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THE LOWER COURT REJECTED THE APPEAL OF A MAN WHO WAS ATTRIBUTED THE LEGAL PATERNITY OF A 16-YEAR-OLD BOY BORN IN TAIWAN

▲ P4

HK HOTELS IN CRISIS AS PROTESTS DETER CHINESE TOURISTS

▲ P8-9

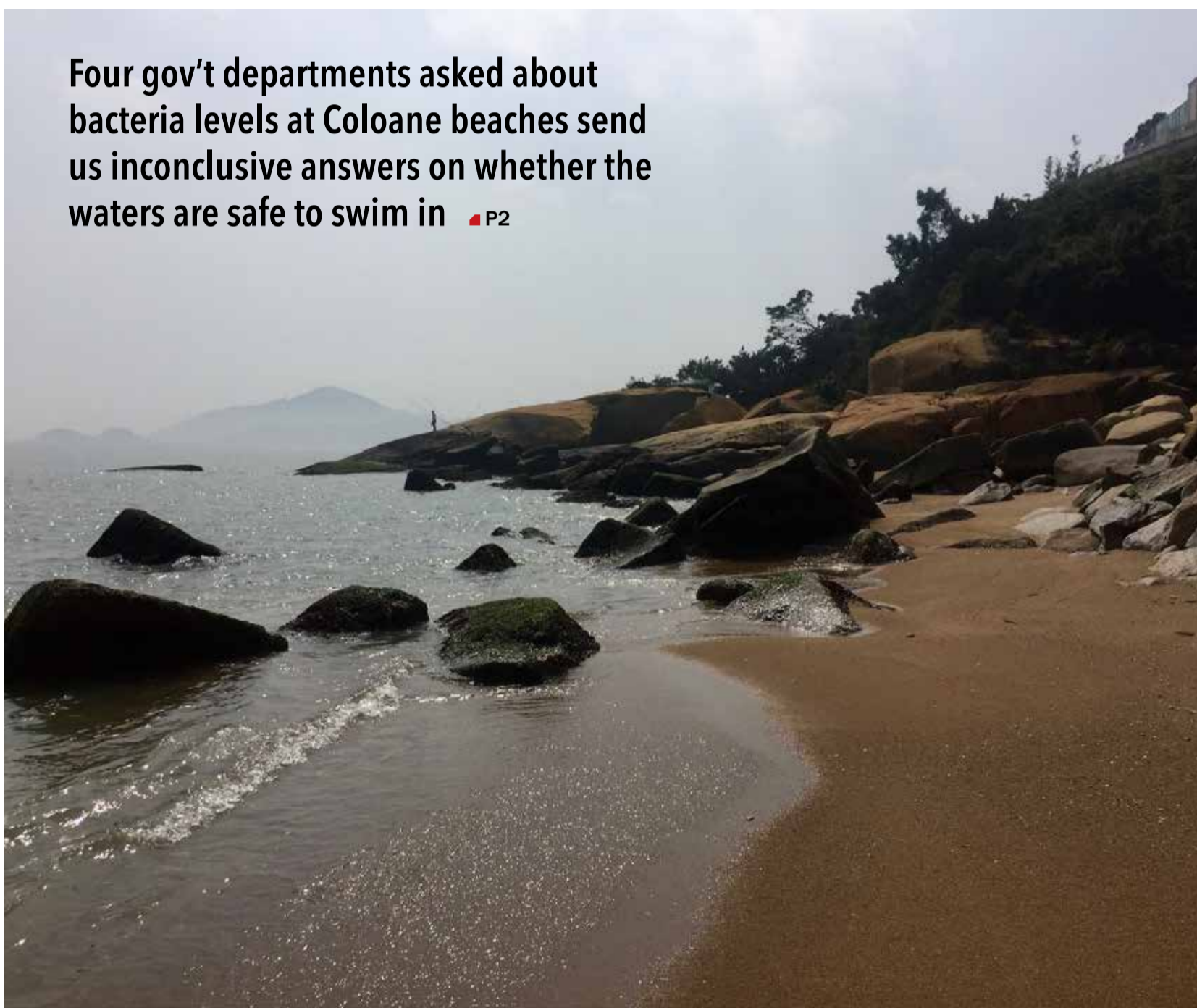
THIS YEAR'S MEETING OF THE MACANESE COMMUNITIES WILL SEE A RECORD ATTENDANCE OF OVER 1,000 PARTICIPANTS FROM OUTSIDE OF MACAU

▲ P6

A DIVE IN THE DARK

Four gov't departments asked about bacteria levels at Coloane beaches send us inconclusive answers on whether the waters are safe to swim in

▲ P2



China yesterday threatened retaliation if Washington steps up their war over trade and technology by going ahead with planned Sept. 1 tariff hikes on additional Chinese imports.



China Huawei Technologies Co. told a federal judge in Texas that Congress improperly decided, without any judicial review, that the company was a pawn of the Chinese government, depriving it of due process that other Chinese companies get.



Taipei America's top representative in Taiwan said yesterday that Washington expects the island to continue increasing its defense spending as Chinese security threats to the U.S. ally continue to grow. [More on p11](#)

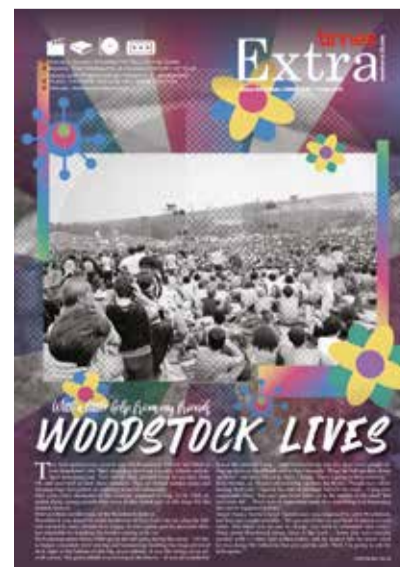
Myanmar Ethnic rebels in Myanmar have staged coordinated attacks in five locations, including at a military academy outside normal combat zones, where a civilian was killed and a soldier wounded.

Japan A powerful typhoon lashed southwestern Japan yesterday with massive rain and strong winds, injuring at least 11 people and paralyzing traffic during Japan's Buddhist holiday week.

[More on backpage](#)

SENADO SQUARE ASSEMBLY FOR HONG KONG CALLED OFF BY POLICE

▲ P5



Fifty years on, memories of the anarchic weekend of Aug. 15-18, 1969, remain sharp among people who were in the crowd and on the stage for the historic festival. Extra presents their recollections of the Woodstock festival

times Extra

3 MORE HONGKONGERS CAUGHT DEALING DRUGS IN MACAU

Another three Hong Kong residents have been caught dealing drugs in Macau, the Judiciary Police (PJ) reported yesterday. The three people were involved in two different cases. In the first case, two Hong Kong men aged 24 and 69 were caught. They had been dealing drugs in Macau for three weeks, receiving HKD20,000 in total in payment. The two claimed they were dealing drugs in Macau because they wanted to pay off their debts. In the other case, a 36-year-old Hong Kong woman was found to have been dealing drugs in Macau for three months. Each time, she received HKD2,200, totaling HKD30,000. At this stage, the PJ has not found any evidence indicating that the two cases were organized by the same criminal group.

TOURISM ACTIVITIES CENTER REPORTS ARSON

An arson case has been reported by the Tourism Activities Center (CAT), according to the Judiciary Police (PJ). A fire was spotted inside CAT's race car museum on Wednesday night around 8 p.m., as well as some adhesive tape on a fire door. The fire was extinguished before firefighters arrived at the scene. According to the PJ's preliminary investigation, several cigarette butts were found on the floor next to the fire door. Because of this, the PJ suspects the butts are related to the fire, and have therefore listed the case as an arson. No injuries were reported during the incident, which is being followed up by the PJ investigation department.

SIM CARD REGISTRATIONS TO BE ELECTRONIC

The security authority is preparing to make SIM card real-name registration electronic, according to the Office of the Secretary for Security. The authority is currently discussing the real-name registration with telecommunications operators, which will be officially launched after the city's cyber security law comes into effect on December 22. The security authority expects that exclusively electronic methods will be used to register SIM card users. In addition, the local government has already drafted administrative regulations for the establishment of a cyber security committee, a cyber security incidents emergency center and cyber security supervision organizations. The Judiciary Police (PJ), together with the Public Administration, Civil Service Bureau and the Post, Telegraph and Telephones Office (CTT), are drafting the technical requirements concerning cyber security.

BLOOMBERG



FOUR BUREAUS MONITORING CHOLERA SITUATION AT CHEOC VAN

ANTHONY LAM

FOLLOWING reports late last month on the detection of cholera bacteria in the waters of Cheoc Van Beach, the Times has inquired with four government bureaus on the source of the bacteria, which warranted a 'red flag' warning at the time, and whether the situation has now been resolved.

The four bureaus contacted by the Times are the Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA), the Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA), the Health Bureau (SSM) and the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM).

All four bureaus were sent the same pair of questions: how can the bureau trace the source of the infection? and what has the bureau done to cope with the problem?

The SSM recalled that, as of the Times' enquiry on August 7, there had been no human infection, and so it was not in a position to comment.

As for conditions of the en-

vironment on and around the beaches, the DSPA has set up an emergency contact mechanism with the relevant bureaus. When abnormal conditions are found, inter-department communication, coordination and follow-up will be conducted through the mechanism.

In the meantime, the DSPA has stepped up patrols on beaches and other coastal areas. It has also notified the concerned bureaus of its findings, so that these bureaus can take corresponding measures to safeguard water quality and resident's health.

As for monitoring water quality, it recommended that the Times contact the IAM. The DSPA reply was received on August 12. An inquiry to the IAM was made on that same day.

"Considering the hygiene around beaches in Macau, the germs found are estimated to be of natural existence," answered the IAM yesterday in an emailed response.

The IAM cited data from the

city's health authorities, pointing out that in the past two decades, even though cholera bacteria was detected several times at local beaches, there was not a single case of it spreading to the wider Macau community.

As the IAM is responsible for monitoring the water quality at local beaches, the bureau has conducted regular tests on the water from Macau's two public beaches. Upon arrival at the beaches, the bureau's technicians will conduct a brief observation and take note of the environment, including changes in weather and sea conditions. They will also look for possible red tides and jellyfish, among other natural phenomena.

Other data is collected on-site, such as pH values and dissolved oxygen levels. Water samples will then be sent back to the laboratory for further tests. The types of tests conducted vary according to the monitoring scheme.

Between May and October, which marks the official swim-

ming season, samples are taken for tests once every week. At other times of the year, tests are held monthly.

When a sample fails a test, the IAM will notify the DSAMA and the SSM. Follow-up tests will be conducted as soon as possible, and repeated until the quality returns to normal conditions.

The IAM said the concerned bureaus will enact their respective procedures when they are notified by the IAM.

It took eight days for the DSAMA to reply to the Times to note, "because the DSPA has already made a relevant response, we have no further comment."

The waterborne bacterium *Vibrio* widely exists in waters at estuaries, bays and coastal areas, as well as in sea animals. *Vibrio Cholerae*, the germ that caused cholera, can survive in saline or non-saline water. The activation of cholera germ is related to the climate, the geography, water conditions and human activities, according to the IAM.

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HIGHER EDUCATION

UM welcomes 3,000 new students in convocation

THE University of Macau (UM) yesterday held the convocation and an orientation seminar for the 2019/2020 academic year to welcome 3,000 new students as well as faculty members.

The convocation opened with a performance by the UM Symphonic Band. Prior to the convocation, the UM held a flag-raising ceremony, which was attended by about 2,000 UM students, faculty, and staff.

UM Rector Yonghua Song gave the new students their first lecture at the UM. During the talk, Song said that higher education had experienced great changes in the 21st century. He encouraged the students to devote themselves to study in order to become "innovative individuals" with a love for their country, a



global mindset, international competitiveness, and a sense of mission to society and to themselves.

