



### LE FRENCH MAY WITH RECORD TURNOUT

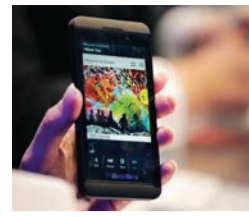
Le French May 2016 ended with a record-breaking number of visitors and audience numbers according to the organizers

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### NEW TAIPA POST OFFICE OPENS

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### BLACKBERRY STOPS MAKING SMARTPHONES

The Canadian company will turn its full attention to its more profitable and growing software products

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# Times

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## HUMAN RESOURCES

# Shanghai competing for Macau-based foreigners

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### WORLD BRIEFS



**CHINA** Authorities blamed illegal mining activities for a gas explosion at a coal mine that killed 18 miners left two others missing, Chinese state media reported yesterday. The explosion occurred at a small coal mine when 20 miners were working underground in the city of Shizuishan in the northwestern region of Ningxia. [More on p10](#)

**PHILIPPINE** officials say they have ordered the suspension of 20 more mines, mostly nickel producers, for environmental violations, threatening to tighten supply from the world's top nickel ore exporter.



**VIETNAM** Hundreds of Vietnamese fishermen have filed claims seeking compensation from a Taiwanese steel company that acknowledged its toxic chemicals caused a massive fish kill, said a local priest helping the fishermen.

More on backpage

# Dutch probe: Malaysian jet downed by launcher from Russia

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## Album 'Macau Original Melodies' released



Collective music album 'Macau Original Melodies Vol.3' (MOM Vol.3) has been officially released for the third consecutive year. All proceeds generated from the sales will be used to support the operation of the beneficiary – the Macau Down Syndrome Association. The album is now available for sale in designated local and Hong Kong CD stores and major online music platforms. This year, the group continues to spread love and care to help people with Down's syndrome. The album features a collection of ten tracks and its artwork uses candy colors to highlight the positive and optimistic personalities of people with Down's syndrome.

## Macau-born contestant crowned Miss Friendship

Born and raised in Macau to a Philippine mother and a French father, Sandra Lemonon left the city four years ago. Now she is running for Miss World Philippines 2016. During the contest gala night held on Tuesday, Lemonon was voted Miss Friendship and also received the Miss Jessie Mendez award. The final will occur on Sunday October 2 at The Tent City, Manila Hotel. The winner will represent the country at the 2016 Miss World finals which will be held in December in Washington DC, USA.

## Local students win regional mandarin debate competition

Two student debaters from the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) were named the best debaters at the 10th Guangdong Hong Kong and Macau Championship of High Educational Institutions Debate Competition Mandarin Section. The competition which took place last Saturday at MUST, was won by the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST). This year, the competitors were given a topic regarding university admissions and graduation systems, asking what is preferable: strict enrollment and easy graduation, or easy enrollment and strict graduation.

## CULTURE

# Le French May ends with record turnout

**L**E French May 2016 ended with a record-breaking number of visitors and audience numbers according to organizer Association Culturelle France, as it registered some 200,000 spectators at screenings and performances and over 400,000 visitors at exhibitions and public events.

According to organizers, "Claude Monet: The Spirit of Place" – an exhibition held at the Hong Kong Heritage Museum – received "overwhelming response from the public." It received around 250,000 visitors across its 69 exhibiting days, or about 4,000 visitors per day on average.

The festival's activities were spread between Hong Kong and Macau, and supported most prominently by the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, which contributed HKD11.47 million.

The festival which just concluded was the 24th edition. This year's festival had over 110 programs offered under the theme of "Dreams and Wonders." The selection of programs ranged from classical music and opera like "Mozart in Love" and "Romeo and Juliette," to jazz and electro music like "Jazz Duet" and "Charles Baptiste: World Music Day



Macau painting featured at the Auguste Borget exhibition

Concert."

It also included neo-classical ballet dance performances like "Cinderella" and "Beauty and the Beast", hip-hop "Bliss" and circus show "Extrêmités", among other shows.

Heritage and contemporary art exhibitions were also held as part of the event, including the MGM-hosted "Edgar Degas: Figures in Motion" and "Paris Extended", in addition to a number of other public events and gastronomy programs which were organized.

"The popularity of this French impressionist's masterpieces among the Hong Kong community is very encouraging," said Andrew Yuen, chairman of the

board of Le French May, commenting on the Monet exhibition. "It shows how we are realizing our mission – to bring art to everywhere for everyone. We will definitely try to arrange more similar exhibitions in the future, bringing national masterpieces from France to Hong Kong for public viewing."

Xavier Garnier, the director of L'Alliance Française de Macao, told the Times that Le French May plays an important part in the relationships that Hong Kong and Macau enjoy with France, helping to strengthen Sino-French relations using "soft power", or diplomatic influence.

He also explained that the most

prominent event on the Macau side of the event was the exhibition of French painter Auguste Borget, which showcases various sketches, watercolors, oil paintings and prints of the artist's travels in Macau and Guangdong Province.

"For us [in Macau], the main event was the inclusion of the Borget exhibition at the Macau Museum of Art," said Garnier. "This year it was really a big event and will actually continue [to be open to the public] until October 9."

Established in 1993, Le French May is a cultural event held annually in Hong Kong and Macau. In 2008, the festival was awarded the "Gold Award for Arts Promotion" from the Hong Kong Arts Development Council and the patronage of the Consulate General of France in Hong Kong and Macau.

It is also announced that the program for Le French May 2017 will be released early next year.

"We are very grateful for the support of our sponsors and partners [...] in making this year a great success," said Julien-Loic Garin, CEO of Le French May. "Stepping towards our 25th anniversary, Le French May will be bringing more excitement to town in 2017." **DB**

## MEDIA

# Photojournalism lecture delivered at USJ

**A** public lecture delivered by award-winning photojournalist Eduardo Leal, examined his approach to photography in news reporting and detailed some of his prior work. The lecture was held at the campus of the University of Saint Joseph on Tuesday night.

During the lecture, Leal guided the audience through his photographs of the recent Venezuelan Revolution, the legacy of the Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar, and the photojournalist's encounters with bullfighters in Portugal.

Currently living in South America, and having spent recent years traveling the

continent, the Portuguese-born photojournalist also discussed the dangers of his job and the stress his family faces as they often worry about him. "You have to also think about your family too," he said, "this [profession] was my choice, but it wasn't theirs," concluding that he thought it might be a bit "selfish" to pursue such a career.

His adventures nevertheless fascinated the audience last night who studied each photograph loaded on the projector intently and fired question after question at Leal after (and during) his lecture.

The photojournalist will head back to



Eduardo Leal

Ecuador before the end of this week, to continue capturing stories which include the recurring aftershocks of a recent earthquake and another on the country's transgender community.

However, he told the Times that he has already been contacted by Macau locals about returning to the city to deliver another lecture; something Leal said he would welcome. **DB**

## CRIME

# Venezuelan woman arrested for transporting drugs

**A** 26-year-old Venezuelan woman was arrested at the Macau International Airport on Tuesday, for trying to smuggle 4.1 kilograms of cocaine into the city. The suspect surnamed Alvarez admitted that the drugs

were all supposed to be transported to the final destination of Hong Kong. It is believed that the suspect had traveled to Brazil on September 17, where she obtained the drugs. She placed the drugs in a modified suitcase.

From there she traveled to Ethiopia and Thailand, the latter being her last stop before heading to Macau. The cartel behind the crime gave the suspect USD2,500 for traveling expenses, and promised to give her

another USD6,000 after successfully transporting the drugs to Hong Kong. The 4.2 kilograms are worth MOP12 million on the black market. According to the police, the suspect claims to be a nurse.

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DIRECTOR AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF\_Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com  
MANAGING EDITOR\_Paulo Barbosa paulo.barbosa@macaudailytimes.com  
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS\_Eric Sautedé, Leanda Lee, Severo Portela

DESIGN EDITOR\_João Jorge Magalhães magalhaes@macaudailytimes.com | NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS  
Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Daniel Beitler, Emilie Tran, Grace Yu, Irene Sam, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Joseph Cheung, Julie Zhu, Juliet Risdon, Lynzy Valles, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Rodrigo de Matos (cartoonist), Ruan Du Toit Bester, Sandra Norte (designer), Viviana Seguí | ASSOCIATE  
CONTRIBUTORS\_JML Property, MacauHR, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars | NEWS AGENCIES\_Associated Press, Bloomberg, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua | SECRETARY\_Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

SECRETARY Denise Lo denise@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR Telephone: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

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**S**HANGHAI authorities are introducing a scheme to attract foreign talent that will allow “high-level foreign professionals” to apply for a Shanghai Residence Card. Under the scheme, some Hong Kong and Macau residents will be able to apply for the local hukou - permanent residence and citizenship, provided that they give up their Hong Kong and Macau ID cards in the two special administrative regions.

According to the Shanghai Daily, these foreign talents can apply for the Shanghai Residence Card B and are exempted from mandatory presentation of documents such as health certificates, employers’ business licenses and certificates of residence ownership or registration forms of temporary accommodation.

The Shanghai Residence Card B enables foreigners to enjoy certain benefits that applies to holders of Card A, who are necessarily Chinese citizens. Applicants need to be working or starting up private businesses in Shanghai and be holders of a bachelor or higher educational degrees.

Still according to Shanghai Daily, foreign investors have to submit an auditing report covering the previous fiscal year. The validity length of the Shanghai Residence Card B

depends on credits the applicants can get based on their own background, such as education qualification, age, career and achievement.

Under the scheme, applicants with credits above 65 can get a Card B valid from one to 10 years – the higher the points, the longer the card is valid.

### Some SAR residents can apply provided that they give up their Hong Kong and Macau ID cards

Benefits for expatriates with Shanghai Residence Card B will also be upgraded. Besides participating in local social security systems and education opportunities for their children, foreigners with Card B can apply for “high-end talent” certificates to enjoy simplified customs clearance service for their research, teaching and personal materials. For example, customs officials may not open packages held by Card B foreigners unless there are special circumstances.

