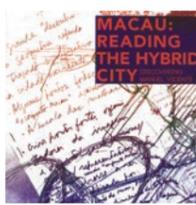




TOURISM 'MASTER PLAN' CONSULTATION CONCLUDED
MGTO gathered over 1,100 opinions on the plan to develop the tourism industry during the two-month public consultation period

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TRIBUTE TO MANUEL VICENTE
The work of Portuguese architect Manuel Vicente is the theme of "Macau: Reading the Hybrid City"

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VERIZON BUYS YAHOO FOR USD4.83B

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WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA The International Champions Cup match between Premier League rivals Manchester United and Manchester City has been canceled after recent extreme weather made the playing surface at Beijing's National Stadium unfit for play.



PHILIPPINES President Rodrigo Duterte declared a unilateral cease-fire with communist guerrillas effective immediately yesterday and asked the rebels to do the same to end decades of deadly violence and foster the resumption of peace talks. [More on p.13](#)

VIETNAM An Australian woman has been arrested in Vietnam for allegedly trafficking heroin, state media reported. The Thanh Nien newspaper said the 37-year old woman of Vietnamese origin was detained Sunday at Tan Son Nhat airport in the southern hub of Ho Chi Minh City after authorities found nearly 5 kilograms of heroin hidden in her luggage.



US-BRUNEI U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry has met with his counterpart from Brunei and urged his country to ensure that if it implements Islamic sharia law it should respect human rights. Kerry and Brunei's Foreign Minister Lim Jock Seng met yesterday on the sidelines of an ASEAN meeting being hosted by Laos.

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New Macau Association wants to keep Hotel Estoril façade

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RENATO MARQUES

Share price slip for Greek Mythology investor



Amax International Holdings, which owns a 24.8 percent in the Greek Mythology (Macau) Entertainment Group, has seen a 12.3 percent decrease in the price of its stock yesterday, after the Beijing Imperial Palace Hotel was forced into a temporary six-month closure over the weekend. Amax opened trading yesterday at HKD0.39, down considerably from HKD0.445 at Friday's close. Trading of Amax shares was also been halted on Friday afternoon, after the price fell more than 6 percent. The company said that the temporary closure would not have a material impact on its financial standing, but told Nikkei Asian Review that it might have a "negative impact on the number of visitors and [the] business plan" of the group.

Translation laboratory to operate in IPM

Macao Polytechnic Institute (IPM), Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, and the Global Tone Communication Technology Co Ltd signed a tripartite agreement to establish the Chinese-Portuguese-English Machine Translation Laboratory last week. This is the first CPE machine translation laboratory, and will be housed in IPM. The three parties established the translation laboratory based on three levels of cooperation: basic technology research, application of state-of-the-art technology, and nurturing of talents, said the institute in a statement. The laboratory aims to strengthen the region's role in cultivating an exchange platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

UM to host third forum on residential colleges

The University of Macau (UM) will host the Third Forum on "Education of Modern Residential Colleges" this coming Friday and Saturday. Nearly 300 scholars, faculty members, student affairs staff and students from more than 40 universities in Mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan are set to participate in the event. The theme of this year's forum is "Student Development in a Residential College and the Shaping of Its Educational Character," namely four sub-topics including the assessment of residential college's learning outcomes, the collaboration between residential colleges and faculties, educational programs for student development, and developing the characteristics of residential colleges. UM said in a statement that half of the participants will stay at its residential colleges during the forum.

Lynzy Valles

SP Entertainment singers Hyper Lo, AJ and Josie Ho are set to release their newly composed song for the Rui Cunha Foundation, "Paradise" in early August.

The singers shot the new music video in the city of Pattaya at the Cartoon Network Amazone Waterpark Thailand.

Lyricist Hyper Lo said the song name in Chinese "Lok I Mong Fan" is designed to be reminiscent of Dr Cunha's Chinese name pronunciation.

The lyrics describe the dream catching process as an unforgettable journey and it aims to encourage the young generation to go for their dreams without hesitation.

Hyper Lo noted that local singers' works are receiving additional recognition by local associations and companies.

Lo believes that "Paradise" can help Macau residents to better understand the Rui Cunha Foundation and bring

Local singers shoot music video in Thailand



Josie Ho

out the founder's missions and objectives.

Although the group assumed that shooting in the Cartoon Network themed waterpark would be troublesome due to the probable "license issues," AJ claimed that the waterpark was very supportive.

"To be honest, we are nobody to them maybe because we're just known locally and in Hong Kong. But in Thailand we don't have any kind of level of fame but they were still very supportive," he stressed.

Meanwhile Josie Ho told the Times that the group is pleased with the invitation of the foundation, as she believes it is the first time local singers have shot a music video abroad.

"We really hope to bring something fresh to the Macau

audience. There's nothing like this before," she said.

Ho also noted that local organizations and firms have been supporting the music industry despite the economic recession the region has faced.

She revealed that in the past, most enterprises would only hire Hong Kong or international artists to participate in the companies' events.

The trio, along with other local singers, are planning to launch another album. According to Josie Ho, local organizations, companies and the government have sponsored the recording of tracks that are planned to be released this year.

"We want to show that the industry has a market. It's worthy of investment," she said, calling on local organizations to make use of talented local artists.

TOURISM

MGTO completes consultation for 'Master Plan'



Members of the tourism industry express their views during a public consultation session

THE Government Tourism Office (MGTO) has completed its two-month public consultation for the "Macau Tourism Industry Development Master Plan," according to a statement from the office, having collected over 1,100 opinions in total.

The "Master Plan" aims to analyze the current state of Macau's tourism industry, taking into account a wide variety of

aspects, including city competitiveness, tourism resources, branding, the use of innovative technology, transportation and regional tourism cooperation.

The plan has four overall goals and 14 stated strategies along with various measures to be carried out in the short, medium and long terms, "in line with the goals set out in the 'Draft of the Macau SAR's Five-Year Development Plan' as guiding principles," reads the statement.

The consultation period was held from May 23 to July 22 and included two public sessions, two exchange sessions for local trade bodies and organizations, as well as two sessions for relevant advisory committees. In total, 180 participants enrolled in the consultations.

According to MGTO, over 1,100 opinions were collected via email, phone

and website means. Topics raised in the opinions included tourism product development, tourism quality and service, urban development regarding transportation and facility, tourism source markets and target markets and strategies for general tourism development.

The creation of the "Master Plan" has proceeded along three stages. The first stage, which included data collection and analysis and a drafting of the plan, reached a conclusion in November 2015. The second stage resulted in the consultation period and the formulation of the detailed plan, which has now come to fruition. The final stage will begin in the third quarter of 2016 and will see the finalization of the plan, expected for publication in 2017. **DB**

MFFR leader sentenced to three months

THE leader of the Macau Federation Family Reunion's (MFFR), Lei Iok Lan, has been found guilty of the crime of qualified disobedience and sentenced to three months imprisonment with suspended sentence. The judgment was made yesterday at the Court of First Instance

(TJB).

Exiting from the hearing, Lei said that she considered the sentence unfair adding that she will now consult her lawyer to see whether it is worth appealing the decision.

The case began in August last year when Lei headed a group of protesters gathe-

red at the entrance of the Legislative Assembly (AL). The group tried to enter the building while the AL was in session with the attendance of the Chief Executive. According to reports from the day, the demonstrators were barred from entering the AL building, which led to further



confrontations and the police accusing Lei of disobedience. **RM**

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GAMING

Casino ban for employees discussed

THE government is planning to ban employees of the gaming sector from entering casinos during non-working hours.

In recent years, a number of crimes involving gaming employees have been reported. Most casino operators forbid their own workers to gamble in their own workplace, however the proposed amendment could see the ban being applied unilaterally across the city's casinos.

Paulo Martins Chan, director of the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ), while attending the Macau Fo-

AP PHOTO



rum on Sunday, informed that the regulator has already met with related gaming operators to discuss the matter. The definition of gaming sector employees remains equivocal, demonstrating that it has not yet been decided whether to ban just dealers or whether the ban should apply to all employees within the gaming sector. According to Chan, related legal work will be forwarded to the Legislative Assembly next year.

In addition, the DICJ will also make amendments to the law regarding gaming promoters, as well as regulations relating to slot machines. The director

informed that the legal team in his department has grown to five people, an increase compared to the two-person team of the past.

Earlier, a broad agreement supporting a proposal to amend a law that regulates who can enter, work and gamble in Macau's casinos was reached during a meeting between the government and 11 local associations representing the interests of casino employees.

A survey conducted by the Macau Gaming Industry Frontline Workers showed that 77 percent of the 3,044 casino workers who were interviewed supported the revision.

WYNN REQUESTS TABLES FOR NEW RESORT

PAULO MARTINS Chan revealed that Wynn Macau has indicated the amount of gaming tables they wish to apply for to be installed in Wynn Palace, according to a report by Jornal Va Kio. He said that DICJ is considering the request, but did

not say how many tables had been requested. However, according to Chan, Macau is controlling the rate of new gaming tables to be less than a 3 percent year on year increase. Wynn Palace resort is set to open on August 22.

AD

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

Photo-book “BRutAL” launches at Creative Macau

Lynzy Valles

AN experimental photo-book by Chong Hoi and Rusty Fox entitled “BRutAL” has been launched last week at Creative Macau. The duo began this project with a focus on Eastern philosophy, using a fable to represent their dystopian views of the world.

According to the photographers, the economic crisis, inflation and social issues are all relevant problems that have dealt “hard blows” to Macau.

Chong Hoi told the Times yesterday during the book launch that they used animals as metaphors to represent the citizens’ ability to survive life’s journey despite the obstacles they faced.

“I hope the readers can find out the importance of nature and to pay attention to what they have in front of their eyes,” he said. “I hope after they read the book they can have a concept on what the world is [...] and try to pay more attention to what is happening.”

Meanwhile Rusty Fox, who was unable to attend the launch, said in a previous statement



Chong Hoi

that he had always been concerned with the balance and imbalance within the region, living things, human beings and the inanimate objects.

“From my point of view, most of us in this city are walking machines, numb and soulless. What makes the subjects living in a city different from a piece of meat or a robot?” he wrote.

According to the artist, documentary photography has no limits in what it presents, thus his works allows viewers to see the unnoticed relationship between inanimate objects and human beings.

The book, featuring nearly 500 black and white photos, is priced at MOP400 and is available at Creative Macau and in a number of local bookstores.

‘NEIGHBORHOOD’ EXHIBITION OPENS TOMORROW

CREATIVE MACAU is set to showcase “Neighborhood - Paintings and Drawings by Laura Che,” the first solo exhibition of the artist, from tomorrow until August 20. Che has forayed into fashion, interior and spatial design, as well as product design. As part of her painting and drawing, Che illustrates children’s books. She has been participating in collective exhibitions at Creative Macau since the 2000s.