According to Song, this year's convocation is special because the year 2019 marks the 70th anniversary of the People's Republic of China and the 20th anniversary of the Macau Special Administrative Region.

With the changes to higher education worldwide,

the missions of universities must also adapt and change. Universities must include "innovation" in higher education in order to disseminate knowledge through education, create knowledge through research, and transfer knowledge through services.

Song said that to cope with the demand of the international society for high-calibre professionals, the UM has also incor-

porated innovation in its undergraduate education by increasing the number of courses in digital education, civic participation and social experience, entrepreneurship, and leadership, in an effort to boost students' international competitiveness.

Classes in the new academic year will start next Monday. To help familiarize new students with the campus and adapt to a new chapter in their lives, the UM has been organizing a series of "The Way to UM" orientation activities since the beginning of this month, which include lectures by faculty deans and residential college masters.

An information session for parents was also held to help parents learn more about UM's philosophy of education and latest developments. **DB**

INTERNATIONAL ASSETS IN BANKING SECTOR DECREASE

AT end-June 2019, the share of international assets in total banking assets decreased slightly from 86.3% at end-March 2019 to 85.9%, while the share of international liabilities in total banking liabilities fell from 82.2% to 82.1%.

According to data released by the Monetary Authority of Macao, the total international assets increased by 1% from last quarter and by 16.1% from last year to MOP1,663.9 billion at the end of the second quarter.

Within this total, external assets went up by 18.4% year-on-year to MOP1,255.1 billion, while local assets in foreign currencies also increased by 9.6% to MOP408.9 billion.

As a major component of international assets, external non-bank loans increased by 14.4% to MOP578.1 billion.

Meanwhile, non-local currencies continued to be the dominant denomination in international

banking transactions.

The Hong Kong dollar, the U.S. dollar, the renminbi and other foreign currencies accounted for 39.2%, 45.8%, 9.6% and 4.5% of total international assets, as well as 45.8%, 43.9%, 6.1% and 3.5% of total international liabilities respectively.

Total international liabilities increased by 1.3% from three months ago and by 17.9% year-on-year to MOP1,590.2 billion.

Of this total, external liabilities and local liabilities in foreign currencies expanded year-on-year by 18.6% to MOP811.1 billion and 17.1% to MOP779.1 billion respectively.

Foreign currency deposits held by residents and the MSAR government in local banks continued to form a major component of international liabilities. This type of deposit grew by 18.4% year-on-year to MOP691.2 billion at end-June 2019. **LV**

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COURTS

TSI DENIES APPEAL IN PATERNITY CASE

THE Court of Second Instance (TSI) has rejected the appeal of a man who was attributed the legal paternity of a 16-year-old boy born in Taiwan by the Court of First Instance (TJB), the Office of the Courts of Second Instance and Final Appeal revealed in a statement.

The case goes back to the early 2000s, when the boy's mother, who was from Taiwan, began a relationship with the man (the defendant)

while she was working as a tour guide in Macau.

The child was born on November 28, 2002 in Taiwan, although none of the boy's documents, including the birth certificate, mention the name of the father.

In 2017, the boy initiated a case with the TJB, calling for legal paternity to be attributed to the man who was his mother's boyfriend at the time.

In the court's diligences, it

was requested that the man allow a DNA test to be performed to ascertain whether the two were related by blood.

After the defendant refused, the judge at the TJB, based on the case information and the couple's reported relationship in the period before the birth of the child, decided to accept the teenager's request and order the attribution of paternity to the defendant, who is now appealing to the TSI.

After reviewing the appeal, the collective of judges of the TSI ruled that the decision of the TJB court seemed to have been made according to all the rules, noting that the judge was competent in making the decision based on the information they possess.

The TSI judges also noted that the decision could only be reverted with proof that it is inaccurate, which was absent due to the defendant's refusal to perform the DNA test requested by the court.

The TSI also noted that refusal to cooperate with the courts and provide clear evidence was only acceptable in cases where the action constitutes a violation of the physical or moral integrity of those involved, which is not applicable to a DNA test, as only a saliva sample is needed.

The TSI also considered the fact that the TJB judge had made the decision according to his competence and based on the rules of logic and of common experience, and that the decision seemed to be appropriate and did not constitute a serious mistake in the examination of evidence and assessment of disputed facts, and therefore dismissed the appeal of the father. **RM**

7 DAYS PROPOSED FOR FREE RETURN OF PURCHASED ITEMS

THE government has proposed giving consumers seven days to decide whether or not they want to return a purchased item.

Yesterday, government representatives met with members of the First Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL) to discuss the amendment of the Consumer Protection Law.

The discussion concerned purchases and contracts made online and in physical stores.

The amendment proposes that a service or a product provider must clearly inform consumers and provide all information about the character of the item, price, shipping costs, and tax code among other aspects. The information should be provided before a supplier establishes a contract with a consumer.

The amendment proposes a seven-day cooling off period for consumer contracts. The cooling off period gives consumers the right to freely terminate the contract within seven days without having to provide any reason.

Ho Ion Sang, chairman of the First Standing Committee, cited government representatives' explanations and said that the seven-day cooling off period is set up specifically for online purchases, street promotions and pre-sales, because consumers cannot approach goods or services while making the purchase.

Considering suppliers' rights, the government also proposed articles to prevent consumers from abusing the seven-day cooling off period policy. For example, consumers must return the goods with the original packaging, instructions and other items, and should bear shipping costs for the return. **JZ**

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

RENATO MARQUES

Senado Square assembly called off by police

AN assembly at Senado Square in central Macau called for Monday August 19 has been refused authorization by the Public Security Police Force (PSP) for "not being according to the law," a PSP spokesperson informed the media yesterday during the daily joint press conference of police forces.

According to the PSP, "the new Public Assembly and Demonstration Law establishes that authorities may not allow public assemblies and demonstrations that are considered to be in violation of the law."

The PSP used this argument to refuse the authorization of the silent protest planned for Monday evening at Senado Square, stating that it was "in view of the recent clashes in Hong Kong, [where] some of the radical demonstrators have violated Hong Kong laws and seriously affected social order and the rule of law."

News of the protest began with a poster spread on social media. The poster described the August 19 activity as "legitimate, rational and peaceful," and there would be no "blue or yellow political opinions" in the protest.

Although the information included on the poster noted that the purpose of the assembly was

DANIEL BEITLER



to "condemn the violence used by the police forces in Hong Kong," the PSP said that during their review of the application, authorities considered that the purpose of the assembly might be to "support law violating activities and that by allowing such event to happen this might cause

others [in Macau] to follow the same path of law violation."

On Wednesday, the planned assembly garnered attention from the Macau Jiangmen Youth Association who held an event for the delivery of a petition to the government calling for the non-authorization of the event.

At the time of the delivery of the letter, association member and lawmaker Zheng Anting explained that the request for a protest of the issue could cause "disruption to Macau's stability and prosperity."

According to Zheng, "Macau's harmonious and stable prosperi-

ty depends on the full support of the central government and the joint efforts of the people of Macau," sufficient cause to request the rejection of the assembly under the terms of Article 23 of the Macau Basic Law, or the National Security Laws.

The marking of a circular area around the Senado Square Fountain, which was nominated as the location for the assembly, also raised questions yesterday.

Although it was not clear whether the cordoned off area was related to the protest, Law 11/2018, which promotes amendments to the Law 2/93/M, assures the right of the police chief to establish limitations on the time and space of protests. The police chief is responsible for authorizing protests.

As the PSP spokesperson reminded the public at yesterday's press conference, should people decide to go against the decision - and assemble in the square anyway - they will be committing the crime of "aggravated disobedience" with a penal framework of up to two years of imprisonment or 240 days of fines.

It was not immediately clear who was behind the call for the protest activity. New Macau Association issued a statement to clarify that the gathering was neither called for by the association nor by democrat legislator Sulu Sou.

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FIREWORKS CONTEST EXTENDED BY ANOTHER NIGHT THIS YEAR

LYNZY VALLES

THE Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) has invited 12 pyrotechnic teams to present firework displays themed "Duo Celebrations for Macau" to celebrate the 30th Macao International Fireworks Display Contest.

Held on weekends from September 7 until October 5, the organizer has increased the event to six days in length.

The contest will be staged on September 7, 13, 21, 28 and October 1 and 5, with teams from Malaysia, the Philippines, Portugal, South Korea, the United Kingdom, Romania, South Africa, Canada, France, China, Japan and Australia.

Fireworks companies from Malaysia and Australia will make their debut in Macau, while the other 10 teams have competed previously.

During the press conference yesterday, MGTO director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes said that the budget this year had increased slightly to MOP24 million.

"There is little bit more than MOP24 million this year and compared to last year, we have a 15% of increase [in the budget] this year, since we also had an increase of one [more] evening for the competition. We also have an increase in participating teams this year,"

the tourism chief said.

The director of MGTO also noted that it had partnered with Macau Cruise this year, allowing residents and visitors to catch the fireworks while on a cruise.

"We had this concept last year but we didn't have enough time, so this year, we can finally do it," she said.

"We hope tourists and residents can use the additional perspective to enjoy the fireworks display,"

Senna Fernandes added.

The 12 pyrotechnic teams will choreograph 18-minute fireworks shows to the song "Light Your Fire" by Mathew Lam Chun Yat, which won the bureau's songwriting contest last year as one of their background music scores.

MGTO will also organize a seminar about fireworks at the Macao Contemporary Art Centre – Navy Yard No.2. A representative of the pyrotechnic consultancy assigned this year will be invited to talk about the process of firework production, on-site installations and safety concerns for the contest, among other expert information. Residents can learn more about the operation behind the event and gain a deeper understanding of fireworks and the contest.

Meanwhile, speaking on the sidelines of the press conference, Senna Fernandes said the bureau would not issue any travel warnings for SAR residents traveling to Hong Kong.

She reiterated that tourism arrivals for July had recorded a two-digit increase, but the bureau is still waiting on the official data from the Statistics and Census Service.

"We have yet to see any drop or decrease of tourists so far. But for foreign tourists, we witnessed a slight slowdown of the figures," admitted Senna Fernandes.

Speaking to the press, Senna Fernandes said that the industry was seeing a decrease in tourist group arrivals.

"But at the same time, we think there is a great possibility that individual tourists are choosing Macau over Hong Kong and that they can supplement that decrease," she said.

Oxfam hopes Macau TowerRun will generate MOP1.6 million

OXFAM is organizing the Oxfam TowerRun at the Macau Tower on October 13 for the sixth consecutive year, the charity told a press conference yesterday.

The application period has already begun and will continue until September 20. The charity expects 500 participants this year and hopes to attract cash donations of MOP1.6 million.

According to the organization, the donations collected will be used for disaster relief. The funds will go towards medicine, food and other facilities crucial for immediate relief. A proportion of the funds will also be used to help improve the

lives of poor farmers by helping them to source seeds and livestock.

The run has four categories: male's full and half tower, and female's full and half tower. Runners will start at the Largo de Torre de Macau. They will climb the stairs at the tower's back of house. Full tower runners will run to the 61st floor, while half tower runners will only run 31 floors.

Among the dozens of co-organizing entities, the General Association of Athletics of Macau has been invited to collaborate on this event. This is the first time Oxfam has organized TowerRun with a sporting associa-

tion. The support given by the sports association includes professional referee services, which will be led by local veteran referee Ho Weng Hong.

Oxfam stated that at previous events, a total of MOP1.9 million in cash donations was collected and more than 1,000 runners have participated. The event started with only 80 runners and has developed beyond the charity's expectations, according to Oxfam.

Meanwhile, this year's primary sponsor, insurance company AIA, will donate an extra MOP100 for runners who manage to run 1,299 steps. The staircase of the Macau

Tower has a total of 1,298 steps. The extra step symbolizes a leap.

