



### LOW EXECUTION RATE

Lawmakers criticized the low execution rates of many projects included in the annual government budget

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### CROWN PULLS STAFF OUT OF CHINA

Crown and other Australian casino firms pulled staff out of China following several detentions made by Chinese authorities

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### VETERANS' PROTESTS POSE TEST FOR LEADERS

P10 CHINA

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## WORLD BRIEFS



**UAE** The Philippines ambassador to the United Arab Emirates says a wanted man named by President Rodrigo Duterte as a major drug kingpin has been arrested in the Arab country's capital. Ambassador Constancio Vingno Jr. told yesterday that Rolando "Kerwin" Espinosa Jr. was arrested Sunday night in an apartment in Abu Dhabi.



**PHILIPPINES-CHINA** The new Philippine president is making a state visit to China in a charm offensive that will help define how far he wants to shift allegiance from treaty ally the U.S. to an Asian superpower locked in a territorial standoff with his small, impoverished country. It's a high-stakes gamble for brash Duterte. [More on p12](#)



**THAILAND** A Thai woman accused of insulting the country's late king is forced to kneel before his portrait at a police station on the tourist island of Samui as several hundred people bay for an apology. [More on p13](#)

**KOREAS** North Korea says it wants Britain to pull out of upcoming military exercises in South Korea, calling the drills a "hostile act." Britain has announced that it will send fighter jets and support planes to Asia, and that it will take part in exercises in South Korea together with South Korean and U.S. forces in early November.

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## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY BACK TO WORK

# 'Bilingual talents' are top concern after Li's visit

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# Lobbyists against growing Chinese influence in Hollywood

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## CRIME

# Woman lied to police to avoid paying loans to creditor

Julie Zhu

A 35-year-old female non-resident worker, who is from Guangdong province, faked a story about having been robbed, which she told to the police force in order to avoid payments to her creditors, the Judiciary Police (PJ) disclosed yesterday during a press conference.

According to the police report, the suspect, who was a cashier at a local supermarket, reported her fake story to the Public Security Police Force (PSP) October 11 and was later taken into custody after the police found out she was lying.

The suspect, surnamed Mo, originally reported to the PSP that, on the night of October 11, she had been robbed by a male stranger close to the Outer Harbor. A PSP officer happened to pass by the scene, where he immediately asked the woman about the incident.

She told the officer that a man had just taken her wallet, rob-

bing her of MOP7,500 as well as of her mainland identity card. During a short investigation while in the presence of the lady, the officer began to doubt the story because some of the details provided did not match with the crime scene. Noticing that the woman looked relatively panicked, the officer asked for further details.

The suspect then confessed to the police that she had faked the robbery story. According to the PJ statement, the suspect had lost all her money while gambling in a middle-sized casino located at ZAPE prior to the reporting time.

When she was walking out of the casino, a man approached her offering to loan her money. Mo then borrowed MOP100,000 from the man and went inside to gamble again. The man did not leave the woman's side while she gambled. Mo lost all of the borrowed money.

After losing the money, and knowing that the loaner was

next to her, she went out of the casino and noticed a police officer nearby. Taking the opportunity, she faked the robbery story. Mo thought that by reporting to the police, she would not need to pay the money back. The police are still investigating the man who allegedly lent the money to Mo.

Separately, the police also disclosed a case of a Hong Kong man in his twenties charged with the crime of aggravated assault for attacking a police officer.

The incident took place Oc-

tober 16 when the suspect was taken to the police station for investigation. The Hong Kong resident, while being investigated, shouted in the police station and cursed the officer who was conducting the investigation.

The suspect reportedly punched the police officer, which caused injury to the officer's left eye. He was then taken into custody. During his time behind bars, the suspect continuously kicked the door of his room until it became damaged.

## MAINLAND SIBLINGS CAUGHT STEALING TOGETHER

**TWO MAINLAND** siblings were caught by police while stealing together, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) revealed. The duo, surnamed Yang, consists of a female and her younger brother, aged 52 and 49 years old, respectively. They were caught last Sunday at Largo da Sé. The police noticed the duo consistently observ-

ing pedestrians and then throwing handbags into a trash bin. The police officers followed the duo to another street and noticed them throwing more bags into bins again. The police approached the siblings to question them, upon which they confessed to having stolen the aforementioned bags a few days prior.

## STATISTICS

## Direct investment flows plunge

**I**NWARD direct investment flows declined by 66.7 percent year-on-year to MOP9.1 billion in 2015, according to information released yesterday by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). The plunge was mainly due to a negative inward flow (- MOP6 billion) in the gaming sector, as profits dropped and the amount of dividends paid exceeded the profits made in the year.

On the other hand, inflows of direct investment were recorded in banks and securities (MOP7.8 billion), wholesale and retail (MOP3.9 billion) and construction (MOP2.4 billion).

Analyzed by country/territory of usual residence of direct investors, inward direct investment flows came mainly from mainland China (MOP7.4 billion), Hong Kong (MOP3.2 billion) and the British Virgin Islands (MOP2.8 billion), however the Cayman Islands registered a negative inflow (- MOP6.5 billion).

According to DSEC, in 2015 inward direct investment income dropped by 39.8 percent year-on-year to MOP 51.5 billion. Income earned by gaming enterprises (MOP30.1 billion) and wholesale and retail (MOP6.4 billion) decreased by 47.5 percent and 30 percent respectively, while that in banks and securities (MOP10.8 billion) rose by 17.8 percent.

At the end of 2015, stock of inward direct investment of Macau reached MOP231.8 billion, up by five percent year-on-year. Analyzed by industry, inward direct investment stock in gaming decreased by 4.8 percent to MOP123.3 billion, with 49.5 percent coming from the Cayman Islands. Banks and securities had MOP 46.5 billion (+22.9 percent), of which capital from mainland China accounted for 60.7 percent.

## TOURISM

# CDG sets example of promoting culture at airports

In one of the sessions of the Global Tourism Economy Forum, which ended on Sunday, a representative from Charles de Gaulle (CDG) Airport highlighted the importance of showcasing the region's culture in its airport, as it is both the first and last impression of the visitors.

Laure Baume, executive vice president

### 33 MILLION TOURISTS BY 2025

**MGTO AIMS** to reach its goal of at least 33 million tourists visiting Macau by 2025, with 15 percent of them traveling from abroad. Thus, to move forward and achieve this goal, the region is looking at other tourist destinations for suggestions. Helena de Senna Fernandes, head of MGTO said: "In the future we have to draw on the successful experiences of other foreign tourist destinations. This kind of forum [GTEF] will bring Macau more opportunities."

