



THE FRENCH CONSUL MARKED THE 250TH BIRTHDAY OF NAPOLEON BONAPARTE DURING A BASTILLE DAY CELEBRATION AT THE PARISIAN MACAO

LEGISLATIVE REPLACEMENT FOR HO IAT SENG TO BE DECIDED NOVEMBER

THE NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL COMMISSION IS URGING MORE COOPERATION BETWEEN HK AND MACAU IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TRAFFICKING

China Economic growth sank to its lowest level in at least 26 years in the quarter ending in June, adding to pressure on Chinese leaders as they fight a tariff war with Washington.

China has called on all parties to remain committed to the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, saying the U.S. should respect the interests of others and abandon its maximum-pressure approach.

Indonesia A strong earthquake in eastern Indonesia killed two people and damaged at least dozens of homes, a disaster official said yesterday, as the government declared a seven-day emergency response period.



India The space organization is examining the technical snag that led to the aborting of the launch yesterday of a spacecraft intended to land on the far side of the moon, an official said.

Afghanistan Official says at least nine people have been killed when the truck they were riding in hit a roadside bomb in southern Kandahar province.

Pakistan says at least 22 people are missing and feared dead after heavy rains triggered flash floods in Pakistani-controlled Kashmir.

Syria A local official in Syria's Raqqa says workers have so far unearthed 313 bodies from a mass grave discovered last month near the northern city.

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MAINLANDERS SEE MACAU DRIVING LICENSE AS BRIDGE TO BENEFITS ABROAD

CARRIE LAM UNDER FIRE AS BEIJING REPORTEDLY REJECTS RESIGNATION OFFER

RENATO MARQUES



CRIME

MAINLANDER SCAMMED OUT OF 210,000 YUAN BY HER FRIEND

JULIE ZHU

SCAMS, fraud and theft remain among the most common types of reported crime, according to the latest cases shared by the Public Security Police (PSP), racking up millions worth of patacas in some cases. Here are some of the notable cases reported during yesterday's press conference:

NON-LOCAL SCAMMED BY FRIEND OF 6 YEARS

A mainland woman has lost RMB210,000 to a "trust test" scam perpetrated by her male Macau-based friend, the PSP revealed yesterday.

The woman, in her 30s, is a non-local worker employed by a local casino. The suspect in the case had been friends with the victim for six years.

In October 2018, the suspect contacted the victim for a seemingly random chat. One day during the following November, the suspect asked the victim for permission to borrow a total of MOP25,000, having claimed that there had been a car accident involving one of his family members, and that he needed the money urgently.

Approximately ten days later, the suspect paid the money back to the

victim. On the November 21, the suspect asked his mainland friend to lend him a total of RMB210,000, this time claiming that he needed the money urgently for his business operations in mainland China.

The victim lent the money through an e-payment.

A couple of days later, the suspect sent five photos to the victim, each showing a bank transfer receipt.

However, only in March 2019, when the victim went to the bank to check her bank transfer history did she realize that none of the photo proofs sent by the suspect were real and that the photos had all been forged.

On July 12, following a request from the police, the suspect visited the police department to undergo an investigation, during which the suspect admitted he had defrauded the victim and that he had lost all the money to gambling. He also admitted that previous borrowings and repayments were part of a ploy to gain his friend's trust.

The Judiciary Police are charging the man for fraud and forging a document.

LARGE SUM LOST TO ONLINE FRIEND

A local woman in her 30s has claimed to have lost around MOP630,000 to an American ac-

quaintance whom she got to know through an online social network and talked to for just four days.

On the July 3, the local woman, who has been identified as a real estate agent, became acquainted with an American man who claimed to be a security manager in the United States.

Five days after she met her online friend, the friend told her that he was sending her a package of gifts to Macau. He added that there were several luxury hand bags and some digital products included, which were listed on a receipt.

However, in order for the victim to receive those gifts, she needed to pay the shipping company USD2,500.

The victim later received messages from someone claiming to be an employee of the shipping company on her chatting app. The supposed employee told the victim that there was a package for her, but that she needed to pay USD2,500 first.

As requested, the victim transferred MOP19,000 to a bank account provided by the "shipping employee". However, not only did she not get her package, but she was also told by the same "shipping employee" that she needed to pay more because a large amount of cash had been found inside her package.

Following the instructions of the "shipping employee", the victim visited several different banks to transfer an additional HKD615,000.

Only on July 12, after being alerted by a friend who suspected fraud, did the victim report the incident to the police.

COUPLE LENT HKD30M TO ACQUAINTANCE

A local couple has been defrauded of HKD30 million by an acquaintance.

The suspect is a 48-year-old local man, surnamed Lau, who claimed to be a businessman. In 2014, the couple lent Lau a total of HKD30 million for him to deal with a supposed emergency.

At the beginning of 2019, Lau paid the victims back with several cheques. However, when the couple went to bank to withdraw the money, the bank informed the couple that the cheques could not be cashed out due to a cash shortage.

The suspect admitted to the fraud to the police department.

HK RESIDENTS ARRESTED FOR DRUGS

An 18-year-old Hong Kong boy and a 16-year-old Hong Kong girl have been referred to the prosecution authority after they

were found to have been involved in drug-related crimes.

Both have been charged with consuming drugs (cocaine). The boy was indicted on another charge for his drug-dealing behavior.

The boy said that he was paid more than HKD3,000 a day to sell drugs in Macau. On Saturday night, the police caught the boy at Rua de Malaca with 20 small packages of cocaine (7.35 grams in total) in his pocket.

The girl, who is the boy's girlfriend, was discovered in the hotel room where they were staying, following the boy's detention by the police. Both tested positive for drugs.

TWO DEALERS CAUGHT STEALING FROM CASINOS

Two dealers have been caught stealing from their places of employment, which are casinos.

In one of the cases, a 49-year-old local woman stole HKD120,000 from her gaming table while on duty.

In another case, a local man in his 30s stole a total of HKD165,000 from his employing casino. In this case, the man under question had been colluding with two men, one of whom is a local and the other of whom remains unidentified, on his gaming table.

The male dealer colluded with the other two men in different months of this year. He kept distributing money to his partners, who pretended to be gamblers at his table.

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TIE	210	1-0	320	0-0	415	1-0	645
CROATIA	365	2-0	510	1-1	415	2-0	1860
		2-1	710	2-2	865	2-1	1355
1 ST GOAL SCORER		HALF TIME / FULL TIME					
FRANCE		FRANCE		CROATIA			
Griezmann	425	France/France	225	France/Draw	1475	France/Croatia	4390
Mbappe	535	Draw/France	330	Draw/Croatia	790	Draw/Draw	
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Pogba	1215						
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GAMING

Macau Slot says illegal sports betting is hurting the sector

RENATO MARQUES

THE operation of unlicensed betting companies in Macau is hurting the development of the sports betting sector, says local operator Macau Lottery Co., Ltd. (Macau Slot). A spokesperson of the only local licensed operator in the field said that “the existence of illegal sports betting [is affecting] the current development of the sports betting [business],” among other inhibitions that prevent it from taking off.

The same spokesperson added that the business is also being affected by other factors, such as the “external economy.”

Sports betting is kicking off in the U.S. after the Supreme Court last year ended Nevada’s monopoly on legal sportsbooks.

Since then sports betting has opened in eight more states. Another seven states plus the District of Columbia have legalized the practice but have not yet opened sportsbooks yet.

Questioned as to the potential of such a market to develop in Macau, the Macau Slot spokesman said that “the sports betting market has growth potential [but a] more diverse range of services is required in order to stimulate such market growth.”

Macau Slot downplayed the possibility of the domestic growth of football in China being

able to be a stimulating factor. “Football development in China will not be the main factor stimulating market growth. The market growth depends mainly on a variety of sports betting types.”

“Our company is the only legal operator offering sports betting in football and basketball right now, but there are many other sports betting types” that could be added to the roster, the spokesperson suggested.

It has been a long-held wish of the operator to be able to diversify more and offer a wider range of sports betting. The step would create a “breakthrough in the company performance,” said the representative.

Last month, the company reported profits of more than MOP224 million, up 22.1% compared to last year. The company attributed the profit surge to the introduction of more diverse types of betting, including betting on the number of corner kicks and bets relating to first-half results.

It plans to invest in technology infrastructure upgrades and sports-related news services in the near future.

Although Macau Slot is the only registered company with a license to operate in the market, people in Macau have ways to access, both directly and indirectly, other sports betting platforms operating in other jurisdictions.

Lower charges keep tourist prices stable

IN the second quarter of this year, the tourist price index (TPI) has held mostly stable, registering only a slight drop of 1.4% year-on-year, information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) showed.

According to the survey conducted by DSEC, the slight decrease was mainly due to the lower charges registered during the period for hotel accommodation, as well as the falling prices of handbags and women’s clothing. Meanwhile, local food products and the charges for restaurant services climbed, offsetting part of the decrease registered in the other segments.

According to DSEC, the categories that registered the most significant decreases were accommodation (-8.4%) and clothing and footwear (-3%), while food, alcoholic beverages

and tobacco increased by 2.8% and entertainment and cultural activities grew 2.7%.

When compared with the first quarter of this year, the TPI dropped by 7.2%, led by the index of accommodation, which plunged by some 31.6% quarter-to-quarter, partly due to the effect of the Chinese Lunar New Year.

The impact of the fall on hotel prices was not overly significant due to the new arrival of summer clothing, which drove up the price index of clothing and footwear by 6.4%.

TPI reflects the price change of goods and services mostly purchased by visitors and is divided into sections of goods and services according to the consumption pattern of visitors. **RM**

MACAO SMART HOTEL AWARDS APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

ORGANIZED by the Macao Post and Telecommunications Bureau in collaboration with the Macao Government Tourism Office and the Macao Productivity and Technology Transfer Center, the 2019 Macao Smart Hotel Awards is now open for applications.

The contest aims to award hotels that have enhanced their business efficiency and optimized customer experiences through comprehensive communication networks and advanced electronic professional solutions. The award of prizes for such development will, according to the organizers,

contribute to raising the importance and participation of the hotel industry in the development of intellectualization, promoting intelligent management and meeting customer needs, contributing in this way to the development of Macau as a World Tourism and Leisure Center.

The event includes several awards, namely in the areas of Network and Communications Service, Intelligent Customer Experience and Application of Creative Technologies. Applications may be submitted from now until August 9. **RM**

21 ROADWORK PROJECTS PLANNED FOR SUMMER

During the summer vacation, 21 roadwork projects will be carried out on main streets across town, the Transport Bureau (DSAT) announced yesterday. Nine projects will begin this month, with their estimated construction periods ranging between 14 to 90 days. Four projects will cross into next year, according to the DSAT. One of the works consists of the exclusive bus lane project at Avenida do Coronel Mesquita with part of its pavement work to be conducted at night. This project in particular will be completed before the start of the new academic year.

EDUCATION SUBSIDIES TO INCREASE FOR 2019/2020 YEAR

Government subsidies for private and public education will be increased in the 2019/2020 school year, according to a dispatch published in the Official Gazette. The government increased its subsidies for students attending private schools that are not part of the free education network. It raised the subsidies for kindergarten pupils, primary school pupils and secondary school students to 20,300 patacas, 22,490 patacas, and 24,810 patacas per head, respectively, which represents an increase of 6%, 5.5% and 4.2% respectively, compared to the previous year. The subsidies for public education will also increase.

IMPERIAL HOTEL LAND PLAN OPPOSED BY NEIGHBORS

A contingent of the property owners of the Edificio Chun Hung Garden have opposed the government proposal for the land plot of the former Beijing Imperial Palace Hotel. The Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) proposed that future buildings on the land be limited to a maximum height of 70 meters and 140 meters on two parts of the land. In the company of lawmakers Ella Lei and Leong Sun Lok, approximately 50 owners protested against the proposal. They worry that high-rise buildings will have a negative impact upon the ventilation, sunlight and light pollution in their community. The complainants also worry that a potential casino project will bring more tourists to the community and thus cause more problems to transportation within the area.



