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A LOCAL SEPTUAGENARIAN WAS STABBED BY A MAINLAND ASSAILANT, WHO ACCUSED THE ELDERLY MAN OF HAVING A BAD ATTITUDE P2

FORMER CARWASH WORKER ADDS TO COMPLAINTS ABOUT EMPLOYER MISCONDUCT P6

A LITTLE TECH TOWN IN THE GREATER BAY AREA IS ON THE FRONTIER OF ELECTRONICS DEVELOPMENT - AND IS PUNCHING ABOVE ITS WEIGHT P8

AP PHOTO



China allowed its yuan to fall below the politically sensitive level of seven to the U.S. dollar yesterday for the first time in 11 years, prompting concern Beijing might use devaluation as a weapon in a tariff war with Washington.

AP PHOTO



South Korea President Moon Jae-in yesterday described the country's escalating trade war with Japan as a wake-up call to revamp its economy and issued a nationalistic call for economic cooperation with North Korea, which he said would allow the Koreas to erase Japan's economic superiority in "one burst."

AP PHOTO



Malaysia Police yesterday they are investigating the disappearance of a 15-year-old London girl, but there were no initial indications of foul play.

AP PHOTO



Sri Lanka President Maithripala Sirisena said yesterday that the attorney general has informed him that a bill presented to Parliament last week seeking to abolish the death penalty is illegal.

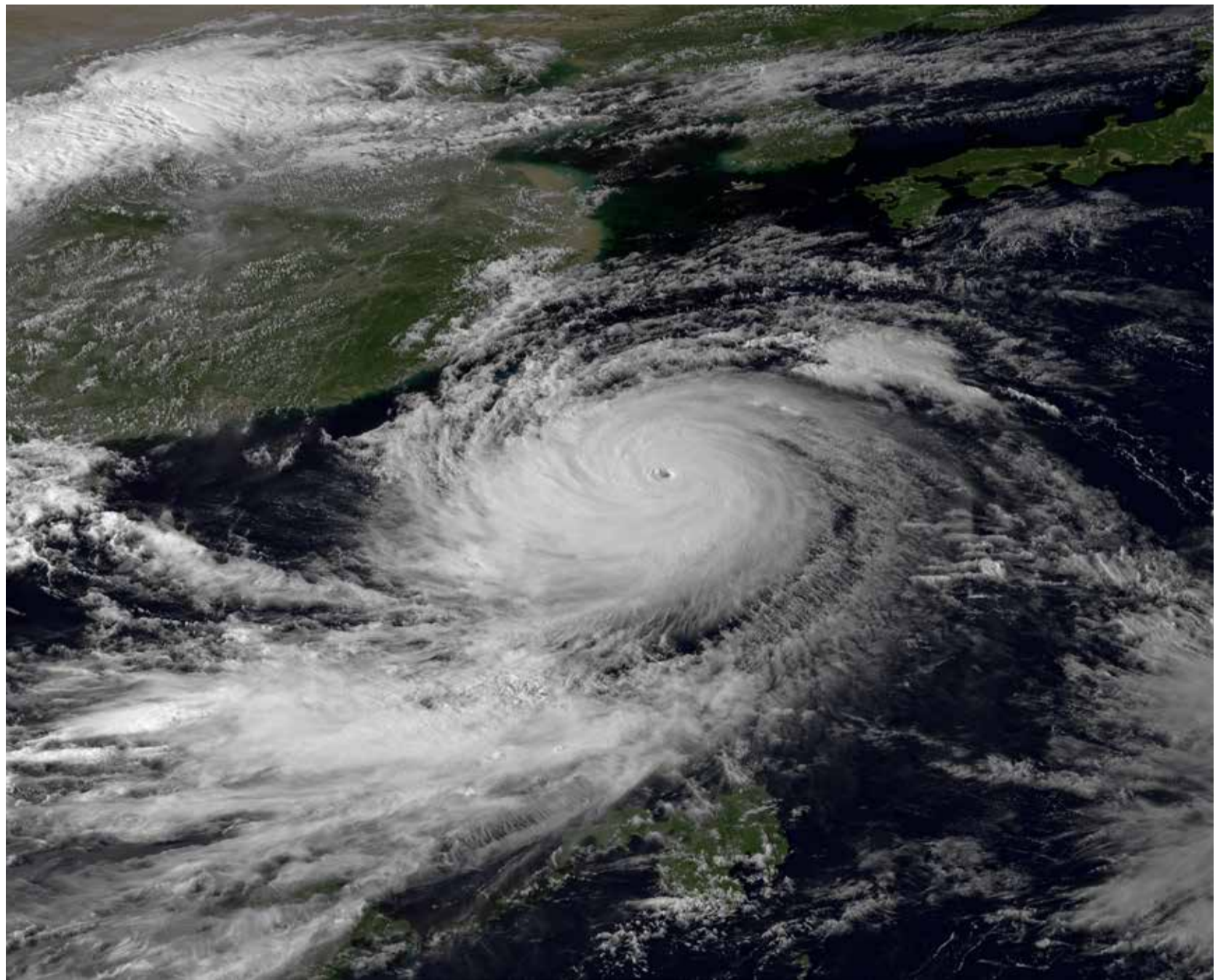
Australia Officials confirmed yesterday that their country will not be used as a base for any planned U.S. mid-range missiles following talks with American officials in Sydney.

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CRIME

ELDERLY MAN STABBED AT ATM FOR SHOWING 'BAD ATTITUDE'

RENATO MARQUES

A local septuagenarian was stabbed and robbed at an automatic banking service point on Saturday evening, a Public Security Police Force (PSP) spokesperson revealed yesterday during a joint press conference of the police forces held at the Judiciary Police (PJ) headquarters.

According to the spokesperson, the PSP was alerted to the case by a call from the victim to the 999 emergency line. In the call, the man said he had been stabbed and robbed by another man.

Upon arrival at the site of the attack, at Avenida do Doutor Rodrigo Rodrigues in ZAPE area, officers found the victim with blood on his neck. The man told the police that he had wanted to deposit HKD120,000 in cash using the automatic machine.

While he was inside the banking automatic service point enclosure, counting the money that he had on hand, the suspect entered the same area and positioned himself behind the victim.

He told the police that he had asked the man to give him privacy to use the machine but in response, the man stabbed him in the neck with a pointed object, causing him to fall on the floor and spread the money around the place, before leaving.

After retrieving the cash from the floor, the victim noticed that some HKD3,000 was missing, deducing that the man who had stabbed him in the neck had stolen the missing amount.

The PJ initiated a search of the area and soon found a male that matched the victim's description of the suspect at the entrance to a car park of a building located in the same area.

In a rubbish bin also located in the area, the officers also found a cap and a fork that were believed to have been used in the attack.

Taken into custody, the suspect, a man in his thirties from mainland China, admitted to the crime and confessed to having used the fork to stab the man.

He added that he did so in response to the bad attitude of the elderly man, who he claims shouted at him and scolded him at the banking service point when he was "just waiting to use the ATM to withdraw some money."

A body search revealed that the man had HKD2,000 in his possession, which he admitted to having grabbed from the scene on his way out as "revenge." However, he reaffirmed that he had no intention of performing any unlawful act until the moment that he was "mistreated" by the victim.

The suspect is now being charged with assault with a forbidden weapon, as well as theft, and his case has been put forward for prosecution.

WOMAN CAUGHT WITH FAKE 'BLUE CARD'

A Vietnamese national has been caught by the PSP as part of a routine operation when she presented a forged non-resident worker permit (commonly known as a 'blue card') when asked for identification.

The event occurred on Saturday morning when the woman was asked by an officer on patrol to provide identification. The officer realized that the document was fake and took her into custody.

At the police station, the 28-year-old woman claimed to have acquired the "blue card" from a compatriot back in 2017, adding that she thought the document was real and not a forgery.

The PSP did not disclose any further information on the working status of the Vietnamese woman, although it is believed that she had been working in Macau for the past two years.

Besides the fake blue card, the woman could only provide a Vietnamese passport with its validity expired to the PSP.

She is being charged for possession of the forged document.

CROUPIER CAUGHT 'CHEATING'

A 41-year-old female croupier at a local casino was caught by the security of the casino performing crimes involving the misappropriation of funds with the help of an accomplice, a PJ spokesperson revealed during yesterday's press conference.

According to the information and proof gathered by the casino, the woman has repeatedly damaged the casino by offering a higher amount in gaming chips to a certain player when he was exchanging cash for chips at her table.

The case arrived at the PJ via a report from the casino which, after reviewing the surveillance cameras, noticed a total of 14 infractions of the same kind committed by the croupier over the last two weeks, always involving the same player, a 27-year-old male from mainland China.

The proof gathered by the casino security shows the woman giving excessive amounts in chips to the man, usually doubling the amount offered in cash by the player.

According to the preliminary review, the casino claims a loss of HKD121,200.

She is now being charged with embezzlement.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE SCAMS CONTINUE

Despite the efforts announced by the city's security chief to manage the problem, the number of scams involving currency exchange and the transfer of money to be spent at local casinos continues to rise.

Over the weekend, another series of cases have been reported to the PJ by victims of scams, with two of them involving a total of four victims, all women from the mainland.

In the first case, a woman found two men at a local casino who claimed to be able to provide the exchange of cash at a VIP room.

Showing a screen-capture on their mobile phone claiming that "their boss" had a total of over HKD4 million in one account to facilitate the exchange, they persuaded the woman to deposit RMB1,798,000 to an account indicated by them.

They then took her to the VIP room and asked her to wait to receive the sum agreed in HKD.

She was unhappy with the waiting time and called the police.

Questioned by the PJ, the two men said that they were paid to perform such a task of luring people into the currency exchange scheme, receiving orders from "the boss" to do so.

According to the PJ, none of them has any relation with the VIP room where they were, and no information was provided regarding the identity of "the boss."

In the second case, three women who wanted to come to Macau to play in the casinos requested help from a mainland male who claimed to have an account in a Macau gambling room.

They claim to have done so to avoid carrying a large amount of cash when crossing the border.

With the help of the man, they deposited the amount of RMB200,000 in his account and then headed to Macau.

Upon their arrival, the man gave them the money as promised and all seemed well, but after a few hours of gambling in which neither the losses or the earnings were significant, they decided to rest, handing almost the same amount to the same man to keep it for them to continue to play later on that day.

After resting, they searched for the man to retrieve the cash and realized they had lost contact with him. They subsequently presented a complaint about the scam to the PJ.

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Junket operator Suncity Group denies investigation claims

DANIEL BEITLER

HONG Kong-based Suncity Group has said neither it nor its majority owner and CEO have been notified of any investigation by authorities in Australia.

In a filing to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, the company skirted around media reports suggesting that its owner, Macau businessman Alvin Chau, had been barred from entering Australia for a period of 12 months.

"[The company] would like to clarify that Mr. Chau has no intention to go to Australia for the forthcoming twelve months and he is not aware of the said investigation of such Australian casinos," noted the filing. "Mr. Chau further clarifies that he is not subject to any Australian investigation as at the date of this announcement."

The announcement rebutted the claims of Australian newspaper, The Age, which said that the country's Department of Home Affairs was interested in a possible connection between Crown Resorts and junket operators with links to criminal activities.

Last week, an exposé by The Age, The Sydney Morning Herald and the 60 Minutes television program reported that Crown Resorts used junket operators with links to drug traffickers as it sought to bring higher-roller Chinese gamblers to its Australian casinos.

Citing more than a dozen sources, the Australian media outlets concluded that Crown Resorts had partnered with the criminal syndicate to gain access to the Chinese VIP market, notwithstanding the fact that the partnership would bring the casino ope-



Suncity Group CEO Alvin Chau

erator closer to money laundering, the trafficking of both people and drugs, and influential agents of the Chinese government.