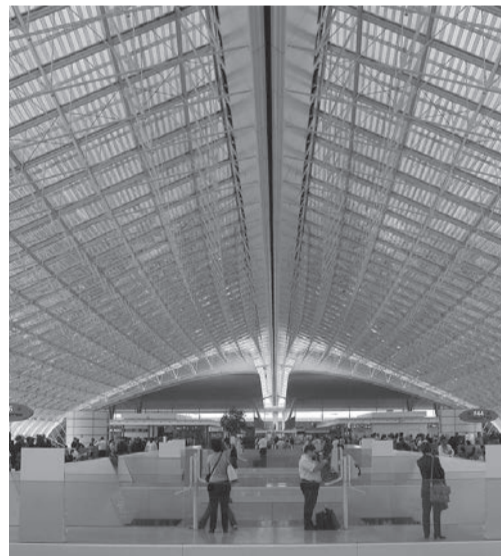
and chief customer officer of Groupe ADP Paris, recalled that CDG as the second largest airport in Europe hosts some 60 million passengers heading to more than 300 destinations globally.

Thus, Baume highlighted that all airports in France aim to offer passengers a condensed version of the 'Parisian feel' in terms of arts, culture and shopping.

According to her, the very best of Paris is showcased through partnerships with Parisian museums to disclose pieces of French heritage and by inviting the young French generation of artists to showcase their creativeness in all terminals.

CDG Airport currently has a museum in terminal two, with free entry for passengers.

"In this museum, you have new exhibitions every six months [...] while waiting for your plane you can enjoy the very best of French culture," she remarked.



Charles de Gaulle airport

As part of the Parisian identity and culture, Baume said that all French fashion brands are located in all the terminals of the largest airport in Paris, adding that they have also opened restaurants, run by Michelin-starred chefs, for passengers to have a taste of French cuisine.

"We wanted to be a place where passengers can really experience the taste of Parisian culture through exhibition, fashion and gastronomy," she concluded. **LV**

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Lynzy Valles

GLOBAL TOURISM ECONOMY FORUM

# Growing demand for 'fresh' tourism offers

AS the demand for global tourism continues to grow, urban areas tend to develop in response to the needs of the growing number of incoming tourists.

During a session of the Global Tourism Economy Forum (GTEF), which concluded on Sunday, a group of panelists discussed how urban tourism consumption is shaping the region's tourism offers.

In particular, the panelists discussed how a variety of fresh attractions, cultural objectives and new landmarks are attracting visitors, and also pointed out the important role that managers of tourist locations should play in ensuring that urban, tourism-related developments do not contribute to the deterioration of the city's environment.

Roger Carter, member of the World Tourism Cities Federation's expert committee, spoke about how the demand for leisure travel is expected to bring swift growth in urban tourism, which will result in both economic benefits and a reputation boost for cities.

Some of the advantages of the increasing tourism include urban regeneration and production of better services, amenities and events.

However, he stressed that



such advantages would also put pressure on urban tourism resources, mentioning that travelers nowadays look for "unique, authentic experiences."

To be an effective travel destination, the panelists shared that the attraction should have some heritage value, along with a complex infrastructure. The panel agreed that governments have a vital part to play in ensuring a city fulfils these requirements.

"Conservation [...] makes more cities much more cons-

cious of the value of their heritage and culture, and willingness to invest in those visitors as well as for residents," said Carter in his opening speech.

Meanwhile, the panelists also discussed how the urban tourism market has become more dynamic and changed in terms of its demographic and behavioral characteristics.

Helena Egan, director of Industry Relations of Trip Advisor, revealed that according to their survey results from 40,000 consumers in 73 different markets and regions, 70 percent of the participants do not know where to travel.

"That's a tremendous opportunity for the cities to highlight what's best in a destination," Egan remarked.

She added that 60 percent are looking for new experiences, noting that one can no longer rely on the fact that friendly locals and key landmarks are what visitors are seeking.

According to Egan, Australian and Indian travelers deem the minute details such as having

a kettle in a hotel room as important.

She also revealed that one third of the Japanese, one fifth of Chinese and a quarter of Italian travelers choose a destination based on what they have seen on either a movie, documentary or TV series.

Egan also stated her belief that opportunities for the consumption changes and revolution is massive. However she questioned the likelihood of consumers spreading positive word of mouth as visitors' brand loyalty is also diminishing.

"They need everything now, it

needs to be fresh, needs to work and it needs to be quick. And if it isn't, the frustration will influence their experience. They share the experiences really fast," she said.

Another panelist, Hu Zhimin, vice president of China International Travel Service, highlighted that one of the most tremendous consumption changes for the Chinese outbound tourists is the convenience to use mobile internet, as more of them are completing payments through their phones.

"Travelers have a lot of resources and care about the internet facilities of [the] destination. And we hope destinations have these facilities to meet all the needs," he explained.

Further, the panel stressed the importance of providing a wide variety of elements such as accommodation, transport and F&B offerings in cities, in a bid to offer a diversified and complex experience.

## FLIGHTS BETWEEN MACAU AND YANGON UNDER CONSIDERATION

**DURING THE GTEF**, the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam met with representatives of tourism departments from Myanmar, Hungary, Zimbabwe and France. The secretary exchanged opinions with the representatives regarding both educational and tourism cooperation. While talking to U

Ohn Maung, Minister of Hotels and Tourism of Myanmar, Tam mentioned the possibility of future direct flights between Macau and Yangon. The Myanmar minister suggested the opening of direct flights between the two cities in order to make it convenient for people from both cities to enjoy each other's culture.

AD



Photo of previous cast member

## at The Parisian Macao

### Question for readers:

When is Thriller Live coming to the newly-built The Parisian Macao?

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

### Tickets-Giveaway

Six 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 MOP480 for a total prize value of MOP5,760.



THRILLER LIVE, a stunning theatrical concert created to commemorate arguably the world's greatest ever entertainer, Michael Jackson, is coming to the newly-built The Parisian Theatre from Sept. 30 to Nov. 13, 2016 for a limited season. It will be the first show held at the 1,200-seat theatre at The Parisian Macao which officially opens Sept. 13, 2016 as the newest addition to Sands Resorts Cotai Strip Macao. Tickets for THRILLER LIVE go on sale NOW and are available at all Cotai Ticketing box offices.

Direct from London's West End where it is now in its eighth year, the constantly evolving show, which has

been performed over 5,000 shows and seen by over 4 million people in more than 30 countries continues to moonwalk around the world and is now finally in Macao. A 90-minute, high-energy explosion of pop, rock, soul and disco takes the audience on a magical audio-visual journey through Michael Jackson's astonishing 45-year musical legacy. We challenge you to stay in your seat!

As well as experiencing his legendary live performance and innovative dance routines, fans can expect to hear their favourite Jackson songs perfectly rendered by the exceptionally talented cast, including I Want You Back, ABC, Man in the Mirror, Black Or White, The Way You Make Me Feel, Smooth Criminal, Beat It, Billie Jean, Dirty Diana, Bad, They Don't Care About Us, Dangerous, Thriller and many more.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PLENARY

# AL return dominated by Li's visit, training of bilingual staff

Renato Marques

**C**HINESE Premier Li Keqiang's visit last week to the region and the measures announced by him during the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the Forum Macau dominated the discussions held during yesterday's inaugural session of the Legislative Assembly's (AL) legislative year.

