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MSARG Dengue Fever Prevention Working Group

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RCR electronics

FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Geldenhuys EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

N.º 3341 **FRIDAY** T. 27°/33° Air Quality Good
26 Jul 2019

“THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’”

MOP 8.00
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LAS VEGAS SANDS SAID SOME OF ITS VIP CUSTOMERS ARE REPORTING THEIR BUSINESS HAS BEEN HURT BY THE CHINA-US TRADE WAR P3

MIGRANT AMPUTEE WAITING ON INSURANCE AS VISA CLOCK TICKING P6

HK POLICE REJECTED A PROTEST PLANNED FOR TOMORROW AMID SAFETY CONCERNS AND FEARS THE ROADS IN THE AREA ARE TOO NARROW P7



China A Beijing-based rocket developer sent two satellites into orbit yesterday, becoming China's first private company to successfully complete an orbital launch, state media said.



Indonesia A woman sentenced to prison for recording her boss's sexual harassment wept and lawmakers clapped as Indonesia's parliament yesterday unanimously approved an amnesty recommended by the country's president.

Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte has offered a bounty to anybody who can deliver to him the head of the communist insurgent leader behind the killings of four police intelligence officers last week in an insurgency-hit central province.

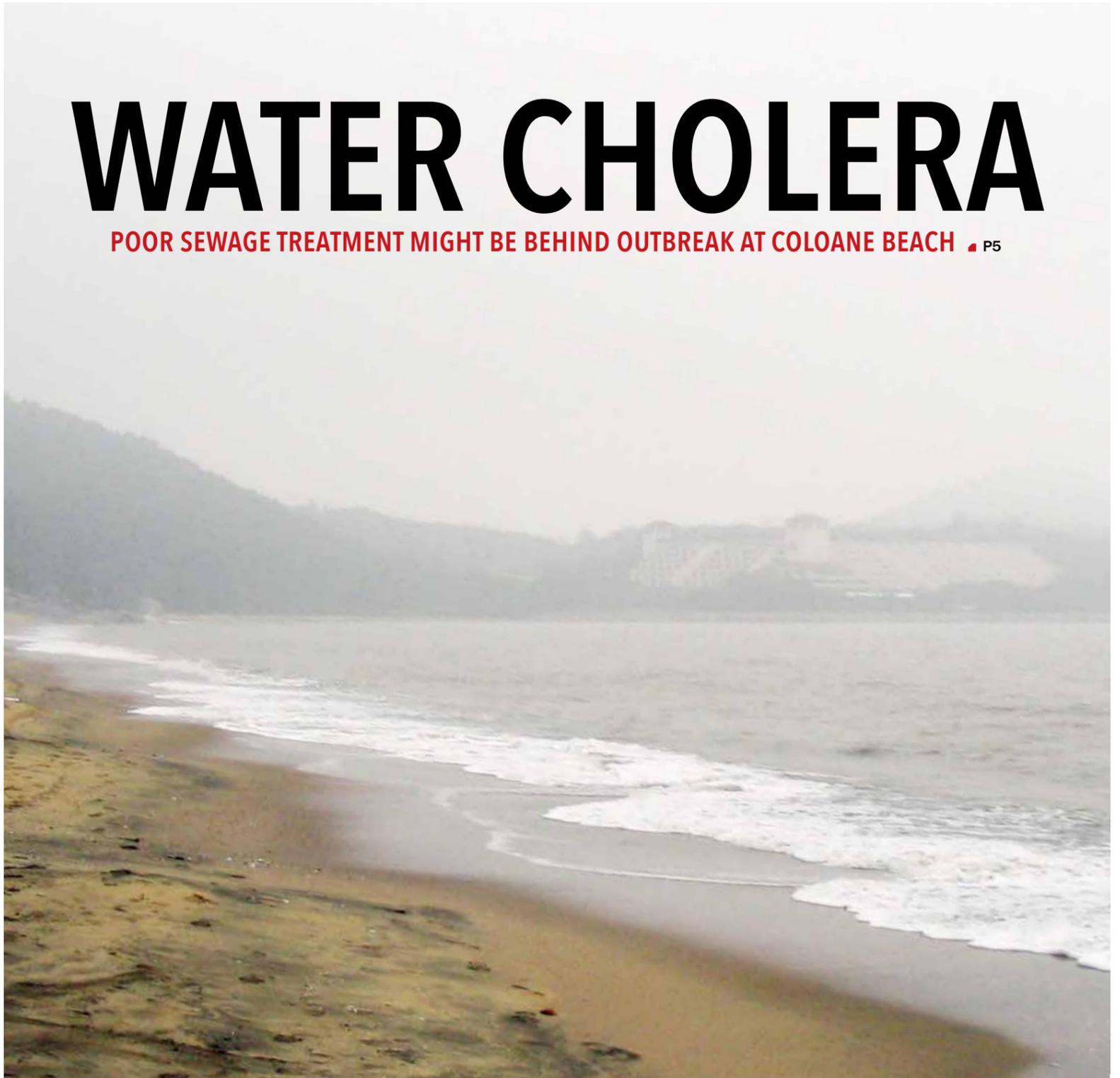


Thailand Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha gave his first policy statement in the face of genuine parliamentary scrutiny yesterday after five years as an unchallenged junta leader.



Japan Nissan is slashing 12,500 jobs or about 9% of its global workforce to cut costs and achieve a turnaround amid tumbling profits, the Japanese automaker said yesterday.

More on backpage



WATER CHOLERA

POOR SEWAGE TREATMENT MIGHT BE BEHIND OUTBREAK AT COLOANE BEACH P5



TAOBAO AGENTS OFFER SHADY DEALS ON GALAXY MACAU POOLSIDE P4



Once upon a time, not too far from Hollywood, two of the world's biggest movie stars were talking about what it's like to screw up on set

times
Extra

DSEJ WILL NOT SURVEY TEACHERS ON WORK WILLINGNESS

The Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) says that the bureau has conducted discussions with the education sector on how it can improve the bureau's measures for human resource planning. In the DSEJ's reply to lawmaker Sulu Sou's inquiry, the bureau said that asking teachers in private schools to complete a form to indicate their willingness to continue their jobs places unnecessary pressure on them. This method will therefore not be used by the education authority.

KEVIN HO DOES NOT PLAN TO RUN IN AL ELECTION

Macau delegate at the National People's Congress (NPC) Kevin Ho King Lun said that he is currently not planning to participate in the indirect election of the Legislative Assembly. "I will not tell you for sure that I am not interested in the election or I will not run in the election. But at this moment, I don't have such a plan. I want to use my time and spend efforts to get involved in the NPC's work, because it is a very big responsibility. The NPC's work is something I am still not familiar with," said Ho.

LAWMAKERS PROPOSE DEFINING SMES AS CONSUMERS

Members of the First Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL) have proposed to define small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), some organizations and building administration committees as consumers. Earlier this week, the committee continued discussions on the consumer protection law. According to Ho Ion Sang, president of the committee, some lawmakers believe that SMEs, clubs, and building administration committees are in a vulnerable position, and require consumer rights protection. The committee hopes that the local government can consider Macau's current situation and expand the definition of consumer from individuals to include entities. Government representatives claimed that the authorities will conduct research based on the committee's opinions. In addition, the city's consumer protection bill also proposed to regulate trade fair and exhibition operations.

FSS ENFORCES AUTOMATIC SYSTEM FOR PENSION WITHDRAWALS

RENATO MARQUES

THE Social Security Fund (FSS) has established a new measure that aims to facilitate the withdrawal of the Special Allocation from Budget Surplus beneficiaries.

From August 1, FSS Pension Beneficiaries aged 65 or older can register for an automatic transfer of the funds, which are normally deposited in their government accounts, into their private bank accounts instead.

The new measure was announced yesterday afternoon in a press conference by the Fund who noted that the provision aims to facilitate the processing of such payments, and reduce the need for multiple visits to service providers, thereby "reducing the waiting time for the processing of services to the elderly," according to Head of Department of Central Provident Fund System, Ieong Iun Lai.

Ieong also noted that according to the Fund's experience in previous years, "data shows that the majority of pensioners who submitted applications to withdraw the money are related to the participation from the government from that year." In this way, the new system will employ self-use kiosks for the registration and activation of services. As the Head of Division of General Affairs of Provident Fund, Ho Hoi Sang, explained, "for the upcoming years, there will be no need for a new registration since the first registration will be permanently valid as long as the beneficiary fulfills requirements such as the Proof of Life."

From August 1, citizens in-

RENATO MARQUES



cluded in this system can go to any of the kiosks available in the various government service centers and register with their Macau Identification Card.

According to FSS, there are over 40 locations where the kiosks are available.

After registration, the kiosk will print a receipt and an SMS message will also be sent to the mobile phone number registered to the account, indicating that registration was completed successfully.

All the account owners who are at least 65 years old and are currently receiving an old-age or disability pension are eligible to register for this service. In late August, FSS will automatically deposit the special allocation from the year's budget surplus into the bank account

where the account owner receives their old-age or disability pension.

According to Ho, "it is estimated that around 70,000 people will register to withdraw the funds every year."

Meanwhile, according to data provided by the FSS during the press conference yesterday, the government's participation in the FSS Special Allocation from Budget Surplus has reached a total of MOP25.6 billion.

Head of Division of General Affairs of Provident Fund, Ho Hoi Sang, noted that in the same period from 2010 to 2019, the total amount of funds withdrawn from the accounts was of MOP5.2 billion.

Analyzing the same statistics, Ho noted that year after year, the number of program beneficia-

ries has grown from 296,280 in 2010 to 373,362 in 2018.

This year has seen a drop in the number of beneficiaries by almost 2,000 people.

Questioned on the topic, the Head of Department of Central Provident Fund System, Ieong Iun Lai, explained that this year has not yet been processed and the figure may grow.

She explained that the drop is due to a large number of potential beneficiaries that, on first analysis, failed to comply with one of the major requirements, namely residence in the Macau SAR for at least 183 days per year.

In such cases, she said there are a total of around 15,000 people who have presented appeals that would make the figure "most likely to grow as they are processed."

Twelve drop out of Chief Executive race

TWELVE Macau residents who collected application forms for the fifth Chief Executive election have dropped out of the race, leaving former President of the Legislative Assembly (AL) Ho Iat Seng as the sole candidate, the Electoral Affairs Commission announced yesterday.

"After reviewing the background of Ho Iat Seng, [he] has been accepted as a candidate," said Song Man Lei, chairman of the commission.

Ho received a total of 379 nominations from members of the election committee.

The commission will

publish a notification today announcing the acceptance of Ho's candidacy.

"Regarding Ho's candidacy, if no objection is received by the commission by today, the commission will officially announce Ho's candidacy on July 29," said Song.

"Ho is the only one

who submitted the nomination form. I am not aware of why the others did not submit [theirs]," said Song.

The election will be held on August 25 at the East Asian Games Dome.

Ho also handed the commission a letter in which he promised to give up his Portuguese

nationality.

"According to the law, the candidate should promise to give up other nationalities. As long as the candidate makes this promise, he is still a qualified candidate. Currently, I don't know if he has given up his Portuguese nationality or not," said Song. JZ

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LVS says US-China spat beginning to impact VIP customers

CHINA'S high rollers are feeling the hit to their businesses from the trade war. That's the feedback Las Vegas Sands Corp. (LVS) is getting from its wealthiest gamblers, according to company president Robert Goldstein.

"We hear from our people who work in the casino that customers are concerned about the trade war," Goldstein said in a call with analysts to discuss second-quarter earnings. "It is impacting

some of their business."

Bloomberg Intelligence analysts Brian Egger and Caitlin Noselli said U.S.-China trade tensions may have exacerbated declines in wagers by VIP clients in Macau during the second quarter, contributing to weaker-than-expected results in the world's biggest gambling hub.

Goldstein said the worries are coming from high-end entrepreneurs or those who work for companies impacted by the tensions

between the U.S. and China. He cited a Chinese customer in Las Vegas who said the trade war is "really impactful."

He said the sentiments are only anecdotal, and stressed that "Macau looks like it's doing just fine."

For example, Goldstein said, the Macau-based arm of the global gaming corporation recorded profit of \$511 million (4.11 billion patacas) for the second quarter of 2019, a 19.7% increase over

the equivalent period last year. During the same period, net revenue edged up 1.4% to \$2.15 billion (MOP17.3 billion).

