



GROUP TOURS SLUMP
In the first half-year of 2016, visitors on package tours totaled to 3.4 million, down by 31 percent year-on-year

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30TH MUSIC FESTIVAL UNVEILED

P3 MDT REPORT



ELECTION LAW REVISION IS 'MATTER OF URGENCY'
A proposal to amend the Legislative Assembly Election Law will be treated as a matter of urgency by the government

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS



JAPAN The former employee accused of killing 19 disabled people and injuring others at a care home in Japan moved briskly and methodically inside buildings and rooms he knew, finishing the deadliest mass attack in postwar Japan in less than one hour, officials said.

INDONESIA rebuffed appeals from distraught relatives, rights advocates and foreign governments to abandon plans to execute 14 people for drug crimes as preparations intensified at the prison island holding death row inmates.

AUSTRALIAN officials confirmed that data recovered from a home flight simulator owned by the captain of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 showed that someone had used the device to plot a course to the southern Indian Ocean, where the missing jet is believed to have crashed. More on p16

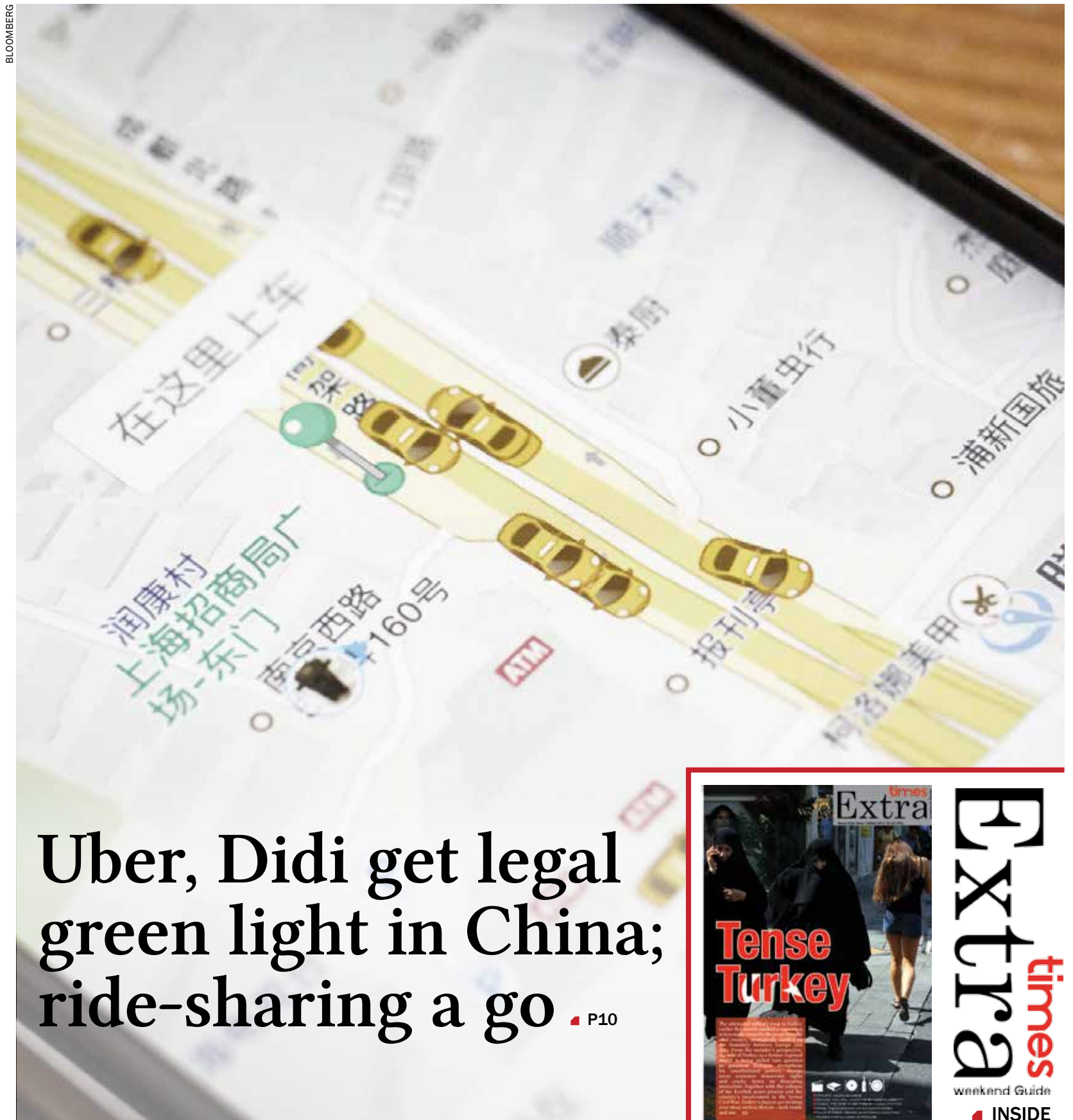


NORTH KOREA's top diplomat for U.S. affairs told The Associated Press that Washington "crossed the red line" and effectively declared war by putting leader Kim Jong Un [pictured] on its list of sanctioned individuals. More on p12

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Macau property market buoyed as gamblers return

P5 FEATURE



Uber, Didi get legal green light in China; ride-sharing a go

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Extra
times
weekend Guide
INSIDE

Games themed stamp issued today

Given the upcoming Rio Olympic Games and other sports events, the Macau Post is today issuing a postal stamp themed "Games 2016." The issuing includes a set of four stamps, each symbolizing, in a dynamic styling, a different nation of the athletes. The four stamps together form a globe, in turn symbolizing the family that all people belong to despite the differences that distinguish them. The new stamps will be available for purchase at the Macau Post Headquarters, the Communications Museum, the Maritime Ferry Terminal Post Office and the Airport Post Office. The price varies from 6.5 to 60 patacas, depending on the chosen philatelic products.

Local orchestra ends concert season with 'Così fan tutte'

The Macao Orchestra will present its 2015-16 season closing concert, "Così fan tutte," on Saturday at the Cultural Centre Grand Auditorium. Six renowned young singers from mainland China and Hong Kong, each with their own solo, will play the six characters of this opera, said the Bureau in a statement. "Così fan tutte" is among Mozart's best known operas, alongside "The Marriage of Figaro" and "Don Giovanni". "Così fan tutte" portrays the story of two brothers who, in order to prove their loved ones' devotion, make a bet and appear to each other's brides in disguise in an attempt to seduce them. According to a press release issued by the Cultural Affairs Bureau, this opera is increasingly hailed by the critics as one of Mozart's masterpieces. The concert will be led by the Orchestra's principal conductor, Lü Jia.

Beef festival to kick off next week

The 6th Beef Cuisine Festival, organized by the Association of Macau Small and Medium Enterprises of Catering (AMMEC), will kick off on August 6 at Rotunda de Carlos da Maia. According to a statement released by the association, the event is expected to attract a large crowd, in the hopes of supporting local medium- and small-sized restaurants. In the first half of 2016, the association organized a beef-themed festival to assist the city's 'community tourism' purpose of promoting local restaurants. Food brochures were sent out and a cowboy parade was organized in order to encourage tourists and residents to discover the city's community tourism resources and food.

TOURISM

Number of visitors on package tours declines

INFORMATION from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) has indicated that in the first half year of 2016, visitors on package tours totaled to 3.4 million, down by 31.2 percent year-on-year.

In June 2016, the number of visitors on package tours was down by 20.7 percent year-on-year, totaling 571,000. Package tour visitors from mainland China (442,000) and Taiwan (34,000) decreased by some 24 percent and 27 percent respectively year-on-year, while those from the Republic of Korea (31,000) increased by 125.8 percent.

Outbound residents using the services of travel agencies totaled 94,000 in June 2016, a 20.9 percent year-on-year drop. Residents travelling on package



tours decreased by 21.7 percent year-on-year to 37,000, with the main destinations being mainland China, the Republic of Korea and Taiwan.

According to DSEC, those travelling to the Republic of Korea soared by 611.4 percent due

to the low base of comparison in June 2015, which resulted from the outbreak of MERS in Korea at that time. In the first half-year of 2016, outbound residents using the services of travel agencies summed up to 597,000, down by 17.7 percent

HEALTH

Wong says Islands Hospital unlikely to be completed by 2019

EDDIE Wong Yue Kai, a member of the Executive Council, stated on Wednesday that it is unlikely that the Islands Hospital will be completed by 2019, according to a report by Journal Cheng Pou.

Wong belongs to the managing group of one of the companies responsible for the projects' construction design, informing that the design process of the complex has not yet been completed. However, the government had previously mentioned that the project would be complete by 2019. "From the engineering perspective, since the beginning we have thought the estimation to be over optimistic," Wong admitted. In a few days, his company will hand in the latest design for the project.

In addition to the medical complex planned to be established on the island, Wong's company is also one of companies responsible for the design of the controversial Infectious Diseases Building. As stated by Wong, his company was hired to re-design the facility with an adjustment to its height, namely to make it smaller. According to Wong, it will take a few months to amend the design plans.

Wong believes that the new design for the Infectious Diseases Building cannot be completed within the year, taking into account the government's approval process.

Earlier, the Health Bureau and the Infrastructure Development Office began fencing off the controversial land that was chosen as the construction site for the Infec-

tious Diseases Building.

According to the bureau, the eight-floor facility will be essential in preventing the outbreak of infectious diseases, including airborne and waterborne viruses, as well as those transmitted through blood and bodily fluids.

A number of geotechnical engineers have pointed out that excavations in construction sites need to be careful in order to not cause any landslides. Wong claims that major obstacles are not expected if the excavation runs smoothly.

During Wednesday's Legislative Assembly plenary meeting in response to the lawmaker's questions regarding the Infectious Disease Building, Chief Executive Chui Sai On affirmed his support for Macau's infectious disease prevention program. "If the economy, land, and human resources are in good conditions, why shouldn't we prepare better?" asked Chui, who also claims that the city will put the lives and safety of the residents in first place.

year-on-year.

There were 105 hotels and guesthouses operating at the end of June 2016, an increase of three year-on-year. The number of guest rooms totaled 32,000, up by 2,500 year-on-year.

Meanwhile, a total of 935,000 guests checked into hotels and guesthouses in June 2016, up by 16.5 percent year-on-year. Guests from mainland China (583,000), Hong Kong (145,000) and Taiwan (44,000) registered double-digit growth, at some 17 percent, 13 percent and 39.2 percent respectively.

Guests' average length of stay for the month held stable at 1.4 nights as in June 2015. The average occupancy rate of hotels and guesthouses rose notably by 6.6 percentage points year-on-year to 82 percent, with four-star hotels leading at 85.7 percent, up significantly by 12.4 percentage points year-on-year.

In the first half of 2016, guests of hotels and guesthouses totaled 5,443,000, an increase of nearly 13 percent year-on-year. The average occupancy rate of hotels and guesthouses stood at 78.6 percent and guests' average length of stay was 1.4 nights.

Local team succeeds in global math contest

A team of high school students from Macau have won a gold and a silver medal at the 57th International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO), which was held in Hong Kong. This achievement marks the first time in 25 years that a team from the region has won a gold medal at the competition.