An association involving local pop entertainers, along with two Hong Kong Cantonese television program hosts, will also support the event by participating. Local Canto-pop singer Siufay, and Hong Kong TV hosts Brian Chan and Agnes Lam will take to the tower.

All three of them will take on the full tower run and have said that they have already started preparing for the occasion. They hope more people will sign up so that more donations will be generated for a good cause. **AL**

MACANESE GATHERING TO WELCOME OVER 1,000 OVERSEAS PARTICIPANTS

THIS year's Meeting of the Macanese Communities will see a record attendance of over 1,000 participants from outside of Macau, according to the president of the Macanese Communities Council, Leonel Alves.

The meeting, which is held every three years in Macau, will mark its 10th iteration in 2019.

It will be attended by representatives of 13 Macao Houses from around the world, and the program will include the presentation of the Greater Bay Development Plan, a cooking demonstration and a visit to a mainland city.

Earlier this week, Macau's Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam met with representatives of the Meeting of the Macanese Communities organizing committee.

Alves took the opportunity to thank the government for its continued support of this gathering, according to a statement published by the government yesterday. The event has brought together successive generations of Macanese people who have developed "a very visible affectionate relationship with Macau."

The secretary acknowledged the importance of this reunion and remarked that this year's event would coincide with the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Special Administrative Region of Macau.

Tam also stressed that Chief Executive Chui Sai On has always recognized the importance of the Macanese people for Macau's development. **DB**

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Victor Li with Li Ka-shing (center)

HONG KONG'S TYCOONS CALL FOR CALM AS PROTESTS HIT FORTUNES

HONG Kong's corporate elite have come off the sidelines to oppose the violent protests that have disrupted businesses in the city and slashed billions of dollars off their market value.

In full- and half-page newspaper advertisements Wednesday and Thursday, conglomerates including those founded by 91-year-old Li Ka-shing, the

city's richest person, and Henry Cheng, who runs a property-to-jewelry empire, called for restoring order and rule of law. Some supported the city's Beijing-backed authorities in their efforts to quell the unrest.

What started as protests over an extradition bill more than two months ago have widened into ongoing demonstrations against

Beijing's tightening grip on the semi-autonomous Chinese city. At least seven companies, all of them among the 10 worst performers on the benchmark Hang Seng Index over the past month, placed the ads after the unrest crippled Asia's financial hub.

"Save the economy, safeguard livelihood," said the advertisement by Cheng's New World Development Co., which has been tapped to build a HKD20 billion shopping-and-entertainment complex at Hong Kong's international airport. Li's CK Group ad urged readers to: "Rebuild a harmonious society." The notice by Henderson Land Development Co., one of the city's largest de-

velopers, asked: "Would a collapsed Hong Kong benefit you or your family?"

Since July 19, at least \$29 billion in market value has

Casino billionaire Lui Che-woo took out full-page advertisements yesterday in major HK newspapers

been wiped off the five flagship companies belonging to the CK group, Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd., Henderson and New World, which runs Chow Tai Fook Jewellery Group Ltd. Tycoons

with companies trading in Hong Kong have also absorbed losses, with the 10 wealthiest seeing their combined fortunes drop by about \$28 billion since the unrest began, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires index.

Hui Ka Yan, founder of property developer China Evergrande Group, has seen his net worth dip \$4.5 billion to \$29.6 billion. The wealth of CK's Li has declined by \$3.9 billion to \$30.6 billion, the index shows.

Land and casino billionaire Lui Che-woo took out full-page advertisements yesterday in major local newspapers, praising China's rise and its support of Hong Kong, urging young protesters to calm down and calling on the government to solve deep-rooted social problems such as unaffordable housing.

"I am especially saddened and find it hard to bear," said Lui, founder of casino operator Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd. and property developer K Wah International Holdings Ltd. "We are all of the same root and the same vein. I urge the government and all sectors to express goodwill and communicate rationally."

Sino Land Company Ltd. placed a newspaper ad as well.

Other groups that placed the ads include Swire Pacific Ltd., the parent of the city's flagship air carrier Cathay Pacific Airways. In a separate statement Tuesday, Swire said it "resolutely" supports the efforts of Hong Kong's government and police to restore law and order. Jardine Matheson Holdings Ltd., the conglomerate with deep roots in the city but listed in Singapore, echoed Swire's comments in a statement yesterday.

"Hong Kong's community should work together to restore the confidence of this great city and ensure the wellbeing and harmony of all its people," Jardine said. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

Company	Market value change*	Market value*
CK Hutchison	-\$5.9 billion	\$32 billion
CK Asset	-\$5.09 billion	\$23.8 billion
Sun Hung Kai	-\$10.2 billion	\$41.3 billion
Henderson Land	-\$4.7 billion	\$22.9 billion
Chow Tai Fook	-\$2.8 billion	\$7.88 billion

*In U.S. dollars. From July 19 through Wednesday's Hong Kong market close

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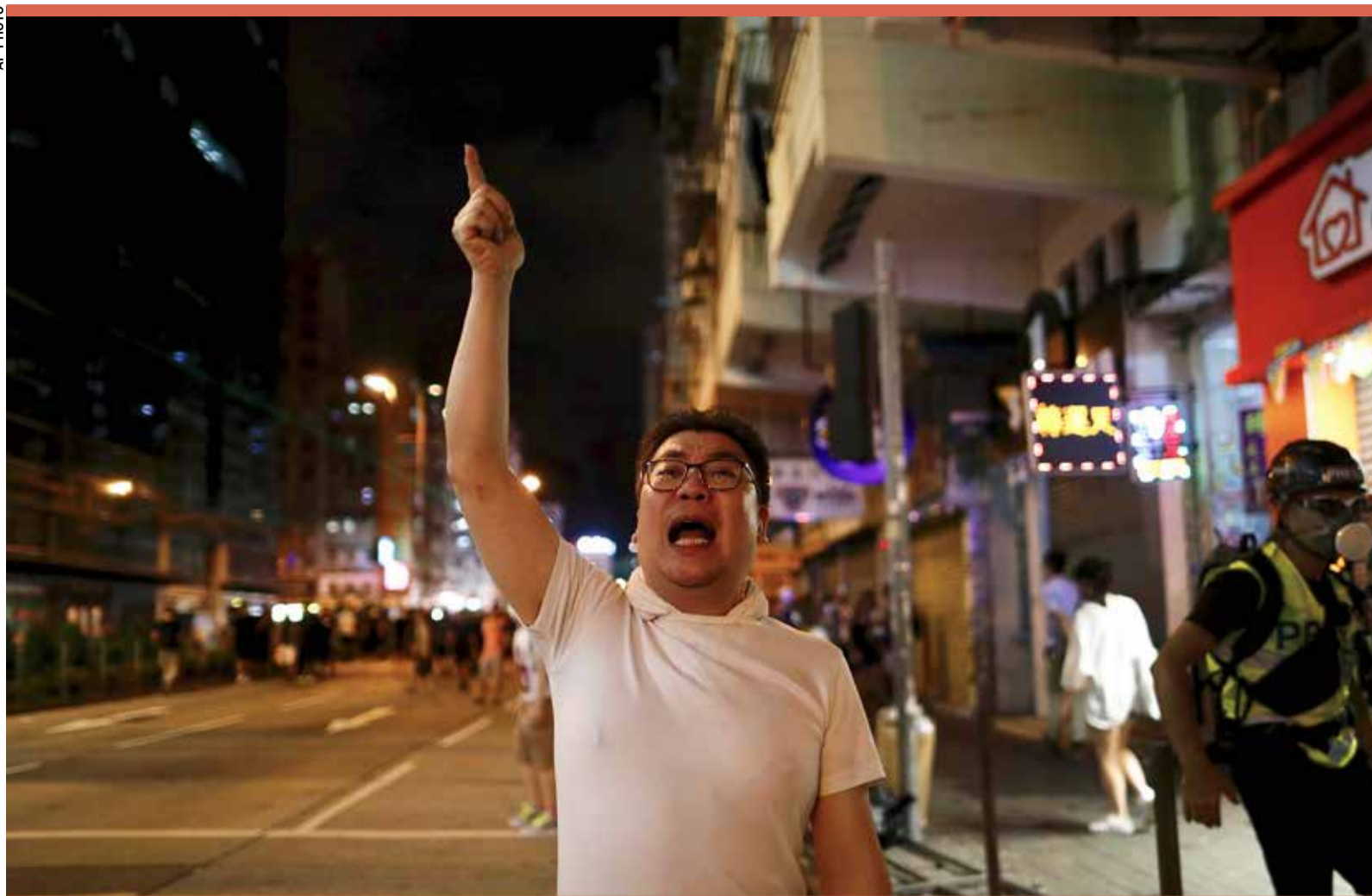
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AP PHOTO



HONG KONG

Hotels in crisis as protests deter Chinese tourists

HONG Kong's hotel industry is struggling with a collapse in bookings after thousands of protesters shut down flights from the territory's airport this week in an escalation of months of clashes with police.

Revenue from room sales is set to plunge as much as 50% this month, according to Yiu Si-wing, a Hong Kong lawmaker representing the tourism industry who said visits from mainland China that usually account for 80% of arrivals are down most as people fear for their safety.

The slump will deal a further blow to an economy that's already contracting after months of unrest, as well as fallout from the U.S.-China trade dispute. Yiu said hotel occupancy rates that averaged 90% in the first half will fall by a third or more and that arrivals from the mainland to Hong Kong - a key shopping destination for Chinese - could slow to a trickle.

"The impact on tourism is huge," Yiu said in an interview, estimating that half of mainland visitors due in August are likely to cancel or defer their plans. Yiu cited factors such as a reported

attack by protesters on a man suspected of being a security agent from the nearby city of Shenzhen. The incident was the top-trending topic on Chinese social media platform Weibo on Wednesday.

Mainland Chinese planning trips to Hong Kong expressed concern about the risks of traveling through the airport. Chinese officials and the state-run media are framing the protests as driven by violent extremists, highlighting instances in their coverage where protesters have allegedly attacked the police or civilians not involved in the demonstrations.

Grace Huang, a 20-year-old Wuhan University student, said she was reconsidering a one-day layover in the territory on her return from a visit to Canada. "I fear I'm going to be beaten," she told Bloomberg by telephone.

Beijing resident Jasmine Ji, 23, said she will delay a trip to Hong Kong to complete an application for permanent residency in a city where she previously graduated from university.

"I feel like my personal safety could be severely threatened if they find out I speak Mandarin or am a Chinese citizen," she said. "I

won't fly to Hong Kong airport until the situation and protests are settled there."

The protests, which have raged since June, entered a new phase this week with one of Asia's busiest air travel hubs shut down, forcing the cancellation of hundreds of flights. Demonstrators who initially hit the streets to oppose a bill allowing extradition to the mainland now have a host of demands including the resignation of Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam.

InterContinental Hotels Group Plc, the U.K. owner of the Crowne Plaza and Holiday Inn chains, said the protests contributed to a slowdown in business travel in China. The company's stock is down almost 10% from a record reached at the end of July.

Other companies with exposure to Hong Kong are also getting hit. Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd., owner of the Four Seasons, and New World Development Co., which runs hotels including the Grand Hyatt Hong Kong, have seen their shares fall more than 20% from last month's highs.

Room rates in Hong Kong are falling as a result of mounting safety concerns, according to the lawmaker, Yiu Si-wing.

A standard room this weekend at the upscale Conrad Hotel, owned by Hilton Worldwide and situated near a part of Hong Kong where protesters have tended to congregate, is priced at HKD1,530 (\$195) - more than 40% cheaper than the same booking two months later, according to prices on its website. Conrad didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Websites for hotels owned by Marriott International Inc. and Shangri-La Asia Ltd. showed similar discounts.