In response, Australia's government announced that a special investigation will be opened into junket operators based overseas that partner with local casino operators.

Suncity Group noted in its filing that it has "no business operations in Australia."

However, as reported by several media outlets, the Hong Kong-based company that made the filing does not include its Macau

junket business on its balance sheet, suggesting that other entities controlled by Chau could have dealings in Australia.

It has been a summer of bad news for Alvin Chau and his junket promoter business. Shares in the Hong Kong-listed firm have fallen nearly 55% since early May.

Last month, a Chinese media outlet accused Suncity Group of operating offshore online casinos and allowing proxy betting services on these platforms. Both are banned practices in Macau and the mainland, though not necessarily forbidden in the overseas

jurisdictions alleged by the report.

After the incident, Macau's Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau stressed that any violation of the law by a junket promoter – even if such a violation takes place outside of Macau – could have implications for the suitability of the junket to operate in the SAR.

The official response from the Macau government dampens the prospects of the junket promoter winning a Macau casino concession, should one open up after the current six expire in 2022.

POLICE NOTIFIED AS PARENTS BRAWL AT CAMÕES GARDEN

The Mandarin-speaking parents of two different children fought each other at Camões Garden on Sunday, with police investigating the matter.

According to witnesses, lots of children were running and playing at the playground of the garden when it was suspected that two kids bumped against each other. This gave rise to a verbal conflict between the two parents, with the conflict later developing into a fight. Police are now investigating the cause of the conflict. Local Chinese newspaper Macao Daily News commented that such an incident would set a bad example for kids, making them think that violence is an acceptable means of solving conflicts.

CE'S EVASION OF INTERVIEWS UNUSUAL, CLAIM LAWMAKERS

Lawmakers Agnes Lam and Sulu Sou both find it unusual that Chief Executive (CE) Chui Sai On has been evading talking to the media recently. The top official has also refused to attend the Legislative Assembly Plenary question-and-answer session in August, which is different from the previous arrangement. Lam, who is also an academic in journalism, believes that the CE should take media interviews when he attends public occasions, as it will allow the public to understand the CE's view on certain matters. Sou wrote in a social media post that the CE has hidden behind the microphone for four months, speculating that the official may be evading questions about certain, controversial plans.

NEW MACAU HANDS CE LETTER ON PROPOSED INVESTMENT COMPANY

The New Macau Association yesterday handed a letter to the Chief Executive, urging him to withdraw his plan to set up a proposed new investment company that will be funded with MOP60 billion from the public coffers. The association stressed that there is currently no mechanism to limit, plan for or monitor this type of investment. It stated that the general public is suspicious given the limited amount of information available. The submission of the proposal near the end of this term may remind people of the "Compensation Bill" which triggered two protests in 2014 of 20,000 and 10,000 participants respectively. Laws should be made swiftly, the association said, to close the loophole with respect to the proposal.

Over 1,600 new companies established in second quarter

A total of 1,665 new companies were incorporated in the second quarter of 2019, a decrease of 55 year-on-year, according to a statement issued by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC)

The total value of registered capital soared by 879.6% to MOP2 billion, due to the incorporation of companies with large

capital in the Transport and Wholesale & Retail sectors.

Analyzed by industry, there were 529 newly-incorporated companies operating in Wholesale & Retail Trade and 395 in Business Services.

Companies in dissolution totaled 211 in the second quarter, and the value of registered capital

of companies in dissolution amounted to MOP76 million.

Meanwhile, there were 1,237 new companies registered with capital under MOP50,000, with the value of this capital amounting to MOP32 million.

On the other hand, there were 31 new companies registered with ca-

pital of MOP1 million or over, and the total value of registered capital amounted to MOP2 billion (96.2% of the total).

With regard to the origin of capital of the new companies, Macau and Hong Kong contributed MOP2 billion (89.4% of the total) and MOP151 million respectively. Capital from mainland Chi-

na amounted to MOP72 million, with MOP62 million coming from the mainland cities in the Greater Bay Area, of which Zhuhai accounted for 90.1%.

In the first half of 2019, a total of 3,278 new companies were incorporated, up by 3.3% year-on-year, and the total value of registered capital surged by 647% to MOP3 billion. The number of companies in dissolution totaled 421, and the value of registered capital of companies in dissolution amounted to MOP157 million. LV

CHUI SAI ON WITHDRAWS BILLS FROM LEGISLATURE AGENDA

CHIEF Executive Chui Sai On announced yesterday the withdrawal of two bills from the Legislative Assembly (AL) agenda, one governing cybercrime and the other detailing the provisions of a new investment company. The announcement was made at a press conference held yesterday.

The "Counter Cyber Crime Law" and the "Amendment to the Budget of 2019 Financial Year" both generated significant public debate.

Chui explained he was withdrawing the bills because he was aware of certain comments in society that made him realize more time is required for the government to thoroughly explain its intentions.

Chui stressed that a lot of work has been done to prepare the inauguration of the new investment company.

The responsible official, Secretary for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong, told the same press conference that the withdrawal was decided so that the government



can hear from and converse with the general public with regards to the investment company.

As a result, the government is now planning to conduct a public consultation on the investment company. The charter of the future investment company will also be publicized.

Meanwhile, regarding his future, the Chief Executive expressly noted that he would not take any position in the future investment company, contrary to recent media reports.

The bill was submitted to the AL to file an amendment to the current budget. This would extend an extra MOP60 billion to the government for the purpose of financing the investment fund.

Lawmakers from both the pro-establishment and democrat camps have urged the government to be cautious, citing examples of sovereign wealth funds that have spelled disaster.

Moreover, both democrat Sulu Sou and pro-establishment lawmaker Ella Lei

agree that laws must be passed to more effectively limit the power and monitor the operation of publicly-owned companies.

The cybercrime bill, on the other hand, was withdrawn "because the Security for Security, who is in charge, will be out of the city and thus absent from the explanation session at the AL." The Chief Executive believes it would be beneficial for the Secretary to personally explain the bill to the legislature and be present to answer questions about it. **AL**

DOMESTIC LOANS RECORD SLIGHT INCREASE

DOMESTIC loans to the private sector in June grew 1.6% from the preceding month to 514.9 billion patacas, according to data issued by the Monetary Authority of Macao.

Analyzed by economic sector, loans to "electricity, gas and water" and "construction and public works" increased at respective rates of 15.3% and 5.3% compared with a quarter ago.

The sectors "information technology" and "restaurants, hotels and similar" dropped 38.5% and 18.3% respectively.

External loans rose by 4.1% to MOP578.1 billion. As a result, total loans to the private sector increased 2.9% from the preceding month to MOP1,093 billion.

Meanwhile, resident deposits fell 0.2% from the preceding month to MOP654.7 billion, whereas non-resident deposits rose 9.7% to MOP274.5 billion. Public sector deposits with the banking sector remained virtually stable at MOP248.8 billion. As a result, total deposits in the banking sector grew 2% from the preceding month to MOP1,178 billion.

The currency in circulation rose 0.6% month-to-month, with the shares of pataca, Hong Kong dollar, renminbi and U.S. dollar standing at 30.9%, 48.9%, 4.4% and 14% respectively.

At end-June, the loan-to-deposit ratio for the resident sector rose from 56% at end-May to 57%. **LV**

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Rosário outlines improvements to public works' typhoon readiness

JULIE ZHU

THE local government is still waiting for a reply from the Hong-Kong-Zhuhai-Macau shuttle bus operator regarding the suspension of shuttle bus services when a typhoon Signal No.8, or higher level warning, is in force.

Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo Arrais do Rosário revealed during yesterday's Legislative Assembly (AL) that the local government had already made a proposal to the HKZMB shuttle bus operator.

"I am still waiting for a decision [from the operator]," said Rosário, who disagreed with the arrangement of specially scheduled buses during Signal No.8 storms for the HKZMB.

"It's useless to take people to Praça de Ferreira Amaral because there are no buses to pick up the passengers at Amaral, which in turn also causes an inconvenience," said Raimundo.

The Secretary also said that the local government was carrying out the fourth phase of construction of a stormwater pumping station in the Inner Harbor's northern area to better handle future typhoons on the scale of Hato

and Mangkhut.

A new pipeline at Rua do Visconde Paço de Arcos was expected to be completed this month, but the construction of culverts at Avenida de Demetrio Cinatti will take longer.

Meanwhile, the fourth phase of the construction of the 25th ferry terminal of the Inner Harbor is expected to start by the end of this year, and is expected to be completed in 2021.

The Marine and Water Bureau is discussing with the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) the details of flood control measures and of a contingency plan for the Inner Harbor. However, the project involves the installation of different types of pipelines, along the entire Inner Harbor, as well as power grids.

The government does not have a timetable for the project's public tender and construction.

CEM has completed the renovation of more than 150 transformer rooms and related low-voltage distribution facilities in Macau.

In addition to typhoon measures discussed by the Secretary, Rosário also provided the Legislative Assembly with updates on several other public works pro-

jects, as well as general government plans.

SUBSIDIES FOR MAINTENANCE, NOT RENEWAL

Rosário said that the government does not have plans to provide a wider coverage of maintenance funds, in particular more subsidies for owners of private properties.

"Currently, there is no penalty against owners who do not maintain their buildings. The subsidies cover part of the maintenance costs for the owners, in particular, costs for maintenance of each building's commons. Regarding private fragments, the subsidy does not cover them, and does not cover the [demolition] of houses," said Rosário.

The Secretary explained that "if some of the building owners don't care [about their properties], then the government will not care either. The subsidies are only for maintenance, not for building renewal."

"We respect the owners. I think there is no reason for us [the government] to enter other people's houses and carry out projects," said Rosário. "The owners should take the initiative to maintain their buildings."

75% OF LRT WORKERS ARE LOCAL RESIDENTS

Approximately three in four Light Rapid Transit (LRT) workers are local Macau residents, Secretary Rosário reported yesterday.

"Over 500 people have been hired, with almost all vacancies filled. 75 percent of them are Macau residents. I think the ratio is not bad; most of them are Macau residents," said Rosário.

In total, the MTR company hired approximately 570 people. Nearly 400 of the employees are university graduates. 150 are engineers and more than 200 are responsible for the LRT operation.

In addition, Rosário conceded that the government is subsidizing the LRT with large amounts of public money. However, "in the long term, it is a good measure" for the general benefit of the city.

MACAU WEATHER DIFFERS FROM ZHUHAI

In response to a proposal for weather alarm cooperation between Macau and Zhuhai, and among the Greater Bay Area cities, the local government stressed the unsuitability of such cooperation.

"Macau is very small. At one

[bus] stop, the rain may be 10 mm, and at the next one it may be 50 mm. In Coloane, it [can be] 10 mm and, at the same time, at the Border Gate, it can be 50 mm. Do you want me to make a decision to reach an average? How can I do it?" Rosário questioned. "We have an even bigger difference [when compared with] Zhuhai and Hong Kong."

A representative of the Macau Meteorological and geophysical Bureau (SMG) explained that, in terms of weather, "it is most difficult for Macau to forecast weather events when they are the closest to the city."

Recently, the SMG proposed adding another warning signal for inclement weather as rainfall of 70 to 80 millimeters per hour, when recorded in Macau, can cause landslides or tree collapse.

DSAL TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR WORKERS

Meanwhile, when asked by lawmaker Leong Sun Iok about the "employment quality" in Macau, the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) revealed that it has organized several training courses for local residents to improve their working skills.

As of today, 80 enterprises are participating in DSAL's equipment maintenance training program.

"You organized so many training courses. Were they really useful?" Mak Soi Kun questioned. "Some are useful. But what about other training courses of DSAL?"

