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No More Boundaries

JOSÉ PEREIRA COUTINHO HOPES THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT CAN PUSH FORWARD THE ACCOUNTABILITY OF HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS

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BEIJING IS PLANNING TO DEVELOP SHENZHEN INTO A PILOT DEMONSTRATION AREA FOR SOCIALISM WITH CHINESE CHARACTERISTICS

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AP PHOTO

China At least eight pop stars from mainland China and one each from Taiwan and Hong Kong are publicly stating their support for Beijing's one-China policy, eliciting a mixture of disappointment and understanding from fans. More on p11

Indonesia Thousands of people in Indonesia's West Papua province set fire to a local parliament building yesterday in a protest sparked by accusations that security forces had arrested and insulted students from neighboring Papua province, officials said.

Sri Lanka's president yesterday appointed a general accused of grave human rights abuses in the final stages of Sri Lanka's long civil war as the country's new army chief. More on p13



AP PHOTO

Malaysia The second trial of ex-Prime Minister Najib Razak linked to the multibillion-dollar looting of the 1MDB state investment fund was delayed yesterday by a week to allow his first trial to end. More on p13



AP PHOTO

Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani yesterday vowed to "eliminate" all safe havens of the Islamic State group as the country marked a subdued 100th Independence Day after a horrific wedding attack claimed by the local IS affiliate.

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THE PROTEST THAT NEVER WAS

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ANTHONY LAM

DIRE STRAITS: THE LIFE OF A MIGRANT WORKER IN MACAU

P6-7 FEATURE REPORT



CCTV FACIAL RECOGNITION WILL ABIDE BY THE LAW

Macau's security authority has affirmed that facial recognition functions in some of the city's CCTV surveillance cameras will abide by personal data laws. According to the Office for Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak's reply to lawmaker Leong Sun Lok's interpellation indicated that the application of facial and car plate recognition features will only be implemented after the security authority receives approval from the Office for Personal Data Protection. Moreover, the application of these technologies will be in accordance with existing laws. The security authority will also carry out research on existing software and smart products to enhance the security authority's comprehensive prevention and controlling ability. According to Wong's introduction last year to the AL, as part of a first stage, 100 cameras would feature facial and car plate recognition.

LAWMAKER WANTS CURRENT GOVERNMENT TO INITIATE URBAN RENEWAL

Lawmaker Ng Kuok Cheong has urged the current government to initiate urban renewal. In his interpellation to the local government, Ng pointed out that the current government has been repeatedly claiming that it will initiate urban renewal works. However, he claimed the government has been delaying these renewal works. Ng wants the current government to make a decision in order for the urban renewal to start, as opposed to the project being further postponed. Ng proposed that before the government starts building houses on top of the former Pearl Horizon land plot, it should allocate properties to former buyers of former Pearl Horizon houses and use the rest of the houses for urban renewal purposes.

PUBLIC HOUSING AND PLASTIC BAG CHARGE REGIMES PUBLISHED

Yesterday, dispatches were published in the Macau government SAR's Official Gazette regarding the implementation of two new laws. The first, the new public housing bill, will come into effect on the August 20, 2020. Starting from this date, a permanent public housing application system will be established with residents able to apply for public housing at any time. The new laws will be applied to families who are on the waiting list for public housing. Family income and assets will be calculated in accordance with the new law. The second long-awaited law, the bill to implement a charge for single-use plastic bags, will come into effect on November 18, 2019. Two different violations will be subjected to a MOP1,000 and MOP10,000 penalty, respectively. The fee for a single-use shopping bag will be announced in a notice from the Chief Executive.

COUTINHO DOUBTFUL HO IAT SENG WILL MAKE SENIOR OFFICIALS MORE ACCOUNTABLE

JULIE ZHU

As the time approaches for sole Chief Executive candidate Ho Iat Seng to step into office, José Pereira Coutinho hopes that the new government can push forward the accountability of high-ranking officials. However, the lawmaker does not express confidence in Ho in terms of this outcome.

"I can't accept that all meetings of the standing committees of the Legislative Assembly are closed-doors," the lawmaker said. "The speech of the chairman of the standing committees following every meeting can't represent all lawmakers. And [to] the media, please interview other members of the committees as well instead of just listening to the speech of the Chairman of the committees."

The lawmaker hopes that Ho's government will not claim to simply "study" the high-ranking officials' accountability.

"I hope we won't be 'always studying'. Macau already has many studies," said Coutinho. "How many study centers and how many studies are there in Macau? How many billions have been spent on 'studies'?"

Moreover, Coutinho hopes that Ho Iat Seng can carry out administrative reform. Ho said on the weekend that administrative reform would be his priority in the years ahead.



"The biggest failure of the SAR government in the past 20 years is secretaries being able to do anything but not being held accountable when they make mistakes," said the lawmaker.

Coutinho continues to want the government to build dormitories for civil servants. However, Ho has already made it clear that he disagrees with the idea of a civil servant dormitory.

"Ho Iat Seng said that he will not build civil servants' dormitories. Then, please remove the benefits for high-ranking officials. What's the difference be-

tween first-level civil servants and third-level civil servants?" asked Coutinho.

"First-tier civil servants have stand-alone houses, a retirement pension, housing subsidies, money for socializing, fly first class, have cooks, have domestic helpers, have cars, have drivers, have bodyguards," said Pereira Coutinho, adding "second-tier civil servants do not have a retirement pension, do not have houses. Third-tier civil servants have hourly salaries and nothing else."

Coutinho also wants the new government to use civil

servants wisely instead of placing some of them in unimportant positions.

"Why do overlapping functions have to be talked about for 20 years and still remain unsolved? Because corruption can't be canceled. Even Singapore, the cleanest government in the world, will not dare to say that there is no corruption in its country," said Coutinho.

The lawmaker used the Singaporean example to explain that the Macau government should not hide civil servants without using them, keeping them in their positions until it's their due time to retire.

RETAILERS, RESTAURANTS EXPECTED BUSINESS TO IMPROVE OVER SUMMER

MACAU'S business climate was mixed in June, as restaurants seemed to fare better but retailers reported revenue decline. According to the latest survey, both sectors anticipated a general business improvement in July, the Statistics and Census Service said.

The latest survey indicates that 39% of the interviewed

restaurants reported a year-on-year rise in revenue in June, up by 7 percentage points from May.

On the other hand, 27% of the interviewed restaurants recorded a year-on-year decline in revenue in June, the same proportion as in May.

As for the retail trade, 38% of the interviewed retailers re-

gistered a year-on-year sales increase in June, a growth of 3 percentage points from the preceding month. By contrast, the proportion of interviewed retailers reporting a year-on-year decline in sales grew by 2 percentage points from May to 45%.

The Statistics and Census Service report added that the

interviewed restaurants expected a slight improvement in their business in the summer holidays, with 73% of them anticipating a year-on-year rise in revenue or steady performance in July. The proportion of establishments foreseeing a year-on-year decline in receipts fell to 27%.

Retailers also expected their sales to stabilize in July, with 68% of them anticipating their sales to increase year-on-year or remain steady, a 4 percentage point rise from June. DB

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THE PROTEST THAT NEVER WAS

Tense police presence in Senado Square clamps down on any signs of activity

ANTHONY LAM

MACAU security forces deployed at least six police minibuses as well as dozens of officers - some uniformed and others wearing plain clothes - to prevent an unlawful silent protest from going ahead last night.

The authorities wanted to ensure that a planned protest to draw attention to the conduct of police officers in Hong Kong did not go ahead. Permission to hold the protest was rejected by the governing authority last week and the activity was subsequently cancelled by its yet unidentified organizer.

Last night, uniformed police officers guarded Senado Square and the surrounding streets in the Historic Center of Macao district.

The Times visited the square at around 8 p.m., when passers-by in shirts of all colors could be seen occasionally stopping to take photos, hold conversations, shop or see the sights.

Police officers were stationed directly opposite the Municipal Affairs Bureau building, down the slope behind the Post Office and in front of the Tourist Centre, among other locations in Senado Square. They were seen checking the identification of pedestrians.

A man wearing a black T-shirt who asked not to be identified said that he had been checked three times before speaking to the media.

Tensions in the square rose

after the police was said to have arrested a couple in their 20's.

The couple told the media that the police wanted to check their identification cards. The police also requested to conduct a search of their bag. Two stickers were said to be found by the police. The content of the stickers was unclear and unverifiable, according to the police.

The couple said that after seeing the stickers, the police accused them of participating in "an illegal activity." The couple said they had no idea what the police meant.

According to other journalists at the scene, the police used the word "arrest" at first. Once questioned by journalists about the grounds by which they were arresting the couple, the police opted for the word "investigation" instead. The couple was then taken up the slope next to the Post Office, Travessa do Roquete, where police officers made a human chain to cordon off the area and prevent access.

When the couple was moved to another location, one police officer at the scene repeatedly said that they had been invited to "assist in an investigation."

Some journalists managed to squeeze in before the cordon was in force. Reports by Exmoo News show that the couple, along with others taken by the authorities, were brought to a car park on Rua da Sé.

A video taken by a Macau journalist shows more than two dozen people, either in

black or white t-shirts, lined up facing the wall, hands visible behind each person's back. Exmoo News also reported that some of these people were seen in possession of the Chinese national flag.

A friend of the couple under investigation said that he happened to be in Senado Square at the time. The 28-year-old male refused to be identified. He said, as far as he knew, the police confiscated the two stickers, and asked the couple to "wait for someone to bring them somewhere."

"I came here for shopping and dinner with my girlfriend," the man said. "I came here and then I saw the police standing around them. I just felt a little bit strange."

The Public Security Police Force circulated a text message to some Macau residents, including lawmaker Sulu Sou, to say that a total of seven people - four local, two mainlanders and one person from Hong Kong - had been escorted to the police station.

The Judiciary Police, on the other hand, sent a text message to registered journalists, saying that between 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. last night, the bureau deployed 26 inspectors for an anti-crime operation around Avenida do Infante Dom Henrique, Rua de Felicidade and Senado Square.

The message said it inspected a total of 30 people, but arrested none. The bureau did not explicitly say whether this operation was connected with the planned protest.



Mainland netizens praise Macau patriotism after rejected protest

CHINESE social media users have expressed their opinions on the "patriotism" of the Macau people and their "excellence" in youth education after the demonstration concerning Hong Kong police was refused by the Public Security Police Force. The comments were made in contrast with the unfolding events in Hong Kong.

First, the mainland's People's Daily published a post on its Weibo account, seeming to attribute the patriotic spirit of the Macau youth to the fact that the city uses the same history

textbooks as the Chinese mainland.

The post was met with a warm reception from the approved posts on the Weibo platform.

"Macau, the filial child, you deserve to make more money," one comment reads, using a popular reference for the two Special Administrative Regions.

Another Weibo account posted in relation to the demonstration, "Hong Kong trash youngsters want to drag Macau to hell but were rejected by Macau compatriots. [...] Macau people

love the country very much."

"If anybody dares to illegally hold a demonstration, I am sure that they will be beaten up by Macau residents," another comment reads.

"Both birthed by the same mother, Macau is a sweet kid," reads another.

"Honestly, I always hear about Hong Kong independence, Taiwan independence, but I have never heard of Macau independence. It means that Macau saw through everything and knows what it wants," one netizen writes. **JZ**

TAIWAN UNIVERSITIES WANT MORE STUDENTS FROM MACAU

JULIE ZHU

THE number of Hong Kong and Macau students studying in Taiwan has been decreasing over the past four years, and Taiwanese universities are calling on their government to loosen restrictions on enrollment quotas for students hailing from the Hong Kong and Macau Special Administrative Regions.

