimed fired back were too poor to buy a gun. Others died after police forcibly broke into homes and opened fire then later claimed the suspects fought back after sensing they were being entrapped in police "buy-bust" transactions, Amnesty said, citing accounts by suspects' relatives and witnesses.

Amnesty also questioned the legitimacy and accuracy of drug "watch lists," which it said contain the names of drug suspects targeted in police raids.

The group called on the U.N. Human Rights Council to immediately initiate an investigation into the killings. It asked an International Criminal Court prosecutor to hasten the examination of complaints sparked by the massive deaths for The Hague-based tribunal to open a separate investigation. **AP**

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AP PHOTO



DIPLOMACY

SUDANESE SAY US PRESSURE WAS KEY TO REACHING TRANSITION DEAL

SAMY MAGDY, CAIRO

THE power-sharing agreement reached between Sudan's military and pro-democracy protesters last week came after the United States and its Arab allies applied intense pressure on both sides amid fears a prolonged crisis could tip the country into civil war, activists and officials said.

The agreement, which raised hopes of a democratic transition following the military overthrow of long-ruling autocrat Omar al-Bashir in April, was announced days after the protesters held mass marches through Khartoum and other areas.

But those familiar with the negotiations say the main breakthrough happened at a secret meeting the day before the protests, when diplomats from the U.S., Britain, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates pressed the two sides to accept proposals from the African Union and Ethiopia.

"It was a tense but crucial meeting. It melted the ice," a leading activist said on condition of anonymity to discuss the back-room negotiations.

"The meeting was the cornerstone of Friday's deal."

The two sides agreed on a jointly run sovereign council that will rule for a little over three years while elections are organized. A military leader will head the council for the first 21 months followed by a civilian leader for the next 18.

They also agreed on an independent Sudanese investigation into security forces' deadly crackdown on the protests last month — though it's unclear if anyone will be held accountable. The military also agreed to restore the internet after a weekslong blackout.

Much could still go wrong, and last month's violence erupted at a similarly hopeful moment. But for now the deal appears to be on track, with the two sides expected to formally sign it this week.

Two leading activists, a Sudanese military official and two Egyptian officials described intense U.S. efforts to force a deal after veteran diplomat Donald Booth was appointed special envoy in mid-June. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the talks.

State Department officials de-

clined to comment on U.S. efforts to broker the deal, saying only that Washington welcomes the agreement and commends the AU and Ethiopia for their mediation efforts.

The Arab officials said the U.S. not only ramped up pressure on the military, but also on Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt, which supported the military's overthrow of al-Bashir and sided with the generals when the protesters remained in the streets.

Two Egyptian officials with direct knowledge of Booth's meetings in Cairo last month said the U.S. urged President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi to back the AU and Ethiopian proposal and "pressure" Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, the head of the ruling military council, to respond positively.

"We received a direct message from the White House: Facilitate a deal between the military and the protesters," one of the officials said.

They said the same message was conveyed to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, close U.S. allies that had pledged billions of dollars in aid to the military after al-Bashir's overthrow.

The two Arab nations were seen as having major influence over Gen. Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, who has sent Sudanese forces to aid their war in Yemen. Dagalo, known by the nickname "Hemedti," is seen by many as the most powerful figure on the military council, and his paramilitary Rapid Support Forces led last month's violent dispersal of the protesters' main sit-in.

The Sudanese military official says the generals received the same message.

"The Americans demanded a deal as soon as possible. Their message was clear: power-sharing in return for guarantees that nobody from the council will be tried," he said, referring to the June 3 crackdown. Protesters say security forces killed at least 128 people, while authorities put the death toll at 61, including some security personnel.

The crackdown left protesters in a precarious position, and raised fears that Sudan could share the fate of Syria, Yemen and Libya, which spiraled into civil war after their own popular uprisings.

The U.S. and its allies also put pressure on the protesters,

who are represented by a coalition known as the Forces for the Declaration of Freedom and Change. The activists say the U.S. and Arab countries reached out to individual factions, which then threatened to negotiate separately with the military. Protest leaders gave in when it appeared the coalition was at risk of fracturing.