MAINLANDERS WANT MACAU LICENSE RECOGNITION FOR DRIVING BENEFITS ABROAD

JULIE ZHU

LOCAL people are worried that mainland residents will cause more car accidents in Macau once the mutual driving license recognition between mainland China and the SAR comes into effect.

The fears are predicated on an assumption that mainland residents will choose to drive more in Macau once the driving license recognition system is adopted. However, that may not be the case. Mainlanders might not have a strong interest in driving around the city, but instead a different purpose in mind.

The mutual driving license recognition between mainland China and Macau, which was proposed by the local government in 2017, has been put on hold, due to the controversy it generated within the local community.

Since its announcement, many people from the local communi-

ty opposed the proposal, arguing that once it came into effect, it would eventually result in more mainlanders driving in Macau, more vehicles in the streets and more accidents.

Interviewed by the Times, a mainland resident and University of Macau student, surnamed Xie, who has been living in Macau for seven years, provided some insight into mainland residents' thoughts when obtaining a driving license in Macau, the acquisition of which does not necessarily imply an intention of driving in the city. Xie obtained his driving license in Macau in 2018 and has no intention of actually driving in either special administrative region.

"If I had come here as a tourist, I would not drive in Macau," said Xie, explaining that "this place is rather small, and it is troublesome

to find a parking space. The same applies to Hong Kong."

Xie said he applied for a driving license in Macau partly because it was more convenient for him to take courses and the examination in Macau instead of frequently visiting Zhuhai to learn how to drive.

A Macau license offers convenience to mainland residents who wish to drive further abroad

But another reason was because holding a Macau license offers "convenience" to mainland residents who wish to drive in places other than Macau. Currently, Chinese citizens cannot obtain international driving permits using licenses registered from the mainland.

A Macau driving license holder

can simply submit a document of their ID and Macau driving license, and the holder can acquire an international driving license from the Transport Bureau.

Government representatives in the Macau SAR, including Secretary for Public Works and Transport Raimundo Arrais do Rosário, and Transport Bureau Director Lam Hin San, said previously that the recognition had been designed out of consideration of residents who wanted to go to mainland China conveniently.

The two officials remarked that mainland residents can already obtain a Macau driving license without taking an exam in Macau if they possess a driving license issued by Hong Kong.

However, if Macau were to accept mainland driving licenses, it will be more convenient for mainland residents - particularly those

from the nine Greater Bay Area mainland cities - to exchange their permits for a more internationally-recognized license.

Currently, European countries such as Germany and Belgium do not allow mainland driving licenses to be used in their territories unless the intended mainland drivers bring a notarized translation of their mainland driving license.

Some countries, such as the U.K., allow people with mainland driving licenses to drive within the first 12 months in the case of certain types of vehicles. Meanwhile, Portugal, Greece and many other European states disapprove of mainland driving licenses altogether.

In English-speaking countries, different laws and regulations are applied to mainland driving licenses, with the majority of these countries requiring an authorized translation of the document. Such requirements are not applied to Macau driving license holders.

In March, statistics provided by Hong Kong's Secretary for Transport and Housing, Frank Chan Fan, showed that, in 2018 nearly 38,000 applications for Hong Kong full driving licenses were made using a mainland driving license.

During the same period, some 7,700 applicants were issued an international driving permit (IDP) by way of holding a Hong Kong driving license issued directly through a mainland driving license.

Xie said that the ease of driving in other parts of the world was the number one reason for him to get a driving license in Macau. "With my Macau driving license, I don't need to take an exam if I wish to get an international driving license," said the student.

"I didn't have a driving license back when I first came to Macau, neither from the mainland nor Macau," said a second mainland resident, surnamed Yu, who has been living in Macau since 2010. "I was told that a Macau driving license could easily help me get a mainland one."

"There are many other reasons, such as the fact that a Macau driving license can be used to obtain an international driving license," added Yu.

TEN taxi groups say they will send a formal proposal to the local government once a consensus on raising fares has been reached.

Previously, the Taxi Driver Union proposed a 15% increase in the fares, along with an additional MOP15 charge during the Chinese New Year Holiday.

According to the taxi

Taxi groups to send fare rise proposal to gov't

group Association of Traffic and Transport Traders, no consensus has been reached yet despite the number of suggestions the taxi associations raised with the local government.

Deputy director of the association Leng Sai Vai

said that it is challenging to equally balance the "needs of the taxi industry, comments of the residents and the concerns of the government."

Leng argued that the proposed increase is not only for the improvement of taxi

services, but is due to the increasing cost of taxi operations.

"We hope to submit the proposal to the government [this] week, or likely next month," Leng told the press.

"The taxi fee has not in-

creased for two years. Some taxi drivers complained that they cannot earn the middle income nowadays. If we raise the taxi fee, it could encourage their willingness to comply with the taxi regulations and [it could also see] reduced infractions,"

the deputy director said.

Meanwhile, the Taxi Driver Union has previously expressed their hope of having their proposal approved before the Chinese Lunar New Year, adding that the increase is reasonable. **LV**

Napoleon the center of Bastille Day celebration this year

STAFF REPORTER

THE Consul-General of France in Hong Kong and Macau, Alexandre Giorgini, made a dedicated reference to Napoleon Bonaparte in his speech at an event held yesterday to celebrate the country's national day.

The French National Day (commonly referred to as Bastille Day) in Macau was celebrated yesterday at The Parisian Macao integrated resort. The Consulate General of France in Hong Kong and Macau, the France-Macau Chamber of Commerce, the Alliance Française de Macau (AF) and the resort organized a cocktail reception and dinner.

The consul started his speech by expressing his appreciation to all guests of honor and supporting entities for realizing the event. He also expressed his adoration of the replica of the famous Eiffel Tower, a Parisian icon which stands by the hotel's porte cochere.



Consul General Alexandre Giorgini

Giorgini further introduced that this year marks the 250th anniversary of Napoleon's birth. Making use of the occasion, he invited guests at the cocktail reception to visit France, particularly the emperor's residences near Paris and the castles of Fontainebleau and Malmaison.

Artworks owned by Napoleon, as well as his iconic hat, the bicorne, were on display last night as part of the celebration.

In an interview with the Times, Giorgini disclosed that he is regularly in Macau for both work and leisure. He thought that Macau is not only a city of tourism, but also a cultural one.

In terms of cultural collaboration between China, France and Macau SAR, the consul said, "Macau received more than 35 million visitors last year; there is a huge opportunity for us to promote our culture to Macau and

people from other parts of the world. We have a lot to do in the promotion of culture, food and history."

Moving ahead, he noted that his country is the third biggest supplier of goods to Macau. Last year, France exported about one-third more in goods to Macau than in the previous year. The main imports from France include luxury items as well as food and beverage products.

However, "bringing the best of France to Macau" still remains a challenge.

"French restaurants in Macau are exceptional, making it challenging for my team to attract companies in France to export their goods to Macau," admitted Giorgini.

Three of the best French chefs in the world, namely Alain Ducasse, Pierre Hermé and the late Joël Robuchon have or operate dining business in Macau. The latter has obtained the Michelin Guide's prominent 3-star award for 11 straight years.

LEGISLATURE BY-ELECTION TO BE HELD NOV 24

THE government announced yesterday that a Legislative Assembly (AL) by-election is to be held on November 24 this year.

Chief Executive Chui Sai On has appointed an Electoral Affairs Commission to supervise the election. It consists of six members: Judge Tong Hio Fong of the Court of Second Instance, Prosecutor Lai U Hou, President of the Municipal Affairs Bureau José Maria da Fonseca Tavares, Director Kou Peng Kuan of the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau, Director Iong Kong Leong of the Financial Services Bureau and Victor Chan Chi Ping of the Government Information Bureau.

The budget for the election campaign for each candidate is set to about MOP3.55 million.

According to the law, the vacancy of an elected lawmaker who has departed from their position should be filled within 180 days of the official departure date.

This by-election became necessary as former president Ho Iat Seng, who was also an indirectly elected lawmaker, resigned from his positions on July 5, so as to prepare for the Chief Executive election.

As a result, a vacancy exists in the legislature. Ho was elected to the AL representing the business sector.

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DRUG CONTROL COMMISSION CALLS FOR INCREASED COLLABORATION BETWEEN SARs

LYNZY VALLES

THE National Drug Control Commission of China has called on both Macau and Hong Kong to increase cooperation between their regions to strengthen the fight against drug trafficking and to combat the use of teenagers in the illegal trade. This comes after two Hong Kong teenagers were caught in Macau with drugs worth about HKD54,000 and more than HKD20,000 respectively last week.

These residents had been selling drugs in bars and nightclubs in the NAPE area.

According to the deputy director of National Drug Control Commission of China, Andy Tsang, such cases are not a new phenomenon and require serious attention.

Tsang was speaking on the sidelines of his visit at the Association of Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers of Macau (ARTM) at Ká-Hó Treatment Center yesterday.

He has been leading a delegation to the region to conduct discussions on drug abuse preven-



Andy Tsang visits the Ká-Hó Treatment Center

tion, drug rehabilitation and injury reduction for the development of drug control.

Speaking to the press, Tsang, who is a former Commissioner of the Hong Kong Police Department, said he is assured that Macau's Hong Kong counterparts are already tracking down the mastermind of the trade who is

using teenagers.

"The drug market is flooded with supply. [...] Unless we're successful in reducing demand, the criminals will be there to exploit the situation and take advantage of it. Using teenage couriers is certainly something that they were trying," said Tsang.

"Tracking is one thing, and [pro-

secuting] is another. At the moment, there is no extradition or rendition agreement between Macau and Hong Kong, so what we do is to administrate it under the current arrangement," the official added.

Tsang recalled that when the United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances was first drafted, drug-taking was seen as a criminal behavior and therefore one requiring sanctions.

Yet, things have changed for such cases as drug consumption, according to Tsang, which is now seen as a health problem or a disease.

Questioned as to whether a treatment program should soon replace jail sentences, Tsang said, "it is kind of a disease that requires treatment and that is why we are moving from a standardized drug program to a human needs-based program," the official explained, adding that such treatment is available in the region through the ARTM.

"In mainland China, we are actually encouraging consideration

of this too - for lesser cases - to go for community based treatment instead of jail sentences but there's always a risk of addiction that responsible governments need to attend to," he said.

Commenting on the city's available treatments for people undergoing drug rehabilitation, Tsang said that ARTM had started its program by focusing on the psychological and physiological needs of the individuals.

"I was particularly pleased to know that they went further than that and had a more or less customized arrangement for individuals. [...] They went beyond this very humanity-based sort of treatment," said Tsang.

He also revealed that delegations from the mainland are lining up to visit ARTM to exchange ideas and practices relating to drug treatment rehabilitation.

Tsang has been formally nominated by the central government to compete for the position of executive director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and general director of the United Nations Office in Vienna.

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AP PHOTO



Tourists watch as protesters march in an area popular with Chinese tourists for its pharmacies and cosmetic shops

Dozens arrested as mass HK rally keeps heat on Carrie Lam

HONG Kong police arrested more than 40 people after attempts to clear the remnants of a mass anti-government march resulted in dramatic clashes with demonstrators inside a suburban shopping mall, piling more pressure on embattled leader Carrie Lam.

Scuffles broke out in New Town Plaza as police moved to clear stragglers from a rally earlier Sunday in Sha Tin, a popular destination for locals and visitors from China and home to one of the city's horse racing tracks. Rally organizers said 110,000 people had turned out to protest the city's chief executive and her controversial bid to allow extraditions to the mainland, while police estimated the crowd at 28,000.

The unrest came as the Financial Times reported that Lam had offered to resign in recent weeks, only to be refused by authorities in China, citing unidentified people familiar with the matter. Beijing insisted that she remain in office to fix "the mess she created," according to one person.

Lam yesterday vowed she would continue in her position as Hong Kong's leader.

