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# MacauDaily Times

FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Geldenhuys

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"



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THE GAMING REGULATOR SAID THAT CASINO OPERATORS CAN INSTALL SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT, THEY JUST NEED PERMISSION FIRST

TOURISM FUELS POCKET TRANSLATOR BOOM... STARTING IN JAPAN

THE HK-ZHUHAI-MACAU BRIDGE ACCOUNTS FOR JUST 7% OF CROSS BORDER VEHICLE TRAFFIC NEARLY NINE MONTHS AFTER ITS OPENING

P2

P9

P8

**China** said yesterday that it was banning Chinese movies and actors from participating in Taiwan's Golden Horse Awards, one of the Asian film industry's most prestigious honors, as Beijing ramps up economic and political pressure on the island it claims as its own territory. [More on p11](#)



**Malaysia** Police said yesterday they were analyzing fingerprints found in a forest resort cottage where a 15-year-old London girl was reported missing and did not rule out a possible criminal element.



**North Korea** Officials said yesterday leader Kim Jong Un supervised a live-fire demonstration of newly developed, short-range ballistic missiles intended to send a warning to the United States and South Korea over their joint military exercises. [More on p15](#)

**Cambodia** Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena arrived yesterday in Cambodia on a four-day visit to expand the countries' cooperation in economic, trade, tourism and cultural fields.

**Pakistan** Authorities decided to downgrade diplomatic ties with India and suspend trade to protest actions in Kashmir.

**Cyprus** A spokeswoman for the European Union's executive arm says it is assessing a request by Cyprus to relocate 5,000 migrants to other member-states.

[More on backpage](#)

# CHINA SUMMONS HK'S 500

P7



## LAWMAKERS FIRE LAST SHOTS AT DROPPED BILL

Told to drop a controversial bill to set up 60-billion pataca sovereign wealth fund, lawmakers still used their time at the Legislative Assembly yesterday to argue its merits and issues



MACAU CHOSEN TO HOST PRIEST COLLEGE

P4

P3

**LOCAL KARATE  
ATHLETE WINS GOLD  
MEDAL IN CHINA**

Macau martial artist Ho Kai Pong won a gold medal in karate at the second National Youth Games in mainland China. The games are being held in Taiyuan, Shanxi province. Ho won his medal in the men's individual project of Karate Group B. With Ho's medal, the Macau SAR sports delegation has so far collected one gold and one bronze medal in this year's Chinese National Youth Games. This year, the Macau delegation contains 239 people. Local athletes will participate in competitions for badminton, ping pong, tennis, shooting, canoeing and fencing. The bronze medal had been won by another Macau athlete in Wushu.

**HALF OF MUSIC  
FESTIVAL TICKETS  
SOLD ON FIRST DAY**

About half of all tickets for the 33rd Macao International Music Festival (MIMF), organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau, were sold out as of 5 p.m. on the first day of ticket sales, last Sunday. According to the IC, On the first day of ticket sales, tickets for the closing concert "The Yellow River Cantata" and some sessions of "Melodies from Jiangnan" were nearly sold out. "The Magic Flute", "Dorian Wind Quintet and Billy Childs", "A Musical Affair" and "Manding Griot" were highly sought after. "Pontos nos Is", "Aquilonis" and "Folk Songs" performed by Trio Mediaeval from Norway were also popular among music fans. This edition of the MIMF, themed "The Instrumentalist", will be held from 4 October to 30 October, featuring 22 performances.

**UM STATE KEY LAB  
SIGNS AGREEMENT  
ON SMART DRIVING**

A State Key Lab at the University of Macau has signed a collaboration agreement with Haylion Technologies Co Limited, becoming the first institute in Hong Kong and Macau to collaborate with a mainland company leading in smart driving technology. The agreement was signed in Shenzhen by Xu Chengzhong, Dean of UM's Faculty of Science and Technology, and Wei Bin, Vice President of Haylion Technologies. In signing the agreement, both parties hope to combine their expertise in the application of big data for smart city development, smart transport and research into unmanned buses, according to a statement issued by UM. They plan to conduct pilot tests of the new technologies in Chinese cities including Macau and Shenzhen. Haylion Technologies has more than 30 years of experience in public transport technology.

**GAMING**

# WYNN VIP EARNINGS FALL DESPITE 2ND QUARTER NET PROFIT GROWTH

**ANTHONY LAM**

**WYNN** Macau recorded a significant 33.4% year-on-year fall in VIP income for the second quarter of this year, as presented in a financial report released this week, despite a 5.2% improvement in net profit.

During this period, the company made \$9.28 billion (75 billion patacas) from its VIP casino operations, compared to the same period last year, in which the company made \$13.93 billion.

The company recorded an 18.9% year-on-year decline in VIP turnover on table games from \$27.96 billion to \$22.66 billion.

Operating revenues increased by \$8.3 million and \$3.2 million at Wynn Palace and Wynn Macau respectively from the second quarter of 2018.

The Adjusted Property EBITDA from Wynn Macau was \$175.9 million for the second quarter of 2019, a year-on-year increase of 1.7% when compared to \$172.9 million in the second quarter of 2018. The Adjusted Property EBITDA from Wynn Palace was \$167.2 million for the second quarter of 2019, a year-on-year decrease of 6.8% from \$179.3 million.

Casino revenues from Wynn Macau were \$481.2 million during the same period, a

BLOOMBERG



1.7% increase year-on-year. Meanwhile, casino revenues from Wynn Palace were \$528.5 million, a slight increase of 0.7% from \$525 million.

The company has approved a cash dividend of USD1.00 per share, payable on Aug. 27, 2019 to stockholders on record as of Aug. 16, 2019.

On the other hand, the casino and resort operator has announced upgrades to both its properties in Macau.

The property on the peninsula, Wynn Macau, will have its Encore tower refurbished. New restaurants and a shopping spa-

ce of 8,000 square feet will also be added to the property.

In an interview conducted by GGR Asia, Wynn Macau Ltd. president Ian Coughlan said that 40% of the refurbishment was complete. Coughlan expressed the company's hope of finishing the remaining refurbishments by the end of the year.

Moving to the south side of the city, the company has said it will build a multipurpose pavilion adjacent to the existing Wynn Palace hotel tower. Named "The Crystal Pavilion," the structure is designed by Robert A.M. Stern Construction and

resembles the emblem and symbol for Macau, the lotus.

It will include separate exhibition and performance spaces, as well as a food hall. It is set to be built with steel and glass. The expansion will also include a new hotel tower, and interactive sculptures and gardens. It is hoped that the project will be finished in 2024.

"[We] have made meaningful progress designing and planning The Crystal Pavilion in Macau, which we believe will be a 'must-see' tourist destination on Cotai," said Matt Maddox, CEO of Wynn Resorts.

## Gaming regulator not moving to ban surveillance equipment

**DANIEL BEITLER**

**MACAU'S** Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ) has confirmed to the Times that, contrary to recent media reports, it is not preparing a blanket ban on surveillance equipment inside casinos. Instead, it is simply requiring that gaming operators obtain DICJ approval prior

to installation.

Earlier this week, Bloomberg reported that the gaming regulator had asked casinos in Macau not to install any digital surveillance equipment, including cameras or facial recognition systems that had not been approved by the regulator. Picking up on the story, other media outlets reported that the DICJ was banning all

digital surveillance from casinos.

In a statement to the Times yesterday, the regulator clarified that "the installation of any electronic surveillance and control equipment in the casinos depends on the concessionaires submitting an application to the DICJ."

"In its consideration of the application, DICJ will take into considera-

tion, inter alia, the nature of the equipment's safety and its compliance with the relevant gaming and privacy protection legislation in Macau."

It said that, according to Law No.16/2001, which governs the operation of games of chance in casinos, concessionaires must ask the DICJ for approval via a written request addressed to the entity's director.

Previously, the gaming regulator had said that two or three operators were experimenting with facial recognition technology. It added that the technology was to be used only for security purposes and not, as the Bloomberg report had alleged, to gain insight into the behavior of gamblers.

The regulator has also directed companies to comply with laws pertaining to personal data. Any video or data used or obtained from these high-surveillance tools is to be kept by the casino operators only.

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A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATION LTD PUBLICATION

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For subscription and general issues:

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# Macau to host new seminary college for training regional priests

LYNZY VALLES

**M**ACAU is set to host a new seminary college starting September that will train priests from across Asia.

According to the Vatican news agency, Agenzia Fides, the new Redemptoris Mater College for Evangelization in Asia, based in Macau, is "the fruit of apostolic creativity that looks to evangelization in that continent and expresses a will of decentralization of the Congregation of Propaganda Fide."

The SAR's bishop, Stephen Lee Bun-sang, has accepted the congregation's request to host the new college.

However, appointments and authority will remain the direct prerogative of the congregation, which, according to the Second Vatican Council, is tasked with promoting evangelization throughout the world.

The seminary was established by a decree signed by Cardinal Fernando Filoni, prefect of the Vatican-based congregation, on June 29.

According to the cardinal, throughout the history of the Church's mission, "there have been so many forms and methods chosen for the proclamation of the Gospel in Asia: the historic commitment of the great religious orders such as Jesuits, Dominicans and Franciscans, and the activity of many specific



Procession of the Passion of Our Lord walks through Rua do Campo while tourists look on

missionary institutes."

He said that the specific nature of the seminary college is to "take care of the formation of missionary priests who will have evangelization in the territories of Asia at heart."

The choice of Macau was linked to its history as a gateway for Jesuit missionaries such as Matteo Ricci, Francis Xavier and Alessandro Valignano, who passed through Macau before going to China or Japan.

"[Macau] has historically represented the door or a bridge for

the mission of the Church in the East and as a promotional center for evangelization in the Far East," said the cardinal.

"Suffice it to say that in 1576, just established, the diocese of Macau extended, at least on paper and for a certain time, to China, Japan, today's Vietnam and the Malay archipelago, as it was called. Macau became a great center of missionary formation and propulsion," he added.

Questioned on the reasons that led the congregation to take care of the opening of the new

college, the cardinal explained that they wanted to respond to the invitation of John Paul II who, at the beginning of the new millennium, said that Asia would be the vast continent to be evangelized.

"It is a very complex continent, a cradle of great religions and very strong cultural responsiveness. The proclamation of the Gospel in Asia requires characteristics of its own, such as a thorough knowledge of different contexts and languages," he said.

Meanwhile, the cardinal ex-

pressed his enthusiasm for promoting the institution with "new characteristics, which respond to the desire and missionary vision of Pope Francis, which is a founding and qualifying point of his pontificate."

Last year, the congregation announced a plan to establish a Redemptoris Mater college in the Japanese capital, Tokyo.

However, Archbishop Tarcisius Isao Kikuchi of Tokyo said that he was not informed where the college would be located or when it would become operational.

## Government aware that suicide remains an issue

**S**ECRETARY for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam assured lawmakers on Tuesday that the government was working to prevent suicide, although he admitted that many cases were unpreventable.

At the plenary session of the Legislative Assembly, the official made a controversial observation that generated a round of exclamation from the meeting hall. "To some people, committing suicide here is more convenient than in their native places," Tam said.

He explained that many suicide cases were due to chronic health problems, while the majority were due to gambling and financial problems.

Data provided by the official

showed that of the 81 people who committed suicide in Macau in 2018, 20 were tourists. The official noted that according to World Health Organization standards, this is not a high suicide rate.

Chief psychiatrist at the public hospital, Dr. Ho Chi Weng, said, "Psychiatry is different from other medical disciplines. The service is provided by a multi-disciplinary team, which includes doctors, nurses, occupational therapists, clinical psychologists, art therapists and so on to provide whole-person therapy."

"A real example is that compared with other places, the number of clinical psychologists arranged [to provide psychia-

tric services] in Macau is higher because we have the resources," added Ho.

Nadja Chan, a local clinical psychologist, raised her concerns, stating, "in many other places, in order to qualify as a clinical psychologist, a person has to have finished their relevant Master's [level] education."