The efforts culminated in a secret meeting on July 29 at the home of a Sudanese businessman that was attended by protest leaders as well as Burhan and Dagalo.

Officials from the U.S., Britain, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates also attended, in a show of unity that pushed the two sides together. By the end of the over three-hour-long meeting, the two sides had agreed to thrash out an agreement within days.

Protest leaders went ahead with the rallies the following day, saying they needed time to prepare people for the agreement, and tens of thousands took to the streets in another show of popular support for a transition to civilian rule. Five days later, on July 5, the two sides announced that they had reached a power-sharing deal. **AP**

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

UK hunts mole behind leak of envoy's frank Trump missives

JILL LAWLESS, LONDON

THE British government was hunting yesterday for the source of a leak of diplomatic cables from Britain's ambassador in Washington that branded President Donald Trump's administration "dysfunctional" and "inept."

British officials are embarrassed by the publication of Kim Darroch's unflattering assessment — but more alarmed that sensitive confidential information has been leaked, possibly for political ends.

The leaked cables were intended for senior U.K. ministers and civil servants, and officials believe the mole will be found among British politicians or officials, rather than overseas.

"I've seen nothing to suggest hostile state actors were involved," said Prime Minister Theresa May's spokesman, James Slack.

The inquiry is being led by civil servants in the Cabinet Office, and Slack said police would only be called in "if evidence of criminality is found."

It's possible the leaker could be

AP PHOTO



charged with breaching the Official Secrets Act, which bars the unauthorized disclosure of classified material.

Slack said May had "full faith" in Darroch, a long-serving diplomat, although she didn't agree with his characterization of the Trump administration.

He said ambassadors were hired to provide "honest, unvarnished assessments" of politics in the countries where they served, which didn't necessarily reflect the views of the British government.

In the leaked cables — published in the Mail on Sunday newspaper — Darroch called the Trump administration's policy toward Iran "incoherent," said Trump might be indebted to "dodgy Russians" and raised doubts about whether the White House "will ever look competent."

"We don't really believe this administration is going to become substantially more normal; less dysfunctional; less unpredictable; less faction riven; less diplomatically clumsy and inept," one

missive said.

The cables cover a period from 2017 to recent weeks. Darroch has served as Britain's envoy to Washington since 2016.

After the cables were published, Trump said the ambassador "has not served the U.K. well, I can tell you that."

"We are not big fans of that man," Trump said.

The leak is an embarrassment for outgoing prime minister May, who has sometimes clashed with Trump, and could make things di-

fficult for Darroch, who is accused by some Brexit-backing U.K. politicians of a lack of enthusiasm for Britain's departure from the European Union.

The journalist who reported the leak, Isabel Oakeshott, is a strong supporter of Brexit and ally of Brexit Party leader Nigel Farage, Britain's leading champion of Trump.

Trump said in 2016 that Farage would "do a great job" as ambassador to Washington.

Farage brushed off that idea yesterday, saying "I'm not a diplomat, and I think that's quite an understatement."

But Farage said Darroch's comments were "pretty irresponsible."

British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said that the ability to communicate frankly was "fundamental" to diplomacy.

International Trade Secretary Liam Fox, who is meeting U.S. officials in Washington, called the leak "malicious."

"I think it is unconscionable that any professional person in either politics of the civil service can behave in this way," he said.

Fox, who is due to meet Trump's daughter Ivanka, told the BBC that he would apologize for the fact that standards of "either our civil service or elements of our political class" had "lapsed in a most extraordinary and unacceptable way." AP

AD

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ADMISSION: Free

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Offbeat

NEW MEXICO GHOST TOWN SALOON USES CIVILITY TO DRAW CROWD

AP PHOTO



A saloon in a New Mexico ghost town attracts regulars with diverse backgrounds and opinions with a promise to "have dialogue."

The No Scum Allowed Saloon in the White Oaks, New Mexico, pulls in people from around the state and sometimes tourists from overseas because of its reputation and catchy name, the Albuquerque Journal recently reported.