According to statistics released by the Ministry of Education of Taiwan, the number of Hong Kong students going to Taiwan for higher education has declined for four consecutive years, and the number of Hong Kong high school graduates going to Taiwan because of the self-governing island's overseas joint recruitment program declined from more than 6,000 in 2004 to only 2,416 this year.

Lai Tsung-yu, the dean of Academic Affairs at National Chengchi Uni-



versity, hopes that there can be a 10% increase in the enrollment quota for overseas Chinese students at Taiwan universities. In particular, Lai also wants a 10% increase to be approved for the number of Hong Kong and Macau students.

Michael J. K. Chen, the president of Shih Chien University, has proposed that the Taiwan government should see Hong

Kong's recent protests as an opportunity for the island's universities to enroll more Hong Kong and Macau students.

According to Chen, Taiwan's official joint overseas student recruitment program cannot help Taiwanese universities to recruit outstanding students from the two SARs. In recent years, Chen's school has been recruiting Hong Kong and Macau students

by itself.

Chen believes that if the number of Hong Kong students can be doubled, more Hong Kong and Macau students will come to endorse Taiwan's way of life.

According to the organizer of the official joint student recruitment program of Taiwan, the drop in the number of Hong Kong and Macau students is related to mainland China's financing policies. For example, China provides various types of scholarships for Hong Kong and Macau students and has expanded enrollment quotas, with such measures weakening the advantage of Taiwan.

The mainland has also ramped up restrictions on Taiwan in order to punish the island's president Tsai Ing-wen, who has refused to endorse the "One China" Consensus that previously underpinned cross-strait ties for more than a quarter-century.

PHILIPPINE OFFICIAL LASHES OUT AT CHINESE AMBASSADOR ON ALLEGED SPIES

THE Philippines has given assurances that it has no Filipino spies in China and that its compatriots are only there to work under legitimate Chinese visas.

The remarks were made after the Chinese ambassador to the Philippines Zhao Jinhua reportedly said that overseas Filipino workers in China could be accused of spying just as much as Chinese workers in Philippine offshore gaming operator (POGO) hubs near military camps.

However, the Philippine official said that there are no Filipino spies in China and that they do not have to worry because the Filipinos are only in China to work.

There are hundreds of thousands of Philippine residents living across the greater China region, with approximately 33,000 in Macau, according to official data.


Meanwhile, there are thought to be at least 130,000 Chinese nationals working for POGOs in the Philippines.

The Philippines' presidential spokesperson Salvador Panelo said that the ambassador sent him a text message saying, "what if we also think that your overseas workers are also spying on us. What can you say about that?"

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana lashed out at the Chinese ambassador, saying that such remarks were a "preposterous statement."


"They are more like Chinese nationals working in construction projects here in the Philippines, as mutually agreed upon by both countries. There are no POGO-like centers in China that can be operated purely by Filipinos near Chinese military camps," he said.

AD





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Southeast Asia pulls back on online gambling as China rages

JINSHAN HONG

SOUTHEAST Asian countries are moving against their lucrative online gambling industries amid pressure from China to clamp down on a practice that's ballooned due to demand from its own citizens.

Weeks after China lashed out at the Philippines for encouraging offshore gambling, which it said targets Chinese customers and causes the illegal outflow of hundreds of millions of yuan, the Philippine gaming regulator said yesterday that it would stop accepting applications for new online gaming operations at least until the end of the year to review concerns about the burgeoning sector.

Separately, Chinese state news agency Xinhua reported on Sunday that Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Sen has ordered a stop to new licenses for online gambling operations in the country. Existing licenses also will not be renewed upon expiry, said the report.

The about-turn in gambling

BLOOMBERG



policy in these Southeast Asian nations comes as China steps up efforts against what its minister for public security, Zhao Kezhi, called "the cross-border online gambling problem."

Online and phone betting in Southeast Asian countries by Chinese punters many miles away

has exploded in the last few years, and there are signs that the offshore services are penetrating more deeply into China's population than expected.

Offshore gaming is divided into two main categories. In online gambling, small-time bettors gather at cyber tables that can

accommodate 500 gamblers at a time. Then there is proxy betting, its richer, better-dressed cousin, where high rollers communicate with staffers wearing headsets at baccarat tables in offshore casinos. Proxy betting now accounts for 40% of the \$1 billion VIP gaming market in the Philippines,

according to brokerage CICC.

Some online gaming websites offer punters wagers as low as 10 yuan and have round-the-clock live streams. That makes them easily accessible by lower-income Chinese in rural areas, who do not have the means to go to Macau, the only place in China where casinos are legal, to scratch the gambling itch.

The burgeoning industry has also transformed Southeast Asian countries and the abrupt pullback is likely to hurt their economies. In the Philippines alone, more than 50 offshore gambling companies had received permits to operate, over a hundred thousand Chinese workers had surged into Manila to staff the industry, and property prices near gaming sites were booming. Revenue from online gaming operations is projected to reach up to 10 billion pesos (\$191 million) next year, according to the Philippines gaming regulator.

The Xinhua report said that Cambodia ordered authorities to stamp out illegal online gambling businesses in order to uphold social security and public order.

The Philippines gaming agency chair Andrea Domingo, while announcing the pause in new licenses, emphasized that the practice is legal in the country, but that gaming revenue growth may be flat to slow this year due to China's campaign. **BLOOMBERG**

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FROM INDONESIA TO MACAU: THE ADVENTURES

RENATO MARQUES

FEW families and companies in Macau can say that they do not rely on the help of non-resident workers, in one way or another. Seeking to change their lives and that of their families, migrant workers from mainland China and Southeast Asia come to the two Special Administrative Regions (SARs) of China to search for employment, most commonly as domestic helpers.

Thirty-two-year-old Putri from Indonesia is no exception. The decision to leave her hometown in Indonesia and search abroad for a way to support her family was for her almost obvious; as obvious as the decision taken years before by her mother who, at the time, headed to Brunei with the same goals.

To shed light on the sometimes “dark world” of migrant workers, Putri agreed to share her story with the Times.

She insisted that her story is not special or particularly complex – it is a common one, lived for most of those who, like her, left their country to work in Macau or Hong Kong.

Under the promise to keep most of her details private, Putri explained how her journey started at a “training center” in Indonesia, - which serves to both select and train candidates, and is a requirement from the employment agencies that place these workers in the SARs.

FIRST STEP – THE MAKING OF A LIE

When Putri joined the training center in a city near her hometown, her destination was already pre-established; she would be trained to perform domestic work for Chinese families in Hong Kong. As such, she was trained in basic Cantonese language skills as well as cooking and other duties.

But Putri was also threatened: behave well in Hong Kong or you will be sent to Macau.

She was told: “You need to behave well, don’t get terminated by your employers and don’t commit any crimes. Because if you get [your working contract] terminated or you commit any offense, you will have to be sent to Macau, which is in China.”

Putri recalled that Macau, which was allegedly in China (as opposed to Hong Kong), was a rough place known for all sorts of “terrible things,” and the descriptions of crimes which took place there were very graphic and included mutilation, corporal punishments, torture, and sexual abuse.

Only upon setting foot in Macau did Putri realize this description was not true.

“I think I know where those stories come from. I saw them in those posters that some people sometimes exhibit near San Ma Lo [Senado Square]. But they [the employ-

ment agencies] use that to threaten us and not only us, also our families back home,” she said. “They tell them also that if we need to come back home [before the contract ends] the families need to pay a lot of money to repay our debt with the agency.”

Putri said she realized that she had been lied to only when she needed to wait for her working visa renewal in Hong Kong. At the time, she was brought, together with a large group of other workers, to Macau so she could exit Hong Kong while waiting for her documents to be processed.

FROM HK TO FARAWAY MACAU

Putri recalled how the trip from Hong Kong to Macau lasted 14 hours, making it seem as though the two SARs were geographically distant when in reality they lie just 64 kilometers apart.

“I remember that we were all put into a bus and we crossed the

border into Shenzhen – and I had no idea at the time where that was,” said Putri. “Then we took several roads until our arrival in Macau.”

“If I remember well, I think we only stopped once and nobody could leave the bus for the whole time,” added Putri, noting that the employment agency staff accompanying the workers on the trip also warned them that they should not tell anyone at the immigration checkpoint that they were coming to Macau to wait for their Hong Kong visa.

“If they asked, we needed to say that we are coming for a visit only and they also distributed an amount in cash to each of us, [...] HKD3,000 to some and around HKD5,000 to others. On the other side of the border, another person was waiting for us who would ask for the money to be returned immediately, as well as our passports.”

“I remember when we crossed some cities in China seeing some

people seated on the grass, which reminded me of home, and it seemed very contradictory with all the information we had received about what was supposed to be a very creepy place.”

THE GOLDEN CAGE

During their stay in Macau, the group lived in an apartment arranged by the employment agency and was told they should stay indoors the whole time.

Upon her arrival, Putri recalls passing through the center of the city heading to the apartment where she would be staying for a few weeks.

“It was amazing! A wow thing! It was evening already when we finally arrived and passing through the center with all the glittery lights of the casinos was something that I was not expecting at all. Everything suddenly looked so shiny and beautiful. This couldn’t be the place we had been

warned so much about,” she said. Although the outside world looked very attractive, Putri had agreed to submit to voluntary imprisonment.

“We were left with only a copy of our passports, so even if we want to go out, we were afraid to get caught by the police. We were warned constantly not to leave the apartment until someone from the agency came to pick us up one-by-one, as the working visas in Hong Kong were getting ready,” she said.

The agency supplied food that was expected to last for three daily meals: “Mostly it was rice and with some vegetables and sometimes a little bit of fish or meat,” she recalled. “But this was often not enough for many people; neither was it free. We had to pay for it.”

Questioned as to how much it would cost, she said: “We had no idea! We only knew that we would have to pay – for the trip and the apartment we needed to pay in ad-

RENATO MARQUES



AND MISFORTUNES OF A MIGRANT WORKER



vance before leaving Hong Kong, and for the food we were told that it would be deducted from our salary afterward, but we were not informed how much that would cost.”

She added, “this happens mostly to the ‘first-timers’ [in this region] and most of these people know nothing and are uneducated. They just follow. They do not question anything. They have no choice because if they want to go back to Indonesia, it means the family at home need to pay all the costs.”

“Of course, people then learn and those who are already working for two or three years understand that these are all scams, and they can avoid all that by doing things on their own, but this happens to all the first-timers.”

She noted that the

house was an open space where groups of 15 to 20 people would “sleep on the floor with just a sponge mat. We lived packed like sardines in a can. In the morning, after everybody would wake, we would stack the beds and just stay in the house. Nobody went anywhere, as we knew we were illegal here and we were afraid to

get caught by the police.”

Putri said that the voluntary detention usually lasts no more than three weeks, but in some situations it can go on for longer.

“If by chance, someone’s [visitor] visa is expiring, one of the staff from the agency will take them to China to do a ‘U-turn’ and return to the boarding house.”

“It was amazing! A wow thing! It was evening already when we finally arrived and passing through the center with all the glittery lights of the casinos was something that I was not expecting at all. Everything suddenly looked so shiny and beautiful. This couldn’t be the place we had been warned so much about.”

PUTRI, UPON SEEING MACAU FOR THE FIRST TIME

ROLLING THE DICE FOR FOOD

Surviving in such conditions does not come easily. Those with a “survival instinct” would find ways to overcome their difficulties and help their peers.

“Do you know what I did before to survive because I didn’t have money? I went to the Lisboa [casino] to gamble. This was not my first time in this situation so I had some information already, and I had 100 patacas in my pocket,” said Putri.