Led by Leong Ieng Tak and Wan Lung Yam from the Department of Mathematics at the University of Macau (UM) Faculty of Science and Technology, the Macau team was comprised of six students selected from an earlier local competition.

Two students from the local team won gold and silver medals, while the other four students were each awarded with an honorable mention.

According to UM's press release, Leong and Wan conducted a month-long special training program for the participating students. Leong also invited the Portuguese team to Macau for a three-day training session before the competition.

UM's Department of Mathematics has provided various kinds of mathematical training for local students, which has resulted in numerous awards at international competitions, said UM in a statement.

Launched in 1959, the International Mathematical Olympiad is the oldest and largest mathematics competition in the world. Held annually in a different country each year, the competition aims to provide a platform for young students to showcase their talent for mathematics. It is hailed as a 'cradle of future mathematicians'.

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CULTURE

'Pearl Jubilee' Macao Music Festival unveiled

DETAILS for the 30th Macao International Music Festival were unveiled yesterday at the Center of Tourism Activities, with 20 programs and 27 performances set to be part of the annual event.

The festival will be held at a variety of cultural locations around Macau, including Arte Nam Van, the Macao Museum, the Dom Pedro V Theater and the Macao Cultural Centre.

The Festival is planned to be held between October 1 and 30 and organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC). The 30th anniversary of the festival will see the gathering of musicians and music experts from Russia, the U.S., Germany, France, the U.K., Portugal, Mongolia, Taiwan, mainland China, Hong Kong and Macau.

The theme for this year's edition is "Glorious 30 – The Sino-ophone Rhapsodies," and aims to present "the usual renowned classics" as well as several works of "ethnic appeal," according to a statement from the IC.

One highlight piece is called "Voice from the Mongolian Steppe," and will be performed by the Mongolian State Morin Khuur Ensemble. According to the festival's program, the piece utilizes the traditional horsehead fiddle of Mongolian musical culture to represent the experience of nature, history and the life of Mongolians. The IC describes the piece as "authentic, traditional music [...] escorting [the audience] to the vast and stunning Mongolian plateau through fascinating voices and tunes."

A special piece will also be held in honor of the 400th anniversary of the death of the great



Voice from the Mongolian Steppe

Chinese playwright, Tang Xianzu. The festival has specially produced the opera "A Dream of Fragrance", a home-grown adaptation of the playwright's traveling experience to Macau in 1591, to be led by local artists.

For the 30th anniversary of the Macao International Music Festival, organizers are planning to host a forum to examine how international arts festivals and events contribute to the sustainable development of a city. The two-day forum will feature a number of keynote speeches and discussion sessions to which prominent international practitioners are invited.

The president of the IC, Ung Vai Meng, stated in his opening speech yesterday that these efforts contribute toward "the broadening of the horizons of the city to a global level and enhancing the artistic humanism of citizens," referring to the 30th year of the festival as the event's "Pearl Jubilee."

In further celebration of the 30th anniversary, a publication will be launched by the IC entitled "30th Macao International Music Festival Special Commemorative Edition," which will include program reviews and information on the historical evolution of the festival.

There will also be an array of



Roy Hargrove

backstage tours, "meet the artist" sessions and master classes to cultivate local interests in culture and music. Among the performers participating in the "meet the artist" sessions are Lawrence Ku, a renowned guitarist, composer and educator in China, and Eugene Pao, a well-known Hong Kong jazz guitarist who has played with leading international jazz musicians in the past.

In addition, "Mount Fortress" will host the hypnotizing fado of Portugal's new rising star, Carminho, jazz trumpeter Roy Hargrove who will play several works by jazz giant Miles Davis, and a jazz concert performed by

musicians from the four Cross-strait regions.

This year's festival budget stood at MOP38 million, the same as in 2015 and 2014.

Tickets for the festival's performances go on sale from 10 a.m. on August 7 at Macau Ticketing Network outlets, and telephone and online booking are available from 12 p.m. the same day.

There are two "early bird" discount rates applicable. A 30 percent discount will be granted to those who purchase tickets between August 7 and 14, and a 20 percent discount will be offered on those bought between August 15 and 21.

Int'l collaboration makes headline opera performance

ACCORDING to the statement issued by the IC, the festival will kick off with its "own production," joining forces with the internationally-renowned Italian stage director Giancarlo del Monaco and set and costume designer William Orlandi, to present Giacomo Puccini's opera "Turandot."

With its story and characters set in China, "Turandot" is one of the few western operas depicting the country. The opera recounts the story of the romance of life and death between Chinese Princess Turandot and Prince Calaf of Tartary.

The opera is notable for its costumes and



The Macao Orchestra

sets, which represent a Western imagination of China, "resulting in a far-fetched, problematic representation," reads the festival's official program.

A talk will also be held at the festival, titled "Interpreting Chinese Elements in 'Turandot,'" and delivered in

Cantonese by Chow Fan Fu. Chow is a renowned Hong Kong art critic and columnist on issues of culture and music, who is currently serving as the vice president for the International Association of Theatre Critics in Hong Kong.

English- and French-language films to be aired

FIVE feature films in English and French have been advertised in the recently published program, also to be screened during the festival. Two films will be screened in French with Chinese subtitles: "La Famille Bélier (2014)," which tells the story of a young girl who is the exception, and therefore translator, in her otherwise deaf family, and "Marguerite (2015)" that details the rise of a less-than-talented singer after a journalist provocatively gives her a rave review, providing her with the courage she needs to follow her dream.

Three other films will be screened in English with Chinese subtitles: "20 Feet From Stardom (2013)," which shines a spotlight on the untold true story of the backup singers behind some of the greatest musical legends of the 21st century, "Sing Street (2016)," a coming-of-age film set in a tough public school in Dublin in the 1980s, and the classic "Singin' In The Rain (1952)," which ranks 10th on the American Film Insti-



Chaplin's Gold Rush

tute's 100 Best American Films list.

In collaboration with the "Turandot" opera, the Macao Orchestra, led by Timothy Brock, will perform a live accompaniment of two silent films, "City Lights" and "The Gold Rush," by comedy genius Charlie Chaplin.

Traffic control system in Taipa on Saturday



Traffic will be temporarily controlled in Taipa tomorrow on a section of the Estrada da Baía de Nossa Senhora da Esperança in the surrounding area of Galaxy Macau, the Transport Bureau (DSAT) and the Transportation Infrastructure Office (GIT) informed in a joint statement. The control system that will be in place between 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. is related to the construction of the pedestrian overpass structure for the LRT "Pai Kok" station. During the period, all traffic will flow into split lanes when travelling into the direction that leads to Sai Van Bridge.

Child cleared of MERS suspicion

An 11-year-old girl from Saudi Arabia has undergone tests at the public hospital (CHCSJ) due to reportedly having presented symptoms resembling those of the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), the Health Bureau (SSM) informed in a statement. According to the statement, the child showed signs of abdominal pain and a fever, which led her parents to seek medical help at Kiang Wu Hospital Clinic in Taipa. She was later transported to the CHCSJ to be submitted to tests for MERS. The test results were negative, SSM announced late last night.

CULTURE | MUSIC

Pin-to Musica to hold one last hurrah

A small music festival will be held at the Pin-to Musica record store in Senado Square, starting from tonight and finishing on Sunday night, to pay homage to the closing store.

The "Pin-to Musica Festival" will be the last event organized at the store which will formally close on Sunday night due to the cancellation of a leasing agreement. It will mark the end of a decade for the store, which joined its sister bookshop back in 2006.

Tonight between 8:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., local alternative trio "Forget the G" will perform at the music shop. Ahead of the gig, the group wrote: "On July 31 our favorite CD store Pin-to Musica will start its honorable retirement. We will bring



stories, musical instruments and some wine there [tonight], to share our new album, 'Further', with audiences and to say goodbye properly to this old friend of ours."

Tomorrow night, four young jazz musicians from Macau will play a set at the shop, exploring classic tracks from the genre as well as "im-

promptu jazz free spirit." The four-piece will be preceded earlier in the day by "Halfcat," a Macau band that styles itself mainly on the Britpop movement - inspired by bands like Oasis and Blur - but includes psychedelic and punk elements too.

Meanwhile, on Sunday two sets will be per-

formed by François Girouard, a Canadian composer, guitarist, drummer and videographer who has settled in Macau. He will be joined in the first session by Portuguese singer Rita Cerqueira Portela for a jazz groove, only to return later in the evening to play the final session of the festival and of the shop. **DB**

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Asia's worst property market buoyed as Macau gamblers return

Frederik Balfour

THE worst may be over for Asia's worst-performing property market. Macau's housing prices, which have plunged by a third since 2014, may get a boost amid signs that a two-year casino slump in the Chinese gambling mecca is near its end.

A private equity fund managed by Gaw Capital Partners sold almost 90 percent of the units it offered on the first day at a development in early July, with evidence of buoyant demand from local buyers.

Sheldon Adelson, whose firm owns Macau's largest casino operator, expressed optimism on a recovery in the hard-hit betting industry, fueled by recreational gamblers and tourists, joining analysts at JP-Morgan Chase & Co. in predicting a turnaround.

The fortunes of the former Portuguese colony are deeply entwined with gambling. The gaming industry, dominated by casino companies such as Adelson's Las Vegas Sands Corp. and Wynn Resorts Ltd., accounts for half of gross domestic product and a large chunk of employment in city dubbed the Las Vegas of Asia.

As China's anti-corruption push in 2014 drove big spenders away, housing in Macau suffered a deeper and more prolonged slump than in Hong Kong, where prices are down 11 percent from a peak in September.

"There is almost a direct correlation between the decline in gross gaming revenues and pricing in the mass residential market," said Macau-based Tom Ashworth, principal of Sniper Capital Ltd., which manages the London-listed Macau Property Opportunities Fund Ltd. "There are signs of a pick up," with the market potentially at a "bottom," he said.

Jones Lang LaSalle Inc.'s Jeff Wong is also calling the bottom of Macau's property market amid strong demand from domestic buyers, who now account for virtually all home purchases. A 10 percent tax on foreign buyers and banking regulations that restrict mortgages to 50 percent of a property value has seen Chinese buyers and other speculators exit the market, according to Wong, head of JLL's Macau residential practice.

"We are at the bottom already," Wong said. "Many undervalued properties are being absorbed by end users or long-



The two markets, property and gaming, go hand in hand.

ALFRED LAU
HONG KONG-BASED ANALYST

term investors."

Though those demand curbing measures are likely to stay in place, there are signs the mood in the housing market is lifting. In April and May, sales transactions reached 2,123, the highest two-month period since 2013, and exceeding the 1,739 units sold in the same period in 2014 when prices hit their peak, according to data provided by Sniper Capital.

Gaw Capital sold 175 of 200 units on offer at the unveiling on July 2 of Oscar Crescent, a development in Macau's Taipa district. Prices at the luxury development, which features Miele appliances and views of the Macau Jockey Club, range from HKD8,500 (USD1,095) to HKD11,500 per square foot. All but one were bought by locals.

"These prices are 30 percent off what we could have sold them for two years ago," said Goodwin Gaw, chairman of Gaw Capital. "They are equivalent to most New Territory prices," he said, referring to a district of Hong Kong with the city's least costly housing.