Saloon owner Karen Haughness, one of the nine people who live in White Oaks, said the saloon's regulars often exceed the town's population. She says the saloon cultivates civil discourse among visitors.

"We are different. We come from different places. We are different politically. We have extreme liberals and extreme conservatives," said Haughness, who also works as a school psychologist and sells antiques on the side. "But we can state opinions without getting into arguments. We have dialogue."

Rick Virden, 66, a former Lincoln County sheriff who has a ranch between White Oaks and Carrizozo, said there are quite a few people who come to the saloon on a regular basis.

"And some of them are from quite a ways away," he said.

The town was founded after gold was discovered in the region in 1879. Outlaw Billy the Kid is said to have visited White Oaks often looking for a good time.

People moved out as gold mining evaporated, with the last mine closing in 1930. Today, the No Scum Allowed Saloon's regulars make up to about three times the town's single-digit population.

Jackie Keller, 56, a former State Highway Department employee, lives just east of White Oaks. She is known for her green chile salsa and bakes cakes for saloon birthday parties.

"You can't beat the people here," she said. "We help each other out. It's desolate here."

White Oaks is 160 miles (257 kilometers) southeast of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

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

cinema



CINETEATRO

04 - 10Jul



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
2:30pm
Director: Kelly Asbury
Starring: Kelly Clarkson, Nick Jonas, Janelle Monáe
Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)
Duration: 87min

TOY STORY 2
ROOM 2
4:30, 7:30, 9:15pm
Director: josh cooley
Starring: Will Smith, Mena Massoud, Naomi Scott
Language: Chinese
Duration: 109min

MEN IN BLACK: INTERNATIONAL
ROOM 2
9:30pm
Director: F. Gary Gray
Starring: Tom Hanks, Tim Allen, Annie Potts
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 109min

THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 2
ROOM 3
2:30, 4:30, 7:30pm
Director: Chris Renaud, Jonathan del Val
Starring: Patton Oswalt, Kevin Hart, Harrison Ford
Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)
Duration: 86min

A LONG GOODBYE
ROOM 3
9:30pm
Director: Ryōta Nakano
Starring: Yū Aoi, Yuito Kamata, Chieko Matsubara
Language: Japanese (Chinese & English)
Duration: 127min

this day in history



2001 SCIENTISTS DISCOVER WHY WE ARE HERE

A Californian University has thrown more light on why the Big Bang works after nearly 40 years of world-wide research.

Most scientists accept that the universe began with the Big Bang and the existence - in equal amounts - of matter and anti-matter.

The theory has been complicated by the fact that if matter and anti-matter were present in equal amounts they would cancel each other out and there would not be a universe.

Experiments by Stanford University's international team of physicists have provided the most substantial proof yet that matter and anti-matter decay at different rates and this explains the continued predominance of matter.

This process is called charge-parity (CP) violation and derives from research in the 1950s and 1960s by theorists like Andrei Sakharov.

The evidence for CP has rested solely on - increasingly accurate - measurements of the different decay rates of the sub-atomic particle, neutral K meson and its anti-particle.

Now the team working at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (Slac) has observed CP violation in a heavier particle/anti-particle pair related to B meson.

They made their discovery using a 1,200 tonne detector called Babar, designed, built and operated by 600 scientists and engineers, many from the UK.

Babar forces particles to crash into each other and simulate the effects of the Big Bang deep under the Californian landscape.

The findings of the Slac team will be published in the journal Physical Review Letters.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The idea of anti-matter has been around since 1928 when British physicist Paul Dirac suggested the existence of atoms with negatively charged anti-protons at the centre and positively charged electrons - positrons - orbiting them. Ordinary atoms consist of a positively charged nucleus surrounded by negatively charged electrons.

It is very difficult to make anti-matter and requires powerful particle accelerators like Babar.

Scientists estimate that around 20kg of anti-matter like anti-hydrogen - first produced in Switzerland in 1997 - could power a spaceship across the galaxy.