The growth was driven by the mass segment, including tables and slot, which increased about 11% year-on-year in the second quarter. Meanwhile, the premium mass segment slipped 4.2% in the same comparison period.

The two mass segments account for 85% of the operator's gaming-related profit in Macau.

The contribution of the mass-market segment to the company's total profits (including hotel and other entertainment activity) increased 3 percentage points in the second quarter to 56%, while the contribution of VIP play declined 2 percentage points to 7%, possibly impacted by U.S.-China trade tensions.

Parent company Las Vegas Sands saw its net profit soar 71.6% in the second quarter year-on-year, in part due to the completion of its \$1.3 billion sale of its Bethlehem casino to an affiliate of Alabama's Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

Las Vegas Sands remains staunch in its strategy to expand in Asia, said Goldstein.

"We remain enthusiastic about our future growth opportunities in Asia, which will be enhanced through the introduction of our Four Seasons Tower Suites Macao later this year, the Londoner Macao throughout 2020 and 2021 and the expansion of Marina Bay Sands in Singapore thereafter," added Las Vegas Sands chairman and chief executive Sheldon Adelson, according to prepared comments, as cited by GGRAsia.

The firm says it expects a new tower for its Marina Bay Sands casino resort in Singapore, which will be operational by the start of 2024.

"We are also aggressively pursuing additional development opportunities in new markets, including in Osaka, Japan," said Goldstein.

The company president also hinted that Sheldon Adelson, Sands China's chairman, who was recently treated for cancer, was seeing his health improve and might return for the next earnings call in the third quarter. **DB/AGENCIES**

CoD opens luxury showroom with finest from land, sea and air

STAFF REPORTER

MELCO Resorts and Entertainment opened a new showroom yesterday at its flagship property City of Dreams Macau, featuring luxury vehicles, such as a bulletproof SUV featured in the movie "Men in Black".

The showroom, titled "The Most Insane Garage in the World", was co-created with TheArsenale.

It is the first showroom from the firm in Asia, after other locations in Paris, Dubai and Miami. TheArsenale showroom at City of Dreams will feature more than 40 pieces, many of which are visiting Macau



Aaron Kwok made a grand appearance by sitting in the cockpit of Centauri's pioneering Valkyrie, which boasts an interior design by Maserati

for the first time.

It showcases the world's most sought-after rare finds

from land, sea and air.

At a special preview yesterday, Asian superstar Aa-

ron Kwok was first to view the luxury products.

These include Formula

1 and Formula E cars; a Roborace, the first pilot-less car ever to compete in racing events; and Centauri's pioneering Valkyrie.

The interior of the Valkyrie is designed by car manufacturer Maserati.

It is an all-black lightweight aircraft for two with an engine that takes the aircraft up to 461 km/h in speed and 20,000 feet in height. By using the widest canopy in the world, the driver and passengers will have an incredible field of view as they fly through open skies.

Meanwhile, the Rezvani Tank is a bulletproof vehicle that looks like it belongs in a futuristic military service battalion. It hails from the world famous Rezvani Motors which designs and manufactures weapon-grade looking vehicles for the road with the thrill of flying through open skies.

Beau Lake is the first

electrical pedal boat with an engine just slightly larger than a human fist. This boat was named after water bodies and beaches, a tribute to the irreplaceable waterside experience. Finished with high quality wood, it is an intricate experience of luxury through the simplest of things - from the plush leather seat covers to the polished wooden panels.

Meanwhile, president of the resort operator, Lawrence Ho, reiterated his confidence in Macau on the sidelines of the event, emphasizing that his company had already made investment plans for the next three years.

"This includes the refurbishment of the Nüwa with a contemporary Chinese theme, the renovation and rebranding of the Countdown Hotel to the Libertine and the phase-two development of Studio City."

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

TAOBAO AGENTS OFFER SHADY DISCOUNTS FOR GRAND RESORT DECK

JULIE ZHU

TAOBAO agents are offering shady 45% discounts for a day at Galaxy Macau's Grand Resort Deck, with their customers instructed to follow carefully planned itineraries that have them avoid personnel at the integrated resort.

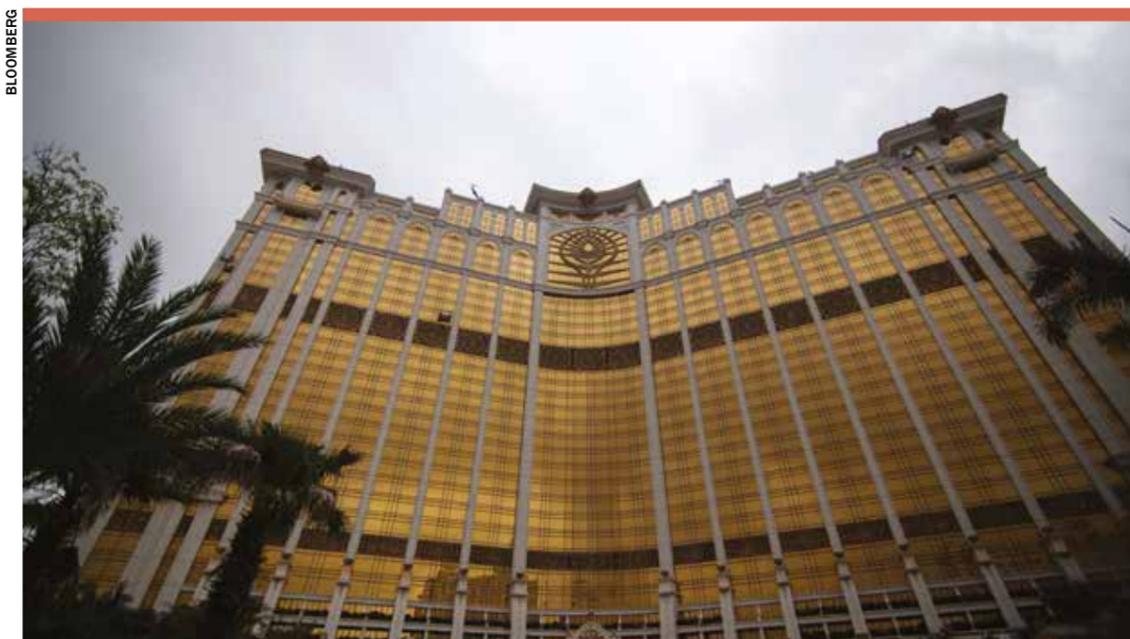
The Grant Resort Deck Day Pass offers customers access to Galaxy Macau's wave pool, beach, watersides, and aquatic zone.

The Day Pass for one adult and one child aged 6 years or below normally sells for a combined rate of 568 patacas, as advertised recently by the gaming operator.

But at least one Taobao shop is offering a "good deal" to people who wish to enjoy some "expensive" fun at a more economic rate.

Taobao shop "Sun Hao Jie 1995" is offering passes for RMB145 (MOP170) for adults and MOP141 per child. The combined amounts represent a 45% discount on the normal price.

By paying MOP170, adult customers are allegedly guaranteed not only one ticket but also one lunch voucher – a freebie that Galaxy does not offer with the official Day Pass. The same promotion



BLOOMBERG

applies with child tickets purchased from the Taobao shop.

In addition to offering a better deal than Galaxy, the shop also gives its customers a waterproof cellphone case bag, a swimming nose clip, and ear plugs for free.

But is this promotion too good to be true?

The Taobao store lists six instructions on its page, mainly directing buyers not to show the

receipt to anybody, especially workers on-duty at the Galaxy water park. This is all to ensure a positive experience for its customers, it says.

One of the instructions dictates that customers are not allowed to access the waterpark by themselves but must wait at a designated spot inside the Galaxy property and be led by specific "receiving agents" to enter the Grand Resort Deck.

"After the payment, the receiving agents will take you to the park, normally around 11 a.m. or 2 p.m., [picking you up] in front of Galaxy McDonald's," one of the instructions reads.

The instructions appear to vary from agent to agent. Different entrances to the park can be found, including at the Ritz-Carlton, Marriott, Banyan Tree, and Okura Hotel. The instructions

also suggest that during the busy summer vacation period, special arrangements may be made.

"Ritz-Carlton, Marriott and Galaxy offer free lockers. On the day of your visit, if the entrance happens to be from Banyan Tree or Okura hotel, [the receiving agents] will charge MOP20 or HKD20 for the lockers at the buyers' expense," another user rule indicates.

Aside from the instructions, the shop advises its users to not show their purchase receipt to staff working at the Grand Resort Deck.

"After you enter the waterpark, the waterpark will give everybody a waterproof stamp. On the day of your visit, the stamp can be used unlimited times for entering the waterpark," the instructions wrote, adding "please keep the secrecy of the source of the reservation."

"Due to a park regulation, which suggests that discounted price tickets shall not be sold online, visitors should remember not to wait on the 2nd floor and not to show the reservation receipt issued from us," the instructions state.

According to sales statistics on the shop's information page, a total of 124 sales have been recorded over the past 30 days, but the page has no customer reviews.

Galaxy Macau could not immediately be reached yesterday for comment.

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Cholera discovery in beach waters might be connected to poor waste treatment

STAFF REPORTER

FOLLOWING reports in recent days about Cholera bacteria detected at Cheoc Van Beach, some residents have expressed concerns, with at least one drawing a connection between the presence of the bacteria and the poor treatment of sewage in Macau.

In response to the finding of Cholera, the government raised the red flag at the beach, signaling that marine activities should be avoided.

The Health Bureau has noted that the latest strain of Cholera was earlier recorded in Macau in 1998. However, the bacteria have been found several times in Macau waters since.

António Trindade, CEO of local energy and environment firm CESL Asia, suspects a connection between the latest Cholera discovery and the sewage problem.

"Over 80 percent of the sewage water that is produced in Macau is discharged, untreated, to coastal waters," he told the Times in an interview earlier this year.

Commenting on the latest find-



BLOOMBERG

ing, Trindade yesterday suggested that the government cross-reference the bacteria found at Cheoc Van with the sewage discharge.

"They have ways to compare [...] these germs, with the rubbish collected or sewage treated by the several plants across the city. Then they will know where these germs are from."

On the other hand, even if the

wastewater gets treated before disposal, it may not be totally safe. Trindade said Macau is using a safety standard from 1992 to handle wastewater today.

"This is a third-world situation," Trindade added. "Macau is receiving tens of millions of tourists each year, and we have one of the richest economies in the world; we can't take these risks."

He recommends more be done

to conserve the environment.

Meanwhile, a group of environmentalists is inviting members of the public to clean the coast of Coloane on Saturday. A convener told the Times that they are aware of the Cholera discovery.

"We will remind participants not to touch the sea water as we are aware of the finding," the environmentalist said. "We are not drinking the water, so I believe we

will be safe."

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the United States, a person can get cholera by drinking water or eating food contaminated with the cholera bacterium.

In an epidemic, the source of the contamination is usually the feces of an infected person who contaminates water or food. The disease can spread rapidly in areas with inadequate treatment of sewage and drinking water. The disease is not likely to spread directly from one person to another, therefore, casual contact with an infected person is not considered a serious risk.

Cholera infection is often mild or without symptoms, but approximately 10% of infected persons will have severe reaction characterized by profuse watery diarrhea, vomiting, and leg cramps. In these people, rapid loss of body fluids leads to dehydration and shock. Without treatment, death can occur within hours.

It can take anywhere from a few hours to 5 days for symptoms to appear after infection. Symptoms typically appear in 2-3 days.