The first topic raised during the return of the lawmakers to the assembly regarded the promotion of Macau as a tourism and business platform between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries. A primary concern relating to this issue is the limited "number of bilingual (Chinese-Portuguese) talents" available to carry out the much needed new functions. The topic was launched right at the start of the session by lawmaker Zheng Anting, who asked the government to review the legal framework related with the finance industry, relating that factor with the need to strengthen relations with Portuguese speaking countries.

"In order to achieve this goal of securing the stability and safety of the finance system and to provide support to both Portuguese and Chinese companies, I urge the government to improve, as soon as possible, the regulations and laws related with the finance industry and to go ahead with



Mak Soi Kun talked about the 'gifts' brought by Li Keqiang's visit

the studies and plans about complementary measures to be adopted," said Zheng in his spoken enquiry.

Zheng's words are reminiscent of those expressed by Secretary Lionel Leong on a previous occasion. The latter had mentioned that the development of a finance industry should be evaluated by a good law framework.

In order to create such a platform, Zheng suggested reinforcing the education and training of "bilingual talents" in the field of finance so that they would be able to provide services to both individual clients and companies, adding that only such an initiative could "promote the use of the Chinese Yuan (RMB) in Portuguese-speaking countries and develop the role of Macau as platform."

Mak Soi Kun inquired if Macau is ready "to receive

the gifts that Premier Li offered the region." In the lawmaker's opinion the local government should "valorize these generous gifts offered by the country and take advantage of the opportunities of the development of China."

Mak cited figures of a study

**For historical reasons the teaching of the Portuguese language in Macau was never generalized.**

CHAN HONG

conducted by a local association about the development and competitiveness of Macau youngsters, which revealed that less than 10 percent possess some Portuguese language skills. "This can be a serious problem!" said Mak. "If we can't respond positively to these 'gifts' we might lose them."

On the topic, Chan Hong, who is also vice principal of Hou Kong Middle School, mentioned that "for historical reasons the teaching of the Portuguese language in Macau was never generalized and after the handover the language has been decreasingly used by the population." Hong drew a dark panorama for the use of Portuguese in the territory, citing results of a study from 2014 which mentioned "that the use rate of the Portuguese language ranges between 0.4 and 0.9 percent."

ON THE LAWMAKERS' AGENDA

**POLITICAL REFORM** Ng Kuok Cheong once more placed political reform and the path to the election of the Chief Executive (CE) by universal suffrage on the agenda. The lawmaker urged the government to present a concrete time frame for the development of the territory's political system towards democratization. Ng called for the fulfillment of the promise of the CE to develop the political system by starting to change the number of seats at the AL occupied by directly elected legislators. Ng reminded the government "a political system needs to respect public opinion and fulfill the residents' wishes in this area," calling for universal suffrage in Macau or as he mentioned - a 1 person 1 vote system.

**68 DAYS OFF** Kwan Tsui Hang called on the government to establish an effective system in which all workers in both the public and private sectors are guaranteed access to the 68 days of annual rest (including weekly days off, annual leave and mandatory holidays). According to the lawmaker, the private sector does not follow the government's way of compensation of the mandatory holidays that fall on the workers' rest days, which strips them of the right enshrined in the labor law. Kwan urges the government to review the law to add specifically this aspect in order to grant fairness of treatment to all workers in Macau.

**HUMAN RESOURCES** Ella Lei highlighted the topic regarding the number of non-resident workers (TNR) once more. The legislator stated: "In a moment in which the economy is retracting and there are less work positions, reducing the number of TNR to safeguard the priority of employment of the local workers is the legal principle as well as the most direct way to grant their livelihood." Lei expects the government to deal with the issue in a positive way and to present measures to reduce the number of TNR in the policy address for the coming year.

## 2015 government budget gathers critics on execution rates

**T**HE low execution rates of many projects included in the annual government budget were once more criticized by some lawmakers. The Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, was at the AL to present the annual result of the 2015 budget execution. Leong had to hear some criticism regarding the execution rates of many of the budgeted projects.

Mak Soi Kun, who was very active during yesterday's session, was the first to criticize the execution of some of the projects, saying that it "looks like the

execution rate was very low in some aspects that are most directly related with the life of the population (...) there are many projects in which the execution rate is of zero [percent]."

"In the sector of public works there are 58 projects in which the implementation was zero. In the area of legal affairs, nine [with the same result and another] four in the area of security," Mak enumerated.

In reply, Lionel Leong said: "We also share the same concerns about this. It is true that there are many zeros and we

have sent letters to the departments regarding this [issue]."

According to the secretary, the departments responsible for such projects will soon provide information regarding those results that could be discussed further by the AL committees.

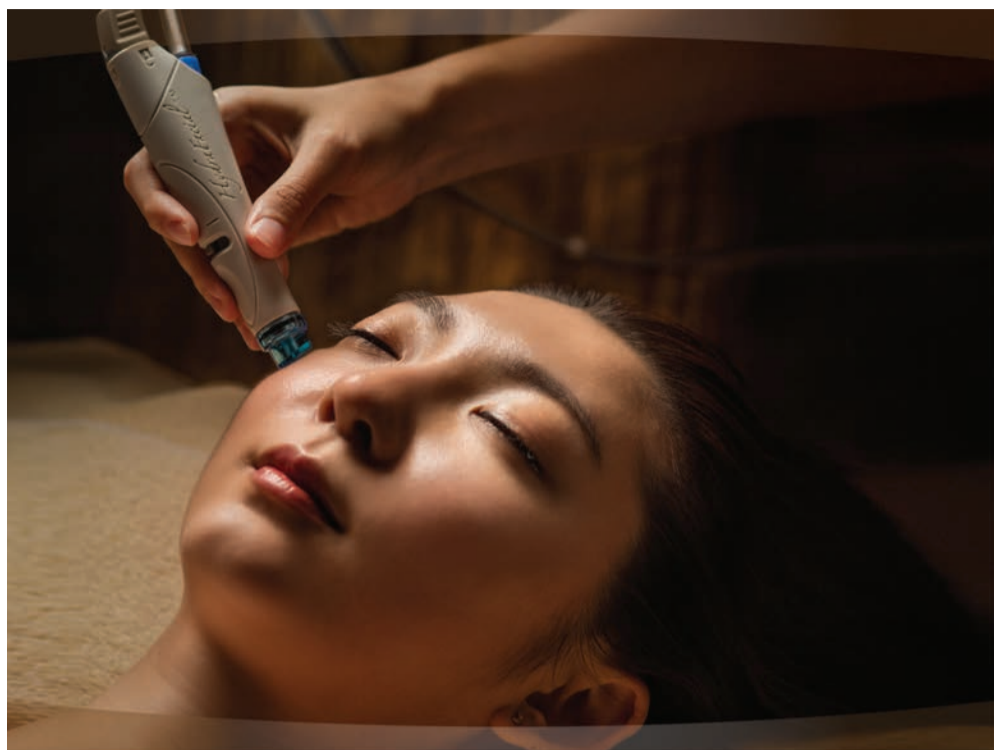
Zheng Anting and Ng Kuok Cheong also highlighted the issue of poor execution of the budget, with Cheong calling on the need for a mechanism to follow-up on these matters and especially for the "big projects" that in his opinion should pass to a prior approval by the AL.