However, the educational requirement for a recent Health Bureau (SSM) round of recruitment of Senior Technicians for work that included "clinical psychology" was a Bachelor's degree. In addition, SSM's licensing category is "therapy (psychotherapy)" instead of the more globally used "clinical psychologist. AL

## FORUM

### MACAU PROFESSIONALS TO VISIT BRAZIL IN FOURTH QUARTER

**PROFESSIONALS** from Macau are scheduled to visit Brazil in the fourth quarter of 2019 on an exchange with their Brazilian counterparts, including lawyers, the president of the Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM), Irene Lau, said this week.

Lau said that the visit organized by IPIM also aims to establish channels of cooperation, enabling Brazilian companies intending to enter China, as well as Chinese counterparts wishing to explore the Brazilian market, to use legal, business and other services in Macau to expand their business.

The IPIM president spoke at the fourth meeting of the Com-

mission for the Development of the Platform for Trade Cooperation Services between China and the Portuguese-speaking Countries (Forum Macau), which reflected on the work done and the progress made in the construction of the Trade Cooperation Services Platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, from the fourth quarter of 2018 to the present date.

Lau also noted that Macau has played its role as a platform for the promotion of trade growth satisfactorily, as evidenced by the fact that trade between China and Portuguese-speaking countries rose 25.2% in 2018 compared to 2017.

MDT/MACAUHUB



## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

# LAWMAKERS TOLD TO DROP 'CONTENTIOUS' 60-BILLION FUND STILL WANT TO BE HEARD

RENATO MARQUES

**D**ISCUSSION over the creation of an investment company, in which the government intends to inject a total of 60 billion patacas from the public reserves, dominated the Legislative Assembly (AL) plenary session yesterday afternoon.

The Chief Executive had attempted to remove the topic from the agenda, as announced on Monday at a special press conference that he called. The item presented an opportunity to discuss and vote upon the first reading of the "2019 budget amendment" bill that is necessary for the money to be injected into the company. The discussion indeed occurred, although most of it took place outside of the agenda.

Since the request had been presented to the AL with only 48 hours' notice before the date of the discussion and the bill was already in the AL's possession, it was necessary to proceed with voting by lawmakers through simple a deliberation on whether the Chief Executive's request would be accepted.

Before the voting occurred, several lawmakers took the opportunity to express their feelings about the bill itself, beginning with Sulu Sou. On the same day, Sou had also submitted a letter to the president of the AL, Kou Hoi

In, to suspend discussion on the topic.

Despite agreeing with the suggestion to suspend discussion and voting on the proposed budget amendment bill, Sou did not agree with the procedure used by the Chief Executive.

"This practice [of sending a letter to the AL] is not correct," he said while accusing the chief of the government of disrespecting the political powers and competence of the Assembly.

Sou explained at length why he believed that the Chief Executive was "abusing" his powers by calling for the removal of a topic from agenda, a power Sou claims is held only by the president of the AL. Dropping the bill can only be proposed by the proponent of the bill, in this case, the Secretariat of Economy and Finance, led by Liao Nel Leong.

Sou also took also the opportunity to express his disregard for the government's disrespectful attitude in not sending a representative to the AL to justify the reason behind their decision.

"The AL does everything they say without questioning. They treat this house as a warehouse," said Sou.

Although the time was intended for addressing thoughts on the Chief Executive's request itself, eventually the discussion came to encompass details of the

bill, with Sou, José Pereira Coutinho, Ng Kuok Cheong and Agnes Lam remarking that the proposal to create the investment company had many problems: it did not fix a ceiling for investments; fell short in justifications for how and where the money would be invested; and had a lack of accountability mechanisms for fund managers and guarantees on the return on investments.

Pereira Coutinho and Ng also noted the Secretary Leong's failure to provide explanations to lawmakers.

Ng recalled that until the present moment, government participation in all the other companies and funds amounted to a total of MOP7 billion. He regarded this as a very low amount when compared with the proposed fund, which, unlike previous companies, has made no guarantees, limits or contracts establishing guarantees of return.

According to Ng, "this looks just like the retirement package bill that will be voted down and will take the local people onto the streets," he said in reference to mass demonstrations that were held in 2014.

"I advise the Chief Executive not to try to present this again for 2020," he added. "It looks like [the government] is taking its legislative initiatives [in the manner of] 'grasping at straws'."

Interrupting the series of interventions was lawmaker Vong Hin Fai, who tried to express that in his opinion, the requests to the AL were legal according to the provisions of the regiment. The lawmaker noted that, "according to the regiment we should be just voting on the removal of the points [from the agenda]. We should not be discussing the bill itself or any of its details."

"At a later opportunity, for sure the government will come and explain [the bill]," remarked Vong. "This is my understanding."

Defending the government and the bill itself was lawmaker Lao Chi Ngai, who said that the idea to create the investment company came from a suggestion from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), noting that the government was, "just fulfilling its promise and compromises." However, Lao noted that he also agreed with the elimination of the point from the agenda, as requested by the Chief Executive, "so the government can have time to clear all doubts."

In reply to Lao, Pereira Coutinho remarked that the establishment of such a fund should follow "the Santiago Principles" - a group of rules that promote transparency, good governance, accountability and prudent investment practices from sovereign wealth funds. He said that for that to happen, "society needs to know everything about it."

Following the long discussion, the topic of the 2019 budget amendment was finally removed from discussion by unanimous vote, along with point seven of yesterday's agenda in relation to discussion and voting on the first reading of the "cybercrime bill," which was also included in the Chief Executive's request.

The justification for the withdrawal of the cybercrime bill was that the secretary would not be available to present the topic and reply to questions on it due to their absence from Macau on the day the discussion was scheduled.

Before the end of the topic, there was still time for some lawmakers present their vote declarations. During this period, Lam recalled that the investment funds belonged to the population and so the population must be heard and called upon to decide on particular aspects.

Lawmaker Ella Lei shared a similar opinion, remarking for the guarantee needed, supervision and inspection of the activities of the fund would have to be enforced.

On the other hand, Pereira Coutinho took the opportunity to recall the case of failed airline Viva Macau, where the government lost the money invested and claimed not to be able to recover it by legal means. He reaffirmed that the justifications given by the Chief Executive at the press conference on Monday were "just bad excuses" and asked: "Why were the people not consulted before? Why were lawmakers not consulted before? Is the government looking to create another scandal?"

Finally, Song Pek Kei, Lao and Pang Chuan commented on the perceived "inconsistency" in opinion from some lawmakers, saying that, "In the past [these lawmakers] have been criticizing the government for the lack of application of reserve funds and low return on the ones invested, but now also raise problems when the government tries to apply those reserve funds."

## Ho Ion Sang Elected as Second Secretary

**Lawmaker** Ho Ion Sang was yesterday elected as the Legislative Assembly's Second Secretary, collecting 25 out of 32 possible votes from his peers. Ho's election comes after the former Second Secretary, Chan Hong, was elected as the new First Secretary last month, filing the vacancy left by Kou Hoi In. Kou has become the new

President of the Legislative Assembly. Besides the 25 votes with which Ho wrapped up the election, there were also three blank votes and one vote each for Ella Lei, Chan Iek Lap, Ma Chi Seng and Cheung Lup Kwan. After the election, Ho accepted the new role promising to fulfill it with modesty and gratitude.

# Gov't says maternity leave will be extended gradually

JULIE ZHU

THE Macau SAR government has said that it will gradually lengthen paid maternity leave in the future, according to the Third Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL).

Yesterday, government representatives met with the AL committee to discuss an amendment to the law that proposes 70 days of maternity leave, as well as a compensation system for employees working on a mandatory holiday or a rest day.

Committee chairman Wong Hin Fai spoke to the media after the meeting.

According to Wong, the government representatives explained that when an employee is rostered to work on a holiday or a rest day, the employee should be compensated based on a percentage of their normal salary, even if the employee stops working partway through the day.

"No matter whether the worker's reason for suspending the day's work is reasonable or not, the employer should compensate the worker," Wong explained. The compensation



should be made either in salary or in corresponding rest hours.

"If the suspension was made by the employer, then full compensation must be [paid]," added Wong, explaining that an employee will get full-day triple payment for working on a holiday or a rest day when the employer suspends work halfway through the day.

Regarding 70-day maternity leave, one member of the committee described the regulation as being unfair, since civil servants get 90 days of paid maternity leave.

One member of the committee also hoped that the government would follow the rules of the International Labour Organization and provide 98 days of paid maternity leave.

According to Wong, government representatives explained that the proposed 70 days are the result of a consensus reached between the representatives of employers and employees through the Standing Committee for the Coordination of Social Affairs.

Government representatives also claimed that

the 70-day proposal was based on the Labour Affairs Bureau's public consultation and comparable policies in neighboring regions, such as mainland China and Hong Kong.

The government representatives also said that in some of Macau's neighboring regions, some of the recommended 98 days of maternity leave are unpaid.

Government representatives did not signal when the government would further increase the length of maternity leave, stating only that the government would gradually resolve the situation.

## PLANS FOR REAL-TIME MONITORING AT HISTORIC DISTRICT

THE Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) aims to complete the draft of administrative regulations for property protection and the management plan for the historic district of Macau by the end of this year. It also plans to build a real-time monitoring system in the historic district.

The bureau will build a monitoring center equipped to carry out real-time monitoring of the world heritage district. This will provide timely feedback on the safety status of world heritage sites.

According to the IC, Macau's report on the protection of the historic district, submitted to UNESCO by the Macau government, was approved in July at the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee in Baku, Azerbaijan.

One of the points on this year's agenda was to consider a draft on the protection status of various world heritage sites. This year's projects involved the Great Wall, Hangzhou West Lake and Macau's historic district.

As the three projects are not urgent or involve serious protection and management issues, the committee approved the report directly at the meeting.

In 2017 and 2018, the IC submitted a report to UNESCO to explain the construction of a high-rise in front of Guia Light House. The IC claims that the committee has not submitted any different views to Macau on the matter. AL

## TDM TO BROADCAST EVACUATION NOTICES IN STORM SURGES

THE government has made an agreement with public broadcaster TDM to make storm surge evacuation announcements to affected populations. The service became available as of yesterday but will only be operational during typhoon days.

When the civil protection structure receives forecasts of high tides or storm surges during a typhoon period and deems evacuation necessary, the government broadcaster will air a template image in three languages to notify the population.

Verbal announcements will be made in Cantonese, Mandarin, Portuguese and English.

Currently, the civil protection structure mainly relies on alert speakers to notify people of storm surges. A total of 90 speakers have been installed across the city.

Four of these speakers, located at the three highest natural points of the city, can emit high frequency alerts. The civil protection structure will install four more of these speakers in future.

Power supplier CEM has announced that it will suspend electricity supply to protect both people and equipment when water levels reach a certain height. AL

## ADVERTORIAL

# G R E A T T I M E S

A once-a-year feast of prized Yunnan mushrooms

IN Yunnan people are known for saying, "a year without mushrooms is a year lived in vain."

The Yunnan mushrooms are a cherished ingredient that everyone enjoys seasonally. July and August are mushroom harvesting season, which means it's the best time of the year to enjoy these precious fungi. Yunnan is a vast region with an abundance of resources where over 250 kinds of wild mushrooms grow in mountainous areas at an altitude of over 2500m. Up high they flourish in the cool climate and rich soil, absorbing nutrients like amino acids, vitamins and quality protein.



Four restaurants under MGM MACAU and MGM COTAI have created specialty menu items for you to enjoy a variety of these mushrooms: Prestigious Canton restaurant, Imperial Court, only selects the finest ingredients for their baked suckling pig stuffed with lotus seed, glutinous rice, black mushroom, coix seed, preserved meat, dried shrimp and termite mushroom dish. By stuffing the termite mushrooms into the pig, they soak up the delicious juices and create a blended savory gravy. Sichuan restaurant, Five Foot Road, offers an innovative dish inspired by traditional beliefs – braised fish maw with black truffle and wild mushroom. Savour the aromatic black truffle mushroom while also enjoying the collagen-rich fish maw, which can help you maintain a healthy complexion. Chün, known for its contemporary Canton cuisine, serves a delectable double-boiled superior bird's nest with matsutake mushroom. They stew the bird's nest with the mushroom, focusing on preserving the original flavours of the ingredients and maximizing the dish's nutritional value. Hot pot restaurant, Hao Guo, offers a wide selection of mushrooms, all of which are perfect for simmering, so their sweetness and natural fragrances are brought forth for you to enjoy.