"The government should work more with organizations. The government should create conditions to organize specific training courses with specific targets," Mak suggested.

RECYCLING HAS POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT

The director of the Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA), Tam Vai Man, thinks that Macau's recycling has the potential to head in a better direction.

During yesterday's session at the AL, Tam said that "in big buildings which have a property management company, recycling can be enhanced."

"We think that recycling has a huge potential for development," added Tam.

'MACAU PEOPLE, MACAU LAND'

The local government expects to submit a report on the study of the New Urban Zone land utilization, according to Liu Dexue, Director of the Legal Affairs Bureau.

"The study direction of 'Macau People, Macau Land' is correct. The government was very determined to plan for 28,000 public housing units on the New Urban Zone, in addition to 4,000 commercial housing units. It showed the efforts that the government made for 'Macau People, Macau Land'," said Liu.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

EMPLOYEE RECEIVES NO COMPENSATION AFTER WORKPLACE INJURY

A former employee injured in a carwash accident has criticized the company involved for failing to provide him with compensation, after he suffered a head fracture in the accident.

Reynante Casuga, a former colleague of Raymond Tagacay, whose left leg was amputated due to the accident, said he had not heard from the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) since he filed a complaint against his employer.

Casuga went back to the Philippines in May due to pain that occurs whenever he bends his head.

"I resigned because although the medical report [back in November] states that I am fit to work, after a few months I started to feel pain in my head whenever I bend and it's difficult to continue to work,"

said Casuga.

Casuga said that he filed a complaint with the DSAL against his employer, citing several issues such as overwork and the refusal of the employer to provide days off.

According to him, his wage would be deducted if he applied for sick leave or a rest day.

"We had no pay slips. Every time we received our monthly salaries, we were asked to sign a paper, then we would withdraw an amount of [between] MOP1,500 to MOP2,000 from our [bank accounts] to give it back to them," he accused.

Casuga further explained that his post check-ups following the accident were paid by him, and that the employer had only reimbursed such expenses once, which amounted to

about MOP150.

"They took all the receipts, but I didn't get anything back," he added.

According to him, he was given MOP31,000 by his employer when he resigned, as his contract was supposed to end on August 10.

He claimed that he was forced to sign documents that he did not understand before he received his salary from May to August, which he supposed were documents to be submitted to the DSAL.

Casuga also noted that until now, he had not received any updates from the Philippine Consulate General regarding the medical benefits or compensation that could be claimed under the Philippines' Overseas Workers Welfare Administration program. **LV**

FAKED MACAU MEDIA PASS FOUND IN HONG KONG

An online video channel associated with the University of Hong Kong Students' Union (HKUSU) posted an image of two media passes on its social media page yesterday, one with the name of local Portuguese newspaper "Jornal Tribuna de Macau" (JTM) printed on it.

The other pass is believed to be from Hong Kong's pro-establishment media outlets Ta Kung Pao and Wen Wei Po. Both logos are seen on the pass. The information printed on the pass suggests it belongs to Lo Wing Yin, a journalist with Ta Kung Pao.

The video channel reported that Lo has been using the fake media pass to cover up the pass of Ta Kung Pao, where he allegedly works.

In response, the Portuguese media outlet issued a declaration yesterday, stressing that the outlet "has never issued



such a pass, and has no employment relationship with the person".

Ta Kung Pao also issued a statement dated August 4 asserting that some of its journalists had been attacked at Causeway Bay, Hong Kong. The statement condemned the act of violence. However, no connection could be made between all these happenings.

The fake JTM pass was mainly printed in English, with only the name of the outlet and

the word "pressione" in Portuguese. Although the Portuguese word directly translates to "press" in English, it actually means to "apply pressure".

A report by Hong Kong 01 online media from early 2017 shows that Lo worked with Ta Kung Pao. In the course of his work, Lo was involved in a fight with Hong Kong activist Edward Leung Tin Kei at MTR Tai Koo Station.

Both Lo and Leung were each given a HKD1,000 bond by the Court for a year. **AL**

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Protests disrupt Hong Kong work day as leader vows to remain

YANAN WANG
& CHRISTOPHER BODEEN

PROTESTERS filled public parks and squares in several Hong Kong districts yesterday in a general strike staged on a weekday to draw more attention to their demands, including that the semi-autonomous Chinese territory's leader resign.

Police again deployed tear gas in the Wong Tai Sin district, the scene of clashes with protesters over the weekend.

At the legislative complex, other protesters spray-painted "Dog officials" and pasted yellow banners on the gates opposing an extradition bill that originally sparked more than two months of demonstrations. They painted "Revolution of our Times" on one side of the building's exterior.

Police responded with tear gas after protesters took over a major road outside the main government office, threw eggs and bricks at the building and punctured large water-filled barriers set up by police to keep them away.

The general strike led to more than 200 flight cancellations at the city's airport and protesters disrupted subway service during the morning commute. Nevertheless, Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam maintained that she has no plans to resign in the face of the turbulent pro-democracy movement.

Hong Kong is on "the verge of a very dangerous situation," Lam said. She said current protests were operating with "ulterior mo-

tives" that threaten Hong Kong's prosperity and security.

"I don't think at this point in time, resignation of myself or some of my colleagues would provide a better solution," Lam said at a news conference.

The strike is the latest development in a summer of fiery demonstrations that began in early June against proposed extradition legislation that would have allowed some criminal suspects to be sent to mainland China to stand trial. While the government has since suspended the bill, protesters have pressed on with broader calls for it to be scrapped entirely, along with democratic reforms including the dissolution of the current legislature and an investigation into alleged police brutality.

A former British colony, Hong Kong was returned to China in 1997 under the framework of "one country, two systems," which promised the city certain democratic freedoms not afforded to the mainland. But some Hong Kong residents feel that Beijing has been increasingly encroaching on their freedoms.

Protesters snarled the Monday morning rush hour by blocking train and platform doors, preventing subway and commuter rail trains from leaving their stations.

More than 200 flights out of Hong Kong have been canceled after a large number of airport

employees called in sick in apparent participation in the general strike, Hong Kong media reported. Public broadcaster RTHK said Cathay Pacific and other domestic carriers such as Hong Kong Airlines were the most affected. Airport express train service was also suspended.

"I don't think at this point in time, resignation of myself or some of my colleagues would provide a better solution."

CARRIE LAM
HK CHIEF EXECUTIVE

"Too much. Why do they have to create trouble for people not involved in their cause?" said 52-year-old John Chan, whose flight to Singapore was canceled. "Hong Kong is sinking. The government, police and protest people have to stop fighting and give us a break."

The citywide strike and demonstrations in seven Hong Kong districts followed a weekend of street clashes between protesters and riot police.

At a daily briefing, a police spokeswoman said 420 protesters have been arrested since June 9, the date of a massive march that

drew more than 1 million people and ushered in the protest movement. Those held, who range in age from 14 to 76, face charges including rioting, unlawful assembly, possessing offensive weapons and assaulting officers and obstructing police operations, the spokeswoman, Yolanda Yu Hoi-kwan, told reporters.

Yu said during the protests, police have expended 1,000 tear gas grenades and fired more than 300 non-lethal bullets. She said 139 officers had been injured in clashes, with two still hospitalized with fractures.

She said violence has been escalating, with protesters using gasoline bombs and fire, including

sending a trolley full of burning trash hurtling toward officers.

"We love Hong Kong and hope to restore public order. If we continue to tolerate and turn a blind eye to lawless behavior, the consequences will be undesirable for our citizens," Yu said.

Senior Superintendent Kong Wing-cheung of the Police Public Relations Branch said the police are fully supported by the government and there will be no need to deploy China's military to help maintain order. He said Lam and other officials from her administration have stated the same on multiple occasions.

"I personally believe there won't be any chance to deploy the [People's Liberation Army]," Kong told reporters at a daily press briefing.

Speculation of PLA intervention was fueled in part by a slick publicity video it released last week showing troops firing tear gas and dealing with a mock street demonstration.

Meanwhile, Kong said he doesn't feel the police are being made scapegoats over the violence and were fulfilling their mandate to protect the community and maintain law and order.

The Communist Party-led central government in Beijing has condemned what they call violent and radical protesters who have vandalized the Chinese national flag on the sidelines of major rallies. China has accused unnamed "foreign forces" of inflaming the demonstrations out of a desire to contain the country's development.

On Chinese state broadcaster CCTV's daily noon news report, an anchor read aloud from a strongly worded editorial titled "The Chaos in Hong Kong Must Not Continue."

"We warn those maniacs and thugs who intend to continue to mess up Hong Kong by holding to a fantasy that you must pay a price for your savage revenge," the editorial said. "So please become aware of your errors, turn back from your incorrect path and set down the butcher's knives."

Claudia Mo, a pro-democracy lawmaker, said Beijing should consider engaging with protesters through Lam.

"We hope the learned people in Beijing would at least deliver some sincerity by suggesting via Carrie Lam, 'OK, you guys want democracy, perhaps we can talk,'" Mo said. "We can talk — just three words. And maybe that can help appease society." AP

UNIDENTIFIED MOB SWING POLES AT PROTESTERS

FIGHTING has broken out in a Hong Kong neighborhood between protesters and a mob of men wielding long wooden poles. The men swung and threw their poles at the demonstrators who had gathered in an eastern district of Hong Kong as part of a citywide general pro-democracy strike. The protesters responded by throwing traffic cones, metal barricades and rods of their own. The two sides were

separated by a thin road lane divider. The sudden attack on the protesters was reminiscent of a mob assault in a train station last month, when 44 people were injured by men who beat commuters and protesters with wooden poles and steel rods. Police later arrested six and said some had links to Hong Kong's triad gangs. The identity of the men involved in yesterday's attack was not immediately clear.

ZHUHAI

FLEX CLOSES SOUTH PLANT AS HUAWEI SALES SLOW

American tech manufacturer Flex International has shut down production at one of its Zhuhai plants serving Huawei Electronics and begun laying off workers, according to local media reports. It has also recently closed its factory in Hunan's Changsha as Huawei cut down its smartphone production orders. Citing disputes with the Chinese tech giant, financial magazine Caixin reported on Sunday that as many as 10,000 Flex jobs could be axed between the two factories. In Zhuhai, the south plant of two factories will be shut, while the north plant will remain operational. According to some reports, Flex is said to have offered workers at south plant a choice between relocating to the north plant or resigning with a compensation package.

SHENZHEN

DOCTORS REMOVE TOOTHBRUSH IN INTESTINES FOR 20 YEARS

Doctors from a southern Chinese hospital recently removed a 14-centimeter-long toothbrush from a man's intestines, swallowed 20 years ago. The No.3 People's Hospital of Shenzhen in Guangdong Province said it was among the most bizarre items doctors have found in a patient's entrails, along with nails, coins and lighters. The patient, a 51-year-old man surnamed Li, was admitted to the hospital for abdominal pain in late June, and a CT scan revealed a mysterious item in his duodenum. Li then told doctors it could be a toothbrush he swallowed in a suicidal attempt 20 years ago. Feeling no discomfort after the failed suicide, he went on with his life and put aside the embarrassing experience, as he described it.

GUANGZHOU

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DANCE SHOW HELD IN PROVINCE CAPITAL

Over 5,000 children participated in a six-day national dance show held in Guangzhou, southern China's Guangdong Province last week. Jointly held by institutions including the China Federation of Literary and Art Circles and the China Dancers Association (CDA), the show serves as a platform for Chinese children to show their dancing talents. The show featured nearly 200 dance works, according to organizers. Established in 1998, the dance show intends to promote the development of children's dances. This year marks the tenth show of the event.

AD

CHANG'AN

THE LITTLE TECH TOWN PUNCHING ABOVE ITS WEIGHT

LOCATED in the Pearl River Delta and administered by the city of Dongguan in Guangdong Province, Chang'an is a town on the frontier of China's electronic information development. For years, it has been a major player in the electronics trade, but now it sees its future in intelligent manufacturing.