Card B foreigners can also

# Shanghai competing for local talent



participate in the local housing provident fund to use it for buying or renting a residence and paying property management fees as local residents do. If they stop working in Shanghai, they can also have their deposits transferred to the fund operating in other cities where they move to.

With Card B, returning Chinese and “special talent” residents from Hong Kong and Macau can apply for subsidies from a special fund for their life and work needs in the city.

Foreigners who have a five-year Shanghai Residence Card B but no permanent residence

permits can apply for a working class residence permit for the same validity length and apply for a permanent residence permit after three years only if they have been recommended by their employers.

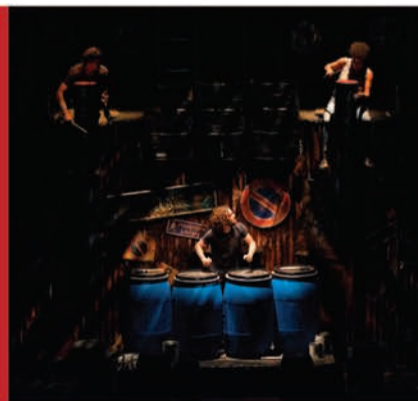
The scheme is an upgraded version of the previous Shanghai’s resident policies regarding overseas talented people. It is being implemented by the Shanghai Human Resources and Social Security Bureau ([www.12333sh.gov.cn](http://www.12333sh.gov.cn)) and the Shanghai Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs ([www.shafea.gov.cn](http://www.shafea.gov.cn)).

## SHANGHAI UP-AND-COMING FOR FINANCE

ACCORDING TO recent survey of finance professionals, Shanghai ranks as the top pick among the world’s international cities to develop into a global finance center in the near future. The city will be trailed into the period by Beijing, Shenzhen, Qingdao and Dalian, according to statistical data and a survey of finance professionals. The findings

are based on an index that measures cities for their attractiveness to finance services professionals. It measures and a poll of finance. Eight of the top 15 cities expected to rise in the ranking are from the Asia-Pacific region, including the five aforementioned Chinese cities. Hong Kong, Singapore and Tokyo also ranked highly.

Macau Daily Times contest



# STOMP

at The Venetian Macao

Question for readers:

How many STOMP companies are there performing worldwide?

Please email the answers to: [stomp@macaudailytimes.com](mailto:stomp@macaudailytimes.com) Along with your name and contact details.

### Tickets-Giveaway

Four sets of two tickets each will be awarded to the four readers who send us more correct answers the fastest. The contest will run for 3 days (Tuesday to Thursday), each day with a different question to be answered. Each ticket is valued at MOP580 for a total prize value of MOP4,640.

World-renowned theatrical sensation, STOMP – an eight-person performance group that uses everyday items such as lighters, bin lids, plastic bags and even kitchen sinks, to hammer out an explosive rhythm, will be coming to The Venetian Theatre from Sept. 23 – Oct. 9, 2016. Tickets are priced HKD/MOP 180-780, and can be booked at all Cotai Ticketing box offices.



Originally from the UK and created by Luke Cresswell and Steve McNicholas back in 1991, STOMP is a show that combines percussion, dance, theatre and comedy with an exhilarating soundtrack inspired by the commotion of daily life. Performers use every-day objects to create beats of different sounds, composing a feel-good percussive symphony. Their passion and enthusiasm are so contagious that the show has won over audiences worldwide of all ages.

STOMP has been touring the globe for 25 years, bringing over 20,000 performances to more

than 12 million people in 53 countries across 6 continents. There are up to five STOMP companies performing worldwide at any time.

The infectious STOMP has also performed in several big events, including the 1996 Academy Awards (the Oscars), which received an estimated 1 billion audience globally; and a specially choreographed appearance at the closing ceremony at the London 2012 Olympic Games, it was the largest assembly of STOMP performers ever, as 40 performers from 12 different countries were brought together for one spectacular performance.

Show: now until 9th Oct, Tuesdays to Sundays  
Venue: The Venetian Theatre  
Book via [cotaiticketing.com](http://cotaiticketing.com) or +853 2882 8818

# Secretary confident that the LRT will be completed in 2019

**SECRETARY** for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, said yesterday that the Light Railway Transit (LRT) will be completed in 2019 in response to journalists' questions on the sidelines of the Carmo Post Office opening.

Earlier this week, the government outsourced the construction of a LRT depot to the China State Construction Engineering Corporation (CSCEC) through a contract valued at MOP1.07 billion.

According to the secretary, the construction of the depot has already started.

In order to dissolve the contract with the former contractors, MOP85 million was paid out to them.

Rosario noted that this payment cannot be seen as a compensation. It was made according to what was written in the contract. "Every project fea-



Raimundo do Rosário

tures several points. If the contractor wants to leave, he should be paid according to the materials that are left behind or in case some payments were supposed to have been made earlier," explained Raimundo.

The secretary also pled-

ged that "land works of 9.3 kilometers and 11 stops in Taipa will be completed by the end of this year." According to Rosário, for the next step the department will focus on the elements of the LRT associated with the Macau Peninsula and Coloane, inclu-

ding a stop at Barra and at some facilities in Coloane. The secretary also revealed that, this time, the government invited the CSCEC to construct the LRT depot instead of launching public tenders for the project.

Ho Cheong Kei, interim coordinator of the Transportation Infrastructure Office, explained that the transport authority invited the Chinese state company due to the tight schedule.

"The depot is the core of the LRT. We want to start its construction as soon as possible," said Ho.

The depot structure is one of five projects comprising the LRT Taipa section. It features a 130,000 square meter area which will serve as an operation control center, a factory and a maintenance building, in addition to another area for trains to be parked and cleaned, which includes a 600-meter train-testing track. **JZ**

## EDUCATION

# Council member opposes joint university admission system

**FU** Lam Kam, a member of the Non-Tertiary Education Council, argued that the single university entrance examination "will inevitably lead to the homogenization of Macau's diverse education."

Starting from the 2017/2018 academic year, a joint university admission scheme will be applied by the University of Macau, the Institute for Tourism Studies, the Macao Polytechnic Institute and the Macau University of Science and Technology.

According to a report by All About Macau, Fu Lam Kam says one of Macau's advantages, compared to neighboring regions such as Hong Kong and mainland China, is not having a unified examination, which in turn stimulates the diversity of local education.

"Macau's advantage is exactly the lack of the system, in the sense that the public has many choices," said Fu, adding that he does not "see Macau's education system becoming better if there will be a unified examination system."

Fu emphasized that many local educators strongly oppose the system and have reservations about Macau walking the same path as mainland China and Hong Kong.

"Macau's current geographical environment and population structure are just right for us to promote diversified education. It's intolerable for us to kill our advantages," Fu said.

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# New Taipa post office inaugurated

Julie Zhu

**C**ARMO Post Office, previously named Taipa Post Office, commenced its operations yesterday.

The new post office has undergone minor expansion from its previous facilities, as told by director of Macau Post, Lau Wai Meng.

The new facilities which occupy an area of 620 square meters comprise two main buildings. Main building A includes the post office on the ground floor and multi-function rooms on the first floor, main building B consists of an exhibition hall on the ground floor featuring telephone and post history in Macau, in addition to a balcony on the first floor.

The buildings have maintained their previous architectural characteristics in a revamp project designed by architect



Maria José de Freitas. The office operates from 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. from Monday to Friday, and from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays.

Regarding the exhibitions to be displayed in the future, the director informed that her department will be responsible for the upcoming events.

“The first exhibition will show within the scope of the last half century how telecommunications and related devices had a great impact on the lives of Macau residents,” said Lau.

She expects that through different exhibitions the city can promote a culture of stamp collections.

The Taipa Post Office was first opened in June 1954, providing post, telegraph, and telephone services. The new office was redesigned at a cost of MOP696,000 and was built at a cost of more than MOP8 million.

## ARTS

# Performance show unveils rhythmic, bizarre ‘instruments’

Lynzy Valles

**W**ITH contagious beats and inventive routines, STOMP is performing in the region for the first time after a month-long tour in Beijing.

The cast of the dance and music performance showcased their incorporated nontraditional music instruments to the media during a behind-the-scenes tour earlier this week.

STOMP creates rhythms and music out of ordinary percussion instruments such as household and industrial objects. The show draws musical rhythms from all sorts of music including Latin and African beats.

According to the cast members, new elements of music, choreography and “instruments” have been added for their show in the region, revealing that some elements in the performance are not scripted.

Kicking off the show with their traditional “broom” scene, the cast members said that they are encouraged to add their own culture and sounds to the performance in order to give a variety of rhythm to the show.

Troy Sexton, a cast member of the show for 13 years, said, “the idea is that we are just a bunch of sweepers and all of a sudden music comes out of nowhere, [then]



eight people [start] playing together.”

He also added that 12 cast members of the show role-play different characters in every performance, describing their act as a “structure of routines that stay the same but within that, there’s room for improvisation.”

Meanwhile, Joe White, who has been with the show for ten years added that aside from entertaining the audience, they aim to be an inspiration.

“What we’re trying to convey is that we encourage people to pick things up, give them a hit and see what they sound like and play. There’s music in everything in life,” he said.

Audiences are told to expect a bizarre collection of “instruments” used by the performers who smash, crash and bash them into a percussion masterpiece.

In addition to brooms and bins, everyday items such as boxes of matches, paint containers and drum sticks make the interactive show more entertaining.

It was previously reported that the revamped show, with new music, choreography and “instruments”, including massive recycled inner tubes which performers wear and play simultaneously, is more thrilling.

STOMP is currently playing at The Venetian Theatre until October 9.

# Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge ‘main body’ completed

**T**HE Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB) reached a historical milestone on Monday with the completion of the “main body” of the structure, connecting the Chinese city of Zhuhai to Macau and Hong Kong.

The 55-kilometer-long structure is the world’s longest sea-crossing bridge.

Although it is expected that the total completion will take at least another three years, this moment is considered historic.

As said by many high ranking officials and businessmen from both the special regions and the mainland, economy and tourism sectors, the HKZMB is expected to provide a boost to the Pearl Delta Region’s economy allowing an easy flow of both locals and tourists across the three regions.

When in operation, the link is expected to cut the journey between Macau, Zhuhai and Hong Kong from over three hours by land or over one hour by sea to just 30 minutes.