"The chief executive's tenure is five years. Although I face a lot of difficulties, I have repeatedly said publicly that I still have the

responsibility and enthusiasm to continue my work during my tenure," she told reporters at a hospital after visiting officers injured in the clashes.

Crowds of Hong Kong protesters have turned out in unprecedented sizes every week since mid-June. In recent days their ire has focused on China, which has ruled the former British colony since 1997. Thousands of demonstrators last Sunday walked through the Tsim Sha Tsui area popular with mainland tourists toward the city's new high-speed rail station to China.

Beijing has continued to back Lam publicly. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said yesterday that he hadn't heard anything about the FT's report and that the central government "firmly supports" her leadership.

Sunday's protesters threw objects including umbrellas, water bottles and other objects at police, some from the floors above as officers tried to disperse the crowd, Radio Television Hong Kong reported.

Lam yesterday referred to those who attacked police as "rioters," a term that has angered protesters because it carries certain legal connotations. Security chief John Lee called the incidents an escalation of violence and said the demonstrators who attacked police

were "well organized."

Ten officers were injured, including at least one who lost a finger, in fights between riot police and umbrella-wielding protesters Sunday evening, Police Commissioner Stephen Lo said in a 2:30 a.m. briefing yesterday. One protester suspected of biting off part of an officer's finger was among those arrested, he said.

Twenty-two demonstrators were also injured at the mall, RTHK reported, citing the city's hospital authority. Three were in serious condition, it said. The mall is owned by Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd.

Opposition lawmaker Alvin Yeung held a late-night media briefing in the mall, saying the police hadn't let protesters leave safely. The mere presence of the riot officers could have triggered demonstrators' emotions and made them nervous, he said.

"If we are aware of illegal behavior and if we know those who breached the law are in the mall, then don't we have a responsibility to follow inside to make arrests?" Commissioner Lo said in response to a question.

Lam last week declared that the original cause of the protests - the extradition bill - was "dead." But she stopped short of officially withdrawing it, leaving open the potential for authorities to revive it with 12 days' notice and provi-

ding new momentum for protesters.

Further protests are being planned in neighborhoods across the city by demonstrators organizing themselves online and vowing to spread the word until Lam responds to their demands.

On Saturday, scuffles also broke out between police and demonstrators after a rally against parallel traders ended in Sheung Shui, near the China border. More than 30,000 people took part in the largely peaceful march, according to North District Parallel Imports Concern Group convenor Ronald Leung. Police estimated the turnout at 4,000.

The Civil Human Rights Front, a leading protest organizer, has called for a July 21 rally in Admiralty, ground zero for previous gatherings that brought out historic crowds. Its major demand will be an independent probe into what it calls excessive use of force by police in dispersing previous demonstrations with weapons including tear gas, batons and rubber bullets.

Lam needs to get a grasp on protesters' grievances and respond to their appeals, the group said yesterday.

"Otherwise, this campaign will eventually cause irreparable deaths due to the ongoing conflict between the police and the people," it said. **BLOOMBERG**

SHENZHEN

MARINE LIFE EXHIBITION OPENS BASED ON ANCIENT BOOK

An exhibition named "Marine Life in the Forbidden City" opened on Friday in Shenzhen. The exhibits are based on the Beijing Palace Museum's antique - the "HAI CUO TU", a Qing dynasty (1644-1911) picture catalog containing more than 300 species of sea animals created by painter Nie Huang. Covering an area of 1,400 square meters, the exhibition is composed of more than 30 exhibits including animations, interactive games and immersive photo-taking venues. Held at the Shenzhen Sea World Culture and Arts Center, the exhibition is jointly sponsored by the Beijing Palace Museum and China Merchants Cultural Industry (Shenzhen) Co., Ltd. of China Merchants Group. The exhibition will last until October 8.

GUANGZHOU

FRENCH FILM PANORAMA HELD DURING CHINA TOUR

The 16th French Film Panorama is being held in Guangzhou, provincial capital of Guangdong, as part of its annual China tour, reports the China Culture Daily. The 15-day screening that started on July 5 has brought local residents nine recently-released French films including the documentary "Varda by Agnes," comedy "Sink or Swim", and "By the Grace of God," which has just claimed a Silver Bear in this year's Berlin Film Festival, according to the Beijing-based newspaper. The films are screening in French with Chinese subtitles until July 21. Starting in 2004, the panorama is jointly held by UniFrance and the French Embassy in China to promote cultural exchanges between the two countries.

DONGGUAN

CHINESE SMARTPHONE MAKER STARTS ON NEW R&D CENTER

Chinese smartphone maker OPPO broke ground with its new research and development (R&D) center in southern Chinese city of Dongguan last week. With a total investment of 2.2 billion yuan (about USD 324 million), the center will focus on developing and testing smartphones and their accessories. It is expected to be put into operation in 2024. "After the center is operational, it will take up the strategic role of leading OPPO's technological development," said Zhu Gaoling, executive president of OPPO. In the first quarter this year, OPPO, together with another Chinese brand Vivo, co-ranked fifth in the global smartphone market share, after Samsung, Huawei, Apple and Xiaomi, according to research firm IDC.

SHENZHEN

SUBWAY SEES OVER
20 MILLION QR CODE USERS

More than half of subway passengers in Shenzhen are using phones and scanning to enter the transportation system, tech firm Tencent said. The total number of QR code payment users now exceeds 20 million, according to the company. Moreover, some 54 percent of the 20 million users are under the age of 30. Code scanning has become the preferred payment method for tourists visiting the city, who account for 45 percent of the total number of users. The subway QR code is a "take-and-pay"-style mini program developed by Tencent on its WeChat platform. So far, the mini program has been activated in seven cities in the Greater Bay Area, with full coverage in the metro networks of Shenzhen and Guangzhou.

JIANGMEN

CUSTOMS SEIZE 230 TONNES
OF FROZEN FOOD

Customs in Jiangmen have busted a smuggling case, seizing about 230 tonnes of frozen food and arresting three suspects, according to the General Administration of Customs. The smuggled frozen food, including chicken feet, chicken wings and pig intestines, was found in a boat. Some of the food had decayed because it was not stored in freezers in transportation. The authorities said that the case is under further investigation. Last month customs authorities in Guangxi Province busted a frozen food and cigarette smuggling case, catching 24 suspects. The gang allegedly smuggled over 3,000 tonnes of frozen food and 2,000 packs of cigarettes, with a total worth of about 120 million yuan (USD17 million).

HKD SET FOR LONGEST FALLING STREAK SINCE MARCH 2018

TIAN CHEN

The Hong Kong dollar weakened for a seventh session, its longest run of declines since March 2018, as the shelving of a large initial public offering and waning seasonal tightness helped loosen liquidity conditions.

The currency dropped again yesterday, extending a slide from its two-year high to around 0.6%. It stood at HKD7.8284 per greenback as of 5:19 p.m. local time, the weakest since June 19. Hong Kong dollar interbank lending rates, known as Hibor, continued to decline too: the overnight and one-month rates both fell for a seventh day and hit their lowest since May.

Liquidity is freeing up after a cash crunch sent interbank borrowing costs to the highest in more than a decade, helped by Anheuser-Busch InBev NV deciding to suspend an initial public offering of its Asia Pacific unit in Hong Kong. Funds had been locked up ahead of what was slated to be the year's

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largest IPO. Banks are also more willing to lend following end-June regulatory checks, while companies have already paid out a large chunk of dividends.

"Liquidity became ample again as cash that was previously locked up for the IPO got released back into the market," said Carie Li, an economist at OCBC Wing Hang Bank Ltd. "The currency will remain in the weak half

its trading range, but it won't touch HKD7.85 again as traders won't short it aggressively amid more volatile local funding costs."

There's no need for the public to be concerned with occasional volatility, and the liquidity level is stable, according to Howard Lee, deputy chief executive of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority.

Shorting the city's dollars was a winning strategy for years as

investors borrowed the currency cheaply to invest in higher-yielding American assets. The trade pushed the Hong Kong dollar to the weak end of its trading band repeatedly since 2018, forcing the de facto central bank to intervene to defend its exchange-rate peg versus the greenback. This cut the interbank liquidity pool by half over the past year, making borrowing costs more volatile.

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Disneyland makes surveillance palatable – and profitable

AUSTIN CARR

WE'RE in the heat of the summer blockbuster season, when Walt Disney Co. is taking over theaters with releases like Toy Story 4 and live-action versions of Aladdin and Lion King. There's another aspect of the season Disney is effectively capturing: summer vacations—and reams of data on the things you do inside its amusement parks.

With the recent opening of the Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge theme park at California's Disneyland, the company continues to mine its portfolio of franchises and boost its \$20 billion resorts business. Last week, Disney announced the opening of another extension at Disney World in Orlando, Florida, a follow up to its massive Avatar annex. And next on the schedule is a slate of Marvel comics-themed attractions from Hong Kong to Paris.

As families float through It's a Small World, run from Stormtroopers or snap a picture with Buzz Lightyear, Disney is watching their every move. It's remarkable how much data Disney can collect in the process—and how willing people are to authorize such behavior.

At a time when Facebook Inc., Google and myriad other technology companies are getting hammered over consumer privacy issues, Disney is running the happiest police state on earth.

To keep the parks running with extreme efficiency and learn ever-more about guests, Disney monitors usage of its smartphone apps and electronic wrist-worn MagicBand. The resulting data could

BLOOMBERG



include the rides families frequent, the characters kids and parents are most drawn to and the television and film merchandise into which their dollars are funneled.

It wasn't always this way, of course. Just a decade ago, Disney relied on paper tickets and old-school turnstiles, and, for the most part, didn't know that much more about resort customers than those who came to the park's opening 64 years ago this week.

Finally recognizing the growth of social media and mobile phones in the late aughts, the company embarked on a \$1 billion digital transformation of Disney World

with the MagicBand, a gizmo that can hold your place in line, make payments and even unlock a hotel room door.

This journey has been fraught at times—and not just because Disney overspent on a wearable device that was quickly displaced by phones.

In 2013, in the early days of the MagicBand, Disney Chief Executive Officer Bob Iger was at loggerheads with Congressman Ed Markey of Massachusetts—the privacy advocate who recently introduced an internet bill of rights—over how the system would monitor children's whereabouts

and interests within Disney World. (In a letter that presaged the current privacy debate, Iger argued the program was entirely opt-in and that location data was only collected in aggregate. Iger called Markey's privacy concerns "ludicrous and utterly ill-informed.")

Even Facebook's Sheryl Sandberg, a Disney board member at the time, once questioned whether the MagicBand could track her own kids.

Despite these familial concerns, Disney's data mining never faced the sort of scrutiny that Silicon Valley has. The reason is fairly simple: Disney World is the real-world

manifestation of a walled garden, a family-friendly environment without a perceived risk of children being exposed to inappropriate content like on YouTube or Twitch.

Wired once called this data-driven customer relationship "exactly the type of thing Apple, Facebook and Google are trying to build. Except Disney World isn't just an app or a phone—it's both, wrapped in an idealized vision of life that's as safely self-contained as a snow globe."

Unfettered access to customer data has helped Disney streamline its park logistics. The company has suggested the MagicBand enabled it to slash turnstile transaction times by 30% while increasing park capacity.

At Disneyland, a new virtual reservation system, the first in the park's history, has prevented overcrowding and reduced wait times. Even in the early weeks of its highly anticipated Star Wars-themed land, the line for the signature attraction, the Millennium Falcon ride, was a mere 25 minutes. Longer term, Disney's "Imagineers" have suggested they want to leverage such guest data for more personalization and crowd-flow management.

At a higher level, this surveillance gives Disney insight into the value of its creative capital. The enthusiasm of patrons for certain physical attractions can signal which movie franchises are rising or falling in popularity. That could inform whether the Avengers can sustain more sequels, help promote the upcoming Disney+ streaming service or is in need of a refresh.