Though direct comparisons

aren't possible, JLL's Wong said that equivalent properties in Hong Kong's upscale Mid-Levels district would cost more than two-and-a-half times as much. Prices for the most expensive units at Macau's One Central, a waterfront luxury retail, residential and hotel complex developed by Hongkong Land Holdings Ltd. and Shun Tak Holdings Ltd., have dropped to about HKD13,000 per square foot from HKD20,000 at their peak, Wong said.

During Macau's boom that peaked in 2014, housing prices more than quintupled over a six-year period, as Sands China Ltd., MGM China Holdings Ltd. and Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd. opened casinos that lured high-stakes mainland gamblers. Then prices hit the skids as Chinese President Xi Jinping's clampdown on corruption and tighter government restrictions on Chinese using credit cards to finance their wagers started to bite, depressing gaming revenue. Macau's gross domestic product contracted 20.3 percent in 2015, and shrunk 13 percent in the first quarter of this year. Home prices have declined almost 35 percent from a high in April 2014.

In a July 24 note, JPMorgan said Macau's gross gaming revenue will "finally" turn positive by the fourth quarter from a year earlier, increasing 2 percent. New projects such as Wynn Palace, Wynn Macau Ltd.'s new casino on the Cotai Strip, and Sands China Ltd.'s

Parisian have the "best chance" to underpin demand, JPMorgan said. Year-on-year gross gaming revenues fell in June for 25 consecutive months.

That could help improve demand for housing, which is dominated by Hong Kong developers such as Hongkong Land and Shun Tak and property funds. Grant Goversen, an analyst at Union Gaming Group LLC, is among those closely watching for the opening in August of the Wynn Palace for any sign of a pickup in gambling activity that could feed through to the housing market.

Macau Chief Executive Fernando Chui also said the economy may be turning the corner.

"Macau's gaming industry and the whole economy will continue to adjust, but the decline may shrink to 7.2 percent this year and even resume growth in 2017," the city's top government official said in a televised session of the city's legislature Wednesday. "It's a good time for Macau to re-po-

sition after a 25-month gaming revenue drop."

Not everyone is optimistic about the prospects for a gaming industry turnaround, as spending from Chinese high rollers, or the so-called "very important persons," remains muted.

"The two markets, property and gaming, go hand in hand," said Alfred Lau, a Hong Kong-based analyst at BOCOM International Holdings Co. "We do expect a pick up in mass-gaming revenue to continue, but it is not strong enough to bring up overall gaming revenues," because the VIP segment is still weak, he said. "I am not only a property bear, I am a gaming bear."

While prices are stabilizing, it will take some time for the market to claw its way back, Sniper Capital's Ashworth said.

"People are holding back and waiting," he said. "This won't be a V-shaped recovery. Confidence will return once gaming revenues stabilize."

Richard Yue, Hong Kong-based chief executive officer at fund manager Arch Capital Management Company Ltd., which is developing the seven-tower One Oasis project close to the Cotai Strip with Hong Kong builder Nan Fung Development Ltd., agrees.

"For the timing being, we believe the market has bottomed out," he said. "We have a couple of phases left to go, and not in a rush to complete everything. The market will only get better with time." **Bloomberg**

These prices are 30 percent off what we could have sold them for two years ago.

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29/7/2016 Friday			30/7/2016 Saturday		
Time	Event	Venue	Time	Event	Venue
10:00 - 11:00	Opening Ceremony of 2016 Guangdong & Macao Branded Products Fair	Hall B	10:00 - 20:00	Exhibition	Hall B
11:00 - 20:00	Exhibition	Hall B	10:30 - 11:00	Product Show	Hall B
11:00 - 11:30	Chinese Dough Oil	Guangdong & Macao Village Shopping Street (Hall B)	11:00 - 11:30	Group Meeting	
11:30 - 12:00	Traditional Calligraphy		11:30 - 12:00	Product Promotion (CHUNG HUI INVESTMENT HOLDINGS LTD.)	
11:45 - 13:00	Macao's Special Economic Park	Body (2421-2502)	12:00 - 12:30	Product Promotion (PLATISOURCE FOODSTUFFS CO., LTD.)	
14:30 - 15:00	Market Arts Performance		12:30 - 13:00	Product Promotion (ZHONG TI INVESTMENT COMPANY LIMITED)	
15:00 - 15:30	Product Promotion (Macao Tea Story Centre)		14:30 - 15:00	Classical Songs of All Time	Guangdong & Macao Village Shopping Street (Hall B)
15:30 - 16:00	Product Promotion (SIBELIANA WALTZ ACADEMY)		15:00 - 15:30	Product Promotion (Jiao + Candice Portuguese Kari Is)	
16:00 - 16:30	Product Promotion (MCA NOW)	Guangdong & Macao Village Shopping Street (Hall B)	15:30 - 16:00	Product Promotion (TRENDA SALE)	
16:30 - 17:00	Classical		16:00 - 16:30	Product Promotion (HTS)	
17:00 - 17:30	Street Magic Show		16:30 - 17:00	Drumbeat	
17:30 - 18:00	A Journey to Discover Neotopia: Culture Interactive Game		17:00 - 17:10	Acrobatic Party	
18:00 - 18:45	Classical Cooking Live Show - Macao Cantonese Neotopia Cuisine Showdown		17:10 - 17:30	Street Kung Fu	
19:00 - 19:30	Classical Songs of All Time		17:30 - 18:00	Neotopia Game Contest	
			18:00 - 18:45	Classical Cooking Live Show - Macao Cantonese Neotopia Cuisine Showdown	
			19:00 - 19:30	Classical Songs of All Time	

31/7/2016 Sunday

Time	Event	Venue
10:00 - 20:00	Exhibition	Hall B
10:30 - 11:00	Chinese Dough Oil	
11:00 - 11:30	Traditional Calligraphy	
11:30 - 12:00	Group Meeting	
14:30 - 15:00	Market Arts Performance	
15:00 - 15:30	Product Promotion (T' FONG WANG WANG WANG WANG WANG)	
15:30 - 16:00	Product Promotion	Guangdong & Macao Village Shopping Street (Hall B)
16:00 - 16:30	Product Promotion (Choi Zhou Chee An Probiotic Cloud Tea Ltd)	
16:30 - 17:00	Classical Songs of All Time	
17:00 - 17:10	Acrobatic Party	
17:10 - 17:30	Street Magic Show	
17:30 - 18:00	Street Kung Fu	
18:00 - 18:45	Chinese Cook	
19:00 - 19:30	Classical Show	

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Election Law revision to reach AL by end of August

Renato Marques

THE revision of the Legislative Assembly (AL) Election Law will be treated as a matter of urgency by the government, who has pledged to submit the bill to the AL for consideration and approval by the end of August this year, the Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sónia Chan, informed yesterday in a press conference held at the Legal Affairs Bureau (DSAJ).

The press conference aimed to present the results of a public consultation held on the proposal to amend the Electoral Law, which according to the government received a total of 225 opinions.



Sonia Chan

The CAEAL to have additional powers in the treatment of misdemeanors, in cooperation with the police

According to Chan, even though concrete figures were not presented at the conference, "the majority of the opinions were favorable to the government proposal." Chan's statement was reaffirmed by the director of the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau (SAFP), Kou Peng Kuan, who presented the results of the public consultation.

Divided into four main chapters, the contents of the proposal aimed to improve the Electoral Law by establishing a new regime that makes compulsory the "declaration from people as well as entities of their intention of

support and to have promotion actions regarding a candidate," Kou said, adding that "[the government] will set a limit for the expenses of the candidates and we are going to have a control of and reinforcement on the inspection measures." Kou did not reveal the ceiling to be implemented, remarking, "[it] will be discussed further in the legislative process," and adding further, "the accounting system of the candidates campaigns need to be confirmed by an auditor."

One of the novelties proposed by the new regime is the addition of a "criminal responsibility" to individuals, even when acting in the name of associations or groups, in order to "discourage electoral fraud and misconduct."

Another aspect to be added is regarding the "reinforcement to the combat of electoral illegal actions," in the extension of the application of the Electoral Law to "facts occurred abroad." The Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) assistant commissioner,

Lam Chi Long, explained, "although the Legal Cooperation Law is still not in force, we have a judiciary protection law from 2006 that allows us to apply this procedure," and expressed hope on a fruitful cooperation from neighboring authorities on this matter.

In order to improve the workings of the elections committee, the Electoral Affairs Commission for the Legislative Assembly Election (CAEAL) will include representatives from the Public Prosecutions Office (MP). The CAEAL will also be formed earlier than previous elections.

Additionally, the CAEAL will have added powers, namely in the treatment of misdemeanors in cooperation with the Public Security Police Force (PSP) and the CCAC, and the legal power of its decisions (after being published in the newspapers and on the AL Elections website).

The last chapter was reserved for another innovation of the new law that creates a norm to limit the access to the post of lawmakers for people accumulating functions in other countries and territories, disallowing the participation of people under a rule called "double loyalty," since, as mentioned by the Secretary Chan "the legislators have to swear an oath to be fully committed to China and to Macau territory," she explained.

This new rule follows others that aim to prevent the participation of former legislators that have renounced their mandates in a supplementary election, a measure to prevent cases similar to that which occurred in Hong Kong in 2010 when five pro-democracy legislators resigned in a bid to pressure Beijing authorities for full democracy in the territory.

GAMING

Legislator against growth of Goa's casino industry

A congress legislator in the Indian state of Goa claimed Wednesday that Goa is the third-largest casino destination in the world, just behind Las Vegas and Macau.

Speaking during a debate on budgetary demands, opposition legislator Pandurang Madkaikar noted that Goa has witnessed rapid growth in its casino industry.

"Goa is the third largest destination for casinos in the world. The same dealers in Las Vegas and Macau [have] invested in casinos in Goa," Madkaikar said.

The territory currently has five operational offshore casinos and nine onshore casinos located in five-star hotels, which are said to attract hundreds of thousands of gamblers to the state annually, The Pioneer reported.

However, Goa's casinos only offer a combined total of some 400 gaming tables and 200 slot machines. In the Philippines, where the gaming industry is also growing, Kazuo Okada, Universal Entertainment Corporation

chairman and former Steve Wynn partner, is scheduled to open a 500-gambling table casino resort in Manila in November, which will cost USD4 billion.

"The chief minister should go to Las Vegas and Macau. Macau also has large casinos and is dominated by the casino lobby. The identity of Macau is finished. It is ruled by the casino mafia," Madkaikar added.

The legislator was alarmed when Jaydev Mody, who runs India's largest casino operator Delta Corp, bought a 65 percent stake in the Indian Super League franchise FC Goa. Madkaikar stated that since Mody had already taken over FC Goa, casino owners could soon exert a strong influence over the territory.

"Tomorrow they will take over Goa. Jaydev Mody will decide who will be a minister and a chief minister. In 10 years, casinos will take over Goa and all of us," Madkaikar said.

Meanwhile, chief minister Laxmikant Parsekar wrote to the state's Legislative Assembly that there has been no rise in criminal activity related to casinos.

Parsekar delivered a written reply to address a query on the impact of its five floating casinos and 11 land-based casinos, noting that "no such complaints have been received by the home department."