According to information released by the construction companies and ci-



Towers of the world’s longest cross-sea bridge are seen in Zhuhai

ted by Chinese Television CCTV, over 400,000 tons of steel was used to build this structure; the equivalent of about 60 Eiffel Towers.

The same source reported that this is considered to be China’s most ambitious infrastructure project to date due to the fact that the mega-infrastructure was designed to stand for over 100 years.

The HKZMB will be third longest bridge structure in the world and in China right after Danyang-Kunshan Grand Bridge (164,8km) that connects the railway systems of Beijing, Shanghai and Tianjin Grand Bridge (113,7km).

Currently the longest road bridge in the world is Bang Na Expressway in Thailand which is 54 kilometers long. **RM**

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Senior Vice-President, Human Resources  
Sands China Limited

Lean Management:  
why is it important and what is the role of HR?

- In other jurisdictions Lean Management is about continuous improvement and incremental changes to control costs and maximise opportunities; in Macau it's a question of survival.
- How does it compare with Kaizen, Scrum, Six Sigma and FWP?
  - Why should HR consider taking an active role?
    - Moving from an org. chart approach to the management of teams



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08:00 – Sit-down and breakfast  
08:15 – Presentation and Q&A session  
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**SURVEY**

**Travel agencies cash in less money**

**T**HE revenue of local travel agencies amounted to MOP6.50 billion in 2015, down by 10.6 percent year-on-year. Revenues from package tours (MOP1.96 billion) increased by 7.6 percent, while receipts from passenger transport ticketing (MOP1.90 billion) and room reservations (MOP1.09 billion) decreased by 17.9 percent and 31.6 percent respectively.

The Statistics and Census Service's 2015 travel agencies survey published yesterday the, had indicated that a total of 250 travel agencies were operating in 2015, an increase of 13 year-on-year. The number of people engaged in the industry rose by 343 year-on-year to 4,545, of which 1,404 were drivers.

Analyzed by the number of people engaged, receipts of larger travel agencies (with 50 or more people) came mainly from package tours (MOP723 million) and the rental of coaches with a driver (MOP 645 million), up by 20.1 percent and 8.6 percent year-on-year respectively.

Revenues of small travel agencies with less than 10 people were generated primarily from passenger transport ticketing (MOP 692 million), up by 26.5 percent year-on-year.

Expenditure of travel agencies amounted to MOP6.21 billion, down by 9.5 percent year-on-year. According to DSEC, Gross Value Added that measures the sector contribution to the economy amounted to MOP 1.00 billion, down by 4.8 percent year-on-year.

**Capacity for one million books in the new central library**

Julie Zhu

**T**HE capacity for the book collection of the planned new central library will be one million items including books, newspapers, as well as other references, the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) revealed yesterday during a Cultural Advisory Committee meeting.

IC hopes that by the time the Central Library opens, 500,000 books will already be available to the public.

When questioned by several committee members regarding the book collection, Tang Mei Lin, director of the Department of Management of Public Libraries, said that multilingualism is a major aim of the department. "Books in both simplified and traditional Chinese, in English, Portuguese, as well as in Filipino and Thai, are planned to be provided," informed Tang, adding that religious ancient books will also be part of the collection.

According to Tang, there will be specific sections for children's books in the library, as well as communication corners

RENATO MARQUES



A statue stands facing the old court building, where the future library is expected to be located

which will allow library users to chat with each other.

"A total of 10,000 Portuguese references will be listed, making it the richest Portuguese collection in Asia," announced Tang, adding: "Portuguese newspapers with more than 100 years of history will also be available to the public."

Members of the committee raised questions about differences between the new library and the current one at the University of Macau (UM).

Tang replied that while the University of Macau Library offers a good source of information for scholars and students, the new library will be more useful to the mass public.

The old court building is the chosen location to the future library. A new 11-story building is expected to be built there, preserving only the façade and part of the interior structure of the old building (pictured) – like its stairways.

In addition, the IC disclosed

yesterday that the library based in the old court will be 53 meters above sea level. The height is similar to those of many buildings in the vicinity, as Tang observed.

Correspondingly, the president of IC, Ung Vai Meng, remarked: "The location in the city center [is an advantage as the building] will also make more services available to citizens."

Tang Mei Lin said that the central library will commence its construction in 2019.

**Rolls-Royce delivers 30 Phantoms to Macau**

**T**HE shipment of the 30 made-to-order Rolls-Royce Phantom series has arrived at the "The 13" hotel in the region, Rolls-Royce informed in a statement earlier this week. The manufacturer said "following the handover of the first of the bespoke Rolls-Royce Phantoms at the 2016 Geneva International Motor Show in March this year, all 30 Phantoms commissioned by Stephen Hung, joint Chairman of The 13 Holdings Limited, have now been shipped from Goodwood, England" to the final destination of Macau. The vehicles will make up a 30-car fleet for "The 13" hotel which is now slated to



open in early 2017. The statement implies a new postponement to the opening date. The hotel was initially scheduled to open in early 2016.

The biggest ever order for Rolls-Royce cars has a high degree of personalization that was reportedly the product of collaboration between the company's chairman and Rolls-Royce. Among the personalization details of the fleet are an extended wheelbase, special exterior color scheme and a livery of The 13 hotel. The fleet includes two gold colored Phantoms which will be reserved for selected guests and provides a higher degree of luxury, as it includes a gold "Spirit of Ecstasy" Pantheon grille, gold interior accents and diamond encrusted Rolls-Royce badge. The golden color exterior paint is also infused with fine particles of pure gold.

AD

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# BlackBerry stops making smartphones to focus on software service

Gerrit De Vynck

**B**LACKBERRY Ltd. will stop making smartphones, handing over production to overseas partners while it turns its full attention to its more profitable and growing software business. Investors applauded the move, sending shares higher in early trading.

The Canadian company said yesterday it has struck a licensing agreement with an Indonesian company to make and distribute BlackBerry-branded devices running on the company's secure software. It's the formalization of a move long in the making, ever since Chief Executive Officer John Chen took over nearly three years ago and outsourced some manufacturing to Foxconn Technology Group.

BlackBerry, based in Waterloo, Ontario, gained 2.5 percent in early trading in New York on the news. Getting the money-losing smartphone business off of BlackBerry's books will make it easier for the company to consistently hit profitability. It will still design smartphone applications and an extra-secure version of Alphabet Inc.'s Android operating system.

"We are reaching an inflection point with our strategy," Chen said in a statement announcing quarterly earnings. "Our financial foundation is strong, and our pivot to software is taking hold."

Although BlackBerry's latest phone, the DTEK50, was al-



ready almost completely outsourced, the move is a big symbolic step for a company that once reached a market cap of USD80 billion by selling "crackberries" to business users and regular consumers alike. BlackBerry ushered in the age of the smartphone, extending work hours well past 5 p.m.

**It was inevitable at this point; they didn't have the unit volumes to sustain the business profitably.**

MATTHEW KANTERMAN  
ANALYST

years before Steve Jobs unveiled the iPhone.

"It was inevitable at this point; they didn't have the unit volumes to sustain the business profitably," said Matthew Kanterman, an analyst with Bloomberg Intelligence. "This is doubling down on the efforts to focus on software which is really what their strength is."

In the second quarter, BlackBerry said software and services revenue more than doubled from a year earlier to \$156 million. Fiscal second-quarter adjusted earnings were at break-even, compared with analysts' estimates for a loss of 5 cents. Revenue in the second quarter was \$325 million, falling short of analysts' projections for \$390 million. For the full year, BlackBerry expects a loss of 5 cents or to hit break-even, compared with what it said was a current consensus of a 15-cent loss. **Bloomberg**

## GAMING

# Caesars deal boosts Appaloosa after Apollo, TPG give ground

Steven Church and Jodi Xu Klein

**T**HE long and often ugly battle over the fate of Caesars Entertainment Corp. may finally be nearing an end. After more than two years of contentious legal disputes, Apollo Global Management LLC and TPG Capital - the private-equity firms that controlled the casino giant - and its biggest creditors struck a deal to reorganize the company, and enable its operating unit to emerge from bankruptcy with less debt.

The settlement is a win for creditors led by David Tepper's Appaloosa Management, which held more than USD880 million in second-lien bonds at the heart of the fight. For Apollo and TPG, which will give up most of their stakes, it's a humbling outcome after several unsuccessful attempts in recent years to salvage their investment. But the firms, which acquired Caesars in a \$30 billion leveraged buyout in 2008, did find a way to share their pain.

To fund the agreement announced Tuesday, Apollo and TPG will see their more-than 60 percent ownership shrink to about 16 percent once Caesars combines with its sister company Caesars Acquisition Co.

"It looks like they put a lot of money on the table," Bruce Grohsgal, a bankruptcy professor at Widener University's Delaware Law School, said in an interview. "It probably changes the dynamic" of the bankruptcy case, he said.

In return Apollo, TPG and their top executives will be insulated from bondholder-backed lawsuits stemming from the reorganization seeking to hold them responsible for the bankruptcy of Caesars Entertainment Operating Co.

The accord, which requires a judge's approval, would end those court fights and reorganize the



A view of Caesars Palace Las Vegas Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas

non-bankrupt pieces of Caesars and the insolvent operating unit. If Caesars nails down support from a majority of each class of creditors, from senior bank lenders to unsecured bondholders, it would be more difficult for any remaining dissidents to fight the reorganization plan, Grohsgal said.

The deal must be incorporated into the operating company's reorganization plan, which is scheduled to go before U.S. Bankruptcy Judge A. Benjamin Goldgar in Chicago in January. With his approval, the Las Vegas-based casino giant would emerge with lower debt and new owners.

Second-lien bondholders, owed about \$5.5 billion and led by Appaloosa, will see a recovery rate of about 66 cents on the dollar, or about 27 cents more than under a previous plan, according to a Caesars statement. Other investors in this group included Centerbridge Partners, Oaktree Capital Management LP, and Tennenbaum Capital Partners. All four money managers profited on their holdings, according to people with knowledge of the matter.