Organizers: Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute, Department of Commerce of Guangdong Province

www.guangdongmacaofair.com | gdmofair

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26-28/7/2019
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Free Admission

1st Prize YAMAHA CUXI (1180€)
 2nd Prize 21.5" iMac
 3rd Prize Dyson V10 Absorber

Event Program of Guangdong & Macao Branded Products Fair (GMBPF)

Time	Event	Venue
11:00 - 20:00	Exhibition of GMBPF 2019	Expo Hall B
10:00 - 11:00	Opening Ceremony of GMBPF 2019	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B
11:45 - 13:05	Forum on Youth Innovation and Development in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area	Naples Room 2708 & 2801
12:00 - 15:00	Forum of "One Belt One Road" Business Opportunities with Myanmar	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B
14:30 - 18:00	Culinary Competition - Opening Ceremony and the 1st (Guangzhou, Foshan & Zhongshan) and 2nd Round (Zhuhai, Zhongshan & Jiangmen)	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B
16:00 - 18:00	The Classical Dance Performance	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B
19:00 - 19:10	Kids Dance	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B
19:10 - 19:15	Magic Show	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B
19:15 - 19:45	Classical Music Performance	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B

Content of Fair:
 Guangdong Branded Products Area
 Macao Featured Products Area
 Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area
 The Belt and Road Area
 The Power of Greater Bay Area Youth-Young Entrepreneurs Area
 Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Junior Chefs' Culinary Competition

Time	Event	Venue
10:00 - 20:00	Exhibition of GMBPF 2019	Expo Hall B
11:30 - 13:15	Workshop on Exhibition Lighting Design (1)	The Free of Cost Stage, Expo Hall B
14:15 - 16:00	Workshop on Exhibition Lighting Design (2)	The Free of Cost Stage, Expo Hall B
16:00 - 17:00	The Classical Dance Performance	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B
16:30 - 16:40	Singing Performance	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B
16:40 - 17:00	Product Promotion (Paragon Jewellery)	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B
17:00 - 17:30	Lecture on Authenticating Treasures (1): Jadeite and Jewellery Appreciation and Collection	The Free of Cost Stage, Expo Hall B
17:30 - 17:50	Lecture on Authenticating Treasures (2): How to Choose and Eat Abalone, Sea Cucumbers, Shark's Fin and Swam Bladders	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B
17:50 - 18:10	The Classical Dance Performance	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B
18:10 - 18:20	Kids Dance	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B
18:20 - 18:45	Artistic Cycling Performance	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B
18:45 - 19:00	Classical Chinese Music Performance	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B
19:00 - 19:15	Karate Show	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B
19:15 - 19:30	Artistic Cycling Performance	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B
19:30 - 19:45	Macao Star Singer Performance	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B
19:45 - 20:00	Game Section	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B

27/7/2019 Saturday

Time	Event	Venue
10:00 - 20:00	Exhibition of GMBPF 2019	Expo Hall B
11:00 - 12:00	Lecture on Exhibition Lighting Design (2)	The Free of Cost Stage, Expo Hall B
14:30 - 14:45	The Classical Dance Performance	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B
14:45 - 15:00	Artistic Cycling Performance	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B
15:00 - 16:30	Workshop on "Becoming an Influencer in 3 Minutes"	The Free of Cost Stage, Expo Hall B
16:30 - 17:40	Product Promotion (K. THREE, IDEA Company Limited)	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B
17:40 - 18:15	Macao Star Singer Performance	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B
18:15 - 18:30	Game Section	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B
18:30 - 17:00	Lecture on Authenticating Treasures (2): How to Choose and Eat Abalone, Sea Cucumbers, Shark's Fin and Swam Bladders	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B
17:00 - 17:15	The Classical Dance Performance	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B
17:15 - 17:30	Kids Dance	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B
17:30 - 17:45	Kids Dance	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B
17:45 - 18:00	Artistic Cycling Performance	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B
18:00 - 18:45	GMBPF Best Marketing Awards 2018	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B
18:45 - 19:45	Lucky Draw	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B

28/7/2019 Sunday

Time	Event	Venue
10:00 - 20:00	Exhibition of GMBPF 2019	Expo Hall B
11:00 - 12:00	Lecture on Exhibition Lighting Design (2)	The Free of Cost Stage, Expo Hall B
14:30 - 14:45	The Classical Dance Performance	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B
14:45 - 15:00	Artistic Cycling Performance	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B
15:00 - 16:30	Workshop on "Becoming an Influencer in 3 Minutes"	The Free of Cost Stage, Expo Hall B
16:30 - 17:40	Product Promotion (K. THREE, IDEA Company Limited)	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B
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17:15 - 17:30	Kids Dance	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B
17:30 - 17:45	Kids Dance	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B
17:45 - 18:00	Artistic Cycling Performance	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B
18:00 - 18:45	GMBPF Best Marketing Awards 2018	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B
18:45 - 19:45	Lucky Draw	The Grand Stage, Expo Hall B

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MFE 澳門國際品牌連鎖加盟展 2019 26-28/7
 Exposição de Franquia de Macau 2019 26-28/7
 The Venetian Macao

BRAND EXPANSION CONTINUES BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES TO BE SEIZED

Grand Opening Today

Activities Highlights

- ★ Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Business Zone
- ★ One-on-One Branding Consultation Service
- ★ Business Forums
- ★ Business Matching
- ★ Gourmet Avenue

Time	Highlighted Activities	Venue
26/07/2019 (Friday)		
11:00 - 11:45	Opening Ceremony of Macao Franchise Expo 2019	Expo Hall B
12:00 - 13:00	Awards Ceremony of "2019 Macau Excellence Chain Stores and Franchise Brands", Awards Ceremony of "2019 China Chain Stores and Franchise Overseas Excellence Award (Macao)" & Awards Ceremony of "Macao Franchise Practical Course Certificate"	Multi-Function Area, Expo Hall A
14:00 - 15:00	Forum on "2019 China Chain Stores and Franchise Overseas Excellence Award (Macao)": New Chains - New Consumption	Naples Room 2601
15:00 - 17:30	Forum on Chain and Franchise Business Opportunities of International Brands	Multi-Function Area, Expo Hall A
15:30 - 16:00	Greenland Global Commodity Trading Hub Establish "Commodity Hall of Macau and Portuguese-speaking Countries" Promotion Meeting	Multi-Function Area, Expo Hall A
17:15 - 17:45	Protocol Signing Ceremony	Macao Central and Southern District & Macao Fishermen's Wharf
18:00 - 21:30	City Tour of Macao Franchise Expo 2019	Macao Central and Southern District & Macao Fishermen's Wharf
27/07/2019 (Saturday)		
11:00 - 13:00	Professional Tips For Managing Your Chain Stores and Franchise Businesses	Multi-Function Area, Expo Hall A
14:00 - 15:00	How Online Tools Bring Traffic to Franchise Business	Multi-Function Area, Expo Hall A
15:15 - 16:45	Beyond Franchising & Food Safety	Multi-Function Area, Expo Hall A
16:30 - 19:00	Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Market Research (Macao Tour)	San Kio District
28/07/2019 (Sunday)		
08:30 - 17:30	Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Market Research (Zhongshan Tour)	San Kio District
11:00 - 12:00	Macau's Opportunities to Asia Pacific Brands	Multi-Function Area, Expo Hall A
14:30 - 15:30	How can Franchisors make good use of the opportunities in Greater Bay Area in order to get 9+2 > 11	Multi-Function Area, Expo Hall A

Opening Hours
 26/07 (Friday) 10:00 - 18:00 (Open For Trade Visitors Only)
 27/07 (Saturday) 10:00 - 18:00 (Open For Public)
 28/07 (Sunday) 10:00 - 17:00 (Open For Public)

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Remarks: *The above program is updated as of 24 July 2019.
 *Program details are tentative, contents may be subject to change and please refer to the final announcement of the organizers.

Organiser: PI, ABF, etc.
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 Speciality Invited Partner: etc.

Tel: (853)8294 6885 / (852)2511 9144 The Venetian Macao, Expo Hall A

MIGRANT WORKER STILL AWAITING UPDATES FROM INSURANCE, EMPLOYER

LYNZY VALLES

THE Filipino migrant worker who is seeking compensation following a workplace accident that cost him his leg says he still has no updates regarding amputation claims from his insurance.

With his visa lasting only until August 10, Reymond Tagacay, the migrant worker who worked in a car wash, said that he could only get an update from the insurance once he receives a disability certificate from Conde S. Januário Hospital – which will take 25 days to be issued.

Tagacay applied for the certificate on July 17, two days after he was officially discharged from the hospital.

But his dilemma goes on, with still no word on further assistance from his employer.

The worker was injured at his work place on October 31, 2018 after being hit by another vehicle while cleaning a car.

Contrary to earlier reports that he could not receive assistance from the Philippines' Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, Tagacay informed that such assis-



LYNZY VALLES

tance would only cover medical matters and would not include the disability assistance that he was seeking.

“When I went to the Philippine consulate, they told me that I could be covered in the disability assistance. However, three days later, they called back and told me that I would only be given medical assis-

tance,” Tagacay told the Times.

The injured worker said that he had already sought legal advice as his co-worker who was driving the car that injured him, was not fined as per the initial, mutual agreement.

However, due to his current circumstances, he opted to seek private legal advice.

“I agreed not to file a case against anyone in the first place because at first, my employer said that they would assist me in all ways possible. But after being discharged from the hospital, I found out that that was it,” he said. “I’ll have to go back home with nothing, no financial support whatsoever.”

Another issue, according to Tagacay, was that he had not been receiving the salary written in his contract.

As Tagacay did not receive an employment contract until after the accident occurred, he said that he only found out that his basic salary was supposedly MOP6,100 per month in October.

There were months that he received less than MOP4,000, depending on the operations of the car wash services, he said.

“We had no days off and it was like a no work, no pay policy,” he told the Times.

“It’s really difficult. My wife and I do not know what else to do because we’re like a ball being passed from one office to another. I’m only seeking compensation since the accident occurred at work,” he said.

According to Tagacay, the doctor advised that he could go back to work and be independent. However, the worker said that although he was given prosthetics, he still could not use them for long hours, as his limbs are still sore.

This coming Sunday, Tagacay is set to meet with the Philippine Consulate General and his employer.

The Times contacted Tagacay’s insurance firm but no reply was received by press time.

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IAIN MARLOW, FION LI
& STEPHEN TAN

HONG KONG

Police deny permit for Saturday protest after attacks

HONG Kong police refused permission for a Saturday protest scheduled to take place in the same area that saw unidentified groups of men attack demonstrators, even as its organizer said he would go ahead with the rally planned to condemn the violence.

Saturday's march was organized after a group of mysterious, white-shirted men attacked black-shirted protesters at Yuen Long train station in a city suburb on July 21 as they returned from taking part in a protest of more than 100,000 people earlier that day. Other passengers and journalists were also injured.

Police later arrested 12 men for illegal assembly, including nine suspected of links to the city's notorious organized crime syndicates, known as triads, Anthony Tsang, Acting Regional Commander for New Territories North said yesterday. Footage of stick-wielding assailants running amok in the station - as well as complaints that police on the scene did little to stop them - have shocked Hong Kong.

The permit for the Saturday protest was denied because the roads in Yuen Long are too narrow to accommodate a large number

AP PHOTO



of demonstrators, and local leaders as well as university heads have expressed concerns over public safety, Tsang said.

"There's a high chance of clashes and violence as we have seen some threats online," Tsang said in a press conference on

Thursday. Without a permit, anyone coming out to protest would in theory be breaking the law, while any arrest would de-

pend on the situation at the moment, he added.

Protest organizer Max Chung, who applied for the permit, told reporters he couldn't "comprehend" the rejection.

"I will go ahead and march even if it's just by myself this Saturday," he said after the protest was denied. "For now, I will not ask others to join me," he added, before going on to give journalists details about the march route.

If Saturday's march proceeds, it would mark the eighth-straight weekend of protests in the former British colony as embattled Chief Executive Carrie Lam and her government reel from the city's biggest political crisis since its return to Chinese rule in 1997. Mass protests sparked by opposition to legislation that would allow extraditions to the mainland have widened to include widespread calls for Lam's resignation and an investigation into police abuses against demonstrators. **BLOOMBERG**

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HONG KONG TO NAME YUE AS NEXT MONETARY AUTHORITY CHIEF

ALFRED LIU
& KARI LINDBERG

EDDIE Yue will be named the next chief executive of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, succeeding Norman Chan, the South China Morning Post reported.

Yue, a deputy at the central bank who oversees reserves management, will take over after Chan retires at the end of September, the newspaper reported citing unnamed government sources. Yue will take charge of the city's HKD4 trillion (\$512 billion) exchange fund and oversight of the peg to the dollar.

A spokeswoman for the office of Financial Secretary Paul Chan, responsible for the appointment, declined to comment on the report.

"A steady change in management is more important

than bringing new things for the HKMA at this time during the trade war," said Iris Pang, an economist at ING bank NV in Hong Kong. "Eddie Yue is that steady change in management."