Over the past decades particle physicists in Europe, the US and Asia have put together plans for a gigantic, £3bn particle accelerator.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
 Mar. 21-Apr. 19
 Can't decide whether to take the plunge on a big purchase, a new relationship, or another potentially perilous venture? You may be acting too cautiously - beware of second-guessing yourself.

TAURUS
 Apr. 20-May. 20
 In a relationship, focusing on your partner ensures that you won't ever take him or her for granted. In life as in sports, you have to live in the moment and be paying attention.

GEMINI
 May. 21-Jun. 21
 Lean on a strong relationship today when you feel yourself falling back into old bad habits or contemplating calling up an ex. You may see your ideas as nostalgic and fun visits to the past.

CANCER
 Jun. 22-Jul. 22
 Hot topics at work or in school are awakening viewpoints you never realized you had. Today could mark the beginning of a very active intellectual phase for you.

LEO
 Jul. 23-Aug. 22
 Looking back can be very educational and enlightening today. You'll notice a real pattern of behavior that will help you move forward. This is a day to be confident of your decisions.

VIRGO
 Aug. 23-Sep. 22
 You will start this day with a lot of bright energy, but if you are looking for more, look no further than your closest friends. Get in touch and see what is going on with them.

LIBRA
 Sep. 23-Oct. 22
 Grab on to the craziest idea you can think up, and look at it without any emotion. If you want to do it, attack it with strategy and skill. You are capable of blowing people's minds.

SCORPIO
 Oct. 23-Nov. 21
 Understanding the value you bring to any situation is the most important way to understand how much influence you have. Step back and evaluate how much you bring to a school group or work team.

SAGITTARIUS
 Nov. 22-Dec. 21
 Despite the fact that you are loaded with energy and eagerness right now, today is not the day for the green light. Forward movement is not advised.

CAPRICORN
 Dec. 22-Jan. 19
 The only way to increase your confidence is to meet a challenge head on and conquer it. So keep an eye out for the chance to prove yourself. Whatever tough tasks you take on, you'll come out stronger than ever.

AQUARIUS
 Jan. 20-Feb. 18
 While observing romantic couples today, you might end up feeling confused - so many people seem to be connected at the hip, and you are wondering what the benefit of that closeness could possibly be.

PISCES
 Feb. 19-Mar. 20
 Your creativity will really be sparkling today, and you should follow whatever urge you have to create something - no matter how inconvenient it is. If you want to repaint your bedroom, go for it!

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	24	38	clear
Harbin	14	28	cloudy
Tianjin	27	39	clear
Urumqi	23	33	clear
Xi'an	22	34	cloudy
Lhasa	12	22	drizzle
Chengdu	21	24	shower
Chongqing	24	28	drizzle
Kunming	18	27	shower
Nanjing	23	30	cloudy
Shanghai	22	28	overcast
Wuhan	25	30	drizzle
Hangzhou	24	28	drizzle
Taipei	26	30	drizzle
Guangzhou	25	32	moderate rain
Hong Kong	26	30	rainstorm
WORLD			
Moscow	11	18	drizzle
Frankfurt	12	27	clear
Paris	15	28	clear
London	12	24	clear
New York	22	30	cloudy

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Nicholas II, for one; 5- Bert's buddy; 10- Usher's offering; 14- Fit to ___; 15- Ages between 13 and 19; 16- That's ___; 17- Crucifix; 18- Incident; 19- Traditional knowledge; 20- Breathing disorder; 22- Benumbs; 24- A Great Lake; 27- Numbered rds.; 28- Curved sword; 32- Keyboard key; 35- Finish first; 36- Corporate symbols; 38- Stories; 40- Part of a list; 42- Make a speech; 44- December day, briefly; 45- Slender gulls; 47- Destroy by degrees; 49- Fall mo.; 50- Simmers; 52- Implies; 54- Polite address; 56- Blue hue; 57- Lighted by Earth's satellite; 60- Modern bank card; 64- Capital on the Aare; 65- Sir ___ Newton was an English mathematician; 68- Scene of first miracle; 69- Hindu princess; 70- Chapter's partner; 71- Personal quirks; 72- Actor Guinness; 73- Got up; 74- Saturate;