"The recent travel advisories and warnings issued by several countries have caused some cancellations from our overseas leisure, group and corporate guests," a Shangri-La Group spokesman said. "We have also seen a decline in the number of local patrons coming to our restaurants and outlets." **BLOOMBERG**

HK cuts taxes to shore up economy amid protests

HONG Kong's government announced tax cuts and higher social spending yesterday to reverse a deepening economic slump aggravated by anti-government protests and the U.S.-Chinese tariff war.

The territory's financial secretary, Paul Chan, cut this year's official growth forecast to zero from 1%, which would be the worst performance since 2009 during the global financial crisis.

Hurt by the plunge in U.S.-Chinese trade, growth already was declining before anti-government protests erupted this year over a proposed extradition law and other grievances.

"The recent social incidents have hit the retail trade, restaurants and tourism, adding a further blow to an already-weak economy," said a statement issued by Chan's agency.

It also cited the impact of slowing trade in Asia, global financial market

volatility and the risk of disorder as Britain leaves the European Union.

The measures announced yesterday will "provide impetus for our economy" and "help cushion the enterprises and people of Hong Kong against challenges," the statement said.

The changes will result in some 1.3 million taxpayers having their taxes waived, Chan said at a news conference. He said the government will increase payments for elderly and

low-income residents and provide subsidies to small businesses and parents of schoolchildren.

The package will cost a total of 19.1 billion Hong Kong dollars (\$2.4 billion), according to Chan.

Hong Kong's economic growth held steady at 0.6% over a year earlier in the quarter ending in June but economists have cut forecasts as the U.S.-Chinese trade war and protests mounted.

Tourist arrivals fell 31%

in the first week of August from a year ago, according to the territory's secretary of economic development, Yau Tang-wah.

Business from mainland visitors, who account for 80% of Hong Kong's tourists, fell 33%-50%, according to the Hong Kong Tourism Association.

Retail sales slid 6.7% in June from a year earlier, the government said. Retailers have told reporters they expect double-digit declines for July and August.

"There is a growing risk of an even worse outcome" if the confrontation between protesters and the government escalates, causing an outflow of capital, Julian Evans-Pritchard and Martin Lynge Rasmussen of Capital Economics said in a report.

The territory's central bank has reserves to defend the Hong Kong dollar's exchange rate, "but the city's property market would be hit hard, resulting in a deep recession," they said. **MDT/AP**

GAMING

YEAR AFTER TWO NEW CASINOS, ATLANTIC CITY REVENUE UP NEARLY 8%

WAYNE PARRY,
ATLANTIC CITY

A year after two new casinos opened in Atlantic City, the seaside resort's gambling and sports betting revenue is up nearly 8%, and its top casino had its best month ever.

Figures released Wednesday by the New Jersey Division of Gaming Enforcement show the casinos took in \$323 million, an increase of 7.8% from July 2018.

That's when the city's two newest casinos, Hard Rock and Ocean, were in their first full month of operation. July's figures were the first true apples-to-apples comparison in a year of how the Atlantic City casino market had been doing.

But perhaps the biggest news of the month was a record-setting performance from the Borgata, which has long been Atlantic City's top casino. It took in nearly \$88 million in casino and sports betting revenue, the most it ever had won in a single month. That's an increase of nearly 15% from a year earlier.

It came during the first full month of operation of a \$12 million sports betting and entertainment project the casino opened.

"Playing lucky in table games, complemented by healthy July volumes, led to Borgata enjoying an all-time record in total gaming revenue," Marcus Glover, the casino's president and chief operating officer, said in an emailed statement.

The Ocean Casino Resort took in \$20.1 million from gamblers in July, up 18% from a year earlier, when it was in its first



This July 25, 2019 photo shows casino employees bringing inflatable pool toys to Santa at the outdoor pool at the Ocean Casino Resort in Atlantic City

month of operation.

"We are very pleased with the continued profitability and growth of the property," said Michael Donovan, Ocean's senior vice president and chief marketing officer.

July, he said, marked the best month in the casino's history for gross and net slot revenue and hotel occupancy, including the two-plus years it operated as Revel.

The figures illustrate the recovery Atlantic City's casino industry has undergone in recent years. Just three years ago, the Hard Rock's predecessor, the Trump Taj Mahal, shut down, marking the fifth of the 12 Atlantic City casinos that operated in 2014 to go out of business.

The reopenings of Taj Mahal as Hard Rock and Revel as Ocean have restored several thousand jobs and boosted ca-

sino revenue, even as profits collectively fall for the resort, which now has more competitors than it did just a few years ago.

But the numbers also indicate potential problems for the three Atlantic City casinos owned by Caesars Entertainment, which was recently acquired by Eldorado Resorts, the owner of the Tropicana. The newly combined company owns four Atlantic City casinos, including the three Caesars properties — Caesars, Bally's and Harrah's — and there has been speculation the company may seek to divest itself of one or more of its New Jersey properties.

Hard Rock has seized the No. 2 spot in the Atlantic City market. It took in \$40.7 million in July, an increase of nearly 25% from its first month a year ago.

The Golden Nugget won \$34.5 million in July, up 17.4%;

Tropicana won nearly \$33 million, which was down 11% from a year ago; and Harrah's, which has fallen to the No. 4 spot after being second to Borgata for years, won just under \$30 million, down 5% from a year ago.

Caesars, at just under \$25 million, was down 15.2%; Bally's, at \$18.2 million, was down 11.3%; and Resorts, at \$18.1 million, was up 1.8%.

Internet gambling brought in more than \$39 million, an increase of nearly 52% from last year. Among internet-only entities, Resorts Digital took in \$10.5 million in July, up nearly 169% from a year ago, and Caesars Interactive-NJ won just over \$5 million, up nearly 35%.

So far this year, the casinos have taken in \$1.84 billion, an increase of more than 18% from the same period last year. AP

Ponca Tribe of Nebraska win another legal battle over casino

THE Ponca Tribe of Nebraska has scored another legal win in its fight to keep its casino in western Iowa open.

U.S. District Judge Stephanie Rose this week rejected motions in a lawsuit by the states of Iowa and Nebraska and the Iowa city of Council Bluffs seeking to derail the casino. The governments' motion sought to amend Rose's order earlier this year in which she required the National Indian Gaming Commission to revisit its 2017 ruling giving the tribe the right to build the Prairie Flower Casino on land it owns in Carter Lake.

This week's ruling was the most recent in the legal skirmish between the tribe and the state and local governments over the tribe's decade-long battle to open the casino on land it bought some 20 years ago. The tribe initially said it planned to build a health center on the Carter Lake lot. Council Bluffs and the states sued when the tribe later sought federal permission for a casino there.

In their latest motion, attorneys for Nebraska, Iowa and Council Bluffs had wanted the judge to declare that her order had vacated the commission's 2017 ruling, which likely would have required the casino to shut down as litigation dragged on. Rose rejected the request, saying "the disruptive consequences [...] would have been significant."

Closing down the casino would eliminate a revenue stream for the tribe and cost casino employees their jobs, the judge said. MDT/AP

CORPORATE BITS

Grand Lisboa Hotel presents designed mooncakes



In celebration of Mid-Autumn Festival and the first edition of Art Macao, Grand Lisboa Hotel are presenting designed mooncake gift boxes this year.

Dim Sum Head Chef Yau Wah Fai of The 8, Michelin three-star Chinese restaurant has introduced a new mooncake this year — 'The 8 Mooncake with Assorted Nuts'.

The gift box for 'The 8 Mooncake with Assorted Nuts' was designed after the paintings of "Hibiscuses" by Wu Guanzhong and "Coin du Jardin" by Paul Gauguin.

"The design of the mooncake gift box is a beautiful blend of the two classical Chinese and Western art forms, and bridges the cultures of East and West," according to the hotel in a press release.

The mooncakes will be ready for collection between August 30 and September 13, 2019 at The Hamper House or Round-The-Clock Coffee Shop.

Wynn Macau makes donation to support poverty alleviation in Congjiang



In response to the Macau government's and the Liaison Office's call for targeted poverty relief in Mainland China, Wynn Macau has partnered with the Macau Federal Commercial Association

of the Convention & Exhibition Industry (MCECA) in organizing trips to Congjiang and a 'Congjiang Gala Cultural Night'.

Over 70 Wynn employee volunteers, MCECA members,

as well as local teachers and students, travelled to Congjiang last November, as well as in March and May this year. Participants supported the poverty alleviation work in Congjiang and saw the villagers' needs and difficulties.

In addition, six Wynn team members from engineering-related departments conducted an inspection of the buildings that families live in. They also held follow-up meetings with their colleagues after they returned to Macau, in the hope of improving their living conditions by offering professional advice.

Linda Chen, Vice Chairman and Executive Director of Wynn Macau, presented a check of MOP3 million to Mr. Yao Jian, Deputy Director of the Liaison Office in Macau on August 14.

US says Taiwan defense spending to rise with China threat

AMERICA'S top representative in Taiwan said yesterday that Washington expects the island to continue increasing its defense spending as Chinese security threats to the U.S. ally continue to grow.

W. Brent Christensen said the U.S. had "not only observed Taiwan's enthusiasm to pursue necessary platforms to ensure its self-defense, but also its evolving tenacity to develop its own indigenous defense industry."

That was a nod to President Tsai Ing-wen's drive to develop domestic training jets, submarines and other weapons technology, supplementing arms bought from the U.S.

"These investments by Taiwan are commendable, as is Taiwan's ongoing commitment to increase the defense budget annually to ensure that Taiwan's spending is sufficient to provide for its own self-defense needs," Christensen said in a speech. "And we anticipate that these figures will continue to grow commensurate with the threats Taiwan faces."

Christensen is the director of the American Institute in Taiwan, which has served as the de facto U.S. Embassy in Taiwan since formal diplomatic relations were cut in 1979.

While China and Taiwan split during a civil war in 1949, Beijing still considers Taiwan Chinese territory and has increased its threats to annex the self-governing democracy by force if necessary.

Despite the lack of formal diplomatic ties, U.S. law requires Washington to ensure Taiwan has the means to defend itself.

AP PHOTO



Since 2008, U.S. administrations have notified Congress of more than \$24 billion in foreign military sales to Taiwan, including in the past two months the sale of 108 M1A2 Abrams tanks and 250 Stinger missiles, valued at \$2.2 billion dollars, Christensen said.

The Trump administration alone has notified Congress of \$4.4 billion in arms sales to Taiwan, he said.

China has responded furiously to all such sales and recently an-

nounced it would impose sanctions on any U.S. enterprises involved in such deals, saying they undermine China's sovereignty and national security.

Tsai has adamantly rejected Chinese pressure to reunite Taiwan and China under the "one-country, two-systems" framework that governs Hong Kong. She and many Taiwanese have said that the people of the island stand with the young people of Hong Kong who are fighting for democratic free-

doms in ongoing protests.

Tsai, who says she will seek a second four-year term next year, has said Taiwan was also stepping-up training as it prepared to transition to an all-volunteer force and has raised the defense budget for three consecutive years.

China's spending on the People's Liberation Army rose to 1.2 trillion yuan (USD178 billion) this year, making it the second-largest defense budget behind the United States.

Beijing has cut contacts with Tsai's government over Tsai's refusal to endorse its claim that Taiwan is a part of China and sought to increase its international isolation by reducing its number of diplomatic allies to just 17.

It has also stepped up efforts at military intimidation, holding military exercises across the Taiwan Strait and circling the island with bombers and fighters in what are officially termed training missions. AP

Chinese Champion Huawei under fire for calling Taiwan a country

ZHEPING HUANG
& VLAD SAVOV

YET another company is coming under fire for implying that Taiwan is independent from China. Only this time it's Chinese national champion Huawei Technologies Co.