Lionel Leong (center)

In general terms, the budget execution for 2015 highlighted ordinary incomes of almost MOP116.1 billion, which represented a reduction of 28.3 percent year-on-year. Regarding

the expenses and the execution of the budget, the ordinary expenses reached a total of MOP 80.8 billion in 2015, which represents an execution rate of 85.9 percent. **RM**



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**opinion**

David Fickling

**MACAU CASINO OPERATORS NEED NOT FEAR CROWN ARRESTS**

When Australia sneezes, does Macau catch a cold? The territory's casino stocks have certainly taken fright at Chinese authorities' detention of 18 employees of Australian gambling company Crown Resorts - shares in Sands China and Wynn Macau dropped.

It's understandable that the news has alarmed the industry. The Australian Financial Review quoted China's foreign ministry as saying that the employees were being held in connection with gambling crimes.

Marketing of gambling services - an essential element in attracting VIP clients, the high-rollers who make up a significant slice of Asian casino revenues - is illegal in mainland China.

As a result, much of the industry operates in a gray area, winning new customers by advertising their non-gaming attractions instead, or allowing junket operators to act as middlemen.

That's actually a good reason for the Macau operators to take heart. Right now, there are two main threats to their VIP businesses -- the shortage of regulated gaming tables being granted by the territory's government, and competition from less regulated resorts operating offshore.

There's not a lot Macau's casinos can do about government regulators, but casinos catering to Chinese high-rollers in Australia, the Philippines, Korea, Saipan and elsewhere in the region may be more tractable.

Being distant from China, and newcomers in a market that's already dominated by Macau's big six casino operators, they face an uphill struggle to establish themselves. Hence the presence of marketing offices on the mainland, in spite of the risks.

A crackdown on such offices is essentially a crackdown on Macau's competitors. That's an old lesson of gambling - more often than not, your opponents' losses are your gains. **Bloomberg**

**Australian casino staff detained in Chinese gambling probe**

Gerry Shih, Rod McGuirk

A senior executive of Australia's largest casino operator and two other Australians have been detained in an investigation of suspected gambling crimes, the Chinese government said yesterday, in an apparent crackdown on overseas tours for high rollers.

The head of Crown Resorts Ltd.'s VIP International team, Jason O'Connor, is believed to be one of 18 Crown employees being questioned by Chinese authorities, the company said in a statement to the Australian Securities Exchange.

The Chinese foreign ministry said in a regular briefing that Australians have been detained in Shanghai for suspected involvement in gambling crimes, but did not provide further details.

Fairfax Media reported over the weekend that police took the three Australians, who were visiting China on business, and local Chinese employees based in several Chinese cities, including Beijing and Shanghai, away from



Crown casino in Melbourne

their homes late Thursday and detained them. O'Connor was among the Australians.

The raids were part of an apparent crackdown on the firm's operations to lure high-worth Chinese gamblers to its Australian casinos, Fairfax said.

Casino gambling is illegal on the mainland and Chinese law prohibits agents from organizing groups of

more than 10 Chinese citizens to gamble abroad. The crime is punishable by up to three years' imprisonment. The industry has been known to skirt the ban by touting destination packages.

Casino operators have sought to lure Chinese high-rollers who have avoided Macau since President Xi Jinping's ongoing corruption crackdown deters visits to the offshore enclave that is the only place in China where casinos are legal.

In 2015, police arrested 13 South Korean casino managers and 34 Chinese agents for selling packages with free tours, free hotels and sexual services.

Crown declined to say why O'Connor was in China. Crown, founded by billionaire James Packer, has said in recent financial disclosures its "International VIP" business segment has surged in recent years thanks to ramped up overseas marketing.

It was not clear whether any of the staff had been charged. Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade said it had been

notified yesterday by China of the detentions and said consular officials were arranging visits. The department said the Australians had legal representation.

Crown said it was supporting the Chinese and Australian families of the detained employees. Headquartered in Melbourne, Crown has gambling interests in Australia, Macau, Manila, Philippines, and London.

Crown shares fell 14 percent to close on Monday at AU\$11.15 (\$8.47), the biggest single-day decline in the company's history.

Grant Govertsen, a Macau-based analyst at Union Gaming, a gambling-focused investment bank and advisory firm, said such crackdowns are common in China.

"I think what people are losing sight of is the fact that these arrests happen all the time, several times a year with the Koreans, and it's been going on like that for years," Govertsen said. He said that the arrest of Australians "could represent a sea change, but it could also be business as usual." **AP**

**Crown pulls staff out of China**

AMONG the Crown employees detained is Jiang Ling, a Shanghai resident who has worked for the Australian company for more than five years and processes applications for high-rolling gamblers, according to her American husband, Jeff Sikkema. He hasn't been able to reach Jiang, a Chinese national, since she was taken and he's especially concerned about China's high conviction

rate. He emphasized Jiang has a purely administrative role. "She's not even in sales," Sikkema said by phone. "I don't understand why she was detained. There's nothing to hide."

Jiang's detention notice, seen by Bloomberg, shows she is being held by Shanghai police for alleged "gambling crimes." Her detention date is listed as Oct. 14 at 3:50 p.m.

In June last year, Chinese offi-

cial arrested 14 South Koreans, including employees of casino operators Paradise Co. and Grand Korea Leisure Co., for allegedly marketing to Chinese gamblers.

Those arrests and the detentions of the Crown staff highlight the delicate nature of working in China for an overseas casino operator.

Crown and other Australian casino firms pulled staff out of China over the weekend, said Jamie Soo, an analyst at Daiwa Capital Markets. While gambling advertising and collecting

gaming debts are illegal in China, they are "established practices" carried out by marketing teams, he said. Macau operators also pulled staff from China, Soo said, citing "ground checks" by Daiwa.

"They're all operating in a pretty gray area," said Theo Maas, a fund manager at Sydney-based Arnhem Investment Management. "You can't promote gambling in China directly, but obviously the ultimate goal is to get them to come and gamble with you. You can see where the

confusion lies." Packer has a net worth of USD4 billion. His privately held investment vehicle, Consolidated Press Holdings, owns 48 percent of Crown Resorts.