Spokesmen for Appaloosa and Oaktree declined to comment. Representatives for Centerbridge and Tennenbaum didn't immediately respond to requests seeking comment. **Bloomberg**

## corporate bits

### MARRIOTT AND STARWOOD MERGE LOYALTY PROGRAMS



After Marriott's acquisition of Starwood Hotels & Resorts earlier this month, the company is now in a position to flaunt an expanded portfolio of 30 "leading hotel brands",

according to a statement from Starwood media representatives.

Marriott will now offer to guests the choice from 5,700 hotels and 1.1 million rooms

across 110 countries.

Members of Marriott's loyalty programs, Marriott Rewards - which includes The Ritz-Carlton Rewards - and Starwood Preferred Guest (SPG), are invited to link their accounts online, to enjoy the benefits each program has to offer.

Members will have their status matched across programs and will be able to transfer and redeem points across programs to travel to more destinations than ever before.

According to the statement, members who link their accounts will be able to transfer points at a three-to-one ratio (three Marriott Rewards points will be equal to one SPG Starpoint) between the two programs.

### MGM HOSTS ENGINEERING SOCIETY MACAU INAUGURATION



MGM hosted the Macao Chapter inauguration ceremony of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) on Tuesday, welcoming the international organization to establish itself in

the territory.

MGM's executive director of facilities management, Peter Chan, has been elected to be the first president of the Macao Chapter, warmly receiving the official chapter flag to commemorate the occasion.

"I am proud to have been awarded with this honor [...] Inspiring the next generation of young engineers is fundamental; the Macao Chapter will hold several student project competitions and also sponsor one young engineer from Macau to join the global Young Engineers in ASHRAE [YEA] leadership training program", he said, according to a statement from MGM China.

In addition to hosting the event, MGM also donated the full set of ASHRAE technical materials as an educational resource to the University of Macau. These standards are often referenced in building codes worldwide, and are considered essential resources for the industry.



# Angola starts exporting coffee to the United States



**T**HE first load of coffee from Angola, weighing 11 tonnes, has arrived in the United States, said this week in New York the ambassador of Angola in the United States speaking to Jornal de Angola.

Agostinho Tavares also said that coffee is the first Angolan product to be exported to the United States under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), which allows sub-Saharan Africa countries to place a variety of products on the US market without paying customs duties or taxes.

The ambassador said that Angola, a country that for years has exported oil to the United States, in the next few days will send a second shipment of coffee, which is experiencing high demand.

The trade ministers of African countries benefiting from the Growth and Opportunities for Africa Act took part from 22 to 26 September in the 16th edition of the African Growth and Opportunity Act Forum, known as the "AGOA Forum."

The African Growth and Opportunity Act, established in 2000 by the administration of former President George Bush, was renewed in 2015 by the current US administration to take effect for another period of 15 years. **MDT/Macauhub**

## MOZAMBIQUE

# Gov't projects economic growth of 5.5 percent in 2017

**T**HE draft Economic and Social Plan (PES) for 2017 approved this week in Maputo by the Mozambique government includes an economic growth forecast of 5.5 percent, said the spokesman for the Council of Ministers.

At the cabinet meeting the government also approved the draft state budget law (OGE) for 2017, and spokesman Mouzinho Saide said that one of the priorities for next year is to increase food production in response to the agricultural production deficit for this year due to adverse weather.

The PES stipulates measures to raise the quality of the financial and foreign exchange system, with the main objective of preserving the value of the Mozambican currency and macroeconomic stability, Saide said, quoted by



Filipe Jacinto Nyusi (left), president of Mozambique, talks with an aide during a meeting at the U.N. headquarters

Mozambican news agency AIM.

In relation to the State Budget, the spokesman said that it intends to maintain the principle laid down in the government program of maintaining the rates of the main taxes

as well as maintaining restrictions implemented in 2016, with a view to keeping public spending at a sustainable level.

Other ongoing challenges of the State Budget proposal, according to Saide, are related to the

need for further reforms to increase state revenues, efficiency and effectiveness of public expenditure, and to continue to prioritize allocation of resources for education, health, agriculture and social work. **MDT/Macauhub**

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**C**HINESE authorities blamed illegal mining activities for a gas explosion at a coal mine that killed 18 miners left two others missing, Chinese state media reported yesterday.

Tuesday morning's explosion occurred at a small coal mine when 20 miners were working underground in the city of Shizuishan in the northwestern region of Ningxia, the official Xinhua News Agency said. State broadcaster CCTV had said in the morning that the blast had killed 19 people, but later reported 18 deaths.

Local officials said at a news conference that representatives of the company that owned the mine, the Linli Coal Mining Co. Ltd., were in police custody, Xinhua said.

Xinhua cited an initial investigation as showing that the blast was caused by illegal mining, but did not provide details. The company could not immediately be reached at its listed phone number, which rang busy.

At the briefing, Wu Yuguo, the city's vice mayor, said an excessive concentration of gas and the destruction of the mine shaft have hindered rescue efforts.

China's mines have long been the world's deadliest, but safety improvements have reduced deaths in recent years.

Calls to the Shizuishan city government yesterday rang unanswered. **AP**

## Explosion kills 18 in 'illegal' coal mine in northern city



Rescuers prepare to enter a coal mine in Shizuishan in northwestern China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region



### PHOTO REPORT

## Celebrating the birth of Confucius

A special ceremony in Beijing was held yesterday to observe the 2,567th birth anniversary of the famed Chinese philosopher, Confucius, where participants wear traditional dress. Ceremonies were held across China, including in Confucius' eastern hometown, Qufu.

Most of the participants at the event in Beijing were students and faculty at a private school that teaches students classic works by Confucius and other sages, calligraphy, and Chinese medicine, among other subjects.

Confucius and his teachings were widely criticized by the founding father of Communist China, Mao Zedong, who railed against traditional culture and what he called "feudal thinking."

However, the sage's image has been rehabilitated in recent years as the government pushes his message of harmonious social order and deference to authority. Confucius' teachings emphasized duty to family, respect for learning and obedience of individuals to the state. **MDT/AP**



Participants in traditional dress stand near an oversized portrait of Confucius during a ceremony

A massive typhoon left one person dead in eastern China yesterday, a day after killing four and injuring more than 600 in Taiwan, where authorities remained on alert for the possibility of a landslide.

Typhoon Megi caused more than USD10 million in damage as it swept across Taiwan before weakening into a tropical storm after hitting the coastal city of Quanzhou in China's Fujian province before dawn, Taiwan's weather service said. At its height, it was packing winds of up to 118 kilometers per hour, China's National Meteorological Center said.

One person died after several structures collapsed in Quanzhou, the official China News Service reported. Schools were closed and dozens of flights were canceled.

In Fuzhou, Fujian's capital, people were shown on state television walking through knee-deep waters that had swamped major roads. Rescue workers were seen pulling stranded residents through the streets on inflatable boats.

The storm was forecast to move northwest yesterday and gradually fade away.

# Massive typhoon hits eastern China, Taiwan, killing five

In Taiwan, nearly 4 million homes lost power and 10 provincial highways remained closed Wednesday, one day after heavy rain and sustained winds of 160 kilometers per hour blanketed the island, Taiwan's official Central News Agency reported. More than 4,800 people remained in emergency shelters yesterday afternoon.

Taiwan's Central Emergency Operations Center reported that the 625 injured included eight Japanese tourists traveling in a tour bus that turned on its side in central Taiwan. Three people suffered fatal falls and a fourth person died in a truck crash, Taiwan's Central Emergency Operations Center said.

Many of the injuries were from falling and wind-blown objects. Three state utility workers were injured when their truck tumbled into a valley while they were trying to



Taiwanese people struggle against powerful gusts of wind generated by typhoon Megi

restore power in a mountainous area, the Central News Agency reported.

A spokesman for the center said that emergency officials were closely monitoring Taiwan's mountain regions for possible landslides. They were also working to restore power

and water.

Megi was 500 kilometers in diameter at its largest, and rainfall had topped 300 millimeters in the south and eastern mountains of Taiwan.

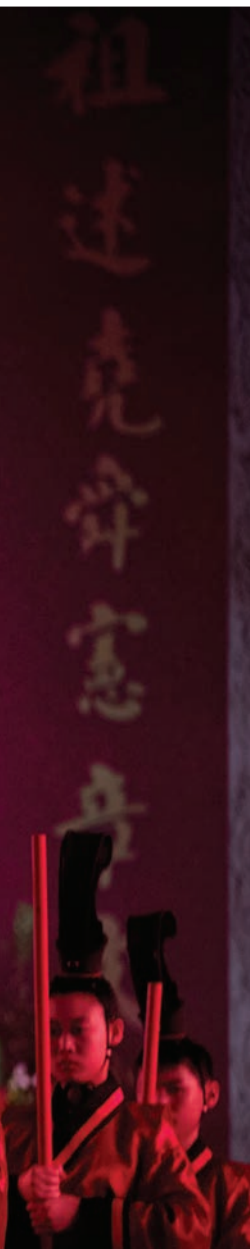
More than 8,000 people were evacuated, mostly from mountainous areas

at risk of landslides or floods. The weather forced the cancellation of 224 flights at Taiwan's Taoyuan International Airport. Authorities had closed schools, offices and most of Taiwan's railway system Tuesday.

Megi was the fourth

typhoon of the year to hit Taiwan and third in the last two weeks.

On the Chinese coast, about 160 kilometers from Taiwan at its nearest point, fishing boats were ordered back to port, China's official Xinhua News Agency said.



A participant in traditional dress stands near a drum during a ceremony



A boy in traditional dress adjusts another's headgear before a group photo



A young participant tries to hold back a sneeze during the ceremony



Participants in traditional dress stand during a ceremony to observe the 2567th birthday of Confucius

## THAILAND

# Amnesty's torture allegations spark arrest threat

Natnicha Chuwiruch, Bangkok

**T**HAI authorities threatened to arrest Amnesty International speakers who were set to hold a news conference yesterday to release a report detailing allegations of torture at the hands of the military and police, causing the rights group to cancel the event.

Beatings, suffocation by plastic bags and electric shocks of the genitals are among the torture methods used by Thai soldiers and police under the military government, according to the Amnesty report, which was sent to news organizations earlier this week but was to be officially released yesterday.