With an area of less than 100 square kilometers, Chang'an Town has seen its gross domestic product exceed 60 billion yuan (about \$8.71 billion).

But more impressively, one out of every six mobile phones in the world is made in this small town with big aspirations.

Chang'an registered about 19% growth in foreign trade in the first half of this year, according to state media agency Xinhua, despite the increasing uncertainties in the global market. In comparison, the province of Guangdong saw its foreign trade grow 5.1% over the entire course of last year.

It is home to more than 1,000 enterprises related to smartphone manufacturing, with more than 200,000 workers.

The growth is being driven by a focus on innovative research and intelligent manufacturing, which are beginning to replace the production of more basic electronic goods of the past. In the first half of this year, Chang'an achieved year-on-year growth of more than 10 percent in high-tech manufacturing output.

The jump into smartphone manufacturing began with OPPO and Vivo, two Chinese mobile smartphone brands born in Chang'an in 2004 and 2009 respectively. According to the international research firm IDC, OPPO and Vivo are co-ranked fifth in terms of global mobile shipments, and the two



brands hold 15 percent of the global market share.

Seeing the town's potential, other enterprises have also set up bases in Chang'an.

Huamao Electronics Group, which started as a hardware gadget maker, has grown into a manufacturer producing 6 million middle frame parts for cellphones every month, with its revenue expected to hit 2.7 billion yuan this year.

"We are extending and expanding our industrial chain, pursuing diverse development in areas such as intelligent wear, medical devices and auto parts," said Quan Fei, a supplies supervisor with the group, according to Xinhua.

Since 2016, OPPO has stepped up its efforts in promoting research and development (R&D), with R&D investment set to reach 10 billion yuan this year.

Earlier this month, the company broke ground on its new R&D center in Chang'an. With a total investment of 2.2 billion

yuan, the center will focus on developing and testing smartphones and their accessories. It is expected to begin operation in 2024.

"After the center is operational, it will take up the strategic role of leading OPPO's technological development," said Zhu Gaoling, deputy president of OPPO.

Besides Chang'an, the mobile giant has also set up R&D centers in China's Shenzhen, Shanghai and Beijing, Japan's Yokohama, as well as the Silicon Valley in the United States.

"Our R&D centers will be wherever the talent is," Zhu said.

Chang'an has also been at the forefront of the new 5G technology, taking the lead in building 57 5G physical sites, with another 100 5G macro base stations soon to be built in the town.

So far, the 5G network covers the main intelligent manufacturing enterprises in the town, which provides support for their R&D activities.

The technology is poised to be rolled out nationwide in the next few years.

"The whole industry is preparing, with 5G related new products expected to enter the development phase at the end of this year and mass production phase next year," said Quan Fei.

China Mobile, one of China's major telecom operators, has claimed its 5G services would be available in more than 40 cities by the end of September, and said that users can enjoy the service without changing their cards and numbers.

Meanwhile, OPPO launched its first 5G smartphone, the Reno 5G, in the U.K. market in late May, in collaboration with British network operator EE.

"Supported by EE's commercial 5G network, the Reno 5G will bring to consumers an unprecedented experience in cloud games, AR and VR," said Derek Sun, global marketing director of OPPO. **DB/XINHUA**



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



ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

Recipe for diversity starts with steel and chocolate

LEE MILLER & WEI LU

PENNSYLVANIA edged out Texas to claim the title of America's most diverse state economy.

Bloomberg's inaugural "Economic Diversity Index" shows Pennsylvania is a lot more than U.S. Steel Corp. and Hershey's chocolate. The variety within the nation's sixth-largest state economy puts it ahead of silver- and bronze-medalists Texas and Colorado.

Bloomberg analyzed the contribution to gross domestic product by industry and government in all 50 states to create the di-

versity index. It's modeled on the Herfindahl-Hirschman method, a mathematical measure used to detect monopoly in marketing and biodiversity in ecosystems. Theoretically, scores can range from 0 - representing maximum diversity - to 1, which signals single-industry domination. The lower the score, the more well-represented the sectoral GDP.

A diverse economy can help build resiliency against market fluctuations and trade vagaries, whether global or domestic. The index can be an indicator of which states - and their workers and government tax coffers - are best insulated from (or exposed to) su-

dden swings in a single industry, company or even aggregate demand.

Real estate was the largest GDP component in 20 states in 2018, with Hawaii's economy getting the highest proportion (21%) of its output from related activities. A decade earlier, the property sector was the top industry in just 10 states, reflecting volatility from the great recession. From 2008 to 2014, the No. 1 spot was held by the "government" sector.

Manufacturing was supreme in 16 states, with Indiana's proportion highest at 28%, making the state most dependent on production at factories and plants.

Meanwhile, the Hoosier state had the smallest portion of GDP from government (9%) and second-lowest from real estate (9.7%).

"Indiana maintains the highest employment share in manufacturing in the U.S.," Ryan M. Brewer, associate professor of finance at Indiana University, said in a report on the state's economy. That's an advantage when the U.S. economy is strong, he wrote, adding that the main causes of current uncertainty are "retaliatory" tariffs related to trade conflicts and "the opioid crisis," which has tightened the state's labor market and raised health care costs.

Three states - Delaware, New York and South Dakota - counted finance and insurance as their largest industries. Bottom-ranked Delaware was the only state where a single sector accounted for more than 30% of annual GDP. In contrast to the concentration in Delaware was the balance in Pennsylvania: real estate (12.2%), manufacturing (11.9%) and health care (9.9%).

"Pennsylvania's proximity to large population centers and more affordable real estate remains fertile ground," Toronto-Dominion Bank said in a recent research note. "Health care has been leading job creation for the past half-decade," while "Pittsburgh is in the process of making the transition from steel city to tech town."

"Big government" was the No. 1 component in eight states, topped by New Mexico (23%), whose overall 46th ranking underscores the benefits of a balanced economy. Excluding government contributions to GDP, Colorado would rank No. 1 in economic diversity, followed by Texas and Pennsylvania.

Resource-rich North Dakota ranked 5th overall, as the benefits of its mining industry had "spillover" effects throughout the state. Young adults moved to the state following the fracking boom.

"Higher incomes increased demand across many sectors, thou-

gh few had the sustained growth and expansion of extractive industries," said David Flynn, an economics professor at the University of North Dakota. Mining revenue has contracted 40% since its peak of \$10 billion in 2014. North Dakota was the only state to see a decline in its median age this decade, from 37 years in 2010 to 35.2 in 2018.

Wyoming placed 44th in the nation, and was the only state where mining/energy was the top industry (20%).

Alaska earned the highest proportion from transport (13%), reflecting its vast and remote geography. And Nevada led in two categories - accommodation/food (13%) and the arts/entertainment (3.2%) - as hotel-casinos lured tourists and gamblers, many of whom took time out to see shows by singer Celine Dion, magicians Penn & Teller and comedian Carrot Top.

Washington, home to Microsoft Corp. and Amazon.com Inc., was the only state where the information sector was the largest contributor (13%) to GDP. The benefits of that fast-growing industry helped Washington achieve the fastest economic expansion in 2018 among the 50 states - though it ranked only 31st in the diversity index.

America's biggest economy, California, ranked 30th in the Economic Diversity Index, in part due to its oversized real estate and information sectors which jointly contributed 27% to its \$3 trillion GDP in 2018, eclipsing the 19% level for the nation. The dichotomy of industry concentration was also apparent in New York. The third-largest state economy and headquarters to 60 Standard & Poor's 500 companies - 20 of which are financial giants, was ranked 40th in diversity. The financial service sector grew 73% in the past decade - fastest in the U.S. economy. New York accounted for 27% of that growth.

BLOOMBERG

CORPORATE BITS

BNU launches Apple Pay



Banco Nacional Ultramarino (BNU) and UnionPay International Hong Kong Branch (UPI) yesterday launched Apple Pay for UnionPay cards.

According to a statement issued yesterday by BNU, its cardholders will be able to add their UnionPay debit and credit cards to Apple Pay on iPhone, Apple Watch, iPad and Mac.

BNU stated that when users use a credit or debit card with Apple Pay, the actual card numbers are not stored on the device, nor on Apple servers. Instead, a unique Device Account Number is assigned, encrypted and securely stored in the Secure Element on one's device. Each transaction is authorized with a one-time unique dynamic security code.

The local bank said that users will continue to receive all of the rewards and benefits offered by their BNU UnionPay debit and credit cards.

Terrace launches menu for semi-buffet



Terrace restaurant at Hotel Okura Macau is featuring its weekly semi-

buffet lunch and dinner prepared by the restaurant's Executive Chef Hok

Cheung Hau.

The restaurant is serving Western-style cuisine as well as Asian favorites.

Notable dishes on the menu include the Seafood Tower and the delectable Marisco Bento, according to a statement issued by Hotel Okura Macau.

Chef Hau has designed monthly main dishes using the "freshest ingredients and infusing them with originality and character."

The main course choices for August are "Pan Fried Seabass with Salsa Verde," "Beef Burgundy," "Chicken Cordon Bleu" and "Penne with Italian Meatball in Tomato Sauce."



U.S. defense minister Mark Esper (left) and U.S. secretary of state Mike Pompeo speak during a news conference in Sydney

US AGAINST CHINA'S DESTABILIZING BEHAVIOR, ESPER SAYS

CHELSEA MES & JASON SCOTT

SECRETARY of Defense Mark Esper said the U.S. is firmly against China's "destabilizing" behavior in the Indo-Pacific region and won't stand by while one country reshapes the area, continuing a war of words between the superpowers.

There is a "disturbing pattern of aggressive" conduct, Esper said at a press conference in Sydney on Sunday, speaking after annual strategy talks with his Australian counterparts.

The U.S. won't "stand by idly while any one nation attempts to reshape the region to its favor at the expense of others, and we know our allies and partners will not either," he said. China is "weaponizing the global commons

using predatory economics and debt-for-sovereignty deals, and promoting state-sponsored theft of other nations' intellectual property," Esper said.

Disagreements between the world's two biggest economies have escalated into concerns over trade, human rights, the South China Sea, Taiwan and Huawei Technologies Co. So far, there are few signs of a resolution. In a defense white paper released in July, China accused the U.S. of undermining global stability and provoking competition among major countries.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi stressed the importance of cooperation with the U.S. following talks with Secretary of State Michael Pompeo last week, adding "it is neither fair nor possible to

try to obstruct China's development."

Pompeo has been one of the Trump administration's most prominent critics of China.

MUTUAL BENEFIT

"We're not asking nations to choose between the United States and China, because that's not how we operate," Pompeo said in Sydney at the same press conference. Cooperation between the nations brings mutual benefit, he added, "not zero-sum deals where one side wins and the other risks losing."

Pompeo and Esper participated in the Australia-United States Ministerial Consultations, or AUSMIN talks, which have served as the principal forum for the allies' joint strategic, foreign and

defense policies for 34 years. Australia is vulnerable to worsening ties between the U.S., its most important strategic ally, and China, its biggest trading partner.

Pompeo, in the press briefing with Australian Foreign Affairs Minister Marise Payne and Defense Minister Linda Reynolds, said the U.S. and Australia were "both concerned about China's militarization of their man-made islands in the South China Sea and we're both keeping an eye on investment that mires our friends in debt and corruption."

Vietnam and the Philippines have accused China of becoming more aggressive in asserting its claim to vast swathes of the South China Sea - a move the U.S. had termed "bullying behavior." China said last month that the

situation in the South China Sea was "generally stable and improving" as regional countries are properly managing risks and differences.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Talks on the second draft of a maritime code of conduct in the South China Sea between China and Southeast Asian countries is due to begin in October, a senior Thai government official said Friday.