“I went to the Lisboa as it was the only place where you can gamble using patacas and I would just bet on the dice games. But I am not a greedy gambler. If I won 20 patacas I would withdraw immediately and with those 20 patacas I could ‘save’ a lot of people at that time.”

“I would then go to the market around closing time, usually around 7 or 7:30 p.m. when they would put the vegetables on sale, already packed in a basket with a price tag of 5 patacas or 10 patacas. I would use the money earned in the casino to buy those discounted items, some chicken wings and sometimes also fish.”

“With this money, like 20 or 30 patacas, I could help to feed over 20 people [adding to the food provided by the agency],” explained Putri. “I would do this every day. If, on a day, I would not manage to make any money, I would just withdraw and go home. I couldn’t afford to lose it, none of us could.”

Although Putri went through this experience a couple of years ago, she said she was aware, mostly through friends and posts on social media groups used for Indonesian workers, that the system remains in force today and without much change.

During her interview with the Times, Putri browsed a few posts on a Facebook group for domestic helpers showing the money they were getting after the removal of the “salary share” that was taken by the employment agency. In most cases, workers would get just MOP900 per month from their base salary of MOP3,000, while in other cases, there were people that for periods of six consecutive months would have their entire wage diverted to the agency.

Putri said that “basically everyone knows” about this problem. She said the exploitation is becoming much rarer in Hong Kong, where it is technically not possible to perform such schemes anymore.

“In Hong Kong now, no. Only in Macau,” she answered when asked whether the exploitative schemes are still in practice. “In Hong Kong now a domestic helper gets somewhere

between HKD4,700 and 5,000 and it’s a mandatory rule, it’s fixed; there is no way an employer can give less than that to the worker.”

A COMMON TALE WITH MANY MORE VICTIMS

The Times contacted the Indonesia Migrant Workers’ Union Macau (IMWU) to enquire as to whether the Association is aware of such claims. In a short reply to the Times, the president of IMWU, Yosa Wariyanti, said that the Association is well aware of the situation.

“We actually have many cases [of this kind] in Macau,” she said, adding that “the situation in Macau is far worse than in Hong Kong.”

According to the IMWU, the Association often receives enquiries from Indonesian workers calling for information or help in matters mostly related to the fact that employment agencies often collect a very significant part of their salary. The Association also confirmed the existence of cases where workers are required to concede their entire salary for several consecutive months.

DEADLOCK AT THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

At the request of the Times, Putri’s story comes as a bill that aims to effect changes to the Employment Agencies Law in Macau is in an apparent “deadlock” at the Legislative Assembly (AL).

Passed upon its first reading 18 months ago, the Law of Employment Agency Activity has seemingly since reached an impasse. Such a fact was admitted by the president of the Committee, lawmaker Vong Hin Fai, at the last press briefing on the topic held in July.

Questioned by the Times as to whether there was a final decision on the topic of the payment of the fees to the Employment Agencies and who should be responsible for them, Vong said at the time, “In principle [...] the employer should be the one to settle those expenses but the law says that the [agents] can also receive fees from the employees.”

The committee also said that this law is intimately related to another that is also under discussion and that concerns changes to the procedural regime for the hiring of the non-resident workers, which had already determined that people on tourist visas cannot apply for work permits while staying in the region. Instead they must wait for the application procedures by the employer to be completed while outside of Macau.

The law effectively replicates the legislation currently in force in Hong Kong that gives way to the situation faced by Putri and many others.

BEIJING is planning to develop the neighboring city of Shenzhen into a pilot demonstration area for socialism with Chinese characteristics, according to state media.

Shenzhen will be granted favorable policies including privileges in yuan internationalization, China Central Television reported on Sunday, citing guidelines issued by the Chinese Communist Party central committee and the State Council.

Shenzhen is encouraged to build manufacturing innovation centers for sectors including advanced communication devices and medical instruments. Digital currency research and mobile payments will be supported in the city too, as will technology sub-sectors including 5G, artificial intelligence and cyberspace technology.

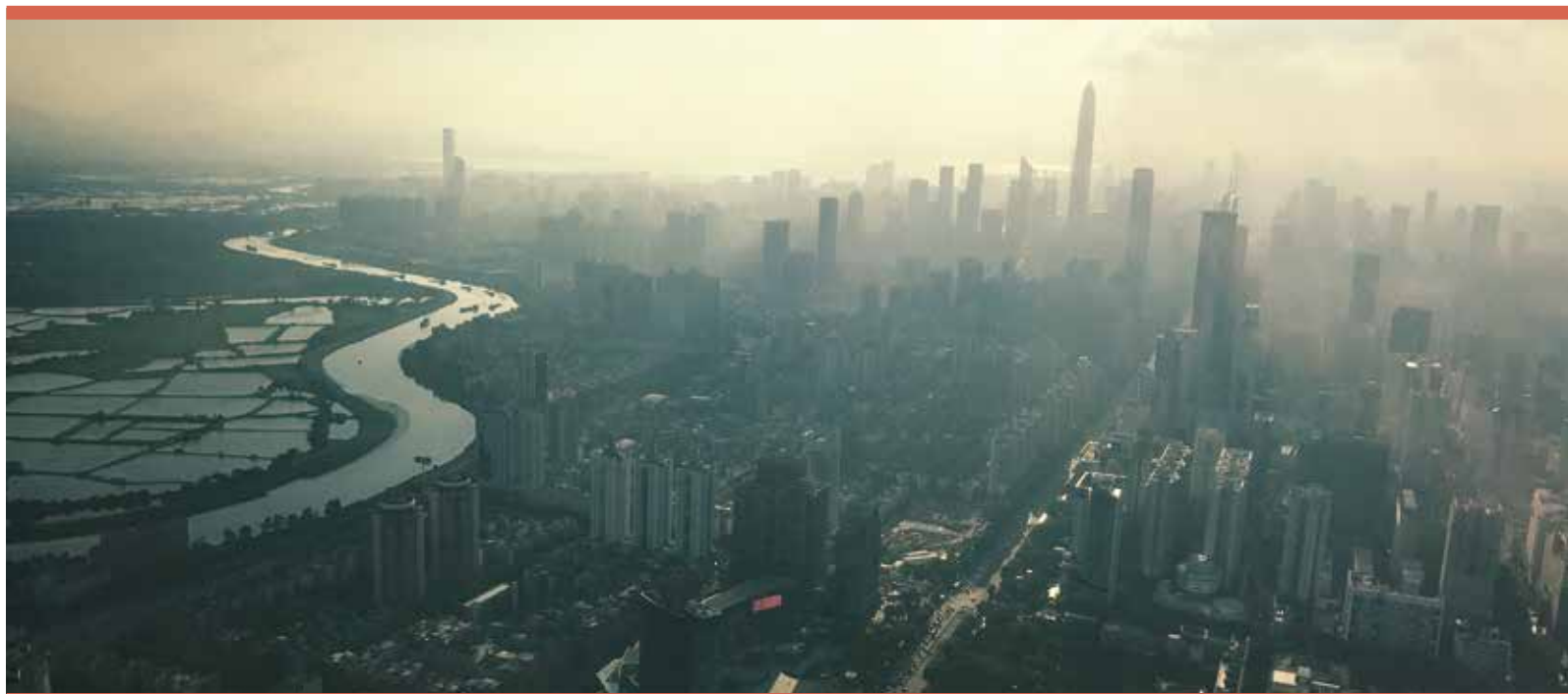
The city will also establish a maritime university and a national deep sea research center, and explore the establishment of a maritime development bank.

China will also promote the connection of the financial markets of Shenzhen, Hong Kong and Macau, including with regards to fund recognition. No details were provided.

The southern Chinese city was told to work toward giving "citizen treatment" to Hong Kong and Macau residents who work there, and was also encouraged to allow

CHINA FIGURES SHENZHEN FOR 'SOCIALIST DEMONSTRATION AREA'

DANIEL BEITLER



talented foreigners with permanent residency in China to start businesses in the city, according to the guidelines.

The new framework comes as Hong Kong is embroiled in the 11th week of demonstrations that show no signs of abating. Hong Kong's Financial Secretary Paul Chan warned of a looming "economic typhoon" for

the city on Sunday.

The central government also outlined a roadmap for the city's development over the next three decades.

According to the official document, by 2025, Shenzhen should become one of the leading cities in the world in terms of economic strength and quality of development. Then by 2035, Shenzhen

should become a national model of high-quality development, as well as a hub of innovation, entrepreneurship and creativity with international influence.

State media agency Xinhua reported that by the mid-21st century, Shenzhen is to become "one of the top cosmopolis in the world and a global pacesetter with outstanding competitiveness, in-

novative capacity and influence."

Shenzhen, a major city in south China's Guangdong Province, was the country's first special economic zone. It has a population of about 13 million and its gross domestic product hit 2.42 trillion yuan (about \$346 billion or MOP2.77 trillion) in 2018, up 7.6 percent year on year. **DB/AGENCIES**

HK bakery's mooncakes carry protest movement slogans

A Hong Kong bakery is doing its part to support the city's pro-democracy protest movement by making mooncakes with a message.

At Wah Yee Tang, the traditional Chinese harvest festival treat comes with a twist: slogans opposing the city's Beijing-backed government and promoting Hong Kong's unique identity that have become popular rallying cries during the protests.

Bakery owner Naomi Suen hopes the cakes will bring about positivity during a time of political unrest.

Suen's mooncakes carry messages including "No withdrawal, no dispersal" and "Hong Kong people."

Other versions say "Be water," referring to the protesters' philosophy, inspired by martial arts star Bruce Lee, of taking a fluid approach to their demonstrations.



Known for being dense and calorific, mooncakes are typically filled with lotus seed or red bean paste and a salted egg yolk symbolizing the moon.

Suen hopes hers can "make Hong Kong people happy again."

Customer Sandy Lam said the cakes "represent our voices" and reflect the "actual situation" for protesters.

Demonstrators have taken to the streets since early June as part of a protest movement that began with the demand to scrap extradition legislation that could have seen criminal suspects sent to China. It expanded to include calls for full democracy and an inquiry into what they say is police violence against protesters.

Mooncakes are traditionally served during the Mid-Autumn Festival, when the moon is at its roundest and brightest and families gather to pray for bountiful harvests.

Legend has it that Ming revolutionaries used them to smuggle secret messages tucked inside while fighting Mongol rulers during the Yuan dynasty. **AP**

MACAU

UM HOSTS WESTERN GREATER BAY TECHNOLOGY ALLIANCE FORUM

THE University of Macau played host to an inauguration ceremony yesterday for an alliance of technology-focused institutions from across the western side of the Greater Bay Area.

The inauguration ceremony for the Alliance for Technological Innovation and Talent Development in Western Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area brought together over 70 members of senior management teams of universities and government representatives from the western Greater Bay Area.

In his speech at the inauguration, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam said that the government is keen to enhance Macau's input in regional collaboration in the field of technology.

The Secretary referenced the University of Macau's four state key laboratories, which focus on chip research and development, quality research for traditional Chi-

nese medicine, Internet of Things applications for smart cities, and lunar and planetary sciences. According to the University, some of these labs have reached the highest standards in the world.

The inauguration ceremony was followed by the first Alliance Forum on Collaboration in Technology and Education.

Rector Yonghua Song said that the establishment of the alliance reflects the University of Macau's determination to integrate the teaching and research resources of the various cities in western Greater Bay in order to promote technological innovation and personnel training.