CAM uncertain on Siam Air’s comeback



THE Tourism Crisis Management Office (GGCT) told the Times yesterday that it has not received any request for information or assistance regarding the suspension of Siam Air’s daily flights between Bangkok and Macau.

“From the information gathered through the Macau International Airport Company Ltd (CAM), the airline was informed and agreed to make arrangements for their passengers and tour operators one week prior to their flight suspension,” said the office in a statement.

“Also according to CAM, the company can resume its flights as soon as they meet the airport’s financial requirements,” GGCT added.

Siam Air stopped operating on Friday as it had failed to fulfill the financial requirements imposed by the

company that manages the local airport.

CAM was not able to provide the number of passengers affected, saying that they are not expecting any problems as travelers had been notified prior to the temporary suspension.

“We have come into a consensus a period of time before a temporary suspension, therefore the airline should have enough time to inform the affected passengers and make necessary arrangements,” a CAM spokesperson told the Times.

“CAM has no clear picture of when Siam Air can resume their flights, but we welcome them back whenever they can fulfill the financial requirement,” the spokesperson added.

The Times contacted Siam Air’s head office in Bangkok but received no reply by press time. **LV**

AD



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Governo da Região Administrativa Especial de Macau

旅遊局
Direcção dos Serviços de Turismo

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CRIME

Croupier arrested for embezzlement

Renato Marques

THE Judiciary Police (PJ) informed at a press conference yesterday, that a croupier and his crime partner from Hong Kong were arrested on Sunday on the charges of embezzlement and collusion to commit fraud respectively.

The PJ informed that in the early hours of Sunday (July 24) they received a call from the security team of a casino located in the Macau peninsula, reporting that a croupier on duty took the opportunity of an exchange of cash for gaming chips to perform fraud, exchanging HKD1,000 in cash for HKD50,000 in chips.

Officers from PJ intercepted both suspects on site, who subsequently confessed to the crime, allegedly to recover money lost on gaming.

According to the police force, the two suspects also confessed that this was not the first time that they have committed such a crime, having performed similar actions in March and June of this year.

The PJ also found out that the scheme involving the suspects had established rules on profit sharing (two-thirds for the croupier and one-third for the partner).

The action of the PJ also ensured the recovery of HKD50,000 in chips. The total loss for the casino is not yet known.

A separate case reported on by both the PJ and the Public Security Police Force (PSP) occurred July 22 around 11.45 p.m., when a local resident was arrested for drug trafficking at the Border Gate cross point when trying to reenter the territory from Zhuhai.

The man was spotted due to his suspicious behavior. After undergoing a search, it was discovered that the man had concealed inside his underwear four bags containing a total of 11 grams of Ketamine, wrapped in paper tissue.

Taken to PJ, the man confessed to have bought the drugs in Zhuhai for RMB1,500, and was supposed to deliver them to a woman in Macau that would pay him a sum of MOP1,000.

He said he had communicated with the woman via a mobile communication app. When questioned by the police, he admitted that he had been doing this kind of transportation at least five times in a period of a week.

For the time being the PJ said that they have not located the woman handling the drugs in the territory.

IAS strengthens used syringe collection program

THE Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) has partnered with private institutions for drug abuse rehabilitation, to launch a new campaign for the collection of used syringes in public spaces in order to maintain the safety and health of the community, the IAS informed in a statement.

The bureau has established a mechanism for cooperation with several private institutions in order to eradicate scattered syringes in public spaces that can result in a number of health issues and negatively affect the safety of the community. This mechanism is a further development of the program initially established in 2008 that saw professional teams operate within the community to collect used syringes in public spaces and other fixed locations.

Another one of the duties of these teams is to be able to provide counseling to drug users,

encouraging them to enroll in drug rehabilitation treatments and providing information to cleaning staff of public toilet facilities about how to proceed when they find used syringes in order to minimize risk at collection and disposal.

In the same statement, IAS remarked that it is paying special attention to the reported cases of syringes that have fallen from buildings in the Northern district, reprimanding this kind of "unlawful behavior."

According to figures from IAS, since the beginning of the program in 2008 to the end of 2015, a total of over 280,000 syringes were collected. The bureau also stated that lately the number of syringes collected has been declining, from over 6,000 syringes per month to a few hundred most recently. IAS believes the declining number proves the effectiveness of the program. **RM**



Ung Vai Meng talks about Manuel Vicente, whilst Rui Leão (left) watches

ARCHITECTURE

Tribute to Manuel Vicente's constant reinvention

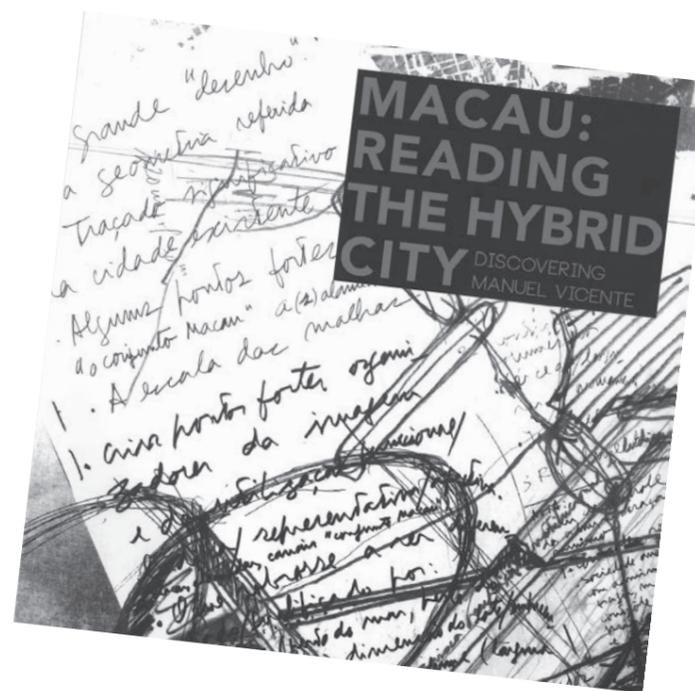
Paulo Barbosa

THE work of Portuguese architect Manuel Vicente is the theme of "Macau: Reading the Hybrid City," launched earlier this month at the Rui Cunha Foundation.

Published by the non-profit organization, Docomomo Macau, the English-language catalogue (supplemented with some articles in Portuguese) is the result of three international conferences held in 2014 and an exhibition centered on Vicente, who passed away in 2013. Vicente left an extensive body of work in the city. Some of his famous projects and designs include the architectonic intervention program at St Paul's Ruins and works to close the Praia Grande bay (with the subsequent creation of Sai Van and Nam Van lakes), as well as several residential and government buildings throughout the city.

Rui Leão, president of Docomomo Macau, told the Times that the catalogue is one of the key items in the program held to celebrate Manuel Vicente's work and legacy. It will be complemented with a biographical essay by Raquel Ochoa, to be launched this year on a date yet to be announced.

"One of the main goals behind the catalogue is to discuss and think about the proposal that there was a 'school' founded by Manuel Vicente's architecture. Similarly, there is an architectonic school founded by Siza Vieira. In the case of Manuel



Vicente, it is not a school based on one single style," said Leão. He added that the term "school" applied to Vicente "is mostly a methodological approach of continuous questioning."

Macanese architect Carlos Marreiros presented the book, stressing that Vicente had truly stirred the waters in Macau: "He had the quality of stirring controversies and question the architecture that was made. He believed in his own ideas, but that didn't stop him from deba-

ting with others."

The book was sponsored by the Cultural Affairs Bureau and its president, Ung Vai Meng, attended the launch. He said that Manuel Vicente left a notable mark on Macau. "He is a portrait of our city and contributed to make Macau a place that differs a lot from other Chinese cities."

"Macau: Reading the Hybrid City" will be made available at several local bookshops and also at the Museum of Art shop.

HOMAGE STILL MISSING

ACCORDING TO Carlos Marreiros, late architects Manuel Vicente and Francisco Figueira should be honored by having Macau streets named after them. "Both made a notable contribution to Macau's heritage," he said. In 2013, a local newspaper filed a petition to the IACM to name a street in Macau "Architect Manuel Vicente," but to no avail.

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Renato Marques

New Macau wants to keep Hotel Estoril façade

NEW Macau Association (ANM) delivered a letter to be addressed to the Urban Planning Committee members yesterday, as they were gathering for a meeting at the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) headquarters.

The document, as conveyed by the ANM's newly re-elected president Scott Chiang, calls for some "good sense" and "balance" from the committee members in order to refrain from the "bulldozer impulses" of the government.

"Regarding the case of redevelopment of Hotel Estoril we are turning in the opinion of New Macau Association to the department [DSSOPT] because we see an unreasonable conduct in the consultation and planning of this case. We are very sad to see that the conduct of the administration totally disregards proper governance, that should respect the professional and public opinions before decision making," Scott Chiang said adding "it's almost like a bulldozer that pushes aside any opinion that is contrary to the agenda of the government."

The ANM president also thinks that it is not just the general public that opposes the government's proposal to demolish the building "but also the Culture [Affairs] Bureau



Hotel Estoril seen from Tap Seac Square

itself and even [Secretary] Alexis [Tam] claimed that there is certain value in the building or in the façade. But now with the agenda already set in stone they just forget all about it, it is really sad," he remarked.

ANM also claims that the government during the period of public consultation gave people false hope that their opinion would count. According to Chiang, it represented merely

an "appearance of openness" that "lacks in substance" because the government did not provide concrete information, painting only a "rosy picture of what that development could be. He kind of conned people into supporting the redevelopment which is in fact a demolition of the site."

Another problem highlighted in the ANM document to the DSSOPT is regarding what they

■ Alexis Tam earlier announced plans to transform the hotel into a center for arts and creativity

claim to be a tentative "bypass the professionals' opinion" by not proposing the building be classified as one of historical value.

Chiang also remarked on what he classified as "rude" com-

ments from Alexis Tam who is alleged to have stated that "pro-preservation people had their own agenda and interests."

The New Macau letter claims that "the preservation of the façade itself does not cause any limitation to the redevelopment," urging the members of the committee to "stop for a minute of two to think and to chose for a compromise solution between the two: development and preservation," according to Chiang.

Early last month, Alexis Tam announced a major change on the original idea for the project that aims to revamp the old Hotel Estoril. The idea to award it directly to Álvaro Siza Vieira was dropped, and the Portuguese architect has already confirmed that he will not participate in the project. Instead, the government will open a public tender allowing the participation of local architects. Alexis Tam earlier announced plans to transform the decrepit Hotel Estoril into a new center for arts and creativity targeting youth.

THREE APPEAL FOR HOTEL ESTORIL RETHINK

THREE URBAN Planning Committee members have appealed for a rethink of plans to redevelop the building. One member, Lam Iek Chit, decried that plans to "destroy" the building would be regretted in the future, especially given the efforts to bring the best

of architects' work to Macau. Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo do Rosário stressed that the committee is only an advisory body and said that the relevant authorities will take some time to analyze the opinions and reach a decision.