DOWN: 1- Skater Lipinski; 2- What to do "in the name of love"; 3- Long time; 4- Cash in; 5- Summer along the Seine; 6- Accelerate; 7- Have to have; 8- Central; 9- Property; 10- Levy on deals?; 11- North Carolina college; 12- Televises; 13- Kicker's aid; 21- Nutmeg coat; 23- Depression in a surface; 25- Langston Hughes poem; 26- Tidal bore; 28- Loretta of "M*A*S*H"; 29- Quotes; 30- Like argon; 31- Lion sounds; 33- St. ___ fire; 34- Hit back, perhaps; 37- Corpulent; 39- Grounded fleet; 41- Assisting the memory; 43- Beat by a nose; 46- Stately aquatic bird; 48- Holy smokes!; 51- Mouth stuff; 53- Chooses; 55- Skinflint; 57- Repast; 58- Writer Sarah ___ Jewett; 59- Edible corm; 61- Scott of "Charles in Charge"; 62- Early Peruvian; 63- Job; 64- Breast-supporting undergarment; 66- Donkey; 67- Average grade;



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



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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



LITHUANIAN COUPLE CROWNED 'WIFE CARRYING' WORLD CHAMPIONS

A Lithuanian man and his wife have won the world 'wife carrying' title, leaping over timber and wading through waist-high water to beat dozens of other couples for a second year running. The prize is the wife's weight in beer. Vytautas Kirkliuskas and his wife Neringa Kirkliauskiene cleared a grueling 253.5 meter obstacle course in 1 minute 6.72 seconds this weekend. That was just a tenth of a second ahead of former six-time world champion,

Finland's Taisto Miettinen and his new partner Katja Kovanen. "After the second obstacle I thought I wouldn't make, but it's a great result" Kirkliuskas said, adding "my wife, she is the best." Couples from over a dozen countries, including Australia, France and Germany, took part in the annual race in the central Finnish municipality of Sonkajarvi, 480 kilometers north of Helsinki, the capital.

BRAZIL LEADER HIT FOR COOL REACTION TO JOÃO GILBERTO'S DEATH

PRESIDENT Jair Bolsonaro came under fire yesterday [Macau time] for a lukewarm response to the death of a Brazilian cultural icon, João Gilberto (pictured, right, in a 1978 snap), one of the fathers of bossa nova music, which gained worldwide popularity in the 1960s. Impassioned tributes to Gilberto rocketed around Brazilian media, social and conventional, following his death on Saturday. Bolsonaro, meanwhile, told reporters that Gilberto was "a known person. Condolences

to the family, OK?" Brazilian singer Leoni tweeted that Bolsonaro "doesn't have a clue of the importance of sophistication of João Gilberto." Leftist lawmaker Marcelo Freixo tweeted, "Today we lost the true Brazilian legend," a snippy allusion to the term Bolsonaro's supporters use for the president. Bolsonaro has had a rocky relationship with Brazil's artistic community, and has said he plans to drastically reduce the budget for arts and culture grants.



MASSIVE CHOIR A PLACE FOR ESTONIANS TO FIND IDENTITY, SOLACE



TENS of thousands of Estonians joined in singing folk songs over the weekend on the 150th anniversary of a music festival that inspired resistance to Soviet control and later received recognition from the U.N. cultural agency. The Estonian Song and Dance Celebration attracted 35,000 singers, more than 1,000 choirs and 700 dance groups to the capital of Tallinn. The event, held every five years, started as a song-only celebration in 1869.

An estimated 90,000 people attended the main concert that closed the festival, which had most of the choirs joining voices for songs with special meaning for Estonians and their national identity. The festival theme this year was "My Fatherland is My Love." During Estonia's nearly 50 years of Soviet occupation, some traditional anthems and songs were banned or had their lyrics changed so singing them was an act of defiance.

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FOOTBALL

US wins 4th World Cup title, 2nd in a row

ANNE M. PETERSON

United States 2, Netherlands 0

AFTER every goal celebration and all the confident posturing, the U.S. national team backed up its swagger at the Women's World Cup by winning it all.