In December, the U.S. joined a group supporting infrastructure projects in the Pacific, stepping up its commitment in the region in a bid to counter China's rising influence. The U.S. has been increasingly critical of China-backed infrastructure projects in the Pacific Islands region, saying many aren't properly planned or financially sustainable and are of questionable use.

Australia's relations with China have been strained since last year when it passed laws aimed at reducing Beijing's meddling in national affairs and barred Huawei from helping build its 5G network.

Pompeo on Sunday said Australia "independently and courageously" raised concerns about China's ambitions "even before we caught on." Australia's moves irked the government in Beijing; Chinese ports have delayed imports of Australian coal, while the Global Times, a mouthpiece for the Communist Party of China, said the re-election of Morrison's government will "continue current poor relations."

A potential thaw in the icy relationship could be seen in Trade Minister Simon Birmingham's visit to Beijing this weekend for Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership talks.

"Overall, you're talking about a relationship that has seen phenomenal growth year on year for a sustained period of time," Birmingham told Sky News on Sunday, adding that Australia's economic relationship with China was "very sound." **BLOOMBERG**

State media berates US for 'reneging' on trade promises

CHINESE state media has issued a flood of criticism in recent days at President Donald Trump's surprise escalation of tariffs, even raising the prospect that Beijing may consider cutting off engagement on trade.

The Communist Party's flagship People's Daily yesterday carried a commentary denouncing what it called Trump's recent assault on the global trading system, including pressuring the World Trade Organization to crack down on eco-

nomies declaring themselves developing nations. It followed the newspaper's weekend article accusing the U.S. of "reneging on promises" after Trump said he would impose 10% additional tariffs on USD300 billion of Chinese exports.

People's Daily also published yesterday analysis that said a tougher U.S. policy against China would backfire, citing an open letter to the Washington Post signed by 187 former officials, scholars and business people.

Trump's abrupt escalation of the trade war between the world's largest economies last week came shortly after the two sides restarted high-level face-to-face talks in Shanghai. Bureaucrats in Beijing were stunned by Trump's announcement, according to Chinese officials who've been involved in the talks, and Beijing has pledged to respond if the U.S. insists on adding the extra tariffs.

The Chinese government has asked state-owned enterprises to suspend

imports of U.S. agricultural products after Trump's move ratcheted up tensions, people familiar with the situation said.

Chinese state media outlets have since Friday interviewed officials or cited trade data in order to refute Trump's assertion that China hasn't followed through on its commitments to buy American agricultural products and crack down on the illegal production and smuggling of fentanyl.

State broadcaster CCTV used a prime time show to

air a series of commentaries lashing out at the U.S.'s lack of sincerity, and warned that maximum pressure won't work.

Companies won't rush buying American products as the U.S. wields the "big stick" of tariffs, People's Daily said in its Sunday article.

China is willing to actively expand imports from countries including the U.S. based on what the domestic market needs, and has agreed to address the proper U.S. concerns, the newspaper said - reiterating

the government's official stance that all additional tariffs should be eventually removed.

"The most talented director could not make such a dramatic plot," Taoran Notes, a blog run by the state-owned Economic Daily, wrote on Friday. The flip-flop would have "substantial negative impact" on China-U.S. trade talks, it said, asking whether China should continue purchasing agricultural goods from the U.S. and if talks are still necessary. **BLOOMBERG**

TARIFF WAR

Beijing takes on Trump by weakening Yuan, halting crop imports

MALCOLM SCOTT,
KEVIN HAMLIN & TIAN CHEN

CHINA responded to President Donald Trump's tariff threat with another escalation of the trade war yesterday, letting the yuan tumble to the weakest level in more than a decade and asking state-owned companies to suspend imports of U.S. agricultural products.

The moves antagonized Trump, who used Twitter to accuse China of "currency manipulation" which "will greatly weaken China over time!" He has previously criticized Beijing for not keeping to promises to buy more U.S. crops.

Stocks and emerging-market currencies sank on concern a prolonged conflict between the superpowers will weigh on global economic growth, while haven assets including the Japanese yen, U.S. Treasuries and gold climbed. Investors increased bets on Federal Reserve interest-rate cuts.

"It's among the worst-case scenarios," said Michael Every, head of Asia financial markets research at Rabobank in Hong Kong. "First markets sell off, then Trump wakes up and this all gets far, far worse."

In a statement published yesterday evening in Beijing, People's Bank of China Governor Yi Gang said China won't use the yuan as a tool to deal with trade disputes.

"I am fully confident that the yuan will remain a strong currency in spite of recent fluctuations amid external uncertainties," Yi said, adding that the bank will work to ensure "reasonable and legal demand" by companies and the public for foreign exchange.

Trump last week proposed adding 10% tariffs on another USD300 billion in Chinese imports from Sept. 1, abruptly ramping up the trade war between the world's largest economies shortly after the two sides had restarted talks. Chinese bureaucrats were stunned by Trump's announcement, according to officials who've been involved in the negotiations.

The threat of more tariffs came just as Chinese President Xi Jinping and other senior members of the Communist Party gathered for a secretive summer getaway in Beidaihe, a seaside town about a three-hour drive from Beijing. Xi had already faced pressure for weeks to take a harder stance on trade -- particularly after the U.S. blacklisted telecom equipment giant Huawei Technologies Co.

BLOOMBERG



Editorials in state-run newspapers suggested Xi will reject any deal that either retains punitive tariffs or forces China to make concessions on issues like state-run enterprises that could weaken the party's grip on power.

The harder line underlines a growing feeling in Beijing that Trump can't be trusted to cut a deal, and that China would be better off waiting to see if a Democratic presidential candidate -- many of whom have criticized the use of tariffs -- takes office. The halt in agricultural purchases could hurt Trump in politically sensitive states ahead of the 2020 election.

The MSCI Asia Pacific Index slid 2.1% yesterday, the biggest drop since October 2018. European shares and S&P 500 index futures also retreated, while the yield on 10-year U.S. Treasuries declined about 8 basis points to 1.77%, the lowest level since 2016.

The onshore yuan weakened 1.4% to 7.0391 a dollar, falling sharply on yesterday morning after the PBOC set its daily reference rate at a weaker level than 6.9 for the first time since December.

"Breaking seven is due to a mix of factors: an escalation of trade war, the softening of China's economy and a willingness for the PBOC to tolerate higher volatility

for the yuan," said Larry Hu, head of China economics at Macquarie Securities Ltd. in Hong Kong. "The PBOC has entered uncharted waters, so it has to manage expectations carefully."

In an earlier statement, the

The halt in agricultural purchases could hurt Trump in politically sensitive states ahead of the 2020 election

central bank attributed the yuan move to protectionism and expectations of additional tariffs on Chinese goods.

By linking today's devaluation with the renewed tariff threat, the PBOC "has effectively weaponized the exchange rate," said Julian Evans-Pritchard at Capital Economics in Singapore. "The fact that they have now stopped defending 7 against the dollar suggests that they have all but abandoned hopes for a trade deal."

"China appears to be posturing for worse to come in the trade war. Letting the yuan weaken past 7 against the dollar suggests it's looking to buffer the economy from a more severe trade shock," said Bloomberg analysts David

Qu, Qian Wan and Ye Xie in a note.

Allowing the yuan to weaken is not without risk for China. A mid-2015 devaluation spurred capital outflows and destabilized global markets, though tighter capital controls this time around should help prevent another exodus.

A cheaper currency also risks triggering yet more reprisals from the U.S. president, who has frequently warned that tariffs could go much higher. At a rally in Cincinnati last week he boasted of "taxing the hell out of China" until there's a deal.

The biggest damage from the trade war is the hit to business activity and confidence that comes from increased uncertainty, rather than the tariffs themselves, according to Wang Tao, China economist at UBS Group AG. For that reason, the weaker yuan may do little to offset the blow, she said.

China's crop imports from the U.S. are another weapon at Beijing's disposal. The country's state-run agricultural firms have now stopped buying American farm goods, and are waiting to see how trade talks progress, people familiar with the situation said, declining to be identified as they're not authorized to speak to

the media.

Privately owned Chinese firms that had received retaliatory-tariff waivers on American soybeans from Beijing have also stopped buying the commodity due to uncertainty over trade relations, other people said. Corn and soybean futures fell on the news.

Trump has repeatedly complained that China hasn't made the "large quantities" of agricultural purchases that he claims Xi promised when they met in Osaka at the G-20 summit.

Those accusations are "untrue" as Chinese companies have bought U.S. farm products, including soybeans, Cong Liang, Secretary General of the National Development and Reform Commission, said in an interview with China's state broadcaster yesterday, citing purchases agreed to during a trade truce in 2018. Some deals haven't been completed because the prices are not competitive, he said.

China's commerce ministry didn't respond to a fax seeking comment.

"China is giving up on its softer diplomatic strategy and is no longer willing to be Trump's punching bag," said Chua Hak Bin, an economist at Maybank Kim Eng Research Pte. "Trump's tariffs threats are backfiring and triggering a full-scale trade war." **BLOOMBERG**



UN STUDY FINDS BUSINESSES FUNDING MYANMAR ARMY ABUSES

GRANT PECK, BANGKOK

A United Nations fact-finding mission called yesterday for an embargo on arms sales to Myanmar and targeted sanctions against businesses with connections to the military after finding they are helping fund human rights abuses.

The mission released a report detailing how businesses run by Myanmar's army, also known as the Tatmadaw, are engaged in such violations and provide financial support for military operations such as efforts to force Muslim Rohingya out of Rakhine state.

The report focused mainly on the activities of two main military-dominated conglomerates — Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd. and Myanmar Economic Corp. It said nearly 60 foreign companies have dealings with the at least 120 businesses controlled by the two companies in industries ranging from jade and ruby mining to tourism and pharmaceuticals.

"The revenue that these military businesses generate strengthens the Tatmadaw's autonomy from elected civilian oversight and provides financial support for the Tatmadaw's operations with their wide array of international human rights and humanitarian law abuses," Marzuki Darusman, the Indonesian human rights lawyer who chairs the fact-finding mission, said in a statement.

The fact-finding mission was established in March 2017 by the U.N.'s Human Rights Council in reaction to increasing repression of the Rohingya. The violence increased markedly in August 2017, when Myanmar security forces launched a brutal counterinsurgency campaign that drove more than 700,000 members of the Rohingya minority into neighboring Bangladesh.

A wide array of international groups have shown killings, rapes and the torching of villages carried out on a large scale by Myanmar security forces. Myanmar's government has denied abuses and said its actions were justified in response to attacks by Rohingya insurgents.

The mission, which investigated human rights violations against ethnic groups in other parts of the country as well, also documented the abuses in an initial report issued last year.

Military leaders in charge of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd. and Myanmar Economic Corp. are among officials the fact-finding mission earlier said should be investigated for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Yesterday's report urged the U.N. and member governments to immediately impose targeted sanctions against companies run by the military and encour-

ages carrying out business with firms unaffiliated with the military instead.

The U.S. lifted long-standing economic sanctions against Myanmar in 2016. But it has reimposed some sanctions against members of the military, citing the army's treatment of the Rohingya.

Myanmar's Commander-in-Chief Min Aung Hlaing is already being sanctioned by the U.S. for the Rohingya campaign. In July, Washington, barred him, his deputy Soe Win, and two subordinates believed responsible for extrajudicial killings from traveling to the U.S.

Myanmar's military objected

At least 15 foreign companies have joint ventures with military-affiliated businesses

to the sanctions, saying they were a blow against the country's entire military and that the U.S. should respect investigations into the Rakhine situation being conducted by the army.