Just before the news conference was to begin, officials from Thailand's Ministry of Labor warned Amnesty that the two speakers set to talk about the report did not possess work permits and therefore risked arrest if either one spoke on stage. Amnesty then canceled the event.

"We know that the current government does not accept criticism very well," one of the slated speakers, Yuval Ginbar, Amnesty's legal adviser, told reporters outside the room where the news conference was to take place. "But what is happening in the unofficial places of detention — people being beaten up, people being suffocated, people being water boarded



Thailand's Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha

— and what happens in police roadblocks where suspected drug users are forced to urinate in public or are coerced into paying bribes to get released, this is more important than what we're facing here."

Government spokesman Sansern Kaewkamnerd defended the Ministry of Labor's actions by saying no matter which organization the speakers are from, they must comply with the law. If they do not possess work permits, they risk arrest, he said.

"Our laws don't have multiple standards, we have only one standard," Sansern said. "We all have to follow these laws. Even if we are criticized, the law is the law."

In its report, Amnesty International documented 74 cases of torture and other mistreatment by military and police officials since the junta's takeover of the country in a May 2014 coup.

"Please shoot me and send my corpse to my family," said a man who was arrested by the

army and held at an undisclosed location for seven days, according to the Amnesty report.

The man said he was repeatedly tortured with other methods. "They put a plastic bag on my head until I fainted, and then poured a bucket of cold water on me," the report quotes him as saying. "They applied electro-shock to my penis and chest. I was restrained, my legs tied, and my face covered with tape and a plastic bag."

Sansern denied any allega-

tions of torture, saying that officials are required to act according to international standards of humanitarian laws.

Since it seized power, the military government has been continuously criticized by human rights groups for cracking down on dissent, jailing critics and censoring the media.

Without mentioning the Amnesty report directly, Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha defended military detention of "so-called political prisoners," saying they are given good housing and food, but that they sometimes complain about things like the quality of air conditioning.

"We've released so many of these so-called political prisoners, but some are charged so we have to hold them," Prayuth said yesterday at a forum for journalists, businesspeople and others.

"I hope you understand, I've been very forgiving," he said. "Only a few people suffer because they want to violate things all the time. And they blame the government for human rights violations. If I violate that much would I be able to stand here? But they try to get themselves prosecuted so they can tell it to the world."

Laurent Meillan, the U.N. Human Rights Office's acting regional representative for Southeast Asia, said the move by the Ministry of Labor on Wednesday to prevent the Amnesty panelists from speaking "raises serious questions about the ability of international organizations to stage public events in Thailand."

"This incident is another striking illustration of a new pattern of harassment of human rights defenders documenting torture in Thailand," Meillan said in an email. **AP**



South Korean protesters march during a rally to oppose a deployment of the Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, in Seoul

Matthew Pennington, Washington

**T**HE U.S. intends to deploy a missile defense system in South Korea "as soon as possible" to counter the threat

from North Korea despite opposition from China, the top U.S. diplomat for East Asia said.

Assistant Secretary of State Daniel Russel said he believes South Korea is firmly committed to the

## US looks to accelerate deployment of South Korea missile defense

deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD system. He told a congressional hearing the system is purely defensive and is not aimed at China but at North Korea.

The plans have complicated South Korea's efforts to foster warmer ties with China, which traditionally has had closer ties with North Korea, and have added to tensions between Washington and Beijing as well. Beijing says the system's radar could reach into Chinese territory.

Seoul and Washington began formal talks

on THAAD earlier this year. Russel did not specify when the deployment would happen, but said "given the accelerated pace of North Korea's missile tests, we intend to deploy on an accelerated basis, I would say, as soon as possible."

North Korea has conducted two nuclear test explosions this year, and the latest one, on Sept. 9, was its largest to date, deepening worries that it is honing a capability to miniaturize a nuclear warhead. It has also conducted 22 ballistic missile test launches this year, the U.S. says.

Yesterday's hearing of a House panel overseeing foreign policy toward Asia examined the state of cooperation South Korea and Japan — close U.S. allies that face a mutual threat from neighboring North Korea but sharp historical differences. Lawmakers welcomed signs of improved relations between them.

But Republican Rep. Mo Brooks of Alabama said that the U.S. is heavily burdened by debt, and pressed Russel on whether a reduction in the billions that it spends on defending Japan and South Korea might com-

pel them to be more self-sufficient and spend more on their own defense.

Russel conceded "it might have that effect," but argued it would have a very destructive impact on regional stability and would open the door to China asserting itself more.

The U.S. has a total of nearly 80,000 troops based in Japan and South Korea, the backbone of its military presence in Asia. The Obama administration has sought to strengthen these and other alliances, in part to counter the rise of China in a region of growing economic importance. **AP**

Josef Federman, Jerusalem

## OBITUARY

# Shimon Peres witnessed Israel's history, and shaped it

**A**T every corner of Israel's tumultuous history, Shimon Peres was there.

He was a young aide to the nation's founding fathers when the country declared independence in 1948, and he played a key role in turning Israel into a military power. He was part of the negotiations that sealed the first Israeli-Palestinian peace accord, garnering a Nobel Peace Prize. He was welcomed like royalty in world capitals.

But only at the end of a political career stretching more than 60 years did Peres, who died yesterday at the age of 93, finally win the widespread admiration of his own people that had eluded him for so long.

Peres began a new chapter at age 83, assuming the nation's presidency following a scandal that forced his predecessor to step down. The job cemented Peres' transformation from down-and-dirty political operator or naive peace proponent to elder statesman and a wise, grandfatherly sage who transcended political divisions.

"After such a long career, let me just say something: My appetite to manage is over. My inclination to dream and to envisage is greater," Peres told The Associated Press in an interview on July 15, 2007, moments before he was sworn in as president.

He said he would not allow his age, or the constraints of a largely ceremonial office, to slow him down. "I'm not in a hurry to pass away," Peres said. "The day will come that I shall not forget to pass away. But until then, I'm not going to waste my life."

Israel's Foreign Ministry said President Barack Obama, Bill and Hillary Clinton, Britain's Prince Charles and French President Francois Hollande, would be among the world leaders and dignitaries to attend Peres' funeral in Jerusalem tomorrow, a fitting tribute for a politician who reveled in the political limelight and loved to hobnob with celebrities, artists and the world's rich and famous.

As president, Peres tirelessly jetted around the world to represent his country at conferences, ceremonies and international gatherings. He was a fixture at the annual World Economic Forum gathering in Davos, Switzerland, where he was treated like a rock star as the world's wealthy and powerful listened to his every word, on topics ranging from Mideast peace to nanotechnology to the wonders of the human brain.

He also became Israel's moderate face at a time when the nation was led by hard-line Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Peres sought to reassure the international community that



Former Israeli President Shimon Peres (right), and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas

Israel seeks peace, despite concerns over continued settlement construction in the occupied West Bank and the paralysis of negotiations under Netanyahu. While Peres never tired of speaking of peace, he tended to avoid strident criticism of Netanyahu.

It was his 1994 Nobel Prize that established Peres' man-of-peace image. He proudly displayed the prize — which he shared with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat — on the desk of his presidential office.

As foreign minister, Peres secretly brokered the historic Oslo interim peace accords with the Palestinians, signed at the White House on Sept. 13, 1993.

Accepting the award, he told assembled dignitaries that "war, as a method of conducting human affairs, is in its death throes, and the time has come to bury it."

Despite the assassination of Rabin, the breakdown of peace talks, a second Palestinian uprising in 2000, wars in Lebanon and Gaza, and Netanyahu's continued re-elections, Peres maintained his insistence that peace was right around the corner.

"I'm sure I shall see peace in my lifetime. Even if I should have to extend my life for a year or two, I won't hesitate," he said in a 2013 interview marking his 90th birthday.

Peres was born Shimon Pereski on Aug. 2, 1923 in Vishniev, then part of Poland and now in Belarus. He moved to pre-state Palestine in 1934 with his family, where he changed his

surname to Peres, or songbird, in Hebrew. Relatives who remained in Poland, including his grandfather, a prominent rabbi, were killed when Nazis set a synagogue on fire during the Holocaust. Peres often spoke lovingly of his grandfather in speeches. The actress Lauren Bacall was a cousin.

Still in his 20s, Peres rose quickly through the ranks of Israel's pre-state leadership, and served as a top aide to David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister, after independence in 1948. Peres once called Ben-Gurion "the greatest Jew of our time."

At 29, he served as director of Israel's Defense Ministry, and is credited with arming Israel's military almost from scratch. He later worked with the French to develop Israel's nuclear program, which today is widely believed to include a large arsenal of bombs.

Still, he suffered throughout his political career from the fact that he never wore an army uniform or fought in a war.

In 1959, Peres was elected to the Knesset, Israel's parliament, serving in nearly all major Cabinet posts over his long career. As finance minister, he imposed an emergency plan to halt triple-digit inflation in the 1980s. He also was an early supporter of the Jewish settler movement in the West Bank, a position he would later abandon.

But he had trouble breaking into the prime minister's post, the top job in Israeli politics. He was hampered by a reputation among the public and fellow politicians as both a utopian dreamer and a political schemer.

mer and a political schemer.

He ran for prime minister in five general elections, losing four and tying one, in 1984, when he shared the job in a rotation with his rival Yitzhak Shamir.

His well-tailored, neck-tied appearance, swept-back gray hair and penchant for artists and intellectuals seemed to separate him from his more informal countrymen. He never lost his Polish accent, making him a target for mimicry.

One of the lowest points of his political career came in 1990, when he led his Labor Party out of a unity government with Shamir's hardline Likud on the strength of promises from small factions to support his bid to replace Shamir.

At the last minute, several members of parliament changed their minds, approving a Shamir government without Peres and Labor. The incident became known in Israeli political lore as Peres' "stinking maneuver." Rabin scorned him as a "relentless meddler" and in 1992 replaced him as party leader.

The two eventually repaired their relationship and worked together on pursuing peace with the Palestinians.