Song added that the University of Macau will fully support the local government's effort to participate in the development of the Greater Bay Area as well as the city's development into a trade cooperation service platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries. **DB**

AP PHOTO



HONG KONG

Protesters change tactics at huge, peaceful demonstration

KELVIN CHAN
& YANAN WANG

HONG Kong streets were turned into rivers of umbrellas on Sunday as hundreds of thousands of people marched through heavy rain down a major road in the Chinese territory, where massive pro-democracy demonstrations have become a regular weekend activity. Organizers said at least 1.7 million participated, though the police estimate was far lower.

The assembly was peaceful, with no reports of violence, making for a rare calm weekend in a protest movement that has been marked by violent clashes with police. Law enforcement officers kept a low profile, with no riot police seen from the procession's main routes. When stragglers convened outside a government complex in the late evening, other protesters urged them to go home.

Demonstrators who were shining laser pointers at a government building were convinced to leave, prompting applause from others in the group.

"We hope to see whether the government gives a response to this peaceful protest," said Michael Leung, a 24-year-old who was ushering his fellow demonstrators away. "If we get a negative response, we cannot control the next [gathering]."

Organizer Bonnie Leung of the Civil Human Rights Front said earlier in the day that she hoped there would be no "chaotic

situations."

"We hope we can show the world that Hong Kong people can be totally peaceful," she said.

The Civil Human Rights Front had organized three previous massive marches in Hong Kong since June. The movement, however, has been increasingly marked by clashes with police as demonstrators vent their frustrations over what they perceive to be the government's blatant refusal to respond to their demands.

"Peace is the No. 1 priority today," said Kiki Ma, a 28-year-old accountant who participated in the march. "We want to show that we aren't like the government."

While police granted approval for the rally, they didn't approve an accompanying march. Demonstrators nevertheless fanned out and filled the streets, as there was not enough space at the designated assembly area.

Public transit trains did not stop at stations near the assembly because of overcrowding.

Jimmy Shan of the Civil Human Rights Front said the group estimated that at least 1.7 million took part in the rally. He said the figure did not include those who were not able to make it to Victoria Park — where the march began — due to traffic constraints.

Police, whose crowd figures are generally lower than the organizers' estimates, said the turnout at the assigned location and during the designated time period was 128,000. Many protesters, however, did not follow

the pre-approved guidelines laid out by the authorities.

In Beijing, You Wenzhe, a spokesman for China's ceremonial legislature, condemned statements from U.S. lawmakers supportive of Hong Kong's pro-democracy movement.

You called the lawmakers' comments "a gross violation of the spirit of the rule of law, a blatant double standard and a gross interference in China's internal affairs."

He said that Hong Kong's 7.5 million people and the Chinese population as a whole rejected the actions of a "very small group of violent protesters" as well as "any interference of foreign forces."

You did not mention any specific lawmaker, but numerous U.S. senators and Congress members, including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, have affirmed the U.S. commitment to human rights and urged Hong Kong's government to end the standoff.

Congress also has the power to pass legislation affecting Hong Kong's relationship with the U.S. in ways that could further erode the territory's reputation for stability and rule of law. That includes the recent reintroduction of the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act in Congress, which would among its other provisions require the secretary of state to issue an annual certification of Hong Kong's autonomy to justify special treatment afforded to the city.

More directly, President Do-

nald Trump could simply issue an executive order suspending Hong Kong's special trading status with the U.S., a move that could have a devastating effect on the local economy at a time when Beijing and Washington are engaged in a bitter trade war.

A former British colony, Hong Kong was returned to Beijing in 1997 under the framework of "one country, two systems," which promised residents certain democratic rights not afforded to people in mainland China. But some Hong Kongers have accused the Communist Party-ruled central government of eroding their freedoms in recent years.

The protest movement's demands include the resignation of Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam, democratic elections and an independent investigation into police use of force.

Harley Ho, a 20-year-old social work student who attended Sunday's rally, said protesters were undeterred by the rain and would not rest until their demands were met.

"We will stand here, we will take action until they respond to us," she said. "In the rain, our spirit becomes stronger."

Members of China's paramilitary People's Armed Police force have been training for days across the border in Shenzhen, fueling speculation that they could be sent in to suppress the protests. The Hong Kong police, however, have said they are capable of handling the demonstrations. **AP**

GUANGDONG

WALMART TO ADD 100 STORES IN NEXT FIVE YEARS

Retail giant Walmart is expected to add 100 new stores in south China's Guangdong Province in the next five years, according to the Shenzhen Special Zone Daily. The stores will include the company's Sam's Club warehouse stores, shopping centers and community stores, as the company continues to increase investment in the province, according to the paper. Walmart has released plans to add 16 new Sam's Club stores to its existing 24 such stores on the Chinese mainland by 2020. In March, the company set up a fresh food distribution center in Guangdong, its biggest investment project in China since its entry 23 years ago.

HONG KONG

JOBLESS RATE TICKS HIGHER FOR FIRST TIME IN TWO YEARS

Hong Kong's jobless rate rose for the first time since 2017 in July, led by weakness in the retail and restaurant industries as the government warned of further pressure on the city's slumping economy in the months ahead. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose to 2.9%, including a "relatively notable increase" in the food and beverage service sector, the government said in a statement. The measure had held steady at 2.8% since April 2018. "As the economy is expected to stay weak in the coming months, the local labor market will unavoidably be subject to greater pressure," Secretary for Labour and Welfare Law Chi-kwong said in the release. "The import and export trade sector has been facing increasing pressure amid shrinking trade flows."

GUANGZHOU

CHINA'S BALLET MAKES NYC DEBUT AT LINCOLN CENTER

Guangzhou Ballet, a renowned Chinese troupe, made its New York City debut Saturday night at the David H. Koch Theater of Lincoln Center, bringing top-tier Chinese ballet to over 1,800 spectators. Featuring a combination of Western and Oriental styles of ballet, Guangzhou Ballet presented two productions at one show. Carmina Burana was directed by Chinese American ballet choreographer Jiang Qi based on the famous namesake European classical music piece, while Goddess of the Luo River, created by Canadian choreographer Peter Quanz, is a ballet adaptation from an ancient Chinese love story. "There's one thing in common of the two distinctive pieces," said Zou Gang, chief and art director of Guangzhou Ballet, "they are both dotted with the movements of Chinese folk dance and elements of Chinese culture."

THAILAND GROWTH WEAKEST SINCE 2014 AS TRADE WAR BITES

SUTTINEE YUVEJWATTANA
& SIRAPHOB
THANTHONG-KNIGHT

THAILAND'S economy grew at the slowest pace in almost five years in the second quarter as exports and tourism were buffeted by U.S.-China trade tensions and a strong local currency.

Gross domestic product rose 2.3% from a year ago, down from 2.8% in the first quarter, the National Economic and Social Development Council said Monday. That's the slowest pace since the third quarter of 2014. The expansion matched the median estimate of 2.3% in a Bloomberg survey of economists.

A slowdown both domestically and abroad affected the quarterly growth, Thosaporn Sirisumphand, the council's secretary general, said at a briefing in Bangkok. The U.S.-China trade war, global jitters and a drought all remain as risks going forward, although a government stimulus package announced last week could help offset the damage, he said.

Thailand's trade-reliant economy has been hit by slumping exports, a surging currency and cooling tourist arrivals, with a looming delay in the budget since a new government took office last month posing a further risk. The central bank unexpectedly cut its benchmark interest rate earlier this month for the first time in more than four years, and said it sees more room to ease ahead.

The economic council cut its full-year growth forecast to 2.7%-3.2% - down from an



earlier estimate of 3.3%-3.8% - as the second-quarter pace should be the slowest this year, the council's deputy secretary-general, Wichayayuth Boonchit, told reporters. The forecast for exports was cut to a 1.2% contraction, from previous estimates of 2.2% growth.

After the release of yesterday's data, Bank of Thailand Governor Veerathai Santiprabhob said the monetary authority will likely cut its 2019 economic growth forecast at the September policy meeting. The central bank currently estimates 3.3% expansion for 2019.

The sustained decline in export gains has spilled over to domestic demand, Nomura Singapore Ltd. economists Euben Paracuelles and Charnon Boonnuch wrote in a research note Monday. They maintained their expectation

for full-year GDP growth of 3.0%, but added that "the balance of risks to our forecast remains tilted to the downside."

Gareth Leather, senior Asia economist at Capital Economics, said the expansion could slow to 2.5% this year.

"With weak global demand and a downturn in the tourism sector likely to drag on growth prospects over the coming quarters, we expect the economy to remain weak," he wrote in a research note.

GDP rose a seasonally adjusted 0.6% in the second quarter compared with the previous three months, the council said, below the 0.7% median estimate in a Bloomberg survey.

In addition to the trade war, exports have been hit by gains of nearly 8% in the baht over the last 12 months, making it Asia's best performing currency

tracked by Bloomberg. The central bank has taken a series of measures to curb short-term inflows and intervened in the currency market to curb the baht's strength, leading to a record-high level of foreign exchange reserves.

The cabinet is scheduled to meet today to discuss the government's 316 billion baht (\$10.2 billion) stimulus proposal announced last week. Thosaporn said that additional stimulus is also possible, including steps that focus on boosting private investment and tourism.

The government also will likely boost investment through public spending and disbursements by state enterprises, he said. Thailand also could benefit from investment from companies looking to relocate away from China amid the trade war, he said. **BLOOMBERG**

Thai luxury developer says HK protests are good for sales

TWO months of increasingly chaotic protests in Hong Kong are driving investment money out of the city and into Thailand's ultra-luxury condominiums, according to one of the biggest developers in the Southeast Asian country.

Some 40% of the condos in a 52-story Bangkok tower that opened last week have already been sold to buyers from mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore, according to Keerin Chutumstid, an executive at Bangkok-based Magnolia Quality Development Corp., which owns a quarter of the property. Investors from China and Hong Kong have been the top foreign customers, he said.

"The protests give us an advantage for this project," Keerin said. "If you look at Thailand right now, compared to other countries, we have a good level of political stability."

In Hong Kong, where pro-democracy demonstrators have filled the streets since June, development and high-end investment are on hold. Last week, CK Asset Holdings Ltd. and Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd. decided to postpone sales of new multi-billion-dollar projects, and transactions in the secondary market are down sharply, especially for luxury homes.

Those circumstance may add another tailwind to the luxury market in Bangkok, where a tourism boom has put the city on the map for investors, especially mainland Chinese who have come in droves. Bangkok in 2016 surpassed London to become the world's most-visited city.

Bangkok real estate has also been attractive to international investors because, even after years of gains, prices are still often cheaper than in less traveled-to cities such as Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, or Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

CORPORATE BITS

Will Pan Alpha bringing 'Coming Home' concert tour to Macau



The 2019 Will Pan Alpha "Coming Home" Concert Tour in Macau will be held at The Venetian Macao's Cotai Arena on October 5. Tickets go on sale today (August 20) at all Cotai Ticketing box offices.

With brand new audio-visual technology and dance moves to enhance the audience experience, Will Pan will use his music to express his dreams and desires, as well as his attitude of

determination and resolution, according to a statement from gaming operator Sands China. Will Pan says he will give his all "to provide the best possible show."

ICBC Sands Lifestyle Mastercard cardholders can enjoy 10% discount off ticket prices, as well as earn points when shopping or travelling anywhere in the world and then redeem them in Macao within Sands Resorts Macao's integrated resorts.

Breitling reopens boutique at The Venetian Macao



Hong Kong - Swiss watchmaker Breitling yesterday celebrated the reopening of its boutique at The Venetian

Macao. Spanning 1,110 square feet, the store is located in The Venetian Macao's Shopping

at Venetian, the largest luxury retail space in Macau.