Whereas data-mining efforts have harmed the reputations of tech companies, Disney's parks division is booming, with operating profit up 18% last year, to \$4.5 billion. Perhaps this explains why Disney is reportedly investing more into its theme parks than it spent to acquire Pixar, Marvel and Lucasfilm, combined. **BLOOMBERG**

CORPORATE BITS

Sands launches financing programme for SMEs



Sands China Ltd. has launched a special financing programme for its local SME suppliers in cooperation with six local banks.

Through the Sands China SME Financial Support Pro-

gramme, six local banks are offering special loans and credit to local SMEs who have contracts or purchase orders with the gaming operator, with the aim of supporting local SMEs through

more favourable bank financing loan products.

According to the gaming operator, the six banks have tailor-made this financing programme for Sands China's suppliers, and it is the first time they are accepting contracts and purchase orders as a form of guarantee.

"Sands China is very pleased to be the first integrated resort operator in Macau to present this new financing programme for our local SME suppliers," said Dr. Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China Ltd.

"It is important for our company's growth to go hand-in-hand with the growth of local businesses," he added.

Conrad to hold annual pink-inspired luncheon in October



Conrad Macao is set to hold its annual Pink Inspired Charity Luncheon on October 10, 2019.

To be held in the property's Turfan Ballroom, the charity luncheon aims to raise money for the Hong Kong Cancer Fund's Pink Revolution Campaign.

Annually, the hotel holds its pink-inspired campaign with a series of pink experiences and collectibles available throughout October.

Last year, Conrad Macao announced that the hotel pledged to donate a portion of its Pink Inspired proceeds to benefit Pink Revolution, an annual campaign that raises public awareness and funds for its free breast cancer care services.

AP PHOTO



ELECTIONS

FOXCONN BILLIONAIRE GOU STUMBLES IN BID FOR TAIWAN'S PRESIDENCY

MIAOJUNG LIN & IAIN MARLOW

TAIWAN'S main opposition party snubbed billionaire Foxconn founder Terry Gou and chose a maverick mayor as its best hope of returning to power in January's presidential election, with incumbent Tsai Ing-wen facing an uphill reelection bid.

Han Kuo-yu - the firebrand Kaohsiung mayor who advocates closer ties with China - overcame Gou and three other candidates in the Kuomintang's presidential primary yesterday. Han got a weighted average support of 44.8% in a public poll conducted July 8-14, while Gou got 27.7%. Former New Taipei City Mayor Eric Chu came in third with 17.9%.

Han went directly after Tsai, who hails from the pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party, after the result, saying "all Taiwanese have been leading a very tough life for more

than three years under the reign of Tsai Ing-wen." "We are most worried that the young generation of Taiwanese cannot see a clear future," Han told reporters at KMT headquarters in Taipei.

Gou, who had been discussed as a possible third-party candidate if he lost the KMT nomination, congratulated Han in statement yesterday without giving any indication of his political plans.

Han's victory over Gou's financial muscle sets him up as the main challenger to Tsai in a race shaping up to be one of the most hotly contested since Taiwan was first able to elect presidents in 1996. His support for repairing ties with China presents a stark contrast with Tsai's vocal criticism of Beijing, and could raise to a fever pitch the debate about Taiwan's fragile relations with the mainland and the U.S.

"The Han wave is real, but it remains to be seen whether it has peaked already," said Shelley Rigger, a political science professor at Davidson College and author of "Why Taiwan Matters: Small Island, Global Powerhouse." "The big question for voters is likely to be, can he pull off an improvement in cross-strait re-

Gou's support for repairing ties with China presents a stark contrast with Tsai's vocal criticism of Beijing

lations without giving away too much?"

Shares of Hon Hai Precision Industry Co., the flagship unit of Gou's Foxconn Technology Group, pared earlier losses to rise about 1% to NT\$78.10 by close of trading yesterday in Taipei.

Han's win is the latest step in his meteoric rise over the past year, from political obscurity to a step from the presidency. The 62-year-old was head of a government controlled agricultural produce distributor in Taipei when the KMT asked him to run for Kaohsiung mayor - after it had already been rebuffed by several of its preferred candidates.

His everyman persona, populist message of prioritizing economic growth and closer ties with China, and legions of dedicated "Han fans" propelled his mayoral victory in a city normally considered a DPP stronghold. Han's nomination still needs approval by the KMT's central standing committee Wednesday, and its national congress on July 28.

The results leave uncertainty about Gou's future after he

relinquished his position as chairman of Foxconn, the main assembler of Apple Inc.'s iPhone, to focus on the presidential race. Gou has declined to categorically dismiss mounting speculation that he would consider running as an independent.

Gou said in a statement only that he would continue to devote himself to the Republic of China, the formal name of the government based in Taipei. "I always ask myself what I can do for this beloved land," he said.

Another mayor - Taipei's Ko Wen-je - is widely expected to announce his entry into the race as an independent in the coming weeks.

Earlier this year, Han described Taiwan and China as partners in an "arranged marriage" who had fallen "madly in love." He's also said that peace talks are "inevitable" between the democratically run island and Communist-ruled China. Using 1970s-style Chinese nationalist rhetoric, he's portrayed the election as a battle for the soul of the Republic of China, the official name of Taiwan's state.

Tsai, on the other hand, dismisses Beijing's claims to sovereignty over Taiwan. She has strengthened the island's informal alliance with America and sought to bolster its defense capabilities against a potential Chinese invasion with a series of military-hardware purchases.

The U.S. State Department last week approved a more-than USD2 billion weapons sale to Taiwan, including top-of-the-range tanks and missiles.

Han has "made statements that have suggested he is more pro-Beijing than he has let on during the campaign, and his true views are likely to catch up to him as he tries to draw a contrast with Tsai on cross-Straits relations during the general election," said Derek Grossman, a senior defense analyst at Rand Corp.

"If Han were to win, the U.S.-Taiwan defense relationship would be fine, so long as there is no evidence that his victory was the result of Chinese interference and that his decisions, once in office, are purely his own and not controlled or overly influenced by Beijing," Grossman said. **BLOOMBERG**

TOURISM

Number of Chinese visitors to Alaska growing in recent years

ALASKA is a tourism destination for a growing number of visitors from China.

The Anchorage Daily News reports Alaska received

relatively little notice from Chinese travelers until recent years.

The number of Chinese visitors has jumped because of social media and in-

creasing interest in winter tourism tied to the Aurora borealis.

State figures show an estimated 5,000 Chinese travelers visited Alaska in 2016, com-

pared with 2,000 in 2011.

A similar count has not been attempted since then, but travel industry representatives estimate at least 10,000 Chinese tra-

velers visited the state in 2018.

Sarah Leonard, executive director of the Alaska Travel Industry Association, says "China is definitely the

emerging market right now."

Minghui Dong, a Beijing nurse and tour guide, says through an interpreter that Alaska left a "beautiful impression" on her. **AP**

CHINESE state media raised the specter of backlash against U.S. companies including General Dynamics Corp. and Honeywell International Inc, as the foreign ministry warned firms would be sanctioned if a potential USD2 billion arms sale to Taiwan goes ahead.

Firms including General Dynamics, Honeywell, Oshkosh Corp., Raytheon Co. and the Pennsylvania operations of BAE Systems were cited as having been involved in recent arms sales to Taiwan. The Communist Party's flagship People's Daily newspaper said their non-defense businesses in China may be "boycotted" in an article circulated on WeChat, without specifying what that would entail. State broadcaster CCTV and news agency Xinhua carried similar stories.

China is the third-biggest market globally for luxury jet maker Gulfstream Aerospace Corp., a General Dynamics subsidiary, the People's Daily said, adding that the company is eager to display its products at the biennial airshow in Zhuhai. It also said that Honeywell's air-conditioning systems are widely used in China, and Oshkosh makes fire trucks that are used in more than 60 airports across the country.

"In order to safeguard the national interest, China will sanction U.S. companies involved in the weapons sale," China Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said at a regular briefing in Beijing yesterday. "The Chinese government and Chinese enterprises will not cooperate and conduct business with these American companies."

"The specific details are not disclosed at present, but please believe that the Chinese have always followed through on their words," he said.

Media hints at sanctioning US defense firms over Taiwan



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Friday warned the U.S. it was "playing with fire" by approving the arms sale. Commerce Ministry spokesman Gao Feng said last week China would release a list of so-called unreliable entities soon, which the government has said will include firms that threaten national security.

FLASH POINT

U.S. military support for Taiwan, which has continued despite Washington's decision to cut official diplomatic ties with Taipei in favor of Beijing 40 years ago, has long been one

of the biggest sticking points between the two countries. While China considers Taiwan part of its territory, the island provides a vital link in a chain of American security partnerships in Western Pacific.

Taiwan has reemerged as a potential flash point amid U.S. President Donald Trump's trade dispute with Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping. Meanwhile, Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen, who hails from a pro-independence party, has courted U.S. backing, holding an unprecedented phone call with Trump before his 2017 inauguration.

Tsai recently stopped over in the U.S. on a trip to visit Taiwan's diplomatic allies in the Caribbean.

China's warning "shows the degree to which Taiwan is the most sensitive issue for Xi Jinping," Kelsey Broderick and Michael Hirson of New York-based consultancy Eurasia Group said in a note. "Beijing has somewhat limited willingness to impose harsh actions on Taiwan directly, for fear that harsh actions would backfire and draw support for Tsai."

China has threatened to impose penalties on companies invol-

ved in arms sales to Taiwan before, but has kept them informal and discreet, according to Eurasia. In 2015, it lodged a formal complaint protesting a \$1.83 billion sale.

The potential sale, which was first reported by Bloomberg News in June, is estimated to cost about \$2 billion, according to the Pentagon statement. The weapons and equipment requested by Taiwan include Stinger missiles, 108 M1A2T Abrams tanks, as well as hundreds of machine guns, smoke grenade launchers and ammunition.

BLOOMBERG

Susan Rice calls Chinese diplomat a 'racist disgrace' on Twitter

IAIN MARLOW
& DANDAN LI

FORMER U.S. National Security Advisor Susan Rice sparred with a senior Chinese diplomat on Twitter in an unusual and heated dispute over race in Washington.

In a series of Tweets apparently aimed at making a broader point about diplomatic divisions over the mass detention of Muslims in China's Xinjiang province, Lijian Zhao, a diplomat posted in Islamabad, said on Sunday that if "you're in Washington, D.C., you know the white never go" to

the southeastern part of the U.S. capital.

"You are a racist disgrace. And shockingly ignorant too," Rice told Zhao on Twitter. Likely assuming that Zhao was posted in China's mission in Washington, she then addressed her next comment to China's ambassador to the U.S., Cui Tiankai. "Ambassador Cui, I expect better of you and your team. Please do the right thing and send him home."

Zhao, who is deputy chief of mission at the Chinese embassy in Pakistan's capital, is often vocal on Twitter against critics of China's

infrastructure-building projects in Pakistan and other parts of Asia. Beijing has invested tens of billions of dollars in Pakistan, whose leader Imran Khan has previously dodged questions about the issue.

'SHOCKINGLY IGNORANT'

"You are such a disgrace, too. And shockingly ignorant, too. I am based in Islamabad. Truth hurts. I am simply telling the truth," Zhao fired back at Rice yesterday. "To label someone who speak the truth that you don't want to hear a racist, is disgraceful & disgusting."

Zhao didn't immediately respond to phone calls, an email and a direct message on Twitter seeking comment.

In a string of messages that appeared aimed at highlighting U.S. hypocrisy on human rights, Zhao referred to everything from income inequality and school shootings in the U.S. to immigration officers separating children from parents.

He tweeted a list of mostly-Western nations that condemned China for its actions in Xinjiang as well as a separate list of other countries -- including Pakistan, Cuba, Tajikistan and

Nigeria - that wrote a joint letter to the United Nations supporting Beijing, which Zhao called "a big slap on the face of U.S. & its western cohorts."

OUTSPOKEN DIPLOMATS

China's diplomats have become increasingly vocal and outspoken. This month, China's ambassador to London, Liu Xiaoming, gave a rare televised statement accusing the British government of meddling in Hong Kong, the scene of mass protests against Beijing's rule.