In recent months, Packer has retreated from Crown's day-to-day operations, stepping down as chairman in August 2015 to focus on the company's new projects, which include a casino being developed in Las Vegas and the Sydney hotel for high rollers. He quit as a Crown director later that year. **Bloomberg**

**corporate bits**

**KIM WOO BIN TO APPEAR FOR THE FIRST TIME AT THE VENETIAN**



Meeting "Spot Light" in Macau" event.

As his first fan-meeting event in the region, the show will present Kim's acting and singing talents. The Korean star will also play games and hold a unique interactive performance for fans to get to know him better.

Kim began modeling professionally during Seoul Fashion Week in 2008 before launching his acting career in 2011 when he appeared in the Korean TV show 'Drama Special White Christmas.'

Korean model and actor Kim Woo Bin is set to appear for the first time at The Venetian Macao's Cotai Arena this coming Saturday, for his "2016 - 2017 Kim Woo Bin Fan-

**STUDIO CITY CELEBRATES ONE-MILLIONTH VISITOR RIDER ON GOLDEN REEL**



The first figure-8 and Asia's highest Ferris wheel - Golden Reel at Studio City - has hit its first major milestone by welcoming its one-millionth visitor on Saturday.

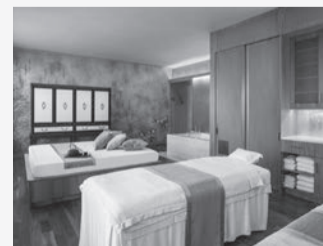
The visitor was a part of a family from Hong Kong, who

was delighted and welcomed by a group of entertainers and presented with a giant gold ticket granting a lifetime of unlimited rides on the Golden Reel and a weekend VIP retreat for the family.

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"The Aficionado program is our distinctive approach to offering one-of-a-kind experiences that are designed exclusively for our guests," said Paul Cunningham, GM of Operations at The St. Regis Macao.

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RED STAR OVER HOLLYWOOD

# 'Dr. Evil' says China wants movies

Anousha Sakoui, David McLaughlin

**T**HE billboard towers over Sunset Boulevard, a marionette's hand, a la "The Godfather" posters of decades ago, pulling the strings in Hollywood. It poses an unsettling question: "China's Red Puppet?"

The sign is the work of Rick Berman, a lobbyist on a mission against - as he has framed it - "the communist takeover of our movies." The target, in this instance, is Dalian Wanda Group Co., owner of the second-biggest U.S. cinema chain and Legendary Entertainment, co-producer of "The Hangover." And whose founder, billionaire Wang Jianlin, was in Los Angeles yesterday to host an event in a city whose best-known industry has embraced him.

The entertainment business may welcome the invasion of money from Wanda and other Chinese companies, but Berman sees danger. These investors are gaining power that, in his view, will be wielded to influence public opinion and tailor films to the liking of the rulers of the world's most populous nation.

"If everything continues on the current trajectory, you will never see a Chinese villain in the movies," he said by phone from his public affairs firm Berman & Co. in Washington. He's known there for his hardball tactics on behalf of the food, alcohol, tobacco and energy industries, and earned the nickname Dr. Evil for his lobbying work against labor unions.

Berman's campaign to heighten government scrutiny of the security risks of Chinese stakes in the entertainment business has captured the attention of some in Congress. It's creating buzz and a bit of alarm in an industry that is keen for access to China's massive box-office market and increasingly reliant on backing from its companies.

"China is the biggest exter-

nal investor, probably with the exception of Wall Street, that Hollywood has ever seen," said Robert Cain, a consultant and partner at Pacific Bridge Pictures.

A rarity in the business, Cain said there is something to worry about in China's grab for the so-called soft power of cultural and economic influence. "I've been a beneficiary of Chinese investment myself and have been very happy with the investors I've worked with," but as for those who believe the Chinese are just interested in making money, "that is a very naive and even a dangerous attitude."

Others dismiss Berman as a fear-monger. Janet Yang, a producer whose credits include "The People vs. Larry Flynt," said it seemed less than coincidental that the issue was being raised in an election year in which Donald Trump has attacked China in particular and globalization in general.

"We are not making widgets," said Yang, whose parents were born in China. "We are making things that require incredibly deft and nuanced storytelling, and audiences are not going to put up with anything that reeks of propaganda."

Studio executives either declined to comment or didn't respond to calls and e-mails. The Motion Picture Association of America and Wanda declined to comment.

The Chinese have been spreading big money around the industry since 2012, when Wanda bought cinema operator AMC Entertainment. Several recent blockbusters - including "Mission Impossible - Rogue Nation" and "Terminator Genisys" - were partly financed by Chinese companies.

"AMC Theatres is an American company run entirely by its American management team from its headquarters near Kansas City, where AMC has been located for

**If everything continues on the current trajectory, you will never see a Chinese villain in the movies.**

RICK BERMAN  
LOBBYIST

all of its nearly 100-year history," AMC said in a statement. "Wanda does not participate in any of the day-to-day running of AMC, nor does Wanda make any decisions related to which films play in AMC Theatres. Wanda has been a terrific shareholder for AMC, providing capital support necessary to enable AMC to dramatically renovate our movie theaters around the country."

One of the newest studios, 2-year-old STX Entertainment, got its start with help from the Chinese private-equity firm Hony Capital and has raised millions in deals with Huayi Brothers Media Corp. and Tencent Holdings Ltd. Last week, Alibaba Pictures Group Ltd. said it was buying a stake in Amblin Partners, the production outfit backed by Steven Spielberg.

Wanda has been the busiest. Founded by Wang - a former officer in the People's Liberation Army - the conglomerate bought Legendary in January and has a deal to make movies with Sony Corp.'s film unit. AMC plans to purchase Carmike Cinemas Inc. Wanda's in talks to acquire a controlling stake in Dick Clark Productions. And Wang has said he'd like to control one of Hollywood's six major studios. He promoted his company's Qingdao Movie Metropolis, a complex under construction on China's eastern



coast, at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art yesterday.

"I don't think that Wanda is buying all these movie interests because they are trying to corner the buttered popcorn market," Berman said. "These guys have a different agenda." Berman runs his save-Hollywood mission out of a nonprofit called the Center for American Security with a budget of USD400,000, some of it his own money and some from donors he declined to identify, describing them as "national security hawks." He set up a website - chinaownsus.com - to showcase his arguments.

One video on the site shows the scene from "A Clockwork Orange" where Malcolm McDowell is forced to watch films with his eyes painfully propped open, to suggest Beijing could decide what movies U.S. audiences see. Another intimates that the script for "The Martian" was altered to include a pro-Chinese storyline. The Matt Damon film, it turns out, was true to the novel, in which the Chinese space program helped rescue a stranded American astronaut.