The main task for 54-year-old Yue will be defense of the Hong Kong dollar's peg to the greenback, which has underpinned stability in the city since 1983. The importance of the peg is being highlighted now as protests against a proposed extradition bill intensify in the most serious political crisis since the return to Chinese rule.

The new HKMA chief is set to be among the world's best-paid central bankers, despite having little role in setting interest rates. Formal tasks include formulating banking policies and managing the city's reserve fund. Yet it's the cur-

rency peg that is the highest priority, with chief executives representing the city's iron commitment to maintaining the level. The authorities have intervened over the years to defend it.

Yue, the most experienced deputy to Chan, started his career in civil service in 1986 after graduating from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. He joined the HKMA as a senior manager in 1993, the year it was established. He became a deputy chief executive in 2007, helping Chan steer Hong Kong through the aftermath of the global financial crisis.

An advocate of the exchange fund's long-term growth portfolio, investing into alternative assets such as private equity and real estate, Yue has helped the fund deliver an annualized internal rate of return of 12.9% since 2009. **BLOOMBERG**

SHENZHEN

A city in love with books

THUNDERSTORMS at the start of the week failed to dampen the enthusiasm of book lovers in China's southern city of Shenzhen.

A book fair held in the city from July 19 to 22 received an average of 100,000 visitors daily, reported state media Xinhua, citing the organizing committee.

Total book transactions at the main venue, the Shenzhen Convention and Exhibition Center, amounted to 10.76 million yuan (\$1.56 million).

"The exhibition area is packed with people during the weekend," said Li Jing, a sales representative of Beijing-based Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press. "It's an amazing scene."

The success of the fair is attributed to several reasons, including the arrangement of meetings between famous writers and their fans. More than 50 writers were present to sign

their books. One author, Feng Tang, is said to have signed 693 autographs in one hour.

Another reason for the fair's success is the long-lasting enthusiasm of book lovers in the city, which has a population of more than 20 million.

In October 2013, UNESCO named Shenzhen a global model for the promotion of reading, recognizing the city's persistent efforts to promote reading among the public.

The city is young and dynamic - and so is its population. According to the city government, the people in Shenzhen average 33 years of age.

"The concentration of so many young people in the city is also an important factor for the impressive atmosphere of reading in Shenzhen," said a salesperson with Dolphin Media at the site, who asked to be identified as Mr. Huang. **DB/XINHUA**

GUANGDONG

TRADE WITH CENTRAL, EASTERN EUROPE ROSE 15.2%

GUANGDONG Province saw its trade with 17 Central and Eastern European Countries (CEEC) rise 15.2% year-on-year in the first half of this year, Customs data showed Wednesday.

Trade between Guangdong and the CEEC reached 61.1 billion yuan (about \$8.9 billion) in the first six months. Of the trade, 55.2 billion yuan came from exports from Guangdong to the CEEC and 5.9 billion yuan came from imports, registering an increase of 15.4% and 14.1%, respectively.

Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Greece were Guangdong's top four trade partners in the CEEC.

Mechanical and electrical products accounted for about 80 percent of the total goods Guangdong exported to the CEEC from January to June.

Among them, mobile phones and computer equipment were most popular, with their export value rising 22.6% and 26.3% to 4.5 billion yuan and 2.3 billion yuan, respectively.

Electronic components, food and cosmetics were among the main products Guangdong imported from these countries during the same period.

Guangdong and many other regions in China have seen their trade with the CEEC rise under the China-CEEC cooperation mechanism. Greece was accepted this year as a full member of the mechanism, which was previously known as 16+1 cooperation since it included 16 Central and Eastern European countries and China. Greece's participation has changed the mechanism to the 17+1 cooperation. **DB/XINHUA**

AD



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

The Greater Bay project is coming and it will bring both opportunities and challenges to our little-big town. Macau Daily Times wants to hear your voice. We invite our readers to write in with Letters to the Editor on the topic of the Greater Bay Area.

Please email your letters to gba@macaudailytimes.com

BLOOMBERG



Saudi Prince's megacity shows signs of life

THE walls are covered with graffiti in the sleepy fishing village of Khurayba. There are supplications to God, advertisements for vacation rentals and house painters. Near the local school, there's a scribbled plea: "Open the windows of hope and drive out the despair."

It's here in northwest Saudi Arabia that Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman wants investors to put their money to realize his \$500 billion vision for the region. Called "Neom," it promises to be the most freewheeling part of the kingdom, with state-of-the-art resorts and smart technologies run by robots.

But it's also here where the risks to the 33-year-old prince's grand plan for his country are writ large. Neom is the boldest pillar of a social and economic transformation that so far has seen at least as many delays as successes. Indeed, the question since the prince announced the vast development at an extravaganza in 2017 has been whether it can become a reality.

A three-day trip to the region, which is roughly the size of Massachusetts, showed the scale of the task as well as the potential. Many of the locals who have lived there for years are looking forward to some prosperity, while others are concerned they will be removed and their homes bulldozed.

The area has stunning, untouched shorelines with waves rippling in the turquoise water. Purple volcanic mountains loom over the Red Sea. Historic sites include a wadi where locals believe Moses landed when he crossed over from Egypt, alighting in a valley along the water.

Construction workers have

already descended on the small towns and some building has started. The small Neom Bay airport, with its gleaming white interior, opened for commercial flights last month. Workers were driving construction equipment along the roads. An "I (heart) Neom" sign sits outside a heavily secured base camp of temporary housing for employees, the road leading to sleek white homes lined with solar-powered streetlights.

"It's not only a vision on paper," said Lojain Alharbi, a 25-year-old Neom employee who works as a business analyst for the sports sector. "It's already happening."

In an interview with Bloomberg in October 2017, Prince Mohammed said that by 2030, the completion date for his transition to Saudi Arabia 2.0, Neom will contribute \$100 billion to economic output.

The name comes from "neo," meaning new, and "m," the first letter of mustaqbal, Arabic for future, he said. There will be 12 small cities or towns next to the sea in Neom and others in the valleys and mountains, he said in another interview a year later, as well as an industrial zone, a huge port and several airports.

Yet looming large is not just the cost or the challenge of luring foreign investors into what some see as a vanity project, it's also the politics.

As Saudi Arabia's de facto leader, Prince Mohammed purged relatives, jailed dissidents, tightened his grip on the military and waged a war in Yemen that created the world's worst humanitarian crisis. The murder last year of

Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi by Saudi agents in Istanbul caused an international outcry, pushing several prominent figures to withdraw from the Neom advisory board.

The project is closely tied to Prince Mohammed and until he assumes the throne when his father, King Salman, dies, there will be uncertainty about the transition and what might happen to his plans.

"We really don't have details about anything in Neom, which is why we don't know how viable it is," said Steffen Hertog, associate professor in comparative politics at the London School of

It will be challenge to draw tourists to an area so close to established resorts like Sharm El-Sheikh in Egypt

Economics and Political Science. "No one seems to have committed any sums. Things are moving a bit more slowly than was anticipated."

There's also the challenge of drawing tourists to an area that's a hop away from established resorts like Sharm El-Sheikh in Egypt. Saudi Arabia bans alcohol, and while Neom is expected to have looser rules than other parts of the kingdom, the prince has said that those who want to drink can go to Egypt or Jordan.

The government-owned company that's developing Neom said it received positive feedback after meeting with "senior business leaders from Asia, Europe and the U.S.," with opportunities in tourism, energy, technology and

water infrastructure attracting "significant interest."

"Companies understand that we are building not only a region, but a commercial powerhouse, and they want to be a part of it," Neom said in a response to questions on Wednesday.

For the tens of thousands of people currently living in the 26,500 square kilometers allocated for the project, the concern is more about where they will end up. News that they will become part of a global megaproject has brought a mix of hope of economic prosperity and also worry stoked by rumors that they will be resettled to make way for luxury villas and office parks.

More than 20,000 people will need to be moved based on current estimates, Neom said. "The relocations will be done as part of an established process that is being worked on with the World Bank," Neom said. "Residents will be compensated, and there will be a

number of social programs in place to support them."

Until Neom was announced, the region was relatively unknown and neglected. Schools and electricity came to the area as other Saudi regions were prospering from the first oil boom in the 1970s. Dirt roads still connect many homes in the villages.

The first phase of the project, Neom Bay, which includes the Khurayba and Sharma villages, was originally scheduled for completion in 2021. U.S. engineering firm Aecom was awarded the project management consultancy contract for the bay earlier this year.

The second phase of Neom will be an industrial city, an idea the kingdom executed successfully before in Jubail. Neom has invited bids from seven foreign firms to identify which will lead the development, the company said in its response to questions. Neom is also moving forward with plans to build a causeway to Egypt and contracts have been awarded to Arup Group, WSP and Fugro NV so far, it said. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

US warship sails through Taiwan Strait amid China tensions

TAIWAN said yesterday the U.S. Navy is free to sail through its strait after an American warship did so soon after Beijing warned against foreign interference in its relationship with the island.

The USS Antietam sailed northward through the Taiwan Strait, said a statement from Taiwan's Defense Ministry. Taiwan's joint intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance task force said nothing "unusual" took place during its journey, the statement said.

Cmdr. Clay Doss, a spokesman for the U.S. Navy's 7th Fleet, said the Antietam conducted a routine Taiwan Strait transit Wednesday until yesterday "in accordance with international law." The Antietam is a guided missile cruiser.

The transit "demonstrates the U.S. commitment to a free and



open Indo-Pacific," Doss said. "The U.S. Navy will continue to fly, sail and operate anywhere in-

ternational law allows." China said it paid close attention to the passage and has ex-

pressed its concerns to the U.S. "The Taiwan issue is the most important and sensitive issue in

China-U.S. relations," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said at a regular briefing yesterday. China urges the U.S. to "properly handle Taiwan-related issues with caution," she said.

On Wednesday, China warned in a national defense white paper that it could use force against anyone who intervenes in its efforts to reunify Taiwan. The ruling Communist Party considers Taiwan part of China, though the democratically governed island split from the mainland amid civil war in 1949.

"If anyone dares to separate Taiwan from China, the Chinese army will certainly fight, resolutely defending the country's sovereign unity and territorial integrity," Defense Ministry spokesman Wu Qian said Wednesday during a briefing on the white paper.

The U.S. has repeatedly raised Beijing's ire by selling arms to Taiwan. While the U.S. does not have formal diplomatic ties with the island, U.S. law requires that it provide Taiwan with sufficient defense equipment and services for self-defense.

TRADE

Chinese importers looking at buying more US farm goods

JOE McDONALD,
BEIJING

CHINESE companies are willing to import more U.S. farm goods, the Ministry of Commerce said yesterday, as envoys prepared to meet in Shanghai next week for talks aimed at ending a tariff war.

The announcement appeared to be aimed at defusing President Donald Trump's criticism that Beijing was backsliding on a promise to narrow its trade surplus with the United States by purchasing more American farm products.

A ministry spokesman, Gao Feng, confirmed that trade envoys Tuesday will hold their first face-to-face talks on Tuesday since Trump and President Xi Jinping agreed in June to resume negotiations on the conflict that has battered exporters and rattled financial markets.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said earlier in Washington that he and Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer would meet Chinese officials



Gao said Chinese importers will negotiate with U.S. suppliers of farm goods, though he said there was "no direct relationship" with next week's talks.

"Chinese companies have the willingness to continue importing some agricultural products from the United States," Gao said at a news conference. "They have already inquired and will negotiate contracts with US suppliers."

Beijing blocked imports of U.S. soybeans and raised tariffs on other farm products in response to Trump's duty increases on Chinese goods in

response to complaints about China's technology development plans.

China agreed last year to buy more American agricultural goods, natural gas and other exports but scrapped that after one of Trump's tariff hikes.

The Chinese government said in June that any purchases must be at a reasonable level, suggesting Beijing was becoming more cautious about making commitments before it sees what Washington offers in exchange. Trump recently accused Beijing of backsliding, saying on Twitter that "China is letting us down."

Asked whether Washington must lift curbs on technology sales to Chinese telecom equipment maker Huawei for talks to make progress, Gao said Beijing wants the United States to "stop using erroneous government measures to suppress Chinese enterprises." He gave no details.