After Rabin's assassination by a Jewish ultranationalist opposed to Israel's peace moves in 1995, Peres became acting prime minister. But he failed to capitalize on the widespread sympathy for the fallen leader and lost a razor-thin election the following year to Netanyahu.

In one famous incident, an angry Peres rhetorically asked a gathering of his Labor Party

whether he was a "loser." Resounding calls of "yes" rained down on him.

Peres would later blame a wave of Palestinian suicide bombings for his defeat. He described his visit to the scene of a deadly bus explosion in Jerusalem, where people started screaming "killer" and "murderer" at him. "I knew that I lost the election," he said.

He suffered another humiliation in 2000 when he ran for the presidency, a largely ceremonial position elected by Parliament. Peres believed he had wrapped up the election, but the religious Shas Party broke a promise to him and switched its support to Likud candidate Moshe Katsav. Peres was a loser once again.

Even so, he refused to quit. In 2001, he took the post of foreign minister in a unity government led by his rival Ariel Sharon, serving for 20 months before Labor withdrew from the coalition. In Peres' final political defeat, Labor overthrew him as party leader in 2005, choosing instead the little-known Amir Peretz.

Peres subsequently followed Sharon into a new party, Kadima, serving as vice-premier and maintaining that post under Sharon's successor, Ehud Olmert.

He was able to attain the presidency when Katsav was forced to step down weeks before his term ended to face rape charges. Katsav was later convicted and sent to prison.

Seeking to stabilize the cherished institution, parliament turned to Peres and elected him president.

Peres cultivated an image as a grandfatherly figure, frequently inviting groups of children and teens to the presidential residence. He embraced social media and promoted Israel's high-tech industry in meetings with top officials at Google, Facebook and other major companies.

Peres also launched his "President's Conference," which became an annual high-powered gathering in Jerusalem of artists, thinkers and business leaders from around the world.

Derided by critics as extravagant and unnecessary, the gathering drew some of the world's most powerful personalities. The 2013 conference also became a 90th birthday party, with figures such as Bill Clinton, Barbara Streisand and Robert DeNiro in attendance. **AP**

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DUTCH PROBE

# Malaysian jet downed by launcher from Russia

**D**UTCH-LED criminal investigators said yesterday they have solid evidence that a Malaysian jet was shot down by a Buk missile moved into eastern Ukraine from Russia.

Wilbert Paulissen, head of the Central Crime Investigation department of the Dutch National Police, said communications intercepts showed that pro-Moscow rebels had called for deployment of the mobile surface-to-air weapon, and reported its arrival in rebel-controlled areas of eastern Ukraine.

From that and other evidence collected by the Joint Investigation Team, "it may be concluded MH17 was shot down by a 9M38 missile launched by a Buk, brought in from the territory of the Russian Federation, and that after launch was subsequently returned to the Russian Federation," Paulissen told a news conference.

The conclusions were billed as results of a two-year Dutch-led criminal probe of the disaster that claimed 298 lives.

A separate investigation by Dutch safety officials last year concluded that the Amsterdam-to-Kuala Lumpur flight was downed by a Buk missile fired from territory held by pro-Russian rebels.

Dutch police spokesman Tho-



Journalists take images of part of the reconstructed forward section of the fuselage after the presentation of the Dutch Safety Board's final report into what caused Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 to break up high over Eastern Ukraine last year

mas Aling said the joint investigation findings differ in that they are designed to be solid enough to be used as evidence in a criminal trial. Where and when a trial might take place is still to be determined, Aling said.

Russia has consistently denied allegations that pro-Moscow rebels in eastern Ukraine were responsible. On Monday, the Russian military said it has new radio-location data that show the

missile that downed the Boeing 777 did not originate from rebel-controlled territory, and said it would turn the data over to investigators.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov reiterated that assertion yesterday ahead of the Dutch report.

"If there was a rocket it could only have been launched from a different area," he told reporters, referring to Russian radar data.

"You can't argue with it, it can't be discussed."

In the Joint Investigation Team, Dutch police and judicial

**It may be concluded MH17 was shot down by a 9M38 missile launched by a Buk, brought in from the territory of the Russian Federation.**

WILBERT PAULISSEN  
DUTCH NATIONAL POLICE

officials have been working with counterparts from Australia, Belgium, Malaysia and Ukraine, seeking to gather the best possible evidence for use in prosecution of the perpetrators.

They have faced extraordinary challenges: the crime scene in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk oblast where the plane crashed on July 17, 2014, killing all aboard, was located in an active war zone, and during the days following the crash pro-Kremlin militants limited access to the site.

Eleven containers crammed with debris from the jetliner were ultimately brought to the Netherlands. A research team took soil samples in eastern Ukraine and established the location of cellphone towers and the layout of the local telephone network.

Forensic samples were taken from passengers' and crew members' bodies and luggage, and satellite data and communications intercepts were scrutinized. The team also appealed for information from witnesses who may have seen the missile launch.

About two-thirds of the passengers aboard MH17 were Dutch nationals; the crew members were Malaysians. Malaysia proposed setting up an international tribunal to try those responsible for the plane's destruction, but Russia vetoed a U.N. Security Council resolution in favor of a tribunal. **AP**

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## what's ON



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VENUE: Dom Pedro V Theatre

ADMISSION: MOP120, MOP150

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

## THE VOICE – THE EXHIBITION THAT SPEAKS TO YOU

TIME: 9am-5:30pm (Closed on public holidays)

UNTIL: November 16, 2106

VENUE: Communications Museums of Macau, No.7, Estrada de D. Maria II, Macao

ADMISSION: MOP10

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2871 8063

## EDGAR DEGAS: FIGURES IN MOTION - A COLLECTION OF 74 BRONZE SCULPTURES

TIME: 12pm-9pm (Closed on Mondays, except public holidays)

UNTIL: November 20, 2106

VENUE: MGM Art Space, Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (852) 3678 0150

## MACAU GIANT PANDA PAVILION

TIME: 10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm daily (Except Mondays, closed on the following day instead if a public holiday falls on Monday and no admission after 4:45 pm; six viewings per day)

VENUE: Seac Pai Van Park, Coloane

ADMISSION: MOP10

ENQUIRIES: Civil and Municipal Affairs Bureau (853) 2833 7676

## THE COLLECTION EXHIBITION OF TAI FUNG TONG ART HOUSE

TIME: 2pm-6pm daily (Except Mondays)

VENUE: Tai Fung Tong Art House, Calçada da Igreja de S. Lázaro 7

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 3537 / 2834 6626

## EXHIBITION "INNOVATIVE INSPIRATION – PAINTING OF MAK KUONG WENG"

TIME: 9am-7pm

UNTIL: October 16, 2016

VENUE: Chun Chou Tong Pavilion of Lou Lim Ioc Garden, located at No. 10, Estrada de Adolfo Loureiro

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4100

## Offbeat

## DRIVER USES CARDBOARD TRUMP HEAD IN CARPOOL LANE



A cardboard cutout of a head in a passenger seat definitely caught the attention of a Washington State Patrol trooper yesterday.

That's because it wasn't just any old cardboard head, but that of Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump.

A trooper stopped the motorist who was driving with the cardboard likeness in a carpool lane south of Seattle on Highway 167. The stunt netted the driver a USD136 ticket.

Another trooper Tweeted a photo of the cardboard Trump head affixed to the passenger seat headrest.

Washington State Patrol spokesman Rick Johnson says every now and then they get somebody trying to be funny and says they've seen everything from teddy bears to mannequins all sitting beside drivers.

But Trump's head? That was, to borrow a catchphrase - huge.

## TV canal macau

13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:45	RTPi Live
16:00	UEFA Champions League 2016/2017: Napoli - Benfica (Repeated)
17:45	Criminal Minds S10 (Repeated)
18:30	Precious Pearl (Repeated)
19:20	Non-Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:50	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Talk Show
21:40	The Toque 12 S2
22:10	Precious Pearl
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Highlights
23:45	Variety
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:00	UEFA Europa League 2016/2017: Shakhtar Donetsk - Braga (Live)

## cinema

## CINETEATRO

29 SEP

## EQUALS

ROOM 1

2.15, 5.45, 9.30 pm

Director: Drake Doremus

Starring: Kristen Stewart, Nicholas Hoult, Guy Pearce, Jacki Weaver

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 101min

## NINE LIVES

ROOM 1

4.05, 7.45 pm

Director: Barry Sonnenfeld

Starring: Kevin Spacey, Jennifer Garner, Christopher Walken

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 96min

## SULLY

ROOM 2

2.15, 4.00, 5.45, 9.45 pm

Director: Clint Eastwood, Aaron Eckhart

Starring: Tom Hanks

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 96min

## TRAIN TO BUSAN

ROOM 2

7.30 pm

Director: Yeon Sang-ho

Starring: Gong Yoo, Jung Tu-mi, Ma Domng-Seok

Language: Korean (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 97min

## BLAIR WITCH

ROOM 3

2.15, 4.00, 5.45 pm

Director: Adam Wingard

Starring: James Allen McCune, Brandon Scott, Callie Hernandez

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 89min



## DEEP WATER HORIZON

ROOM 3

7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Peter Berg

Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Kurt Russell, John Malkovich, Kate Hudson

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 107min

## MACAU TOWER

29 SEP - 05 OCT

## DEEP WATER HORIZON

ROOM 3

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

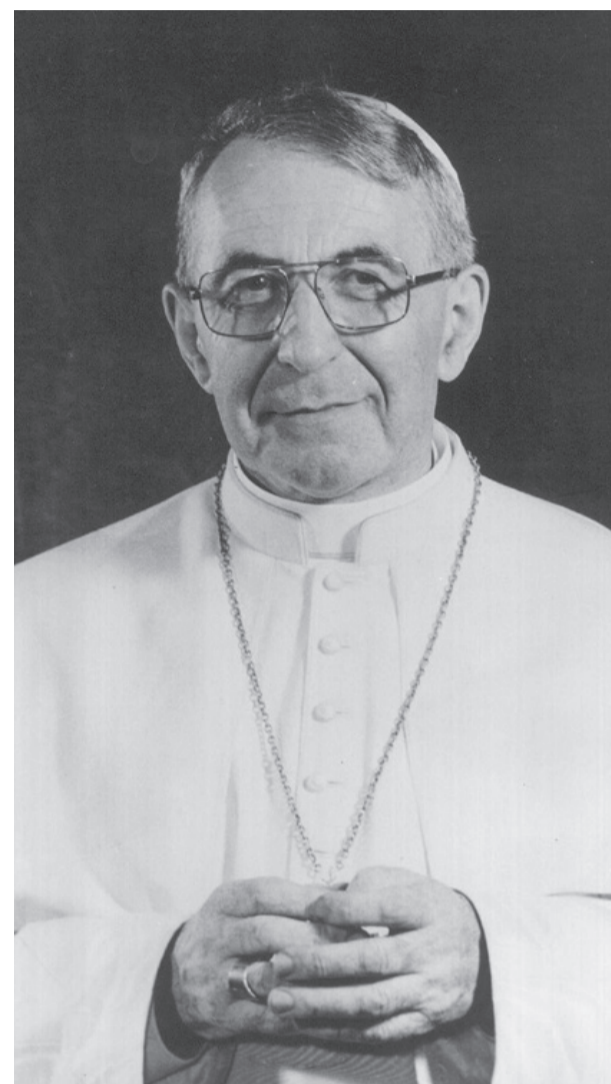
Director: Peter Berg

Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Kurt Russell, John Malkovich, Kate Hudson

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 107min

## this day in history



## 1978 CATHOLICS MOURN POPE'S DEATH

The leader of the Roman Catholic Church has died after the shortest papal reign in history.