U.S. studios frankly need Chinese access as much as they do Chinese money, and rely on partnerships to distribute in that country, where regulations put sharp restrictions on foreign films. Because the market in China has such potential, Hollywood self-censors, no prodding needed, said Stanley Rosen, a University of Southern California professor who studies the relationship between China and the U.S. industry.

"When they make a film, they will make sure it has friendly China elements, and certainly no unfriendly elements," he said. "It doesn't matter who owns the company."

Studios sometimes make different versions of movies for theaters in China, where anything for public consumption has to pass the tough muster of the Film Bureau, an arm of the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television. "Cloud Atlas" from Warner Bros. went to cinemas there without sex scenes in 2013. Walt Disney Co. put out a special "Iron Man 3" that year with Chinese actors and bonus footage.

Pacific Bridge's Cain, who con-

sults for U.S. studios on how to do business in China, said it will be the absence of certain kinds of films that will be evidence of the detrimental effect of Chinese investments in Hollywood. "Who wants to be the person who got themselves blacklisted in China because they made a film about the Dalai Lama?" he said, referring to the spiritual leader of the Tibetan people who has lived in exile since China annexed Tibet.

Entertainment is hardly the only U.S. industry attracting Chinese capital. There was more than \$18 billion in direct investment from that country in the first half of 2016, according to Rhodium Group, more than the total for all of 2015.

U.S. companies with China-based parents run the gamut, from Smithfield Foods Inc. to New York's landmark Waldorf Astoria Hotel. Those were both examined by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, a panel known as CFIUS that reviews foreign acquisitions of U.S. companies.

Now, thanks to Berman, the Government Accountability Office is looking into whether the scope of CFIUS should be formally expanded, in light of what 18 members of Congress called the "serious security questions" raised by Wanda's shopping spree. The lawmakers in a Sept. 15 letter asked the GAO to study whether CFIUS's examinations should include a focus on propaganda and control of media and other soft-power institutions.

Wang told CNN on Sept. 28 that the two Democrats and 16 Republicans who signed the letter were "over-worried."

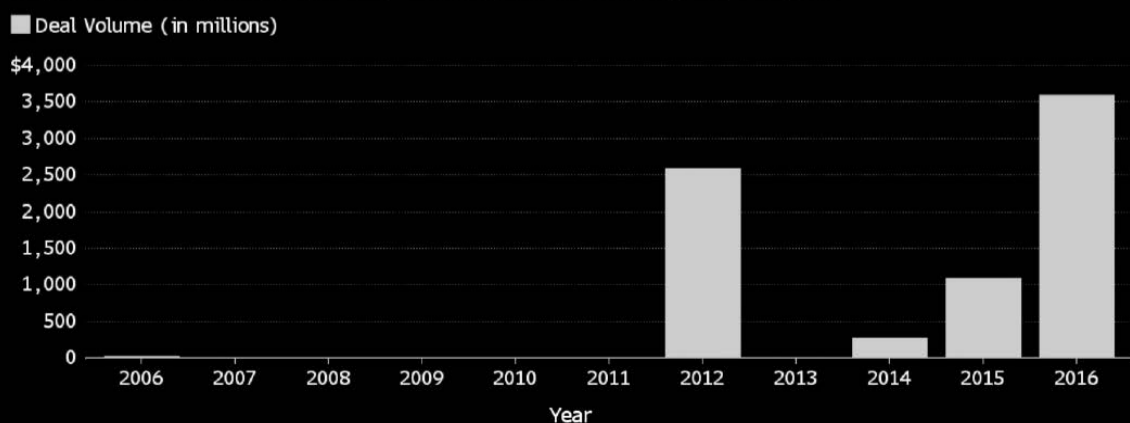
Lawyers at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld cautioned clients in a note last month that the GAO review indicated the panel may increase its study of entertainment deals. "You can't ignore it as a potential problem," said John Burke, head of the firm's entertainment practice.

It may be just a matter of time, and money, said Nova Daly, a senior policy adviser at Wiley Rein in Washington. "There could in theory be a point where enough investment by companies from only one country like China in the industry starts to raise eyebrows."

**Bloomberg**

## China's Hollywood Clout

Chinese investment in the U.S. entertainment industry has soared



Source: Rhodium Group

Bloomberg

# Veterans' protests for pensions pose test for leaders

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

**F**OR Yu Shuiping and other Chinese veterans, the country they served has yet to show its gratitude.

Fed up with paltry pensions and benefits, they're taking to the streets, hoping to shame the government into recognizing what they say is its obligation to those who battled in harsh conditions along the country's borders.

While largely peaceful, the sporadic protests amplify concerns over labor unrest and threaten to undermine rank-and-file support for Communist Party leader Xi Jinping's campaign to modernize the world's largest-standing military by attracting better qualified and more highly motivated soldiers.

"We support the party and the government, and we don't oppose the party or hate society," Yu said in a phone interview from his home in the central province of Hunan. "We just want better treatment." Yu has for years been petitioning the government for more benefits, although he declined to discuss the specifics of his efforts.

Activist Huang Qi, who tracks unrest in China, estimates that veterans have staged as many as 50 protests this year, highlighted by a demonstration last week outside the Defense Ministry in central Beijing, where such actions are extremely rare.

Surrounded by police and plain-clothes officers, roughly 1,000 veterans from across the country, many dressed in their old uniforms, sang and marched for hours before being taken away in buses.

Behind the heavy security response lies the specter of street action by laid-off workers that has long haunted China's communist leaders, obsessed with preserving social stability at all costs. Following a wave of worker protests in the early 2000s, Chi-



Protesters in green fatigues gather outside the Chinese Ministry of National Defense to protest in Beijing

na faces a new round of cuts in coal mines, steel mills and other state firms, throwing millions of workers on the scrapheap.

Such veterans' protests go back decades and are now facilitated by adept use of social media. The government censors information about them and veterans are highly reluctant to discuss their plight with foreign media for fear of being accused of disloyalty.

Thus far, however, their actions have borne little fruit. According to most accounts, the central government's response has been to fob them off on local authorities, who then fail to act on their complaints.

The authorities work to ensure some veterans are satisfied, thus keeping them from forming a united front, said Neil Diamant, a professor of Asian law and society at Dickinson College in Pennsylvania, who studies the veterans' issues.

They also arrest emerging veterans' leaders, infiltrate the groups and monitor their communications, detaining large numbers if necessary, he said.

"So far, this has allowed them to muddle through. My guess is

that they just wait them out, hoping that age will eventually prevent many from becoming overly feisty," Diamant said.

Veterans also lack high-level contacts or powerful advocates, while the wars they fought in have never been particularly popular. Their status in society doesn't come close to matching the prestige the ruling Communist Party bestows on them, and most Chinese are more likely to sympathize with causes such as pollution and corruption that affect their daily lives.