TRANSPORTATION

Bus companies call for more drivers

THREE Macau bus companies, New Era, Transmac, and TCM, have recently co-organized a recruitment fair, which marks the first time the trio of companies have hosted a joint career event. In total, the companies had 270 job vacancies, according to a report by Jornal Cheng Pou.

Positions offered vary from bus drivers and maintenance engineers to operation administrative assistants. Monthly salaries paid to drivers are more than MOP20,000, which is considered by the companies to be an attractive offer.

A taxi driver, of the sur-

name Lau, said that being a bus driver offers relatively stable working conditions with appealing salaries, and that he expects to transfer to the bus industry.

A TCM representative said that the company has been facing a shortage of bus operators for a long time. However,

as salaries have started to increase, the industry has managed to attract a number of young people to work in the field. In response, Transmac hopes to draw the attention of young people through good welfare provisions. New Era claims that the youngest driver working in the company is 27



years old, but the company still requires 50 to 60 drivers in order to fill up the vacancies to meet the requirements posed by rush hours.

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AD

Verizon buys Yahoo for USD4.83b, marking end of an era

Michael Liedtke, Tali Arbel

VERIZON is buying Yahoo for USD4.83 billion, marking the end of an era for a company that once defined the internet.

It is the second time in as many years that Verizon has snapped up the remnants of a fallen internet star as it broadens its digital reach. The nation's largest wireless carrier paid \$4.4 billion for AOL last year.

Yahoo will be rolled into Verizon's AOL operations and CEO Marissa Meyers could be working again with AOL CEO Tim Armstrong, who worked with Mayer at Google for years and tried unsuccessfully to convince her to combine the two companies when they both remained independent.

Though many expected the sale of Yahoo to spell the end of Mayer's reign, a Tumblr post from Mayer moments after the deal was announced read, "For me personally, I'm planning to stay. I love Yahoo, and I believe in all of you. It's important to me to see Yahoo into its next chapter."

Yahoo Inc., Sunnyvale, California, is parting with its email service and still-popular websites devoted to news, finance and sports in addition to its advertising tools under pressure from shareholders fed up with a steep downturn in the company's revenue during the past eight years.

The slump has been deepening even though advertisers have been pouring more money into what is now a \$160 billion



A person walks in front of a Yahoo sign at the company's headquarters in Sunnyvale, Calif.

market for digital advertising, according to research firm eMarketer.

Most of the money has been flowing to internet search leader Google and internet social networking leader Facebook, two companies that eclipsed Yahoo during its slide from an online sensation, once valued at \$130 billion, to a dysfunctional also ran.

The transaction does not include Yahoo's cash, shares in Alibaba Group Holdings, its shares in Yahoo Japan, its non-core patents.

After the sale is completed, Yahoo Inc. will become a holding company for its two stakes in China's e-commerce leader, Alibaba Group, and Yahoo Japan. Those investments, made more than a decade ago, have been the most valuable pieces of Yahoo throughout Mayer's tenure.

Yahoo will change its name at closing and become a publicly

traded investment company.

Yahoo has hired a succession of CEOs to engineer a comeback, but finally gave up after the high hopes that accompanied Mayer's hiring fizzled out.

The sale potentially could result in thousands of layoffs. Mayer has already jettisoned 1,900 Yahoo workers since last September.

As people began to flock to the internet with the advent of graphical web browsers in the 1990s, Yahoo was king. After co-founders Jerry Yang and David Filo began building a web directory as Stanford University computer graduate students in 1994, Yahoo quickly established itself as the online hub for tens of millions of people. It also proved internet companies could be profitable as other dot-com startups burned through millions of dollars.

But Yahoo strayed from internet search in an attempt to build a multimedia business,

■ The sale potentially could result in thousands of layoffs. Mayer has already jettisoned 1,900 Yahoo workers since last September

opening the door for Google become a powerhouse. It didn't recognize the importance of social networking and was slow to make the leap into mobile devices like smartphones and tablets. Instead, Yahoo tried to buy Google and Facebook in those companies' formative years, but it was rebuffed and then dwarfed by them.

Despite Yahoo's decline, its operations are attractive to Verizon as the nation's largest wireless carrier tries to capitalize on the growing number of people living their digital lives on smartphones. Verizon already profits from the data plans that connect those devices to the internet; with AOL and Yahoo's services, Verizon is now looking to control more of the advertising on phones, rather than surrendering control to Google and Facebook.

If Verizon fully owned Yahoo right now, it would generate about \$3.6 billion in U.S. ad revenue this year to eclipse Microsoft for third place in the

market, based on eMarketer's estimates. It would still be far behind in ad revenue, compared with Google's projected \$27 billion, and Facebook's projected \$10 billion.

AOL is best known for the dial-up internet it popularized in the '90s and owns popular media sites like Huffington Post and TechCrunch, but Verizon primarily wanted its ad technology.

While Verizon also wants Yahoo's ad services, it is also prizes the hordes that still regularly visit to pick up their email, check the weather and catch up on current events, celebrity gossip and the stock market.

Yahoo says it has more than 1 billion users, though Outsell analyst Randy Giusto believes only about 200 million are habitual visitors.

"It's the eyeballs that generate the advertising, you have to get to that viewership to get the advertisers to advertise, and that's the model that we have to follow," said Verizon CFO Francis Shammo at an investment conference in May in response to a question about Yahoo's appeal.

Given Verizon already owns AOL, Giusto says Verizon is probably the best fit for Yahoo instead of the other suitors, which also included private equity firms that specialize in buying distressed companies and trying to rehabilitate them.

The deal is expected to close in 2017's first quarter. It still needs approval from Yahoo shareholders.

Yahoo's stock rose slightly in premarket trading, while shares of Verizon dipped slightly. AP

corporate bits

RONALD CHENG TO PERFORM AT THE VENETIAN



Ronald Cheng, considered to be one of the most popular singers in Hong Kong, will kick off his latest "Ronald Cheng Play It Again World

Tour" in Macau at The Venetian's Cotai Arena on September 10.

Fans in Macau will be the first to experience the wor-

ld tour, as the singer will be returning to the stage for the first time in almost a decade after his last solo concert.

The artist rearranged his classic hits especially for the tour, adding multiple music elements into his original songs. He will also perform songs from his latest album.

The stage of the concert has been designed to have several mobile lifting platforms, matched with high-quality live audio effects and LED lights, according to Sands China's press release.

Cheng has been in the entertainment industry for almost 20 years, releasing his first solo Mandopop album "In A Dilemma" in 1996, with his popular hit "Rascal" voted a top ten single in 2005.

SHERATON GRAND, ST REGIS LAUNCH WEDDING PACKAGES



The Sheraton Grand Macao Hotel and The St. Regis Macao co-hosted a "Wedding

Showcase", where couples had the opportunity to see the Marchesa Bridal Capsule Col-

lection, displayed for the first time outside of New York, and to speak directly with wedding professionals.

Guests also enjoyed a fashion show by "Central Weddings" featuring a collection of the latest couture wedding gowns from top international designers, according to the properties' joint press release.

Following the fashion show, Sheraton Grand unveiled the DreamWorks Experience Weddings for the first time.

Guests of the Wedding Showcase were able to admire the wedding gowns with their beadwork, lace detail and embroidery, which combine the aesthetic of each design by St. Regis Connoisseurs – Georgina Chapman and Keren Craig from Marchesa.

Angola to 'look East' after dismissing the IMF

ANGOLA'S decision to dispense with support from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) at a difficult economic and financial time was based on the idea of securing new financial support from China and of strengthening relations with other Asian countries, according to analysts.

The Africa Intelligence Monitor newsletter said the decision announced at the end of June, which meant giving up on a maximum of USD4.5 billion over three years, was taken following "firm" guarantees of "fresh money" from China, guaranteed by oil production in the coming years.

The decision also took into account the "good progress" of the process of securing loans on the financial markets, with the support of investment banks Goldman Sachs and Deutsche Bank.

Figures published recently by the Angolan Finance Ministry showed that between November 2015 and June 2016 the state took on new loans worth USD11.46 billion, including USD5 billion from the China Development Bank and USD2 billion from other Chinese banks (Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, Export-Import Bank of China and the China Development Bank).

Total state debt USD47.9 billion, including USD25.5 billion in foreign loans (excluding debt of public enterprises such as Sonangol) and loans of some USD3.3 billion from other foreign entities are in final negotiations.

The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), in its latest report on Angola, said the government "will use China's additional loans to keep much needed capital expenditure for construction of roads and power plant programs, in particular."

Other state funding sources are expected to be Western financial institutions and subsidized loans from the African Development Bank, and it is more unlikely Angola will make use of the Eurobond market, given the current market conditions, after the country's debut at the end of 2015 of an issue of 10-year



The Sonangol headquarters in Luanda

bonds worth USD1.5 billion, it said.

According to the EIU, financing needs will "put more pressure on the debt to GDP ratio," which should be higher than expected.

In addition to China, an approach to South Korea has also been observed, particularly during the recent five-day visit to Luanda by the Veteran Affairs Minister of South Korea, Sungchoon Park.

Angola is an important market for South Korea, which is just behind China and Portugal in the list of top exporters, and is also the second largest investment destination in Africa for the Asian country. South Korea's technological capability can support the Angolan economy at its current stage of diversification and reducing dependence on oil.

The Angolan press reported that Isabel dos Santos, the new president of Sonangol went to Seoul at the same time the South Korean minister was in Luanda to meet with representatives of the export credit agency, the Korea Trade Insurance Corporation.

Isabel dos Santos also discussed with local banks financing options for two new drillships, which Sonangol is due to receive soon.

According to the EIU, South Korea may be "ideal" for Angola for providing credit facilities with state guarantee to help unlock investments" as part of the diversification of partnerships after the country has made use of funding from China, Portugal, Brazil, Germany and the United States. **MDT/Macauhub**

ADVERTORIAL

SANDS CHINA NEWS

Sands China Holds Integrated Resort Career Exhibition Exclusively for University Students

Provides unique career development opportunities

Sands China Ltd. hosted an Integrated Resort Career Exhibition Exclusively for University Students at The Venetian Macao's Adelson Advanced Education Centre June 20, drawing over 170 local students. The event was targeted at Macao's university students and graduates, in order to provide them with unique career development opportunities.

As Macao's leading integrated resort developer, Sands China supports Macao's transformation into a world centre of tourism and leisure, and considers the cultivation of local talent to be an important component of that process. The company values local university students and graduates as representing the future of Macao. Through this career exhibition, the company offers university students and graduates a platform to learn more about the abundance of career options available and provide them with opportunities to accrue valuable work experience, paving the way for their future careers.



Local university students and graduates attended the Sands China Integrated Resort Career Exhibition Exclusively for University Students at The Venetian® Macao's Adelson Advanced Education Centre June 20.