People on the country's Weibo messaging service have expressed outrage that some Huawei and Honor smartphones listed "Taipei (Taiwan)" for users who select as their language of choice traditional Chinese, which is used on

the island. Customers who select simplified Chinese — used on the mainland — would see "Taipei (China)." The Weibo topic has been viewed more than 350,000 times, with some calling for a boycott of a telecommunications giant considered one of the country's crown jewels.

The outcry comes the same week that foreign brands such as Versace and Coach have apologized for making similar representations and drawing the ire of Chinese internet users. A Coach T-shirt, for example,

listed Taiwan as a country while also identifying Hong Kong as a city and country. China claims both Taiwan and Hong Kong as part of its territory.

Huawei's software has since been modified so that the offending Huawei and Honor phones now show "Taipei (China)," while phones outside China use Taipei with no country after it.

Chinese consumers have become a powerful force in pushing corporations to change their behavior, most often taking aim

at foreign companies. Critical coverage in state-controlled media often spurs internet users to call for boycotts on the country's social media platforms.

"There's a nationalist response on the internet that obviously the government stokes," said Andrew Polk, co-founder and partner of Beijing-based consultancy Trivium China. "It goes from official state media and then takes on a life of its own."

Chinese buyers now account for at least a third of the world's luxury sales

BLOOMBERG



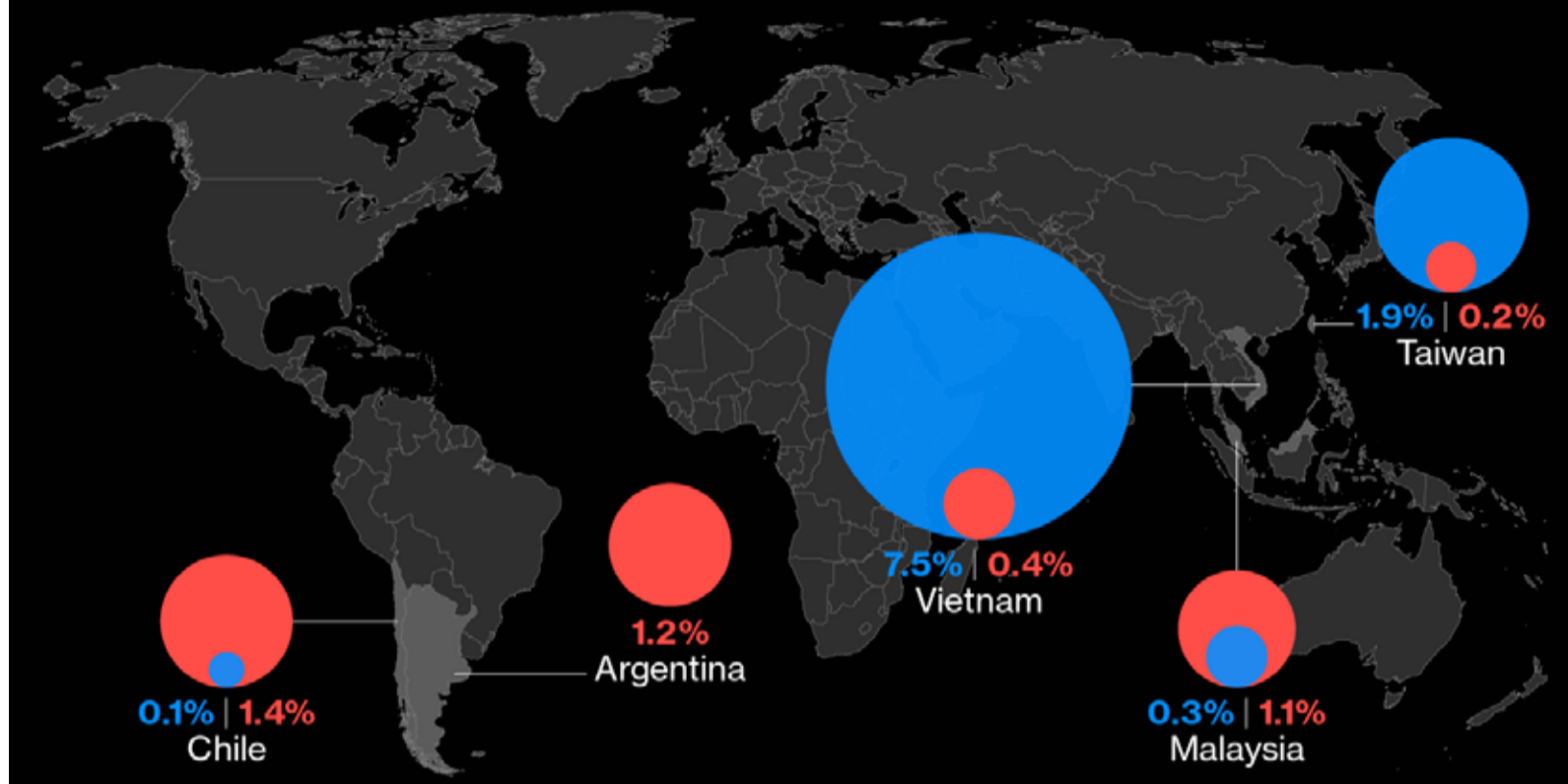
and two-thirds of that industry's growth, according to estimates from consultancy Bain & Co. So even companies that don't sell mass-market products, but which are increasingly

counting on China's wealthy middle class and burgeoning consumer market for growth, are learning the hard way that it pays to make amends — and fast. BLOOMBERG

BLOOMBERG

Vietnam and Taiwan have benefited most from tariff-related trade diversions

● Share of GDP from additional Chinese imports ● Share of GDP from additional U.S. imports



TRUMP TUMULT HAS GADGET GIANTS SPLITTING ALONG US-CHINA LINES

DEBBY WU

EVEN the unseasonable downpour couldn't dampen the spirits of the executives and officials gathered on the Indonesian island of Batam to cut the ribbon on a new Pegatron Corp factory. The men exchanged jokes as they took shelter under a white canopy, and when company vice chairman Jason Cheng pledged to hire hundreds of locals, the assembled audience erupted in applause.

This low-key July ceremony to launch a manufacturing outpost marked a critical first step into Southeast Asia for one of Apple Inc.'s most important suppliers. It also encapsulates a fundamental move of electronics production, set in motion by the escalating U.S.-China trade war, that may hurt the world's No. 2 economy while enriching Southeast Asia and beyond.

"Pegatron, and many more to come, is an opportunity," Edy Putra Irawady, head of a local agency charged with enticing capital, told the crowd. "Batam has prepared various incentives to chase the opportunity and attract more investment." Irawady is one of many making preparations for the most profound shift in global manufacturing since the advent of the made-in-China model in the 1980s: its potential dismantling.

Trump's flip-flops on trade, including a backtracking just this week on threats to slap punishing tariffs on USD300 billion of goods, are spurring an exodus from China of manufacturers. Some recognize that U.S.-Chinese tensions

won't fade soon, while others are just tired of the uncertainty. In one of the most dramatic responses since Trump first brandished full tariffs, HP laptop-maker Inventec Corp. declared plans to move its entire U.S.-bound laptop operations from China to its home base of Taiwan within months. "The trade war is very painful for us," President Maurice Wu said.

Like Pegatron, the makers of the world's electronics are increasingly rushing out of the way of Trump-administration tariffs on Chinese-made goods. Server motherboard makers for Google and Amazon.com Inc. are already shifting to Taiwan. Even Apple Inc., whose gargantuan Chinese production machine hires more people than any other private employer, is testing the waters. Goertek Inc., for one, is trying out production of AirPods in Vietnam, people familiar said. A Goertek representative declined to comment on the specifics of its Apple business but said the company will gradually make several products in both China and Vietnam.

The U.S. president's campaign of tariffs and export restrictions against Chinese champions like Huawei Technologies Co. threatens to up-end the production of the world's electronics, from iPhones and laptops to 4K televisions. The decades-old supply chain is starting to split in two: one beyond China's borders that serves American concerns, and another within the world's most populous country that caters to local consumers.

It's something Foxconn's billio-

naire founder, Terry Gou, calls "G2" or the emergence of two competing global standards created by China and the U.S. Gou -- who as Apple's main production partner helped pioneer the made-in-China model -- has volunteered to "help the U.S. reshape a new supply chain." Young Liu, Gou's successor, told shareholders the company could make every U.S.-bound iPhone outside of China if it had to.

While U.S.-based companies seek alternatives beyond mainland China, their counterparts in China likewise are "de-Americanizing" their supply chains, reducing their reliance on American core technology for fear they will suffer the same fate as Huawei. The company is now hunting for Asian and European component

Politically motivated trade protectionism may be spreading

makers to reduce its dependence on U.S. firms from Google to Micron.

In August, Huawei approved Taiwan-based wifi module maker RichWave Technology Corp. to supply parts that U.S. wireless semiconductor company Skyworks used to provide. Analysts including Kevin Chen of Taipei-based President Capital Management say Huawei is increasingly looking to Taiwan's Win Semiconductors to manufacture radio frequency chips previously supplied by Skyworks and compatriot integrated circuits maker Qorvo.

"Both U.S. and Chinese companies are diversifying their supply chains due to similar reasons -- to mitigate geopolitical risks," said Gordon Sun, director of the Taiwan Institute of Economic Research's Macroeconomic Forecasting Center.

Mere months ago, it seemed as if China had a virtual lock on the business of making the world's electronics -- an arrangement that benefited not just tech juggernauts from Dell Technologies Inc. to HP Inc. but also ensured jobs for millions across the country and fostered the growth of a massive domestic manufacturing industry.

While there's little chance that China will fully cede its mantle as the world's electronics workshop anytime soon, the outward-bound trend is accelerating. That's because the household names that built the technology industry's global supply chain aren't waiting to see how the conflict turns out.

Delta Electronics Inc., which makes power and cooling components for clients like Microsoft Corp. and Huawei, is moving some production back to its home base of Taiwan and to Thailand. It's also taking the unusual step of building three to four plants in India, responding to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Make-in-India program.

Modi's efforts to drive foreign companies to source components locally is showing success. Foxconn will start to churn out iPhones in the country this year after its print circuit board affilia-

te and Apple supplier Zhen Ding Technology Holding announced plans to invest there late last year. Luxshare Precision Industry Co., another Apple supplier, is considering moving some production of cables and connectors to India as well, according to people familiar, with one saying Apple made the request to the Chinese company. Calls to a number listed on the Luxshare website went unanswered and the company did not respond to an email seeking comment. Chinese smartphone brands including Huawei, Oppo and Xiaomi are all making handsets in India.

It's not just U.S.-China tension that keeps supply chain executives up at night. Politically motivated trade protectionism may be spreading. Japanese curbs on the export of vital chip- and display-making materials to South Korea -- the latest manifestation of lingering tensions stretching back to colonization by Tokyo and World War II -- threaten to further splinter the industry. If unresolved, that dispute may hinder efforts to sate the enormous appetites of Samsung Electronics Co. and SK Hynix Inc., expediting a production migration from Japan.

Any shift won't happen overnight. While moving assembly operations is unlike relocating a chip fabrication facility -- arguably the most expensive type of plant at \$10 billion or more to set up from scratch -- the cost can run into millions of dollars and entails a plethora of issues from licenses to new regulations and hiring. That's an additional burden that manufacturers with single-digit margins can ill afford.

"Our net profit margin stands at a mere 1.4% in the first quarter. The tariffs are 25%. We simply cannot help our customers absorb those," Quanta Computer Chairman Barry Lam said in May when talking about potential production shift and tariff impact.

Despite Trump's proclamations, the U.S. won't get many of the jobs moving out of China. Taiwan and Southeast Asia are first in line to absorb any manufacturing exodus. Vietnam has become the largest beneficiary of the trade war in the 12-month period beginning in the first quarter of 2018, gaining 7.9% of GDP from trade diversion, Nomura said in a June 3 note.