Earlier this year, China's envoy to Canada publicly

accused his hosts of "white supremacy," while the country's chief envoy in South Africa said President Donald Trump's policies were making the U.S. "the enemy of the whole world."

Asked about the Twitter dispute yesterday, China's foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang didn't comment directly.

"I don't know the specific situation," he said. However, he added, "we resolutely oppose the interference of the U.S. and individual Western countries in interfering in China's internal affairs with the Xinjiang issue."

BLOOMBERG

DRUG SEIZURE

THAI POLICE SEIZE OVER A TON OF CRYSTAL METH IN RAIDS

POLICE in Thailand said they have seized more than a ton of crystal meth and over 10 million methamphetamine tablets in a series of drug raids this month, amid increased production and use of the drugs in Southeast Asia.

Thai authorities often make several large seizures a year of methamphetamine and other drugs, usually arresting low-level traffickers and drivers.

Police said in statements Sunday and yesterday that they arrested eight people for trafficking over 5 million methamphetamine pills, 600 kilograms of crystal meth, 15.4 kilograms of heroin and 51 kilograms of ketamine. The drugs were discovered Friday in a pickup truck hidden under fruit baskets and at a trafficker's home.

Police said they seized 459 kilograms of crystal methamphetamine last week that they suspect originated from neighboring Myanmar. The drugs were found in the back of a pickup truck covered under a large green canvas.



In Chiang Mai province, 563 kilometers north of Bangkok, police said a firefight between officers and drug traffickers broke out last Wednesday night while officers were tracking the traffickers in a forest.

Police said they found the dead body of one drug trafficker Thursday lying next to a pistol, in a case in which they seized around 5 million methamphetamine tablets, around 10 kilograms of crystal meth

and 10 kilograms of ketamine, as well as a pistol and a cellphone.

In a separate case also last Wednesday, police arrested six people for trafficking drugs to southern Thailand. Police said they seized 58 kilograms of crystal meth that was found hidden in a secret compartment traffickers had made to store the drugs in a pickup truck.

Police also seized 898,000 methamphetamine tablets on July

1 at a pickup truck that traffickers had abandoned.

Australian police said in June that they seized a record 1.8 tons of methamphetamine at the Melbourne waterfront that was hidden in stereo speakers shipped from Bangkok.

The U.N.'s anti-drug agency said in March that production of methamphetamine is skyrocketing in Southeast Asia, with prices dropping and usage expanding. **AP**

MYANMAR

Court proceedings begin against child rape suspect

A court in Myanmar has begun proceedings against a suspect in the rape of a 2-year-old girl at her nursery school, in a case that has generated huge interest and protests, partly because of doubts that the arrested man is guilty.

Aung Kyaw Myo appeared yesterday at Dakhina Thiri District Court in the capital, Naypyitaw, to acknowledge the charge of rape against him.

The suspect was first arrested in May in the rape of the 2-year, 11-month-old girl, who has been given the pseudonym "Victoria" by supporters and the media.

He was released due to insufficient evidence but was rearrested earlier this month.

Demonstrations in cities around the country have demanded justice in the case, with many expressing doubt the arrested man is guilty. **AP**

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AP PHOTO



S. Korea leader says Tokyo's trade curbs will hurt Japan more

KIM TONG-HYUNG, SEOUL

IN his strongest comments yet on a growing trade dispute, South Korea's president urged Japan yesterday to lift recently tightened controls on high-tech exports to South Korea, which he said threaten to shatter the countries' economic cooperation and could damage Japan more than South Korea.

The dispute between the two U.S. allies has further soured relations already troubled over Japan's colonial rule of Korea before the end of World War II.

President Moon Jae-in accused Japan of abusing its leverage in trade to punish South Korea over their historical dispute. South Korea sees the trade curbs as retaliation for South Korean court rulings earlier this year that ordered Japanese corporations to compensate South Korean victims for forced labor during World War II.

South Korea says the strengthened export controls of photoresists and other sensitive materials main-

ly to manufacture semiconductors and display screens could hurt its export-dependent economy and disrupt global supply chains.

Its government plans to file a complaint with the World Trade Organization and raise the issue at next week's WTO General Council in Geneva. Trade officials from the countries failed to resolve the dispute in a working-level meeting in Tokyo on Friday.

Moon also said South Korea will use the dispute as an opportunity to reduce its dependence on Japan by strengthening its technology industry and diversifying import sources.

"Japan's export restrictions have broken the framework of economic cooperation between South Korea and Japan that had continued over a half-century based on mutual dependence," Moon said in a meeting of senior aides at Seoul's presidential palace.

"The shattered credibility of cooperation with Japan in the manufacturing industry will inspire our companies to break out of their dependence on Japanese materials,

components and equipment and work toward diversifying import sources or localizing the technologies. I warn that, eventually, it will be the Japanese economy that will be damaged more."

Analysts say the Japanese measure won't have any immediate meaningful impact on South Korean chipmakers, which have sufficient supplies of the materials for now, given a slowdown in demand for semiconductors. But there is concern that Japan will expand its export controls to other industries.

Park Ki-young, a spokesman of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy, said yesterday that the government is bracing for the possibility that Japan will remove South Korea from a 27-country "whitelist" receiving preferential treatment in trade.

Its removal from the list would require Japanese companies to apply for case-by-case approvals for exports to South Korea of more than 850 items deemed sensitive, not just the three materials affected by the trade curbs that took effect

July 4. It would also allow Japanese authorities to restrict any export to South Korea when they believe there are security concerns, Park said.

Moon spoke hours after dozens of South Korean small-business owners rallied in Seoul, calling for boycotts of Japanese consumer goods.

The Japanese measures have stoked public anger in South Korea, where many believe Japan still hasn't fully acknowledged responsibility for atrocities committed during its colonial occupation of Korea from 1910 to 1945.

Kim Sung-min, president of the Korea Mart Association, urged shop owners to boycott the distribution of Japanese products until Tokyo apologizes over the trade curbs and withdraws them. Other demonstrators held up signs that read, "Our supermarket does not sell Japanese products."

Thousands of South Koreans have signed petitions posted by citizens on the presidential office's websites that called for boycotts of

Japanese products and of travel to Japan and for South Korea to skip next year's Tokyo Summer Olympics. Retailers have also reported modest drops in the sales of Japanese beer.

"We will continue boycotting the consumption and distribution of Japanese products until Japan's government and the Abe administration apologizes and withdraws its economic retaliation," Kim said, referring to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Tokyo says the materials affected by the export controls can be sent only to trustworthy trading partners. Without presenting specific examples, Tokyo has questioned Seoul's credibility in controlling the exports of arms and dual-use items that can be used both for civilian and military purposes. Abe and his conservative aides suggested there may have been illegal transfers of sensitive materials from South Korea to North Korea.

South Korea says its export controls are working just fine. Last week, its presidential office proposed an investigation by the United Nations Security Council or another international body to look into the export controls of both South Korea and Japan as it continues to reject Japanese claims that the South cannot be trusted to faithfully implement sanctions against North Korea. **AP**

AUSTRALIA

Police identify remains of missing French tourist

AUSTRALIAN police have identified the remains of a French tourist who went missing on a beach about five months ago along with a British companion as they vacationed

in New South Wales on the country's eastern coast.

Police Superintendent Paul Fehon, of the New South Wales State Police, said yesterday that a DNA test confirmed that three

bone fragments found on a beach in the area belonged to 21-year-old Frenchman Erwan Ferrieux. Ferrieux's 20-year-old companion, Englishman Hugo Palmer, is still listed as missing. Po-

lice think they may have drowned while swimming.

"DNA comparison of the three bones that were located in early June have confirmed that they did come from the same male

person. That DNA analysis has also confirmed that it came from a DNA comparison to the vehicle that was utilized by the two missing backpackers at the time," Fehon told reporters.

An air, sea and land search was conducted at the time but failed to find the two. Police are still examining another human bone fragment found on a beach. **AP**

ITALY CAN'T STOP TALKING ABOUT SALVINI'S RUSSIA TAPE SCANDAL

TOMMASO EBHARDT
& JOHN FOLLAIN

MATTEO Salvini, the euroskeptic strongman of Italian politics, can't seem to shut down a scandal over alleged illegal financing from Russia.

The deputy prime minister has been trying to distance himself from a close ally, Gianluca Savoini, who was recorded apparently soliciting illegal party funding from three Russians, according to a report by BuzzFeed News. The story has dominated Italian media coverage since it broke last week, with Salvini attempting - and so far failing - to distance himself from the fixer.

Savoini, a one-time Salvini spokesman, attended a July 4 dinner with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Rome, and the deputy premier has said he doesn't know how his associate came to be there. On Sunday, however, Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte undermined that account, saying in a statement that Savoini had in fact been invited by Salvini's office.

With western leaders struggling to come to grips with the scope of Russian attempts to undermine their democracies, the BuzzFeed report suggests that the most powerful home-grown opponent of the European Union may have been colluding with the Kremlin.

Salvini has broken rank with France and Germany by repeatedly calling on the EU to lift sanctions against Russia. Italian media also reported that League lawmakers tried to ease limits on foreign funding of political groups.

UNDERMINING DEMOCRACY

In addition to meddling in the U.S. presidential election of 2016, Russia has sought to attack the democratic process in at least 15 EU states, including Germany, France and Spain, according to a Senate minority report last year which labeled Putin a "malign influence."

Savoini, who is president of the Lombardy Russia association, met with three unidentified Russians in Moscow last October and discus-

AP PHOTO



sed ways to finance Salvini's League party, BuzzFeed reported on July 10, citing a recording of the conversation. Milan prosecutors have opened a preliminary investigation into possible Russian funds paid to the League.

Salvini, who also serves as interior minister, has denied his party received any Russian financing. In a statement last week, the deputy

premier said he has "never taken a ruble, a euro, a dollar or a liter of vodka in financing from Russia."

Salvini sought to ignore the attacks over the Moscow meeting, focusing instead on the fight against crime - a key policy platform alongside curbing immigration and introducing a so-called flat tax. He's also convened unions to discuss economic policy.

SALVINI'S RISE

After more than 20 years working in obscurity for the League, Salvini has surged to prominence since joining a populist coalition in Rome as junior partner last year. His mastery of social media and ordinary-Joe persona have struck a chord with Italians. Since his victory in May's European elections, he's been looking to tighten his grip on the government.

Conte on Sunday night said he still has confidence in Salvini, according to Ansa news agency, but that there has to be transparency in government.

STILL STRONG

The revelations may not put a dent in Salvini's domestic popularity -- Italians after all stuck by Putin's friend Silvio Berlusconi through multiple scandals -- but they will add to tensions with his coalition partner, the anti-corruption Five Star Movement.

Many of Salvini's allies have been pushing for him to break with Five Star and seek early elections. Support for the League climbed to 38% in a poll this month, within shooting distance of the 40% threshold that could give the League a majority in the parliament.

Yet the ongoing questions over the Moscow meeting have put Salvini, the dominant force in the ruling coalition, on the defensive.

BLOOMBERG

AD



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JONATHAN LEMIRE
& CALVIN WOODWARD

STARKLY injecting race into his criticism of liberal Democrats, President Donald Trump said four congresswomen of color should go back to the “broken and crime infested” countries they came from, ignoring the fact that all of the women are American citizens and three were born in the U.S. His attack drew a searing condemnation from Democrats who labeled the remarks racist and breathtakingly divisive.

Following a familiar script, Republicans remained largely silent after Trump’s Sunday morning broadsides against the four women. But the president’s nativist tweets caused Democrats to set aside their internal rifts to rise up in a united chorus against the president.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Trump wants to “make America white again.” Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, after jousting for days with Pelosi, said Trump “can’t conceive of an America that includes us.”

Trump, who has a long history of making racist remarks, was almost certainly referring to Ocasio-Cortez and her House allies in what’s become known as “the squad.” The others are Reps. Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts and Rashida Tlaib of

Trump's tweets against 4 liberal congresswomen called racist

AP PHOTO



Michigan. Only Omar, from Somalia, is foreign-born.