The boutique marks a significant milestone to the development of Breitling as it is the first redesigned Breitling boutique in Hong Kong and Macao that features the brand's urban industrial loft concept, according to the company.

Breitling CEO Georges Kern said: "Renewing our boutique in Macau underscores the importance of the markets in Asia for our brand. We're delighted that our friends in Hong Kong and Macau regions will get to know our products and our heritage in this urban Breitling environment."

Gov't lashes out at Taiwan over Hong Kong asylum offer

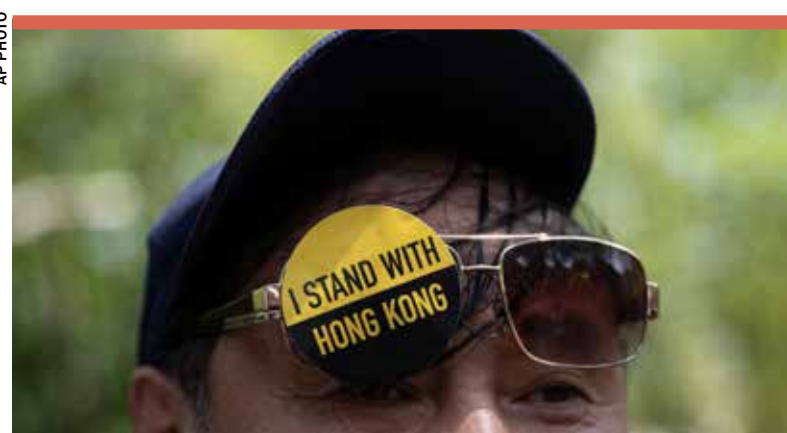
KELVIN CHAN
& YANAN WANG, HONG KONG

CHINA lashed out at Taiwan on yesterday over its offer of political asylum to participants in Hong Kong's pro-democracy protest movement, a day after hundreds of thousands of people marched peacefully in the latest massive demonstration in the Chinese territory.

The government of Taiwan, a self-ruled island that China considers its own territory, strongly supports the protests, and Hong Kong students in Taiwan held events over the weekend expressing their backing. Taiwan's president made the asylum offer last month, though it's not clear if requests have been received.

Taiwan lacks a formal legal mechanism for assessing and granting asylum requests, although it has granted residency to several vocal opponents of the Chinese government.

Ma Xiaoguang, spokesman for the Chinese Cabinet's Taiwan Affairs Office, said Taiwan's offer would



Id "cover up the crimes of a small group of violent militants" and encourage their "audacity in harming Hong Kong and turn Taiwan into a "heaven for ducking the law."

Ma demanded that Taiwan's government "cease undermining the rule of law" in Hong Kong, cease interfering in its affairs and not "condone criminals."

Organizers said at least 1.7 million people participated in Sunday's Hong Kong rally and march, although the police estimate was far lower. Police said the protest was "generally peaceful" but accused

a large group of people of "breaching public peace" afterward by occupying a major thoroughfare and using slingshots to shoot "hard objects" at government headquarters and pointing lasers at police officers.

The protests have at times been marked by violent clashes with police, who say they have arrested more than 700 participants since the demonstrations started in June. However, law enforcement officers kept a low profile Sunday, with no riot police seen from the procession's main routes. When stragglers

convened outside a government complex in the late evening, other protesters urged them to go home.

More protests are planned for the coming weeks, with various rallies organized by accountants, transport workers, high school students and relatives of police officers.

Demonstrators' frustrations over what they perceive to be the government's refusal to respond to their demands boiled over last week with the occupation of Hong Kong's international airport, during which a reporter for a Chinese Communist Party-owned newspaper was assaulted, and attacks on a number of police stations.

A former British colony, Hong Kong was returned to Beijing in 1997 under the framework of "one country, two systems," which promised residents certain democratic rights not afforded to people in mainland China. But some Hong Kongers have accused the Communist Party-ruled central government of eroding their freedoms in recent years.

The protest movement's demands

include the resignation of Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam, democratic elections and an independent investigation into police use of force.

Asked Sunday about the situation in Hong Kong, U.S. President Donald Trump said the use of Chinese troops to put down the protests — similar to the bloody crackdown on protesters in Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989 — would worsen the current U.S.-China trade dispute.

"I mean if it's another Tiananmen Square, I think it's a very hard thing to do if there is violence," Trump told reporters in New Jersey. "I think there'd be tremendous political sentiment not to do something."

Trump had originally said the protests were a matter for China to handle but has since suggested that Chinese President Xi Jinping could resolve the situation by meeting with protest leaders.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang avoided commenting on Trump's remarks directly, but referred to the president's previous statements on the protests.

"We have noticed that President Trump has previously stated that Hong Kong is part of China, and that they must solve it themselves and do not need advice. We hope that the U.S. side can match its acts to its words," Geng told reporters at a daily briefing. AP

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CHINESE POP STARS PUBLICLY BACK BEIJING ON HONG KONG

JUWON PARK, HONG KONG

At least eight pop stars from mainland China and one each from Taiwan and Hong Kong are publicly stating their support for Beijing's one-China policy, eliciting a mixture of disappointment and understanding from fans.

Many of the statements came after protesters opposed to Beijing's growing influence over semi-autonomous Hong Kong removed a Chinese flag and tossed it into Victoria Harbour earlier this month.

Lay Zhang, Jackson Wang, Lai Kuan-lin and Victoria Song were among the K-pop singers who recently uploaded a Chinese flag and declared themselves as "one of 1.4 billion guardians of the Chinese flag" on their official Weibo social media accounts. Wang is from Hong Kong and Lai is from Taiwan.

Some see the public pronouncements as the latest examples of how celebrities and companies feel pressured to toe the line politically in the important Chinese market. Yet they also coincide with a surge in patriotism among young Chinese raised on a steady diet of pro-Communist Party messaging.

Song and Zhang, a member of popular group EXO, have shown their Chinese pride on Instagram, in Song's case by uploading an

image of the Chinese flag last week with the caption "Hong Kong is part of China forever." Such posts would only be seen by their international fans because Instagram, like most Western social media sites, is blocked by the ruling Chinese Communist Party's censors.

For over a decade, South Korean entertainment agencies have been grooming Chinese singers to be part of their Korean pop, or K-pop, bands in an attempt to win over the massive mainland Chinese market. Only a few made it to a much-coveted debut. But a number of Chinese K-pop stars — citing unfair treatment — left their K-pop groups to pursue lucrative solo careers in mainland China.

K-pop fans reacted swiftly to the avowals of allegiance to China. Some called it shameful, while others were more understanding.

Erika Ng, a 26-year-old Hong Kong fan of Jackson Wang, was not surprised by his statement. She said he "values the China market more than the Hong Kong market" because of his large presence in the mainland.

Wang, a member of the group Got7, used to carry a Hong Kong flag and wear a hat with the city's symbol, a bauhinia flower. Lately,

he has been carrying a Chinese flag on his concert tour and was wearing a China flag hoodie in his music video.

Ellyn Bukvich, a 26-year-old American who has been an EXO fan for five years, said many young fans will probably support Zhang and his message because of his status as a K-pop idol.

"It's spreading propaganda and it's very effective," Bukvich said.

The one-China policy maintains that there is only one Chi-

Some see the public pronouncements as the latest examples of how celebrities and companies feel pressured to toe the line politically in the important Chinese market

nese government, and it is a key diplomatic point accepted by most nations in the world, including the U.S. It is mostly aimed at the democratic island of Taiwan, which Beijing sees as a breakaway province to be reunited with the mainland by force if necessary.

In the case of Hong Kong, a for-

mer British colony handed back to Chinese control in 1997, Beijing maintains a "one country, two systems" policy in which the city is guaranteed greater freedoms than those on the mainland until 2047.

China's government and entirely state-controlled media have consistently portrayed the Hong Kong protest movement as an effort by criminals trying to split the territory from China, backed by hostile foreigners.

International brands — from fashion companies to airlines — have been compelled to make public apologies for perceived breaches of that policy, such as listing Taiwan and Hong Kong as separate countries on their websites or on T-shirts.

Zhang terminated his partnership with Samsung Electronics last week, accusing the South Korean mobile giant of damaging China's "sovereignty and territorial integrity."

The statement in a Weibo post was prompted by Samsung having separate language options for users in Hong Kong, China and Taiwan on its global website. Both Hong Kong and Taiwan use traditional Chinese characters instead of the simplified ones used in mainland China, and Hong Kong also has English as an official language. Samsung

declined to comment on whether it will continue to provide different language options for Taiwan and Hong Kong.

It can be difficult to know whether loyalty vows to Beijing are heartfelt or for commercial reasons. The past is littered with examples of celebrities, both Chinese and foreign, who saw their business in China destroyed after the party objected to a statement or an action.

In 2016, Taiwanese K-pop star Chou Tzu-yu made a public apology for waving the Taiwanese flag while appearing on a South Korean television show. A Chinese vilification campaign against her led to a backlash among some Taiwanese, who at the time were in the midst of a presidential election eventually won by Tsai Ing-wen, who is despised by Beijing for her pro-independence stance.

Public support for Beijing hasn't been limited to pop stars.

Liu Yifei, the Chinese-born star of Disney's upcoming live-action version of the film "Mulan," weighed in on the situation in Hong Kong, where protesters have accused police of abuses.

"I support the Hong Kong police," Liu, a naturalized U.S. citizen, wrote on her Weibo account. "You can all attack me now. What a shame for Hong Kong."

Some questioned her motives, wondering if the post was calculated to ensure her film is released widely in China — the world's largest film market. Among Hong Kong protesters, there were swift calls for a boycott of the film when it is released next year. AP

AP PHOTO



Malaysia's ex-Prime Minister Najib Razak

1MDB

Judge postpones 2nd corruption trial of former Malaysian PM

The second trial of Malaysian's ex-Prime Minister Najib Razak linked to the multi-billion-dollar looting of the 1MDB state investment fund was delayed yesterday by a week to allow his first trial to end.

Najib faces a total 42 charges of corruption, abuse of power and money laundering in five separate criminal cases brought since his shocking election defeat last year. Najib, 65, denies wrong-

doing and accuses the new government under Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad of seeking political vengeance.

Chief prosecutor Gopal Sri Ram said the last witness in Najib's first trial is midway through testifying and the case should end this week.

The first trial began in April on seven charges of criminal breach of trust, corruption and money laundering related to 42 million ringgit (USD10.1 million) that allegedly went into Najib's bank accounts from a former 1MDB subsidiary.

Najib faces four counts of abusing his power to receive a total of USD551 million from 2011 to 2014

High Court Judge Collin Lawrence Sequerah agreed to postpone the second trial until Aug. 26.

In the second trial, Najib faces four counts of abusing his power to receive a total of 2.3 billion ringgit (\$551 million) from 2011 to 2014, and 21 other charges of receiving, using and transferring illicit funds linked to 1MDB.

Defense lawyers asked the judge to start the trial by Sept. 3 if the first trial cannot end this week and also to give

them time to study lengthy witness statements they'd just received.

Sequerah insisted the trial, which should have started in August, should not be further delayed. He said he will review the date again on Thursday.

Najib set up 1MDB when he took power in 2009 to promote economic development, but the fund amassed billions in debts and is being investigated in the U.S. and several other countries for alleged cross-border embezzlement and money laundering.

U.S. investigators say more than \$4.5 billion was stolen from 1MDB by associates of Najib between 2009 and 2014, including the money that landed in Najib's bank accounts. They say the ill-gotten gains were laundered through layers of bank accounts in the U.S. and other countries to finance Hollywood films and buy hotels, a luxury yacht, art works, jewelry and other extravagances.