Batam, once a poverty-stricken corner of the Indonesian archipelago, is on the cusp of a boom thanks to abundant cheap labor and quick access to the adjacent trading hub of Singapore. Pegatron has poured \$40 million into its newest Indonesian plant, which will produce networking gear for the U.S. market. It's pledging to grow the workforce there from 40 people to as many as 1,800 eventually.

"We're very determined to invest more," said Pegatron's Cheng.

BLOOMBERG

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

KIM TONG-HYUNG, SEOUL

SOUTH KOREA

Moon calls for talks to end trade row with Japan

South Korean President Moon Jae-in offered an olive branch to Japan to end an ongoing trade dispute yesterday, saying Seoul will "gladly join hands" if Tokyo wants to talk.

Moon in a nationally televised speech also downplayed the threat posed by North Korea's recent short-range ballistic launches and expressed hope that Washington and Pyongyang would soon resume nuclear negotiations.

"If a country weaponizes a sector where it has a comparative advantage, the order of peaceful free trade inevitably suffers. A country that accomplished growth first must not kick the ladder away while others are following in its footsteps," Moon said in reference to Japan.

"If Japan better late than never chooses the path of dialogue and cooperation, we will gladly join hands," he said.

Moon's speech at a ceremony marking the 74th anniversary of Korea's liberation from Japanese rule at the end of World War II came amid heightened public anger and diplomatic fallout over Tokyo's recent moves to impose trade curbs on South Korea.

Seoul has accused Tokyo of weaponizing trade to target its export-dependent economy and

retaliate against South Korean court rulings calling for Japanese companies to offer reparations to South Koreans forced into labor during World War II. Tokyo's measures struck a nerve in South Korea, where many still harbor resentment over Japan's ruthless colonial rule from 1910 to 1945.

After threatening stern coun-

termeasures and declaring that South Korea would "never lose" to Japan again, Moon has taken a more conciliatory tone over the past week as there was relief in Seoul that the impact of Japan's trade measures might not be as bad as initially thought.

There have also been concerns that the government's nation-

alistic calls for unity were allowing public anger toward Japan to reach dangerous levels.

Nevertheless, tens of thousands of people were expected to join anti-Japan protests planned yesterday, including an evening candlelit vigil near Seoul's presidential palace.

Thousands of protesters dres-

sed in raincoats marched in heavy rain toward the Japanese Embassy in Seoul. They carried signs that said "Apologize for War Crimes" and "Compensate Forced Laborers."

"I have a lot that I want to say, but I can't," said an emotional Lee Chun-sik, 95, the only survivor among four plaintiffs who won a landmark compensation case last October against Japan's Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corp., decades after being forced to work at the company's steel mills during World War II.

Lee thanked the marchers for taking part.

The trade dispute comes as South Korea's relations with North Korea worsen. Pyongyang has been ignoring Seoul's calls for dialogue and in recent weeks test fired a slew of new short-range weapons that potentially threaten the South.

Experts say the North's recent launches are aimed at building leverage for nuclear talks with the United States, and pressuring Seoul to coax major concessions from Washington on its behalf.

"In spite of a series of worrying actions taken by North Korea recently, the momentum for dialogue remains unshaken," Moon said.

He called for new negotiations between the Koreas and the U.S. "at the earliest possible date." AP

AP PHOTO



AD



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JAPAN

NEW EMPEROR REMORSEFUL IN FIRST WAR ANNIVERSARY SPEECH

MARI YAMAGUCHI, TOKYO

EMPEROR Naruhito expressed "deep remorse" over Japan's role in World War II in his first appearance at the annual ceremony marking the end of the hostilities.

The 59-year-old Naruhito is Japan's first emperor born after the war, and his remarks yesterday closely followed the stance of his father, Akihito, who abdicated in May.

"Reflecting on our past and bearing in mind the feelings of deep remorse, I earnestly hope that the ravages of war will never be repeated," Naruhito said in a short speech at an event in Tokyo marking the 74th anniversary of Japan's surrender.

Looking nervous and his voice slightly trembling, Naruhito pledged to reflect on the wartime past and expressed hope that the tragedy should never be repeated. Empress Masako, in a gray suit and a hat, quietly stood by his side, her head slightly lowered.



Naruhito has promised to follow in the footsteps of his father, who committed his career to making amends for a war fought in the name of Hirohito — the current emperor's grandfather. Though Akihito has avoided a direct apology, he has subtly stepped up his expressions of regret over the past years in carefully scripted statements on the war.

In sharp contrast, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe did not apo-

logize or acknowledge Japanese wartime atrocities in Asia and elsewhere. Instead, he made a long list of damage inflicted on Japan and its people, including the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, massive fire bombings of Tokyo and the fierce battle of Okinawa.

The emperor's words have taken on greater importance and caught attention as Abe has increasingly sought to whitewash

Japan's troubled and embarrassing past since taking office in December 2012. Abe has since stopped acknowledging Japan's wartime hostilities in his Aug. 15 speech, ending a tradition that past prime ministers had handed down since the 1995 apology by a Socialist leader Tomiichi Murayama.

Abe made no reference to Japan's ongoing dispute with South Korea over trade and compensation demands over brutal treatment of Korean laborers during Japanese colonization of the Korean Peninsula in 1910-1945. He pledged that Japan will reflect on lessons from history and will not repeat the devastation of war, while joining international efforts to tackle world problems.

Abe, however, stayed away from a Tokyo shrine that honors convicted war criminals among the war dead, and instead sent a religious offering, a gesture to avoid angering China and South Korea, which consider the Yasukuni shrine as a symbol of Japan's militarism. AP

THAI COURT APPROVES CONTINUED DETENTION OF 2 BOMB SUSPECTS

A court in Thailand yesterday extended the detention of two suspects accused of planting two small bombs in front of police headquarters in Bangkok while Southeast Asian foreign ministers were meeting nearby.

The two men were arrested as they traveled south just hours after the devices were found unexploded on August 1. Ten small bombs exploded at various points in Bangkok on August 2 as the meeting of the Association of Southeast Nations continued with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in attendance.

Police are seeking four other suspects in addition to the two in custody.

Wildon Maha and Lu-ai Saengae, who were heavily guarded by a police SWAT team as they arrived Thursday at Bangkok Criminal Court, are from the southern province of Narathiwat and were apprehended on a bus at a police checkpoint on August. AP

AD

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Italy's political crisis on display in migrant boat battle

FRANCES D'EMILIO, ROME

A humanitarian boat carrying 147 migrants rescued at sea was anchored in choppy waters yesterday near a southern Italian island while the country's interior and defense ministers sparred over its fate, reflecting Italy's escalating political crisis.

Two weeks after rescuing migrants in the Mediterranean Sea off Libya, the Spanish rescue ship Open Arms entered Italian territorial waters after an Italian court overruled a ban on it by right-wing Interior Minister Matteo Salvini. He responded by renewing his ban against Open Arms entering Italian waters and docking at the island of Lampedusa to disembark its passengers, but Defense Minister Elisa-

betta Trenta refused to counter-sign it.

"Day 14. We see land. Lampedusa," tweeted Open Arms.

Trenta said she acted "listening to my conscience."

"We can't forget that behind the polemics of these days there are children and youths who suffered violence and every kind of abuse," she said in a statement explaining her refusal. "Politics can't lose humanity."

"Italians need a strong government, that doesn't allow timidity when the security and borders of the homeland are at stake," Salvini responded in a tweet.

The sharp squabbling between Salvini, who leads the anti-migrant League party, the populist government's junior partner, and Trenta, who is from the 5-Star Movement, the senior

coalition party, reflects exploding political tensions that have put Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte's 14-month-old government on the verge of collapse.

Salvini says Italy has already received hundreds of thousands of migrants rescued at sea in recent years who have applied for asylum. He insists that other European Union nations accept more migrants, most of whom are fleeing poverty and aren't eligible for refugee status.

The Spanish government said it will take some of the migrants on the ship provided other European nations do so, too.

"Our country is ready to take part in a balanced distribution of the migrants aboard the ship," the office of caretaker Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez said.

Salvini's League stokes fears

that migrants are to blame for crime and feeds resentment among his voter base against Brussels for its lack of solidarity, since EU rules hold that migrants must apply for asylum in the country where they set foot.

Salvini is openly campaigning to be Italy's next premier even though no new elections have been set. He seized upon the Open Arms stalemate, the latest in a series of standoffs, to blame Italy's migrant plight on the previous center-left governments led by the Democratic Party (PD), now Parliament's biggest opposition force.

"It's thanks to this presumed concept of 'humanity' that in years of the PD governments that Italy became the refugee camp of Europe," Salvini said on Facebook.

Maneuvering this week among Italy's political leaders has raised the possibility of the 5-Stars forging an alliance with the Democrats to thwart Salvini's quest for the premiership.

Salvini's League last week lodged a no-confidence vote against government, precipitating the country's political crisis. Conte, who will address the Senate on Tuesday, would be forced to resign if the non-confidence motion succeeds.

If any deal between the 5-Stars and the Democrats lines up enough support in Parliament for an alternative ruling coalition, Italy's president could hold off on dissolving Parliament and avoid a new election this fall.

Salvini has vowed to appeal the court ruling on the ship, but with yesterday a national holiday it was unclear if or when a decision could be made.

"One can't understand why an Italian judge can allow it to enter our waters" after the boat was previously in Maltese waters, Salvini tweeted.

Italian RAI state radio said two navy ships, which report to Trenta's ministry, are nearby to evacuate the children, a day after Conte asked Salvini to allow them to leave the ship.

Even as the fighting over Open Arms played out, another migrant rescue boat drama loomed.

The Ocean Viking, a Norwegian ship operated by Doctors Without Borders and SOS Mediterranean, was awaiting word where it can safely disembark 356 migrants who it plucked to safety from traffickers' unseaworthy boats. So far it has appealed to Italy and Malta in vain.

A UNICEF regional official urged immediate action to at least let the minors on the rescue boats land.

"It is unconscionable that once again politics have been prioritized over saving the lives of children who are stranded on the Mediterranean Sea," Afshan Khan said, noting that the two ships had 130 children and "only 11 of the 103 children aboard the Viking Ocean are accompanied by a parent or guardian."

The U.N. refugee agency has urged European governments to step forward and agree to take those stranded on the rescue boats. AP

Captain hailed hero after bird strike disables Russian plane

VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV, MOSCOW

THE captain of a Russian passenger jet was hailed as a hero yesterday for landing his plane in a cornfield after it collided with a flock of gulls seconds after

takeoff, causing both engines to malfunction. While dozens of people sought medical assistance, only one was hospitalized.

The event drew comparisons to the 2009 "Miracle on the Hudson," when a captain ditched his plane

in New York's Hudson River after a bird strike disabled his engines.

The Ural Airlines A321 carrying 226 passengers and a crew of seven hit the birds as it was taking off from Moscow's Zhukovsky airport en route for Simfe-

ropol, in Crimea.

Russia's Rosaviatsiya state aviation agency chief Alexander Neradko told reporters that the crew "made the only right decision" to land the fully loaded plane immediately after both of the plane's en-

gines malfunctioned.

"The crew has shown courage and professionalism and deserve the highest state awards," he said.

The plane was fully loaded with 16 tons of kerosene, he added.

"Just imagine what the consequences would be if the crew didn't make the correct decision."