Visit MGM MACAU and MGM COTAI to try this once-a-year Yunnan wild mushroom feast before the season is over!





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AP PHOTO



# China summons HK's 500 to Shenzhen to discuss unrest

**C**HINA'S top agencies in charge of Hong Kong affairs held a special meeting across the border in Shenzhen to discuss unrest in the financial hub that's become a wider challenge to Beijing and raised questions about whether it should intervene more directly.

The seminar was jointly held by the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office of the State Council and China's liaison office in the city. It came hours after Hong Kong police again fired tear gas at hundreds of demonstrators who besieged a police station Tuesday night following the arrest of a student leader, after days of protest and clashes between protesters and police further roiled the city.

"The central government is highly concerned about Hong Kong's situation, and trying to study, make decisions and arrangements from a strategic and across-the-board level," Zhang Xiaoming, director of the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, said in opening remarks. "Hong Kong is facing the most serious situation since its return to China, therefore today's seminar is very important."

He said there were some "500 friends from Hong Kong" in attendance and that he hoped they could speak frankly. Hong Kong delegates to both the National People's Congress - China's rubber stamp parliament - and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, a top advisory body, were asked to attend, Radio Television Hong Kong reported.

Pro-establishment Hong Kong lawmaker Michael Tien said he would use the meeting to press Chinese officials to tell local leader Carrie Lam to withdraw the extradition bill that first sparked protests and order an independent inquiry into the affair, RTHK said. Tien said those had emerged as the top two demands in talks he held with protesters Monday.

Zhang's office held a rare briefing Tuesday, issuing some of the Chinese government's strongest comments yet on the unrest that has gripped Hong Kong for nine weeks. They agency doubled down on support for Lam, saying opposition efforts to force her resignation would fail.

Many Hong Kong residents feel Beijing has been increasingly encroaching on their freedoms. The protests were set off by proposed extradition legislation that if passed would have allowed some suspects to be sent to China, where critics say they could face possible torture and unfair trials.

China so far has not visibly intervened in the situation, though in editorials and statements from officials it has condemned

demonstrators and protest organizers as criminals, clowns and "violent radicals" and alleged that they have been inflamed by politicians from the U.S., Taiwan and elsewhere.

Speculation that the military could be deployed grew after Chi-

the founding of the Communist state.

"Over recent months, conditions in Hong Kong society have been extremely unstable," Lam said in remarks distributed by her office. "The special administrative region government will certainly join with

all of you to deal with it calmly, restore social order, safeguard rule of law and cherish Hong Kong, cherish 'one country, two systems,' and cherish our home."

Pro-democracy lawmakers continued to criticize Lam's handling of the protests. Claudia Mo told reporters that Beijing and Lam were employing a two-pronged strategy of using the police force to handle the protesters physically while also attacking them ideologically by labeling their movement as seeking to destroy the "one country, two systems" framework.

"We all know this [Hong Kong] administration has become completely untrustworthy and this is just so sad for Hong Kong," Mo said.

With Hong Kong's crucial travel industry suffering as tourists put off their visits, Australia became the latest country to issue a travel safety warning to its citizens.

Australians should "exercise a high degree of caution," in Hong Kong, the notice said. It said there was a risk of violent confrontation

**“The central government is [...] trying to study, make decisions and arrangements from a strategic and across-the-board level.”**

ZHANG XIAOMING

nese officials pointed to an article in Hong Kong law that allows troops already stationed in the city to help with "public order maintenance" at the Hong Kong government's request.

Hong Kong authorities have said they don't anticipate any need to bring in troops or police from China to help impose order. Observers say Beijing will likely try to wait the protesters out, hoping rising violence and inconvenience will turn the tide of public opinion against them.

Lam reappeared yesterday at the opening of an exhibition marking the 70th anniversary of

between protesters and police, or "criminally linked individuals," and visitors should avoid large gatherings, especially at night and on weekends.

Ireland, Britain, and Japan have already issued Hong Kong travel warnings.

Protesters have come from all professions and age groups. Yesterday, several hundred lawyers sought a meeting with Secretary of Justice Teresa Cheng and staged a silent protest. The authorities have refused to open a dialogue with protesters and there was no immediate response from Cheng's office.

Margaret Ng, a lawyer and a former lawmaker, said they wanted to meet Cheng and the director of public prosecution to seek an assurance that there was no political motive in prosecution of those detained in the protests.

More than 500 people have been arrested since the protests began in June and dozens have already been charged with rioting, which carries a maximum prison sentence of 10 years.

"One of the most important things about the rule of law is prosecution must not be abused because if abused, it is the most powerful instrument of oppression," Ng said.

She and other lawyers urged protesters to avoid violence that could harm their cause.

Lawyer Dennis Kwok said government warnings of stern measures against protesters will merely flame the people's anger. He called for an independent investigation into the actions of police and protesters.

Another Chinese official said Tuesday that it would be "only a matter of time" before those behind the protests are punished, further indicating that Beijing will take a hard line against the demonstrators and has no plans to negotiate over their demands for political reforms.

"We would like to make it clear to the very small group of unscrupulous and violent criminals and the dirty forces behind them: Those who play with fire will perish by it," said Yang Guang, spokesman for the Chinese Cabinet's Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office.

At a daily briefing Wednesday, police spokesman Tse Chun-chung condemned members of a crowd of around 1,000 who the night before surrounded a police station to demand the release of a university student arrested for apparently buying laser pointers.

He said police fired 20 tear gas canisters to clear the demonstrators from the blue-collar Sham Shui Po neighborhood. A total of 589 people have been arrested in the protests ranging in age from 13 to 76, Tse said.

They include people caught in possession of laser pointers, which are classified as offensive weapons because of their ability to harm the eyes. MDT/AGENCIES

XINHUA



# HKZMB accounts for just 7% of cross-border vehicle traffic

DANIEL BEITLER

**N**EARLY nine months after its opening in October last year, the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB) accounted for just 7% of Macau's cross-border vehicular trips in June, the latest month for which data is available.

The number of cross-border

trips using the bridge numbered just 32,500 in June, compared with a total of 441,400 trips via all of Macau's checkpoints.

A year-on-year comparison shows that the total number of cross-border vehicular trips grew 9.7% in June. The rise, which surpassed the growth of 7.4% via the Cotai Checkpoint (127,800) and the 0.7% decrease at the Border Gate (278,000), is attributed to the

bridge's opening last autumn.

Though it is overshadowed by the Cotai Checkpoint and Border Gate, the number of vehicles using the bridge is on the rise. In the 10 weeks between the bridge's opening on Oct. 24 and the end of 2018, just 23,500 cross-border trips via the bridge were recorded – almost one-third less than the number of trips taken in June 2019 alone.

Last year, consultants hired by bridge authorities in the three cities forecasted that traffic on the HKZMB would reach 29,100 vehicles per day by 2030, while the daily passenger flow would amount to 126,000 trips.

The forecast would see the number of monthly trips swell to approximately 27 times the volume seen in June.

On the Macau side, the fo-

recast fueled concerns that the city's urban infrastructure would struggle to accommodate the increase in cross-border traffic.

According to the Statistics and Census Service, the number of licensed motor vehicles in Macau at the end of June 2019 numbered 238,000, down slightly by 0.1% year-on-year. The number of light vehicles dropped 9.3% to 24,600, while light automobiles (108,000) and heavy motorcycles (97,900) increased by 0.8% and 1.8% respectively.

The new registration of motor vehicles in June decreased by 21.2% year-on-year to 827, with heavy motorcycles (433) and light automobiles (359) falling by 15.6% and 25.1% respectively. In the first half of 2019, the new registration of motor vehicles fell by 23.8% compared with a year earlier.

Yesterday, it was also announced that the number of traffic accidents in June had declined by 24% year-on-year to 979, bringing the total for the first half of 2019 to 6,170 accidents.

As for aviation, there were 6,042 commercial flights at Macau International Airport in June, up 22% year-on-year. The rise was led by flights connecting mainland China, which rose 39.7%, while those to and from Taiwan grew 7.3%.

In the first half of 2019, cross-border vehicular traffic was up 7.5% year-on-year to 2.6 million trips. For the same time period, inbound and outbound commercial flights via Macau International Airport grew by nearly 20%.

## Mi Jian shares views on Macau's Greater Bay Area involvement

JULIE ZHU

**D**

Accused of misconduct in June this year, Mi has avoided the media since.

Yesterday, Macao Daily News published a one-page story featuring Mi's perspective on regional development – in particular, the Greater Bay Area.

"One country, two systems. Three laws, three currencies. The differences in laws and systems need to be solved for the Greater Bay development to succeed."

However, Mi noted that it is important for Macau to implement different laws and systems compared with mainland China, as Macau's existing systems provide a positive environment for the rule of law and associated freedoms and commercial advantages.

Mi pointed out that differences in rules, management culture, perspective and mentality affect Macau's cooperation with mainland China. These differences need to be solved for the Greater Bay development to succeed.

Speaking about the Greater Bay, Mi admitted that Macau local residents are still ob-

serving the area's development instead of proactively participating in it.

In Mi's opinion, the Greater Bay Area is part of Macau's future.

Participating in its development is not only a rare opportunity for Macau, but also for Macau residents, especially SMEs, young people and the professional classes. Whether Macau can seize this opportunity under the current environment and conditions is key to deciding Macau's future, according to Mi.

Mi believes that Macau must make efforts to achieve the policy's objectives, as outlined by the Central Go-

vernment, instead of just voicing interest in them.

Judging from the current situation, Macau has not done enough. There is still a long way to go in terms of contributing to the country's development," Mi stated.

"State leaders [have] mentioned many times that Macau should speed up its integration into the overall situation of national development, and catch up with the express train of the motherland. It does not mean that we have not done well. Of course, [...] it depends entirely on Macau's own efforts," Macao Daily news reported.

## GUANGZHOU RELEASES MAP FOR NIGHTTIME TOURISM

**T**HE capital of southern China's Guangdong Province has rolled out a map highlighting commercial clusters for evening activities, as the city aims to spur its "nighttime economy."

The nighttime economy refers to business activities between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. in the service sector. Many Chinese cities, especially metropolises such as Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou, have rolled out plans to support nighttime consumption to drive economic growth.

The map of nighttime consumption, published by the Guangzhou Municipal Commerce Bureau, lays out 15 nighttime consumption landmarks including some of the city's well-known shopping malls and creative art zones.

The city will continue to improve infrastructure and public services, as well as hold symbolic festive and night events in

the night consumption clusters, according to the bureau.

Lawmakers in the Macau SAR recently expressed an interest in seeing the government develop nighttime activities for tourists. They suggested that shifting some events later into the day would help to ease overtourism pressures.

China's nighttime consumption has seen growth recently. Since June, the market for nighttime food delivery services has significantly expanded and seen a growing legion of takeaway delivery drivers, according to data from Eleme, Alibaba's flagship takeaway-ordering app.

Nighttime catering consumption jumped 47 percent in 2018 from a year earlier, 2 percent higher than the daytime growth, according to a report released by the China Tourism Academy and Meituan, a Yelp-like Chinese online city guide.

DB/XINHUA

BLOOMBERG



## WHAT DID YOU SAY?

## TOURISTS FUEL POCKET TRANSLATOR BOOM IN JAPAN

KANTARO KOMIYA

**T**AKEHIKO Fujita wouldn't be able to do his job selling eye drops and pain relievers without his pocket translator.

Instead of an app, language dictionary, or call-in translation service, the clerk in a Japanese drugstore uses Pocketalk, a 25,000 yen (\$230) device made by Sourcenext Corp. that looks like an oval puck. The gadget translates phrases to and from 74 languages, helping Fujita communicate with customers from Sweden, Vietnam and other countries.

Tourists are flooding into Ja-

pan, with 31 million people visiting the archipelago in 2018, triple the number six years earlier, according to the Japan National Tourism Organization. Businesses are struggling with visitors looking to shop, eat and move around — a situation that will probably worsen during next year's Tokyo Olympics. Seeking to tap into demand, electronics maker Fujitsu Ltd. and office supplier King Jim Co. are challenging Pocketalk's 94% market share with their own products.