Trump imposed curbs last month on exports of U.S. components and technology to Huawei Technologies Ltd., China's first global tech brand. The company has warned its sales of smartphones and network equipment will be badly hurt. AP

POLICE RELEASE DATA ON ALLEGED RAPE BY CHINESE BUSINESSMAN

AMY FORLITIM,
MINNEAPOLIS

POLICE who were called to a report of an alleged rape by Chinese billionaire and JD.com founder Richard Liu last August initially decided to release him because it was unclear to them if a crime had occurred, according to investigative files released Wednesday that include conflicting statements from the woman and Liu.

But later that day, Liu was arrested and booked into the county jail on suspicion of felony rape after the woman, a Chinese student at the University of Minnesota, reported details and said Liu forced himself on her after a night of drinking. He was released the next day and ultimately not charged after prosecutors said there were problems with evidence.

The data released yesterday [local time] by the Minneapolis Police Department offers a glimpse into the investigation and shows how Liu, the woman, a limo driver, Liu's assistants and others gave conflicting versions of what happened. The data includes police reports, interview transcripts,

911 transcripts, a recorded interview with Liu, text messages and video. The documents show the woman threatened to go to the media if she did not get money and an apology from Liu.

The alleged assault happened on Aug. 31 when Liu, 46, was in Minneapolis for a weeklong residency as part of the University of Minnesota's doctor of business administration China program, geared toward high-level executives in China.

The woman, Jingyao Liu, alleged Richard Liu and other wealthy Chinese executives coerced her to drink during a dinner party. She told police that Liu then made unwanted advances in his limousine and later raped her at her apartment.

She sued Richard Liu and his company in April. That case is pending.

The data released yesterday shows police went to the apartment and found Richard Liu lying on the bed wearing only a T-shirt. Police handcuffed him, helped him get dressed and took him to a squad car.

What followed, according to the documents, was a patchwork of conflicting stories and changing accounts. AP

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

ADVERTORIAL



Government to fund 85% of Malaysia's revived rail project

VINCENT THIAN, DUNGUN

CHINA'S Export-Import Bank is expected to finance 85% of a 44 billion ringgit (USD10.7 billion) rail link project in Malaysia that will bolster economic development in rural eastern states, Transport Minister Loke Siew Fook said Thursday.

The East Coast Rail Link across peninsular Malaysia was suspended a year ago shortly after Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's alliance won a historic election, but the government said in April it will revive it after the Chinese contractor agreed to slash costs by a third. The project connects Malaysia's west coast to poorer eastern states and is a key part of China's Belt and Road infrastructure initiative.

At a ceremony in northeast Terengganu state to relaunch the project, Loke said state-owned Malaysia Rail Link has finalized negotiations with China's Ex-Im Bank and that an agreement will be signed soon but didn't give further details.

Loke said the 640-kilometer rail project will cut travel time from Kota Baru in northeast Kelantan state to the government administrative capital Putrajaya to four hours at a speed of 160 kilometers per hour. By road, the trip can take at least eight hours.

The revised project will cut through five states instead of four, have 20 stations and is scheduled for completion by December 2026. It will include 30-40 tunnels and multiple viaducts, he said.

He said the project is expected to boost trade and tourism and attract investment.

Chinese Ambassador Bai Tian

said that a Malaysian study projected the rail link project could contribute 2.7% to Malaysia's economic growth. He hailed the project as a "game-changer" that will revitalize the east coast economy and bring closer ties between Malaysia and China, its largest trading partner.

Malaysia Rail Link and China Communications Construction Company Ltd., which is building the project, plan to form a 50:50 joint venture.

Mahathir has said the fact that the project's cost could be slashed by 21.5 billion ringgit (\$5.2 billion) showed initial projections were inflated when former Prime Minister Najib Razak's government awarded the main contract to CCC in 2016. Mahathir chose to renegotiate the deal rather than pay compensation of 21.78 billion ringgit (\$5.3 billion).

His government has axed or reviewed large-scale infrastructure projects to rein in surging national debt that it blames mostly on corruption in the previous government. Apart from the rail link, the government also has cancelled two China-backed pipelines costing 9.3 billion ringgit (\$2.3 billion) after discovering that 90% of the project's costs had been paid but with only 13% of the work completed.

The government has said it is investigating whether any money in the rail project was used by Najib's government to repay debts at the 1MDB state investment fund. A massive financial scandal at 1MDB led to the electoral defeat of Najib's coalition last May. Najib is on trial for multiple corruption charges linked to 1MDB. AP

SUMMER CHIC

This season isn't all about beach casual and light leisure wear – sometimes you want to sparkle in the sunshine or bring a little glamour to a starlit summer's night. At Sands Shoppes, we have just the ticket.

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AUSTRALIA

LAW LETS GOV'T BAN EXTREMISTS FOR UP TO TWO YEARS

ROD MCGUIRK, CANBERRA

THE Australian Parliament yesterday passed laws that enable the government to prevent suspected extremists from returning home for up to two years despite concerns it could be unconstitutional.

The Senate passed the laws with the center-left Labor Party supporting the conservative government's bill even though it worried Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton would have too much discretion to decide who was banished.

The law will take effect in about two weeks. Dutton has said repatriations would be decided case by case, particularly where young children are involved.

Aid groups estimate at least 50 Australian women and children are stranded in crowded Syrian refugee camps following the loss of Islamic State's territory in the Middle East.

The Law Council of Australia, the nation's leading advocacy for lawyers, urged senators to refer the bill to committee rather than vote for it. The council said it was



Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton (center) interjects during debate in Australia's Parliament House in Canberra

disappointed that a law that was open to constitutional challenge had been passed.

"Governments shouldn't roll the dice and gamble on constitutionality," council president Arthur Moses said in a statement.

"To present any minister with the power to exclude citizens because it is believed they may be foreign fighters creates a slippery slope to exclude people on other grounds, such as geography or religion," he added.

Rex Patrick, a senator from the minor Center Alliance, wanted the government to reveal its own legal advice, but a vote on his motion failed. The government refused to disclose its legal advice from the solicitor-general, but said it raised no constitutional concerns.

"The government has clear advice that this legislation is constitutional," Defense Minister Linda Reynolds told the Senate.

Patrick reminded the Senate of the case of Australian journalist

Wilfred Burchell, a communist renowned for reporting the Korean and Vietnam wars from behind communist lines. Australia prevented him from making family visits, but classified documents made public decades later revealed that the governor-general's legal advice was that Burchell had a right to return to the country where he was born.

Patrick also cited a unanimous High Court decision in 1988 overturning a so-called immigration

clearance fee for air travelers entering the country. Australia's highest court ruled that an Australian citizen's right to enter the country "is not qualified by any law imposing a need to obtain a license or a clearance" from the government.

Under the measures based on British law, any citizen suspected of extremism would be temporarily banned from returning to Australia until protections are in place through a so-called "return permit," setting conditions for the person's entry and stay in Australia.

Labor was critical that the law enabled Dutton to issue the exclusion orders without judicial oversight. But his decisions can be appealed.

"Given the minister for home affairs' track record at crying wolf and bending the truth, if there's one minister that requires oversight, it's the minister for home affairs," Labor Senator Kristina Keneally told the Senate.

Greg Barns, spokesman for the rights-focused Australian Lawyers Alliance, said the law also allowed Australians to be banished for being an indirect security risk.

"When whistleblowers, media organizations and journalists have published information about misconduct in military operations in the past, such exercises have been labelled as assisting terrorism," Barns said in a statement. **AP**

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

North Korea fires new type of short-range ballistic missiles

HYUNG-JIN KIM, SEOUL

NORTH Korea fired a new type of short-range ballistic missile in two launches into the sea Thursday, South Korean officials said. They were North Korea's first weapons launches in more than two months and appeared to be a pressuring tactic as Pyongyang and Washington struggle to restart nuclear negotiations.

The South's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the missiles were fired from near the eastern coastal town of Wonsan and flew about 430 kilometers and 690 kilometers respectively before landing off the country's east coast.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff described both missiles as short-range but didn't elaborate. But after a national security council meeting later Thursday, South Korea's presidential Blue House said the weapons North Korea launched were assessed as "a new kind of short-range ballistic missiles."

North Korea is banned by U.N. Security Council resolutions from engaging in any launch using bal-



listic technology. So North Korea could face international condemnation over the latest launches. But it's still unlikely for the North, already under 11 rounds of U.N. sanctions, to be hit with fresh punitive measures because the U.N. council has typically imposed new sanctions only when the North conducted long-range ballistic launches, not short-range ballistic launches.

A South Korean defense official, requesting anonymity because of department rules, said that an initial analysis showed both missiles were fired from mobile launchers and flew at a maximum

altitude of 50 kilometers.

The North is unhappy over planned U.S.-South Korean military drills that it says are preparation for an invasion. The missile tests may be meant as a warning to Washington.

They came as many in the United States were focused on testimony before Congress by Robert Mueller, the former special counsel, about his two-year probe into Russian election interference. A day earlier, U.S. national security adviser John Bolton left Seoul after agreeing with South Korean officials to work closely to achieve North Korea's denuclearization.

"North Korea appears to be thinking its diplomacy with the U.S. isn't proceeding in a way that they want. So they've fired missiles to get the table to turn in their favor," said analyst Kim Dae-young at the Korea Research Institute for National Strategy.

But North Korea doesn't appear to be pulling away from U.S.-led diplomacy aimed at curbing its nuclear program, analysts say. The relatively short distance travelled by the missiles suggests the launches were not intended as a major provocation, unlike a test of a long-range missile capable of reaching the U.S. mainland.

North Korea has been urging the U.S. and South Korea to scrap their summertime military drills. Last week, the North said it may lift its 20-month suspension of nuclear and long-range missile tests in response to the drills. Seoul said Wednesday North Korea was refusing to accept its offer to send 50,000 tons of rice through an international agency to protest the drills.

Some experts say North Korea is trying to get an upper hand

ahead of a possible resumption of talks. Pyongyang wants widespread sanctions relief so it can revive its dilapidated economy. U.S. officials demand North Korea first take significant steps toward disarmament before they will relinquish the leverage provided by the sanctions.

A senior U.S. official said the Trump administration was aware of the reported launches. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to provide a response, said the administration had no further comment.

South Korean Defense Ministry spokeswoman Choi Hyunsoo urged Pyongyang to stop acts that are "not helpful to efforts to ease military tensions on the Korean Peninsula."

"If they were ballistic missiles, they violate the U.N. resolutions, and I find it extremely regrettable," Japan's Defense Minister Takeshi Iwaya told reporters in Tokyo.

China, the North's last major ally and biggest aid provider, said both Washington and Pyongyang should restart their nuclear diplomacy as soon as possible.

"All parties concerned should cherish the hard-won opportunity for dialogue and the easing of tensions, express goodwill, meet each other halfway and jointly make positive efforts to promote denuclearization," said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying. AP

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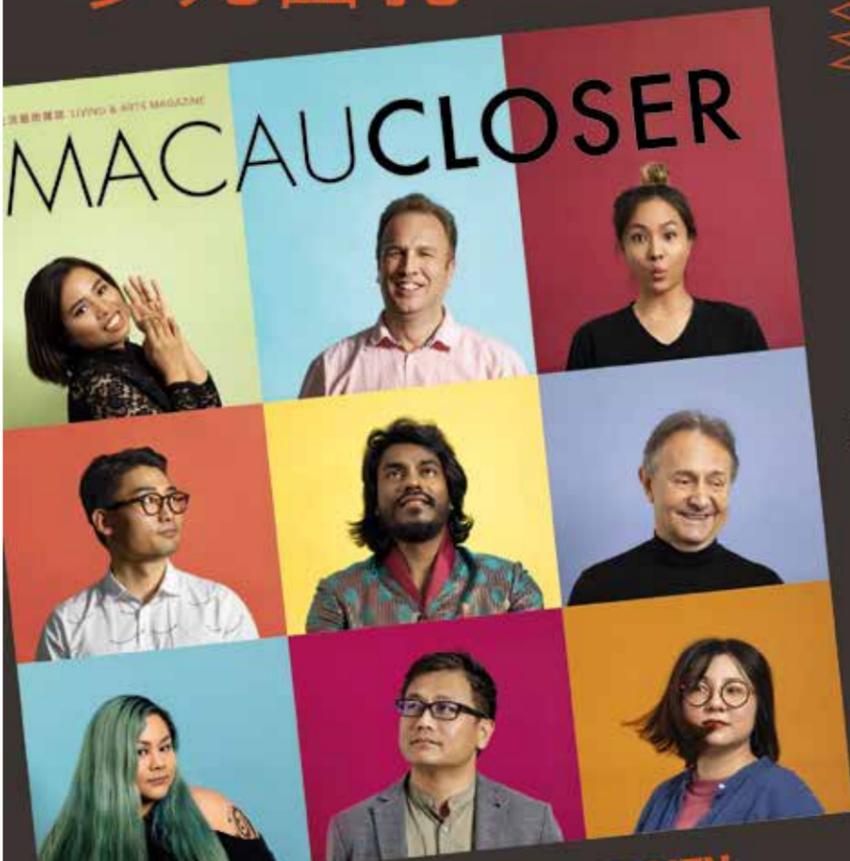
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Judge blocks Trump asylum restrictions at US-Mexico border