The Americans also took a swipe at gender inequity, too.

The United States won its record fourth Women's World Cup title and second in a row, beating the Netherlands 2-0 yesterday [Macau time] when Megan Rapinoe converted a tie-breaking penalty kick in the second half. Rose Lavelle added a goal to seal it.

Afterward, Rapinoe looked out on the sea of reporters and said, "I've got a party to get to, y'all."

Rapinoe scored in the 61st minute after a video review determined Stefanie van der Gragt had fouled Alex Morgan with a kick to the shoulder while competing for a deflected pass in the penalty area.

Two days past her 34th birthday, Rapinoe slotted the ball past Sari van Veenendaal for her sixth goal of the tournament. She became the oldest player to score in a Women's World Cup final, and earned the Golden Boot for the tournament's top scorer and the Golden Ball as the top player.

Her preferred goal celebration in France, with her outstretched arms in victory, was already on T-shirts.

"I feel like it's kind of iconic of everything that we have gone through and we continue to go through, and yet we put this beautiful product out on the pitch," she said.

Lavelle, at 24 the team's up-and-coming star, added her third goal of the tournament on an 18-yard left-footed shot in the 69th after a solo run from the center circle.

The monthlong journey isn't over quite yet for players who captured the hearts of a nation. New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio needed just a few seconds after the match to invite the team to a ticker-tape parade up the Canyon of Heroes in Manhattan on Wednesday.

Fans, many dressed in red, white and blue, chanted "Equal Pay!" at the final whistle, a reminder players sued the U.S. Soccer Federation in March claiming gender discrimination. The sides have agreed to mediate the lawsuit.

Rapinoe drew the ire of President Donald Trump by saying

AP PHOTO



United States' Megan Rapinoe celebrates after scoring the opening goal from the penalty spot

she would refuse to visit the White House. Trump called out Rapinoe on Twitter, saying she should never "disrespect our Country, the White House, or our Flag, especially since so much has been done for her & the team." He said he would invite the team win or lose.

But shortly after the title game, Trump tweeted: "Congratulations to the U.S. Women's Soccer Team on winning the World Cup! Great and exciting play. America is proud of you all!"

Always outspoken, Rapinoe also called out FIFA on the eve of the championship, suggesting soccer's governing body was not doing enough to grow the women's game, pointing to unequal prize money and the scheduling of the final on the same day as the championships of the CONCACAF Gold Cup in Chicago and the Copa America final in Brazil.

The Americans never trailed at the tournament and set records with 26 goals and a 12-game World Cup winning streak dating to 2015. Jill Ellis became

the first coach to lead a team to two Women's World Cup titles, and the U.S. joined Germany in 2003 and 2007 as the only repeat champions. While the U.S. has four titles, Germany is the only other nation with even two.

"Getting to play at the highest level of the World Cup with the team we have is just ridiculous. But to be able to couple that with everything on the field and to back up all of those words with performances and to back up all of those performances

Megan Rapinoe, 34, became the oldest player to score in a Women's World Cup final, and earned both the Golden Boot and the Golden Ball

with words, it's just incredible," Rapinoe said. "I feel like this team is in the midst of changing the world around us as we live, and it's just an incredible feeling."

With confidence that some called arrogance, this American team established a standard that exceeded the U.S. champions of 1991, 1999 and 2015, becoming a goal for all others to match.

Mia Hamm and Brandi Chastain were among the former American players who joined the current generation for the postgame celebration.

Alyssa Naeher, the 31-year-old who succeeded Hope Solo in goal, faced repeated questions entering the tournament but allowed just three goals and finished with her fourth shutout, earning the Golden Glove for the tournament's best goalkeeper.

The U.S. had scored within the first 12 minutes of its previous six matches but the European champions sat back to keep their defensive shape and kept the score 0-0 through the first half.

Rapinoe, who missed the semi-final win over England with a hamstring injury, became the first woman to score on a penalty kick during a Women's World Cup final, her 50th goal in 158 international appearances. She ended the Netherlands' 317-minute scoreless streak and matched Morgan and England's Ellen White for most goals in the tournament, winning the Golden Ball based on fewer minutes.