"I'm not worried anymore," said Fujita, who works at a Takeya store in Tokyo's Okachimachi

area. He used to rely on Google Translate to talk to customers, but now he picks up the Pocketalk dangling from his neck to chat with people. "I can speak to people who, at first glance, come from foreign countries and might not understand me."

While smartphone apps remain a popular — and common — translation tool, Pocketalk has carved out its own niche. Dedicated for just one purpose, the gadget has a sensitive microphone, and accesses machine translation and voice-recognition software from Google, Baidu and others, improving accuracy. More than

500,000 Pocketalk units have been sold since it debuted in 2017.

Formerly a developer of greeting-card design software, Sourcenext collaborated with Dutch startup Travis, which had already developed a translator prototype, to create Pocketalk. Additionally, Sourcenext used expertise from Rosetta Stone Inc.'s Japan unit, which it bought in April 2017.

Sourcenext is also targeting outbound Japanese tourists. Japan remains a relatively monolingual country, ranking 49th among 88 countries and regions in terms of English proficiency. A new Pocketalk model features a built-in global SIM card that's active for two years in more than 100 countries, which lets the device access data to process translations.

"With this tool, tourists are able to do things they couldn't before," said Hajime Kawatake, senior software designer at Sourcenext. There's now growing interest from

businesses in Japan that deal with foreigners, he said, adding that Sourcenext has received inquiries from more than 4,000 companies.

Pocketalk's success has helped to fuel a boom in Sourcenext's shares. The stock has more than doubled since the device debuted in 2017. Revenue climbed 55% to 14.7 billion yen in the latest fiscal year that ended in March. Operating profit fell 31% to 860 million yen, however, as the company spent aggressively on marketing and advertising to defend market share.

Fujitsu has been marketing its own translator, called Arrows Hello. The 30,000 yen product, on sale since May and similar in shape to the Pocketalk, is different because it has a camera that also translates text. Demand is particularly high among retailers as well as the transportation sector including taxi companies, according to Hiroshi Tamura, general sales manager at Fujitsu Connected Technologies.

The market for language translators may be larger "than what we expect," Tamura said.

King Jim, which sells office stationery and supplies, released a desktop translator for stores on July 19. Called World Speak and priced at 148,000 yen, the device has two displays, one for the customer and another for store clerks. Shoppers can select their national flag on a screen to start translating in their native language.

"Seeing so many foreign tourists and residents these days, we're seeking to break the language barrier with our product," said Masatoshi Takao, King Jim's assistant research and development manager. Phrases are translated and delivered as audio, as well as on World Speak's panel. Hotels, shopping complexes, hospitals and pharmacies have expressed interest in World Speak, which handles 72 languages, he said.

"Now that Japan is a tourist destination, there's no excuse for businesses to say 'We don't understand foreigners,'" said Eiji Mori, chief analyst at market researcher BCN. "They need to grow revenue, so translators will keep growing."

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Users who tap "Settings," "Alexa Privacy" and then "Manage How Your Data Improves Alexa" are greeted with new language: "With this setting on, your voice recordings may be used to develop new features and manually reviewed to help improve our services. Only an extremely small fraction of voice recordings are manually reviewed."

MDT/BLOOMBERG

## Amazon gives option to disable human review on Alexa

**A**MAZON.COM Inc. will let Alexa users opt out of human review of their voice recordings, a move that follows criticism that the program violated customers' privacy.

A new policy allows customers, through an option in the settings menu of the Alexa smartphone app, to remove their recordings from a pool that could be analyzed by Amazon

employees and contract workers, a spokeswoman for the Seattle company said. It follows similar moves by Apple Inc. and Google.

Bloomberg first reported in April that Amazon had a team of thousands of workers around the world listening to Alexa audio requests with the goal of improving the software. Their tasks include liste-

ning to and transcribing voice recordings. Some of the workers reviewing customer recordings had access to certain personal data, including users' first names and their location.

At the time, Amazon and people familiar with the program said only a small sample of recordings were manually reviewed. Bloomberg reported that similar human review

is used for Alphabet Inc.'s Google Assistant and Apple's Siri.

Amazon declined to comment on whether the company had been contacted by regulators about its program.

"We take customer privacy seriously and continuously review our practices and procedures," the Amazon spokeswoman wrote in an email. "We'll

also be updating information we provide to customers to make our practices more clear."

The manual review practice by Amazon wasn't previously disclosed in the product's terms and conditions. Amazon now says the Alexa app will include a disclaimer in the settings menu acknowledging that people might review recordings through Alexa.

## TOURISM

# LET DOWN BY CHINA, MAURITIUS TURNS TO SAUDI ARABIA FOR GROWTH

PAULINE BAX  
& KAMLESH BHUCKORY

LET down by falling numbers of Chinese visitors and fretting about Brexit, the tourism industry of Mauritius is turning to an unexpected savior: Saudi Arabia.

While surging numbers of Chinese visitors to the Indian Ocean island's resorts helped underpin an 11% annual growth rate in tourists in 2015, that slowed to 4.3% last year, partially as a result of the scrapping of direct flights by China Southern Airlines Co.

In 2015 Mauritius attracted 90,000 visitors from China. The total this year is likely to be less than half that, according to figures from the national statistics agency. A weakening pound and the prospect of a further currency plunge if the U.K. exits Europe this year, is another cause for concern: The U.K. is Mauritius's fourth-biggest source of tourists.

But now the Saudis are coming and for the country, famed for white-sand beaches and dramatic mountains, that's a bonus. Tourism accounts for 8% of its gross domestic product and indirectly employs a fifth of its workforce. In the first half of this year, Saudi visitors almost doubled to 9,219 from the previous year, thanks to three flights a week from Riyadh and Jeddah introduced by Saudi Arabian Airlines in 2017. Diplomatic ties between the two countries have strengthened since, with Mauritius opening an embassy in Saudi Arabia last year and a state visit from Saudi's interior minister a few weeks later.

## LAVISH VACATIONS

"It's really been a happy surprise," Jean-Michel Pitot, chairman of Mauritius's association of hotel and restaurant owners, said in an interview in the capital, Port Louis. "Those planes are well-filled. I didn't expect that."

While the Indian Ocean island nation has traditionally enjoyed a steady stream of visitors from Europe, a legacy of its colonial

BLOOMBERG



history, it's been struggling for years to draw tourists from other continents. For Americans, it's simply too far away. The African market, despite its proximity, remains largely untapped because of poor flight connections and the relatively high cost of vacationing in Mauritius.

Even though the Saudis represent only a tiny fraction of the island's 1.4 million annual visitors - more than its population of 1.27 million - their spending power has helped compensate for the drop in arrivals from China. Saudis typically stay in private luxury villas and they tend to spend lavishly on meals and services.

## OUTRAGEOUS PONCHOS

Still, that wealth has a downside. Mauritians expressed their outrage on social media when a news outlet reported that a Saudi tourist had paid 85,000 rupees (\$2,200) for two woolen ponchos - a price considered so extortio-

nate they said it could scare off future travelers. The shopkeeper promptly went on local radio to announce he'd reimburse the customer.

The poncho dispute highlighted the wider debate between the government and hotel owners association as they publicly argue over the causes of the slowdown. Arrivals rose only 0.5% to June, well below a target of 2.5% for the year.

While some tourist operators blame fierce competition from more luxurious destinations, such as Maldives and the Seychelles, others say it's because of the weather, or point to the numerous stray dogs that roam the country's winding roads. The government pledged earlier this year to increase spending on cleaning campaigns and keeping the country pretty and efficient - with a metro in and

around the capital as one of its projects.

"Politicians tend to focus on quantity, but we say it's a bit wider than that," said Pitot. "The beaches aren't as beautiful as they were 30 years ago. There's more

**The Saudis' spending power has helped compensate for the drop in arrivals from China**

"We've done a lot of marketing campaigns on Chinese social media and we invited Chinese artists and bloggers," Gayan said. "But I think, to capture the Chinese market, we need more regular flights. A Chinese tourist who isn't satisfied wants to be able to leave the next day. They don't want to wait five days before they can leave."

So the government is lobbying new countries to keep the tourists coming, with a roadshow planned in Kenya this year, Tourism Minister Anil Gayan said.

"Historically our hotel industry has always looked at Europe," Gayan said. "If I say, let's do a roadshow in Saudi Arabia, they won't even come. They're not interested. But we think we shouldn't have more than 20% of whichever nationality in one hotel at any given moment. We need that diversity."

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pollution, there are more traffic jams. On top of that, the tourism industry worldwide has changed enormously in recent years. Just beach and sun is no longer enough. People want an experience."

The government said the reasons for the fall in Chinese numbers is more mundane. There aren't enough planes.

## China warship collision led to standoff, freighter captain says

SAMSON ELLIS  
& ADELA LIN

THE Taiwanese coast guard intervened to end an hour-long standoff between a freighter and an unidentified Chinese warship after the two vessels collided in the con-

tested Taiwan Strait last week.

The Taiwanese-registered bulk carrier Yutai No. 1 collided with a Chinese naval vessel around 20 nautical miles southeast of Taiwan-controlled Kinmen Island late on July 31, Fu Shih-hour, the

cargo ship's captain, told Bloomberg News on Tuesday. Fu said he had called the Taiwanese coast guard for assistance after the captain of the Chinese warship tried to persuade him to divert to the mainland port of Xiamen.

"When they arrived,

the coast guard told the Chinese captain very clearly that we were in international waters and that we were under no obligation to follow their orders," Fu said in a telephone interview from the southern Taiwanese port of Kaohsiung. "It's not as if

we were in Chinese waters and had to listen to them. The other captain wasn't happy about it, but had to begrudgingly accept it."

The crash underscored the potential for diplomatic flare-ups in the Taiwan Strait, a busy shipping lane through one of

the world's great geopolitical flash points. As the People's Liberation Army rapidly expands its navy, both China and the U.S. have increased the frequency of military transits through the strait and around democratically run Taiwan. BLOOMBERG

AP PHOTO



# Gov't bans movies, actors from prominent Taiwan film awards

CHRISTOPHER BODEEN,  
BEIJING

**C**HINA said yesterday that it was banning Chinese movies and actors from participating in Taiwan's Golden Horse Awards, one of the Asian film industry's most prestigious honors, as Beijing ramps up economic and political pressure on the island it claims as its own territory.

The one-sentence announcement on the microblog of China Film News, a newspaper affiliated with the government film regulator, gave no reason for the suspension, but it comes amid rising tensions over Taiwan's refusal to recognize being part of Chinese territory to eventually be brought under Beijing's rule.

Even without the ban, Chinese artists might have found it difficult to make it to the Nov. 23 ceremony. Beijing recently issued a ban on solo travel to the island beginning Sept. 1 as part of measures to inflict an economic cost for its failure to obey.

Chinese participation was already in doubt following last year's ceremony, which was marked by Chinese displeasure over remarks in an acceptance speech by documentary director Fu Yue calling on the world to recognize Taiwan as an independent country, something only a handful of nations currently do.

Chinese participants refused to appear on stage, made pointed remarks about Taiwan and China being members of the same family, and then declined to attend

the banquet reception following the show.

Asked about the announcement, the organizing committee said it was disappointed but the show would go on as scheduled.

"The Committee regrets to be informed of the news, if it is confirmed," it said in an emailed statement. "The jury process of Golden Horse Awards is ongoing and will continue as planned, and all Golden Horse events will take place as usual."

Chinese entrants have been big winners at the show since they were first invited to attend in 1996, with China's Xu Zheng winning best actor last year for his work in "Dying to Survive." Taiwan's Central News Agency said the festival was still in the process of choosing films and it wasn't immediately clear if any from China had already been withdrawn.

Presidential office spokesman Ernesto Ting Yun-kung said China's move "not only harmed exceptional members of the Chinese film industry but also positive exchanges between the sides."

"Culture has no borders and art especially should not face political barriers. No matter what the reason, it's not a smart move to prevent those in arts and culture from participating in this sort of a film industry event that encourages free creation and welcomes multiple viewpoints," Ting said.

Fu set off a firestorm of criticism in China last year after she said during her acceptance speech that her biggest hope was for "our country" to be regarded as an "independent entity." Her film

"Our Youth in Taiwan" won best documentary at the awards.

