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The Latest: NASA spacecraft lands on Mars to dig deep



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Ukraine introduces martial law citing threat of Russian invasion



Activists of far-right parties burn flares during a rally to support the Ukrainian navy after Russia seized two Ukrainian armored artillery vessels and a tug boat in the Black Sea, in front of the presidential administration headquarters in Kiev



Ukrainian navy vessels are docked in the Black Sea port of Odessa

MOSCOW/KIEV (Reuters) - Ukraine on Monday imposed martial law for 30 days in parts of the country most vulnerable to an attack from Russia after President Petro Poroshenko warned of the "extremely serious" threat of a land invasion.

Poroshenko said martial law was necessary to bolster Ukraine's defenses after Russia seized three Ukrainian naval ships and took their crews prisoner at the weekend.

Parliament approved the introduction of martial law after Poroshenko reassured some skeptical lawmakers that it would not be used to curb civil liberties or delay elections scheduled for next year.

Ukrainian ships in Kerch Strait ignored warning shots: Russian FSB

At U.N., U.S. warns Russia over 'outrageous' violation of Ukraine sovereignty



Activists of far-right parties attend a rally to support the Ukrainian navy after Russia seized two Ukrainian armored artillery vessels and a tug boat in the Black Sea on Sunday, in central Kiev

day when Ukraine and Russia traded accusations about Sunday's standoff and Kiev's allies weighed in to condemn Moscow's behavior.

With relations still raw after Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea from Ukraine and its backing for a pro-Moscow insurgency in eastern Ukraine, the crisis risked pushing the two countries into open conflict.

"Russia has been waging a hybrid war against our country for a fifth year. But with an attack on Ukrainian military boats it moved to a new stage of aggression," Poroshenko said.

was happening between Russia and Ukraine and was working with European leaders on the situation.

In a phone call with Poroshenko, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg offered the alliance's "full support for Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty." Ukraine is not a NATO member though it aspires to membership. Washington's envoy to the United Nations said Russia's actions were an "outrageous violation of sovereign Ukrainian territory" and sanctions on Russia would remain in place.

The European Union, Britain, France, Poland, Denmark, and Canada all condemned what they called Russian aggression. German Chancellor Angela Merkel stressed the need for dialogue.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko speaks during a parliament session to review his proposal to introduce martial law for 60 days after Russia seized Ukrainian naval ships off the coast of Russia-annexed Crimea, in Kiev, Ukraine November 26, 2018. REUTERS/Valentyn Ogirenko
The stand-off in the Azov Sea is more combustible now than at any time in the past four years as Ukraine has rebuilt its armed forces, previously in disarray, and has a new generation of commanders who are confident and have a point to prove.

It came at the end of a

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The Latest: NASA spacecraft lands on Mars to dig deep

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — The Latest on the landing by NASA's InSight spacecraft at Mars (all times local):

2:53 p.m.

A NASA spacecraft has landed on Mars to explore the planet's interior.

Flight controllers announced that the spacecraft InSight touched down Monday, after a perilous supersonic descent through the red Martian skies. Confirmation came via radio signals that took more than eight minutes to cross the nearly 100 million miles (160 million kilometers) between Mars and Earth. There was no immediate word on whether the lander was in good working order. NASA satellites around Mars will provide updates.

It is NASA's eighth successful Mars landing since the 1976 Vikings. The three-legged, one-armed InSight will operate from the same spot for the next two years. It landed less than 400 miles (600 kilometers) from NASA's Curiosity rover, which until Monday was the youngest working robot in town.

2:47 p.m.

A NASA spacecraft is making a perilous supersonic descent through the atmosphere of Mars, following a six-month journey. Flight controllers announced that the robotic geologist, InSight, entered the Martian

atmosphere Monday afternoon. It should take about six minutes for InSight to get to the surface and land, slowed by a parachute and descent engines.

Updates are coming in via radio signals that take more than eight minutes to cross the nearly 100 million miles (160 million kilometers) between Mars and Earth. The news is being relayed by a pair of mini satellites that have been following InSight since their May launch.

It is NASA's ninth attempt to land at Mars since the 1976 Vikings.

NASA last landed on Mars in 2012 with the Curiosity rover.

12 p.m.

A NASA spacecraft is just a few hours away from landing on Mars.

The InSight lander is aiming for a Monday afternoon touchdown on what scientists and engineers hope will be a flat plain.

Everyone involved in the \$1 billion international mission is understandably nervous. They say they've had trouble sleeping, and their stomachs are churning.