The airline said the captain, 41-year old Damir Yusupov, is a highly experienced pilot who has logged over 3,000 flight hours. AP

TV canal macau 

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

cinema 

CINETEATRO

15 - 21 Aug

DORAEMON THE MOVIE: NOBITA'S CHRONICLE OF THE MOON EXPLORATION
ROOM1
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)

BODIES AT REST
ROOM1
9:30pm
Director: Renny Harlin
Starring: Nick Cheung, Richie Jen, Zi Yang
Language: Cantonese (English & Chinese)
Duration: 94min

LITTLE Q
ROOM 2
2:30, 7:30, 9:30pm
Director: Wing-Cheong Law
Starring: Allie Chan, Ming Hu, J.J. Jia
Language: Cantonese (English & Chinese)
Duration: 107min



TOY STORY 4
ROOM2
4:30pm
Director: Josh Cooley
Starring: Will Smith, Mena Massoud, Naomi Scott
Language: Cantonese
Duration: 109min



THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 2
ROOM3
2:30, 4:30, 7:30pm
Director: Thurop Van Orman
Starring: Jason Sudeikis, Josh Gad, Leslie Jones
Language: Cantonese (English & Chinese)
Duration: 96min



CRAYON SHINCHAN 2019
ROOM3
2:15pm
Director: Masakazu Hashimoto
Starring: Yumiko Kobayashi, Toshiyuki Morikawa, Miki Narahashi
Language: Cantonese
Duration: 100min

this day in history 



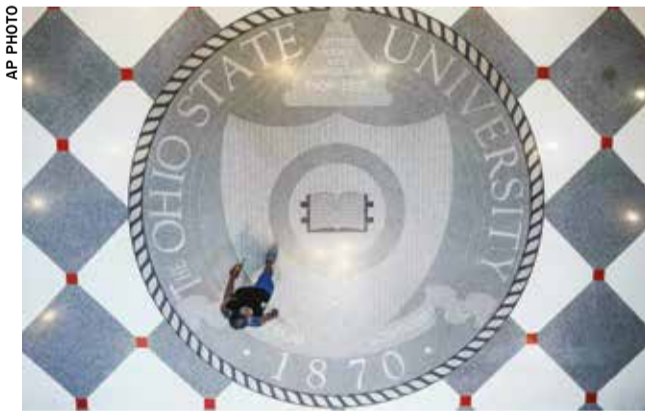
1977 ROCK AND ROLL 'KING' PRESLEY DIES

Elvis Presley, whose singing and style revolutionized popular music in the 1950s, has died. Presley, 42, was discovered slumped in a bathroom at his mansion in Memphis, Tennessee on Tuesday. He was rushed to the Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis but was pronounced dead on arrival. The Tennessee state pathologist, Dr. Jerry Francisco, said a post mortem examination of the singer's body had revealed he died of cardiac arrhythmia - a form of heart attack. "The precise cause has not yet been determined for the cardiac arrhythmia," Dr Francisco said. "It may take several days to several weeks to determine that specific cause and in some cases it never is determined." The three-hour examination uncovered no sign of any other diseases or any drug abuse, Dr Francisco added. Presley was divorced from his wife Priscilla in 1973 but it was rumoured that he had recently become engaged to Ginger Alden, 20. She was reportedly spotted wearing a \$50,000 (£20,315) diamond engagement ring from Presley. Ms Alden and other members of his entourage were at Graceland when he collapsed. There had been indications of Elvis Presley's declining health for some time. Earlier this year the singer had cancelled several performances in Louisiana and returned to Memphis suffering what his doctors termed "exhaustion". No arrangements have been announced yet for his funeral which is scheduled for Friday.

Courtesy BBC News

Offbeat

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY SEEKS TO TRADEMARK THE WORD 'THE'



Ohio State University wants to trademark the word "The" when used as part of the school's name on university merchandise. The Columbus Dispatch reports the school submitted a trademark application this month to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. The application requests a standard character trademark for the title "The Ohio State University" that would cover various items including T-shirts, baseball caps and hats. University spokesman Chris Davey confirms the application. A statement from Davey says the school "works to vigorously protect the university's brand and trademarks." The school has previously secured other trademarks, including names of football coaches Woody Hayes and Urban Meyer. An Ohio State spokesman said last fall that the university had 150 trademarks in 17 countries and other applications pending.

IN CONTEXT

Thousands gathered to file past Elvis Presley's body which lay in state at his mansion, Graceland, the day after his death. Although it was officially stated that he died of heart failure there has always been speculation that an overdose of cocaine and barbiturates also played a part. Since his divorce from Priscilla in 1973 he had relied heavily on prescription drugs and was known to be a junk-food addict, gaining a considerable amount of weight. During his lifetime he sold over 300 million albums and made 33 films. His death has been lucrative for the "Elvis industry". In 2001 he came top in US magazine Forbes' poll of "Richest Deceased Celebrities". It put Elvis estate's earnings in 2000 at \$35m (£23m) - \$15m (£10m) of it from Graceland admission fees.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Paying close attention to how you come off to other people is not vain or silly - it's actually quite practical. After all, having a good reputation is very important.

GEMINI May. 21-Jun. 21
It's wise to behave well around a boss, but it is equally important to treat coworkers with the amount of respect that you would like to be given. After all, a partner can turn into an authority someday.

LEO Jul. 23-Aug. 22
First impressions are strong impressions, but they are not always correct impressions! Keep that in mind today when you are reunited with someone who turned you off with their arrogance at your first meeting.

LIBRA Sep. 23-Oct. 22
Your old issues deserve to be where all old issues belong: In the past. Do not try to hold on to water as it flows under the bridge - you'll just end up getting all wet (not to mention frustrated).

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Follow any urge you might have today to penny-pinch! What's that? You don't have the urge to save money today? Well, try to get one! Money is getting tighter soon.

AQUARIUS Jan. 20-Feb. 18
You're the source of inspiration for someone today - bask in the glory of their admiration, and don't shy away from the spotlight that they're shining on you!

TAURUS Apr. 20-May. 20
Your plans are firm, and for once you cannot be the one who bends and make sacrifices in order to fit into someone else's plans. Use your charm and logic to enlighten the people you're dealing with.

CANCER Jun. 22-Jul. 22
You are not the first person to have problems at work, although you could be the first person to be going to these lengths to avoid dealing with them.

VIRGO Aug. 23-Sep. 22
More often than not, your hard work pays off. So do not hesitate to put a little sweat equity into this day if you see a chance to get a little further in a goal or on a project.

SCORPIO Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Keeping your gaze fixed so far into the future has created some distance between you and your people right now, and it's time for you to remember what it's like to live in the moment.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 19
No matter how much power and influence you have over people and judgments today, you cannot ensure a positive outcome. There is more out of your control than in your control.

PISCES Feb. 19-Mar. 20
So go ahead - sing the praises of your most helpful coworkers, tout the skills of your favorite mechanic, or even just recommend your favorite sushi restaurant. Spread the praise around!

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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		4					2	6
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MEDIUM

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HARD

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		6		7	5			
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	1							

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	25	30	thundershower
Harbin	17	22	thundershower
Tianjin	26	32	thundershower
Urumqi	24	37	clear
Xi'an	22	28	drizzle
Lhasa	10	22	cloudy
Chengdu	24	32	shower
Chongqing	26	33	cloudy
Kunming	17	25	shower
Nanjing	28	34	shower
Shanghai	28	32	moderate rain
Wuhan	27	36	clear
Hangzhou	27	31	moderate rain
Taipei	26	27	heavy rainstorm
Guangzhou	28	37	cloudy
Hong Kong	28	35	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	11	17	moderate rain
Frankfurt	16	26	clear
Paris	19	28	drizzle
London	18	24	moderate rain
New York	21	32	drizzle

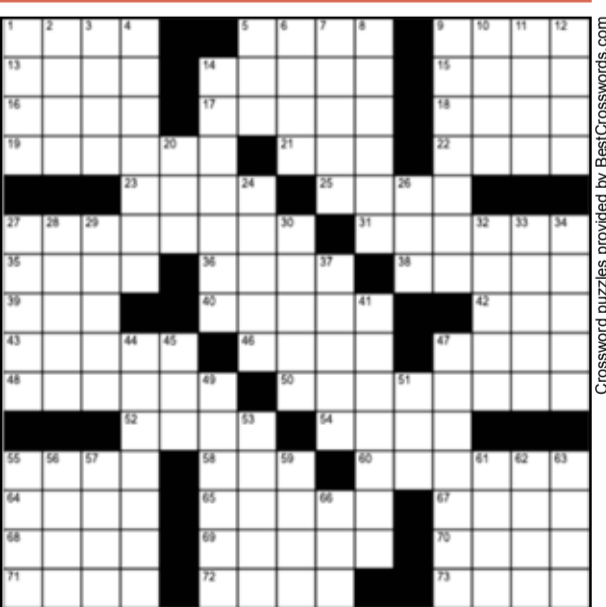
CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- "Believe" singer; 5- Talented; 9- Old-fashioned pronoun; 13- Contest, ethnicity; 14- Toes the line; 15- Travel on; 16- Breakfast chain, for short; 17- Fewest; 18- Continuously; 19- Simple song; 21- Get thee ___ nunnerly; 22- Aviation prefix; 23- Org.; 25- Former Fords; 27- Teacher; 31- Worn away; 35- Perry's creator; 36- Cabinet dept.; 38- Foe; 39- Destiny; 40- Play parts; 42- Actor Chaney; 43- Sign up; 46- Fodder holder; 47- Locale; 48- Grim character; 50- College grounds; 52- Legumes; 54- Calendar span; 55- First name in folk music; 58- Fine hair; 60- Church instruments; 64- Revivalists; 65- Marketing connection; 67- "The Time Machine" people; 68- About, in memos; 69- Chopin composition; 70- Hilarious person; 71- Tournament favorite; 72- Seized vehicle; 73- Cravings;

DOWN: 1- Child's bed; 2- That's a laugh!; 3- Earth sci.; 4- Provide a substitute for; 5- Face on a fiver; 6- Heart ___; 7- Popular disinfectant; 8- Property; 9- Federal crime; 10- Busy place; 11- Fulda tributary; 12- First name in architecture; 14- Elderly person; 20- Botanist Gray; 24- Things to avoid; 26- Dr. of rap; 27- Conger catcher; 28- Honeybee; 29- Part of UHF; 30- Thing of the past; 32- Some are kosher; 33- Engage in histrionics; 34- Units of force; 37- Pass on; 41- Anybody; 44- Against; 45- "Brokeback Mountain" director; 47- Medical procedure; 49- Roof timber; 51- Hole goal; 53- Hotel offering; 55- Black cuckoos; 56- It's put before Descartes; 57- Folk wisdom; 59- Enlist again; 61- That's ___!; 62- Midday; 63- Parks oneself; 66- Chapel vow;

Yesterday's solution

S	U	E	D	E	T	S	P	M	A	S	O	N
T	A	R	N	I	S	H	E	D	N	A	M	E
S	H	O	O	P	S	E	M	I	T	S		
G	O	A	T	E	E	A	R	E	A			
F	R	A	S	E	R	D	A	R	L	I	N	G
T	E	R	M		H	O						
S	P	E	N	D	E	R						
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N	O	O	N	E		A	V	A	L	A	N	C
T	R	O	N	S		L	E	T		D	O	N
S	T	P	A	T		O	N	E				



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



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- [Coloane] Coloane apartment 3 2 2
1,665 ft² \$8,500,000 (ref: 19070001)
- [Taipa] One Central 2 2 2
1,269 ft² \$13,900,000 (ref: 19070002)
- [Cotai] One Grantai 4 2 2
2,556 ft² \$25,600,000
- [Taipa] Manhattan Carpark
\$1,530,000 (ref: 19045003)

FOR RENT

- [Macau] Duplex 1 1 1
\$9,800/mth
- [Taipa] One Grantai 3 3 3
2,122 ft² \$23,000/mth (ref: 19030001RT)
- [Taipa] Manhattan 3 2 2
\$23,800/mth (ref: 18110695RT)
- [Taipa] Nova Grand 2 1 1
986 ft² \$16,000/mth (ref: 19055007RT)

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I REMEMBER WOODSTOCK

AP PHOTO



WOODSTOCK fans are expected to get back to the garden to mark the 50th anniversary of the generation-defining festival.

Bethel Woods Center for the Arts is hosting a series of events Thursday through Sunday at the bucolic 1969 concert site, 80 miles (130 kilometers) northwest of New York City.