Special guests in attendance at the opening ceremony included Chang Kun Hong, deputy director of the Tertiary Education Services Office; Elvo Sou, head of the student counselling and development section of the University of Macau; Hester Cheang, director of the Gaming and Research Center of Macao Polytechnic Institute; Antonio Chu Chan Weng, head of the technical and academic support division of the Institute for Tourism Studies; Maria Antonia Espadinha, vice rector of the University of Saint Joseph; and Antonio Ramirez, senior vice president of human resources for Sands China Ltd.



Special guests attend Sands China's Integrated Resort Career Exhibition Exclusively for University Students at The Venetian Macao's Adelson Advanced Education Centre June 20.

Speaking at the event's opening ceremony, Ramirez said: "With recruiting graduates from universities in Macao as its first priority, Sands China is dedicated to nurturing integrated resort talent through collaboration with the government, local universities and institutions, and through the different initiatives of the Sands China Academy."

During the exhibition, students had the chance to tour display rooms showcasing various career opportunities in areas such as conventions and exhibitions, food and beverage, hotel and concierge and housekeeping, as well as the soon-to-open The Parisian Macao. Sands China team members were on hand to give an introduction to the daily operations of different departments. Two team members participating in Sands China's Career Experience Opportunities Programme also shared their experiences training in the programme and working at Sands China.

Attractive programmes available to students and graduates include the Parisian Experience Programme, which provides a short-term, flexible work experience, as well as privileged benefits; the Summer/Winter Break Integrated Resort Experience Programme, which provides up to two months' work experience for participants to explore various aspects of integrated resorts; and the Fast Track Supervisor Programme, an intensive programme aimed at training exceptional graduates to supervisory-level positions within four to 12 months.



Macao university students and graduates learn about career information and opportunities June 20 at Sands China's Integrated Resort Career Exhibition Exclusively for University Students at The Venetian Macao's Adelson Advanced Education Centre.

Vijay Joshi, Daniel Malloy

CHINA scored an unequivocal diplomatic victory yesterday, preventing Southeast Asia's main grouping from criticizing it for territorially expanding in the South China Sea, even though some of the bloc's members are victims of Beijing's actions.

After hectic negotiations, the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations issued a watered-down rebuke that amounted to less than a slap on the wrist, and exposed the deep divisions in a regional body that prides itself on unity.

In a joint communique released after their talks, the foreign ministers of ASEAN said only that they "remain seriously concerned over recent and ongoing developments" in the South China Sea. The statement did not mention China by name in referring to the developments.

Most significantly, it failed to mention a recent ruling by an international arbitration panel in a dispute between the Philippines and China that said Beijing's claims in the South China Sea were illegal and that the Philippines was justifiably the aggrieved party. China has dismissed the ruling as bogus, saying the Hague-based tribunal has no authority to rule on what Beijing calls bilateral disputes. China wants direct negotiations with the Philippines instead.

The tribunal's award "amounts to prescribing a dose of wrong medicine [...] and it seems that certain countries outside the region have got all worked up, keeping the fever high," Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said, referring to the United States. "And if the prescription is wrong it will not help cure any disease. That's why we urge other countries in the region to lower the temperature," he told a news conference

China scores diplomatic victory, avoids criticism from ASEAN



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (left) arrives at Wattay Airport for the ASEAN Regional Forum meeting in Vientiane, Laos

after 90 minutes of talks with the ASEAN ministers.

Wang said about 80 percent of that time was spent on ASEAN-China relations, and only 20 percent on South China Sea. He joked that reporters had expended more than 80 percent of the question-and-answer time on South China Sea.

"Both China and ASEAN believe this page should have been turned and temperature lowered," he said.

China was able to push through its stance in ASEAN with the help of Cambodia, and to some extent Laos, both of which

are close friends of Beijing. ASEAN's guiding principle is to make all statements by consensus, so a veto by Cambodia would have prevented a more stinging rebuke.

"We reaffirmed the importance of maintaining and promoting peace, security, stability, safety and freedom of navigation in and over-flight above the South China Sea," the joint statement said.

"We further reaffirmed the need to enhance mutual trust and confidence, exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities and avoid actions that may further complicate the situation," it said.

Such statements have previously been issued, notably after an ASEAN-U.S. summit in California in February, and have led to criticism that ASEAN is becoming a toothless organization.

Analysts say this amounted to another capitulation by ASEAN in face of China's power.

"ASEAN's failure to mention the tribunal's decision will not affect the implementation of the ruling per se, as China has already indicated that it won't recognize or accept it. But failure to even mention the landmark legal ruling once again highlights ASEAN's inability to present a united front and China's skill at using Cambodia as a proxy to further its own interests," said Ian Ward, a senior fellow at Singapore's Institute of Southeast Asian Studies think-tank.

“Every country has the same position as China, that is that we should fully and effectively implement the regional Code of Conduct.”

WANG YI
CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER

The South China Sea is dotted with reefs and rocky outcroppings that several governments claim, including China and the Philippines. The arbitration panel didn't take a position on who owns the disputed territories. It did conclude that many of them are legally rocks, even if they've been built into islands, and therefore do not include the international rights to develop the surrounding waters. That and other findings invalidated much of what China has called its historic claims to the resource-rich sea.

In order to ease tensions, China, the Philippines and possibly other claimants must define what the ruling means for fishing, offshore oil and gas exploration, and military and other activities in the vast body of water that lies between the southern Chinese coast and the Philippine archipelago.

In recent days, China's military has staged live-firing exercises in the area and said it would begin regular aerial patrols over the sea. It also has asserted that it will not be deterred from continuing construction of its man-made islands.

On Sunday, Wang, the Chinese foreign minister, reiterated his government's position that it will only accept bilateral negotiations with the Philippines.

"Every country has the same position as China, that is that we should fully and effectively implement the regional Code of Conduct, and in that COC it clearly states the dispute should be resolved by peaceful, sit-down talks between the parties directly concerned," he said. AP

Obama aide visits Beijing after South China Sea ruling



U.S. National Security Adviser Susan Rice (left) and Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi

U.S. National Security Adviser Susan Rice held talks with Chinese officials yesterday

in the highest-level visit by a White House official since an international tribunal issued a ruling that

invalidated China's expansive claims in the South China Sea.

The tribunal's July 12 ruling delivered a victory to the Philippines, a U.S. ally, but angered China and appears set to heighten regional tensions. The U.S., whose navy patrols the waters, has called on China to abide by the ruling while also urging calm.

The topic was not raised in opening remarks in front of reporters at Rice's meeting with China's top diplomat, State Councilor Yang Jiechi.

Yesterday, Rice told Yang that the U.S. and

China have been cooperating more closely on global issues such as nuclear nonproliferation and the Ebola epidemic. She acknowledged that the sides also faced other "global issues and challenges."

"To the extent that we are able to surface those challenges in candor and openness, I'm confident that we will be able to work on them as we have many others in the past," Rice said.

Yang said that the sides had stable relations, but that there were still differences that had to be carefully managed.

Rice met later with top general Fan Changlong, who told her the sides still faced "obstacles and challenges."

"If we don't properly handle these factors, it will very likely disturb and undermine this steady momentum of our military-to-military relationship," said Fan, who serves as vice chairman of the ruling Communist Party's Central Military Commission.

Rice pointed to the increased communication between the sides that she said has reduced the possibility of conflict, even while their militaries operate in

closer proximity than ever before.

Despite such progress, "we have challenges and differences to discuss and to manage," Rice said.

Rice's visit is also aimed at preparing for U.S. President Barack Obama's trip to China in September to attend the leaders' summit of the Group of 20 major economies.

Rice will also visit Shanghai and meet with business executives to discuss challenges that U.S. businesses face while operating in China, according to a statement from the U.S. National Security Council. AP

Former top Chinese general sentenced for taking bribes



China's People's Liberation Army Gen. Guo Boxiong

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

A Chinese military court yesterday sentenced a former top general to life in prison for taking bribes, concluding China's highest-level prosecution of a military figure in decades.

Guo Boxiong was also stripped of his rank and forced to hand over all his assets to the Chinese government, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

Guo, 74, is a former vice chairman of the Central Military Commission, which is led by Xi Jinping, China's president and leader of the ruling Communist Party. Guo also was once among the 25 members of the party's Politburo.

While few details of the charges against Guo were immediately released, state media had reported that prosecutors had proof that he and his family took advantage of his position and accepted bribes to arrange promotions and assignments for others.

The reports cited prosecutors as saying Guo had confessed to the bribery charges.

Guo is among the most powerful figures to fall in Xi's sweeping anti-corruption drive. Guo's former immediate subordinate on the military commission, Gen. Xu Caihou, was also facing prosecution when he died of cancer in March last year.

Hong Kong's South China Morning Post newspaper quoted an unidentified military source as saying Guo had taken a total of 80 million yuan (USD12.3 million) in bribes.

Though officially retired, Guo continued to enjoy many of the rights and

privileges of his exalted status.

As the commission's first-ranking vice chairman, Guo was responsible over a decade for the daily operations of the 2.3 million-member People's Liberation Army, the world's largest standing military. During that time, the military enjoyed large annual budget increases, fueling competition for potentially lucrative control over funds, units and support functions such as construction.

Guo also was once among the 25 members of the party's Politburo

Guo's prosecution had been expected since March 2015, when his son, Maj. Gen. Guo Zhenggang, was placed under formal investigation for corruption and unspecified criminal activity. The senior Guo was expelled from the party a year ago.

Some top generals are reported to have accumulated stunning fortunes through corruption in both cash and gifts, including golden statues of Mao Zedong and cases of expensive liquor stacked to the ceiling in secret underground caches.

Such practices are believed by some to have sapped morale and battle worthiness in the People's Liberation Army, and Xi has relentlessly driven home the need for officers to keep their hands clean and follow the party's leadership. **AP**

TELECOM

Huawei will ramp up R&D as first-half sales quicken

David Ramli

HUAWEI Technologies Co.'s revenue growth accelerated in the first half as upgraded smartphones and network gear helped China's largest vendor of telecommunications equipment counter deteriorating global demand.

The world's third-largest smartphone brand grew revenue 40 percent to 245.5 billion yuan (USD37 billion) in the first six months, the Shenzhen-based company said in a statement. That's up from the 30 percent growth it managed in the first half of 2015.

Founded in 1987 by former army engineer Ren Zhengfei, Huawei has sprung to the vanguard of a crop of Chinese smartphone vendors trying to compete with global leaders Samsung Electronics Co. and Apple Inc. The company used its business of selling networking gear to bankroll an expansion into premium phones, becoming China's biggest mobile label last year. It plans to sustain its pace of investment in research as carriers



prepare to build fifth-generation broadband networks in coming years.

Competition, however, is weighing on profitability. Huawei's operating margin came to 12 percent in the first half, narrowing from 18 percent in the same period last year. Global smartphone vendors are scrambling to safeguard their share of a market going through its worst downturn on record, as Western markets mature and China, the biggest by users, flatlines after years of industry-supporting growth.