Taiwan split from mainland China amid civil war in 1949, but Beijing considers the self-ruled island part of its territory.

Chinese lambasted Fu on China's Twitter-like Weibo platform following her win, sharing posts under the hashtag "Not one speck of China can go missing" and a map of China that includes Taiwan and territories it claims in the South China Sea.

Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen, who is loathed by Beijing for her pro-independence stance, expressed her support for Fu, saying in a Facebook post that the annual awards highlight the freedoms that set Taiwan apart from China.

"Here (in Taiwan) there aren't people who will disappear or be silenced for expressing differing viewpoints," she wrote, "and we also don't have sensitive terms that are censored on the internet."

Academy Award-winning Taiwanese director Ang Lee, whose films include "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" and "Brokeback Mountain" and who chaired the awards committee, appeared to anticipate the backlash to Fu's speech, telling reporters after the ceremony, "I hope that no one will come to interfere (with the awards)."

Entertainment industry figures in Taiwan and Hong Kong have routinely been blacklisted and had their work banned from mainland China after they expressed pro-independence or pro-democracy views.

Along with cutting numbers of Chinese visitors to Taiwan, China has been luring away the island's remaining diplomatic allies and preventing its representatives from participating in international gatherings. Culture and sports events have also become targets, with Taiwan last year losing the right to hold the East Asian Youth Games under reported pressure from China.

China holds its own film awards, known as the Golden Rooster, but their influence is constrained by the strong ideological controls on the arts exerted by the ruling Communist Party that largely bar darker or alternative lifestyle themes. AP

# Yuan weakens after signs of stability calm markets

JOE McDONALD,  
BEIJING

**C**HINA'S currency weakened again yesterday after hopes among financial traders that its decline was stabilizing helped to calm jittery global markets.

The yuan edged down to 7.0488 to the U.S. dollar,

about 0.4% below its level late Tuesday. The currency strengthened slightly to 7.0443 to the dollar in the afternoon but still was below the previous day's level.

Financial markets tumbled after Beijing allowed the yuan to fall Monday to an 11-year low against the dollar, breaking through

the politically sensitive level of seven to the U.S. currency. Washington responded by declaring officially that China improperly manipulates its exchange rate, opening the way for possible sanctions.

On Tuesday, central bank officials told foreign companies "the yuan will not continue to depreci-

te sharply in the future," the bank press office said in a statement. It gave no details but said "two-way fluctuation" of the currency "will become the norm in the future."

Tension over currency adds to a sprawling U.S.-Chinese fight over Beijing's trade surplus and technology policies that com-

panies and investors worry will chill global growth.

The yuan's moves over the past week are small compared with fluctuations of the euro and other major currencies. But Washington complains the yuan is too weak, making China's export prices unfairly low and swelling its trade surplus. That makes

any decline politically volatile.

The People's Bank of China sets the yuan's exchange rate each morning and allows it to rise or fall 2% during the day. It can intervene and buy or sell currency — order Chinese commercial banks to do so — to guide the exchange rate. AP

# JAPAN SAYS EXPORT STEP NOT AIMED AT HURTING TIES WITH SEOUL

MARI YAMAGUCHI, TOKYO

**JAPAN'S** government spokesman says his country's downgrading of South Korea's trade status is not intended as retaliation for disputes over court rulings ordering Japanese companies to pay compensation for their treatment of Korean laborers during World War II.

A decision by the Cabinet last Friday to drop South Korea from a list of countries granted preferred trade status became official yesterday when it was published in Japan's official gazette "kampo." The measure will take effect on Aug. 28.

The step adds to Japan's export controls imposed in July on three key materials for South Korea's semiconductor industry, an attempt seen by South Koreans as an attack on the industry at the core of its economy and reminding them of the wartime grievances.

Japan colonized the Korean Peninsula from 1910 to 1945, and insists all compensation issues were settled under a 1965 agreement normalizing ties.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said yesterday that the measures are about Japan's national security concerns and not countermeasures for the

AP PHOTO



court rulings. Japan says South Korea violated international law by moving to force Japanese companies to compensate beyond the 1965 agreement, under which Japan already provided \$500 million in grants and loans.

"The revision was a necessary step for Japan to appropriately

carry out its export control system from a national security point of view," Suga said. "It was not intended to affect Japan-South Korea relations, let alone economic countermeasures or retaliation."

Japanese officials have said that South Korea, with its insufficient export control system and

operation, no longer qualifies as a country with preferential status for Japanese shipments.

Suga said the measure only puts South Korea back to a standard class, or second tier of four divisions. "It's not an export ban," he said.

Japanese officials have also

denied South Korea's allegation that they are using trade to retaliate, but Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and other officials had earlier suggested a link between the two issues. The officials kept mentioning new reasons, including lack of communication between the two export control authorities, triggering doubts that the real issue may be the historical dispute.

Abe, asked about the deteriorating relations between the neighbors and a prospect for meeting South Korean President Moon Jae-in at upcoming international events, said the main cause of escalating tensions between the two countries is the wartime compensation issue.

The dispute comes after South Korea refused a Japanese request for third-party arbitration under the 1965 treaty, and Tokyo rejection of Seoul's proposal for a joint compensation fund.

The timing of Tokyo's initial announcement just ahead of July parliamentary elections also prompted speculation that it was politically motivated.

The prolonged disputes also distract the countries from cooperating in the face of security threats including those from North Korea. The spat is also causing damage to the semiconductor industries in South Korea and consumer products in Japan, affecting the global economy, and hurting Japan's image as a regional economic leader promoting free trade and criticizing protectionism, experts say. AP

## THAILAND

## Health ministry receives cannabis oil for medical use

**THAILAND'S** health ministry received its first batch of legal medical marijuana yesterday to be distributed in state-run hospitals.

Public Health Minister Anutin Chanvirakul presided over the ceremonial handing over of 4,500 5 milliliter bottles of extracted cannabis oil from the Government Pharmaceutical Organization to the Public Health Ministry.

"The freedom for medical usage starts from this point onwards," Anutin told reporters at a news conference. Anutin was elected to the House in March while leading a political party that ran on the flagship policy of legalizing medical marijuana.

The bottles of extracted cannabis oil will be distributed to 12 hospitals and

AP PHOTO



administered to qualified patients including those who are part of a research program and those undergoing chemotherapy.

The ministry expects to receive 2,000 more bottles by the end of the month, and Anutin said he wants the Thai people to have access to 1 million bottles of cannabis oil extract within five to six months.

Thailand's legislature

agreed to amend the country's drug law last year to allow the licensed medical use of marijuana, as well as kratom, a locally grown plant traditionally used as a stimulant and painkiller. Anutin said he believes marijuana should be classified as medicine because it can relieve seizures and Parkinson's disease and side effects from chemotherapy.

Extracted cannabis oil produced by the Thai government has three variations, one with tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), one with cannabidiol (CBD), and another with both components. The Government Pharmaceutical Organization said its products contain safe levels of the chemical components derived from marijuana plants. AP

## SRI LANKA PM: COUNTRY MUST PREPARE FOR NEW TERRORISM PHASE

KRISHAN FRANCIS,  
COLOMBO

**SRI** Lanka's prime minister told a parliamentary committee investigating the Islamic State-inspired Easter Sunday bomb attacks that the country should prepare itself for new types of terrorism.

Existing policing, investigative agencies and laws had experience with ethnic Tamil separatists during Sri Lanka's civil war, but Sri Lanka must now deal with "a new phase of terrorism," Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe in his explanation for what the government should do following criticism that it failed to act on intelligence from foreign agencies before the attacks that killed more than 250 people.

"The terrorism we see today doesn't have a central organization, there is no need

to conduct classes to recruit people. People join through web sites," he said.

He added: "A team can come and attack [...] or it can be done by one person if he makes up his mind to drive a lorry and kill 10 people."

Wickremesinghe said that he proposed to the Cabinet and obtained a report from members to draft new laws to deal with people who travel to fight in foreign wars and who have gone to terrorist training centers. The laws will be based on British laws drafted from the 2000s until now, Wickremesinghe said.

"The whole existence of the internet and the web has made a big difference, this is a sort of phenomena of the last 10 years. Not only us, throughout the world, they are facing how to deal with this? Some countries have offered to help us, UK and Singapore," Wickremesinghe said. AP

# Kim says North Korean launches were warning to US, South

KIM TONG-HYUNG, SEOUL

**N**ORTH Korea said yesterday leader Kim Jong Un supervised a live-fire demonstration of newly developed, short-range ballistic missiles intended to send a warning to the United States and South Korea over their joint military exercises.

The official Korean Central News Agency said two missiles launched from a western airfield flew across the country and over the area surrounding the capital, Pyongyang, before accurately hitting an island target off its eastern coast.

Its four rounds of weapons demonstrations in two weeks come during a stalemate in nuclear negotiations and after President Donald Trump repeatedly dismissed the significance of the tests, even though the weapons show North Korea's ability to strike at U.S. allies South Korea and Japan and its military bases there.

Experts say Trump's downplaying of the North's wea-

AP PHOTO



This photo provided by the North Korean government shows what it says is a new-type of tactical guided missile

pons displays allowed the country more room to advance its capabilities and build leverage ahead of negotiations, which could possibly resume sometime after the end of the allies' drills later this month.

Lee Sang-min, spokesman from South Korea's Unification Ministry, said North Korea's recent

testing activity doesn't help efforts to stabilize peace and called for Pyongyang to uphold an inter-Korean agreement reached last year to form a joint military committee to discuss reducing military tensions. He did not provide a specific answer when asked whether Seoul believes the North's weapons display will intensify.

The KCNA said the launches early Tuesday verified the reliability and combat ability of "new-type tactical guided missiles." Kim expressed satisfaction and said the launches would send an appropriate level of warning to the military exercises between the United States and South Korea that began on Monday, the report said.

Pyongyang's official Rodong Sinmun also published photos showing what appeared to be a missile soaring from a launcher installed on a vehicle and Kim smiling and celebrating with military officials.

KCNA's report came a day after South Korea's military said it detected two early morning launches that were likely ballistic missiles.

Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the projectiles traveled about 450 kilometers on an apogee of 37 kilometers before landing in waters off the country's eastern coast. It said the projectiles showed similar flight characteristics to short-range missiles North Korea fired

on July 25.

South Korea's military had described those missiles as similar to the Russian-made Iskander, a solid-fuel, nuclear-capable missile that is highly maneuverable and travels on low trajectories, improving its chances of evading missile defense systems. Last week, North Korea conducted two test firings of what it described as a new rocket artillery system.

Kim Dong-yub, an analyst at Seoul's Institute for Far Eastern Studies, said North Korea's decision to fly the missiles over its capital indicated it was confident about the reliability of the system. Kim, a former South Korean military official who had participated in inter-Korean military talks, said Kim Jong Un is making a measured effort to advance the North's military capabilities without allowing nuclear negotiations with Washington collapse.

North Korea has denounced Washington and Seoul over their joint military exercises. South Korea confirmed they started Monday but hasn't given details about the drills, which were expected to involve computer simulations and not troops or equipment.

The North's Foreign Ministry said Tuesday the drills "compelled [North Korea] to develop, test and deploy the powerful physical means essential for national defense." AP

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JILL COLVIN, WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Donald Trump is bringing a message aimed at national unity and healing to the sites of the mass shootings in El Paso and Dayton. But the words he offers for a divided America will be complicated by his own incendiary, anti-immigrant rhetoric that mirrors language linked to one of the shooters.

It is a highly unusual predicament for an American president to at once try to console a community and a nation at the same time he is being criticized as contributing to a combustible climate that can spawn violence.

White House officials said Trump's visits yesterday to Texas and Ohio, where 31 people were killed and dozens were wounded, would be similar to those he's paid to grieving communities including Parkland, Florida, and Las Vegas, with the Republican president and the first lady saluting first responders and spending time with mourning families and survivors.

"What he wants to do is go to these communities and grieve with them, pray with them, offer condolences," White House spokesman Hogan Gidley said Tuesday. He said Trump also wants "to have a conversation" about ways to head off future deadly episodes.

"We can do something impactful to prevent this from ever happening again, if we come together," the spokesman said.