The identity of Macau is finished. It is ruled by the casino mafia.

PANDURANG MADKAIKAR

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In the final part of this three-part article, we look at the worst case scenario. Something unexpected happens, there is a problem. How does it get resolved?

What happens if things go wrong?

Despite everyone's best efforts, sometimes things can (and do) go wrong. A situation commonly arises when a tenant and a landlord have different expectations, and the content of the agreement is not crystal clear. Once the element of trust is lost between the two parties, regaining that trust is almost impossible. If there is a dispute, the three most common methods of reso-

lution are:

Using a friend as a mediator

If you have a friend that speaks the same language as the landlord and has a reasonable disposition, it is sometimes a good idea to ask them to attend the final meeting. Discussions via a third party can remove an element of emotion and help to smooth over misunderstandings. Language can be a barrier of course, and whilst there is always a danger of mis-interpretation, the risks are usually outweighed by the benefits.

Arbitration

You can look for arbitration if a resolution has not been reached, but both parties are

hoping to settle the matter as quickly as possible and with minimal cost involved. One resource available is the 'WTC Macau Arbitration Center' located in the World Trade Center as the name suggests.

Legal representation

If all else fails, you may be forced to take the legal route. Most reputable law firms will handle a tenancy dispute relatively easily and with a standard process. However, do be aware that the costs and time are involved are likely to be significant, usually adding up to the equivalent of one month's rent. This should be factored into the equation prior to embarking on this route.

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PokerStars LIVE Macau advertisement for Saturday SuperStack. Features stacks of chips with a spade symbol and text: 'STILL THE BIGGEST POKER NIGHT OF THE WEEK'. Includes details about the HK\$100,000 prize pool and tournament dates.

Kyunghee Park

SINGAPORE Airlines Ltd. reported first-quarter profit almost tripled as lower oil prices reduced costs and the company benefited from the sale of a stake by its subsidiary.

Net income rose to SGD256.6 million (USD190 million) in the three months ended in June from SGD91.2 million a year earlier, the carrier said in a Singapore stock exchange statement yesterday. Sales dropped 2 percent to SGD3.6 billion.

Non-operating income jumped to SGD148.1 million after SIA Engineering Co. profited from the sale of its stake in Hong Kong Aero Engine Services Ltd., coupled with SGD36 million in special dividends from the Hong Kong company, according to the statement.

Singapore Air benefited from an increase in passenger numbers in the quarter as economic growth from China to Southeast Asia to India allowed more people to travel for work and leisure. Chief Executive Officer Goh Choon Phong has ordered \$10 billion of new aircraft to take on competition as AirAsia Bhd., Emirates and Etihad Airways chip away market shares of Singapore Air and low-cost units Tiger and Scoot.

The parent airline's yields, or revenue earned from a passenger for flying a kilometer, fell to 10.3 Singapore cents in the first quarter, from 10.7 cents a year earlier.

Singapore Air profit almost triples on cheap fuel, stake sale

■ Singapore Air was the only Asian carrier to fly the Concorde and the first in the world to fly the A380 superjumbo

The carrier posted its lowest passenger yield in six years in the 12 months through March, with CEO Goh saying pressure is being felt across the industry. Cathay CEO Ivan Chu said this month that there is "intense pressure on yield."

Singapore Air carried 4.63 million passengers at its main airline in the fiscal first quarter, 1.3 percent more than the 4.57 million a year earlier. It filled 75.8 percent of seats, compared with 76.3 percent a year earlier.

A more than 50 percent decline in oil prices in the past two years has helped reduce costs

BLOOMBERG



for most airlines, whose single biggest expense is fuel.

Brent traded at an average of \$46.91 a barrel in the three months through June, 26 percent lower than the \$63.37 a year earlier. It traded at \$43.24 a barrel as of 7:15 p.m. in Singapore yesterday.

Singapore Air - the only Asian carrier to fly the Concorde and the first in the world to fly the A380 superjumbo - needs new

passengers to stem a slide in earnings. The carrier is counting on cabin comforts to lure higher-end passengers used to its fully flat beds as well as more price-conscious customers.

The carrier has been looking to build alliances abroad as part of a multi-hub strategy. It partnered with India's Tata Group to start Vistara in January 2015 and owns about 23 percent of Virgin Australia

Holdings Ltd. The company's Scoot unit also teamed up with Nok Airlines Pcl of Thailand to set up NokScoot.

Singapore Air started flying its Airbus Group SE 253-seat A350 aircraft to Amsterdam from May 9. The carrier will receive the ultra-long-range version of the plane in 2018 for services to New York, which will become the world's longest non-stop flight. **Bloomberg**

AP PHOTO



Ford's 2Q profit falls on trouble in US, China

FORD Motor Co.'s net income fell 9 percent to USD2 billion in the second quarter as the company struggled with flattening U.S. sales and lower sales in China.

The profit, of 52 cents

per share, compared to a profit of 54 cents per share in the April-June period year ago. That missed Wall Street's expectation of a 60-cent profit, according to analysts polled by FactSet.

Revenue was up 6 per-

cent to \$39.5 billion, beating analysts' expectations. Ford sold 1.7 million vehicles during the quarter, which was flat from a year ago.

Ford's Chief Financial Officer Bob Shanks said after an unpreceden-

ted growth streak, the U.S. market is starting to plateau. Ford responded in the second quarter with increased incentive spending, which helped it match rivals' pricing but impacted profits. **AP**

corporate bits

THE VENETIAN TO HOST REGION'S FIRST MMA SHOW



ONE Championship (ONE), a Singapore-based mixed martial arts promotion company, will bring its first-ever live Mixed Martial Arts extravaganza "One Championship - Heroes Of The World" to Macau, set to debut at the Venetian's

Cotai Arena on August 13. In partnership with Heliconia Capital Management, the event will feature a showdown for the "Interim ONE Flyweight World Championship," between former ONE champion Adriano Moraes and eli-

te wrestler Andrew Leone in a battle of top-ranked ground specialists.

Joining the event's line-up are top local and international stars in Asian MMA today, including Australian powerhouse Adrian Pang, Filipino contender Eduard Folayang, former ONE Featherweight World Champion Honorio Banario, Hong Kong hero Eddie Ng, kickboxing legend Alain Ngalani, and rising stars Christian Lee and Martin Nguyen.

According to Sands China's press release, a special hotel package will be provided for ticket holders of Premier Reserve and Gold Reserve, including one-night's accommodation at The Venetian Macao and Holiday Inn Macao, Cotai Central.

LG ELECTRONICS' PROFIT UP ON TV, APPLIANCE BUT MOBILE IN THE RED

LG Electronics Inc. said yesterday its second-quarter net income jumped 19 percent thanks to strong sales of high-end TVs and home appliances that outweighed another quarterly loss in its handset business.

Its April-June earnings came in at 268.51 billion won (USD238.59 million), on sales of 14 trillion won (\$12.44 billion).

LG said its TV and home appliance divisions reported the strongest results in the company's history. The TV business saw higher profit even as its sales and shipments dropped due to lower sales in emerging markets. Instead, its portion of premium mo-



dels, such as the OLED TV, went up, boosting profitability. The company expected that demand for the high-end TVs would be robust during the current quarter.

But its mobile phone division was in the red for a fifth straight quarter despite the company's ambitious launch of the G5 smartphones.

Initially, the G5 received positive reviews with its modular designs that feature a bottom that pops out and can be swapped in with other hardware. But LG failed to increase sales of flagship phones and its overall smartphone shipments declined from last year.

LG's mobile phone division lost 153.5 billion won (\$132.1 million) during the quarter. The company's handset business has never been profitable since April last year and it quickly lost market shares to up-and-coming Chinese phone makers.

The company said its mobile division's performance will improve in the next quarter with the launch of its V series smartphones, which feature a large screen, and more mid- and low-end models.

Pig price seen near record as floods stir disease concern



CHINA'S pig prices may climb to near a record after floods drowned animals and prompted concerns about possible disease outbreaks in the world's biggest pork producer and consumer, according to analysts.

Farmers are increasing slaughter, including animals that aren't fat enough, after floods in China's central and south, said Xiong Kuan, an analyst with Beijing Orient Agri-business Consultant Ltd. Pig prices may increase from September and near the record 21 yuan (USD3.15) per kilogram reached in May, he said. Prices were at 18.34 yuan on Wednesday.

China will import a record amount of pork this year to cover a supply gap amid declining domestic production, Rabobank International said this month. Output fell 3.9 percent in the first half of this year and the five provinces hardest hit by flooding produce about one third of the country's pork, according to the National Bureau of Statistics. About 10,000 hogs drowned at a village in Hubei province, news portal Sina.com reported on Tuesday. Thousands of pigs were stranded in floodwaters at a village in Anhui this month, according to Southcn.com.

Flooding raises the risk of disease, according to Feng Yonghui, chief analyst at researcher Soozhu.com. "Under such extreme humid and high temperature weather, improper treatment of corpses could cause widespread disease after flood," he said.

Domestic pig prices surged 51 percent this year, according to data from Shanghai JC Intelligence Co. Wholesale pork prices climbed 11 percent in 2016 and reached a record 26.74 yuan a kilogram in June.

Imports will surge 30 percent to more than 2 million tons of pork and pork variety meat this year as output declines 5 percent amid low hog and sow inventory, according to Rabobank. Pork consumption increased 19 percent in the past decade, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. **Bloomberg**

Legal status of ride-hailing industry confirmed

Joe McDonald, Beijing

CHINA'S Cabinet issued its first rules for ride-hailing and told local officials yesterday to promote the booming industry, confirming the legal status of Uber Technologies Inc. and local competitors following run-ins with regulators.

The Cabinet document sets guidelines for registration, fares, employment of drivers and payments. It said details for each city will be decided by local authorities but told them to "encourage, support and guide" the industry.

China is one of a series of markets where Uber and competitors have grown fast but faced legal challenges to their business model, which lets customers summon a car using a smartphone app.

Uber's offices in several Chinese cities were raided last year by police who accused it of operating unlicensed taxi services. Taxi drivers have protested over competition from such services.

Regulators last year banned Uber and Chinese competitors led by Didi Chuxing from using drivers without taxi licenses. The services adapted by working through vehicle-rental companies.

Yesterday, Uber and Didi Chuxing said they welcomed the rules and the official endorsement of the industry.

"The rules legalized online car-booking services at the national level for the first time, marking a milestone in China's endeavor toward steady and healthy development of the rideshare industry," Didi



A mobile device shows the Didi Chuxing ride-hailing app at a shopping mall in Beijing

Chuxing said in a statement. "We believe the rules will usher in a new stage of growth for China's online ride-booking ecosystem."

We look forward to working with national and local governments to put these regulatory guidelines into practice.

UBER

The rules were less restrictive in some ways than a proposed draft that was issued in October.

The document issued yesterday said authorities would consider different types of labor agreements with drivers, while the earlier proposal would have required companies to sign contracts with them as fully-fledged employees. The latest version also dropped a proposal to limit drivers to working for no more than two ride-hailing companies.

Uber, headquartered in San Francisco, operates in more than 60 Chinese cities and plans to increase to more than 100 by the end of 2016.