AMY TAXIN & ASHRAF KHALIL

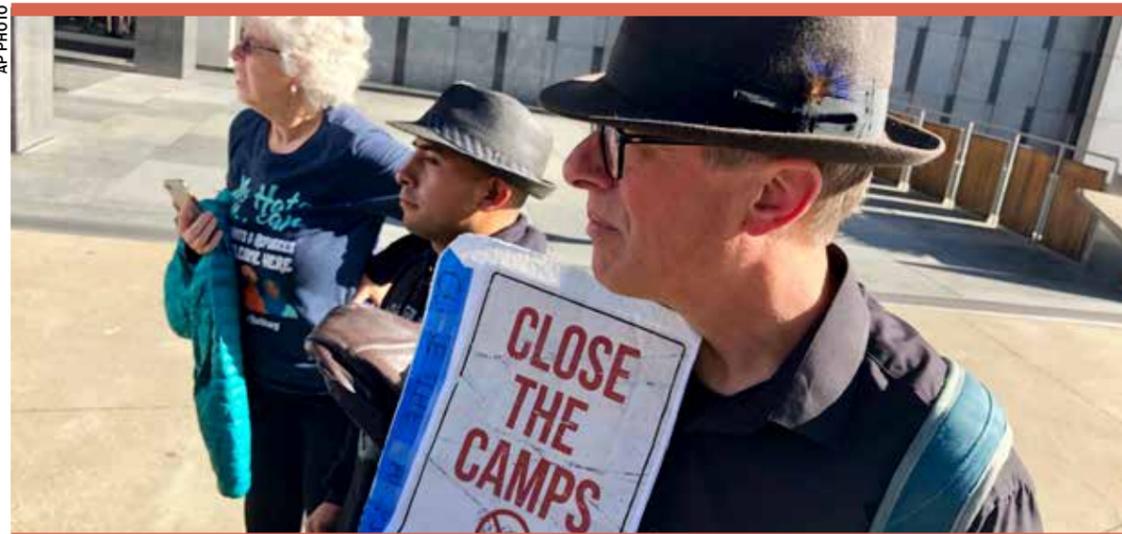
A federal judge has ordered the Trump administration to stop denying asylum to anyone who transits through another country to reach the U.S. border, marking the latest legal defeat for a president waging an all-out battle to stem the flow of migrants entering from Mexico.

The ruling by U.S. District Judge Jon Tigar in San Francisco yesterday [local time] came hours after another federal judge in Washington, D.C., let the 9-day-old policy stand. The California judge's preliminary injunction halts the policy while the lawsuit plays out in court.

The new policy denies asylum to anyone who passes through another country on the way to the U.S. without seeking protection there. Most crossing the Mexican border are from Central America, but it would apply to all nationalities except countries that border the U.S.

The dramatic change went into effect last week, though there were conflicting reports on whether U.S. immigration agencies were enforcing it.

Top U.S. officials said the po-



licy would discourage migrants from leaving their countries, which they say is necessary to reduce the numbers of people that U.S. authorities are detaining.

The White House condemned the judge's order, calling it "tyranny of a dysfunctional system."

White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham said Thursday the plaintiffs in the case had found "a single district judge who will purport to dictate immigration policy to the entire Nation." She said President Donald Trump will "pursue all available options to

address this meritless ruling and to defend this Nation's borders."

Tigar, who was appointed by former President Barack Obama, halted another Trump policy last year to deny asylum to people who crossed the border illegally.

The judge said the policy could expose migrants to violence and abuse, deny their rights under international law and return them to countries they were fleeing. He cited the administration's own court filings to argue that Mexico was unsafe.

Tigar acknowledged that the U.S. immigration system is

overwhelmed by the surge in migrants from Central America over the last year.

"But shortcutting the law, or weakening the boundary between Congress and the Executive, are not the solutions to these problems," he wrote.

Trump told reporters before his departure for a fundraiser in West Virginia that the decision by U.S. District Judge Timothy Kelly, a Trump appointee, was a "tremendous ruling." He added: "We appreciate it. We respect the courts very much. That helps us very much at the border."

The California judge ruled in favor of advocacy groups represented by the American Civil Liberties Union, the Southern Poverty Law Center and the Center for Constitutional Rights.

Melissa Crow, an attorney for the Southern Poverty Law Center, said the decision was "an important victory for incredibly vulnerable individuals and families from besieged Central American countries seeking refuge in our country."

"We will continue to fight this draconian policy as well as the myriad of others through which the Trump administration continues to wage war on asylum-seekers and our nation's asylum system," Crow said.

The policy would have limited exceptions that would allow for asylum: if someone has been trafficked, if an asylum seeker sought protection in a country but was denied or if the country the migrant passed through did not sign one of the major international treaties that govern how refugees are managed, though most Western countries have signed them.

The decision came as tens of thousands of people are waiting in Mexico on official and unofficial lists formed after U.S. agents started turning away many asylum seekers, citing lack of space and delays in immigration courts. They also include people are forced to wait in Mexico while their cases wind through U.S. immigration policy, another Trump policy that has so far survived a legal challenge. AP

New British PM Johnson urges EU to renegotiate Brexit deal

JILL LAWLESS
& DANICA KIRKA,
LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson urged the European Union yesterday to rethink its refusal to renegotiate the Brexit deal, setting himself on a collision course with both the bloc and his own lawmakers over his vow to leave the EU by Oct. 31.

Addressing a rowdy session of Parliament for the first time since becoming prime minister a day earlier, Johnson pledged to deliver Brexit and a "broader and bolder future."

Rejecting the Brexit withdrawal agreement negotiated by his predecessor Theresa May, he insisted that while he wanted a deal, it could only happen if the EU budged, especially on an insurance policy for the Irish border that has been rejected by U.K. lawmakers.

"I hope that the EU will be equally ready and that



they will rethink their current refusal to make any changes to the Withdrawal Agreement," he said. "If they do not, we will, of course, have to leave — the U.K. — without an agreement."

The EU repeated, for the umpteenth time, its insistence that it will not renegotiate the agreement on the terms of Britain's departure that it struck with May.

"The European Union's

position remains unchanged. [...] We will not reopen the withdrawal agreement," said European Commission chief spokeswoman Mina Andreeva.

Without a divorce deal, Britain faces a chaotic Brexit that economists warn would disrupt trade by imposing tariffs and customs checks between Britain and the bloc. They say that could send the value of

the pound plummeting and plunge the U.K. into recession.

Nonetheless Johnson, who won an election of Conservative members to replace May as party leader and prime minister, has vowed to complete Brexit and silence "the doubters, the doomsters, the gloomsters" who believe it can't be done.

But details remain scarce about how Johnson's government would alleviate the economic shock if Britain crashed out of the EU's huge free-trading bloc, ripping up decades of agreements regulating everything from aviation to drugs to telecommunications.

Johnson has less than 100 days to make good on his promise to deliver Brexit by Oct. 31. Yet Britain will struggle to get the bloc's full attention during August, a sleepy holiday period in much of Europe, and the U.K. Parliament is due to start a six-week summer

break on Friday.

He said he was ready to talk to EU leaders "whenever they are ready to do so," and also promised to "turbo-charge" planning for a no-deal exit, with millions more allocated to a public information campaign for citizens and businesses.

Johnson also held the first meeting of his new Cabinet, which he has filled with loyal Brexit supporters. They include Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab, Treasury chief Sajid Javid, Home Secretary Priti Patel and House of Commons leader Jacob Rees-Mogg. Many of them worked with Johnson in the 2016 referendum campaign to leave the EU, as did much of Johnson's new backroom staff.

Despite the new lineup, he faces the same problems that bedeviled May: heading a government without a parliamentary majority and with most lawmakers opposed to leaving the EU without a divorce deal.

Lawmakers who oppose a no-deal Brexit — including some of the Conservative ministers in May's government who were swept away by Johnson — are vowing to put up a fight when Parliament returns from its break in September.

"This House will stop the prime minister," said Scottish National Party lawmaker Ian Blackford, who branded a no-deal Brexit "economic madness."

Main opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn said "no deal means no steel, no car industry, food prices rising dramatically and huge job losses."

It's almost certain that opposition lawmakers will try to topple Johnson's government in a vote of no-confidence in September. There also is rising speculation that Johnson could call an early fall election in hopes of gaining a majority in Parliament for his plans. AP

TV canal macau 

13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Agua de Mar
15:45	Zig Zag
16:15	Sim, Chef! Sr.1
16:45	Quem Quer Ser Milionário
17:35	Corpo Clínico
18:05	Amor Maior (Repetição)
18:55	Portuguese In California
19:25	Livros com João Guedes (Repetição)
19:35	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	Viagens em Série
21:45	Vote in the U.S.A
22:15	Amor Maior
23:15	TDM News
23:50	O Costa do Castelo
02:00	Telejornal (Repetição)
02:45	RTPi Directo

cinema 

CINETEATRO

25 -31 Jul



THE LION KING
ROOM 1
2:30, 4:45, 9:15pm
Language: Cantonese
ROOM 1
9:30pm
Director: J Jon Favreau
Starring: Donald Glover, Beyoncé, Seth Rogen
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 118min



TOY STORY 4
ROOM 2
2:15, 4:05, 9:45pm
Director: Josh Cooley
Starring: Will Smith, Mena Massoud, Naomi Scott
Language: Cantonese
Duration: 109min



THE WHITE STORM 2 DRUG LORDS
ROOM 2
5:55, 9:30pm
Director: Herman Yau
Starring: Andy Lau, Louis Koo, Michael Miu
Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)
Duration: 86min



CRAYON SHINCHAN 2019
ROOM 3
2:30pm
Director: Masakazu Hashimoto
Starring: Yumiko Kobayashi, Toshiyuki Morikawa, Miki Narahashi
Language: Cantonese
Duration: 100min

THE CONFIDENCE MAN JP - THE MOVIE
ROOM 3
4:30, 9:30pm
Director: Ryô Tanaka
Starring: Yôsuke Eguchi, Masahiro Higashide, Michael Keida
Language: Japanese (English & Chinese)

CHILDREN OF THE SEA
ROOM 3
7:30pm
Director: Ayumu Watanabe
Starring: Mana Ashida, Hiroyuki Ishibashi, Seishû Uragami
Language: Japanese (English & Chinese)
Duration: 110min

this day in history 

1945 CHURCHILL LOSES GENERAL ELECTION

Clement Attlee has been elected Britain's new prime minister after Labour won a sweeping victory in the general election.

The outgoing prime minister and great wartime leader Winston Churchill tendered his resignation immediately.

The landslide victory comes as a major shock to the Conservatives following Mr Churchill's hugely successful term as Britain's war-time coalition leader, during which he mobilised and inspired courage in an entire nation.

Out of 627 seats Labour increased its seats from 164 to 393, giving the party its first independent majority of 159 seats over all other parties.

The Conservatives and their allies secured 213 seats, the Liberals 10 and other parties 11.

Following the announcement of the results this afternoon, Mr Churchill, who has held the positions of Prime Minister, First Lord of the Admiralty and Minister of Defence continuously since May 10, 1940, went to Buckingham Palace to hand in his resignation.

Mr Attlee, 62, was welcomed by the King shortly afterwards and asked to form a new Government.

Throughout the election campaign Mr Churchill had appealed to the country to give his new National Government - formed after the dissolution of the Coalition government in May - a good majority.

But the appeal was rejected by the people of Britain, largely, it is thought, because they believed Labour's promises to implement the Beveridge Report and its plans for creating a welfare state.