Huawei is "one of the few vendors that we're expecting to grow, at least in the smartphone space, quite significantly this year," said Bryan Ma, vice presi-

dent of client devices research at IDC, told Bloomberg Television. But "there is quite a bit of competition. You've got local vendors in China, Oppo and Vivo, being examples of local vendors that are arguably even more aggressive than they are."

Huawei didn't break out the performance of individual units of a business that also encompasses cloud computing and enterprise services. Its Consumer Business Group, which sells phones, watches and laptops, is scheduled to announce results today. That unit chalked up 73 percent sales growth in 2015 to 129.1 billion yuan, out of the corporation's total revenue of about 395 billion yuan.

Bloomberg

Bank to turn USD1.6 billion of bad debt into securities

AGRICULTURAL Bank of China Ltd. is planning China's largest sale so far under a trial program for lenders to offload bad loans by packaging them up as asset-backed securities.

The lender plans to sell securities backed by 10.7 billion yuan (USD1.6 billion) of nonperforming loans on the interbank bond market, it said July 22 on the Chinese bond clearing house website.

The sale price will be the equivalent of 29 percent of the loans' face value, with the recovery rate on the debt forecast at 41 percent, the lender's statement showed.

As corporate leverage soars and economic

growth cools, China's banks face a rising tide of bad loans. Dorris Chen, a credit analyst at Pacific Investment Management Co. (Pimco), said last week that the Ministry of Finance will eventually have to inject capital into the banking system, without saying when.

"At the moment, banks are doing this to test the waters rather than making it a primary way of disposing of bad loans," said Yuan Lin, a Beijing-based analyst at BOC International Holdings Ltd. The terms are favorable for investors, the analyst said.

The nation's efforts to get to grips with its credit woes include debt swaps for local govern-

ments, proposals for banks to swap loans for equity stakes in companies, and the trial of the NPL-backed securities.

The China Banking Regulatory Commission said on July 15 that the NPL securities program - so far used by lenders including Bank of China Ltd. and China Merchants Bank Co. - will be expanded. It wasn't more specific.

Pimco's Chen was skeptical that large-scale sales of the securities will take place, citing investors' likely perceptions of the risks. In the sales so far, banks have been the biggest buyers - raising questions about how effective the deals are in cutting risks within the financial sector. **Bloomberg**

India: Pakistan should 'change stance' over Kashmir dispute

Aijaz Hussain, Srinagar

THE Indian government said Sunday that Pakistan should stop provoking unrest in the Indian-controlled portion of the disputed Kashmir region, appealing for calm and restraint by people and government forces after two weeks of bloody protests that have left dozens of

civilians dead.

Indian Home Minister Rajnath Singh visited Kashmir over the weekend, following street battles between government forces and protesters in the Muslim-majority region.

India is particularly upset with Pakistan calling for a "black day" last week to protest India's handling of the demonstrations.

At the end of his visit, Singh told a news conference Sunday that "Pakistan should change its stance on Kashmir."

India is "worried about the situation in Kashmir," he told reporters.

Kashmir is divided between India and Pakistan who have fought two wars over its control since 1947 when British rule of

the subcontinent ended. India accuses Pakistan of arming and training rebels who have been fighting for independence or merger with Pakistan. Pakistan denies the charge, saying it provides political and diplomatic support to Kashmiris.

The largest anti-India street protests in recent years in Kash-



India's Home Minister Rajnath Singh, addresses a press conference in Srinagar, Indian controlled Kashmir, on Sunday

mir erupted after Indian troops killed a popular, young rebel leader in a gunbattle on July 8. Since then, most parts of the Indian-controlled portion of Kashmir have been under security lockdown. But protests against Indian rule have persisted. **AP**

ELECTION officials in northern Thailand think they can buy off a gang of monkey vandals with fresh fruit and vegetables, after about 100 macaques tore up voter lists publicly posted ahead of next month's referendum on a proposed constitution.

District official Surachai Maneprakorn said a large population of the monkeys lives behind the Buddhist temple where the polling station they raided Sunday is set up in an open hall. "For some

THAILAND

Band of monkeys raid polling place, tear up voter lists

reason they were being very naughty and started tearing up the lists," he said.

Local officials brought the animals food yesterday, and hope that if that does not deter them, then newly installed sliding glass doors protecting the reposted lists might, said Phichit district election official Prayoon Jakkraphacharakul.

"The glass cases should deter the monkeys, but if they're smart enough to find a way to open the glass door, that will be problematic," said Prayoon. "There were only a couple of lists left on the board by the time the police got there. Some of the monkeys were still even holding onto the papers." Prayoon speculated that the pink color of

the voter lists for the Aug. 7 referendum might have attracted the animals.

Two 8-year-old girls in the northern province of Kamphaeng Phet were charged last week with obstructing the referendum process and destroying public property when they tore down voter lists because they liked the pink paper on which they were printed.

The two girls will not face any punishment due to their young age but will carry a criminal record for their offenses.

In preparation for the referendum, Thailand's military government brought in a law that prohibits rude criticism and lobbying for or against the draft constitution. Those who break it face a 10-year prison

sentence. Dozens have been detained but there have been few if any convictions so far.

The junta has faced increasing criticism in the past months for intimidating those opposed to the draft constitution and for the content of the proposed charter, which some consider undemocratic, such as an appointed rather than elected Senate. **AP**

AD

Help, please save me! Thermomix will save you!



Save Money

Save on your grocery bills by swapping expensive pre-packaged items for 'whole' foods and pantry staples. Plus, Thermomix has an advanced heating system that cooks with minimized energy consumption, so you can enjoy savings on your household bills!

Save Time

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PHILIPPINE President Rodrigo Duterte declared a unilateral ceasefire with communist guerrillas effectively immediately yesterday and asked the rebels to do the same to end decades of deadly violence and foster the resumption of peace talks.

In his first state of the nation address before Congress, Duterte said he wanted a "permanent and lasting peace" before the end of his six-year term, which commenced on June 30.

Addressing the New People's Army guerrillas, Duterte said: "Let us end these decades of ambushes and skirmishes. We are going nowhere and it is getting bloodier by the day."

The Philippine military welcomed Duterte's announcement but said it "will remain alert, vigilant and ready to defend itself and pursue attackers if confronted by armed elements of the New People's Army."

"The commander-in-chief has initiated a very bold move and we fully support him in his effort to bring sustainable and lasting peace," military spokes-

PHILIPPINES

Duterte declares ceasefire with communist rebels



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte

Let us end these decades of ambushes and skirmishes.

RODRIGO DUTERTE

man Brig. Gen. Restituto Paddilla said.

The decades-long communist insurgency, one of Asia's longest, has left nearly 150,000 combatants and civilians dead and stalled economic development, especially in rural areas

where the Maoist insurgents have had a long presence.

Government negotiators have met with rebel counterparts and agreed to restart peace talks in the next few months. A rebel leader in self-exile in Europe, Jose Maria Sison, plans to

fly home soon to meet Duterte, his former student in a Manila university.

Duterte also said his administration was ready to pursue peace talks with Muslim guerrillas in the country's south, where he was a longtime mayor

of Davao city, where he built a name for his tough crime-busting style before rising to the presidency.

"Let me say this, all of us want peace," Duterte said. "Not the peace of the dead, but the peace of the living." AP

JAPAN

Trade surplus in June as imports drop 19 percent

JAPAN posted a better-than-expected trade surplus in June, as imports fell nearly 19 percent, outpacing a more modest decline in exports.

The customs data released yesterday showed a 692.8 billion yen (USD6.5 billion) surplus, compared with a 60.9 billion yen deficit in June 2015.

Economists had forecasted larger declines for both imports and exports for the world's third-largest economy.

Despite the recent strengthening of the Japanese yen against the U.S. dollar, export prices have fallen 14 percent from a year earlier, according to separate data from the Bank of Japan. That trend is hurting corporate revenues and profits, Marcel Thieliand of Capital Economics said in a commentary.

Overall volumes of exports and imports were



better than expected. But Japan's exports to the U.S., its biggest overseas market, fell 6.5 percent in June from a year earlier, while exports to China, its largest trading partner, dropped 10 percent.

Shipments of vehicles, chemicals and machinery fell year-on-year. At the same time, imports of oil, coal and gas dropped by over a third in value, in part reflecting lower prices.

However, recent surveys of factory managers show weakness in overseas demand.

"Indeed, we expect a 1 percent drop in export volumes this year following a 3.4 percent jump last year," Thieliand said.

Japan's economic recovery has suffered as an anticipated strong rebound in exports failed to materialize, and the trade data for June are unlikely to disrupt an expected move by the Bank of Japan to increase monetary stimulus at a policy meeting later this week, said Masami Adachi of JP Morgan in Tokyo. AP

VIETNAM

Rubber-stamp assembly re-elects Quang as president

TRAN Dai Quang was sworn in as Vietnam's president for the second time in four months after being re-elected yesterday by the country's rubber-stamp National Assembly.

Quang, who was first elected president in early April by the outgoing assembly, won 485 votes from the 494 deputies of the Communist Party-dominated assembly, the government said on its website.

Vietnam's top leaders include the Communist Party chief, the president and the prime minister, though the position of president is more ceremonial than the other two.

In his acceptance speech yesterday, which was broadcast live on state television, Quang pledged to "speed up the reform process in a comprehensive and synchronized manner, engage in proactive integration, build a growing strong and prosperous nation and heighten Vietnam's position in the international arena."

Vietnam launched the reforms in the mid-1980s, switching from a central command economy to a market economy. This transformed a poor country that had just emerged from long wars against the French and then the Americans

into one of the fastest-growing economies in Asia.

Quang, who was the minister of public security before becoming president, also vowed to "firmly defend the sacred national independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity" and to "maintain political and social stability and create a peaceful environment for national construction."

The National Assembly deputies, who were elected in general elections in May, are scheduled to reappoint Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc today. AP



Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang

Dems' division, emails roil party on Day 1 of convention

Ken Thomas, Kathleen Hennessey

DEMOCRATS who gleefully jeered Republican divisions last week awoke to a political mess of their own making yesterday as party unity behind Hillary Clinton proved much harder to secure.

Gathering for their convention in Philadelphia, Democrats struggled to shake lingering bitterness among supporters of defeated rival Bernie Sanders and dealt with the aftermath of a leadership shakeup at the top.

The party announced yesterday it would kick off its four-day spectacle with speeches from some of its most popular figures. Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, a progressive favorite, would deliver the convention keynote. Sanders and first lady Michelle Obama will also take the stage.

The kickoff lineup had long been intended to appeal to the party's restive liberal wing, but that task has become unexpectedly urgent. A trove of embarrassing leaked emails some said reveal an anti-Sanders bias at the supposedly neutral Democratic National Committee has ripped open some barely-healed primary wound.