"We look forward to working with national and local governments to put these regulatory guidelines into practice," said a company statement.

Didi Chuxing, previously Didi Kuaidi, operates in some 400 Chinese cities. It said the company completed 1.4 billion rides in 2015.

The company said in June it raised USD7.3 billion from investors in what it described as one of the world's largest private equity funding rounds.

That included USD1 billion from Apple Inc., which became a strategic investor alongside Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group and Tencent Holdings Ltd., an online games and entertainment service. Other investors included China Life Insurance Co.

Last September, the company and Lyft of the United States agreed to link their services to allow travelers to use them in each other's markets. In December, their alliance added India's Ola and Southeast Asia's GrabTaxi. **AP**

US confirms journalist jailed by China is American citizen

U.S. diplomats have not been granted permission by China to meet with James Wang, a jailed magazine publisher and naturalized American citizen, since his 2014 arrest in southern China, the Obama administration said Wednesday.

A court in Shenzhen this week sentenced Wang, also known as Wang Jianmin, to five years in prison on charges of running an illegal business, bribery and collusion after he sent copies of his sensitive political magazine to mainland China.

State Department spokesman John Kirby said the U.S. was not permitted to attend Wang's trial and will continue to request visits.

The U.S. was not permitted to attend Wang's trial but will continue to request visits

Wang's lawyer Chen Nansha said yesterday that Wang might not appeal the verdict. Wang also holds residency in Hong Kong — a semiautonomous Chinese territory — and last entered China with his Hong Kong identity card before his arrest, Chen said.

China does not recognize dual citizenship and likely tried Wang as a Chinese citizen, particularly as he entered the country with Chinese documents.

Wang, along with editor Guo Zhongxiao, who was also arrested in mainland China in 2014, published New Way Monthly and Faces, two journals that often delved into high-level Communist Party intrigue.

Their arrests and convictions, following the temporary disappearance of five Hong Kong booksellers, has raised questions about Hong Kong's status as a free press haven and has cast a chill over the territory's free-wheeling political book trade. **AP**

Politburo flags caution on property stimulus, Goldman says

CHINA'S top leaders signaled this week that they're likely to be cautious on further easing measures even if the property market continues to cool.

That's the analysis by Goldman Sachs Group Inc. economists of a statement released this week following a Politburo meeting led by President Xi Jinping. The leaders also pledged to curb asset bubbles, according to a report from official Xinhua News Agency.

"The mention of asset bubbles was new for a Politburo statement," Song Yu, the Beijing-

BLOOMBERG



The mention of asset bubbles was new for a Politburo statement.

SONG YU
ECONOMIST

based chief China economist at Beijing Gao Hua Securities Co., the mainland joint-venture partner of Goldman Sachs, wrote in a research note yesterday.

"The near-term implication of such a view is that the government is likely to be very cautious with property loosening measures in the future even if

the property market continues to cool down, and financial regulators might be increasingly hawkish to minimize the risks of asset bubbles."

Top Communist Party leaders traditionally meet at the end of each quarter to review the economic outlook. The pledge to curb asset bubbles underscores their determination to shift from debt- and stimulus-fueled growth to consumption-led expansion while avoiding risks from a borrowing surge that boosted debt to 2.5 times gross domestic product.

More than two dozen elite party officials met Tuesday to discuss the outlook for the second half after data released earlier this month showed growth in the first six months held steady at 6.7 percent in both quarters. Authorities target maintaining at least 6.5 percent growth through 2020. Economists surveyed by Bloomberg project the expansion will slow to 6.5 percent this year and 6.3 percent in 2017 and 2018.

In the second half, China will continue proactive fiscal policy and keep credit growth reasonable and the yuan "basically stable", according to the post-meeting statement. **Bloomberg**

China, Russia plan joint military drills in South China Sea



Chinese navy sailors search for targets onboard the missile destroyer Hefei during a military exercise in the waters near south China's Hainan Island and Parcel Islands

CHINA'S military said yesterday it will hold joint exercises with Russian forces in the South China Sea, following a recent arbitration ruling that rejected Beijing's claim to almost the entire strategic body of water.

The air and sea drills will be held sometime in September and were aimed at deepening relations between the two militaries and boosting their capacity to respond to maritime threats, ministry spokesman Col. Yang Yujun said at a monthly news briefing.

Yang said the exercises weren't targeted at any third parties. He didn't disclose the spe-

cific location, and some areas of the South China Sea are not disputed.

Chinese ships have challenged vessels from the U.S., the Philippines and other nations in disputed waters, and China considers the tribunal's ruling earlier this month to be invalid.

Russia and China have held numerous joint drills in recent years, united in a desire to stem American power in the Asia-Pacific region, despite their own lingering mistrust over territory and influence in Central Asia.

Russia has also spoken in support of China's rejection of

the move by the Philippines to bring the South China Sea case before the international arbitration body in the Hague, the Netherlands, and argued that countries without a direct claim to territory should stay impartial, in a reference to the U.S., which has called on China to accept the ruling as binding.

In the wake of the ruling, China held live-firing exercises and said it would launch regular air patrols over the South China Sea while continuing with the construction of man-made islands equipped with harbors, airstrips and other infrastructure with military uses.

It has also launched a diplomatic campaign to denigrate the ruling that has so far persuaded other Southeast Asian countries that have similar disputes with it to back away. China kept any mention of the judgment from appearing in a joint communique from issued at the conclusion Tuesday of a meeting between it and the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Six governments in all claim territory in the South China Sea. China says all disputes should be settled bilaterally through negotiations. **AP**

Beijing asks Vietnam to investigate report of defaced passport

CHINA is asking Vietnam to investigate reports that a border agent at the Ho Chi Minh City airport defaced a Chinese passport after images in media reports show the words "f-- you" scribbled twice over maps of the contested South China Sea.

The Chinese consulate in Ho Chi Minh City said in a statement Wednesday it strongly condemned the "shameless and cowardly" act and asked Vietnamese officials to investigate and punish the agent.

"Vietnamese authoritative agencies are examining this information," Vietnam foreign ministry deputy spokeswoman Pham Thu Hang said in a statement yesterday.

The incident comes at a time of high tensions in the region and weeks after the Hague-based Permanent Court of Arbitration's ruled this month against China's claims to the South China Sea.

Hanoi has welcomed the verdict, although it has been reluctant to re-

buke China.

China and Vietnam have had long-running territorial disputes in the South China Sea. Tensions spiked in 2014 after China parked an oil rig near Vietnam's central coast, sparking mass protests in Vietnam.

Deputy Foreign Minister Le Hoia Trung told The Associated Press this week that his country would aim to settle its disputes with China through bilateral negotiations — something China has pressed Southeast Asian countries for — even though it doesn't rule out applying international laws.

China issued new passports starting 2012 with revised maps to include the "nine-dash line," demarcating Beijing's claim to nearly the entire South China Sea.

Some Vietnamese border agents have begun to issue separate visas rather than stamp Chinese passports to demonstrate that they do not recognize the new map, according to recent media reports in Vietnam. **AP**

Eric Talmadge, Pyongyang

NORTH Korea's top diplomat for U.S. affairs told The Associated Press yesterday that Washington "crossed the red line" and effectively declared war by putting leader Kim Jong Un on its list of sanctioned individuals, and said a vicious showdown could erupt if the U.S. and South Korea hold annual war games as planned next month.

Han Song Ryol, director-general of the U.S. affairs department at the North's Foreign Ministry, said in an interview that recent U.S. actions have put the situation on the Korean Peninsula on a war footing.

The United States and South Korea regularly conduct joint military exercises south of the Demilitarized Zone, and Pyongyang typically responds to them with tough talk and threats of retaliation.

Han said North Korea believes the nature of the maneuvers has become openly aggressive because they reportedly now include training designed to prepare troops for the invasion of the North's capital and "decapitation strikes" aimed at killing its top leadership.

Han says designating Kim himself for sanctions was the final straw.

"The Obama administration went so far to have the impudence to challenge the supreme dignity of the DPRK in order to get rid of its unfavorable position during the political and military showdown with the DPRK," Han said, using the acronym for North Korea's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

"The United States has crossed the red line in our showdown," he said. "We regard this thrice-cursed crime as a declaration of war."

Although North Korea had already been heavily sanctioned internationally for its nuclear weapons and long-range missile development programs, Washington's announcement on July 6 was the first time Kim Jong Un has been personally sanctioned.

Less than a week later, Pyongyang cut off its final official means of communications with Washington — known as the New York channel. Han said Pyongyang has made it clear that everything between the two must now be dealt with under "war law."

Kim and 10 others were put on the list of sanctioned individuals in connection with alleged human rights abuses, documented by the United Nations Human Rights Commission, that include a network of political prisons and harsh treatment of any kind of political dissent in the authoritarian state. U.S. State Department officials said the sanctions were intended in part to highli-

AP PHOTO



Han Song Ryol, director-general of the U.S. affairs department at North Korea's Foreign Ministry

N. Korea: US has crossed red line, relations on war footing

ght those responsible for the abuses and to pressure lower-ranking officials to think twice before carrying them out.

Pyongyang denies abuse claims and says the U.N. report was based on fabrications gleaned from disgruntled defectors. Pointing to such things as police shootings of black Americans and poverty in even the richest democracies, it says the West has no moral high ground from which to criticize the North's domestic political situation. It also says U.S. allies with questionable human-rights records receive less criticism.

Han took strong issue with the claim that it not the U.S. but Pyongyang's continued development of nuclear weapons and missiles that is provoking tensions.

"Day by day, the U.S. military blackmail against the DPRK and the isolation and pressure is becoming more open," Han said. "It is not us, it is the United States that first developed nuclear weapons, who first deployed them and who first used them against humankind. And on the issue of missiles and rockets, which are to deliver

nuclear warheads and conventional weapons warheads, it is none other than the United States who first developed it and who first used it."

He noted that U.S.-South Korea military exercises conducted this spring were unprecedented in scale, and that the U.S. has deployed the USS Mississippi and USS Ohio nuclear-powered submarines to South Korean ports, deployed the B-52 strategic bomber around South Korea and is planning to set up the world's most advanced missile defense system, known by its acronym THAAD, in the South, a move that has also angered China.

Echoing earlier state-media reports, Han ridiculed Mark Lippert, the U.S. ambassador to South Korea, for a flight on a U.S. Air Force F-16 based in South Korea that he said was an action "unfit for a diplomat."

"We regard that as the act of a villain, who is a crazy person," Han said of the July 12 flight. "All these facts show that the United States is intentionally aggravating the tensions in the Korean Peninsula."

■ Kim and 10 others were put on the list of sanctioned individuals in connection with alleged human rights abuses

Han warned that Pyongyang is viewing next month's planned U.S.-South Korea exercises in this new context and will respond if they are carried out as planned.

"Nobody can predict what kind of influence this kind of vicious confrontation between the DPRK and the United States will have upon the situation on the Korean Peninsula," he said. "By doing these kinds of vicious and hostile acts toward the DPRK, the U.S. has already declared war against the DPRK. So it is our self-defensive right and justifiable action to respond in a very hard way. "We are all prepared for war,

and we are all prepared for peace," he said. "If the United States forces those kinds of large-scale exercises in August, then the situation caused by that will be the responsibility of the United States."