It's risky business to descend through the Martian atmosphere and land, even for the U.S., the only country to pull it off. It would be NASA's eighth landing on Mars.



3 a.m.

A NASA spacecraft's six-month journey to Mars is nearing its dramatic grand finale.

The InSight lander aimed for a touchdown Monday afternoon, as anxiety built among those involved in the \$1 billion international effort.

InSight's perilous descent through the Martian atmosphere has stomachs churning and nerves stretched to the max. Although an old pro at this, NASA hasn't attempted a landing at Mars for six years.

The robotic geologist — designed to explore Mars' mysterious insides — must go from 12,300 mph (19,800 kph) to zero in six minutes flat as it pierces the Martian atmosphere, pops out a parachute, fires its descent engines and lands on three legs.

It's aiming for flat red plains, hopefully low on rocks.

Earth's overall success rate at Mars is 40 percent.

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Editor's Choice



U.N. General Assembly President Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces speaks during a meeting with Canada's PM Trudeau Hill in Ottawa



Kosovo's President Thaci walks with U.S. Secretary of State Pompeo as they meet at the State Department in Washington



GM workers picket at an entrance to the General Motors' assembly plant in Oshawa



GM workers gather for a meeting at UNIFOR Local 222 near the General Motors' assembly plant in Oshawa



GM workers gather for a meeting at UNIFOR Local 222 near the General Motors' assembly plant in Oshawa



People watch on a video screen as the spaceship InSight lands on Mars surface after a six-month journey, in Times Square in New York



Ukrainian President Poroshenko speaks during a parliament session in Kiev



A campaign staff stands in a pre-election tent of Tymoshenko, head of Ukraine's Batkivshchyna political party, in central Kiev

HONG KONG — Raymond Chow, a Hong Kong film producer who thrust Bruce Lee and Jackie Chan into global stardom while helping to transform the action movie genre, died on Friday in Hong Kong. He was 91.

His death was confirmed in a statement by Carrie Lam, Hong Kong's chief executive. The statement did not list a cause of death.

A former journalist, Mr. Chow entered the film industry as a publicist in 1958, when he joined Shaw Brothers, a studio that had a pioneering role in kung fu movies and other popular low-budget films. But he quickly grew frustrated with the quality of the studio's output.

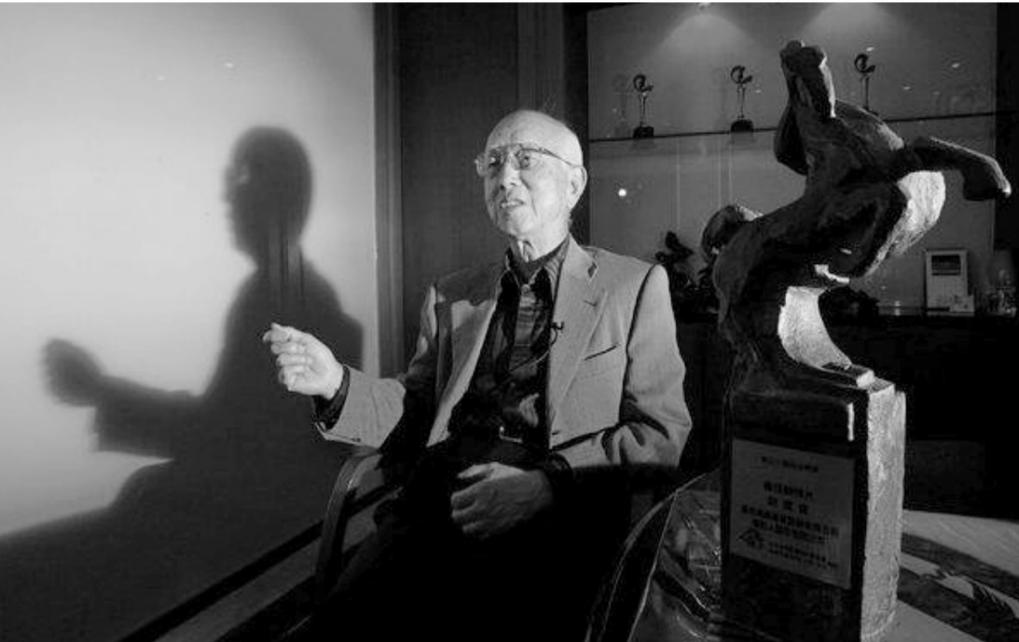
"It was hard to publicize a film that I do not believe in," he said in a 2011 interview. "There are only so many lies I can tell. I can't really exaggerate. Nobody will believe us."