The U.S. sanctions against top commander are useful and have a cumulative effect, Christopher Sidoti, an international human rights lawyer and former Australian Human Rights Commissioner, told The Associated Press.

At the same time, he said they are small and symbolic — "only a start" — and more actions such as freezing their bank accounts

are needed.

In the past decade, as Myanmar transitioned from a military regime to a civilian government dominated by the military, businesses have poured investment into one of the region's fastest growing economies. The country of more than 60 million people long was isolated and has huge potential, but the crisis over the treatment of Rohingya and other ethnic minorities has raised the risks for investors.

The report issued alleged that at least 15 foreign companies have joint ventures with military-affiliated businesses.

The report did not suggest the foreign companies have directly violated any laws. But it said such ties pose "a high risk of contributing to or being linked to, violations of human rights law and international humanitarian law. At a minimum, these foreign companies are contributing to supporting the Tatmadaw's financial capacity."

It points to South Korea's Inno Group, which is building a "skyscraper city" in Yangon in a joint venture with MEHL. Posco Steel Co. also has joint ventures with military related companies, as does Pan-Pacific, an apparel maker that according to its website began operating in Myanmar in 1991 and is a

supplier of shirts and other garments to many fashion brand names.

Some foreign investors in Myanmar have conducted human rights assessments in response to criticism over their activities in the country, including Japan's Kirin Holdings Co. Ltd., which has taken stakes in Myanmar Brewery Ltd. and Mandalay Brewery Ltd.

But dozens of companies conduct business with Myanmar partners that have ties to the two big military-linked conglomerates, the report said. Others rent office space from them or operate in industrial zones that are owned by MEHL.

The report also raised concerns over suppliers of arms to the Myanmar military. They include China, Russia and North Korea, but also India, Israel and Ukraine, it said.

The report outlined links between the military and its businesses and jade and ruby mining in northern Myanmar, where the army has been fighting ethnic insurgencies for decades.

The fact-finding mission did not propose sweeping sanctions against Myanmar.

"Removing the Tatmadaw from Myanmar's economy entails two parallel approaches. In addition to isolating the Tatmadaw financially, we have to promote economic ties with non-Tatmadaw companies and businesses in Myanmar," Darusman said. "This will foster the continued liberalization and growth of Myanmar's economy, including its natural resource sector, but in a manner that contributes to accountability, equity and transparency for its population." AP

NEW ZEALAND

Gov't plans to ease abortion restrictions

NICK PERRY, WELLINGTON

NEW Zealand's government announced yesterday that it plans changes to the country's abortion laws that would treat the procedure as a health issue rather than a crime.

While abortions have been available in New Zealand for decades, the procedure is still regulated under the Crimes Act which came into force in 1961. Many say that presents unnecessary obstacles for women who are seeking abortions.

In order to get an abortion under the current law, women must be able to prove to their doctor that their pregnancy presents a danger to their physical or mental health.

The proposed new law would remove that requirement for women who are up to 20 weeks pregnant. For those more than 20 weeks pregnant, a doctor or health practitioner would still need to approve the procedure.

Justice Minister Andrew Little said the changes would bring New Zealand into line with many other developed nations.

The proposed new law would also allow anti-abortion activists to be banned from campaigning near abortion clinics if they were harassing patients.

"Approaching a women going to an abortion clinic and throwing leaflets and pamphlets in their face, or chanting various dreadful epithets about them for taking that health measure I think is totally inappropriate in what is already a very stressful time," Little said.

Jackie Edmond, the chief executive of Family Planning, New Zealand's largest referrer of women to abortion services, said the proposed law was a huge step forward.

"This has been a long time coming," she said.

Still, Edmond and others had hoped the proposed changes would go further and remove the need for women to face a legal test when seeking abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy.

Christian lobby group Family First said it was "shocked and dismayed" with the proposed changes.

"The focus of this proposed abortion policy shift is entirely on

AP PHOTO



New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern

women having a right to an abortion, but completely ignores both the status of the unborn child, and the wellbeing of the mother," spokeswoman Gina Sunderland said in a statement.

To come into effect, the bill will need to be approved by a majority of lawmakers following a six-month period of public consultation. Lawmakers have been asked to vote on the bill in accordance with their conscience rather than strictly along partisan lines.

Statistics indicate the number of induced abortions in New Zealand, which has a population of 4.9 million people, peaked at more than 18,000 in 2003 and has fallen steadily since then to 13,000 last year. Edmond said the decrease was due to more reliable contraception and better sexuality education.

Little said he didn't expect abortion rates to increase as a result of the proposed changes, although said women may seek

to have abortions earlier in their pregnancies.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said that bringing the issue to a vote fulfilled a campaign promise.

"I made a pledge during the election that I would bring this issue to Parliament and we are doing that, and as I say, this is the furthest this issue has gone since the 1970s," Ardern said. "But now it is in the hands of individual members of Parliament." AP

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AP PHOTO



USA

Trump says he wants stronger gun checks, but reneged in past

ZEKE MILLER, WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Donald Trump claimed yesterday he wants legislation providing “strong background checks” for gun users, but he provided no details and has reneged on previous promises to strengthen gun laws after mass shootings.

Trump tweeted yesterday about the weekend shootings in Texas and Ohio that left 29 dead and dozens wounded. He suggested that a background check bill could be paired with his long-sought effort to toughen the nation's immigration system.

But he didn't say how or why he was connecting the unrelated issues. Both alleged gunmen were U.S. citizens, and federal officials are investigating anti-immigrant bias as a potential motive for the El Paso massacre.

Trump, who spoke yesterday at the White House, has frequently sought to tie his unrequited immigration priorities — a border wall and transforming the legal immigration system to one that prioritizes merit over familial ties — to legislation around which he perceives momentum to be building.

Over the weekend, Trump

tried to assure Americans he was dealing with the problem and defended his administration in light of criticism following the latest in a string of mass shootings.

“We have done much more than most administrations,” he said, without elaboration. “We have done actually a lot. But perhaps more has to be done.”

Congress has proven unable to pass substantial gun violence legislation this session, despite the frequency of mass shootings, in large part because of resistance from Republicans, particularly in the GOP-controlled Senate. That political dynamic seems difficult to change.

And Trump himself has reneged on previous pledges to strengthen gun laws.

After other mass shootings he called for strengthening the federal background check system, and in 2018 signed legislation to increase federal agency data-sharing into the system. But he has resisted Democratic calls to toughen other gun control laws.

In February, the House approved bipartisan legislation to require federal background checks for all gun sales and transfers and approved legislation to allow a review period of up to 10 days

for background checks on firearms purchases. The White House threatened a presidential veto if those measures passed Congress.

At a February meeting with survivors and family members of the 2018 Parkland, Florida, school shooting in which 17 people died, Trump promised to be “very strong on background checks.”

Trump blamed the news media for the nation's woes

Trump claimed he would stand up to the gun lobby and finally get results in quelling gun violence. But he later retreated, expressing support for modest changes to the federal background check system and for arming teachers.

In the El Paso attack, investigators are focusing on whether it was a hate crime after the emergence of a racist, anti-immigrant screed that was posted online shortly beforehand. Detectives sought to determine if it was written by the man who was arrested. The border city has figured prominently in the immigration debate and is home to 680,000 people, most of them Latino.

On Twitter, Trump seemed to deflect from scrutiny over the manifesto, which had language mirroring some of his own. As Democrats have called on Trump to tone down his rhetoric, Trump blamed the news media for the nation's woes.

“Fake News has contributed greatly to the anger and rage that has built up over many years,” he claimed

As Trump weighs trips to the affected communities — the Federal Aviation Administration advised pilots of a presidential visit Wednesday to El Paso and Dayton, Ohio — local lawmakers signaled opposition to his presence.

Rep. Veronica Escobar, a Democrat who represents El Paso, said Trump is “not welcome” to visit the city.

In recent weeks, the president has issued racist tweets about four women of color who serve in Congress, and in rallies has spoken of an “invasion” at the southern border. His reelection strategy has placed racial animus at the forefront in an effort that his aides say is designed to activate his base of conservative voters, an approach not seen by an American president in the modern era.

Trump also has been widely

criticized for offering a false equivalency when discussing racial violence, notably when he said there were “very fine people, on both sides,” after a white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, that resulted in the death of an anti-racism demonstrator.

On gun control, a majority of Americans have consistently said they support stronger laws, but proposals have stalled repeatedly in Congress, a marked contrast to some countries that have acted swiftly after a mass shooting.

In March, a poll conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found a majority of Americans favor stricter gun laws. The survey was conducted both before and after a mass shooting at two mosques in New Zealand. It found that 67 percent of Americans support making US gun laws stricter, while 22 percent say they should be left as they are and 10 percent think they should be made less strict.

Less than a week after the mosque shootings, New Zealand moved to ban “military-style” semi-automatic weapons and high-capacity magazines; similarly, after a mass shooting in 1996, Australia enacted sweeping gun bans within two weeks.

The poll suggested many Americans would support similar measures, but there's a wide gap between Democrats and Republicans on banning specific types of guns. Overall, 6 in 10 Americans support a ban on AR-15 rifles and similar semiautomatic weapons. Roughly 8 in 10 Democrats, but just about 4 in 10 Republicans, support that policy. AP

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what's ON



MACAU. 100 YEARS OF PHOTOGRAPHY

TIME: 10am-7pm

UNTIL: September 21, 2019

VENUE: Casa Garden

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2855 4691

JAPANESE CULTURE AND PERFORMING ARTS POSTER EXHIBIT - GRAPHIC TRIAL POSTER EXHIBIT MACAU EDITION

TIME: 10am-9pm (Sundays to Thursdays)

UNTIL: September 22, 2019

VENUE: Tap Seac Gallery

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

GRACE KELLY: FROM HOLLYWOOD TO MONACO

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

10am -2am (Fridays to Saturdays)

UNTIL: August 28, 2019

VENUE: Galaxy Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8883 3998

ONENESS: CALLIGRAPHY BY PROFESSOR JAO TSUNG-I

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

UNTIL: September 30, 2019

VENUE: Jao Tsung-I Academy

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRY: (853) 8598 6718

SANDS PRESENTS: ALL THAT'S GOLD DOES GLITTER - AN EXHIBITION OF GLAMOROUS CERAMICS

TIME: 24 hours

UNTIL: October 9, 2019

VENUE: The Venetian Macao, The Parisian Macao, Sands Macao & Four Seasons Hotel Macao

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 8888

RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBITION ON THE PAST NATIONAL LOTUS FLOWER EXHIBITIONS

TIME: 9am-1pm & 2:30pm-5:30pm (closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: December 31, 2019

VENUE: Guia Hill Nature Information Station (next to cable car station)

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0087

Offbeat

ILLEGAL TRASH DUMPER LEAVES WITTY NOD TO ARLO GUTHRIE SONG

Whoever dumped trash at the building made famous in Arlo Guthrie's 1967 Thanksgiving protest anthem "Alice's Restaurant Massacre" has a sense of humor.

The director of what's now the Guthrie Center in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, discovered on Tuesday that someone had filled the dumpster with garbage and left a grubby sofa nearby.

They also left a sign that said: "Officer Obie told me to do it."

The sign was a reference to former Stockbridge Police Chief William Obanhein, the Officer Obie of the song who arrested Guthrie for illegally dumping trash.

Guthrie, who was traveling Tuesday, said in a note to The Berkshire Eagle through a family member, "I hope they left an envelope with some money in it."

According to the song, an envelope with a name on it led to Guthrie's arrest.