Last year's Ulchi Freedom Guardian exercises involved 30,000 American and 50,000 South Korean troops and followed a period of heightened animosity between the rival Koreas sparked by land mine explosions that maimed two South Korean soldiers. In the end, the exercises escalated tensions and rhetoric, but concluded with no major incidents.

Han dismissed calls for Pyongyang to defuse tensions by agreeing to abandon its nuclear program.

"In the view of cause and effect, it is the U.S. that provided the cause of our possession of nuclear forces," he said. "We never hide the fact, and we are very proud of the fact, that we have very strong nuclear deterrent forces not only to cope with the United States' nuclear blackmail but also to neutralize the nuclear blackmail of the United States." AP

Fire collapses roof at Bangkok theater, no serious injuries

A large collapsed part of the roof at a Bangkok movie theater complex yesterday but caused no serious injuries.

The fire in the Major Cineplex Pinklao reportedly began in a third-floor cinema in the seven-story shopping and theater complex. About 30 to 40 fire trucks and 100 crew members battled the blaze, which sent large plumes of black and white smoke into the sky.

Members of Bangkok's Emergency Medical Services said a firefighter and another man were treated for slight injuries.

The building is in Thonburi, across the Chao Phraya River from Bangkok proper. It is owned by Thailand's largest operator of movie theaters, the Major Cineplex Group. **AP**



Smoke billows from the multi-screen Major Cineplex Pinklao in Bangkok

Duterte threatens to withdraw truce after attack

Jim Gomez, Manila

PHILIPPINE President Rodrigo Duterte yesterday threatened to withdraw a ceasefire order he gave three days ago after suspected communist rebels killed a government militiaman and wounded four others in an attack.

After learning about the New People's Army rebel attack, Duterte told army troops he called and asked a left-wing lawmaker to tell the guerrillas they have up to Friday to tell him if they wanted to have a truce, otherwise, both sides can return to fighting.

Duterte, who has made friendly overtures to the Maoist guerrillas, warned the rebels if one more soldier or militiaman is killed, "let's just fight."

"I was talking to the congressman and asked, 'What is this? Are we into this truce or are we not?'" Duterte told



Duterte is greeted by lawmakers shortly after delivering his first State of the Nation Address

army troops during a visit to their camp in Quezon province southeast of Manila. "I told them give me an answer by tonight because if there will be none by tomorrow, I will remove the [truce] and we'll go back to fighting."

The tough-talking president said he demanded an explanation from the communists about the attack and asked them to punish the rebels behind the assault like what the military does to er-

ring soldiers. "Otherwise, we didn't talk about anything, that's my deal," he said.

Duterte declared a unilateral cease-fire with the rebels effective Monday in a bid to foster the resumption of peace talks and end a decades-old Marxist insurgency that he said "is getting bloodier by the day." The guerrilla leaders immediately welcomed the move and said they were considering responding soon and would likely declare their

own cease-fire.

The militiamen were withdrawn from a security mission following the president's truce declaration and were traveling back to their patrol base Wednesday when they came under rebel attack in southern Kapalong town in Davao del Norte province, military spokesman Col. Edgard Arevalo said.

Despite the hostile rebel action, the military said it would enforce the truce.

"If you do not honor and you kill a single soldier or a Cagfu, who is also a soldier of the republic, I said let's forget this and let's just fight," Duterte said, referring to the military's militia unit.

Duterte's angry reaction reflects his openness to shift from friendly overtures he has so far made to the rebels, who have been waging one of Asia's longest communist insurgencies since he rose to the presidency on June 30. **AP**

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Kathleen Hennessey,
Bradley Klapper

HOURS of testimonials, urgent pleas and persuasion have led to this. Now, it's time to hear from Hillary Clinton.

The former first lady, U.S. senator and secretary of state today [Macau time] will step out of the shadows of presidents past for her moment to convince Americans that she is the best choice to helm a nation looking for a new era of leadership.

President Barack Obama anointed her the inheritor of his legacy Wednesday night at the Democratic convention. Delivering a passionate case for his one-time rival, Obama declared Clinton not only can defeat the "deeply pessimistic vision" of Republican Donald Trump but also realize the "promise of this great nation."

"She's been there for us, even if we haven't always noticed," he said.

Clinton appeared unannounced on the platform soon after to soak up the roar of cheering Democrats. She pointed at the man who denied her the White House eight years ago, smiled wide and gave him a hug.

Summoning his most famous line from that 2008 campaign, Obama said: "If you're serious about our democracy, you can't afford to stay home just because she might not align with you on every issue. You've got to get in the arena with her, because democracy isn't a spectator sport. America isn't about 'Yes he will.' It's about 'Yes we can.'"

Wednesday's display was the picture of diversity that Democrats have sought to frame the whole week: The first African-American president symbolically seeking to hand the weightiest baton in the free world to a woman. It culminated a parade of speeches over the last 72 hours — from men and women, gay and straight, white, black and Hispanic; young and old — hoping to cast the Republicans as out-of-touch social conservatives led by an unhinged and unscrupulous tycoon.

Reeling off his greatest hits as president, from the auto industry bailout and health care overhaul to landmark deals on climate change and Iran's nuclear program, Obama said the choice was between Trump vision of "a country where we turn against each other, and turn away from the rest of the world" and "the America I know."

He evoked Ronald Reagan, a move that drew criticism from Clinton when they were rivals, to contrast the Republican icon's vision of America as "shining city on a hill" with Trump's description of the U.S. as "a divided crime scene."

"Our power doesn't come

AP PHOTO



Barack Obama and Democratic Presidential nominee Hillary Clinton wave to delegates after Obama's speech during the third day of the Democratic National Convention

US | DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION

Obama passes baton to Clinton, imploring nation to elect her

from some self-declared savior promising that he alone can restore order as long as we do things his way. We don't look to be ruled," Obama said.

Trump did his best to steal the spotlight Wednesday. Following reports Russia hacked Democratic Party emails, Trump said he'd like to see Moscow find the thousands of emails Clinton deleted from the account she used as secretary of state. The appearance of him encouraging Russia to meddle in the presidential campaign enraged Democrats and Republicans, even as he dismissed suggestions from Obama and other Democrats that Moscow already was intervening on his behalf.

Hours later, his campaign tried to cast the remark as "sarcastic." But the candidate did not disavow it.

Trump's comments fed Democrats' contentions that the billionaire businessman is unqualified to be commander in chief. He has no national security experience and has dismissed decades of U.S. foreign policy constants, like standing by NATO allies that long suffe-

red under Russian domination. Yet in a scattershot news conference Wednesday, Trump tried to turn the table on Clinton, saying he believed it unsafe for her to receive national security briefings in light of her mishandling of classified information via email while in office.

Yesterday, Democrats continued to claim it was Trump who is a "dangerous" choice.

"It's an existential choice for the country," the Democratic vice presidential candidate, Virginia Sen. Tim Kaine, said of the election in an appearance on ABC's "Good Morning America."

Kaine was one of several heavy hitters who took the stage Wednesday night, who praised Clinton in Spanish. "Hillary Clinton is 'lista'," he said.

In what was likely his last prime-time speech of his political life, Vice President Joe Biden delivered a roaring case for Clinton. It was a Biden special, rich with his regular-guy folksiness, misty-eyed storytelling and hard hits.

Trump's "cynicism and undoubtedly his lack of empathy and compassion can be sum-

med up in that phrase he is most proud of making famous: 'You're fired,'" Biden said. "He is trying to tell us he cares about the middle class. Give me a break. That is a bunch of malarkey."

After a quarter-century just behind the men in charge, Clinton yesterday gets her turn alone with the American public for what is likely the most important speech of her career. She will be tasked with winning the trust of a public deeply skepti-

Our power doesn't come from some self-declared savior promising that he alone can restore order as long as we do things his way.

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

cal of her honesty, polls show.

Some Democrats still aren't convinced of her candidacy, either, a sentiment underscored by the protests of a small but boisterous set of supporters of her primary challenger Bernie Sanders.

Clinton's campaign said she will lean heavily on the "stronger together" campaign theme in her remarks. She will invoke her 1996 book "It Takes a Village" and will continue to woo moderate Republicans.

That effort was hammered home Wednesday by former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who implored Americans to "elect a sane, competent person with sane, international experience."

Retired Marine General John R. Allen, who has endorsed Clinton, will be joined on stage by a group of veterans to focus on Clinton's national security credentials. Allen was Deputy Commander of U. S. Central Command and a former commander of the NATO mission in Afghanistan.

Clinton's daughter, Chelsea Clinton, will briefly introduce her mother. **AP**

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FRIDAY

- 13:30 News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
- 14:45 RTPi Live
- 18:30 Helena's Shadow (Repeated)
- 19:20 TDM Talk Show (Repeated)
- 19:50 Soap Opera
- 20:30 Main News, Financial & Weather Report
- 21:00 Documentary Serie
- 21:45 Miscellaneous
- 22:10 Helena's Shadow
- 23:00 TDM News
- 23:30 Portuguese Movie

SATURDAY

- 10:30 Young Children
- 11:00 Animation
- 11:30 Documentary Serie
- 12:00 Miscellaneous
- 13:00 TDM News (Repeat)
- 13:30 News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
- 14:40 Soap Opera
- 17:15 Documentary Serie
- 18:30 Contest
- 19:30 Wild Life
- 20:30 Main News, Financial & Weather Report
- 21:00 Drama
- 22:00 Revenge S.3
- 22:45 Non-Daily Portuguese News
- 23:00 TDM News
- 23:30 Brother's & Sister's S.5

SUNDAY

- 10:40 Young Children
- 11:30 Zig Zag
- 12:00 Miscellaneous
- 13:00 TDM News (Repeat)
- 13:30 News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
- 14:30 Wild Life (Repeated)
- 15:25 Zig Zag
- 16:25 Miscellaneous
- 17:05 Theatre
- 17:45 Non-Daily Portuguese News
- 19:30 Comedy
- 20:10 Ui Di Sabroso S.1
- 20:30 Main News, Financial & Weather Report
- 21:00 Contraponto
- 22:00 The School That Turned Chinese
- 23:00 TDM News

offbeat

MH370 CAPTAIN'S SIMULATOR HAD INDIAN OCEAN ROUTE

Australian officials confirmed yesterday that data recovered from a home flight simulator owned by the captain of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 showed that someone had used the device to plot a course to the southern Indian Ocean, where the missing jet is believed to have crashed.

There has been confusion over exactly what was found on Capt. Zaharie Ahmad Shah's flight simulator since New York Magazine reported last week that an FBI analysis of the device showed Zaharie had conducted a simulated flight to the southern Indian Ocean less than a month before the plane vanished along a similar route. The magazine cited the discovery as strong evidence that the disappearance was a premeditated act of mass murder-suicide at the hands of the captain.

Australia's Joint Agency Coordination Center — which is overseeing the search for the plane off Australia's west coast — confirmed in an email to The Associated Press that the captain's simulator showed that "someone had plotted a course to the southern Indian Ocean." In an earlier statement, it said that evidence of the route did not prove that Zaharie had planned to steer the plane off course and showed only "the possibility of planning" for such an event.