It was unclear whether the resignation Sunday of party chief Debbie Wasserman Schultz would be enough to unite the party behind Hillary Clinton.

How the emails were stolen hasn't been confirmed, but the Clinton campaign pointed the finger at Russian hackers.

"There is a consensus among experts that it is indeed Russia that is behind this hack of



A supporter of Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., holds up a sign calling for Debbie Wasserman Schultz, chairwoman of the Democratic National Committee to be fired

the DNC," Clinton campaign spokesman Brian Fallon told CNN yesterday, arguing Russia was trying to influence the outcome of the U.S. election.

Trump dismissed the suggestion in a tweet: "The joke in town is that Russia leaked the disastrous DNC e-mails, which should never have been written [stupid], because Putin likes me."

Republicans relished Democrats' pre-convention tumult, just days after they bumped and bumbled through their convention, unsuccessfully trying to paper over their own division. GOP nominee Donald Trump declared on Twitter: "The Dems Convention is cracking up."

Resistance to Clinton was on display during a demonstration Sunday as many thronged to a main thoroughfare and chanted, "Hell no, DNC, we won't vote for Hillary." Still many delegates, and Sanders himself, said they planned to fall in line, mindful of the Republican alternative.

Ohio's Michael Skindell, a Sanders delegate, said yesterday he plans to "strongly support the nominee of the party."

DNC Vice Chair Donna Brazile, a veteran Democratic strategist who will lead the party on an interim basis after the convention, warned more leaked emails, and more apologies, could be coming.

A trove of embarrassing leaked emails reveal an anti-Sanders bias at the supposedly neutral Democratic National Committee

For now, party leaders tried to make Wasserman Schultz's exit as graceful as possible. Clinton and President Barack Obama both quickly praised the departed party chief.

At the Republican convention, Trump cast himself as the law-and-order candidate in a nation suffering under crime and hobbled by immigration, sticking to the gloom-and-doom theme. As he accepted the Republican nomination, Trump said: "The legacy of Hillary Clinton is death, destruction, terrorism and weakness."

In return, Clinton seized upon what she called the "fear and the anger and the resentment" from Trump and Republicans, dismissing Trump's declaration that only he could fix the problems that afflict the nation.

Clinton was due to campaign in Charlotte, North Carolina yesterday. Ahead of her speech to the VFW, Clinton secured the endorsement of retired Gen. John Allen, former De-

puty Commander of U. S. Central Command and a former Commander of the International Security Assistance Force, overseeing NATO troops in Afghanistan

"I have no doubt that she is the leader we need at this time to keep our country safe, and I trust her with that most sacred responsibility of commander in chief."

Obama will speak tomorrow night. Other high-profile speakers include former President Bill Clinton and Vice President Joe Biden.

They will try to overcome the lingering resentment among Sanders supporters, which was intensified by both the leak of emails that appeared to show top DNC officials working against the Sanders campaign and include one questioning his faith.

"If they think they can win without half the party, let them lose," said Andrew Fader, 27, of New York, who was wearing a "Bernie" T-shirt on Sunday near the Liberty Bell. "And I'll move to Canada."

Kenny Madden, a Sanders delegate from Kentucky, said he doesn't "think there can be anything Bernie can say that will bring people together. I think that's going to have to come from the other side."

Sanders endorsed Clinton two weeks ago after pressing for the party platform to include a USD15-an-hour minimum wage, debt-free college and an expansion of access to health care.

Clinton is within just days of her long-held ambition to become the party's official presidential nominee. After the DNC released a slightly trimmed list of super delegates — those are the party officials who can back any candidate — it now takes 2,382 delegates to formally clinch the nomination. Clinton has 2,814 when including super delegates, according to an Associated Press count. Sanders has 1,893. AP

Peace in peril as South Sudan violence spurs split in opposition

Okech Francis

A peace pact to end more than two years of civil war in oil-producing South Sudan is in jeopardy as one faction of the armed opposition moves to replace Vice President Riek Machar.

A delegation representing Machar in the capital, Juba, say they're replacing him with Mining Minister Taban Deng Gai, citing loss of

contact with the former rebel leader after recent violence. Machar is in hiding in the aftermath of five days of fighting in the city that started July 7 between forces loyal to him and President Salva Kiir and left at least 270 people dead, throwing their power-sharing agreement into turmoil.

"It is obvious that Riek is more popular than Taban, so the prevailing agreement is unlikely to

succeed without his participation," said Augustino Ting Mayai, research director at the Sudd Institute, a Juba-based group. This "impacts negatively on the recently formed government, as well as the security of the nation. Basically, without Riek little stability may be realized in South Sudan."

Machar and Kiir formed a transitional government in late April,

seeking to end a conflict that's claimed tens of thousands of lives. South Sudan, which has sub-Saharan Africa's third-biggest crude reserves, is producing as little as 120,000 barrels a day because of the war that began in December 2013.

James Gatdet Dak, a Machar representative in neighboring Kenya, has said the former rebel chief will come back once a regional force is de-



Children wait to be served with roasted maize in a refugee camp in Juba

ployed to keep the peace in the capital, a step rejected by the country's Defense Ministry. Dak, who wouldn't disclose

Machar's location, has described any attempt to replace the vice president as "illegal and unrealistic." Bloomberg

Brazil police arrest last suspect in Olympics terror case

BRAZILIAN police say they have arrested the last suspect who was sought in the case of a group that pledged allegiance to the Islamic State on social media and shared ideas about attacking the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

The Federal Police said in a statement late Sunday that the man was caught in the city of Comodoro, in the central west region of Brazil.

Police said he was taken to a federal prison but revealed no further details, citing security reasons.

The plot was announced by authorities on Thursday when 10 Brazilians were arrested in different states of Brazil. Another man turned himself in on Friday.

Officials say the suspects were IS sympathizers but they hadn't traveled to the group's stronghold in Syria or Iraq or received any training. **AP**



Report: Turkey issues warrants for 42 journalists

TURKISH authorities issued warrants yesterday for the detention of 42 journalists and detained 31 academics, official media reported, as the government pressed ahead with a crackdown against people allegedly linked to a U.S.-based Muslim cleric following a failed coup.

The state-run Anadolu news agency said the list of journalists wanted for questioning included prominent writer Nazli Ilıcak, who is critical of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Ilıcak has opposed the government clampdown on a movement led by Fethullah Gulen, the cleric accused by Turkey of directing the July 15 coup attempt. Gulen has denied any involvement in the failed insurrection that left about 290 people dead and was put down by loyalist forces and pro-government protesters.



People sit on a tour bus with Turkish flags and a portrait of the Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Taksim square in Istanbul

So far, five journalists have been detained for questioning, Anadolu reported.

Prosecutors requested their detention to shed light on the coup plot and the warrants are not related to their "journalistic activities, but possible criminal conduct," a senior official in Erdogan's office said in a text message sent to foreign media. He spoke on condition of

anonymity in line with Turkish government regulations.

The list of wanted journalists, according to the pro-government Sabah newspaper, also includes news editor Erkan Acar of the Ozgur Dusunce newspaper and news show host Erkan Akkus of the Can Erzincaan TV station. Both media organizations are off-shoots of Bugun newspaper and Bugun

TV, which were taken over by the government in an October 2015 police raid.

Another journalist wanted by authorities is Hanim Busra Erdal, a former columnist and legal reporter for the daily Zaman newspaper, which was taken over by authorities in March for its links to Gulen's movement.

The 31 academics, including a number of professors, were detained for questioning in Istanbul and four other provinces, Anadolu reported. Security officials also conducted a raid against the military's Istanbul-based War Academy, detaining 40 people.

The government declared a three-month state of emergency and detained more than 13,000 people in the military, judiciary and other institutions following the foiled coup. **AP**

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what's ON

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TIME: 11am-9pm
UNTIL: September 30, 2016
ADMISSION: Free
VENUE: TOM N TOMS' COFFEE, Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida 20 – B, Regent Court Res-do-chao A)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2856 0160

PAINTINGS AND CALLIGRAPHY DONATED BY JAO TSUNG-I
TIME: 10am-6pm Daily (No admission after 5:30 pm; Except on Mondays, open on public holidays)
VENUE: Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida, No. 95 C-D, Macau
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2523

ARTS IN THE MANDARIN'S HOUSE
TIME: 10am-6pm daily (No admission after 5:30 pm, closed on Wednesdays, opens on public holidays)
ADMISSION: Free
VENUE: Travessa de António da Silva, No. 10 (near Lilau Square)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8820

ARTISTIC CRAFTSMANSHIP OF OUR ANCESTORS – EXHIBITION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RELICS OF TAIPA AND COLOANE
TIME: 10am-6pm daily (No admission after 5:30; Closed on Mondays; Free admission on Sundays)
VENUE: Rua Correia da Silva, Taipa
ADMISSION: MOP5
ORGANIZER: Cultural Affairs Bureau
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

Offbeat

HEMINGWAY (NO RELATION) WINS LOOK-ALIKE CONTEST IN KEY WEST

Dave Hemingway (center), receives smooches from Charlie Boise (left), and Wally Collins (right), after Hemingway won the 2016 Ernest "Papa" Hemingway Look-Alike Contest

For the first time in its 36-year history, a Hemingway has won a competition seeking the man who most looks like literary giant Ernest Hemingway.

Dave Hemingway was named the winner of the "Papa" Hemingway Look-Alike Contest on Saturday in Key West, Florida. The winner said he is not related to the late author.

The contest, which attracted 140 entrants, is the highlight event of the annual Hemingway Days festival that celebrates the author's legacy. It was held at Sloppy Joe's Bar, which was a frequent hangout of Hemingway's during his Key West residency in the 1930s.

Hemingway, who won the contest in his seventh attempt, wore a wool, cream-colored turtleneck sweater similar to what the late author favored.

"Even though this sweater is really hot, it was part of my strategy," he said. "And I think it worked really well."

Like the author, Dave Hemingway said he likes to fish, to drink a little "and I like women. I like having a good time. I do feel like Ernest because I'm in the town he lived in so many years."

The husband of celebrity cook Paula Deen — Michael Groover of Savannah, Georgia — finished in the top five for the second straight year. This is the sixth time he has participated in the contest.