In a statement issued from 10 Downing Street tonight Mr Churchill expressed his "profound gratitude for the unflinching, unswerving support" given to him by the people of Britain during the war years.

At a news conference this evening, Mr Attlee promised a new world order and an economic policy to raise the standards of life for people all over the world.

He said: "We are facing a new era and I believe that the voting at this election has shown that the people of Britain are facing that new era with the same courage as they faced the long years of war."

The outgoing prime minister had broken off meetings with the leaders of America and Russia in Potsdam on Wednesday (July 25) to return to Britain for the election results.

It was announced tonight that a proclamation giving Japan an ultimatum to surrender had been signed by Mr Churchill before his departure.

The document, also signed by American President Harry Truman and General Chiang Kai-shek of China, called for the unconditional surrender of all Japanese armed forces or the prospect of "prompt and utter destruction."

The new prime minister, Mr Attlee, is expected to return to the three-Power conference in Berlin to resume diplomatic talks soon.

Courtesy BBC News

Offbeat

GOOSE FREED, GOT STUCK IN PIZZA DRIVER'S CAR GRILLE



Authorities say a goose that got stuck in a pizza delivery driver's car grille in Vermont is expected to make a full recovery.

Driver Ryan Harrington tells WCAX-TV he saw a goose waddling across the road in Burlington last week. He slammed his brakes, but heard a thud and knew he struck the bird. But he wasn't prepared to see it stuck in his car — and alive — when he returned to work.

His manager got through to a police dispatcher who alerted authorities and a nonprofit animal rescue group. The fire department arrived to help free the goose, named Roberto, or Roberta if it's a girl.

The goose was taken to a wildlife rehabber in Poultney who says it may have a broken pelvis, but they expect it will survive.

IN CONTEXT

The Potsdam conference in Berlin was attended by the heads of government from America, Britain and Russia to discuss Europe's recovery following the war.

It was the first time the three had met since the end of the war with Germany.

The conference lasted for 17 days and resulted in a declaration which included detailed proposals on the future control of Germany and the reparations to be exacted from Germany to facilitate Europe's recovery.

Despite losing the General Election, Winston Churchill's reputation as one of this country's greatest war-time leaders was left unscathed.

He remained leader of the opposition until 1951 when he once again became prime-minister at the age of 77.

He resigned in 1955 due to ill-health and died in January 1965.

In 2002 Winston Churchill was named the greatest Briton of all time in a nationwide poll which attracted more than a million votes.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Exploration is fine for some today, but you aren't going to be in the best frame of mind to go off discovering new hot spots, meeting new people, or uncovering new rock bands.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

You and another person need to come to an understanding today, so make sure that you make talking to them one of your top priorities. The two of you need to sit down and work things out.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

If that phrase "I'll get back to you" makes your eyes roll, you are not alone. There is a great deal of unfinished business going on around you, and everyone is just dying for someone to actually deliver.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Today, your presence will be requested by many fun-loving people, but your mood might not make it easy to get social. Like a broken swing set, your mood will be going back and forth unpredictably.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

And don't loan out any money unless it's an emergency. It's not about being selfish versus being generous. It's about avoiding any misunderstandings or implied insults.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

You don't have to figure them out. Just try to be aware of them, and have faith that they will sort themselves out soon enough. Then get back to being your fabulous, relaxed self.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Impatient much? There are many exciting things coming up soon and it's understandable that you are finding the wait unbearable. But you can't get too wrapped up in what will be.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

A mystery person in your life has been intriguing you more and more, and today you should try to work up the courage to find out a few more clues about who they really are.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Think back to a time when someone inspired you in the past, today. You know, that person who helped you understand what you were capable of, and who helped to point you in the right direction.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

This is a wonderful day to travel for that very reason - the chances that you will be stuck sitting next to an annoying fellow passenger are very slim. Be ready to engage with the world, because it will be fun.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You have an extremely strong sense of what is right and wrong today, but it's tailored just to your needs and goals, so don't try to apply it to the problems of others.



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Step in and become part of a discussion today - don't wait for an engraved invitation. Interacting with others is the best way to try out new ideas or philosophies.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

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	2	3	9	8				
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EASY+

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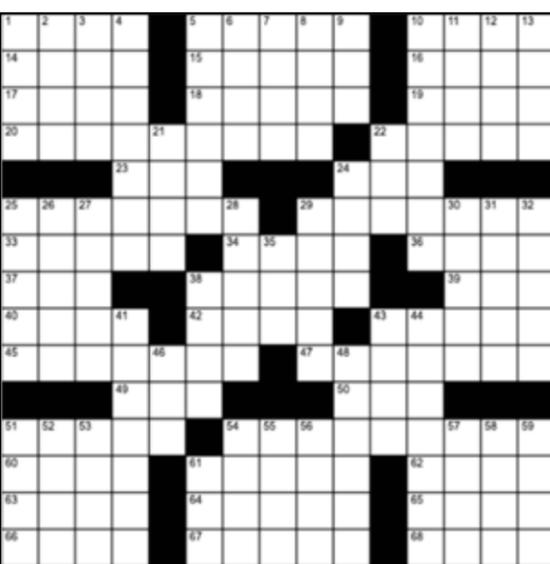
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	26	33	thundershower
Harbin	18	31	cloudy
Tianjin	28	34	thundershower
Urumqi	17	24	moderate rain
Xi'an	19	36	clear
Lhasa	12	22	drizzle
Chengdu	19	31	clear
Chongqing	21	30	cloudy
Kunming	17	25	moderate rain
Nanjing	23	31	cloudy
Shanghai	23	28	drizzle
Wuhan	24	31	shower
Hangzhou	22	27	drizzle
Taipei	26	30	overcast
Guangzhou	26	33	thundershower
Hong Kong	27	32	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	13	18	moderate rain
Frankfurt	16	26	drizzle
Paris	14	21	cloudy
London	12	21	drizzle
New York	21	28	cloudy

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Canyon sound; 5- City in Nebraska; 10- Ace, e.g.; 14- Sow chow; 15- Destined; 16- Teen follower; 17- Seniors' org.; 18- Springs from the clink; 19- One of the Simpsons; 20- Noteless; 22- Like a chimney sweep; 23- Just a ___!; 24- Remuneration; 25- Changed; 29- Exchange need; 33- Italian composer; 34- Square; 36- Stage gig; 37- Loss leader?; 38- Huge hit; 39- Small amount; 40- Sacred bird; 42- Superb; 43- Rise to one's feet; 45- Correspondences; 47- Parched; 49- Battery type; 50- Broke bread; 51- Fewest; 54- Queasy; 60- D-Day beach; 61- Unit of magnetic field strength; 62- Tale; 63- Entice; 64- Chip maker; 65- Word that can precede hygiene, tradition and agreement.; 66- Fibbed; 67- Lasso loop; 68- Knob;

DOWN: 1- Son of Isaac and Rebekah; 2- Family; 3- Cornucopia; 4- Against; 5- Place where business is conducted; 6- Latin singer Anthony; 7- Fit to ___; 8- Pay attention to; 9- Show stoppers?; 10- Monk of the Eastern Church; 11- Currency exchange fee; 12- Stop introducing evidence; 13- Sturdy cart; 21- Actress Garr; 22- Cul-de-___; 24- Phnom ___; 25- Benefit; 26- Do not disturb; 27- Feature; 28- Audition tapes; 29- VCR button; 30- Scintillas; 31- Factory; 32- Woman's one-piece undergarment; 35- Mover's need; 38- Franklin D.'s mother; 41- Stored away; 43- Location; 44- Federal crime; 46- Absorb, as a cost; 48- Annoyance; 51- Break in the action; 52- Small purse; 53- River in central Switzerland; 54- Second start?; 55- Type of pilot; 56- Applies; 57- Edible corn; 58- Criquey; 59- Broad valley; 61- Martini liquor;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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- Fire department 28 572 222
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- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- Customs 28 559 944
- S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
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- Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
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AD

ALEXANDER NEEF TO BECOME PARIS OPERA DIRECTOR IN 2021-22



ALLEXANDER Neef has been hired to succeed Stephane Lissner as director of the Paris Opera starting with the 2021-22 season.

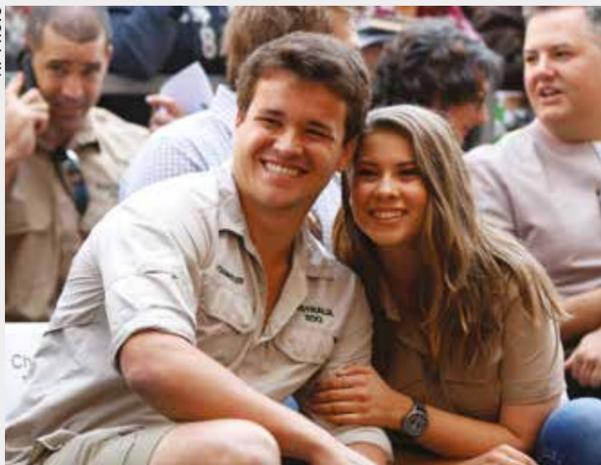
The 45-year-old Neef, whose hiring was announced Wednesday, has been general director of the Canadian Opera Company since June 2008. He became artistic director of the Santa Fe Opera in February 2018.

Neef was head of

casting of the Paris Opera from August 2004 to September 2008. He was scheduled to join Gerard Mortier's staff at the New York City Opera before Mortier quit in November 2008, before he was to officially start for the 2009-10 season.

Born in Germany, Neef also has worked at the Ruhrtriennale and spent two seasons at the Salzburg Festival as a production manager under Mortier.

AP PHOTO



BINDI IRWIN IS ENGAGED TO MARRY LONGTIME BOYFRIEND

BINDI Irwin, the daughter of the late conservationist, Steve Irwin, is getting married.

She posted Wednesday on her social media that longtime boyfriend Chandler Powell's proposal on her 21st birthday, Tuesday.

Powell is a 22-year-old wakeboarder from Florida whom she met in 2013 when he was visiting the Irwin family's Australia Zoo.

Steve Irwin, known as "The Crocodile Hunter," was a popular TV personality. He was killed by a stingray in 2006 while filming an underwater documentary.

His wife, Terri, and children Bindi and Robert have carried on his conservation work.

Bindi Irwin starred in her own wildlife series as a child. She won season 21 of "Dancing with the Stars."

MILL LAUNCHES NEW RECORD LABEL WITH JAY-Z'S ROC NATION

MEELK Mill is in a Jay-Z state of mind: The Philadelphia rapper-turned-entrepreneur is launching a new record label in a joint venture with Jay-Z's Roc Nation.

The two hip-hop players celebrated the launch of Dream Chasers Records this week at the Roc Nation headquarters in New York City, signing contracts at a small press conference and popping champagne to celebrate the partnership.

"Of course I had offers to do a lot of business with other people, but the rela-

tionship we've built from (Roc Nation) believing in me through my whole career, through my ups and downs and the morals they showed to me and my team when it wasn't in their best interest to have showed it — I feel comfortable going through this right here at home," Mill said. "We're ready to work. We're just starting the beginning of a new chapter, a new page."

Mill, 32, will lead Dream Chasers as president, overseeing the label and its staff.

AP PHOTO



AD

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RONALD BLUM, NEW YORK

FOOTBALL

THE next proposed expansion of Anfield may be more substantial than initially envisioned.

Capacity at Liverpool's stadium rose by about 8,500 to approximately 54,000 with the opening of a new Main Stand for the 2016-17 season. Chief executive Peter Moore, during an interview yesterday [Macau time] at the headquarters of The Associated Press, said the permit allowing an expansion of about 4,000 to the Anfield Road end will be allowed to expire in September.

"That is insufficient for our plans. We're continuing to analyze what is the optimum number," he said. "I think in the next few months you're going to hear from us as regards to what those plans will be. I can tell you definitively it won't be the rather small-to-medium plans we had recently."

Moore later added: "Of course the potential exists that following the feasibility study the initial plans may change" and said he did not want to pre-empt the study by making a premature decision.

Moore said the club faces challenges because the stadium is in a residential area, and it plans to work with the City Council and neighborhood groups. Liverpool has frozen ticket prices for four straight seasons.

"You just can't build this massive stadium without limits here. We're very cognizant of the impact we have on the residents," he said. "The ability to get people into a ground and get them out of the ground is important as well as the size of what we're building."