Malaysia's national police chief Khalid Abu Bakar declined to comment yesterday, saying investigations will not be conclusive until the black boxes — the cockpit voice recorder and a data recorder — are recovered.

"We cannot confirm anything. Whatever findings now are not conclusive until we recover the black box which will tell us what actually happened [...] if not, everything else is speculative," he said. AP

cinema



CINETEATRO

28 Jul - 03 Aug



ICE AGE: COLLISION COURSE

ROOM 1
(2D) 2.15, 4.00, 7.30 pm
(3D) 5.45 pmDirector: Mike Thurmeier, Galen Chu
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/ English)
Duration: 97min

BOUNTY HUNTERS

ROOM 1
9.30 pmDirector: Shin Terra
Starring: Lee Min Ho, Chung Hon Leung, Tang Yan, Karena Ng
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/ English)
Duration: 110min

FINDING DORY

ROOM 2
2.30, 4.30 pmDirector: Andrew Stanton
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/ English)
Duration: 97min

START TREK BEYOND

ROOM 2
(2D) 7.15 pmDirector: Justin Lin
Starring: Chris Pine, Zachary Quinto, Zoe Saldana, Simon Pegg
Language: English (Cantonese/ English)
Duration: 120min

ONE PIECE FILM GOLD

ROOM 2
9.30 pmDirector: Eiichiro Edo
Language: Japanese (Cantonese/ English)
Duration: 120min

GHOSTBUSTERS

ROOM 3
(2D) 2.30, 4.45, 9.30 pm
(3D) 7.15 pmDirector: 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



1981 CHARLES AND DIANA MARRY

Crowds of 600,000 people filled the streets of London to catch a glimpse of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer on their wedding day.

The couple were married at St Paul's Cathedral before an invited congregation of 3,500 and an estimated global TV audience of 750 million - making it the most popular program ever broadcast.

Britons enjoyed a national holiday to mark the occasion. Lady Diana, 20, arrived almost on time for the 1120 BST ceremony after making the journey from Clarence House in the Glass Coach with her father, Earl Spencer.

She made the three-and-a-half minute walk up the red-carpeted aisle with the sumptuous 25 ft (7.62 m) train of her Emmanuel designed, ivory taffeta and antique lace gown flowing behind her.

Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Robert Runcie led the traditional Church of England service, but he was assisted by clergymen from many denominations.

The bride's nerves showed briefly when she mixed up the Prince's names - calling him Philip Charles Arthur George, rather than Charles Philip.

Charles, 32, in the full dress uniform of a naval commander, slightly muddled his vows too, referring to "thy goods" rather than "my worldly goods". After a brief private signing ceremony the Prince and Princess of Wales walked back down the aisle to the refrain of Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance.

The newlyweds took the open-topped state landau to Buckingham Palace where they emerged on the balcony at 1310 BST to give the crowds the kiss they had been longing to see.

Afterwards Charles and Diana retired from the public gaze to enjoy toasts and a wedding breakfast with 120 family guests.

A "just married" sign attached to the landau by Princes Andrew and Edward raised smiles as the married couple were driven over Westminster Bridge to get the train to Romsey in Hampshire to begin their honeymoon.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

In less than a year the couple produced their first child, William, on 21 June 1982. A second son, Prince Harry, was born on 15 September 1984.

By that time Prince Charles' long-running relationship with Camilla Parker-Bowles was putting strain on his marriage. Princess Diana's relationship with the rest of the Royal Family deteriorated and she developed bulimia.

The couple separated in 1993.

Diana spoke publicly about her problems and her own and her husband's infidelities in a Panorama documentary in November 1995. The marriage formally ended with a decree absolute in August 1996.

Diana was killed in a car crash in 1997. Prince Charles and Camilla Parker-Bowles married on 9 April 2005.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Your amazing personal energy is driving you to explore cultural issues and artifacts like art, music, ethics and the like. You should discover at least one awesome new detail that changes your life.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Take your time and look through every last option today - even the tiniest details can be quite important to you. There's no need to make a snap decision, even if a friend or colleague is breathing down your neck.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Your social energy is better than most people's even on a bad day - and right now, you're feeling pretty good! It's a great time to reach out to people who might be perfect for something new you're brewing.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You get some bad news today - but it's important for you to think through your response before releasing it. Speaking from the heart is usually a good idea, but for now, you need an editor.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Someone new comes your way today and may shake up the way you see the world - in a good way! Your amazing energy is just right for accepting major changes, and the future looks brighter now.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You are filled with inspiration today - so much that you may find your life moving boldly in an exciting new direction! Run with it, because this is something like destiny at work.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You're at your best with people today - preferably one-on-one. That doesn't just mean your love life is on the upswing, though - you can impress almost anyone you meet without trying too hard.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Be wary of any nagging problems that seem to be persistent - today is all about health, and you need to make sure that you're taking yours seriously. Make a positive change!

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Kids are important to you today - so make sure that you're either spending time with yours or otherwise finding opportunities to unleash your inner six-year-old. Life doesn't have to be dull!

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You need to show that someone close is acting recklessly - but can you do so without making them feel defensive? That's a tough gig, but if anyone can do it, it's you. Make the tough call!

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 A major discovery comes your way - and it's one that you need to pay attention to! Your energy is just right for exploration, experimentation and approaching the world from a slight distance.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Something is fake - can you tell what it is? You may find that your energy is best spent on poring over everything of meaning to you to see what it is. It's boring, but it gets results!

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle.

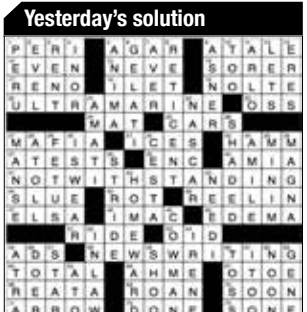
WEATHER

Weather forecast table for China and World locations, including min/max temperatures and conditions.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Clinch; 6- Tortilla chip dip; 11- Elevator unit; 14- Pack leader; 15- Primp; 16- Tree used to make baseball bats; 17- Tending to devastate; 19- Ltd., in Paris; 20- Toothless; 21- Dated; 23- Monopoly quartet: Abbr.; 24- Believing; 25- Ogle; 29- Damp; 30- ___ salts; 31- Assay; 32- Cinco de Mayo, e.g.; 35- In spite of; 39- Opposite of NNW; 40- Notable times; 41- Pig out; 42- Sea eagles; 44- Protruded; 45- Come before; 48- Like Abner; 49- Fix, as a shoe; 50- Take away; 55- Addams Family cousin; 56- Countless; 58- Vegas roller; 59- Rocky debris; 60- Living in a city; 61- A really big shoe?; 62- Big name in hotels; 63- Averages;

DOWN: 1- "Smooth Operator" singer; 2- Barely managed, with "out"; 3- ___ Only Just Begun; 4- ___ Bator; 5- Deli meat; 6- Tiffs; 7- Comedian Johnson; 8- Maui memento; 9- Spanish Miss; 10- Fishes; 11- Hiding place; 12- Eastern; 13- Role for Clark; 18- Fruit-filled pie; 22- Banned insecticide; 24- Prices paid; 25- Eye piece; 26- Narrative poetry; 27- Italy's Villa d'___; 28- Line of seats; 29- Flat-topped hills; 31- Trio; 32- Grime; 33- "Splendor in the Grass" screenwriter; 34- Got on in years; 36- Inclination; 37- Monetary unit of Bhutan; 38- Morse "E"; 42- Environmental prefix; 43- Condiment; 44- Agree; 45- Self-respect; 46- Fasten again; 47- First name in cosmetics; 48- "Network" director; 50- Haggis ingredient; 51- Describes a gently cooked steak; 52- Swedish pop band whose hits include "Waterloo"; 53- Extended family unit; 54- Sawbucks; 57- Heston's org.;



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Russia's depleted Olympic team heads for Rio de Janeiro

A depleted Russian team departed for the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro yesterday, missing dozens of athletes who were excluded amid the country's doping scandal.

Team members left on a charter flight from Moscow's Sheremetevo airport to Brazil, a day after an emotional farewell ceremony with Russian President Vladimir Putin in the Kremlin.

More than 100 athletes from what was originally a 387-strong team have been barred from competing in Rio by international sports federations under sanctions which most Russian athletes consider unfair.

"We're after medals, that's it," handball player Anna Sen said. "We need to fight for those athletes who were disqualified."

Volleyball player Sergei Tetyukhin, a four-time Olympic medalist, will be Russia's flagbearer for the opening ceremony in Rio, according to an Instagram post by pole vaulter Yelena Isinbayeva.

Isinbayeva has become a de facto spokeswoman for Russian athletes excluded from the Olympics and gave a tearful address to the team in the Kremlin on Wednesday.

"Today, as never before, we need to stay united and become a family," the 40-year-old Tetyukhin said, ignoring what he called "provocations addressed at our team and our mighty country."

No track and field athletes were among the contingent heading for Rio, since the entire track team is banned from competing, except for a single U.S.-based long jumper, following revelations of widespread doping.

The track team did, however, attend the ceremonial farewell



Volleyball player and Russia's National Olympic team member Dmitriy Volkov (center) wait at a check-in desk before his team's departure for Rio Olympics

with Putin on Wednesday, when the Russian president branded restrictions on Russia as "pure discrimination."

While Russia avoided a blanket ban from the games at a meeting of the International Olympic Committee board on Sunday, the IOC imposed

new restrictions on Russia. International sports federations must now remove any athlete previously banned for doping or who was implicated in last week's McLaren report alleging a mass cover up of failed drug tests.

Some federations have taken

a tough line, with exclusions of much of Russia's team from events such as rowing, canoeing and swimming. Other sports, such as judo and tennis, have allowed the entire Russian team to compete in their sport. These rulings must still be ratified by the Court of Arbitration

for Sport.

Russia's weightlifting team has been dogged by doping cases and faced further embarrassment Wednesday when retests of samples from the 2012 Olympics saw four Russians, including three medalists, test positive. The entire lifting team risks being banned from the Rio Games because of the large number of failures in retests from the 2008 and 2012 Olympics.

Putin last week called for the creation of a new state-backed anti-doping commission to draw up future strategy. In a clear sign of coordination, it was set up within hours under Vitaly Smirnov, a former Soviet sports minister and IOC member.

Smirnov told local media yesterday that the new commission would be independent of the government, despite containing several senior figures with links to the Kremlin. Smirnov also insisted the government was not involved in doping, despite allegations in World Anti-Doping Agency reports that Sports Ministry officials oversaw a mass doping program and a cover-up.

"We will welcome the arrival of WADA and we rule out any attempts at interference by the state or other structures," he said in comments reported by the Tass news agency. "In Russia there is not and never has been any state support for doping." AP

Land speed racer Sam Wheeler dies at Utah's Salt Flats

Brady McCombs,
Salt Lake City

SAM Wheeler, a renowned land speed motorcycle racer, is dead after the high-performance bike he was testing at Utah's famed Bonneville Salt Flats fish-tailed, went airborne and crashed at 200 mph. He was 72.