That's a tough assignment for a president who thrives on division and whose aides say he views discord and unease about cultural, economic and demographic changes as key to his reelection.

Trump, who often seems most comfortable on rally stages with deeply partisan crowds, has not excelled at projecting empathy, mixing what can sound like perfunctory expressions of grief with awkward offhand remarks. While he has offered hugs to tornado victims and spent time at the bedside of shooting victims, he has yet to project the kind of emotion and vulnerability of his recent predecessors.

Barack Obama grew visibly shaken as he addressed the nation in the wake of the Sandy Hook elementary school massacre and teared up while delivering a 2016 speech on new gun control efforts. George W. Bush helped bring the country together following the Sept. 11 attacks, notably standing atop the smoking rubble of the World Trade Center, his arm draped over the shoulder of a firefighter, as he shouted through a bullhorn. Bill Clinton helped reassure the nation after the bombing of a federal building in Oklahoma City and the mass school shooting at Columbine High School.

Trump, too, has been able to summon soothing words. But then he often quickly lapses into

# SOME SKEPTICAL AS TRUMP PREPARES TO VISIT SITES OF SHOOTINGS

AP PHOTO



divisive tweets and statements — just recently painting immigrants as "invaders," suggesting four Democratic congresswoman of color should "go back" to their home countries even though they're U.S. citizens and deriding majority-black Baltimore as a rat-infested hell-hole.

In the Texas border city of El Paso, some residents and local Democratic lawmakers said Trump was not welcome and urged him to stay away.

"This president, who helped create the hatred that made Saturday's tragedy possible, should not come to El Paso," tweeted Democratic presidential candidate Beto O'Rourke, who served the area for three terms as a congressman. "We do not need more division. We need to heal. He has no place here."

Trump, on the eve of his El Paso trip, snapped back on Twitter that O'Rourke "should respect the victims & law enforcement - & be quiet!"

In Dayton, Mayor Nan Whaley told reporters she was disappointed with his scripted remarks Monday responding to the shootings. His speech included a denunciation of "racism, bigotry and white supremacy" and a declaration that "hate has no place in America." But he didn't men-

tion any new efforts to limit sales of certain guns or the anti-immigration rhetoric found in an online screed posted just before the El Paso attack.

The hateful manifesto's author — police believe it was the shooter but investigation continues — insisted the opinions "predate Trump and his campaign for president." But the words echoed some of the views Trump has ex-

## Some residents and local Democratic lawmakers said Trump was not welcome and urged him to stay away

pressed on immigration, including claiming that Democrats "intend to use open borders, free HealthCare for illegals, citizenship and more to enact a political coup by importing and then legalizing millions of new voters."

Whaley said simply, "Everyone has it in their power to be a force to bring people together, and everybody has it in their power to be a force to bring people apart — that's up to the president of the United States."

Democrats vying to challenge Trump in the 2020 election have been nearly unanimous in excoriating him for rhetoric they warned has nurtured the racist

attitudes of the El Paso shooter as they sought to project leadership during a fraught moment for a bruised nation.

Former Vice President Joe Biden, the front-runner in the 2020 Democratic primary, is slated to speak on white nationalism in Iowa. According to excerpts from his campaign, Biden will declare Trump "lacks the moral authority to lead" because he has "aligned

himself with the darkest forces in our nation" and "in both clear language and in code ... has fanned the flames of white supremacy."

O'Rourke will be addressing an #ElPasoStrong rally that will serve as counterprogramming

to Trump's visit, in addition to attending a morning remembrance and making an evening visit to a makeshift memorial outside the Walmart where a gunman killed 22 people. And New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker will deliver a speech on gun violence and white nationalism at the Charleston, South Carolina, church where nine black parishioners were killed in 2015.

Gidley and other White House officials denounced suggestions that Trump's rhetoric was in any way responsible for the shooting.

"It's not the politician's fault when somebody acts out their evil intention," he said, pointing to other shooters who have ex-

pressed political preferences for Democratic politicians including Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren and Vermont's Bernie Sanders.

"It is shameful that Democrats are unable to prevent themselves from politicizing a moment of national grief," added Trump campaign spokesman Tim Murgaugh.

Trump, quoting one of the hosts of his favorite "Fox & Friends" show, tweeted: "Did George Bush ever condemn President Obama after Sandy Hook. President Obama had 32 mass shootings during his reign. Not many people said Obama is out of control. Mass shootings were happening before the president even thought about running for Pres."

Warren spokeswoman Kristen Orthman said leaders have an obligation to speak out.

"There is a direct line between the president's rhetoric and the stated motivations of the El Paso shooter," she said.

Recent Pew Research Center polling found 85% of U.S. adults believe the tone and nature of political debate in the country has become more negative, with a majority saying Trump has changed things for the worse. And more than three quarters, 78%, say that elected officials who use heated or aggressive language to talk about certain people or groups make violence against those people more likely. AP

# Russian couple face losing custody of child after protest

VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV,  
MOSCOW

**M**OSCOW'S children's rights ombudsman and other public figures have reacted with outrage to Russian prosecutors' moves to remove a 1-year-old boy from his parents because they allegedly took him to an unauthorized protest.

Prosecutors claimed that Dmitri and Olga Prokazov endangered the child by taking him to the July 27 rally in the Russian capital that was violently dispersed by police, and that they handed him to another man who is now being sought on charges of organizing mass riots.

The case against the parents follows a tough police crackdown on rallies protesting the exclusion of opposition candidates from September's city council election. Police detained more than 1,400 people during the July 27 protest

AP PHOTO



and rounded up a further 1,001 during another demonstration on Saturday, according to an independent monitoring group.

Children's rights ombudsman Yevgeny Bunimovich harshly criticized the prosecutors' action, de-

nouncing what he called "political blackmail involving children." He said he has written to Moscow's prosecutor urging him to drop the charges.

Members of the presidential human rights council also criti-

criminal charges that may carry prison terms.

Speaking on independent Dzhid TV late Tuesday, Dmitri Prokazov denied that the couple had taken part in the rally and said they had simply gone for a walk across central Moscow. He said they were aware of the protest and sympathized with the demonstrators, but didn't want to take part in it since they were walking with their child.

Prokazov insisted that they did nothing wrong by letting a close friend carry their child. The man is now being sought by authorities on charges of inciting riots, and the investigators have claimed that he used the child as a shield to cross police lines.

Prokazov denied that, saying they weren't anywhere near police cordons and the child was never in jeopardy.

"We didn't feel any danger," he said. "It never occurred to me that I was doing something wrong."

He and his wife said they were scared when police knocked on their door just before midnight, searching their apartment and treating them as if they were dangerous criminals.

"We were shocked. We felt as if some monsters wanted to take our child from us," Prokazov said. "It's barbaric." AP

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**what's ON****BATHING IN THE SPRING BREEZE PAINTINGS BY LIU MENGKUAN**

**TIME:** 10am-7pm (no admittance after 6:30pm; closed on Mondays)  
**UNTIL:** August 25, 2019  
**VENUE:** Macau Special Exhibition Gallery, Handover Gifts Museum of Macau  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 8701 9814

**WYNN PRESENTS: GARDEN OF EARTHLY DELIGHTS**

**TIME:** 10am-10pm  
**UNTIL:** October 6, 2019  
**VENUE:** Wynn Macau and Wynn Palace  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 6882 2839

**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

**MGM PRESENTS: HUA YUAN EXHIBITION**

**TIME:** 24 hours  
**UNTIL:** September 3, 2019  
**VENUE:** MGM Cotai  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 8802 3333

**MANDARIN'S HOUSE**

**TIME:** 10am-6pm daily (Last admission at 5:30pm; closed on Wednesdays, open on public holidays)  
**ADDRESS:** No. 10, Travessa de António da Silva  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 2896 8820

**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

**Offbeat****FLORIDA WOMAN SAYS TOILET EXPLODES AFTER LIGHTNING STRIKE**

A Florida woman says lightning destroyed her septic tank and caused a toilet in her house to explode. Marylou Ward tells television station WINK News that the sole toilet in her Port Charlotte home was shattered into hundreds of pieces on Sunday. Ward says the explosion was the loudest sound she's ever heard, and that she also smelled smoke. She says a plumber told her lightning hit the methane gas that was built up in the pipes from feces. Ward says she'll have to get the toilet and septic system repaired, but she's thankful no one was injured.

**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	Moda Portugal Sr.4
18:15	Amor Maior (Repetição)
19:00	Volta ao Mundo
19:30	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	Banco Asiático De Investimento em Infra-Estruturas
21:50	Livros com João Guedes
22:00	Todas as Palavras
22:25	Amor Maior
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Os Portugueses no Reino de Siam - A Glória De Ayutthaya
00:45	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:30	RTPi Directo

**cinema****CINETEATRO**

08 - 14 Aug

**CRAYON SHINCHAN 2019**

**ROOM1**  
**2:15pm**  
**Director:** Masakazu Hashimoto  
**Starring:** Yumiko Kobayashi, Toshiyuki Morikawa, Miki Narahashi  
**Language:** Cantonese  
**Duration:** 100min

**TOY STORY 4**

**ROOM1**  
**4:00pm**  
**Director:** Josh Cooley  
**Starring:** Will Smith, Mena Massoud, Naomi Scott  
**Language:** Cantonese  
**Duration:** 109min

**LINE WALKER 2**

**ROOM1**  
**4:30pm**  
**Director:** Jazz Boon  
**Starring:** Nick Cheung, Peiyao Jiang, Louis Koo  
**Language:** Cantonese (English & Chinese)  
**Duration:** 110min

**THE FAST & FURIOUS: HOBBS & SHAW**

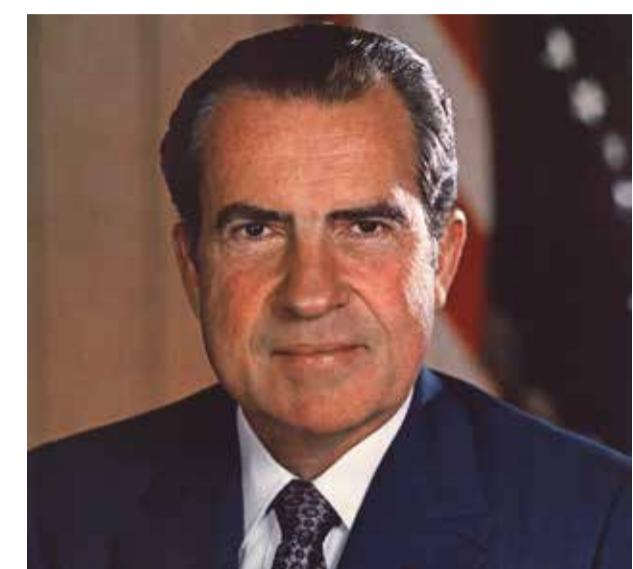
**ROOM2**  
**2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45pm**  
**Director:** David Leitch  
**Starring:** Dwayne Johnson, Jason Statham, Idris Elba  
**Language:** English (Chinese)  
**Duration:** 135min

**DORAEMON THE MOVIE: NOBITA'S CHRONICLE OF THE MOON EXPLORATION**

**ROOM3**  
**2:30, 4:30, 9:30pm**  
**Director:** Jeong-beom Lee, Shinnosuke Yakuwa  
**Starring:** Wasabi Mizuta, Sang Hyun Uhm, Jung-jae Lee  
**Language:** Cantonese (English & Chinese)

**THE LION KING**

**ROOM3**  
**9:30pm**  
**Director:** J. Jon Favreau  
**Starring:** Donald Glover, Beyoncé, Seth Rogen  
**Language:** Cantonese  
**Duration:** 118min

**this day in history****1974 PRESIDENT NIXON TO RESIGN FROM OFFICE**

Richard Nixon has announced he is stepping down as president of the United States - the first man ever to do so.

He has announced his departure in the face of an imminent impeachment trial - and possible removal from office - over the Watergate affair.

The president broke the news of his resignation in a television broadcast from the White House on Thursday at 2100 local time. It will take effect from noon tomorrow.

Mr Nixon, 61, said initially he had believed it was his duty to complete his term of office despite the Watergate charges.