Their appearances outside government offices are met with a firm though non-confrontational response from the security forces, who in Beijing tend to load them onto buses and drive them to the outskirts of the city where they are detained until agents from their local governments arrive to take them home.

"Having served in the army and taken part in war, we hope only that the government not treat us harshly," said Yu, who added he did not take part in the recent protest in Beijing.

In a written response to a question from The Associated

Press, the Defense Ministry said resolving veterans' concerns were taken very seriously and that a new set of policies were being rolled out to address them at the local level.

"The temporary living difficulties of a portion of retired soldiers will gradually be resolved," the ministry said.

For the military, the immediate priority is finding work for the 300,000 soldiers being cut under an order issued last year by Xi. While demobilized soldiers used to be given jobs in state companies, that possibility no longer exists. And with

**■ For the military, the priority is finding work for the 300,000 soldiers being cut under an order issued last year by Xi**

a slowing economy and tightening job market, there's no certainty that the private sector will be able to absorb them in such numbers.

While reemployment poses its own challenges, for older veterans such as Yu, pensions and benefits are the main concern.

Despite operating the world's largest standing army, with 2.3 million personnel, China doesn't have a central government body to handle veterans' affairs, such as the U.S. Veteran's Administration. Instead, cash-strapped local government offices are responsible for their welfare, and treatment varies widely across the country.

While the government requires that their incomes be marginally higher than the average in their home regions, that's often not the case, especially in the countryside where most veterans live and are provided as little as 400 yuan (USD60) per month, according to Yu. Urban dwellers suffer from a huge disparity depending on where they live, ranging from a token amount to something closer to the local average income, he said.

Given the lack of centralized information, it's difficult to tell how many veterans are now receiving pensions, including those who fought in the 1950-53 Korean War, the 1962 border war with India and the 1979 invasion of Vietnam.

The localized and scatter-shot nature of the system also precludes any unified figure on what the government spends on veterans. Meanwhile, China's fast-growing defense budget hit \$146 billion this year, making it the world's second largest after the United States, and includes significant expenditures on welfare for troops currently serving.

In the military's quest for excellence, shoddy treatment of veterans could harm efforts to attract the best recruits. That's part of the reason protesting veterans aren't harshly treated, said Gao Wenqian, senior policy adviser for Human Rights in China, which has been monitoring the protests.

"Stable morale among the military is one of (Xi's) biggest concerns," Gao said. **AP**

## Indonesia prosecutors seek prison for Chinese Uighur accused of plot

**I**NDONESIAN prosecutors yesterday demanded an eight-year prison term for a Chinese Uighur accused of involvement in plots to attack Jakarta's ethnic Chinese governor and minority Shiite Muslims.

In a sentencing request, prosecutors said

Nur Muhammet Abdullah, known as Ali, was guilty of violating Indonesia's Anti-Terror Law. State Prosecutor Ika Salim said leniency was considered after Abdullah expressed remorse and cooperative with authorities.

The verdict in his case is scheduled to be deli-

vered next month.

Prosecutors say Abdullah was preparing to be a suicide bomber and had given USD2,000 to a militant group under the guidance of Bahrun Naim, an Indonesian fighting with the Islamic State group in Syria.

Abdullah, 30, was arrested in December on

the outskirts of the capital with another militant, Arif Hidayatullah.

Police found a suicide bombing vest, explosive materials and a map of a government building they planned to attack.

Hidayatullah was sentenced on Oct. 3 to six years in prison for plotting to assassinate

Indonesian officials, including Jakarta's governor, who is an ethnic Chinese Christian, and Shiite Muslims during holidays at the end of 2015.

Last year, four men believed to be members of China's ethnic Uighur minority were sentenced by an Indonesian

court to six years in prison for conspiring with Indonesian militants.

The men were arrested while trying to meet Abu Wardah Santoso, who at the time was Indonesia's most-wanted extremist. He was killed by security forces in a shootout in July in Central Sulawesi province. **AP**

Nomaan Merchant, Beijing

# Doctors hail China's pledge to stop harvesting inmate organs

**S**URGEONS from around the world gathered at a conference in Beijing yesterday in China's latest effort to fight persistent skepticism about whether its hospitals have stopped performing transplants with the organs of executed prisoners.

Doctors from the World Health Organization and the Montreal-based Transplantation Society who were invited to the conference by China praised Chinese officials for reforms they have made in the transplant system, including a ban put in place last year on using organs from executed inmates.

Doubts persist that China is accurately reporting figures or meeting its pledge given its severe shortage of organ donors and China's long-standing black-market organ trade. By its own figures, China has one of the lowest rates of organ donation in the world, and even the system's advocates say it needs hundreds of additional hospitals and doctors.

While China suppresses most discussions about human rights, government officials and state media have publicly talked about their commitment to ending a practice opposed by doctors and human rights groups due to fears that it promotes executions and coercion.

In a sign of the issue's symbolic importance to China, the conference took place in an ornate, chandeliered ballroom inside the Great Hall of the People, the building next to Tiananmen Square that typically hosts foreign leaders and



A tea hostess prepare for the 2016 China International Organ Donation Conference held at a ornate, chandeliered ballroom in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing

ceremonial Communist Party events.

Doctors at the conference Monday described meeting patients and visiting hospitals around the country, and said the recorded usage of drugs given to transplant patients lined up with China's reported numbers of transplants.

Dr. Jose Nunez, an adviser on organ transplants to the World Health Organization, told the audience that he believed Chi-

na was building the "next great" system.

"You are taking this country to a leading position within the transplantation world," he said.

Others offered praise for Chinese officials, but stopped short of saying whether they could confirm China had stopped using executed inmates' organs.

"It's not a matter for us to prove to you that it's zero," said Dr. Francis Delmonico, a longtime surgeon and a professor at Har-

vard Medical School. "It's a matter for the government to fulfill what is the law, just as it is in the other countries of the world that we go to."

China is believed to perform more executions than any other country, though the government does not disclose how many.

The former vice minister of health, Dr. Huang Jiefu, publicly acknowledged in 2005 that China harvested executed

inmates' organs for transplant, and a paper he co-authored six years later reported that as many as 90 percent of Chinese transplant surgeries using organs from dead people came from those put to death.

Huang has also responded to a report earlier this year that a Canadian patient apparently received a kidney from an executed inmate by announcing that the doctor and the hospital in question were suspended from performing more transplants.

A key impediment is that members of a donor's immediate family have the right to veto any transplant once the person is dead. There is also a traditional aversion to the removal of body parts from the dead and a fear that donated organs could be exploited for monetary gain.

Dr. Philip O'Connell, the immediate past president of the Transplantation Society, told reporters later that he would work with doctors supporting reform in any country.