Public anger over the scandal eventually led to the ouster of Najib's long-ruling coalition in May last year, ushering in the first change of power since Malaysia's independence from Britain in 1957.

The new government reopened investigations stifled under Najib and barred him and his wife from leaving the country. Police also seized jewelry and hundreds of handbags and other valuables estimated at more than 1.1 billion ringgit (\$264 million) from properties linked to Najib. AP

KRISHAN FRANCIS,
COLOMBO

SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka's president yesterday appointed a general accused of grave human rights abuses in the final stages of Sri Lanka's long civil war as the country's new army chief.

The new commander, Maj. Gen. Shavendra Silva, who is now promoted to the rank of a Lieutenant General, was in charge of the 58th Division, which encircled the final stronghold of the Tamil Tiger rebels in the last stages of the civil war in 2009. Rights groups have accused the division of violating international human rights laws, including shelling a hospital.

Silva's appointment comes as President Maithripala Sirisena's and his government face criticism that they failed to heed warnings ahead of a series

of suicide bomb attacks in April. The attacks on Easter Sunday by two local Muslim groups that had pledged allegiance to Islamic State group killed more than 260 people.

Silva is respected by many in Sri Lanka, mostly among the ethnic Sinhalese majority. He has denied attacking the hospital in the final stages of the war.

The government declared victory over the rebels in May 2009, ending the Tamil Tigers 26-year campaign for an independent state for minority ethnic Tamils. Both the Sri Lankan military and the rebels have been accused of war time abuses.

The United Nations has

said some 45,000 ethnic Tamil civilians may have been killed in just the final months of the conflict.

According to a 2015 investigation by the U.N office of the high commissioner of human rights, near the end of the war Silva was tasked with capturing the Putumattalan area in from the Tamil Tigers. The report found evidence that both a hospital in the area as well as a U.N. hub were shelled.

"Witnesses alleged the use of cluster-type munitions by the Sri Lankan armed forces in their attacks on Putumattalan hospital and the United Nations hub," the report said.

The government promised to the U.N human rights

council in 2015 to investigate the allegations and involve foreign prosecutors and judges but nothing has been done so far.

The U.S. Embassy in Colombo expressed concern over Silva's appointment.

"The allegations of gross human rights violations against him, documented by the United Nations and other organizations, are serious and credible," the embassy said in a statement.

"This appointment undermines Sri Lanka's international reputation and its commitments to promote justice and accountability, especially at a time when the need for reconciliation and social unity is paramount." AP

AP PHOTO



Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena

TURKEY REMOVES 3 PRO-KURDISH MAYORS FROM OFFICE

SUZAN FRASER, ANKARA

IN a new government crackdown on a pro-Kurdish party, Turkey yesterday removed from office the elected mayors of three cities in the mostly Kurdish-populated southeast region over their alleged links to rebels, replacing them with government appointees.

The mayors of the cities of Diyarbakir, Mardin and Van — members of the People's Democratic Party, or HDP — were sacked over alleged links to the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, and over evidence that they had allegedly aided the outlawed organization, an Interior Ministry statement said.

They were removed some five months after being elected to office in local elections.

In a similar move in 2016, the government ousted mayors from nearly 100 municipalities in the southeast region and replaced them with government appointees during a state of emergency declared after a failed military coup.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan had warned prior to the election that pro-Kurdish mayors could be replaced by a caretaker should they win.

Accusations against the three include attending funerals of PKK rebels, changing street or park names to those of known militants and singing the group's anthem, according to the Interior Ministry statement. The ministry also listed a series of charges or ongoing trials against the three mayors.

The HDP said the mayors of Diyarbakir, Mardin and Van all received more than 50 percent of the votes and their ouster was "based on lies and unlawful grounds."

"This is a new and clear political coup," the party said in a statement. "It also constitutes a clearly hostile move against the political will of the Kurdish people."

Police used water cannons to disperse crowds that tried to gather outside the municipality building in Diyarbakir to protest the elected mayors' ouster.

Ekrem Imamoglu, the newly elected mayor of Istanbul, also

criticized the mayors' dismissal, saying on Twitter: "Ignoring the will of the people is unacceptable."

Imamoglu, from Turkey's main opposition party, was elected mayor in local elections on March 31 but his win was canceled over alleged irregularities. He went on to win a repeat election by a wide margin.

Separately, police also detained 418 people suspected of links to the PKK in separate operations in 29 provinces, the state-run Anadolu Agency reported. Authorities also launched an operation wide-scale operation targeting the PKK in the in the provinces of Hakkari, Sirnak and Van, which border Iraq and Iran, according to the agency.

The PKK, considered a terror organization by Turkey and its Western allies, has waged an insurgency since 1984 and the conflict has claimed tens of thousands of lives.

The government accuses HDP politicians of links to the PKK, and Erdogan regularly brands them terrorists and traitors.

The HDP insists it advocates Kurdish rights and democracy through legal, political means.

Several party lawmakers, including former chairman Selahattin Demirtas, and mayors have been jailed. AP

AP PHOTO



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Attention
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UK prime minister under pressure to recall Parliament

DANICA KIRKA & ANGELA CHARLTON, LONDON

B RITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson yesterday dismissed the notion of recalling Parliament from its summer break after leaked government documents warned of widespread shortages and border delays in the event of a "no-deal" Brexit.

The Sunday Times newspaper published the expectations of what the British government if the country leaves the European Union without a withdrawal agreement. Among the most serious: disruptions to the supply of medicines, a decrease in fresh food availability and potential fresh water shortages due to possible interruptions in the importation of water treatment chemicals.

Economists have long predicted such grim scenarios, but Brexit backers have dismissed the forecasts as scaremongering. Johnson's Downing Street office said the published dossier was "out of date," and that the Hou-



se of Commons would return as planned on Sept. 3.

"I'm not pretending that there won't be bumps on the road," Johnson said. "There will be [...] but if everybody puts their minds to it I have absolutely no doubt that we can get ready."

The opposition Labour Party, which is trying to delay Brexit and

organize a government of national unity, pointed to the report as another sign that no-deal must be avoided. Senior party official John McDonnell supported the demands of more than 100 lawmakers who signed a letter demanding that Johnson cut short Parliament's summer recess to permit debate on the Brexit crisis.

Johnson is expected to underscore his commitment to leaving the EU on Oct. 31, with or without a deal, later this week when he meets with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron ahead of the G-7 summit in Biarritz.

Macron invited Johnson for talks Thursday on Britain's pending departure from the European Union "in respect of the European principles agreed among the 27" remaining EU countries, according to Macron's office. Macron insists the EU should not renegotiate the hard-fought withdrawal agreement reached with Britain's previous government.

Johnson insisted he wanted an agreement and was ready to work for one. The prime minister said it was up to others to compromise.

"Now of course our friends and partners on the other side of the Channel are showing a little bit of reluctance at the moment to change their position," he said. "That's fine — I'm confident that they will — but in the meantime we have to get ready for a no-deal outcome." AP

PSYCHIATRIC PATIENT KILLS FIVE OTHERS IN ROMANIA

A UTHORITIES in Romania say a patient at a psychiatric hospital has beaten to death five other patients with a drip stand and wounded several more.

The 38-year-old attacked the patients in the northeastern town of Sapoca on Sunday, killing three people at the scene. Another person died in a hospital later on Sunday and an 88-year-old woman died yesterday.

Hospital manager Viorica Mihalascu, who resigned after the incident, said "everything happened in less than a minute." Mihalascu added that "his symptoms did not indicate the tragedy was about to happen."

The Health Ministry said employees at the hospital are facing criminal charges on suspicion of negligence in the workplace. AP

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what's ON

MACAU. 100 YEARS OF PHOTOGRAPHY
TIME: 10am-7pm
UNTIL: September 21, 2019
VENUE: Casa Garden
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2855 4691

JAPANESE CULTURE AND PERFORMING ARTS POSTER EXHIBIT - GRAPHIC TRIAL POSTER EXHIBIT MACAU EDITION
TIME: 10am-9pm (Sundays to Thursdays)
UNTIL: September 22, 2019
VENUE: Tap Seac Gallery
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

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

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

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

Offbeat

ALASKA MAN DISCOVERS MESSAGE IN BOTTLE FROM RUSSIAN NAVY

A man discovered a 50-year-old letter in a bottle from the Russian Navy on the shores of western Alaska.

Tyler Ivanoff found the handwritten Russian letter early this month while gathering firewood near Shishmaref about 600 miles northwest of Anchorage, television station KTUU reported.

"I was just looking for firewood when I found the bottle," Tyler Ivanoff said. "When I found the bottle, I had to use a screwdriver to get the message out."

Ivanoff shared his discovery on Facebook where Russian speakers translated the message to be a greeting from a Cold War Russian sailor dated June 20, 1969. The message included an address and a request for a response from the person who finds it.

Reporters from the state-owned Russian media network, Russia-1, tracked down the original writer, Capt. Anatolii Prokofievich Botsanenko, KTUU reported.

He was skeptical he wrote the note until he saw his signature on the bottom.

"There — exactly!" he exclaimed.

The message was sent while the then 36-year-old was aboard the Sulak, Botsanenko said. Botsanenko shed tears when the Russian television reporter told him the Sulak was sold for scrap in the 1990s.

Botsanenko also showed the reporter some souvenirs from his time on the ship, including the autograph of the wife of a famous Russian spy and Japanese liquor bottles, the latter kept over his wife's protests.

Ivanoff's discovery of the bottle was first reported by Nome radio station KNOM.

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Agua de Mar
15:45	Zig Zag
16:20	Sim Chef! Sr2
16:50	Quem Quer Ser Milionário
17:45	Moda Portugal Sr.4
18:15	Amor Maior (Repetição)
19:00	Portugal que Dança
19:30	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	Coisas Curiosas de Saber
21:50	Todas as Palavras
22:25	Amor Maior
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Tanegashima - A Ilha da Espingarda
00:45	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:30	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



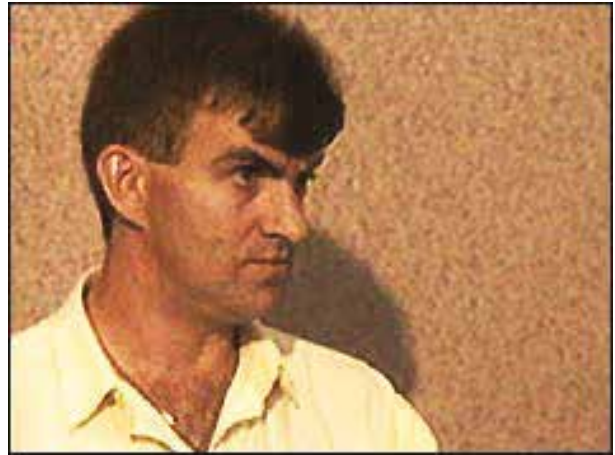
TOY STORY 4
ROOM2
4:30pm
Director: Josh Cooley
Starring: Will Smith, Mena Massoud, Naomi Scott
Language: Cantonese
Duration: 109min



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



1992 IRAQ JAILS 'LOST' BRITON

Iraq has sentenced a British man to seven years in jail for what it called "illegal entry" into the country.

Paul Ride, a catering manager from east London, was working in Kuwait before he disappeared two months ago.

Last week the Red Cross tracked Mr Ride, 33, to a jail cell in Baghdad.

Diplomats believe he may have got lost in the desert and accidentally driven across the Iraqi border.

The Foreign Office has protested to Iraq about the severity of the sentence and demanded Mr Ride's release.

Efforts to gain his freedom have been hampered by the fact that Britain no longer has an embassy in Baghdad.