TV canal macau



13:00 TDM News (Repetição)

13:30 Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)

15:00 Agua de Mar

15:45 Zig Zag

16:20 Sim Chef! Sr1

16:50 Quem Quer Ser Milionário

17:45 Amor Maior (Repetição)

18:30 TDM Desporto (Repetição)

19:35 Os Nossos Dias Sr.2

20:30 Telejornal

21:15 Linha da Frente

21:50 Filhos da Nação Sr.3

22:25 Amor Maior

23:15 TDM News

23:50 Motel Bates Sr.2

00:35 Telejornal (Repetição)

01:20 RTPi Directo

cinema



CINETEATRO

05 - 07 Aug



THE LION KING

ROOM 1

2:30, 4:45, 9:15pm

Director: J Jon Favreau

Starring: Donald Glover, Beyoncé, Seth Rogen

Language: Cantonese

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 FAST & FURIOUS: HOBBS & SHAW

ROOM 2

2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30pm

Director: David Leitch

Starring: Dwayne Johnson, Jason Statham, Idris Elba

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 135min

CRAYON SHINCHAN 2019

ROOM 3

2:30, 7:30pm

Director: Masakazu Hashimoto

Starring: Yumiko Kobayashi, Toshiyuki Morikawa, Miki Narahashi

Language: Cantonese

Duration: 100min

THE CONFIDENCE MAN JP - THE MOVIE

ROOM 3

9:30pm

Director: Ryô Tanaka

Starring: Yôsuke Eguchi, Masahiro Higashide, Michael Keida

Language: Japanese (English & Chinese)

CHILDREN OF THE SEA

ROOM 3

4:30pm

Director: Ayumu Watanabe

Starring: Mana Ashida, Hiroyuki Ishibashi, Seishû Uragami

Language: Japanese (English & Chinese)

Duration: 110min

this day in history



1961 RUSSIAN COSMONAUT SPENDS DAY IN SPACE

The USSR has launched its second cosmonaut into space just four months after Yuri Gagarin made his historic venture.

Major Gherman Titov, aged 25, has amazed the world by spending the whole day in orbit over the Earth aboard his one-person Vostok II spacecraft.

He has been sending messages to every continent saying "I feel splendid."

Sources in Moscow say he is due to land tomorrow morning after completing about 20 orbits around the globe.

At 1530 GMT he switched off radio communication so that he could get some sleep and turned it on again seven and a half hours later.

He is reported to have had a three-course meal for lunch and a substantial supper before turning in for the night.

Shortly before he was blasted into space from the Baikonur cosmodrome in the Kazakh Republic, he sent this message via the Tass news agency.

"It is difficult to express in words the feelings of happiness and pride which fill me. I have been entrusted with an honourable and responsible task."

He dedicated his flight to the 22nd congress of the Soviet Communist Party to be held in October, thanked the Soviet Government and its chairman Nikita Khrushchev. He also sent greetings to his "great friend" Yuri Gagarin.

Once in space, Major Titov sent another greeting to Mr Khrushchev to which the Soviet leader replied: "All Soviet people are happy at your successful flight and are proud of you. We are awaiting your landing. We embrace you, Khrushchev."

Major Titov spent his time doing exercises and monitoring the effects of weightlessness on his body.

Major Gagarin, the first man in space, has sent a telegram congratulating his compatriot. The two men trained for two years together before Gagarin was chosen to fly into space on Vostok I on 12 April this year.

The response from the US on Russia's achievement has been muted. The United States Space Agency recorded the flight of Vostok II as "an important technical achievement".

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Major Gherman Titov returned to Earth safely the next day having spent 25 hours in space and completed 17 orbits. His achievement was a blow to the United States in the space race between the superpowers. Alan Shepard became the first US astronaut in May 1961, but John Glenn was the first American to orbit the earth in February 1962. Titov became an idol for young Soviets and received the Hero of the Soviet Union Medal and the Order of Lenin. He became a test pilot but never returned to space. He later worked in a space research institute and in the Soviet Defence Ministry.

In 1995 he was elected to the lower house of the Russian Parliament, the Duma, as a member of the Communist Party. He wrote several books on the subject of space travel.

He was found dead in his sauna on 21 September 2000 at the age of 65. Some reports said he had died from carbon monoxide poisoning, others that he had had a heart attack.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
 Mar. 21-Apr. 19
 Your family obligations are at the center of your world right now, and they could be causing conflicts in your social life. Explain the situation to your friends honestly and completely.

TAURUS
 Apr. 20-May. 20
 Mechanical devices or technical contraptions might confound you today, so try to avoid working with any machinery. For example, avoid any lengthy driving trips.

GEMINI
 May. 21-Jun. 21
 Do you plan to spend some time with children today? Well, even if you will be surrounded by grownups all day, it might feel as though you are stuck in a kindergarten class.

CANCER
 Jun. 22-Jul. 22
 If you think that gambling on these predictions will put your friend in some sort of danger, do your best to point out some logical flaws. Otherwise, stay quiet and let this pal learn an important lesson.

LEO
 Jul. 23-Aug. 22
 You'll encounter one person with a particularly warm personality - and you will likely be very intrigued. Enjoy this feeling of curiosity, and trust that it is mutual. Let the conversation unfold naturally.

VIRGO
 Aug. 23-Sep. 22
 Attending a family gathering will give you a fresh perspective on where you want to take your life - it seems that stories from the past are great places to find inspiration for your future.

LIBRA
 Sep. 23-Oct. 22
 More than ever, your friends and relatives are providing you with the inspiration you need to keep yourself motivated and energized. Therefore, it's time to thank them all for their support and devotion.

SCORPIO
 Oct. 23-Nov. 21
 Today you'll be discovering things about yourself that could include a few unpleasant surprises. Nevertheless, this is a productive period for you - many choices will be placed in front of you.

SAGITTARIUS
 Nov. 22-Dec. 21
 You have been developing a growing understanding of a certain sticky situation, and today you will be able to channel your energy to address it much more effectively than ever before.

CAPRICORN
 Dec. 22-Jan. 19
 You have all the issues at hand well under control - good for you! But before you dedicate all your newly found free time to celebrating your accomplishments, give some thought to what's coming down the pike.

AQUARIUS
 Jan. 20-Feb. 18
 When a dilemma presents itself today, thinking things through will be your first instinct (as it usually is). That's all well and good, but you don't have time to mull today.

PISCES
 Feb. 19-Mar. 20
 You are learning that love can come in many different varieties, and while this is very exciting, it can also be very confusing. Just remember to take things very slowly in any new relationships.

The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	27	35	cloudy
Harbin	20	25	thundershower
Tianjin	27	35	thundershower
Urumqi	21	28	shower
Xi'an	24	35	cloudy
Lhasa	11	24	shower
Chengdu	24	34	shower
Chongqing	26	34	cloudy
Kunming	18	24	shower
Nanjing	29	36	cloudy
Shanghai	29	36	cloudy
Wuhan	28	37	clear
Hangzhou	28	38	cloudy
Taipei	26	30	overcast
Guangzhou	26	35	thundershower
Hong Kong	28	33	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	17	22	moderate rain
Frankfurt	21	33	clear
Paris	22	32	clear
London	16	24	clear
New York	18	27	clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- What there oughta be; 5- Take an oath; 10- Dog star; 14- Monetary unit of Lesotho; 15- Military chaplain; 16- Cook; 17- Some; 18- Come afterward; 19- I could ___ horse; 20- Actress Loren; 22- Fluid sac in animals; 24- Pen filler; 25- Glasgow gal; 26- Cut back; 30- Peter and a Wolfe; 35- Conductor ___-Pekka Salonen; 36- Formerly named; 37- Actress Verdugo; 38- On the loose; 41- Automobile shelters; 43- Name; 44- Miss Piggy's query; 45- Small batteries; 46- Filbert; 47- Usually; 50- Division word; 53- Hole goal; 54- Constable; 58- Simple shed; 62- Still; 63- White-and-black bearlike mammal; 66- Blessing; 67- Layer; 68- Bedeck; 69- Villainous character in Shakespeare's "Othello"; 70- Nautical direction; 71- Embankment; 72- Blacken the edges of.

DOWN: 1- ____, poor Yorick; 2- Gray wolf; 3- Take ___ from me; 4- Inside of; 5- Talking; 6- Pale; 7- Begley and Bradley; 8- Caribbean resort; 9- Lively dances; 10- Prevented a return; 11- Roe source; 12- Head of France; 13- Many miles away; 21- Connections; 23- "Lou Grant" star; 25- "Brokeback Mountain" director; 26- ___ of a Salesman; 27- Port of old Rome; 28- Ballroom dance; 29- Last of 26; 31- Guido's high note; 32- Royal; 33- Cager Shaquille; 34- Impudent; 39- Malt beverage; 40- Thing of the past; 41- Sticky substance; 42- Flying vessel; 44- 6, on a phone; 48- West of Brooklyn; 49- Semitic language; 51- Country in the Himalayas; 52- Occupation; 54- Twice tetra-; 55- Flunk; 56- Bolt; 57- Nagy of Hungary; 59- Ark-eologist?; 60- Garment of ancient Rome; 61- ___ close to schedule; 64- Calendar abbr.; 65- Dr. of rap.

Yesterday's solution

T	O	R	I	J	L	A	B	B	O	T	C	H
A	L	I	S	T	E	V	E	A	B	E	A	M
R	E	L	A	T	I	V	E	S	N	E	A	T
P	O	E	P	E	R	T	A	S	S	E	R	
S	T	A	F	A	R	S	N	E	E	R		
S	T	A	K	E	S	A	R	I	A			
A	W	A	R	D	S	N	U	R	S	E	R	
Y	A	R	O		D	I	E		R	A	E	R
S	E	N	A	T	E	S	A	D	O	N	A	I
S	A	N	E		M	A	N	T	R	A		
A	L	A	S	T		N	O	S		T		
A	K	I	T	A		N	O	O	N		L	I
G	I	N	S			D	R	U	G	S	T	O
A	R	E	E	L		A	N	N		L	O	G
S	A	D	A	T		K	O	S		O	M	E

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency calls 999	Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222	Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993	Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775	Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333	Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944	
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731	
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333	
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300	
IAM 28 387 333	
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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

'THE ROOKIE' STAR ALLEGES SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION

AFTON Williamson, co-star of the ABC crime series "The Rookie," said she's quitting the show because of sexual harassment and racial discrimination she experienced during the show's first season.

In an Instagram post Sunday, Williamson said that throughout the filming of the show's pilot, "I experienced racial discrimination/racially charged inappropriate comments from the hair department."

Williamson said the treatment worsened when she was sexually harassed by a recurring guest star, bullied by executive producers and ultimately was sexually assaulted by a crew member at a wrap party.

ABC Studios responded later Sunday with a statement, largely referring to its production partners, Entertainment One.

"The allegations involve a production from Entertainment One," the network said. "In late June, eOne made us aware and informed us that they launched an investigation



AP PHOTO

that is ongoing. The safety of working environments is a top priority for us, and we take this matter very seriously."

Entertainment One, in a statement of its own, said it takes Williamson's claims seriously. "We have initia-

ted an independent investigation which is ongoing and as such, it would be inappropriate to comment at this time," the production company said.

A representative for Williamson didn't respond to messages seeking fur-

ther details on the actress's claims, or whether the alleged sexual assault was reported to the police.

Williamson, who is African American, was also highly critical of how her claims were handled by showrunner and executive producer Alexi Hawley, who is white. Williamson said she filed reports on the incidents to Hawley, but they weren't seriously investigated by the network or shared by Hawley with other producers.

"After my initial report of sexual harassment, I was assured that the actor would be fired," said Williamson of the guest star. "I was also asked to film with him the very next day as a courtesy to the script, even though we had not begun filming the episode yet."

Representatives for Hawley didn't immediately respond to messages Sunday.

Williamson co-starred in the Los Angeles-based ABC drama. In the show, Nathan Fillion stars as a rookie police officer. AP

ENCORE! NEW 'ANGELINA BALLERINA' BOOKS IN THE WORKS

THE beloved "Angelina Ballerina" picture books series is getting an encore.

Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing announced Monday that a reissue of the original book, "Angelina Ballerina," comes out this month, with more reissues and new releases to follow. The series by author Katharine Holabird and illustrator Helen Craig follows the adventures of a mouse from Chipping Cheddar with big dreams about dancing.

The first book came out in 1983, followed in the next 30 years by more than 20 others.

In a recent email, Holabird wrote that she often gets requests for more about Angelina. "Children can easily identify with all her daily dramas!" she wrote.

The relaunch is being coordinated with licensors Mattel and Hit Entertainment. "Angelina Ballerina" was previously published by Penguin Random House.



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Predatory Hamilton hunts down Verstappen to win Hungarian GP

JEROME PUGMIRE, BUDAPEST

MORE used to other drivers chasing him, Lewis Hamilton turned predator on Sunday to hunt down Max Verstappen and win the Hungarian Grand Prix.

When Hamilton had tried and failed to get past Verstappen midway through the race on the Hungaroring — one of Formula One's hardest tracks for overtaking — it seemed that Verstappen would secure a victory from his first pole position for an eighth career win and third in four races.

But then Mercedes showed the strength in depth of its team, making a risky but ultimately brilliant strategy call to bring Hamilton in for a second tire change on Lap 49 of 70. In the pit wall

battle, Mercedes sucker-punched Red Bull and unleashed Hamilton on fresh tires.

He chased Verstappen like a silver bullet around the 4.4-kilometer (2.7-mile) track, at times shaving two seconds per lap off Verstappen's 20-second lead. Red Bull decided against giving Verstappen new tires and left him to rely only on his wits to fend off Hamilton — a five-time champion considered among the greatest drivers in F1 history.

"Lewis was on fire today," Verstappen said. "I was pushing flat out."

The remarkably adroit Verstappen — who has great composure at 20 years old — could not hold off Hamilton. By Lap 67, Hamilton moved menacingly alongside and flew to the 81st victory of his F1 career to move only 10 wins

behind Michael Schumacher.

"I honestly didn't know if I could (reduce) the gap," a jubilant Hamilton said. "I kept pushing and pushing. They were like qualifying laps every lap."

Verstappen, who took a bonus point for the fastest lap, acknowledged Mercedes made the right call.

"We were just not fast enough. I tried everything I could," Verstappen said. "Congrats to Lewis, he was pushing me really hard. I like that."

Hamilton looks headed for a sixth F1 title so far. He sits 62 points ahead of second-place Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas going into the midseason summer break, which is when Mercedes decides whether to give Bottas a new contract for 2020.

After crashing in Germany last

weekend and finishing eighth here, despite starting from second place, Bottas' future hangs in the balance.

For Verstappen, who turns 21 next month, it was a 21st consecutive race in the top five, including 12 podiums. He is only seven points behind Bottas in third place.

Sebastian Vettel finished the race behind Verstappen in third place for Ferrari ahead of teammate Charles Leclerc.

Verstappen held his lead from pole position under pressure from Hamilton and Bottas heading into Turn 1. Hamilton got ahead of Bottas, who was then overtaken by both Ferraris.

On Lap 25 Verstappen came in for a tire change, coming out ahead of both Ferraris.

Mercedes seemed unsure

about bringing Hamilton in for his tire change, changing their minds on Laps 26 and 27. Eventually the British driver came in on Lap 32, but a poor pit stop — lasting 4 seconds compared to 2.6 for Verstappen's — cost Hamilton momentum.

Still, on fresh tires Hamilton soon caught up, forcing Verstappen to defend frantically. On Lap 40, Hamilton almost got past — first on the inside, then on the outside — but the Dutchman kept his cool as Hamilton veered slightly off track on the second attack.

"What more can I do?" Hamilton asked his team on radio.

"Keep the pressure on," was the blunt reply.

"I can't keep the pressure on," an agitated-sounding Hamilton snapped back.

After Hamilton had come in for the second pit stop he suddenly had much faster tires than Verstappen for the closing stages.

To Verstappen, the chasing Mercedes loomed small, medium and then large as a rocket in his wing mirrors.

Verstappen's lead was wilting in the afternoon sun, and with five laps left it was only three seconds.

In a blur, Hamilton's Silver Arrow flew past him.

"Sorry I doubted the strategy," an ecstatic Hamilton said after an eighth win this season. "Oh man, that feels good. That feels so good."

So will the month off.

The season resumes on Sept. 1 at the Belgian GP.

Vettel, meanwhile, has much to ponder over the summer as he chases an elusive 53rd career win. The four-time F1 champion is 94 points behind Hamilton in fourth place and has not won any of the 20 races since Belgium last year.

On a humiliating day for F1's most storied team, Vettel and Leclerc finished more than 1 minute behind Hamilton.

In a racing series where mere seconds often decide races, this shows how far the once-mighty Ferrari has fallen. Twelve races, zero wins makes for grim reading. **AP**

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

OPINION

Our Desk

Renato Marques



**WHO'S AFRAID OF
 THE BIG BAD WOLF?**

As everyone knows by now, the protests in Hong Kong have reached the ninth consecutive week. From a weekend event, it has now passed to an almost-every-day event with several protests and incidents occurring in locations across the city.

Last Saturday night was no exception as protesters took some of the streets in Mong Kok, Tsim Sha Tsui, Hung Hom, and Wong Tai Sin areas. An intervention from the Tactical Team of the Hong Kong Police forces came to meet them, as though it were a continuous "reality show" that can be followed on pretty much every news media channel from Hong Kong.

Like many others, on Saturday night I was watching the feeds arriving via Facebook and eventually stopped at one aired by the sole public broadcaster in Hong Kong, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK).

With the live streaming videos looking pretty much the same as they have done for weeks - with police and protesters moving back and forth according to the situation - my attention was caught by a conversation between two women on the chat window next to the live feed.

The two both had Chinese names in their profiles and also both presented the social media-famous "Dying Bauhinia" as their profile photograph; an image that represents support for dropping the even more famous "extradition bill."

What caught my attention was the fact that they were maintaining a conversation mostly in the English language (with the exception of a few Chinese characters occasionally added in the middle of the English sentences), while the rest of the chat was mostly in Chinese.

From the way they treated one another, I deduced that they were at least acquaintances and not just two perfect strangers that by chance had met in a Facebook chat during a live feed. But what was more interesting to me was the fact they were expressing opposing ideas facing the events they were watching.

While one was showing complete support for the cause and the protesters' actions, criticizing the attitude of the government and the attitude of the police force, which she classified several times as "irresponsible" and "unprepared," the other was expressing mixed feelings, calling for an end of the protests saying, "it's enough" and "this is too much already."

I was trying to focus so as not to lose the thread in the middle of all the other comments, but finally the second person said something that led me into this writing.

I cannot recall precisely the exact words now but it was something close to: "If they don't stop we will for sure have the army here soon and Hong Kong will be the new Tiananmen."

That was the cause of her comments - fear. And do not get me wrong, I do find fear a very reasonable cause for a lot of things and situations.

In my mind, several questions: Will the Hong Kong protests eventually end due to a political turn-around? Or will fear, intimidation or bullying eventually put an end to it?

All in all, who's afraid of the big bad wolf? (Like in the Three Little Pigs story). Are the 30-year-old "ghosts" of Tiananmen alive enough in the minds of those that did not live through such events to be able to stop them?

These are all the questions to be answered very soon, maybe even this week.

A restored World War II Spitfire has taken off from an English aerodrome on the first leg of a planned 27,000-mile (43,000-kilometer) trip around the globe.

Pilots Steve Brooks and Matt Jones hope to circle the world in about four months with stops in 30 countries. They will take turns flying the single-seat Mk IX Spitfire, originally built in 1943, while the other follows in a chase plane.

Brooks said Monday that his biggest worry is the weather, adding that "landing is always the tricky part." The plane's first stop will be Scotland, before it heads west to Iceland, Greenland and North America.

The lightweight fighter plane helped defeat the German air force in the Battle of Britain and the Spitfire has become an icon of World War II.



**CENTURIES-OLD BAZAAR
 IN ALEPPO MAKING
 SLOW RECOVERY**

Bit by bit, Aleppo's centuries-old bazaar is being rebuilt as Syrians try to restore one of their historical crown jewels, devastated during years of brutal fighting for control of the city.

The historic Old City at the center of Aleppo saw some of the worst battles of Syria's eight-year civil war. Government forces finally wrested it away from rebel control in December 2016 in a devastating siege that left the eastern half of Aleppo and much of the Old City — a UNESCO world heritage site — in ruins.

The bazaar, a network of covered markets, or souks, dating as far back as the 1300s and running through the Old City, was severely damaged, nearly a third of it completely destroyed. Most of it remains that way: blasted domes, mangled metal and shops without walls or roofs.

But planners are hoping that by rebuilding segments of the bazaar and getting some shops back open, eventually they re-inject life into the markets. Before the war, the historic location drew in Syrians and tourists, shopping for food, spices, clo-

th, soap made from olive oil and other handicrafts.

The latest to be renovated is al-Saqatiyah Market, a cobblestone alley covered with arches and domes dotted with openings to let in shafts of sunlight. Along it are 53 shops, mostly butchers and shops selling nuts and dried goods. This souk had seen relatively less damage, and the \$400,000 renovation took around eight months, with funding from the Aga Khan Foundation.

One butcher, Saleh Abu Dan, has been closed up since rebels took over the Old City in the summer of 2012. Now he's getting ready to open again in the next few weeks. He said he's happy with the renovation, which added a solar power electrical system, though he still needs to spend about \$2,000 to fix his refrigerator and buy a new grill and meat grinder.

"I inherited this shop from my grandfather and father and I hope that my grandchildren will work here," he said.

The market's official inauguration is scheduled for later this month. But rebuilding is one step —

bringing life back is another.

Many of the customers who used to throng the markets before the war have either left the country or got used to shopping in other parts of the city since business stopped in old Aleppo after rebels stormed eastern and central neighborhoods seven years ago, and tourism is non-existent. Getting into the opened markets in the souk today is still difficult as many of the alleys are closed and deserted.

Aleppo, Syria's largest city, was the country's main commercial center before the war. Reconstruction of its devastated eastern sector has hardly begun.

Basel al-Dhaher, the architect who led renovation of al-Saqatiyah market, said it will take tens of millions of dollars to rebuild the entire bazaar. Western sanctions that block money transfers to and from Syria are delaying work, he said.

He said al-Saqatiyah was chosen for renovation because the work could be finished quickly and inspire others to rebuild in other parts of the bazaar. **MDT/AP**



India The government revoked disputed Kashmir's special status with a presidential order yesterday as thousands of newly deployed troops arrived and internet and phone services were cut in the restive Himalayan region where most people oppose Indian rule.

Maldives Former vice president of the Maldives, Ahmed Adeb, who was arrested after fleeing to neighboring India to avoid questioning over the alleged embezzlement of state funds was taken to a Maldives detention center yesterday after being returned to the country.

Nigeria A court on yesterday granted the leader of the country's main Shia group, Sheikh Ibrahim Zakzaky, permission to leave prison in order to travel abroad for medical treatment.



Istanbul Turkish and American military officials met yesterday for negotiations about establishing a safe zone in northeastern Syria to address Ankara's concerns about U.S.-allied Syrian Kurdish-led forces in that region.

Austria Police say two young girls have died after a driver slammed into the trailer they were being pulled in behind their mother's electric moped.



UK Bank HSBC yesterday announced the surprise departure of CEO John Flint after just 18 months, saying new leadership was needed amid increasing economic uncertainty, and that it was cutting some 4,000 jobs to reduce costs.