Ocasio-Cortez swiftly denounced his remarks.

“Mr. President, the country I ‘come from,’ & the country we all swear to, is the United States,” she tweeted, adding that “You rely on a frightened America for your plunder.” Omar also addressed herself directly to Trump in a tweet, writing: “You are stoking white nationalism (because) you are angry that people like us are serving in Congress and fighting against your hate-filled agenda.”

Rep. Hakeem Jeffries of New York, chairman of the House Democratic

Caucus, summed up the Democratic response: “Racial arsonist strikes again. Shut. Your. Reckless. Mouth.”

With his tweet, Trump inserted himself further into a rift between Pelosi and Ocasio-Cortez, just two days after he offered an unsolicited defense of the Democratic speaker. Pelosi has been seeking to minimize Ocasio-Cortez’s influence in the House Democratic caucus in recent days, prompting Ocasio-Cortez to accuse Pelosi of trying to marginalize women of color.

“She is not a racist,” Trump said of Pelosi on Friday.

Yesterday [local time], Trump’s

tone took a turn.

“So interesting to see ‘Progressive’ Democrat Congresswomen, who originally came from countries whose governments are a complete and total catastrophe, the worst, most corrupt and inept anywhere in the world (if they even have a functioning government at all), now loudly and viciously telling the people of the United States, the greatest and most powerful Nation on earth, how our government is to be run,” he tweeted.

“Why don’t they go back and help fix the totally broken and crime infested places from which they came.

Then come back and show us how it is done.”

He added: “These places need your help badly, you can’t leave fast enough. I’m sure that Nancy Pelosi would be very happy to quickly work out free travel arrangements!”

The attacks may have been meant to widen the divides within the Democrat caucus, which has been riven by internal debate over how far left to go in countering Trump and over whether to proceed with impeachment proceedings against the president. Instead, the president’s tweets, which evoked the trope of telling black people to go back to Africa, brought Democrats together.

Former Vice President Joe Biden, the Democratic presidential front-runner, tweeted yesterday that Trump “continues to spew hateful rhetoric, sow division, and stoke racial tensions for his own political gain.”

“Let’s be clear about what this vile comment is: A racist and xenophobic attack on Democratic congresswomen,” tweeted Sen. Elizabeth Warren, a Democratic presidential candidate. **AP**

AD

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what's ON

GRACE KELLY: FROM HOLLYWOOD TO MONACO
TIME: 10am-10pm (Sundays to Thursdays)
10am -2am (Fridays to Saturdays)
UNTIL: August 28, 2019
VENUE: Galaxy Macau
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8883 3998

MASTERPIECES FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF CHINA
TIME: 10am-7pm (No admittance after 6:30pm, closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: July 28, 2019
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

ONENESS: CALLIGRAPHY BY PROFESSOR JAO TSUNG-I
TIME: 10am-6pm (No admission after 5:30pm, closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: September 30, 2019
VENUE: Jao Tsung-I Academy
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRY: (853) 8598 6718

SANDS PRESENTS: ALL THAT'S GOLD DOES GLITTER – AN EXHIBITION OF GLAMOROUS CERAMICS
TIME: 24 hours
UNTIL: October 9, 2019
VENUE: The Venetian Macao, The Parisian Macao, Sands Macao & Four Seasons Hotel Macao
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 8888

STAMPS AROUND THE WORLD - LIECHTENSTEIN, KINGDOM OF STAMPS
TIME: 9am-5:30pm (Closed on public holidays)
UNTIL: August 31, 2019
VENUE: Temporary Gallery, Communications Museum
ADMISSION: MOP10
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2871 8063

Offbeat

75-YEAR-OLD FLORIDA MAN KICKS ALLIGATOR, SAVES DOG



A 75-year-old Florida man says he kicked an alligator in the snout after it attacked his dog. Buddy Ackerman says the 8-foot gator came from a retention pond near his Palm Harbor condominium earlier this week and grabbed the dog while they were out for an early morning walk. He kicked the gator until it let go of the golden retriever. Neither animal was injured. The Tampa Bay Times reports that Florida wildlife officials came and trapped the gator later that day.

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Agua de Mar
15:45	Zig Zag
16:20	Sim Chef! Sr1
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

16 - 17Jul



TOY STORY 4
ROOM 1
2:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30pm
Director: Josh Cooley
Starring: Will Smith, Mena Massoud, Naomi Scott
Language: Chinese
Duration: 109min



SPIDER-MAN: FAR FROM HOME
ROOM 2
2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45pm
Director: Jon Watts
Starring: Zendaya, Angourie Rice, Tom Holland
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 129min



THE WHITE STORM 2 DRUG LORDS
ROOM 3
2:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30pm
Director: Herman Yau
Starring: Andy Lau, Louis Koo, Michael Miu
Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)
Duration: 86min

this day in history



1969 APOLLO 11 TAKES OFF FOR THE MOON

The Apollo 11 space rocket has taken off successfully from Cape Kennedy, Florida, at the start of the first attempt to land a man on the Moon. An estimated one million people gathered from all over the state to see the giant Saturn 5 booster rocket blast off.

The launch was on schedule, at 1432 BST (1332 GMT). Nine seconds before lift-off, the rocket's five engines ignited, sending a sheet of flame over the launch pad and about 20 acres of the surrounding marshland.

Then with an immense roar, the booster rocket took off into the sky, taking Apollo 11 and the hopes of the world with it.

It is the first time human beings have attempted to land on another heavenly body.

Almost 12 minutes later, Apollo 11 went into orbit around the Earth.

On board are three astronauts, Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins, and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin. All have already flown in space during the Gemini manned space missions, and have been intensively training as a team for many months.

They carry with them goodwill messages from the heads of the member states of the United Nations and their flags.

Two hours and 44 minutes after take-off, the engine of the third-stage booster was fired for five minutes and 47 seconds, and the speed increased to 24,545mph (39,500 km/h) to take the astronauts out of orbit and shoot them off to the Moon.

Neil Armstrong, the flight's commander, reported: "We have no complaint with any of the three stages on that ride. It was beautiful."

The launch was watched by US Vice-President Spiro Agnew, who said it marked a "new era of civilisation".

"With the lift-off of Apollo 11, America enters a new age of discovery," he said.

Apollo 11 is scheduled to touch down on the Moon on Sunday 20 July if all goes well.

Speaking at a news conference before the launch, Neil Armstrong said the landing on the Moon and the take-off from it were "the big unknowns".

The lunar module, known as Eagle, is scheduled to land on the Moon at 2100 BST (2000 GMT).

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

On 21 July 1969, right on schedule, Neil Armstrong became the first man to set foot on the Moon, stepping onto the Moon's surface in the Sea of Tranquility at 0256 GMT. He was joined by Buzz Aldrin 20 minutes later. The entire event was watched avidly by millions live on television across the world. The Apollo 11 crew returned safely on 24 July and spent the next 21 days in quarantine at an American military base - a procedure dropped in subsequent missions since no alien organisms were found. The Moon landing marked the pinnacle of the space race and American investment in the space programme declined accordingly. The last three of the original 20 Apollo missions were cancelled, and the last lunar module, Apollo 17, landed in December 1972. In January 2004 however, interest in missions to the Moon was rekindled when US President George Bush announced American astronauts would return to the Moon by 2020 as the launching point for journeys further into space.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

You have been adding more new projects and goals than your schedule can realistically contain, so you might find yourself scrambling today. Concentrate on finishing some current projects.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Even though having a routine in your life might get boring from time to time, you will find a great deal of comfort in knowing what's going on in your daily life for the next few days.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

Keeping life easy and breezy will be a cinch today, especially if you are surrounded by friends who understand how to have a good time. Keep it simple, and keep it low-maintenance.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Your insight is needed to help a friend untangle a confusing situation. You don't know all the facts yet - but when you do, you'll immediately know how to proceed.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Acknowledge this attention, and go ahead and play up to it! Charm that barista, make that cab driver laugh and work that dynamic duo magic. It makes everyday activities so much more fun.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

The battle between your impatient side and your pragmatic side will rage on today, with little (if any) resolution. This tension could cause you to lash out at people who try to push your buttons.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

If you were a superhero, what would your superpower be? Would you like to fly? Be invisible? How about always being able to find a good parking spot? Give this question some serious thought today.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Avoid the urge to consult too many people about what you should do. Getting input is fine, but if you ask the same questions again and again, you might come off as too insecure.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

For special insight on your latest quandary, turn to your coworkers or classmates today. You need to consult someone who either is in the same situation you're in or has been there before.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Take these questions one at a time. Do not expect yourself to answer all of them right away - or ever. Just being aware of such issues may be enough to prepare you to take opportunities as they come.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You are going to be exposed to an avalanche of new ideas, and some of them might confuse you a bit. This mental challenge may feel uncomfortable or strange, but it will help you stay engaged with the world.



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

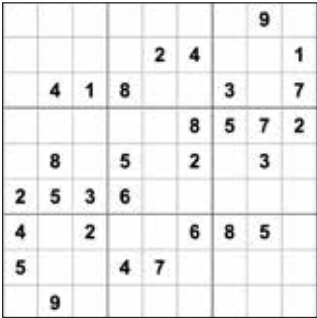
If you spend too much time thinking about how to make everything equal and fair between you and your friends, you will create way too much work for yourself.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom

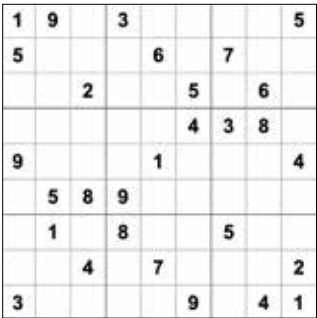


SUDOKU

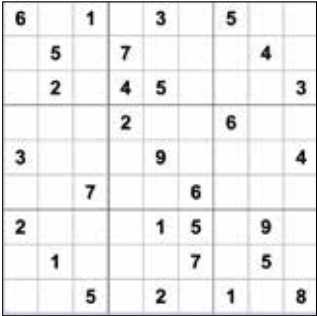
EASY



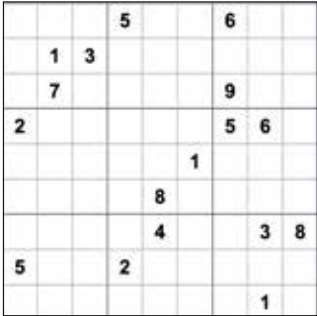
EASY+



MEDIUM



HARD



WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	24	33	cloudy
Harbin	20	29	thundershower
Tianjin	25	32	cloudy
Urumqi	23	34	clear
Xi'an	25	31	drizzle
Lhasa	12	22	shower
Chengdu	21	27	shower
Chongqing	25	31	drizzle
Kunming	19	26	shower
Nanjing	23	30	cloudy
Shanghai	24	27	drizzle
Wuhan	24	32	cloudy
Hangzhou	24	29	drizzle
Taipei	26	30	cloudy
Guangzhou	27	35	cloudy
Hong Kong	29	33	cloudy

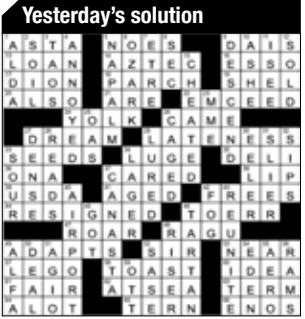
WORLD

Moscow	13	20	drizzle
Frankfurt	11	26	clear
Paris	14	26	cloudy
London	11	25	cloudy
New York	22	31	clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1-Gillette product; 5- Have ___ to pick; 10- Deprived of sensation; 14- Plunder; 15- Goddess of tillage; 16- Morales of "La Bamba"; 17- Put away; 18- Ready to hit; 19- Wren or hen; 20- Donny or Marie; 22- Patio; 24- Charlotte of "The Facts of Life"; 25- Fancy-schmancy; 26- Cancer of the bone marrow; 30- Alley Oop's girlfriend; 35- Gore and more; 36- Off one's feed; 37- Had the nerve; 38- Blowhard; 41- Blatant deception; 43- Gold bar; 44- Batman and Robin, e.g.; 45- Gratuity; 46- Surround; 47- Munitions; 50- Be a vagabond; 53- New Year's ___; 54- Reconstruct; 58- Roar; 62- Purim month; 63- Spud state; 66- Hoo-ha; 67- Suspend; 68- Promised; 69- Large jug or pitcher; 70- Hook's helper; 71- Foe; 72- Writing table;