Pope John Paul, the surprise candidate elected just 33 days ago, died of a heart attack while reading in bed.

The body of the "smiling pope", who charmed crowds with his easy manner, is lying in state in the Clementine Hall in the Vatican, and a growing throng of mourners are gathering to file past it.

The church's cardinals must now return to Rome to elect a new pope in the secret Sistine Chapel ballot.

Cardinal Albini Luciano was chosen to be Pope on 26 August after one of the shortest voting periods in the Vatican's history.

Despite his brief reign, the Italian son of a socialist stonemason had become very popular with Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

US President Jimmy Carter said Pope John Paul had "captured the imagination of his Church and the world" during his few weeks in office.

Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool Derek Warlock, who was in Rome when he heard the news on the radio, said there was a feeling of great grief for someone people had come to love so much.

"I don't think anyone could believe it - they kept repeating it over and over again - and Rome has been in great shock for the greater part of the day," he told the BBC.

The Church of England Archbishop of Canterbury, Donald Coggan, said he hoped the conclave of cardinals would choose a similar man to replace John Paul.

"There was so much about his character that appealed to many of us," he said.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Two weeks later the conclave elected the first Polish pope - Karol Wojtyla, who took the name John Paul II.

A whiff of conspiracy hung over the Vatican, and some Catholic groups called for a full investigation into the circumstances of John Paul I's death.

They believed the liberal, working-class pope was poisoned in a plot by the Papal See's traditionalist wing. But no post-mortem was carried out and an investigation was not held.

Allegations of an assassination re-surfaced 20 years later from Cardinal Aloisio Lorscheider - one of the dead Pope's closest allies - but the accusations never became generally accepted.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 It's all about communication today— and you are right in the thick of it all!

Taurus April 20-May 20 You're way out ahead of the pack — but try not to get too far out there!

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Try to check in with your people today — by any means necessary. Your energy is best spent in communication, and you should find that it's easier than ever to get your point across.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You're taking risks that you wouldn't have dreamed of just a few weeks or months ago — so have fun!

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You need to speak up today — you've got plenty of issues that need to be aired, and at least one hot idea that your people need to hear.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Your logical nature is helping you solve all sorts of problems today but it may alienate someone who is driven by emotion.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You are at the peak of your powers when it comes to romance or attracting other kinds of attention. It's one of those days when you're sure to find that the right people are looking your way.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Something small is all-important today — so make sure you're paying attention to all the little details.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 It's all up to you today — so make sure that you're ready for action! You are sure to make a real difference as you make your way through the day.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You can't seem to keep your mind on track, try as you might. You may be better off just rolling with it and tackling a million little problems as soon as the thought pops up.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Your brains make you more attractive than ever, so see if you can find a way to show off what you've got to the right people. Or person — this could be romantic just as much as professional.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 This is a great day to embrace the status quo — even if you're usually against it. Sometimes big changes are more trouble than they're worth, and that is true for you today for sure.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles categorized by difficulty: Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard.

WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION for various cities in China and the World.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Sporting blades; 6- Potala Palace site; 11- Monetary unit of Burma; 14- Totaled, as a bill; 15- Fertile area in a desert; 16- lsr. neighbor; 17- U-Haul competitor; 18- Move effortlessly; 19- Menu words; 20- Summits of buildings; 22- Metal spikes; 24- Disposed to love; 28- African fly; 29- Continues a subscription; 30- Born before, senior churchman; 32- Queens stadium; 33- Quizzes, trials; 35- Shamu, for one; 39- Singer Redding; 40- \_\_\_ be an honor; 41- Equipment; 42- Second start?; 43- \_\_\_ my case; 45- Bumpkin; 46- Like some checking accounts; 48- Equilibrium; 50- Evaluate; 53- Clothing; 54- \_\_\_ say more?; 55- Burning; 57- Make lace; 58- Some Art Deco works; 60- Allude; 65- The Altar; 66- Street show; 67- Hit back, perhaps; 68- Legal ending; 69- Closes; 70- Choir section;

DOWN: 1- Go astray; 2- Salary; 3- Finish; 4- Summer along the Seine; 5- Grief; 6- Company emblems; 7- One of two equal parts; 8- Warts and all; 9- Caesar of comedy; 10- In \_\_\_ (sort of); 11- Braid; 12- Shouts; 13- Degrade; 21- Evict; 23- Airmail letter; 24- Flaming felony; 25- Conductor Zubin; 26- \_\_\_ a million; 27- Argued; 28- NFL six-pointers; 30- Lauder of cosmetics; 31- Old Fords; 34- Irish homeland; 36- Put back into service; 37- Small house; 38- Give it \_\_\_; 43- Conditions; 44- Nicholas II was the last Russian one; 47- Willows; 49- del Fuego; 50- Architectural piers; 51- Singes; 52- Stiff bristles; 53- Ascends; 55- Big name in razors; 56- Sense; 59- Norma \_\_\_; 61- Long fish; 62- Blubber; 63- Green prefix; 64- ACLU concerns;

Yesterday's solution crossword puzzle grid with filled-in words.

Large crossword puzzle grid with numbers indicating starting points.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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**C**ANADA was not at its best. And it was still good enough.

Brad Marchand and Steven Stamkos scored in the first period and the Canadians cruised to a 3-1 win over Team Europe in Game 1 of the World Cup of Hockey finals yesterday [Macau time].

"You like things to be perfect every night, but it's just not real," Canada coach Mike Babcock said.

Game 2 of the best-of-three series is Thursday night.

"We have a feeling in there that this is far from over," said forward Frans Nielsen, who is from Denmark. "We know we can go out there and take a game, take the next one and make this a one-game series."

Patrice Bergeron's goal midway through the third period created a two-goal cushion.

Carey Price finished with 32 saves for the Canadians, who have won two straight Olympic gold medals and 15 consecutive best-on-best hockey games since losing to the U.S. at the 2010 Vancouver Games.

In most of those wins, they were much more dominant.

"We can be better, but ultimately we found a way to win," Sidney Crosby said.

Slovakia's Tomas Tatar scored his third goal in two games 7 minutes into the second period to get Europe within one.

Jaroslav Halak, who is also from Slovakia, stopped 35 shots for the unique team made up of eight European nations outside of the continent's traditional powers.

The Canadians were playing at home, but didn't seem to get much of an emotional boost in the Toronto Maple Leafs' arena, where there were a lot of

## ICE HOCKEY

# Canada beats Team Europe 3-1 in Game 1 of World Cup finals



Canada's Steven Stamkos (91) celebrates his goal against Europe goalie Jaroslav Halak (41) with teammates Drew Doughty (8), Ryan Getzlaf and John Tavares (20) during the first period of Game 1 of the World Cup of Hockey finals

empty seats and suites.

The NHL and NHL Players' Association combined to revive the event, which hasn't been held since 2004, with a twist. They created Team Europe and Team North America, a squad made up of players 23 and younger from the U.S. and Canada.

The format created a highly competitive eight-team field, but as Babcock said earlier in the day, "The World Cup is

great. It's not the Olympics. Let's not get confused."

There was no confusion about who had more talent on the ice yesterday, but Europe got off to a strong start and put pressure on a star-studded squad that has been behind just twice in five games and for a little more than a minute each time against the U.S. and Russia.

"We made it a game where we can take confidence into the

fact that we can win against Team Canada, but it has to be perfect," Europe coach Ralph Krueger said.

Price had to make three saves and face a power play in the first 21 seconds of the game.

"They skated right by us on the first shift," Babcock said.

Shortly after failing to score on a power play, Europe turned the puck over and Bergeron carried it up the middle of the ice.

He faded to the right and passed across the crease to set up Marchand's fourth goal of the tournament 2:33 into the game. The Boston Bruins teammates have been playing on a line with Crosby, the star center for the Pittsburgh Penguins.

Another Bruin, Zdeno Chara, was careless with the puck later in the opening period and it was costly. Ryan Getzlaf snatched the puck from Chara near center ice along the boards and faked a shot at the top of the left circle, leading to a tap-in goal for Stamkos on the right side of the net.

"A couple of mistakes on our part cost us two goals," Europe's Anze Kopitar said.

Crosby's second assist of the night and his World Cup-high ninth point helped Canada to a 3-1 lead. He shot the puck on the left side of the net, got to the carom and circled back to set up Bergeron in front of the net.

The Canadians didn't relax with the lead, attacking on offense and backchecking on defense to prevent Europe from having hope of coming back even when it pulled Halak late in the game.