She was given a standing ovation when she was substituted in the 79th minute. The crowd of 57,900 at Stade de Lyon for Le Grand Finale included France President Emmanuel Macron.

Rebounding from a loss to Sweden on penalty kicks in the quarterfinals of the 2016 Olympics, the Americans opened the World Cup with a record 13-0 rout of lowly Thailand, triggering debate over whether the celebrations after each goal were excessive. Carli Lloyd responded the next match by following a goal with a polite golf clap. Then Morgan stirred it up again when she scored against England and celebrated as if sipping tea, pinkie outstretched.

Now, after all the memorable drama, they will have a fourth star above the crest on the team's jerseys and a higher platform to advance their cause.

"It's something that we've worked so hard for. All of us, individually, have just faced so much adversity through this whole journey," Morgan said. "We've been tested individually and collectively so much. So to see, four years ago, us go from two to three, and now three to four, it's really a dream come true." AP

OPINION

Our Desk

Renato Marques



THE SUDDEN 'NEW VITALITY' OF HO

The former president of the Legislative Assembly (AL) Ho Iat Seng is widely considered the most likely next Chief Executive (CE).

The first to publicly acknowledge that he would be running, after much consideration, Ho seems to have changed his mind over the last couple of months and presented a kind of "new vitality" that I cannot explain.

I say this because about three years ago when he was 59, I had the chance to do a short interview with him on the sidelines of an AL event. In these comments, Ho replied to me words to the effect of "I don't think to run for any higher position anymore as I am getting too old and close to retirement age."

Well, that was three years ago, three years in which Ho not only reversed course on this statement, but also seemed to have regained a vitality that makes of him the strongest candidate for the post of the new CE. If the tradition still holds, he would take such post for the two consecutive mandates allowed by law, which means that he would hold the post for the next 10 years.

I am not trying to say that he is too old for such a position, in fact, he is one of the "younger" candidates among the seven that have already publicly revealed an interest in running. But why this sudden change of attitude?

Recently, I remember Ho, in his role as president of the AL, skipping a series of legislative sessions late last year in which important discussions were occurring, including some related to the government's policy address for this year. At the time the media was told by the AL staff, "the president was sick."

Of course everyone is entitled to be sick and to recover properly and illness is totally independent of age, but still, for several weeks last year and this year the president missed multiple plenary meetings due to being sick.

An outsider would look at this series of events as though he is almost being forced to run for CE without really wanting to do so. It is almost like someone is pushing Ho against his will. That is where I think we might have a problem as Macau cannot afford to have someone as a CE, who is in the post against his will, for 10, or even five, years.

Some people say that to run for such a position, first you need to have a "passion" for it. The Japanese have a word to define this "reason of being": "Ikigai." It is a complex concept that can be translated roughly as "what you live for" or in a more simplistic way, "what pulls you out of bed in the morning." According to Japanese beliefs, each person's "Ikigai" is unique and applies to their lives, values and beliefs by reflecting the inner self of a person, creating a mental state in which the person feels at ease with whatever they are doing.

I am not sure about what Ho's Ikigai is but I know that the example of his reactions as president of AL such as showing difficulties to manage his anger on several occasions in addition to making some "paternalistic" remarks, namely to lawmaker Sulu Sou. I would say that at the very least, the oft-criticized "too smooth" style of Chui Sai On is about to change.

The work of famed American architect Frank Lloyd Wright was recognized Sunday as eight of his buildings, including the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York City, Los Angeles' Hollyhock House and the Unity Temple in suburban Chicago, were added to the UNESCO World Heritage list.

"Each of these buildings offers innovative solutions to the needs for housing, worship, work or leisure," read a statement from the World Heritage Committee. "Wright's work from this period had a strong impact on the development of modern architecture in Europe."

The group noted Wright's use of "organic architecture," including an open plan, with blurred boundaries between exterior and interior, and the "unprecedented use" of steel and concrete. The Wright buildings are the 24th U.S. site on the list.