DOWN: 1- In addition; 2- Rug rats; 3- Chamber; 4- On the job; 5- Pertaining to a school; 6- Track action; 7- Sun or moon; 8- Peachyl; 9- ___ Park, CO; 10- Wyo. neighbor; 11- Voice of America org.; 12- Latin singer Anthony; 13- Wait awhile; 21- Burnian refusal; 23- Harper sitcom; 25- Amigo; 26- ___ lazuli; 27- Nicholas Gage book; 28- Grammarian's topic; 29- Genre; 31- Dinghy need; 32- Take to the soapbox; 33- Ushered; 34- Proficient; 39- Gear tooth; 40- Cheri of "Saturday Night Live"; 41- Mean mutt; 42- Person who prefers the comfort of their house; 44- Block; 48- St. crosser; 49- Thawed; 51- Martini garnish; 52- Extra; 54- Arena shouts; 55- Dutch export; 56- Curse; 57- Exhort; 59- Actor Rob; 60- Praiseful poems; 61- Toil; 64- Feeling of being overwhelmed; 65- Skirt stitching;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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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



AD

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FOR SALE

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[Taipa] Man Fai 3 1 2
1,390 ft² \$8,880,000 (ref: 19065010ST)
[Taipa] Hellene Gardens 3 1 2
1,663 ft² \$7,950,000 (ref: 19055006SC)
[Taipa] Hellene Gardens 4 1 2
2,530 ft² \$20,000,000 (ref: 18035546)
[Cotai] One Grantai 4 1 2
2,556 ft² \$25,600,000

FOR RENT

[Taipa] Soi Cheung studio 1 1 1
660 ft² \$9,000/mth (ref: 18040675)
[Macau] San Malo 3 1 4
\$13,000/mth (ref: 19065011RM)
[Coloane] Cheoc Van House 3 1 2
\$28,000/mth (ref: 19055009RC)
[Taipa] Ocean Gardens 4 1 4
3,700 ft² \$35,000/mth (ref: 18040674)
[Taipa] 4 storey Commercial
4,003 ft² \$108,000/mth (ref: 17040646)

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SCARLETT JOHANSSON: COMMENTS ON DIVERSITY WERE MISCONSTRUED

SCARLETT Johansson says comments she made on the “authentic casting” debate have been taken out of context and asserts that she supports diversity in film.

The actress came under fire in 2017 for playing an Asian character in “Ghost in the Shell” and canceled plans last year to portray a transgender man in the upcoming film “Rub & Tug,” after transgender actors and advocates questioned the casting.

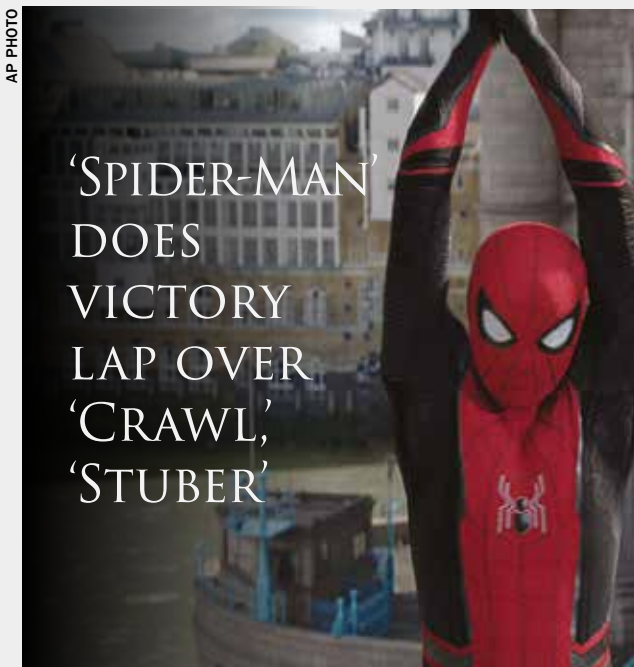
In a recent interview with *As If* magazine, she said actors should be allowed to play any per-

son “because that is my job and the requirement of my job.”

Johansson said this weekend that those comments were subsequently edited in other publications for “clickbait.”

“I personally feel that, in an ideal world, any actor should be able to play anybody and Art, in all forms, should be immune to political correctness,” she said in a statement.

“I recognize that in reality, there is a wide spread discrepancy amongst my industry that favors Caucasian.”



SPIDER-MAN:

SFar From Home is celebrating another weekend at No. 1, but non-franchise fare continues to struggle at the box office. Fresh studio-released counter-programming such as the horror movie “Crawl” and the action-comedy “Stubber” barely made a dent in the web-slinger’s earnings, although there is a glimmer of hope in the independent world.

The “Spider-Man” sequel added USD45.3

million in its second weekend, down only 51% according to studio estimates yesterday [Macau time], bringing its domestic total to \$274.5 million. Globally, Sony Pictures’ “Far From Home” has already grossed \$847 million.

Disney and Pixar’s “Toy Story 4” landed in second place with \$20.7 million in its fourth weekend in theaters. It’s now earned \$346.4 million from North American theaters.

OPRAH WINFREY VISITS MAUI HUMANE SOCIETY FOLLOWING WILDFIRE

OPRAH Winfrey surprised the Maui Humane Society with a visit to thank the organization for evacuating animals during a wildfire, a report said.

Winfrey is a part-time Maui resident who visited the society briefly over the weekend, thanking a volunteer and taking a photo outside with the organization’s sign, The Maui News reported Saturday.

Winfrey is a society supporter, said Nancy Willis, the society’s director of development and community outreach.

“We are appreciative and grateful that she re-

cognized the hard work of the community,” Willis said.

More than 200 animals were evacuated last week after a brush fire started in Maui’s southern area, coming close to the Human Society’s building in Puunene before moving farther south, officials said.

Winfrey posted the photo of herself at the shelter on social media and included a hashtag for the society, as well as the Maui police and fire departments.

“Everyone’s safe including all the animals,” Winfrey wrote. “Thank you for your service.”



AD

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BOXING

Olympic silver medalist Stevenson wins in Jersey hometown

SHAKUR Stevenson came ready to put on a show in his hometown.

He delivered with a big KO — and a promise of big fights at home to come. Stevenson stamped his homecoming fight with a third-round knockout of Alberto Guevara, keeping the New Jersey fighter and 2016 Olympic silver medalist undefeated and in line for a featherweight title fight.

From Newark, Stevenson was never challenged in the brief time he was in time in the ring in front of thousands of his hometown fans over the weekend at the Prudential Center.

“That was a great performance I put on for the city of Newark,” Stevenson said.

The 22-year-old Stevenson (12-0, 7 KOs) had the crowd of 5,150 on its feet and pointing phones toward the big screens to film his ring entrance. Ring announcer Jimmy Lennon Jr. was about drowned out by applause during his introduction of Stevenson as “making his hometown return, as he proudly represents Newark, New Jersey.” Stevenson even titled his neck toward the videoboard above the ring to catch the reaction from proud fans.

Stevenson’s last Instagram post came from the staredown, and he wrote “Newark let’s turn up tomorrow!!!”

Stevenson, his trunks trimmed in sparkling purple, battered Guevara from the start in the main event of the Top Rank card and dropped the Mexican with a body shot late in the second round that might have ended the fight had it not been for the bell.

No worries. The celebration was moments away, and Stevenson connected on a left at 2:37 in the third to score the knockout on a wildly overmatched Guevara (27-5).

“Top Rank, you all have to give me better competition I want the IBF and WBO (belts),” he said.

Stevenson’s combination of technique, power and charisma has stamped the 126-pounder as a likely future star since early in his amateur career. He left Rio de Janeiro in tears in 2016 after a decision loss to Robeisy Ramirez in the gold-medal round. He’s rebounded just fine as a pro, scoring five KOs in his last seven fights.

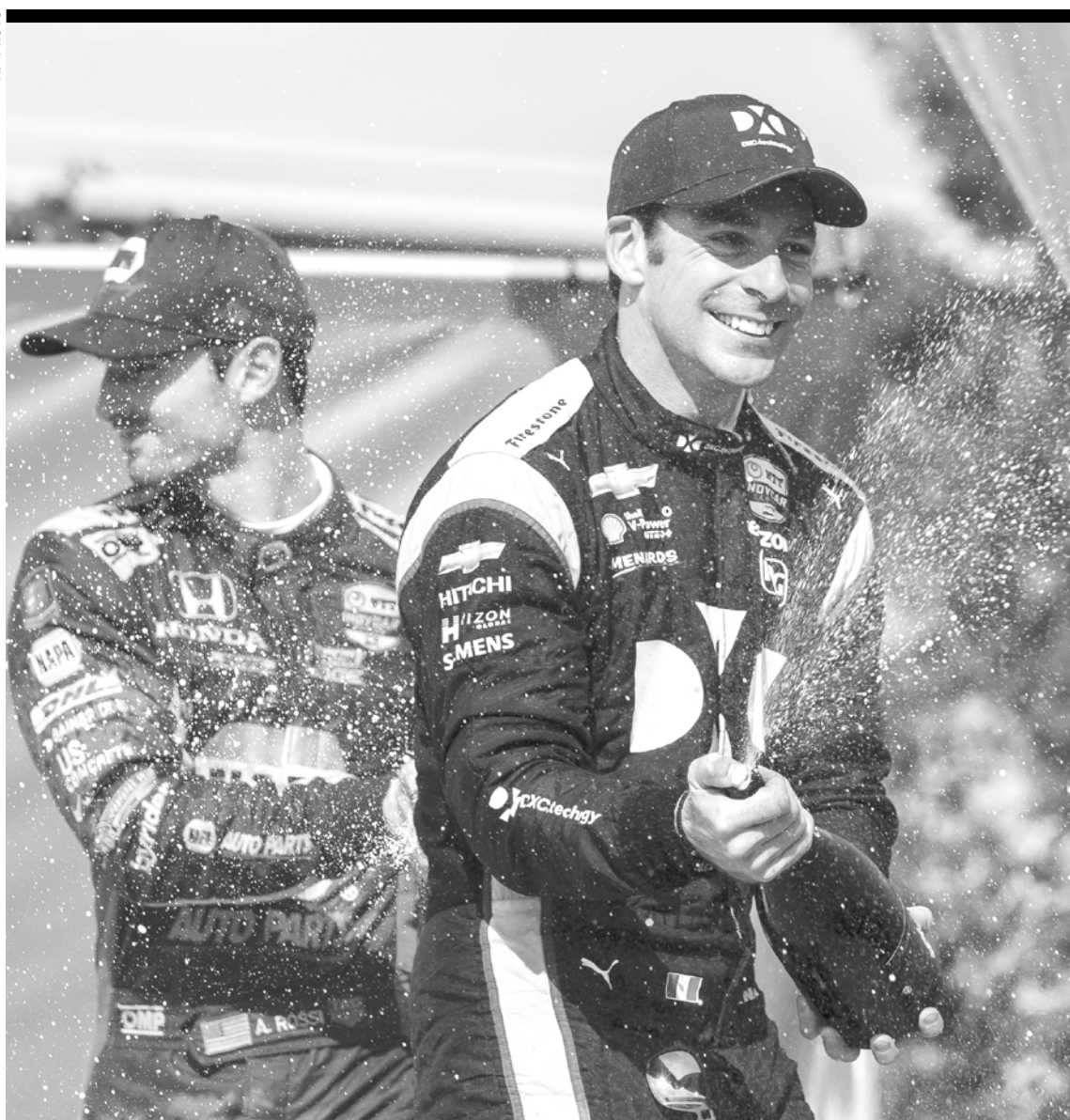
“There ain’t no pressure when you’re built for this,” Stevenson said. “I see me bringing big fights to Newark. I see me bringing boxing back to Newark, New Jersey.”