So the studio founder, Run Run Shaw, invited him to contribute his ideas on scripts, and he soon became a producer. Mr. Chow longed for more freedom over his work, and in 1970 he left to co-found his own studio, Golden Harvest.



Raymond Chow, Movie Producer Who Popularized Kung Fu Stars, Dies at 91

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



Raymond Chow in 2005. He joined the film industry as a publicist in 1958 and soon became a producer. CreditCreditVincent Yu/Associated Press

punches on Hong Kong television, and learned that Shaw Brothers had been unable to sign him to a film contract. Golden Harvest offered him \$15,000 for two films, along with a share of the profits and greater say in the production. Mr. Lee agreed, and Mr. Chow quickly flew his new actor to Thailand, where, in rough rural conditions, he filmed "The Big Boss" in 1971.

Mr. Lee's intense aura and florid fight scenes helped the film become the most successful one shown in Hong Kong to that point, breaking the box-office total set by "The Sound of Music." That success was followed by hits including "Fist of Fury" and "The Way of the Dragon."

"In our early action films, we used ac-

tors who knew little about fighting," Mr. Chow told The New York Times in 1973. "We had to use various camera tricks. But the audience can tell the difference. It knows a real fighter when it sees one. That's why Bruce Lee has been such a hit."



Bruce Lee, right, and John Saxon

with Mr. Chow, center, on the set of "Enter the Dragon. (Photo/St Stanley Bielecki Movie Collection/Getty Images)

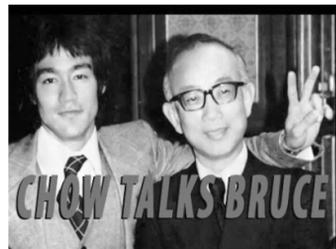
After Mr. Lee's death in 1973, Jackie Chan became a breakout star for Golden Harvest. He first imitated Mr. Lee, then modified his style to develop a more irreverent, comedic style of kung fu film. Mr. Chao also discovered Angela Mao, who is called the first female kung fu star, and produced her first major film, "Hapkido," or "Lady Kung Fu," in 1972.

"I have to thank God and Raymond Chow," she told The Times in 2016.

Mr. Chow pursued films in Hollywood in the 1980s, and Golden Harvest produced several American box-office hits,

including "The Cannonball Run," with an ensemble cast that included Burt Reynolds. Mr. Chow found small roles for Mr. Chan and the Hong Kong comedian Michael Hui in the movie, hoping to develop the market for Chinese actors in the United States.

While his works were often critically panned, Mr. Chow had an eye for box-office success. In the 1990s, Golden Harvest produced the "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" series, based on earlier comic books and cartoons. The first film took in more than \$200 million.



Mr. Chow was born in Hong Kong on Oct. 8, 1927. He attended St. John's University in Shanghai before returning to Hong Kong in 1949, when Mao Zedong and the Communist Party took over China. He worked as a journalist for outlets including The Hong Kong Standard and Voice of America.

The names of his survivors were not immediately available.

His production company had a long run of success, but it stumbled after the 1997 Asian financial crisis, just as mainland China's film industry began to grow. He sold his stake in the company in 2007 to the mainland businessman Wu Kebo, who merged it with his own entertainment group to create Orange Sky Golden Harvest Entertainment.

In a 2013 interview with The South China Morning Post, Mr. Chow described a liberated, collaborative style as the underpinning of his work.

"My philosophy is to entertain people, to make people happy," he said. "Film-making also suits my way of thinking: I love freedom, and don't like being placed under restrictions." (Courtesy nytimes.com)

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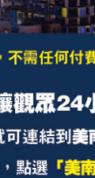
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Beijing To Rate Every Resident Based On Behavior By End Of 2020

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



A computer café in Beijing, OVERVIEW

China capital plans 'social credit' system by end of 2020 Citizens with poor scores will be 'unable to move' a step up.

China plans to rank all its citizens based on their "social credit" by 2020. People can be rewarded or punished according to their scores.

At the moment the system is piecemeal — some are run by city councils, while others are scored by private tech platforms that hold personal data. China's plan to judge each of its 1.3 billion people based on their social behavior is moving a step closer to reality.

The capital city will pool data from several departments to reward and punish some 22 million citizens based on their actions and reputations by the end of 2020.