Wheeler died Monday afternoon at Intermountain Medical Center in the Salt Lake City suburb of Murray because of traumatic injuries suffered in the motorcycle accident, hospital spokesman Jess Gomez said.

Wheeler was going about 322 kph during a test run when the back of the streamliner motor-



An aerial view of the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah

cycle started fish tailing, said Mike Cook, the event organizer who witnessed the incident. His motorcycle began to slide and then popped into the air and came crashing down on the caged section where Wheeler was seated, Cook said. Wheeler was

alive when emergency crews extracted him from the car but died about four hours later at the hospital, Cook said.

"We all have real heavy hearts," said Cook, organizer of Mike Cook's Bonneville Shootout. "Land speed racing is one of

the most family oriented sports there is in the world."

Wheeler, an engineer from Arcadia, California, was known as an innovator and pioneer in the sport. He spent more than two decades building, fine-tuning and racing a motorcycle on which he reached speeds exceeding 300 mph, said Pat McDowell, a fellow racer and longtime friend. At one time, he held the land speed record for motorcycles, he said.

"He's was pretty much one of the legends of our sport," McDowell said. "He did it with his brain, not his wallet."

Wheeler was testing the motorcycle this week in

anticipation of two big races in August and September at the Salt Flats. The site brings races from around the country to use the flat, glasslike surface to set speed records.

He had been working on the motorcycle in recent years with a goal of setting the motorcycle speed record and surpassing 400 mph, McDowell said. "Everyone was rooting for him, even competitors," said McDowell, vice president of the Southern California Timing Association.

Wheeler was known for his ability to build and modify his motorcycle by himself. He was perfectionist who knew aerodynamics well, said Bill

Lattin, president of the Southern California Timing Association, which is set to host a major racing event at the Salt Flats in August.

"He built that motorcycle by hand. Every single part on it," Lattin said. "He's been rebuilding it, making it stronger, faster and more aerodynamic."

He is survived by a wife and two children, said McDowell. Wheeler's family couldn't immediately be reached for comment.

McDowell, Cook and Lattin said Wheeler was a kind-hearted, laid-back man.

"He was the nicest guy in the world," Lattin said. "He would do anything for anybody." AP

opinion

Bizcuits
 Leanda Lee



LESSONS FROM #PLASTICFREEJULY

An MDT Decisive Moment photograph and a letter to the editor in June lead me in a roundabout way to participate in the Plastic Free July Challenge.

Plastic Free July is a global community-based challenge to raise awareness of the volume of plastic rubbish in our lives and eco-systems. By the end of the month over 40,000 people in 90 countries accepted the challenge, whether that be refusing all single-use plastic for the entire month or the Top 4 challenge (plastic bags, drink bottles, take-away cups and straws) for a few days or more.

The 'plastic free' part can mislead for it is high impossible to renounce all plastics. Replacing valuable durable plastics with something else and throwing them into landfill would defeat the purpose, as energy and resources are already embedded in the product: re-using them is the more sustainable option. The Challenge is about refusing single-use plastic, as globally only 14% is recycled, and here in Asia where we produce 45% of the world's plastic we contribute 82% of the world's ocean leakage.

For me, it has now been four weeks of single-minded attention to the packaging that comes with day-to-day household purchases. Apart from fruit and vegetables bought from the green-grocer, each purchase decision came with a problem, a search for a solution, a decision to go without or determine a substitute.

I have not been in Macau during this challenge which friends have told me makes it an easier proposition (although in Macau, the wet-markets have always been a great option). Contrary to expectations though, I have found that bulk foods outlets, cottage dairies and producers are more readily found in urban hipster precincts. I cannot buy the range of pulses, flours, spices, confectionary and dried fruits, peanut-butters or liquid soaps and detergents in my semi-rural environment. I have had to give up on supermarkets, I've trained butcher's assistants how to tare out the weight of my containers and convinced bakeries that a loaf doesn't need to be sliced, and I've found a fromagerie that will pop fresh cheeses straight from their production line into my jars.

I have spent hours Googling so-called organic and health food options to find most use unsustainable packaging. How do you reconcile the terms 'organic' and 'whole-foods' with plastic packaging? - a sure contradiction. I came across the NGO Oxfam selling each reusable cotton calico shopping bag in, yes, single-use plastic bags.

There have been moments of elation at finding treasures: a gewurzhaus with bulk spices and metal lidded glass jars - it was as if a whole new door of culinary delight had opened. And the milk, this was one of my biggest hurdles as even the cardboard cartons are 20% plastic. The day I found that unassuming third generation Italian cheese-maker who would decant litres of frothy un-homogenised white stuff into my bottles - oh, exquisite small joys.

I've learnt to make cheese and continue to make all my own yoghurt (a summer's day on the balcony in Macau is perfect for yoghurt making, by the way). Toilet paper now arrives wrapped in paper and I started to line rubbish bins with newspaper (not this one). I now visualise rubbish thrown in bins as 'landfill in transit' and contemplate each article placed into the recycling bin knowing that 80% of it is destined for landfill, incinerators or the sea.

The hardest lesson has been responding to questions about why I do this. Logic, statistics and arguments about damage to the environment have not been particularly persuasive. A snide "oh, you're saving the earth, are you?" is not an infrequent response. Simply saying "I'm doing The Challenge, please help me" and tweaking emotions work best. In the end it simply feels good knowing I am not adding so much to the problem. This month's challenge towards a zero-waste lifestyle has been energising.

There are many people trying to live this way but they are usually like-minded community-based people happily converting the converted. Any real movement towards a restorative and regenerative economy can only happen once there is a values' shift en masse.

THE POPE MISSES STEP, FALLS DOWN BEFORE MASS IN POLAND

Pope Francis missed a step and fell to the ground as he was coming to an open-air altar to celebrate Mass at Poland's holiest shrine of Jasna Gora.

In a dramatic moment yesterday, the 79-year-old Francis, walking deep in thought in his long robe, did not notice a step down and fell to the

ground before the altar. Priests around him rushed to help him up and straightened his robe.

The Mass proceeded as planned and the pope delivered a long sermon before tens of thousands of faithful gathered at the foot of the Jasna Gora monastery in the southern city of Czestochowa.



Station		
Roadside	10-30 Good	😊
High Density Residential Area	20-40 Good	😊
Ambient	20-40 Good	😊

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

NEPAL Thirteen people were killed and 35 others sustained injuries yesterday when a passenger bus veered off the mountain highway and plunged some 200 meters down in Dhankuta District of Nepal, some 600 kilometers east of capital Kathmandu.



INDIA Wildlife workers have rescued six rhino calves from being washed away by floodwaters that have swamped a national park in northeastern India. Torrential monsoon rains have caused widespread flooding in Assam state and forced around 1.2 million people to leave their water-logged homes. The rains have also flooded vast tracts of the Kaziranga National Park, home to the world's largest population of the one-horned rhinoceros.



FRANCE Vacationers in the French Riviera city of Cannes have been banned from bringing big bags to the beach for security reasons in hopes of deterring a terrorist attack. Cannes Mayor David Lisnard says the restriction seeks to stop "bags that could contain explosives or weapons and allows police forces to intervene in a pragmatic way."

SOUTH SUDAN's army pledged to investigate allegations its soldiers raped civilians after the United Nations said it documented 120 cases of sexual violence during fighting in the capital earlier this month.

HEALTH

To reverse damage of sitting, take a brisk, hour-long walk

Maria Cheng, London

If you spend all day sitting, then you might want to schedule some time for a brisk walk - just make sure you can spare at least an hour.

Scientists analyzing data from more than 1 million people found that it takes about 60 to 75 minutes of "moderate intensity" exercise to undo the damage of sitting for at least eight hours a day. Not exercising and sitting all day is as dangerous as being obese or smoking, they found.

And the added risk of parking yourself in front of a television for 5 hours or more a day after sitting at the office is so high even the hour of exercise is not enough to reverse the damage.

"We cannot stress enough the importance of getting exercise, whether it's getting out for a walk at lunchtime, going for a run in the morning or cycling to work," said Ulf Ekelund of the Norwegian School of Sports Sciences in Norway, one of the study's authors, in a statement.

It has been long suspected that sitting a lot, at work or at home, is not healthy. Previous studies have found that prolonged sitting can raise



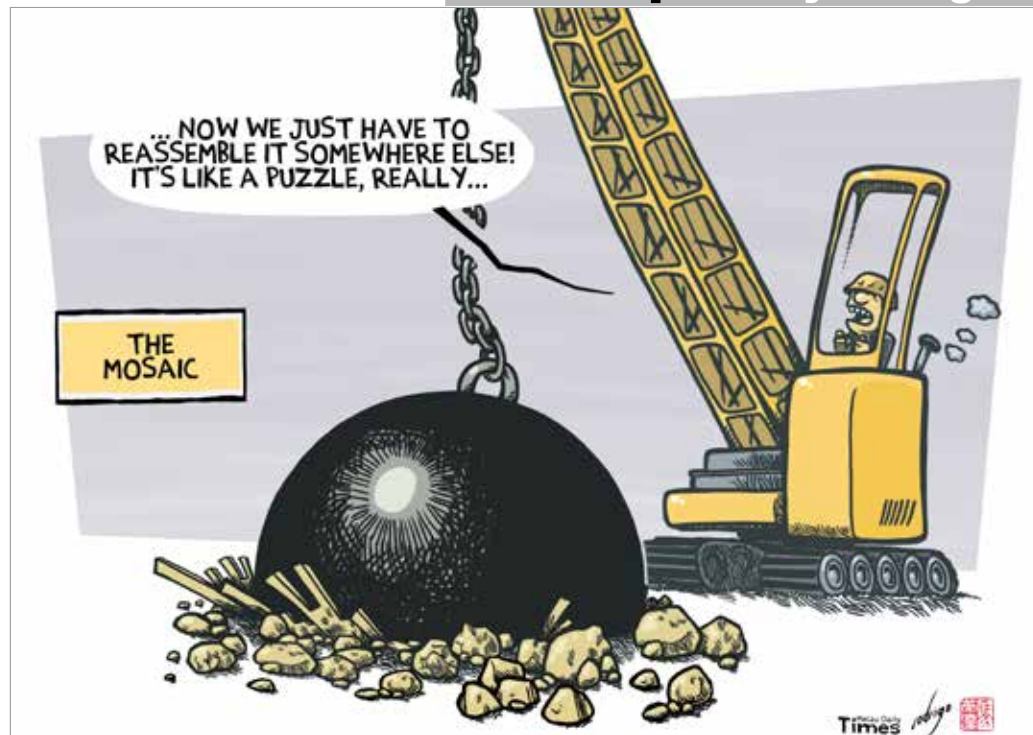
the chances of heart disease, various cancers and an earlier death.

In the new research, experts combed through 13 papers with data on factors including how long people spend sitting, their physical activity levels and their television-watching habits. The majority of studies included people older than age 45. All except one were done in the U.S., Western Europe and Australia.

Researchers found that people with the highest levels of moderate physical activity - 60 to 75 minutes daily - erased the higher risk of death linked to being seated for more than eight hours a day. But even that exercise regime was not enough to counter the hazards of also watching more than five hours of television a day.

The study's conclusions su-

times square by rodrigo



Times