"In the past days, however, it has become evident that I no longer have a strong enough political base in the Congress to justify continuing that effort," he said.

"As president I must put the interests of America first."

Mr Nixon has been charged by the House Judiciary Committee with "high crimes and misdemeanours".

The charges stem from a 1972 break-in at the offices of the Democratic National Committee in the Watergate complex.

The break-in, during that year's election campaign, was traced to members of a Nixon-support group, the Committee to Re-elect the President (CREEP).

Tape recordings have shown the president subsequently tried to influence the police investigation into the crime.

Mr Nixon is leaving office with more than two years of his second term left to run.

In his address Mr Nixon said he would be succeeded by US vice-president Gerald Ford.

Mr Ford will be sworn in as the 38th president of the United States tomorrow.

**Courtesy BBC News**

**IN CONTEXT**

Richard Nixon's resignation meant he avoided an impeachment trial and therefore being removed from office.

His successor, President Gerald Ford, issued an unconditional pardon in September 1974 for any offences Mr Nixon might have committed as president, saving him from possible prosecution.

But the five Watergate burglars and two co-plotters - former White House staff G. Gordon Liddy and Howard Hunt - were jailed.

In total 40 government officials were either indicted or jailed.

Richard Nixon eventually re-established himself as a respected statesman. He died in 1994.

In June 2005, former FBI deputy head Mark Felt was revealed to be the anonymous source "Deep Throat", who helped Washington Post reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein uncover the Watergate affair.

**YOUR STARS****ARIES**

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Not every day can be a fantastic day. Today there won't be much expansion or progress in any of your projects - generally, excitement will be missing from this day.

**TAURUS**

Apr. 20-May. 20

You have a flair for the dramatic that your friends, relatives, and coworkers simply adore - but you should be careful to use it judiciously right now.

**GEMINI**

May. 21-Jun. 21

The intellectual in you will see many facets to the day - and be very intrigued by every one of them. Everything you encounter will be confusing but also fascinating.

**CANCER**

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Satisfaction isn't enough, though. You crave the excessive energy that comes from indulging in the things that make you happy, and you won't feel the slightest tinge of guilt.

**LEO**

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Right now, you will benefit greatly from testing your steadfastness and seeing how long you can maintain your latest stab at having more self-discipline.

**VIRGO**

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

If your wallet is fat right now, that doesn't mean you have to put it on a diet! Avoid big expenses today, especially anything you don't need. Impulse buying is a big no-right now.

**SCORPIO**

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

It's time for you to really challenge yourself! You've been enjoying easy success and the comfort of knowing exactly what you're doing (and how to do it).

**SAGITTARIUS**

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

If you are contemplating any major travel this year, today is the day to put things into motion. Nail down the dates, and try to look into affordable transportation options.

**AQUARIUS**

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Encouragement will go a long way for you today, so if you're in the middle of a showdown, unfold your arms and use them to give out bear hugs. You will get a lot farther it you connect with other people.

**CAPRICORN**

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

If you are going to be in any type of competitive environment today, you can expect to show very well, if not take the entire competition. All the different elements of your life are coming together.

**PISCES**

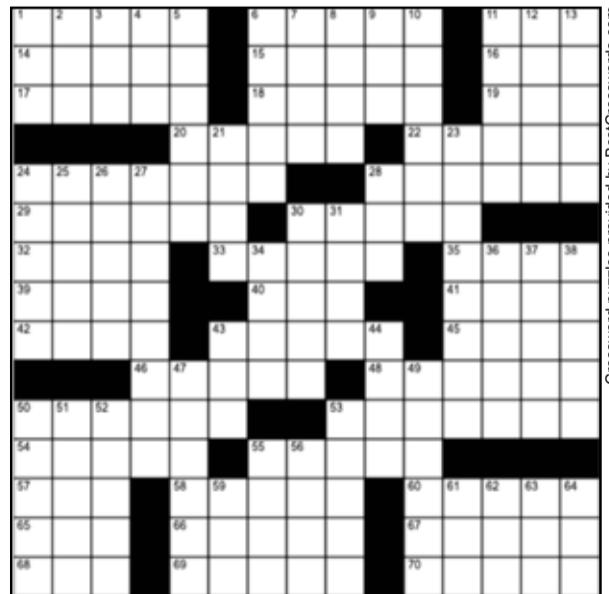
Feb. 19-Mar. 20

When you wake up with a few mysterious aches and pains, or are completely out of breath after going up a flight of stairs, your health will be at the front of your mind today.

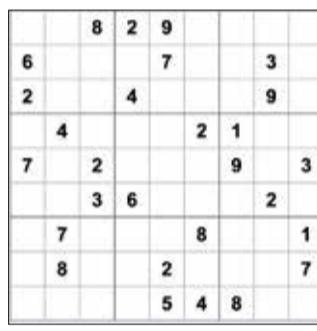
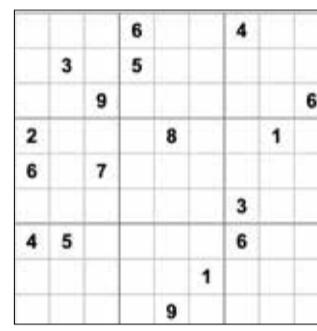
**CROSSWORD**

**ACROSS:** 1- Man with a van, perhaps; 6- Tripoli's country; 11- PC program; 14- Midwest hub; 15- Aquatic mammal; 16- Poseidon's domain; 17- Koran religion; 18- Cher of "Saturday Night Live"; 19- Erie Canal mule; 20- Big name in printers; 22- Fights; 24- Cooking surface; 28- In a weird way; 29- Late-night flight; 30- Got up; 32- Garage sale warning; 33- Choir section; 35- "Fernando" singers; 39- Corp. bigwigs; 40- Giant Mel; 41- Common street name; 42- Diminutive suffix; 43- Liqueur herb; 45- Warner \_\_\_; 46- Piece of the past; 48- Remove; 50- Em, for one; 53- Ore; 54- French seaport; 55- Willow branch; 57- Ingots; 58- Busy places; 60- Stan's partner in comedy; 65- "Hold On Tight" band; 66- Put up; 67- Property claims; 68- Draft initials; 69- Tirades; 70- Inclines;

**DOWN:** 1- Miss Piggy's query; 2- Surprised cries; 3- Kilmer of "The Saint"; 4- Time to remember; 5- Cure; 6- Like some change; 7- Sock \_\_\_ mel; 8- Bingo call; 9- darn tootin'; 10- Crops up; 11- Very, to Verdi; 12- It may be cultured; 13- Like old friends; 21- Answer to a charge; 23- Preface; 24- Elegance; 25- VCR button; 26- Numbskull; 27- Sweets; 28- Greek goddess of the dawn; 30- Room at the top; 31- Degenerates; 34- Actress Anderson; 36- Less covered; 37- Flora and fauna; 38- First name in photography; 43- Rarebit ingredient; 44- Emmy winner Falco; 47- One or the other; 49- Register; 50- French clergymen; 51- Russian range; 52- Peter and a Wolfe; 53- Thin fogs; 55- Cooking appliance; 56- Religious group; 59- 401(k) alternative; 61- Fail to tell the truth; 62- Pasture used for grazing; 63- Roadhouse; 64- Double curve;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	24	32	cloudy
Harbin	20	25	heavy rain
Tianjin	24	33	cloudy
Urumqi	24	36	clear
Xi'an	22	33	overcast
Lhasa	9	21	drizzle
Chengdu	24	33	shower
Chongqing	25	33	cloudy
Kunming	17	25	shower
Nanjing	26	34	cloudy
Shanghai	27	33	drizzle
Wuhan	27	36	cloudy
Hangzhou	26	33	drizzle
Taipei	26	30	heavy rain
Guangzhou	28	37	cloudy
Hong Kong	28	34	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	18	25	drizzle
Frankfurt	15	25	drizzle
Paris	17	26	drizzle
London	15	24	cloudy
New York	23	32	moderate rain

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Water Supply – Report 2822 0088

PJ (Open line) 993

Telephone – Report 1000

PJ (Picket) 28 557 775

Electricity – Report 28 339 922

PSP 28 573 333

Macau Daily Times 28 716 081

Customs 28 559 944

S. J. Hospital 28 313 731

Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333

Commission Against

Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300

IAM 28 387 333

Tourism 28 333 000

Airport 59 888 88



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**FOR SALE**

[Coloane] Helleene Gardens 3 2 2 1,663 ft<sup>2</sup> \$7,950,000 (ref: 19055006SC)

[Taipa] Man Fai 3 2 2 1,390 ft<sup>2</sup> \$8,880,000 (ref: 19065010ST)

[Taipa] Nova City 3 2 2 1,494 ft<sup>2</sup> \$13,980,000 (ref: 17050001RT)

[Cotai] One Grantai 4 2 2 2,556 ft<sup>2</sup> \$25,600,000

**FOR RENT**

[Taipa] The Manhattan 3 2 2 1,720 ft<sup>2</sup> \$23,800/mth (ref: 18110695RT)

[Coloane] Cheoc Van House 3 2 2 \$28,000/mth (ref: 19055009RC)

[Taipa] Ocean Gardens 4 2 2 3,700 ft<sup>2</sup> \$35,000/mth (ref: 18040674)

[Taipa] One Grantai car park 4 2 2 \$2,500/mth (ref: 19055009RC)

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AP PHOTO



## POPULAR 'BACHELORETTE' FINALE BOOSTS ABC IN RATINGS

SUMMER'S most popular entertainment series, NBC's "America's Got Talent," had a little competition last week. ABC's "The Bachelorette" delivered its best ratings for the franchise in two years along with a surprise finale last week, when Hannah Brown revealed she had called off the engagement to her selection.

The show drew 7.5 million, only a half million less than "America's Got Talent." The twin entertain-

ment shows last Tuesday may have caused a dent in CNN's ratings for the first of two nights of its presidential debate that night. The next night, CNN's debate audience was 2 million more.

NBC won the week in prime time with an average of 3.7 million. ABC had 3.6 million, CBS had 2.7 million, Fox had 1.7 million, ION Television had 1.4 million, Telemundo had 1.06 million, Univision had 1.05 million and the CW had 650,000.

## RHIANNON GIDDENS TO GET AMERICANA AWARD

AP PHOTO



GRAMMY-WINNING folk singer and musician Rhiannon Giddens and pioneering composer Francis "Frank" Johnson will be the first recipients of the inaugural Legacy of Americana Award.

The Americana Music Association announced the new award yesterday in partnership with the National Museum of African American Music. It will be presented to Giddens during the Americana Honors & Awards show on Sept. 11 in Nashville, Tennessee.

Giddens, from North Caro-

lina, won a Grammy Award in 2011 for best traditional folk album with the string band the Carolina Chocolate Drops. She has spent her career exploring the history of African roots music.

She was named a fellow in 2017 by the Chicago-based MacArthur Foundation and received one of its "genius" grants to pursue her creative work. Giddens is also a nominee at the Americana Awards for artist of the year and duo/group of the year for her band Our Native Daughters.

## CLINTON IMPEACHMENT IS FX'S NEXT 'AMERICAN CRIME STORY'

THE next chapter of FX's "American Crime Story" will dramatize Bill Clinton's impeachment with a focus on Monica Lewinsky, Linda Tripp and other women central to the scandal.

The miniseries will air within weeks of the 2020 presidential election.

Lewinsky, who was a White House intern when she had an affair with Clinton, will be a producer on the project,

FX Networks CEO John Landgraf said in announcing the project at a Television Critics Association meeting Tuesday. Clinton initially denied the

affair before admitting to it in 1998.

The series is scheduled to air on Sept. 27, 2020, about five weeks before the Nov. 3 election. Landgraf, asked whether the proximity gave the network pause, defended the timing and cautioned those who might judge the project sight unseen.

"I believe very, very strongly in what we're making. I've read it [the script], I think it's great. I don't believe it's going to determine who's the next president of the United States. I think that's a little hysterical," he said.

AP PHOTO



AD

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**Introduction:**  
Macau is hosting this year's international Joint Conference on AI (IJCAI) one of the largest annual gathering of AI experts. [www.ijcait19.org](http://www.ijcait19.org)

We would like to use this opportunity to host an informal networking event to discuss with European experts and guests about trends and development of AI in Europe. A recent McKinsey report suggests that Europe needs to speed up investment to close the technological gap between China and the US.