China has long experimented with systems that grade its citizens, rewarding good behavior with streamlined services

while punishing bad actions with restrictions and penalties. Critics say such moves are fraught with risks and could lead to systems that reduce humans to little more than a report card.

Ambitious Plan Beijing's efforts represent the most ambitious yet among more than a dozen cities that are moving ahead with similar programs.

Hangzhou rolled out its personal credit system earlier this year, rewarding "pro-social behaviors" such as volunteer work and blood donations while punishing those who violate traffic laws and charge under-the-table fees.

According to the Beijing government's plan, different agencies will link databases to get a more detailed picture of every resident's interactions across a swathe of services.

The tracking of individual behavior in China has become easier as economic life moves online, with apps such as Tencent's WeChat and Ant Financial's Alipay a central node for making payments.

A police robot patrols a train station to recognize people's faces and monitor air quality in Zhengzhou, China, in February 2017.

The final version of China's national social credit system remains uncertain. But as rules forcing social networks and internet providers to remove anonymity get increasingly enforced and facial recognition

systems become more popular with policing bodies, authorities are likely to find everyone from internet dissenters to trainfare skippers easier to catch -- and punish -- than ever before.

China has started ranking citizens with a major 'social credit' system — here's what you can do wrong, and the embarrassing, demeaning ways they can punish you

The Chinese state is setting up a vast ranking system system that will monitor the behavior of its enormous population, and rank them all based on their "social credit."

The "social credit system," first announced in 2014, aims to reinforce the idea that "keeping trust is glorious and breaking trust is disgraceful," according to a government document.

The program is due to be fully operational nationwide by 2020, but is being piloted for millions of people across the country already. The scheme will be mandatory. At the moment the system is piecemeal — some are run by city councils, others are scored by private tech platforms which hold personal data.

Like private credit scores, a person's social score can move up and down depending on their behavior. The exact methodology is a secret — but examples of infractions include bad driving, smoking in non-smoking zones, buying too many video games and posting fake news online.

1. Banning you from flying or getting the train.

A railway station waiting hall in Hangzhou in February 2016.

China has already started punishing people by restricting their travel.

Nine million people with low scores have

been blocked from buying tickets for domestic flights, Channel News Asia reported in March, citing official statistics.

They can also clamp down on luxury options — three million people are barred from getting business-class train tickets. The eventual system will punish bad passengers specifically. Potential misdeeds include trying to ride with no ticket, loitering in front of boarding gates, or smoking in no-smoking areas.

2. Throttling your internet speeds.

This is according to Rachel Botsman, an author who published part of her book on tech security on Wired last year. The exact mechanics aren't clear yet.

According to Foreign Policy, credit systems monitor whether people pay bills on time, much like financial credit trackers — but also ascribe a moral dimension. Other mooted punishable offenses include spending too long playing video games, wasting money on frivolous purchases and posting on social media.

Spreading fake news, specifically about terrorist attacks or airport security, will also be punishable offenses.

3. Banning you — or your kids — from the best schools.

Students sing the national anthem in the playground during the flag-hoisting ceremony at their school in Shanghai, September 27, 2017.

17 people who refused to carry out military service last year were barred from enrolling in higher education, applying for high school, or continuing their studies, Beijing News reported.

In July, a Chinese university denied an incoming student his spot because the stu-

dent's father had a bad social credit score.

4. Stopping you getting the best jobs. The Great Hall of the People in Beijing, one of China's largest state buildings.

(Photo/Wikipedia)

"Trust-breaking" individuals would also be banned from doing management jobs in state-owned firms and big banks.

Some crimes, like fraud and embezzlement, would also have a big effect on social credit, Botsman reported.

5. Keeping you out of the best hotels.

The state-owned, five-star Beijing Hotel. (Photo/Fliker)

People who refused military service were also banned from some holidays and hotels — showing that vacation plans are fair game too.

The regime rewards people here as well as punishes them.

People with good scores can speed up travel applications to places like Europe, Botsman said.

An unidentified woman in Beijing also told the BBC in 2015 that she was able to book a hotel without having to pay a cash deposit because she had a good score.

6. Getting your dog taken away.



A woman holds her pet dog in the middle of a traffic jam in Anhui province in January 2014.

The eastern Chinese city of Jinan started enforcing a social credit system for dog owners in 2017, whereby pet owners get points deducted if the dog is walked without a leash or causes public disturbances. Those who lost all their points had their dogs confiscated and had to take a test on regulations required for pet ownership.

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