The committee met Sunday in Baku, Azerbaijan, and also added to the list Italy's hills of Conegliano and Valdobbiadene, which is home to the world-famous sparkling wine Prosecco.

More than 1,000 sites in 167 countries are recognized by the United Nations' cultural organization. They can be examples of outstanding natural beauty or man-made buildings.

**BEFORE MOON LANDING,
 ASTRONAUTS LEARNED
 GEOLOGY IN ARIZONA**



This undated photo shows Apollo 15 astronauts driving a lunar rover prototype

BEFORE Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin knew they would be the first to walk on the moon, they took crash courses in geology at the Grand Canyon and a nearby impact crater that is the most well-preserved on Earth.

Northern Arizona has had deep ties to the Apollo missions: Every moon-walking astronaut trained here, and a crater on the moon was even named in honor of the city of Flagstaff.

"It's a really interesting and unique part of our history, and it's really cool to think that this relatively small town in northern Arizona played such a big role in the Apollo missions," said Benjamin Carver, a public lands historian at Northern Arizona University.

Today, astronaut candidates still train in and around Flagstaff, which is among many cities celebrating the 50th anniversary of the first moon landing on July 20, 1969.

They walk in the same volcanic cinder fields where the U.S. Geological Survey intentionally blasted hundreds of craters from the ground to replicate the lunar surface, testing rovers and geology tools.

Scientists used early photos of the moon taken from orbit and re-created the Sea of Tranquility with "remarkable accuracy" before Apollo 11 landed there in 1969, the Geological Survey said.

Arizona has deep ties to the Apollo missions: every moon-walking astronaut trained here

Astronauts studied moon mapping at Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff where Pluto was discovered and peered at their eventual destination through telescopes at various northern Arizona sites.

The region's role in moon missions is credited to former Geological Survey scientist Gene Shoemaker, who moved the agency's astrogeology branch to Flagstaff in 1963. It wasn't long before Shoemaker guided Armstrong and Aldrin on hikes at Meteor Crater as he pushed to ensure NASA would include geology in lunar exploration.

A story passed down by geologists at the crater says Aldrin ripped his spa-

cesuit on jagged limestone rocks that are part of the aptly named "tear-pants formation," forcing a redesign, head tour guide Jeff Beal said.

Armstrong and Aldrin also hiked the Grand Canyon. A historical photo shows Armstrong carrying a rock hammer, a hand lens and a backpack for rock samples.

Lauren Edgar, a research geologist at the Astrogeology Science Center, is working with the 2017 class of astronaut candidates who will be in Flagstaff later this year for field training.

"It will be pretty inspiring for them. It's inspiring for us being involved in this, but knowing you're walking in the boot steps of these previous astronauts here in Flagstaff and, hopefully, some day on another body," she said.

Flagstaff is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the first moon landing with tours, exhibits, talks and moon-themed food and art. Visitors can walk through gaps in a barbed-wire fence and feel their feet sink into the volcanic cinders, although not as deep as the astronauts' feet on the moon. **MDT/AP**



Mexico Police, soldiers and National Guard are raiding hotels, buses and trains to round up migrants, creating scenes of weeping Central American mothers piled into police vans along with their children and overflowing detention centers with deplorable conditions.



Greece Conservative party leader Kyriakos Mitsotakis was sworn in as Greece's new prime minister yesterday, a day after his resounding win over left-wing Alexis Tsipras, who led the country through the tumultuous final years of its international bailouts.

Germany The radical and painful restructuring of Germany's Deutsche Bank, which is cutting 18,000 jobs, is the end of a long, failed attempt to compete with the global investment banking giants that left it overextended.



USA Eleven years after letting Jeffrey Epstein off lightly with a once-secret plea bargain, federal prosecutors took another run at putting the billionaire financier behind bars on sex charges, accusing him yesterday of abusing dozens of underage girls as young as 14.



USA Shaken residents are cleaning up from two of the biggest earthquakes to rattle California in decades as scientists warn that both should serve as a wake-up call to be ready when the long-dreaded "Big One" strikes.