Woodstock veteran Arlo Guthrie is set to perform Thursday eve-

ning before an outdoor screening of the concert documentary on the famous field.

There won't be overcrowding and chaos this time. Visitors need event tickets and travel passes to drive to the site through the weekend.

An estimated 400,000 people showed up for the original festival on upstate New York farmland Aug. 15-18, 1969.

AP PHOTO



POLICE ARREST MAN IN ATTACK ON COMEDIAN ANDY DICK

AUTHORITIES have made an arrest in an attack on comedian Andy Dick outside a New Orleans nightclub where he had performed.

In a news release, New Orleans police spokesman Aaron Looney says 46-year-old David Hale was arrested early Wednesday and booked into jail on suspicion of second-degree battery and simple battery.

Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office spokesman Philip Stelly said he did not know whether Hale

had an attorney.

Dick told The Times-Picayune/The New Orleans Advocate someone punched him early Saturday, knocking him out for 15 minutes. Dick was outside the French Quarter club when he was punched.

Robert Couvillion, who promoted the show, says the performer didn't have any reason to expect to be attacked.

The comedian and musician is known for his role in the 1990s NBC-TV show "NewsRadio."

LAUREN DAIGLE GETS 6 NOMINATIONS FROM DOVE AWARDS

CHRISTIAN recording artist Lauren Daigle, who has had major crossover success with her single, "You Say," received six nominations Wednesday from the Gospel Music Association's Dove Awards.

Daigle's nominations include artist of the year and song of the year.

"You Say" topped both Billboard's adult contemporary and Chris-

tian airplay charts. KING & COUNTRY, Hillsong UNITED, MercyMe and TobyMac are also vying for artist of the year.

Writer/producer Wayne Haun is the overall leading nominee with 10. Recording artists Kirk Franklin and for KING & COUNTRY have five nominations each.

The awards show will be held Oct. 15 in Nashville.

AP PHOTO



AD

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

FOOTBALL

UEFA postpones Champions League talks as clubs, leagues row

CHANGES to the Champions League are unlikely to be decided this year after UEFA yesterday called off joint talks with the heads of European clubs and leagues who have spent months arguing over a potential radical overhaul of the formats of European competitions.

European Club Association chairman Andrea Agnelli, who has been criticized for championing a largely closed Champions League, and European Leagues president Lars-Christer Olsson were due to jointly meet UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin on Sept. 11.

"I have decided to postpone the meeting," Ceferin wrote to Agnelli and Olsson in a letter obtained by The Associated Press. "I will send a new invitation as soon as I think that we are ready for a meaningful discussion."

The letter was sent a day before the ECA executive board, led by the Juventus chairman Agnelli, meets in private in Liver-



UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin and Ali Turganbekov, from Kazakhstan (right) hand the trophy to Liverpool's team captain Jordan Henderson

pool to discuss their vision for an overhaul of continent-wide club competitions from 2024. The third competition — provisionally called Europa League Two — is already due to launch in 2021.

"We are currently in the process of gathering feedback from our national associations," Cefe-

rin wrote, "and I feel — more generally — that a new discussion now would be premature as we are analyzing feedback and proposals coming from different parties."

The European Leagues group has fiercely opposed Agnelli's core idea of restricting access to the

Champions League and Europa League, as have dozens of teams from across the continent who are members of the ECA.

A proposal presented earlier this year by UEFA would guarantee 24 of 32 Champions League group teams return the following season, introducing significant promotion and relegation with the Europa League. Leagues fear end-of-season intrigue will be reduced in their competitions, with finishing positions currently determining qualification for Europe.

"As you know very well, UEFA deliberately kicked off the review process for the 2024/27 competition cycle much ahead of our regular schedule and we are therefore in no hurry," Ceferin told Agnelli and Olsson. "We do not, in any case, expect to make a decision this year."

The ECA has been calling for eight-team groups in the Champions League instead of the current four. That would guarantee clubs more revenue from UEFA

for playing 14 games before the knockout rounds instead of the current six.

This would benefit the illustrious clubs who want to play each other more often in Europe, appearing to be dissatisfied with a lack of competition at home. Juventus has won eight straight Italian titles, Bayern Munich has won the last seven in Germany, and Paris Saint-Germain has won six of seven in France.

The English Premier League is the leading force resisting dramatic changes to the Champions League and claims to have backing from all of its teams. That includes Manchester United, whose executive vice chairman Ed Woodward is an ECA executive board member.

Atletico Madrid led the attack from Spain — which Barcelona and Real Madrid didn't sign up to — by accusing the ECA of launching a "frontal attack" on the stability of the European game by advocating a model that harms domestic leagues.

The concept would see eight Champions League teams relegated each season into the following year's Europa League, with half having to go through a playoff round to reach the second-tier's group stage.

The four Europa League semi-finalists would be promoted into the next season's Champions League group stage. **AP**

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OPINION

World Views

Shuli Ren, Bloomberg

TRUMP'S YIELD CURVE PANIC PROMPTS TRADE-WAR OVERTURE

It only took a small taste of what a U.S. recession might be like for President Donald Trump to suggest that he wants a trade deal with China after all.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average plunged 800 points in its worst rout of the year after the gap between the two-year and 10-year Treasury yields turned negative for the first time since 2007. An inverted yield curve has preceded the last seven recessions in the U.S.

Ever sensitive to stock movements, the president tried to calm the markets after the close. Abandoning his hawkish trade rhetoric, Trump extended an olive branch to Chinese President Xi Jinping in a series of tweets, calling him a "great leader" and a "good man." He ended his posts with "Personal meeting?," without specifying whether he was proposing a summit.

The question is how Xi will respond to Trump's overture. Who's more desperate for a trade deal right now?

Consider where China and the U.S. are in their respective business cycles. Since the trade war started, American consumers have sat tight and enjoyed their prosperity – just as Trump has boasted. China's economy, by contrast, has been having a much tougher time. In the past year and a half, Beijing has had to deal with all sorts of credit issues that could escalate into a wider economic crisis.

Examples abound. Last year, regulators changed margin-financing rules as the stock market suffered one of the world's worst routs. The declines stemmed partly from listed companies pledging shares as collateral to secure short-term bank financing. This spring, the People's Bank of China undertook the first commercial bank seizure in two decades and was forced to calm ensuing jitters in the interbank market. Meanwhile, Beijing has had to deal with periodic peer-to-peer lending crises and bond defaults by state-affiliated entities.

That might sound bad, but it helps China now. If a fireman has to put out fires every day for a year, he gets more proficient. That's where Beijing is now.

The same can't be said of the U.S. The slide in its sovereign long-term bond yields – a measure of investor confidence – has been fast and furious. Just two weeks ago, when Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell described the U.S. rate cut as a "mid-cycle adjustment," the gap between the 2-year and 10-year bond yields was still 21 basis points. On Thursday morning in Asia, the 30-year yield, which more reflects traders' view of the overall health of the economy rather than the depth of the current easing cycle, fell to a record low below 2%.

To be sure, China's economy is slowing: Industrial output growth is at its weakest since 2002. But digging deep into the data, the picture that emerges is of a government that's measured and confident. For instance, some of the weakness in the July data reflected moves to rein in shadow financing and restart property deleveraging. If Beijing wants better-looking industrial output numbers, it just needs to reopen the liquidity taps – as we saw in the first quarter.

On Thursday, the PBOC was showing no signs of panic. The central bank rolled over 383 billion yuan (\$54 billion) of medium-term facility loans with interest rates unchanged. While the world's largest central banks are racing toward zero rates, the PBOC has been sitting on the sidelines, saving its firepower for later.

China's system has its advantages when it comes to economic management, as I've written. The ability of ministries to co-ordinate their policy responses means China can practice the ultimate in modern monetary theory, which is probably what the U.S. needs right now to restore its yield curve.

So while Trump may think his olive branch is a big deal, the message to Washington is: Don't think you've got China on the ropes. Xi was panicking a year ago; he can afford to wait now.

NASA scientists are crisscrossing Greenland on a mission to track melting ice.

Greenland has been melting faster in the last decade and this summer, it has seen two of the biggest melts on record since 2012.

Global warming is the chief culprit, but scientists want to know how this is happening. Both warmer air and warmer water are



eating away at Greenland, causing it to lose billions of tons of ice daily in the summer.

A team of scientists and engineers aboard a research plane this week are dropping probes into the ice to help figure out which is the bigger cause.

If water is playing a bigger role than scientists had thought, that could mean seas will be rising faster than expected.

VIRGIN GALACTIC UNVEILING MISSION CONTROL FOR SPACE TOURISM

SPACEPORT America is no longer just a shiny shell of hope that space tourism would one day launch from this remote spot in the New Mexico desert.

The once-empty hangar that anchors the taxpayer-financed launch and landing facility has been transformed into a custom-tailored headquarters where Virgin Galactic will run its commercial flight operations.

Two levels within the futuristic building include mission control, a preparation area for pilots and a lounge for paying customers and their friends and families. Company officials will offer the first glimpse Thursday.

There's also space behind two massive sliding doors that can accommodate two of Virgin Galactic's carrier planes and a fleet of its six-passenger rocket ships.

Just how soon customers will be filing into Virgin Galactic's newly outfitted digs for the first commercial flights has yet to be determined. Company officials have said a small number of test flights are still needed.

Billionaire Richard Branson, who is behind Virgin Galactic, and former New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, a Democrat, first pitched the plan for the spaceport nearly 15 years ago.



There were construction delays and cost overruns. Virgin Galactic's spaceship development also took far longer than expected and had a major setback when its first experimental craft broke apart during a 2014 test flight, killing the co-pilot.

Critics suggested the project was a boondoggle, but supporters argued that just like any venture never tried before, there would be difficult and sometimes costly lessons.

Virgin Galactic posted on social media earlier this week that its carrier plane had landed in New Mexico and its main operating base was now at the spaceport. And Branson said the wing of the company's next rocket ship has been completed, with plans to eventually have several of the ships.

Virgin Galactic CEO George Whitesides said once the test flights are complete, commercial operations can begin.

"So this moment is just one that we've been working for for a long time and we're very excited to get to it," he said in a social media post last week.

About 600 people have reserved a seat, according to the company. Tickets are \$250,000.

That buys them a ride on the winged rocket ship, which is dropped in flight from the carrier airplane. Once free, it fires its rocket motor to hurtle toward the boundary of space before gliding back down.

The latest test flight reached an altitude of 90 kilometers while traveling at three times the speed of sound. AP



India Prime Minister Narendra Modi defended his government's controversial measure to strip the disputed Kashmir region of its statehood and special constitutional provisions in an Independence Day speech yesterday, as about 7 million Kashmiris stayed indoors for the 11th day of an unprecedented security lockdown and communications blackout.

Russia The Moscow City Court ruled yesterday to place Philippe Delpal, partner at the Moscow-based private equity firm Baring Vostok, under house arrest, more than six months after he was first detained and sent to jail.



Greece Authorities sent reinforcements yesterday to firefighters battling a major forest fire in a nature reserve on the island of Evia as water-dropping aircraft tried to extinguish the flames in a hard-to-reach canyon.

Sweden Prosecutors say a man arrested in northern Sweden who initially was suspected of planning a murder is now suspected of conspiracy to commit terrorism.

UK Business daily Handelsblatt reports that German officials expect Britain to leave the European Union without a deal at the end of October and consider the EU's preparations for this eventuality to be "largely completed."



USA An hour-long standoff where a gunman shot at police, wounding six of them, as he was barricaded inside a Philadelphia home somehow ended with no fatalities.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

MDT/Daniel Beitler



The smell of burning paper. A Macau resident burns joss paper and lays out food and drink to appease the spirits of the deceased as the Hungry Ghost Festival began this week. Storefronts in a central Macau area popular with tourists were dotted with these rituals on Wednesday night, as the seventh month of the lunar calendar was ushered in.