"We didn't play our game in the first two periods. It was a little sloppy," Stamkos said. "But in the third period, game was on the line, we played the majority of the game in their end." AP

## FOOTBALL

# Ronaldo and Zidane at peace, but Madrid still not winning

Tales Azzoni, Madrid

**R**EAL Madrid solved one of its problems during its trip to Germany in the Champions League: Cristiano Ronaldo made peace with coach Zinedine Zidane.

Now it needs to find a way to start winning again.

The 2-2 draw at Borussia Dortmund yesterday was the third consecutive for Madrid in all competitions, raising questions about the team's potential to repeat as Champions League champion, and to end a four-year title drought in the Spanish league.

"I am frustrated," Zidane said. "We played a good

game in attack and defense and it was a great effort from everyone. We played the game we wanted. At the end, the same [draw] again, it's the third match. I'm frustrated for the players because it's undeserved."

Dortmund's equalizer came in the 87th minute, when Madrid appeared in control.

One of the positives that came out of the result was that Zidane got a much warmer handshake from Ronaldo, who created a bit of turmoil after going on a little rant because of his substitution in the league setback at Las Palmas on Saturday. He didn't even

look at Zidane while reaching for the coach's extended hand on the sidelines.

After scoring Madrid's first goal in Dortmund, he immediately pointed to the bench and rushed to celebrate with his teammates. He also exchanged a moment with Zidane, apparently trying to erase doubts about any problems in their relationship.

Ronaldo and his teammates have been struggling to put together the type of top-notch performances that led them to the European final last season, failing to capitalize on scoring opportunities and being unable to put games away.

"We need one more goal.

When you are only one goal in front, things like this can happen," Zidane said. "We are in a slump but we will keep working, and we will change things soon."

Madrid's first draw was at home against Villarreal, and then it tied Las Palmas after conceding a late goal. In its Champions League opener against Sporting Lisbon, it was losing until the 89th when it rallied to win.

Madrid remains unbeaten, and is in decent shape both in the Champions League and La Liga, but new setbacks could start putting Zidane's team in a difficult position in both



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates scoring the opening goal with Real Madrid's head coach Zinedine Zidane during the Champions League group F soccer match

competitions. Madrid is tied with Dortmund atop Group F with four points from two matches. It leads the league after six games, one point ahead of Barcelona.

Madrid's next chance to snap its winless streak is on Sunday in La Liga against Eibar at Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

"Even though we've drawn the last two games in the league, we don't want to keep playing badly," Madrid midfielder James Rodriguez said. "On Sunday, we have to go out looking for a win."

All three draws came against teams with yellow uniforms. Eibar's colors are blue and purple. AP

opinion

Girl About Globe

Linda Kennedy



A TRAINER NO-BRAINER

I have two left feet. They came in a box, from Adidas.

This formed part of the hassle involved in the purchase of trainers. Did you know there are trainers for gym? And trainers for running? And they're like cardio chalk and cheese? "You don't wear running trainers for 'gym classes'", said an assistant, using a tone which verbally italicized her dismay. "They're 'completely different'."

Hong Kong is a city which apparently has many more runners than gym-goers, and its stock of trainers reflects that ratio. This is known, as I have toured the trainer merchants. Seven stores turned me, a gym-goer, away, saying they only stocked trainers for running. On I went. There should be special trainers for buying trainers.

I want to challenge the market share assigned to these types of trainers. Are there more people who go running than to the gym in Hong Kong? Where? The pavements are always packed, and senior ladies walk at geological pace. And before you think: "they mean on the treadmill" – they don't. These were outdoor road running shoes.

And how can there not be enough gym-goers to justify a wider selection of cross-trainers (the posh word for gym shoes)? Apparently four out of 100 people are members of gyms in Hong Kong – and they are often all in my Body Combat class. This is not as high as other cities, but it's surely enough to justify a greater supply of gym trainers.

And truly, is there really a difference? The alleged distinction between trainers was explained to me in contrasting ways. "These will leave marks on the floor," said one assistant, of the running shoes. It seemed rude to purchase them and scar the honeyed wood in the studio at my gym.

Another retailer said it was to do with arch support. The salesgirl next door said a cross-training sole allowed you to move sideways without falling over. The shoe "was multi-directional."

The lack of consistency makes me question any difference at all. Are cross-trainers distinguished from running trainers because they lead to a different receipt for Adidas, Nike et al?

It turns out there are also shoes for tennis, basketball, baseball, softball – and even table tennis. (I had to investigate this. AllAboutTableTennis, a website, doesn't recommend the wearing of other shoes because "they are not designed for the rigours of modern table tennis". Ping pong rigours? Who knew?)

Beyond fitness, this all raises the issue of niche products. Like blusher. (Yes, it's a leap, but you're wearing the right trainers to land softly.) Can one use that on the lips? Or does the cosmetic have to be labeled appropriately, as lipstick? And cleaning products. I get nervous scrubbing the bathroom with something branded 'Kitchen Cleaner.' Might the bathroom get confused? Could it grow a hob and utensils?

Maybe I shouldn't complain. Trainers have played a role in feminism, busting the myth women outlay more on shoes than blokes. Men actually spend more, courtesy of the appeal of the trainer, according to a market research study by Mintel. The gender shoe gap has closed. It's a start.

Meantime, I'm planning a shoe mash-up. People who favour different forms of fitness will blind-test trainers. Will they lose their grip? Will shoes get high marks or leave marks? The mere prospect puts a spring in my step.

As for the two left feet, I thought those were maybe specialist trainers for people who were bad dancers. Adidas showing a sense of humour? But no. It was a mistake by the assistant, who put the 'display left' in with the 'new left'.

THE CHINA'S WANDA GROUP IN TALKS TO BUY DICK CLARK PRODUCTIONS

China's Dalian Wanda Group is in talks to buy Dick Clark Productions, the TV company that produces the Golden Globes and the "Miss America" pageant.

The deal could be worth USD1 billion, according to The Wall Street Journal, citing unnamed sources with knowledge of the situation. Wanda did not return a request for comment.

Eldridge Group, which owns Dick Clark Produc-

tions, said in a statement that the TV company agreed to enter into exclusive talks with Wanda. If the deal gets finalized, it would be the latest U.S. entertainment deal for the Chinese company which owns property, cinema and sports holdings.

In September it said it would partner with Sony Pictures to make big-budget movies. It owns AMC Theaters and bought Legendary Entertainment for \$3.5 billion in January.

Up to eight inmates fight in Philippine prison, one Chinese killed



Workers carry the body of high profile inmate Tony Co after he was killed allegedly in a prison riot inside the national penitentiary

Up to eight inmates fought at the Philippine national penitentiary yesterday, leaving a high-profile Chinese drug lord dead and four other inmates injured, officials said. The melee occurred amid a congressional investigation into the drug trade within the facility.

Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II said a riot broke out after an inmate reprimanded three Chinese drug convicts who were using methamphetamine.

He identified the dead as Tony Co. He said Co and two other injured Chinese convicts are among the biggest drug traders in the country. Also injured was Jaybee Sebastian, a prison leader being asked by officials to testify in the congressional investigation against Senator Leila de Lima.

De Lima, a former justice secretary, has said Sebastian was a tipster who gave her department information that led to a 2014 raid of the penitentiary. The raid exposed how high-profile convic-

Tony Co [the victim] and two other injured Chinese convicts are among the biggest drug traders in the country

ts lived in air-conditioned villas equipped with hot tubs and disco lights. Guns, counting machines, cellphones and other gadgets were confiscated.

As former head of the Commission on Human Rights, De Lima earned Duterte's ire for investigating his alleged links to death squads in southern Davao City, where was mayor. She also recently led a Senate investigation into Duterte's anti-drug war that has left more than 3,000 suspected drug pushers and users dead.

Duterte has accused De Lima of collecting money from the illegal drugs trade operated by drug lords from the penitentiary – a charge de Lima calls "lies."

Bureau of Corrections director Rolando Asuncion says the seven to eight inmates involved in the riot are from two rival gangs. The violence ended quickly and occurred in a contained area separate from the larger inmate population. He said it's not clear what kind of injuries the victims sustained but an ice pick and other materials were confiscated.

De Lima expressed doubts yesterday that what happened was a real riot, saying the prisoners involved were those who refused to testify against her. AP

Japan PM promotes Shinkansen 'bullet' train to Singapore

JAPANESE Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has used a meeting with his Singaporean counterpart to promote Japan's Shinkansen "bullet" train technology for use in a planned high-speed railway linking Singapore and Malaysia.

Abe, serving as top salesman for Shinkansen trains, held talks yesterday with Lee Hsien Loong at the state guest house – a venue for top-level hospitality – instead of the usual Prime Mi-

nister's Office. Japan is bidding for a planned railway linking Singapore and the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur.

Lee spoke highly of the Shinkansen's safety record and reliability, saying it stands in "good stead" in the upcoming bidding.

The two leaders also agreed to cooperate in promptly putting the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal into effect. The two countries are part of the 12-nation effort. AP



Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong (left), smiles to his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe

Station	Air quality
Roadside	75-105 Bad
High Density Residential Area	75-105 Bad
Ambient	75-105 Bad

WORLD BRIEFS

INDIA-PAKISTAN Pakistan's defense minister says its nuclear-armed rival India will "disintegrate" when Kashmir gains independence. Khawaja Muhammad Asif said yesterday that Pakistan will continue to extend moral support to the people of the disputed Himalayan region, which is claimed in its entirety by both countries.



SYRIA Secretary of State John Kerry is threatening to cut off all contacts with Moscow over Syria, unless Russian and Syrian government attacks on Aleppo end. The State Department says Kerry issued the ultimatum in a telephone call yesterday to Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

ISRAEL yesterday mourned the death of Shimon Peres, a former president and prime minister whose life story mirrored that of the Jewish state. More on p13

LIBYA A powerful Libyan general whose forces recently captured several key oil facilities has rejected a U.N.-brokered government and said the country would be better served by a leader with "high-level military experience."



SERBIA A government official says the Balkan country will seek more funds from the European Union for its efforts to curb the influx of migrants trying to reach the bloc.

EU nations pressed ahead with plans to boost military cooperation as Britain vowed to oppose the creation of an EU army or headquarters. With Britain leaving the EU, France and Germany have been spearheading moves to boost Europe's capacity to run its own security operations.