The Briton's case is being handled by the Russians who still have diplomatic representation in Iraq.

They were successful last year in gaining the release of a British businessman, Ian Richter, who had served five and a half years in an Iraqi jail.

Another Briton, Daphne Parrish, was also released in 1991.

But her companion, Iranian-born journalist Farzad Bazoft, was executed in 1990 after being convicted of spying.

Two days ago Mr Ride's wife, Julie, appealed to the Iraqi leader, Saddam Hussein, to free her husband.

A spokesman from Mr Ride's employer in Kuwait, John Gibbs, said everybody at the company was "very shocked" by what had happened to Mr Ride.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Soon after Mr Ride was sentenced, another Briton, Michael Wainwright, was jailed for 10 years after cycling across the Iraqi border.

The following June, Simon Dunn a Briton resident in Kuwait was jailed for eight years for illegal entry into Iraq.

There were suspicions the British men were being held as "human shields" to deter attack from Britain and the US - a tactic employed unsuccessfully by Iraq before the Gulf War.

Michael Wainwright and Paul Ride shared a jail cell for much of their imprisonment. All three Britons were released in December 1993.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

You can breathe a great big sigh of relief today - that issue you were afraid would rear its ugly head at the last minute is not going to be bothering you (at least not today).



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Don't be too surprised if you feel a little bit weird or out of place amongst the people you'll be with today. It is only natural for you to feel like a fish out of water during such a transitional time in your life.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

This day is well-suited for action, but not so perfect for deep thought or contemplation. Your brain is a bit sluggish when it comes to new plans right now, but your physical self is ready to get moving.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

This is an educational time for you, when you start to learn about things you never thought you'd ever have any interest in. Your brain is ready - to soak up some heavy stuff, so feel free to pour it on.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Touchy, touchy, touchy! The people who are disagreeing with you today are not trying to be difficult, they're just trying to follow through on what they believe to be the right way of doing things.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

A friend's recent advice is still humming in your mind - maybe it's something you should follow, after all! Do an experiment today. Try out what they suggested. See how it feels for you.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

You just have to start seeing things in a more idealistic, beautiful, and hopeful way. The rest will take care of itself. All you need to do is start to focus on the positive possibilities.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

A problem might pop up around your home today. A family member might not know how to react, but you will. Take over and show them there's nothing to fear.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Don't be surprised if you feel like no one in your circle of friends and associates understands where you're coming from, today. They are in their own world...



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

No one will ever do a better job of creating your future than you - so why are you modeling your decisions on someone else's? Your vision of the future has to come from inside you, organically.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

It will help you figure out what is a real problem - and what is merely just an inconvenience that you can ignore. Pick your battles, and you will end up in a lot fewer than you think.

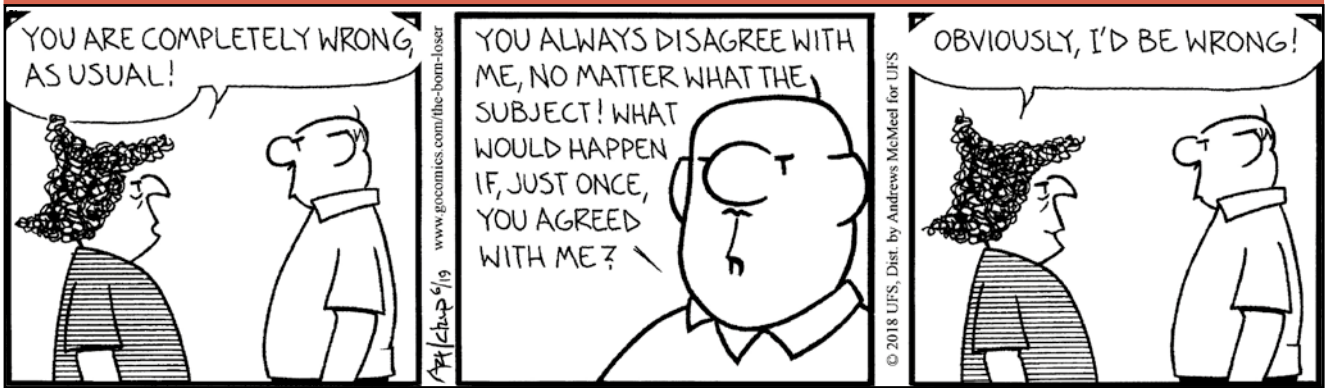


PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Today you will gain a key insight into how you can create a healthier, happier life. Your physical health is something you can influence more than you have been.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Appalling; 6- Cambodian currency; 10- "The Thin Man" pooch; 14- Idaho capital; 15- Small amount; 16- Shock; 17- Goofed; 18- Obligation; 19- Locale; 20- JFK's predecessor; 21- V-formation fliers; 23- Extend a subscription; 24- Sneaks a look; 26- Extent; 27- Fascination; 29- Sharp end; 31- Scorch; 32- Mottled mount; 33- Sauna site; 36- Trivial; 40- Bolted down; 41- Mark of excellence; 42- Waffle brand; 43- Box; 44- River of song; 46- Facial expression used by Elvis Presley; 48- A bit, colloquially; 49- Big cats; 50- Sam, e.g.; 52- Male cat; 55- Commotions; 56- Not aweather; 57- Caribbean resort; 59- Bill of fare; 60- Getting ___ years; 61- Fortune-telling cards; 62- Disrespect verbally; 63- Cabbage-like plant; 64- Loaf ends;

DOWN: 1- In the sack; 2- Unit of language; 3- Hearth; 4- Wear and tear; 5- Account book; 6- Carnival attractions; 7- Markers; 8- Major ending?; 9- Put Down; 10- Acquiescence; 11- Undercover operation; 12- Private student; 13- Freshly; 22- ___ out a living; 23- Babbled; 25- Monetary unit of Greece; 26- Bar mitzvah, e.g.; 27- Bhutan's continent; 28- Shrove Tuesday follower; 29- Excite, as interest; 30- Load; 32- Animal skin; 33- Autograph; 34- Leaf of a book; 35- ___ vera; 37- Nostrils; 38- Practice punching; 39- Milk source; 43- Official count of population; 44- Costa del ___; 45- Circular band of flowers; 46- Cassette half; 47- Middays; 48- Part of an act; 49- Hightails it; 50- Forearm bone; 51- Singer Sedaka; 53- Ancient Greek coin; 54- Gym equipment; 56- Hunky-dory; 58- Actress Charlotte;

Yesterday's solution

ORBIT	AGES	SNEE
ROAR	CABIN	NEAL
COMA	EMOTE	GOARS
ARANDEN	PEOPLE	
SAIL	STEP	
AROMA	ROULETTE	
SLAMS	LEON	HEEL
HET	ELITE	NAM
ARIA	MANY	SLOMO
HOODWINK	USERS	
VETO	LIPSA	
ATLAST	AVE	KNEW
LOAN	EATIN	AERO
TROC	DARED	GEAR
EASE	RADIS	ETTE

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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

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1,720 ft² \$13,600,000 (ref: n/a)

[Coloane] 3 Bedroom 3 2 2
1,665 ft² \$8,500,000 (ref: 19070001)

[Taipa] Pearl on the Lough 2
125 ft² \$2,300,000 (ref: 190650125T)

FOR RENT

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[Taipa] Ocean Gardens 4 4 4
\$35,000/mth 3,700 ft² (ref: 18040674)

[Taipa] Nova Grand 2 1 1
\$16,000/mth 986 ft² (ref: 19055007RT)

[Taipa] One Grantai 2
\$2,500/mth



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DUANE ALLMAN'S OLD GUITAR 'LAYLA' SELLS FOR \$1.25 MILLION

FANS of Duane Allman in Macon, Georgia, say they didn't expect the late musician's old guitar to sell for \$1.25 million at a recent auction.

The gold-topped guitar is the one Allman played in the hit song "Layla," where he performed with Eric Clapton. The Telegraph reported.

Until recently, the guitar affectionately called "Layla" had been on display at the Allman Brothers Band museum at The Big House in Macon.

"I don't think anybody expected that," Museum Director Richard Brent said of the amount. "The history of it is what sold it."

Brent said the man who bought the guitar at the auction is an out-of-town collector who wishes to remain anonymous.

The buyer has agreed to share the instrument with the museum during certain times. That means it will be coming back to the museum in late November, Brent said.

JACK WHITAKER, HALL OF FAME SPORTS BROADCASTER, DIES AT 95



JACK Whitaker, whose Hall of Fame broadcasting career ranged from the first Super Bowl to Secretariat's Triple Crown to short essays from major sporting events, died Sunday morning, CBS reported.

The network said Whitaker died of natural causes in his sleep in Devon, Pennsylvania. He was 95.

Whitaker, a Philadelphia native who was wounded on Omaha Beach three days after the D-Day Invasion, began his broadcast career at WCAU-TV in Philadelphia and spent 22 years for CBS Sports. He

worked for ABC from 1982 in the news and sports divisions, and was part of the network's Olympics coverage in 1984 and 1988.

"I grew up watching him deliver contemplative and contextual prose with his famous short essays, bringing class and dignity to his industry," Jim Nantz, the lead CBS Sports announcer, said.

Whitaker had been the only living play-by-play announcer from the first 21 Super Bowls.

CBS Sports chairman Sean McManus said Whitaker's writing, presence on air and humanity were unmatched.

HEATHER LOCKLEAR PLEADS NO CONTEST TO FIGHTING WITH DEPUTIES

HEATHER Locklear has pleaded no contest to charges that she fought with first responders during two visits to her Southern California home last year. Locklear entered the plea in Ventura County court Friday afternoon to five counts of battery on a peace officer, one count of battery on emergency personnel and two counts of resisting, obstructing or delaying a peace officer.

A judge sentenced her to 120 days in jail,

but the sentence was stayed pending completion of a substance-abuse treatment program.

The 57-year-old "Melrose Place" and "T.J. Hooker" actress was also sentenced to three years' probation.

Deputies and paramedics answering calls about domestic disputes at Locklear's home in March and June of 2018 said that she pushed, kicked and shouted at them.

Locklear's attorney declined comment.



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FOOTBALL

In one game, Bale shows he can still contribute at Real Madrid

TALES AZZONI, MADRID

JUST like that, Gareth Bale is part of the solution for Real Madrid again.

After only one game back as a starter, the player who wasn't wanted by coach Zinedine Zidane a few weeks ago showed he can still contribute to the team.

Zidane started Bale in the team's Spanish league opener last weekend — less than a month after saying his transfer would be good for everyone — and got a positive response from the Wales forward in a 3-1 win over Celta Vigo.

Bale's good performance was a relief after Zidane and Madrid had struggled to find ways to deal with the forward following failed attempts to transfer him in the off-season.

"He is going to stay," Zidane said. "All the players we have now are focused on the season ahead. Bale and all the players want to stay and want to do their best to defend this jersey."

Bale had a great first half against Celta, setting up Karim Benzema's opening goal with a perfectly placed cross in the 12th minute. He nearly found the net himself a few moments later with a shot that prompted a good save by the opposing goalkeeper.

After being substituted by Francisco "Isco" Alarcon toward the end of the second half, Bale was saluted by Zidane and his



Madrid's Gareth Bale

teammates on the bench.

"Bale has helped us win titles, he has scored important goals for us," Madrid midfielder Casemiro said. "We have a lot of respect for him. He has to keep playing, he is a great player."

FAIRYTALE APPEARANCE

Athletic Bilbao striker Aritz Aduriz returned from his post-match interview to find his teammates applauding him and chanting his name in the

locker room.

The 38-year-old veteran had just scored an amazing overhead kick a minute after entering the match in the 88th, giving Athletic an opening win against defending champion Barcelona.