Coming off its sixth European title, Liverpool tied Sporting Lisbon 2-2 last night at Yankee Stadium to complete a three-match U.S. preseason tour that opened with games at Notre Dame Stadium and Boston's Fenway Park. The club also brought along its women's team, which played a pair of friendlies, and has three camera crews generating constant content.

Liverpool was bought in 2010 by what is now known as Fenway Sports Group, owner of the Boston Red Sox and headed by John Henry, Tom Werner and Michael Gordon. The Liverpool-born Moore, who worked previously at Reebok, Microsoft and Electronic Arts, was hired in 2017 and reports to Gordon. He sees Henry's impact.

"John has been incredibly helpful in applying the mentality of the Red Sox as regards to data, analytics, science, really

Anfield's next expansion may be larger than first planned



Liverpool soccer chief executive officer Peter Moore

making us a world-class operation in those areas, when we look at player identification, recruitment, maintaining player talent," Moore said.

Liverpool has 12.1 million followers on its English-language Twitter feed, fourth behind United (19.8 million), Arsenal (14.6 million) and Chelsea (13.1 million) and well ahead of City (7.1 million) and Spurs (3.6). Among other European powers, Barcelona's English feed has 30.3 million followers, Real Madrid 10.6 million, Juventus 1.5 million and Paris Saint-Germain just 269,000.

"A lot of entities — sports clubs, celebrities — have lots of followers but don't have the levels of engagement," Moore said. "I want to engage you and then ultimately have you be part of our growth through the

monetization of your support."

Much of the Premier League's U.S. popularity is due to NBC. The network acquired Premier League rights starting with the 2013-14 season from Fox, and NBC made all 380

"A lot of entities — sports clubs, celebrities — have lots of followers but don't have the levels of engagement [we have]."

PETER MOORE
CEO, LIVERPOOL

matches per season available. It hired announcers with deep Premier League knowledge, set up shoulder programming and took coverage on the road rather than rely primarily on the international feed.

Liverpool averaged 567,000

viewers for its matches on NBC and NBCSN last season, second only to 626,000 for Manchester United and ahead of Arsenal (538,000). Chelsea (534,000), champion Manchester City (479,000) and Tottenham (443,000).

"They finally said somebody is not going to talk down to American soccer fans, somebody isn't going to in mid-broadcast try to explain what a corner kick is," Moore said. "They made a statement Fox really never did. What the Premier League wanted was a partner not only that would obviously write a check but also would make a statement about the Premier League in this country."

Chelsea's U.S. following is likely to receive a boost following the acquisition of 20-year-old midfielder Christian Pulisic.

"I think American fans are more sophisticated than just following a player. Does it help? You bet it helps," Moore said. "Having said that. American fans now, their level of sophistication, their understanding of the game, they want to watch an entertaining game of football. In our case, they like watching a Senegalese, an Egyptian, a Brazilian up front. There are days we can put a team out that doesn't have an Englishman on it. Football doesn't think in those terms anymore, doesn't think nationalities."

Britain's possible departure from the European Union could create challenges for the league, which took advantage of the 1995 European Court of Justice decision involving Belgian midfielder Jean-Marc Bosman to sign many top players from throughout the EU.

"Brexit then would create some uncertainty as to which players you could get, what visas they may now need, if they're a certain level," Moore said. "The UK government through the Premier League has been very supportive of making sure we do have freedom of movement so that the Premier League can maintain this great standard that it has and the diversity that it has."

Seeking its first English title since 1990, Liverpool opened a nine-point lead in late December but stumbled and finished two points behind City. Manager Jürgen Klopp has fostered a team chemistry that melded a roster headed by Mohamed Salah, Roberto Firmino and Sadio Mané into a world power.

"It's a city that's founded on socialism. It's a somewhat activist city that strikes out against things it sees wrong. They demand the Liverpool way and the style of football that was built back in the 60s by Bill Shankly — pass and move, pass and move, pass and move, still is present today," Moore said. "That's what our fans expect. They don't like superstars, per se — and we've had plenty of them. But you can go back in the annals of our history to a Kevin Keegan, a Kenny Dalglish, an Ian Rush, a Robbie Fowler, a Steven Gerrard, and they're all in it together. As Shankly says, my idea of socialism is everybody pulling together for the same objective." **AP**

OPINION

Bizcuits

Leanda Lee



ANIMAL CRUELTY COMING OFF THE MENU

Environmental sustainability has gained traction from our Integrated Resorts. Earlier focus was on the traditional low-hanging fruit of cost-cutting through water and energy efficiencies, recycling and CO2 emissions. For instance, Sands has replaced light bulbs, double-glazed windows to minimize heater transfer, set up automated chiller systems, and promotes their natural gas fleet of Parisian's guest shuttle buses.

Earth Hour - an initiative from Sydney - was extended monthly by hotels and casinos across Macau in 2013 when properties turn off their external lighting for one hour from 8:30pm on the first Tuesday of every month.

Recently, effort has been made to reduce plastic and recycle organic waste. Sands and MGM have removed plastic straws from restaurants and back of house, and plastic bottles are less obvious at meetings: Sands will re-design the 5.7 million bottles per annum currently in use. Waste is a design choice, after all. The company also supported another Australian-gone-global initiative, encouraging staff to take on the Plastic Free July challenge.

Now, there is growing awareness in this Creative City of Gastronomy of the impact of dietary choice on ecology and climate change. Sands has placed a ban on shark fin in internal food outlets and in restaurants owned by the company. Fair Trade, local and organic produce is offered at Green Meetings and staff are served plant-based meals every Green Monday.

Corporate greenwashing, Corporate Social Responsibility as a form of insurance, and the realization that corporate decisions are not always made to benefit customers or the broader environment have created a level of distrust. Having become cynical about sustainability programs, many demand supply chain transparency in both procurement and waste management. It is not just about carbon emissions anymore.

Consumers who trust buy on taste, convenience, and affordability. People are now, however, starting to demand evidence of food safety, good animal management and environmental impact.

Seeking organic certification mitigates the harmful effects to individuals from chemical-laden food grown "conventionally". Veganism, too, is partly a response to the horrors unveiled in the management of animals in factory farming. As stated by the NGO, Compassion in World Farming, in the U.S., 95% of animals grown for food are on factory farms: most laying hens are caged, sows are kept in crates, and broiler chickens are fed and grown so quickly they cannot support their own weight.

In the 1960s, a dairy farmer in the UK established the NGO because of concerns he had that animal welfare was being compromised for business efficiencies. "Conventional" factory farming of animal protein remains the largest source of cruelty on the planet. Their ambit started with lobbying for legislative change in the EU and the UK, which saw the worst practices, such as battery cages, banned. The NGO is now working together with large food companies on policies and practices to improve animal welfare and encourage protein diversification. These organisations can do tremendous good (like Melco's "Above and Beyond" commitment), influence a broader customer base and drive legislative change.

Certification is one way to give consumers a level of assurance, but organic certification alone is not rigorous enough as it does not allow for animal welfare or soil health - it is consumer focused. Better animal management, however, intersects with other positive outcomes. A pilot Regenerative Organic Certification assesses three areas of animal welfare, social justice and soil health based upon pasture-based animal husbandry, fairness to farmers and agricultural workers, and soil regeneration (carbon sequestering).

If you need more of a business justification for it, Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance investors are starting to ask how well companies are managing the risk of having animals in their supply chain. Should companies not be managing this appropriately, it can be considered a broader indicator of management incompetence.

The NGO's recommendation for sustainability in protein procurement is to source from regenerative systems, increase protein diversification and switch to plant-centric diets.

Hong Kong's exports sank more than expected in June for an eighth straight month of declines, as government officials warned there was no near-term relief in sight.

Exports declined in June to HKD309.6 billion (\$39.6 billion), down 9% from year-ago figures, according to a Hong Kong government release. That's the worst result since 2016 and well below the -2.3% median estimate of analysts surveyed by Bloomberg. Imports also retreated by 7.5% in June, to HKD364.8 billion.

"The soft global economic environment and continued U.S.-

mainland trade tensions put further strains on manufacturing activities and trade flows in Asia," a government spokesman said in the release.

"Looking ahead, the near-term performance of Hong Kong's merchandise exports will remain constrained by the softening global economy and uncertainties arising from U.S.-mainland trade tensions and other external developments."

Hong Kong is set to report advance second-quarter economic growth on July 31.

DEREK SHEILS EXTENDS SUPERBIKE VICTORY STREAK TO 7

AFTER sealing his first victory of the season in the Supersport class at the recent Skerries 100 meeting, Derek Sheils was unfortunately denied the chance of a repeat win at the Faugheen 50 Road Races in Ireland's County Westmeath on Sunday, July 21.

He did, however, win both Superbike races to stretch his unbeaten streak in the class to seven.

Derek, who qualified second fastest on the front row, was leading the race on the Roadhouse Macau Yamaha on the opening lap when he pulled out after experiencing a loss of power with the YZF-R6.

"Unfortunately, the Roadhouse Macau Yamaha lost power in the Supersport race and it seems to have been an issue with the ECU," said Sheils, according to a press release.

"I was leading the race by about half-a-second when it happened but I just decided to pull over to the side of the road because I didn't want to risk any damage. It would have been a good race with Derek McGee I'm sure but it wasn't to be.



Despite the disappointment, Derek will be back in action this weekend at the Armoyn Road Races in County Antrim, where he will be aiming to make amends on the Roadhouse Macau Yamaha.

"We'll hopefully have another shot at it at Ar-

moy. The racing should be good if we get decent weather and we shouldn't be too far away," added Sheils. "I got my first Supersport victory in a while at Skerries recently so it would be nice to try and get another win or two under my belt."

76TH VENICE FILM FESTIVAL TO EMBRACE NETFLIX PRODUCTIONS

THE 76th Venice Film Festival will feature three Netflix productions alongside Hollywood titles, embracing the streaming giant after the Cannes Film Festival excluded it for a second year in a row.

Among Venice's 21 competition titles, unveiled Thursday in Rome, is the Netflix-produced Panama Papers film "The Laundromat," directed by Steven Soderbergh and starring Meryl Streep and Antonio Banderas.

Netflix will also present Noah Baumbach's "Marriage Story," starring Scarlett Johansson and Alan Alda, as well as David Mi-

chod's "The King," with the latter debuting out of competition.

The world's oldest film festival also features Hollywood productions like Todd Phillips' "Joker" with Joaquin Phoenix in the comic book classic role, as well as Brad Pitt in the sci-fi space journey "Ad Astra," by James Gray.

The festival runs Aug. 28 to Sept. 7.

The competition also includes "J'accuse" by director Roman Polanski, a controversial figure in the #MeToo era. Polanski pleaded guilty to unlawful sex with a minor in 1977 and fled the United States the following year.

Venice Film Festival Director Alberto Barbera acknowledged a lack of female directors in competition. Only two out of 21 directors are women, while last year there was one.

"There are a number of movies addressing the issue of the female condition in different parts of the world. Not all of these movies are directed by women, as female directors unfortunately are still a minority," Barbera said.

Barbera asserted that the way male directors now portray women reveals "a new form of sensitivity of the female universe, something that rarely happened in the past." AP



North Korea fired a new type of short-range ballistic missile in two launches into the sea yesterday, South Korean officials said. They were North Korea's first weapons launches in more than two months and appeared to be a pressuring tactic as Pyongyang and Washington struggle to restart nuclear negotiations. More on p13

Pakistan Thousands of supporters of Pakistan's opposition parties are rallying across the country, urging Prime Minister Imran Khan to step down over what they say is his failure in handling the nation's ailing economy.



Tunisia President Beji Caid Essebsi, the North African country's first democratically elected leader and a symbol of the generation of Tunisians who shook off French rule in the 1950s, has died. He was 92.



Puerto Rico Governor Ricardo Rosselló announced his resignation overnight, ceding power after nearly two weeks of furious protests and political upheaval touched off by a leak of crude and insulting chat messages between him and his top advisers.

UK British Prime Minister Boris Johnson urged the European Union on yesterday to rethink its refusal to renegotiate the Brexit deal, setting himself on a collision course with both the bloc and his own lawmakers over his vow to leave the EU by Oct. 31. More on p15

USA Robert Mueller's testimony sent the clearest signal yet that impeachment may be slipping out of reach for Democrats and that the ultimate verdict on President Donald Trump will be rendered by voters in the 2020 election.