Others argue that Europe's strength lies in privacy enhancing AI software and applications, and a focus on citizen-centric AI development. What does it mean for companies using machine learning to increase customer loyalty? How can machine learning be used for real-world systems?

Join us for a lively discussion with our speakers!

**Date:** Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> August, 2019  
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## FOOTBALL

# Man City looking to make it a hat trick of league titles

**O**NE thing Pep Guardiola does not tolerate is complacency.

After his formidable Manchester City side powered to the Premier League title with a record-equaling five games to spare in 2018, Guardiola insisted there should be no let-up in the remaining matches. City switched its focus to breaking more records, and smashed a host of them as it went on to break the 100-point barrier.

It carried that momentum into last season and again proved the dominant force as it claimed an unprecedented domestic treble after edging a thrilling title race with Liverpool.

Still, the relentless Guardiola shows no sign of easing up, with a club record 62.8 million pounds (\$76.2 million) spent to boost the midfield ranks of a star-studded squad with Spaniard Rodri.

That is why, even if Liverpool kicks on from last season's Champions League success to launch another strong challenge, City enters the new campaign as clear favorite.

Guardiola, whose trophy haul in a glittering managerial career now numbers 27, summed up the determination during pre-season.

"We prepare how we have for the last three years: step by step, reanalyze, readapt and move forwards," he said. "We will see our level and whether at the end of the season we can be fighting for titles."

"But they are smart guys. They know they are an incredible squad and it isn't necessary to tell them they have to

AP PHOTO



Manchester City's manager Pep Guardiola

play well to be in contention to play every day."

One of the main differences from last season is that, for the first time in 11 years, City will be going into a campaign without Vincent Kompany.

The long-serving captain left in May to take up the role of player-manager at Anderlecht after playing a typically talismanic role in the run-in.

His inspirational leadership will be sorely missed and his departure reduces the number of top-quality center-halves available to Guardiola, although City do have a partnership of potential in John Stones and Aymeric Laporte.

There are few obvious

weaknesses in the City side. The arrival of Rodri has ended a lengthy search for a long-term successor to Fernandinho in the defensive midfield role and left-back issues will be resolved if Benjamin Mendy can stay fit.

Even if not, there is now specialist back-up in Angelino, although Oleksandr Zinchenko has improved markedly.

The depth of the goalkeeping resources was not tested last season but Claudio Bravo's return to fitness after almost a year out provides experienced cover for the brilliant Ederson, even if the Chilean has not always covered him-

self in glory.

Up front Sergio Aguero remains the key man having firmly re-established himself as first-choice striker under Guardiola while Raheem Sterling is now undoubtedly world class and Kevin De Bruyne is fit again.

David Silva may be entering his final season at City but Phil Foden looks ready to step into his boots and Bernardo Silva is equally dangerous.

Other factors such as the Champions League, injuries and suspensions could come into play but, at the start of the season, the smart money will be on City making it three in a row. AP

## LAMPARD SET TO STEER NEW ERA AT CHELSEA

CHELSEA has a new manager but the curious case of Jorginho and the team's midfield metamorphosis might still come to define Frank Lampard's first season in charge.

Italy midfielder Jorginho was Maurizio Sarri's man, hailed as the chief exponent of the "Sarriball" possession play on his 57-million-pound (\$69-million) arrival from Napoli in the summer of 2018.

Sarri's man in the middle attracted all the criticism from fans any time Chelsea labored under the former Napoli boss' heavily prescriptive system.

The 27-year-old was rarely able to cut loose and step out of his deep-lying role, and Sarri constantly railed against claims he was wasting N'Golo Kante by deploying France's wrecking-ball World Cup-winner further up-field.

Lampard appears determined not to follow suit.

"I have more space to create and I'm more free, so I can do many things with my creativity," said Jorginho, of a fresh task under new Blues boss Lampard.

An expected 4-2-3-1 approach might give Chelsea more stability, especially if Kante is restored to his ball-winning best at the midfield's base.

Sarri never settled at Stamford Bridge and — despite pulling off a third-place Premier League finish and landing the Europa League title — the chain-smoking former banker secured a quick return to Italy with Juventus.

Jorginho is determined to settle down in west London, however, insisting he has been energized by Lampard's arrival.

Chelsea's record goal-scorer, Lampard is back at the Bridge as top boss and that after just one year in management with Derby County.

Too good a chance to turn down, now the 41-year-old Lampard must fight to ensure his tenure is not too much too soon.

Assistant Jody Morris and boss Lampard are still rookies in the management game, but the former Chelsea stars understand the club's fabric and value their youth talent. MDT/AP

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## OPINION

### Made in Macao

Jenny Lao-Phillips



### AUTUMN COMMENCES ALREADY?

Two of the 24 Solar Terms in Autumn are surprising. (Lap Cau), or Autumn, commences on August 8, and (Cyu Syu), End of Heat, on August 23. If memory serves correctly, August has always been the hottest month of the year. Perhaps in some parts of China, the heat is now dying down, or perhaps the 24 Solar Terms created in ancient China have to be rearranged. Unfortunately, that would mean changing the day of important Terms such as the Winter Solstice. So, we have to follow the customs even if the weather is not right now. Let's explore some customs and practices for Lap Cau, which I believe many people may have heard of, but are not familiar with the traditions of.

In ancient China, Lap Cau was a great festival. In this first Solar Term for Autumn, the Chinese emperor would lead all his court officials on a parade through his capital city. They would then head to the countryside to set up an altar to welcome Autumn. The ancient Chinese divided the two weeks of Lap Cau into three parts, referring to them as the "three awaiting." First, they would await the arrival of the cool wind. After the cool wind arrived, there would be white dew. As the temperature decreased during the still, humid weather, the humidity at night would form silvery white droplets. That was why the morning dew at this time was referred to as "white dew." Finally, people awaited the mourning cries of cicadas. It was believed that as the cold weather arrived, cicadas realized that the end of their lifespan during the few weeks over summer was drawing near, so their singing became mournful.

As for eating customs, according to what is considered the most important book of Chinese medicine, Huangdi Neijing, Autumn is the season for "lung maintenance." To keep our lungs healthy in Autumn, spicy food should be avoided. Sour food could preserve the Chi (internal energy) of the lungs, and spicy food would release the Chi. So, an ancient practice dictated that ginger was not to be consumed during Autumn.

There are many other food-related practices that bring good health or luck during Lap Cau. One interesting practice is to eat peaches and keep the stones of these peaches hidden until the end of the year. People would then burn all the stones together. This custom was believed to prevent plagues.

Another interesting practice in some places is to eat watermelon and drink rice wine together on Lap Cau to prevent malaria. Also, on the day of Lap Cau, the most widely-exercised (food-related) practice in the Tang dynasty was swallowing red beans. There are instructions that need to be followed for this practice. Firstly, the red beans must be swallowed with water from a well. Then, one must face west while swallowing seven to 14 red beans. This was believed to prevent inflammatory diseases of the intestines throughout Autumn.

Also, there was an ancient saying that eating longan on Lap Cau would ensure your children and grandchildren become Zhuangyuan. Zhuangyuan was the one who came first in the annual exam set by the emperor. The Zhuangyuan would be offered a high position in the emperor's court. In these modern times, perhaps eating longan on Lap Cau would result in your children passing the civil servant exam for a 430-point position in the government departments. So, on August 8, we have to eat a lot of fruit for our health and for the fortune of the next generation.

## AUSTRALIAN EX-PUBLISHER GETS 13 YEARS ON MYANMAR DRUG CHARGE

A court in Myanmar yesterday sentenced an Australian journalist who was a pioneering publisher in Southeast Asia to 13 years in prison for possession of illegal drugs.

Ross Dunkley was arrested when police raided his home in Yangon in June last year. His British business partner, John McKenzie, was also arrested and received the same sentence, while five Myanmar women caught in the raid were each given 11-year sentences. Police said they found methamphetamine tablets and crystal methamphetamine, and small quantities of marijuana, heroin and opium in Dunkley's home.

Dunkley co-founded or acquired English-language publications in formerly socialist states that were seeking foreign investment as they liberalized their economies, but was sometimes criticized for doing business with authoritarian regimes. He was involved in startup projects in Vietnam in 1991 and Myanmar in 2000, and later acquired Cambodia's Phnom Penh Post. He is no longer linked with any of them.

In 2011, Dunkley served a one-month sentence for assaulting a Myanmar woman he met at a nightclub in Yangon.

## THE BUZZ



Brazil's Environment Minister Ricardo Salles

## LATEST DEFORESTATION DATA IN BRAZIL SHOW SIGNIFICANT SURGE

**N**EW data from the Brazilian space institute published Tuesday point to a surge in deforestation in the Amazon in the last quarter, fueling fears that President Jair Bolsonaro's pro-agrobusiness policies will accelerate deforestation.

Figures of the National Institute for Space Research, a federal agency, show that more forest was lost between May and July this year than during the same period in 2018, 2017 and 2016. In July alone, the rainforest lost 2,254 square kilometers of vegetation, between three and five times the surfaces lost the same month in the past four years.

This is the biggest surge in deforestation rates since the institute adopted its current methodology in 2014.

Brazil contains about 60% of the Amazon rainforest, a key regulator in the planet's living systems. Its trees take in as much as 2 billion tons of carbon dioxide every year and release 20 percent of the planet's oxygen.

Brazil was once heralded as a global environmental success story. But some fear increasing deforestation will accelerate under Bolsonaro, a climate change skeptic with a strongly

pro-agrobusiness agenda.

"This is a very serious setback," said Malu Ribeiro, a project coordinator at SOS Mata Atlantica, a nonprofit organization whose work focuses on another endangered area, Brazil's Atlantic Forest.

Ribeiro criticized the way the government has been imposing its environmental agenda. "They are trying to forcefully imple-

### Some fear deforestation will accelerate under Bolsonaro, a climate change skeptic

ment an agenda of deconstruction, of deregulation, with total disrespect for institutions, or science," Ribeiro said. "Since the [end of the military regime], in 1985, we'd never seen anything like it."

On the campaign trail, Bolsonaro vowed to help mining and agribusiness companies expand their activities in environmentally protected areas, including the Amazon. Since he was sworn into office on Jan. 1, he has shown on multiple occasions that he will stick to his campaign promises.

He appointed a like-minded environment minister, Ricardo Salles, who

was found guilty of modifying an environmental protection plan surrounding a river basin to favor mining groups when he was Secretary of Environment for Sao Paulo state between 2016 and 2018.

Over the past seven months, Bolsonaro and Salles have worked to weaken environmental legislation. The president has passed a decree to cut

the size of the National Council of the Environment from 100 to 21 members and has attempted to transfer the responsibility for delineating indigenous territories from the Justice Ministry to the Agriculture Ministry, which one lawmaker described as "letting the fox take over the chicken coop." Bolsonaro also said he was working on a proposal to regularize illegal mining in protected areas.

Salles has publicly questioned the efficiency of the Amazon Fund, which allocates money to projects working to contain deforestation in the Amazon, leading its two major donors, Germany and Norway, to consider pulling out of the program altogether.

During a recent public appearance, Bolsonaro joked that if the "absurd" deforestation numbers were true, "then I am Captain Chainsaw!" MDT/AP



**Afghanistan** A Taliban car bomb aimed at Afghan security forces ripped through a busy Kabul neighborhood yesterday, killing 14 people and wounding 145 — most of them women, children and other civilians — shortly after the extremist group and the United States reported progress on negotiating an end to Afghanistan's nearly 18-year war.



**Switzerland** police say a South Korean mountain climber has died following a fall during a climb on the famed Matterhorn peak.



**Paris** Health officials say that a child needs medical monitoring because tests conducted after the Notre Dame Cathedral fire showed that he was at risk of lead poisoning.

**USA** Facebook Inc. sued two Asia-based developers for allegedly planting malware on Android apps that robotically clicked on ads to inflate revenue. Through a practice known as "click injection fraud," one of the apps generated more than 40 million ad impressions and 1.7 million clicks through Facebook's Audience Network over a three-month period at the end of last year.