It was the perfect start to Aduriz's final season as a player.

The former Spain international announced he will be retiring this season, ending a career that will include more than 400 matches and 170 goals with the Basque

Country club.

"Football is so beautiful sometimes because of things like this. It gives you chances like this," Aduriz said. "It will be impossible not to miss this. I'm just incredibly happy to be able to choose how I'm ending my career, and to be able to do it at the place that I love the most."

BARCELONA'S INJURIES

Barcelona is off to its worst league start in a decade and inju-

ry woes could keep the two-time defending champions from rebounding quickly.

It remains unclear whether Lionel Messi and Luiz Suárez will be available for the match against Real Betis yesterday [Macau time], as both continue to nurse muscle injuries.

Messi got hurt in the pre-season and didn't play in Friday's 1-0 loss at Athletic Bilbao, while Suárez didn't make it past halftime in the opener.

Messi is expected to return to practice this week and has a greater chance of being in the lineup against Betis, but Suárez is not as likely to be fit in time for yesterday's game.

Barcelona had won 10 straight league openers.

HARSH RED CARDS

Refereeing officials warned before the league started they would not tolerate fouls that could lead to Achilles injuries.

A couple of players got to see first-hand that the officials were serious about their warning, including Luka Modric.

The Real Madrid midfielder was sent off for stepping on an opponent from behind in the team's opener against Celta Vigo

A day later, it was Getafe's Jorge Molina who was ejected for a similar foul in the game against Atlético Madrid. In both occasions, the red cards were shown after video reviews.

"We were told in advance that when a player steps on another player from behind it doesn't matter whether it was on purpose," Atlético Madrid coach Diego Simeone said.

Both Modric and Molina claimed their fouls were accidental. **AP**

FOOTBALL

Bayern completes loan signing of Coutinho from Barcelona

BAYERN Munich completed the loan signing of Brazil playmaker Philippe Coutinho from Barcelona yesterday.

The German club said the 27-year-old Coutinho passed a medical examination on Sunday and signed a contract through June 2020, when it has the option of making the loan permanent.

"All parties have agreed not to disclose any financial details of the agreement," Bayern said.

But Barcelona said the German club "will pay 8.5 million euros (\$9.4 million) and the player's wages. The agreement also sees an option to buy for Bayern fixed



Barcelona's Philippe Coutinho (left) talks with Luis Suarez, center, during soccer practice

at 120 million euros (\$133 million)."

Coutinho will wear the No. 10 for Bayern.

"Coutinho made it very

clear to us during the negotiations that he really wanted to switch to Bayern," Bayern sporting director Hasan Salihamidzic said.

"He's a world-class player with great ability who can play in various positions in attack."

Although Coutinho failed to live up to expectations after joining Barcelona in January 2018 for a club-record transfer from Liverpool worth 160 million euros (then \$192 million), his arrival in Germany has also been welcomed by Bayern's club rivals.

"You can only congratulate Bayern. It's good when such a name plays in the Bundesliga," Borussia Dortmund chief executive told German daily Bild.

Dortmund player Julian Brandt, Fortuna Düsseldorf coach Friedhelm Funkel

and Borussia Mönchengladbach sporting director Max Eberl also welcomed the transfer.

"For me, this move means a new challenge in a new country with one of the best clubs in Europe," Coutinho was quoted as saying. "I'm really looking forward to it. I have great ambitions like Bayern."

The Brazil playmaker scored 21 goals and set up 11 more in 75 appearances for Barcelona but was criticized by fans for not playing his best in decisive games. Coutinho was the second most expensive player in the world after Neymar when signed from Liverpool.

After coming through the youth teams at hometown club Vasco da Gama in Rio de Janeiro, Coutinho was signed by Inter Milan, loaned back to Vasco and later to Spanish club Espanyol before he joined Liverpool.

Bayern had been pursuing Germany winger Leroy Sané as its No. 1 target to help fill the void left by the departing Arjen Robben and Franck Ribéry, but turned to alternatives after Sané injured his knee while playing for Manchester City.

Coutinho has 15 goals in 55 appearances for Brazil and helped the team win this year's Copa América. **AP**

OPINION

Our Desk

Anthony Lam

SIT BACK, RELAX, AND ENJOY MORE CHOICE FLYING

A new airline, Starlux Airlines, had been approved to fly between Taipei and Macau, as reported yesterday by Taiwan's Economic Daily News.

Since it is a new airline, rumors about its batches of launching destinations have been spreading from its official inauguration in May last year. It has been speculated that Macau would be in the first – if not the second – batch of destinations.

According to the Taiwan newspaper, as the airline is a newcomer, there are no free air routes that can be assigned to Starlux. As a result, it can only focus on destinations where the “Open Sky” policy with Taiwan is implemented.

In 2014, Macau and Taiwan signed an agreement to implement the arrangement. Such arrangement allows operators from either jurisdiction to freely administer their flights, in areas including flight timetable, number of flights, capacity of each flight, etc.

Currently, there are three airlines operating flights between Taiwan and Macau, namely Air Macau, EVA Air and low-cost carrier Tigerair Taiwan. Altogether they operate a total of more than 12 two-way flights between the two places every day. During peak seasons, they enjoy the agreed liberty to add flights to accommodate the extra amount of travelers.

Before 2016, when Taiwan's TransAsia Airways terminated its business, they operated flights between Macau and Taiwan too. That said, with the expected addition of Starlux Airlines, flight operation would resume to a four-sided competition, just like in a mahjong game.

The airline is expected to start ticket sales in this coming December, as it has aimed to launch flights the following month. At the early stage, the airline will rely on its own three Airbus A321neo aircrafts.

The fleet has been said to expand to one eventually comprising 27 aircrafts: 10 A321neo and 17 A350XWB. The latter set a record in the largest purchase of Airbus aircraft in Taiwan's aviation history.

On the other hand, you may feel curious about the ownership of the new airline. The owner of Starlux is not unknown to the sector: The company is owned by 49-year-old Chang Kuo-wei, ex-president of EVA Air. EVA Air was founded by Chang's father, the late Chang Yung-fa, a legend of Taiwan's transportation industry.

Chang “Junior” is a Boeing 777 pilot. During his reign at EVA Air, he managed a fleet of around 60 aircraft. He targets his new aspiration on business travelers and transit passengers.

At the same time, the concession of Air Macau is expiring in November next year. The Aviation Authority has already publicized that the concession will not be renewed, meaning that after then any interested operator will not need Air Macau's nod to run any route in Macau.

It is always good to have more choice, and our airport is working to cope with the increase. Last year, six new boarding gates were opened as the quintessential part of the airport's north extension. The airport terminal has been extended northward to accommodate 1.8 million more passengers annually.

Furthermore, the Airport Authority has also announced a master plan for the airport's future. Reclamation will be conducted to make space for more aircraft parking spots and facilities. The runway will be lengthened to provide for a safer environment. Let's hope after all these expansions, the airport will be able to receive super jumbo jets A380 and B747-8.

34% OF ECONOMISTS IN SURVEY EXPECT A US RECESSION IN 2021

A number of U.S. business economists appear sufficiently concerned about the risks of some of President Donald Trump's economic policies that they expect a recession in the U.S. by the end of 2021.

Thirty-four percent of economists surveyed by the National Association for Business Economics, in a report being released yesterday, said they believe a slowing economy will tip into recession in 2021. That's up from 25% in a survey taken in February. Only 2% of those polled expect a recession to begin this year, while 38%

predict that it will occur in 2020.

Trump, however, has dismissed concerns about a recession, offering an optimistic outlook for the economy after last week's steep drop in the financial markets and saying, «I don't think we're having a recession.» A strong economy is key to the Republican president's 2020 reelection prospects.

The economists have previously expressed concern that Trump's tariffs and higher budget deficits could eventually dampen the economy.

AP PHOTO



Tasiilaq, Greenland

DANISH PM: TRUMP'S IDEA OF BUYING GREENLAND IS 'ABSURD'

JAN M. OLSEN, COPENHAGEN

GREENLAND is not for sale and U.S. President Donald Trump's idea of buying the semi-autonomous Danish territory in the Arctic from Denmark is “an absurd discussion,” Denmark's prime minister said.

Mette Frederiksen, who was visiting the world's largest island to meet Premier Kim Kielsen, told reporters: “Greenland is not Danish. Greenland is Greenlandic. I persistently hope that this is not something that is seriously meant.”

Frederiksen said yesterday that the Arctic, with resources that Russia and others could exploit for commercial gain, “is becoming increasingly important to the entire world community.”

Retreating ice could uncover potential oil and mineral resources in Greenland which, if successfully tapped, could dramatically change the island's fortunes. However, no oil has yet been found in Greenlandic waters, and 80 percent of the island is covered by an ice sheet that is up to 3 kilometers

thick, which means exploration is only possible in coastal regions.

Even there, conditions are far from ideal due to the long winter with frozen ports, 24-hour darkness and temperatures regularly dropping below minus 30 Celsius in the northern parts.

Trump is expected to visit Denmark Sept. 2-3 as part of a trip to Europe.

Trump said that he is interested in the idea, but

“Greenland is not Danish. Greenland is Greenlandic.”

METTE FREDERIKSEN

it's not a priority of his administration.

“Strategically it's interesting and we'd be interested, but we'll talk to them a little bit. It's not No. 1 on the burner, I can tell you that,” the president said.

It wouldn't be the first time an American leader has tried to buy the world's largest island. In 1946, the U.S. proposed to pay Denmark \$100 million to buy Greenland after flirting with the idea of swapping land in Alaska

for strategic parts of the Arctic island.

Under a 1951 deal, Denmark allowed the U.S. to build bases and radar stations on Greenland.

The U.S. Air Force currently maintains one base in northern Greenland, Thule Air Force Base, some 1,200 kilometers south of the North Pole. Formerly military airfields in Narsarsuaq, Kulusuk and Kangerlussuaq have become civilian airports.

The Thule base, constructed in 1952, was originally designed as a refueling base for long-range bombing missions. It has been a ballistic missile early warning and space surveillance site since 1961.

Frederiksen, who became prime minister June 27, was on a planned two-day trip to Greenland before traveling to nearby Iceland for a meeting of the Nordic prime ministers.

“Thankfully, the time where you buy and sell other countries and populations is over. Let's leave it there. Jokes aside, we will of course love to have an even closer strategic relationship with the United States,” Frederiksen said. **AP**

THE BUZZ

AP PHOTO



Iran An Iranian supertanker with USD130million worth of light crude oil that the U.S. suspects is tied to a sanctioned organization left Gibraltar and was heading east into the Mediterranean Sea yesterday, with its next destination reported to be Greece.

AP PHOTO



Syria Airstrikes targeted a Turkish army convoy inside Syria yesterday killing 3 civilians and wounding 12 others, the Turkish Defense Ministry said, but there was no word on Turkish casualties.

AP PHOTO



France Specialists shoring up fire-damaged Notre Dame Cathedral returned yesterday to the Paris site for the first time in nearly a month, this time wearing disposable underwear and other protective gear after a delay prompted by fears of lead contamination.

AP PHOTO



Spain An out-of-control wildfire in Spain's Canary Islands was throwing flames 50 meters into the air on Monday, forcing emergency workers to evacuate more than 8,000 people, authorities said.

UK Britain's government is planning to pressure social media companies to do more to fight misinformation on vaccines following a spike in measles cases.

AP PHOTO



UK British Prime Minister Boris Johnson yesterday dismissed the notion of recalling Parliament from its summer break after leaked government documents warned of widespread shortages and border delays in the event of a “no-deal” Brexit. **More on p15**