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:45	RTPi Live
19:00	Helena's Shadow (Repeated)
19:50	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-Daily Portuguese News
21:10	Documentary Serie
21:40	Once Upon A Time S1
22:10	Helena's Shadow
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

cinema

CINETEATRO

21 Jul - 27 Jul

FINDING DORY

ROOM 1
2.15, 4.05, 5.55, 7.45 pm
Director: Andrew Stanton
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/ English)
Duration: 97min

COLD WAR 2

ROOM 1
9.30 pm
Director: Longman Leung, Sunny Luk
Starring: Aaron Kwok, Tony Leung Ka Fai, Chow Yun Fat
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/ English)
Duration: 110min



START TREK BEYOND

ROOM 2
(2D) 2.30, 4.45, 9.30 pm
(3D) 7.15 pm
Director: Justin Lin
Starring: Chris Pine, Zachary Quinto, Zoe Saldana, Simon Pegg
Language: English (Cantonese/ English)
Duration: 120min



GHOSTBUSTERS

ROOM 3
(2D) 2.30, 4.45, 9.30 pm
(3D) 7.15 pm
Director: Paul Feig
Starring: Melissa McCarthy, Kristen Wiig, Kate McKinnon, Leslie Jones
Language: English (Cantonese/ English)
Duration: 116min

MACAU TOWER

21 Jul - 03 Aug

START TREK BEYOND

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm
Director: Justin Lin
Starring: Chris Pine, Zachary Quinto, Zoe Saldana, Simon Pegg
Language: English (Cantonese/ English)
Duration: 120min

this day in history

**1945 CHURCHILL LOSES GENERAL ELECTION**

Clement Attlee has been elected Britain's new prime minister after Labour won a sweeping victory in the general election.

The outgoing prime minister and great wartime leader Winston Churchill tendered his resignation immediately.

The landslide victory comes as a major shock to the Conservatives following Mr Churchill's hugely successful term as Britain's war-time coalition leader, during which he mobilized and inspired courage in an entire nation.

Out of 627 seats Labor increased its seats from 164 to 393, giving the party its first independent majority of 159 seats over all other parties.

The Conservatives and their allies secured 213 seats, the Liberals 10 and other parties 11.

Following the announcement of the results this afternoon, Mr Churchill, who has held the positions of Prime Minister, First Lord of the Admiralty and Minister of Defense continuously since May 10, 1940, went to Buckingham Palace to hand in his resignation.

Mr Attlee, 62, was welcomed by the King shortly afterwards and asked to form a new Government.

Throughout the election campaign Mr Churchill had appealed to the country to give his new National Government - formed after the dissolution of the Coalition government in May - a good majority.

But the appeal was rejected by the people of Britain, largely, it is thought, because they believed Labor's promises to implement the Beveridge Report and its plans for creating a welfare state.

In a statement issued from 10 Downing Street tonight Mr Churchill expressed his "profound gratitude for the unflinching, unwavering support" given to him by the people of Britain during the war years.

At a news conference this evening, Mr Attlee promised a new world order and an economic policy to raise the standards of life for people all over the world.

He said: "We are facing a new era and I believe that the voting at this election has shown that the people of Britain are facing that new era with the same courage as they faced the long years of war."

The outgoing prime minister had broken off meetings with the leaders of America and Russia in Potsdam on Wednesday (July 25) to return to Britain for the election results.

It was announced tonight that a proclamation giving Japan an ultimatum to surrender had been signed by Mr Churchill before his departure.

The document, also signed by American President Harry Truman and General Chiang Kai-shek of China, called for the unconditional surrender of all Japanese armed forces or the prospect of "prompt and utter destruction."

The new prime minister, Mr Attlee, is expected to return to the three-Power conference in Berlin to resume diplomatic talks soon.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Potsdam conference in Berlin was attended by the heads of government from America, Britain and Russia to discuss Europe's recovery following the war.

It was the first time the three had met since the end of the war with Germany.

The conference lasted for 17 days and resulted in a declaration which included detailed proposals on the future control of Germany and the reparations to be exacted from Germany to facilitate Europe's recovery.

Despite losing the General Election, Winston Churchill's reputation as one of this country's greatest war-time leaders was left unscathed.

He remained leader of the opposition until 1951 when he once again became prime-minister at the age of 77.

He resigned in 1955 due to ill-health and died in January 1965.

In 2002 Winston Churchill was named the greatest Briton of all time in a nationwide poll which attracted more than a million votes.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19
If it's still unclear by midday just what's expected of you, then consider your goose cooked.

Taurus April 20-May 20
This isn't a job for a superhero, but that doesn't mean you have to do everything yourself.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21
Don't let the pressure get to you. Keeping your creative juices flowing is imperative and stress does just the opposite.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22
If your plan for tomorrow is still unknown today, it's time to make some kind of a commitment.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22
It's impossible not to deal with money when making plans today. One way or the other, you'll need to open your wallet.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22
If you think things are chaotic now, just wait another day. With everyone moving at their own speed, you'll finally understand the point behind an old saw.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22
You have much to appreciate, from large to small. The general mood of thankfulness runs through your day.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
You're slowly starting to see your fantasy take shape here in reality. You'll get to experience the cumulative effect later, but for now, it's exciting to see things gel and to see that all your money was actually well spent.

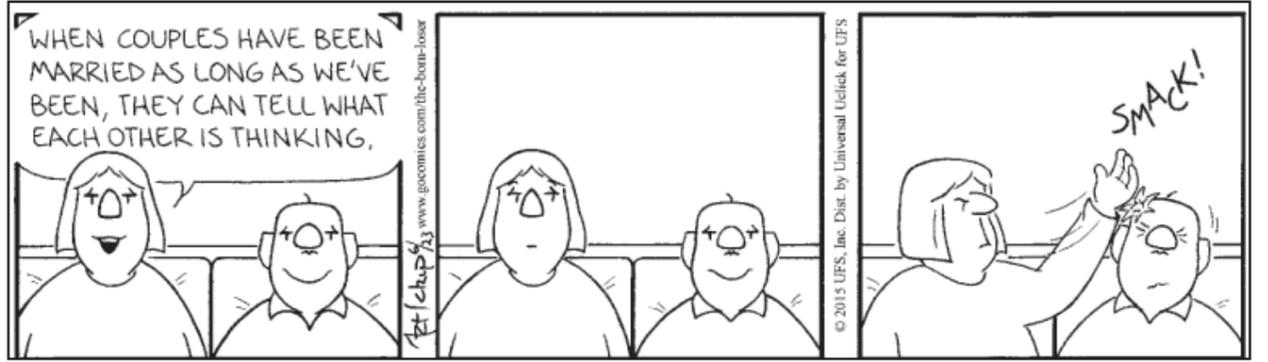
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21
If you can't get excited about the day before you, then get excited about tomorrow. Thoughts of what's to come should motivate you like nothing else.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19
You can't wait to connect with important people in your life. But jumping the gun is not only squandering time, it's wasting money.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18
You may think you have more to spend on family or friends than you actually do. Knowing your heart is in the right place, even if your bottom line isn't, should be some compensation to all involved.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20
You're happy to be the sous-chef if you're not in charge of the kitchen, but you can't abide doing nothing at all. Don't worry, you assist in just the right ways.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Lists weather forecasts for various cities in China and the World.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Dr. Zhivago's love; 5- Exploitative one; 9- Removes wrinkles; 14- Prayer ender; 15- St. Petersburg's river; 16- Ethical; 17- Masked; 19- British buddy; 20- Purpose; 21- Chad neighbor; 23- Desperate; 25- ___ Lingus (Irish carrier); 26- Outback hopper; 29- Prince Valiant's son; 30- Eternal; 33- Shampoo brand; 34- Give a new title to; 35- ___ Grey, tea type; 38- Neptune's realm; 40- Peter Fonda role; 41- Obvious truth; 44- Young salmon; 47- Needless; 49- Sleep stage; 52- Colorful moths; 53- Sun Devils' sch.; 54- Underwater missile; 56- Up in the air; 58- A principal beam; 59- Motionless; 62- Courtyard in front of a building; 64- Threepio's pal; 65- Alaska's first governor; 66- Arthur Ashe's alma mater; 67- Costume; 68- Optimistic; 69- Antelope's playmate;

DOWN: 1- Pretentious; 2- Key with no sharps or flats; 3- Lean against; 4- Ire; 5- Promoting togetherness; 6- His, to Henri; 7- Balanced; 8- Tire type; 9- Place under a liquid; 10- Crowd sound; 11- Table scrap; 12- Scot's refusal; 13- Artful; 18- Below; 22- Equipment; 24- Electric fish; 26- Iranian coin; 27- Treater's words; 28- Arch type; 31- Like non-oyster months; 32- Hardware fastener; 33- Ballet bend; 35- Ornamental case; 36- Cartoonist Peter; 37- Flows; 39- Amo, amas, ___; 42- Bivalve mollusk; 43- You've Made ___ Very Happy; 45- Process of mountain formation; 46- Song part; 48- Feel pain; 49- To lower; 50- English Channel swimmer Gertrude; 51- Short cannon; 55- Arrogant; 56- Baseball family name; 57- Fast-food option; 59- Droop, sink; 60- Uno + due; 61- "The Addams Family" cousin; 63- ___ Tafari (Haile Selassie)

Yesterday's solution crossword grid with words filled in.

Large crossword puzzle grid with some numbers and letters filled in.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
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Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
IACM 28 387 333
Tourism 28 333 000
Airport 59 888 88



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HKD 9,000 / 1,000 sq ft
Ref: 16050579

Nova Taipa, West Facing Macau
1,880 sq ft / HKD 12.8M
Car Park Separately
Ref: 16065488
Nam Long H Unit Taipa
2 Bedroom Apartment Newly Renovated
HKD 14,000 / 900 sq ft
Ref: 16050585

Wai Son Macau
1,000 sq ft / HKD 4.2M
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No suspense at Tour? Blame Team Sky

Samuel Petrequin, Paris

CHRIS Froome's superiority at the Tour de France was under threat for only a brief moment.

A few minutes of suspense over 21 days of racing shed a light on Team Sky's dominance in cycling's toughest race.

Froome and his elite team of excellent riders good enough to be leaders in other squads have looked untouchable this summer. They controlled the race from the start, reducing the British rider's rivals to also-rans as Froome joined American Greg LeMond, Frenchman Louison Bobet and Belgian Philippe Thys as a three-time Tour winner.

Apart from crashes at the Mont Ventoux and in the penultimate Alpine stage, the 31-year-old Froome enjoyed a very quiet Tour. He was at ease in the mountain passes and stamped his authority on the race in both time trials.

"Team Sky is so powerful, they are like Paris Saint-Germain in the French league," Tour director Christian Prudhomme said, comparing Sky's strength to that of runaway French champion PSG. "They are so much stronger than the others."

Tour organizers did their part to make the race more open. Wanting to maintain a sense of suspense until the very end of the race, they crafted a well-balanced route with many opportunities for Froome's main rivals: Colombian climbing ace Nairo Quintana, two-time Tour winner Alberto Contador of Spain — who arrived in very good shape — and the French



2016 Tour de France winner Chris Froome of Britain and his Sky teammates cross the finish line of the Tour's last stage

duo of Thibaut Pinot and Romain Bardet.

Pinot and Contador, who has won the Spanish Vuelta three times and the Giro d'Italia twice, dropped out early on.

In the Pyrenees and the Alps, Froome's teammates deployed their strong-arm tactics, riding at the front to set a punishingly fast tempo that prevented Quintana, Bardet and other pure climbers from attacking.