Stevenson’s mother, Malikah, named him after Tupac Shakur, the rapper and social activist who died nine months before her first son was born. Stevenson’s grandfather began teaching him how to box at age 5, and he has barely lost since he won his first fight at 8. Stevenson mostly avoided trouble on Newark’s tough streets, and his grandfather’s steady influence kept him devoted to his sport. He returned to Newark after the Olympics and was feted with a parade in his honor. Stevenson was joined by his parents and other members of his family in the celebration and hailed as the pride of the city.

His reputation took a hit last July when he was arrested following a brawl inside a Miami parking garage. He was sentenced to one year of probation and 50 hours of community service for an altercation that started while Stevenson was celebrating his 21st birthday with friends.

Stevenson walked out to a hometown hero’s welcome in the home of the New Jersey Devils and gave the fans a short, and satisfying, victory. **AP**

AP PHOTO



Simon Pagenaud, of France, drives his way to first place at the Honda Indy auto race in Toronto

INDYCAR

Pagenaud wins for third time and Rossi tightens title race

SIMON Pagenaud won his third race of the season and Alexander Rossi tightened the championship race with Josef Newgarden in IndyCar’s Sunday race through the streets of Toronto.

The win on the streets around Exhibition Place is the first for Pagenaud this year away from Indianapolis Motor Speedway. The Frenchman won the Indy 500 and the road course race at the speedway to save his job with Team Penske.

Pagenaud had to save fuel in the waning laps to hold off reigning series champion Scott Dixon. But Penske teammate Will Power caused a caution on the final lap and Pagenaud was able to coast to the finish in his Chevrolet.

“I was confident all weekend, I never had a doubt,” said Pagenaud, who

started from the pole and paced nearly every practice session. “We were only focused on ourselves. I never really looked at who was behind. We were just focused on getting the car where we wanted it to be.

“Those days are the best. There are a lot of bad days in racing, but those sweet days make up for it.”

Dixon’s runner-up finish denied Chip Ganassi Racing a weekend sweep. Ganassi got his first NASCAR win of the season Saturday night with Kurt Busch in Kentucky.

Dixon again indicated he will need offseason surgery on an ailing elbow — he’s described the ligament strain as “tennis elbow — and that it bothered him during his drive. The reigning series champion won at Toronto last year, beating Pagenaud.

Rossi finished third, one

spot ahead of IndyCar points leader Newgarden. The two began the race separated by just seven points and Rossi cut the deficit to four points.

“We didn’t think we had a first-place car really at any point this weekend,” Rossi said. “The fact that we were able to put it in the top five was a good thing. Then we thought we had a podium car. That was really about it, unless we had anything come to us in the form of luck. So it was good to just kind of capitalize on what we felt was our maximum today. Obviously finishing in front of Josef Newgarden was a good thing.”

Robert Wickens drove the parade lap in a car equipped with hand controls that allowed the Canadian to drive for the first time since he suffered a spinal cord injury in a crash last August. **AP**

AP PHOTO



Shakur Stevenson knocks out Alberto Guevara (right) to win a featherweight boxing match this weekend

OPINION

Tax Matters

Paulo Cordeiro de Sousa



TAX MEASURES AGAINST REAL ESTATE SPECULATION

Since 2011, the Macau government has adopted several measures against property speculation to improve the existing supply of housing, both for purchasing and rentals. Such measures have almost exclusively been adopted at the tax level, in particular within the Stamp Duty regulations.

Consequently, in 2011 the Legislative Assembly passed Law 6/2011, thus creating a Special Stamp Duty (SSD) on the Transfer of Real Estate («Imposto do Selo Especial sobre a Transmissão de Bens Imóveis»), firstly focusing solely on property for housing and then extending the regime in 2012 (via Law 15/2012) to commercial property, office space and parking lots. Such measures were aimed at increasing taxes imposed on vendors upon the on-selling of real estate within less than two years by charging 20% on the sales price of transfers occurring within one year and 10% within the second year. The aim is to avoid the speculative acquisition of housing property that takes advantage of real-estate appreciation, by attenuating any capital gains that may be obtained within a relatively short period of time. Simultaneously, Law 15/2012 introduced an aggressive stamp duty tax of 10% applicable to certain buyers of housing property: legal entities, commercial entrepreneurs (individuals) and non-residents. Once again, the rationale was to foster the acquisition of property by local residents that would inhabit such property.

More recently, in 2018, after the prior measures were found insufficient, Law 2/2018 created a Stamp Duty on the acquisition of a second and subsequent housing properties («Imposto do Selo sobre a Aquisição do Segundo e Posteriores Bens Imóveis Destinados a Habitação» - SD2+). The law imposes an additional 5% on the acquisition of the second housing property, and is applicable to all buyers, individuals and companies, residents and non-residents alike. There is a 10% levy on any third or subsequent housing property. Thus, for instance, should a company acquire its third property, it will have to pay, in addition to the regular Stamp Duty (with a progressive rate to the maximum of 3% for properties sold at over MOP\$4,000,000), a 10% Stamp Duty as the purchaser is a company (deriving from Law 15/2012), plus a 10% Stamp Duty for the third property (SD2+). In addition to the referred amounts, it will also have to pay a 5% administration charge levied on the value of the total Stamp Duty payable (via item 15 of the Stamp Duty General Chart). This means that such a company would have to pay a minimum tax of 22.05% for this acquisition, which, in my opinion, is quite high.

Not much time has elapsed since Law 2/2018 came into force but the trend shows that real estate prices have continued to escalate. In addition, it is apparent that many dwellings on the market are still unoccupied and that owners continue to view real estate as a commodity, as investments in the short and medium term, in order to realize capital gains in the near future. The SSD has not brought changes to this situation — the seller only has to wait two years plus one day to automatically avoid paying additional taxes on the price. Unlike other investments, investing in real estate is seldom a very short-term decision. Wouldn't it have been a wiser decision to create a tax on the capital gains made by the seller, regardless of the time for which he held the property? It is also important to note that individuals are not liable to pay any capital gains tax.

The SD2+ is currently easy to overcome if your second and subsequent real estate property is acquired by different members of your family.

Moreover, these measures have not have any effect on the prices in the rental market, which have kept steadily increasing, nor have they had an impact on the number of properties being offered for lease.

Measures with incentives to lease one's property are clearly lacking. Why aren't there tax benefits in place for owners who have their property leased and tax impositions on non-leased property? Perhaps those could be more effective than those presently in place.

CODEBREAKER ALAN TURING TO BE FACE OF NEW BRITISH BANKNOTE

Codebreaker and computing pioneer Alan Turing has been chosen as the face of Britain's new 50 pound note, the Bank of England announced yesterday.

Governor Mark Carney said Turing, who did ground-breaking work on computers and artificial intelligence, was "a giant on whose shoulders so many now stand."

During World War II Turing worked at the secret Bletchley Park code-breaking center, where he helped crack Nazi Germany's secret codes. He also developed the "Turing Test" to measure artificial intelligence.

After the war he was prosecuted for homosexuality, which was then illegal, and forcibly treated with female hormones. He died at age 41 in 1954 after eating an apple laced with cyanide.

Turing received a posthumous apology from the British government in 2009, and a royal pardon in 2013.

The U.K.'s highest-denomination note is the last to be redesigned and switched from paper to more secure and durable polymer. The redesigned 10 pound and 20 pound notes feature author Jane Austen and artist J.M.W. Turner.

The Turing banknote will enter circulation in 2021.

HAWAII ACTIVISTS PROTESTING OVER START OF WORK ON TELESCOPE



CALEB JONES & JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER

HUNDREDS of demonstrators are gathered at the base of Hawaii's tallest mountain to protest the construction of a giant telescope on land that some Native Hawaiians consider sacred.

State and local officials will try to close the road to the summit of Mauna Kea on Monday morning to allow trucks carrying construction equipment to make their way to the top.

Officials say anyone breaking the law will be prosecuted. Protesters who blocked the roadway during previous attempts to begin construction have been arrested.

Scientists hope the massive telescope they planned for the site — a world-renowned location for astronomy — will help them peer back to the time just after the Big Bang and answer fundamental questions about the universe.

But some Native Hawaiians consider the land holy, as a realm of gods and a place of worship.

Groups of activists sang and prayed at the base of the mountain on Sunday afternoon. They declared the area, which is well off the highway at the intersection of the mountain's access road, a place of refuge and safety.

"This is Hawaiian homelands," said Kealoha Pisciotta, one of the protest

leaders. "We're clearly out of their way, we're not obstructing anything, everyone is in ceremony."

The project already has been delayed by years of legal battles and demonstrations, drawing attention from the likes of "Aquaman" actor Jason Momoa, who has Native Hawaiian ancestry and has voiced opposition to the telescope.

Scientists selected Mauna Kea in 2009 after a five-year, worldwide search for the ideal site.

Protests disrupted a groundbreaking and Hawaiian blessing ceremony at the site in 2014. After that, the demonstrations intensified.

Construction stopped in April 2015 after protesters were arrested for blocking the work. A second attempt to restart construction a few months later ended with more arrests and crews pulling back.

But Hawaii's Supreme Court has ruled the construction is legal, permits are in place, and the state has given the company behind the telescope a green light to resume its efforts. The company is made up of a group of universities in California and Canada, with partners from China, India and Japan.

According to the University of Hawaii, ancient Hawaiians considered the location kapu, or forbidden. Only the highest-ranking chiefs and priests were allowed to make the long

trek to Mauna Kea's summit above the clouds.

Today, the university leases the land at the summit from the state for existing telescopes and observatories on the summit. A road built for telescope access decades ago is used by thousands of tourists and locals each year, including Native Hawaiians who go there to pray.

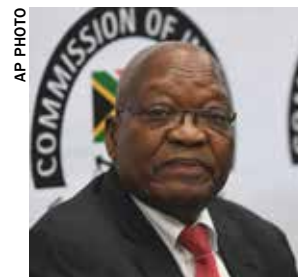
Supporters of the \$1.4 billion giant telescope say the cutting-edge instrument will not only make important scientific discoveries but bring educational and economic opportunities to Hawaii.

The telescope's primary mirror would measure 98 feet (30 meters) in diameter. It would be three times as wide as the world's largest existing visible-light telescope, with nine times more area.

Gov. David Ige said unarmed National Guard units will be used to transport personnel and supplies and enforce some road closures, but they will not be used in a law enforcement capacity during planned protests.

In a news conference Sunday, Ige said that he "respected the right of people to protest" at the telescope site as long as protesters behave lawfully.

"As construction begins, our number one priority is keeping everyone safe," Ige said, adding that he wants to make sure construction workers and truck drivers have unimpeded access to the telescope site. **AP**



South Africa Former president Jacob Zuma appeared yesterday before a state commission probing allegations of corruption in during his tenure as the country's leader.

Persian Gulf European Union nations were looking to deescalate tensions in the Persian Gulf area yesterday and call on Iran to stick to the 2015 nuclear deal, despite the pullout of the United States from the accord and the re-imposition of U.S. sanctions on Tehran.

Poland Police are searching for the fifth straight day for a small boy whose father failed to deliver him to his mother and then died after being hit by a train.



Italy Police in northern Italy have detained three men, including one linked to a neo-fascist Italian political party, after uncovering a huge stash of automatic weapons, a missile and material featuring Nazi symbols.

The European Union said yesterday that it has agreed to provide a USD9.6 million package to help Sri Lanka battle terrorism following Easter Sunday bomb attacks that killed more than 250 people.



USA President Donald Trump said four congresswomen of color should go back to the "broken and crime infested" countries they came from, ignoring the fact that all of the women are American citizens and three were born in the U.S. More on p15