The strategy worked to perfection and Froome was hardly attacked. With teammates like Wout Poels, Sergio Henao, Mikel Landa, and Mikel Nieve, Froome has some of the best climbers of the peloton working for him.

"I feel so privileged to be in

this position where I've always had teammates around me in the race," Froome said. "Although we haven't won the team competition, we've had by far the strongest team."

Here are some other things we learned during the Tour de France:

QUINTANA BUST After ending runner-up to Froome twice, the Colombian climber was expected to challenge his British rival in the mountains.

But Quintana was not at the same level as last year, when he tried to corner Froome during the third week and gained time in the closing stages.

Weakened by allergies, the diminutive rider was unable to

produce a single dangerous attack this year.

"Chris Froome was too strong," Quintana said after ending third overall, 4 minutes and 21 seconds behind Froome.

SUPER SAGAN Elected the super combative rider of the Tour, world champion Peter Sagan livened up the race on a daily basis with his bold attacks and breakaways.

The flamboyant Slovak rider, who does not have the climbing qualities to compete for the general classification, won three stages and clinched the best sprinter's green jersey for the fifth consecutive time.

With his long hair and rock and roll star looks, Sagan is not

Froome was at ease in the mountain passes and stamped his authority on the race in both time trials

only a fan's favorite, but also one of the most respected riders in the peloton.

"He's like the grandson of Eddy Merckx, he is a genius, he is having fun on the bike," FDJ manager Marc Madiot said. "He is the most impressive rider of the past two, three decades."

BARDET ON THE UP With Thibaut Pinot out of form, the French hopes of producing a first home Tour winner in 31 years hung on Romain Bardet's shoulders.

The 25-year-old climbing specialist finished runner-up to Froome, but left it a little too late after posting the only stage win for the host country in the penultimate Alpine stage with a bold attack.

A very attack-minded cyclist with excellent climbing qualities and a natural instinct for racing, Bardet is tipped as a future Grand Tour winner.

"Romain has been riding an extremely good race here," Froome said. "I imagine it will give him a lot of motivation to come back next year and fight for victory. It's a great thing for French cycling." AP

RIO OLYMPICS

Japanese Buddhist priest contemplates canoe gold in Rio

Emily Wang, Nagano

WHEN he's not chanting and living the austere life of a Buddhist priest, Kazuki Yazawa contemplates Olympic gold.

The 27-year-old Yazawa will represent Japan in canoe slalom at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics where he hopes to use his mental toughness and skill to bring home a medal.

Yazawa wakes up before dawn every day — not to train — but to pray as a novice priest.

With a shaved head and donning a long black robe, he tags along behind senior priests at the ancient Zenkoji Daikanjin Temple in Nagano prefecture, still learning his chants and getting used to long hours of sitting on the floor.

But once the clock strikes 3 p.m. and his duties are done, he changes into a polo shirt and shorts and drives his white van to the nearby Saigawa River to practice for the big stage of Rio.

Though a lifelong ca-

noeist, Yazawa's second calling as priest came shortly after competing in the London Olympics in 2012.

He placed ninth in the men's K-1 kayak slalom — a record for a Japanese canoeist — but was strained under the pressures of finding sponsors.

That's was when he felt the need to find a stable job, and was inspired by his mentor and a fellow priest who also serves as the Nagano canoe association chairman, Kenei Koyama.

In 2013, Yazawa decided to retreat from the front-lines of foreign competition and entered into priesthood.

"I never had the intention of balancing the two" Yazawa said. "When I started as a Buddhist priest, I had decided that my main job would be as a priest and that my life as a canoeist would be done in my spare time."

An unexpected turn of events happened when Yazawa won the Japanese canoe slalom national tournament in 2015,



Kazuki Yazawa, canoe slalom Olympian and Buddhist priest

propelling him to the top among Japanese contenders to compete in the Summer Games in Rio.

Now, Yazawa practices for about an hour and half, six days a week, followed by either a run or a gym session.

His practice time on an average day is less than

half of what he had done for the London Olympics, but that has not deterred Yazawa from reaching for gold.

"I hope to give my best performance that I can on the grand stage of the Olympics, and come back to Japan with a good feeling" Yazawa said. AP

opinion

Our Desk
Renato Marques



A MATTER OF COINCIDENCES...

Those who know me well know that something that I am always completely skeptical about are "coincidences."

In all honesty, I just can't believe in coincidences at all; I would rather see daily events from a cause-effect perspective.

With this in mind, I'm not saying that this is the right way to see them, it is just "my way" to do it.

So today on this topic of "coincidences" I've decided to share with you a few things that have been bouncing inside my brain for a few weeks already and have now decided to pop-out by some coincidental reason (some might say).

We all know how "armed wars" start right? – With someone pressing the trigger first! That "pressing of the first trigger" might have been an accident, a mistake, by chance or maybe it was premeditated for a specific purpose – but it will be always hard to tell for sure.

The same happens in our daily life and especially for those (like me) who deal with daily news. Sometimes information gets organized in our heads in a very strange way. This might be hard to understand (I know), which is why I'm giving a few examples, nothing too personal, just "coincidences."

Fact number 1: Imagine that one day you receive information that the government is urging the construction of, let's say, an Infectious Diseases building. The decision is not really well accepted within several sectors of the society and the "pot starts to stir." It is understandable that people do not feel a need to change something unless something else forces that change. Like the old saying goes: "you only remember Saint Barbara when the thunderstorm comes" (Saint Barbara is usually invoked against thunder and lightning as well as accidents arising from explosions of gunpowder).

Fact number 2: Imagine that the same government, due to safety and hygiene reasons, wants to stop the sale of live poultry in markets, replacing them with chilled products directly from the slaughterhouse (in mainland China). Once again, the decision isn't well received by parts of society who can't see the reason behind changing their old habit of choosing the chicken (while it is still alive) that they want to take home to eat.

Fact number 3: Imagine that suddenly authorities detect avian influenza subtype H7 during an environmental sample collection in a local market. Sales of live poultry were immediately suspended and 15,000 chickens lost their lives at the wholesale market in Macau, where poultry imported from the mainland are kept before being put onto the local markets.

The case generated huge media coverage, statements and press releases with staff in almost-space suits taking care of the dangerous-killing virus, although apparently none of the over 15,000 chickens have tested positive for that H7 avian influenza subtype.

To add to this, a public health contingency mechanism was implemented, and three employees who were in contact with the live poultry were placed under a ten day medical surveillance at the public hospital, although like in the animal cases, none of them were found to be displaying any symptoms of the virus.

For some reason my brain put all these three facts together as if there was a connection between them. Of course, this happens just because I don't believe in coincidences, otherwise it would be just another huge coincidence.

Still on the topic, my brain decided to play tricks on me again. Imagine that those 219 street surveillance cameras that the government is installing which – guess what – aren't been well received by many, suddenly start to become useful in catching crimes and other cases of difficult resolution... Surely that would be just another "coincidence."

THE BUZZ US EMBASSY IN MYANMAR APOLOGIZES AFTER TEAR GAS ACCIDENT

The U.S. Embassy in Myanmar issued a public apology yesterday after a tear gas grenade accidentally exploded during a security exercise, sending fumes out onto the street and sparking rumors of a bomb.

The embassy, located in Yangon, said in a statement that no one was injured in the Sunday night incident and that its operations were continuing normally.

All major U.S. embassies around the world have Marine Security Guard detachments for everyday and emergency security. Their arma-

ments include tear gas, which can be employed if there is a violent breach of the premises.

A policeman for the neighborhood where the embassy is located said Myanmar officials had not been informed beforehand about the security exercise.

"The embassy staff apologized to us, saying this would be the first and last time such an accident would occur," said the officer, Thein Han. "The gas was leaking outside and caused some disturbance to the public, but there wasn't any damage or injury."



A group from Australia



Indonesian dancers

MACAU

Over 600 take part in Youth Dance Festival

Lynzy Valles

VIBRANT colors and music filled the streets on Sunday to kick off the International Youth Dance Festival 2016, with dancers parading from the Ruins of St Paul's to St Dominic's Church. The event will continue until Thursday.

The performances of the International Youth Dance Festival 2016 include a parade, outdoor performances, two indoor performances, and artistic performance workshops.

More than 600 young dancers from Macau and 17 different regions are performing in the event, including dance groups from Australia, Greece, Indonesia, Israel, Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Malay-

sia, New Zealand, Norway, Russia, Singapore, Slovakia, Sri Lanka, Yunnan Province, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

The 10 local groups joining the dance festival this year include, amongst others, Hou Kong Middle School Dance Team, Imprint Macau Dance Association, and the Kao Yip Middle School Dance Team.

In order to allow youngsters from around the globe to know more about Macau's culture, a cultural tour will be arranged for the participants.

The Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, told reporters that performances would be brought to Nam Van Lake, hoping to raise awareness of such activities.

"I believe it will make students more interested in this kind of entertainment and culture," said Tam.

Meanwhile, several audience members of the performances told the Times that such festivals should be conducted regularly to further entertain and attract the region's tourists.

"It's really nice. Maybe it could be held annually," said one attendant. "It takes away our stress because it's not always that we see these kinds [of activities] and it allows us to enjoy ourselves too on a Sunday," said another.

The International Youth Dance Festival 2016 is organized by the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau in collaboration with several departments.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Xinhua/Li Yibo



A municipal worker searches for a drain on a flooded road in Xi'an, capital of northwest China's Shaanxi Province. The city's meteorological bureau issued a red alert for rainstorm.

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	20-40 Good	
High Density Residential Area	25-45 Good	
Ambient	25-45 Good	

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

INDIA Police were questioning two men yesterday in the alleged gang rape of a 25-year-old Israeli tourist who accepted a car ride while traveling in the northern Indian state of Himachal Pradesh. The woman, who had been looking for a taxi, got into the car in the hill resort of Manali before dawn Sunday to travel to a nearby town, said Padam Chand, a police superintendent in Manali.



GERMANY A failed asylum-seeker from Syria blew himself up and wounded 12 people after being turned away from an open-air music festival in southern Germany, authorities said yesterday. It was the fourth attack to shake Germany in a week – three of them carried out by recent immigrants.

POLAND Pope Francis' advocacy for refugee rights faces a diplomatic test tomorrow when he begins a five-day visit to Poland, where a populist government has slammed the door on most asylum-seekers.

MOZAMBIQUE Talks between the government and an opposition party that began July 21 were suspended after disagreements, a mediator said, stalling a bid to end violence that's killed hundreds of people.

CONGO A court in the Republic of Congo sentenced an opposition politician to two years in prison after he was found guilty of inciting rebellion. Paulin Makaya, president of the United for Congo party, was also fined 2.5 million CFA francs (USD4,135) by the court in the capital, Brazzaville.



US A shooting at a Florida nightclub killed two people and wounded as many as 17, police said. The attack apparently occurred at a teen party, billed as a "Swimsuit Glow Party," at Club Blu in Fort Myers, according to local media.