"The options are that you completely isolate someone, which means that generally their practices get compounded, or you engage with them and you tell them your point of view and explain why it would be better for them to change," O'Connell said. "That is, I think in the simple terms, what we're doing." AP

## GREAT LEAP UPWARD

# Longest crewed space mission yet

**T**WO Chinese astronauts began the country's longest crewed space mission yet yesterday, blasting off on a spacecraft for a 30-day stay on an experimental space station as China steadfastly navigates its way to becoming a space superpower.

Ahead of the launch, one astronaut shouted: "We are ready! Please give instructions!" in front of dozens of people dressed in colorful dress representing China's ethnic minorities, in footage shown prominently on Chinese TV. The commander-in-chief of the manned space program, Gen. Zhang Youxia, replied: "Proceed!" followed by blaring marching music as the astronauts boarded a bus to take them to the launch pad.

China, Russia and the

United States are the only countries that have independently launched humans into space, and while the others have more experience in manned space travel, China's military-backed program has made methodical progress in comparatively short time.

The launch is China's sixth manned mission, the previous longest being about two weeks.

For this mission, the astronauts will dock their spacecraft with the Tiangong 2 station within two days, conduct experiments in medicine and space-related technologies, and test systems and processes in preparation for the launching of the station's core module in 2018. A fully functioning space station is on course to begin operating six years

from now and slated to run for at least a decade.

The Shenzhou 11 space capsule blasted off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center on the edge of the Gobi Desert in northern China at 7:30 a.m. (2330 GMT) aboard a Long March-2F carrier rocket.

Zhang declared the launch a success 16 minutes later. Defense Minister Fan Changlong then read a congratulatory message from President Xi Jinping calling for China's astronauts to explore space "more deeply and more broadly."

Since China conducted its first crewed space mission in 2003, it has staged a spacewalk and landed its Yutu rover on the moon. The Tiangong, or "Heavenly Palace," space stations are consi-

dered stepping stones to a mission to send a rover to Mars by the end of the decade. Administrators suggest a crewed landing on the moon may also be in the program's future.

The Shenzhou 11 astronauts are Jing Haipeng, who is flying his third mission, and 37-year-old Chen Dong.

"It is any astronaut's dream and pursuit to be able to perform many space missions," Jing, who turns 50 during his time in space, told a briefing Sunday.

China was excluded from the International Space Station mainly due to U.S. concerns over the Chinese space program's strongly military character. Chinese officials are now looking to internationalize their own program by offering to help finance



other countries' missions to Tiangong 2, which, at 60 tons when completed, would still be considerably smaller than the 420-ton ISS.

China's space program also opened a fourth spacecraft launch site at Wenchang on the island province of Hainan in June. It was inaugurated with the launch of the newly developed Long March 7 rocket that was hailed as a breakthrough in the use of

safer, more environmentally friendly fuels.

China is developing the Long March 5 heavy-lift rocket needed to launch the Tiangong 2's additional components and other massive payloads.

A source of enormous national pride, China's space program plans a total of 20 missions this year at a time when the U.S. and other countries' programs are seeking new roles. AP

Jim Gomez & Christopher Bodeen,  
Manila

FAQ

# Philippine president's China trip puts US ties to the test

**A**FTER lashing out at longtime ally America, the new Philippine president is making a state visit to China in a charm offensive that will help define how far he wants to shift allegiance from treaty ally the U.S. to an Asian superpower locked in a territorial standoff with his small, impoverished country.

It's a high-stakes gamble for brash President Rodrigo Duterte.

While he recalibrates Philippine relations with the world's big powers, his country's 65-year alliance with the United States — a key pillar of President Barack Obama's rebalance to Asia — hangs in the balance. China will likely move to regain lost ground in a Southeast Asian nation that won a major arbitration lawsuit against Beijing's massive territorial claims in the South China Sea just three months ago.

Below is a look at some of the issues surrounding Duterte's four-day visit to China that begins today and will include meetings with President Xi Jinping and other officials.

## WHY IS DUTERTE PURSUING A MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY SHIFT AND WHAT DOES HE WANT FROM CHINA?

Duterte's desire to chart a foreign policy independent of the United States apparently stems from a variety of reasons, including the history of American colonialism in the Philippines. He was also angered by a 2002 incident in which he accused FBI agents of spiriting out of the country an American blamed for a hotel room blast in Davao city, where Duterte served as longtime mayor. More recently, he has told Barack Obama "to go to hell" in a speech after the U.S. president criticized his deadly anti-drugs crackdown. He has declared plans to scale back engagements with U.S. forces whose presence, he said, has inflamed Muslim restiveness in the south and has failed to help uplift his country's anemic military.



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte

"I am not a fan of the Americans," he said last month.

Duterte wants to make progress on the South China Sea territorial dispute between the two countries and expand defense cooperation with China, which could be a new source of weapons for the Philippines.

## WILL DUTERTE RAISE THE THORNY SOUTH CHINA SEA DISPUTES IN CHINA?

Before embarking on his trip to Brunei and China, Duterte said the territorial conflicts would be taken up, including a July 12 decision by an international arbitration tribunal that invalidated China's claim, based on historical grounds, to virtually the entire South China Sea. While he pledged he would "not bargain" over Philippi-

ne sovereignty and stick to his country's claims, Duterte said "there will be no hard impositions."

In his outreach to China, Duterte says he primarily wants Filipino fishermen to regain access to Chinese-held Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea that both sides claim, and boost trade and investment after years of frigid relations. It's been suggested that he might seek China's assurance that it will halt any more island-building plans in disputed areas.

A few days before his state visit to China, the two sides still haven't agreed on proposed paragraphs concerning the disputes in a joint statement that may be issued at the end of Duterte's visit in Beijing, according to a Philippine official privy to efforts to draft the statement.

## WHAT IS THE US ATTITUDE TOWARD DUTERTE'S BOOSTING RELATIONS WITH WASHINGTON'S KEY ASIAN RIVAL?

The U.S. says it wants to see better relations between the Philippines and China, wary that any major downturn could harm regional stability and possibly force the Washington to take action under its 1951 mutual defense treaty with the Philippines. Yet, it doesn't wish for that to come at the expense of its relations with Manila, and a marked deterioration of ties would likely be viewed with alarm, since the Philippines remains a key part of the U.S. chain of alliances in Asia running from Japan and South Korea to Australia.

Any effort by Duterte to enhance defense ties with China will also likely unsettle the U.S. military if it feels the security of American military personnel and operations could be compromised.

Connections between the U.S. and the Philippines run deep, represented in their century-old relationship and the more than 3 million Americans of Filipino descent. Such links are likely to ensure that relations remain close, no matter what direction foreign policy takes under Duterte.

China's relations with its neighbors, meanwhile, often stagger from crisis to crisis, raising the possibility that the next dust-up over the South China Sea could result in new economic or diplomatic retaliatory measures from Beijing. In such a case, the U.S. will be likely standing by, eager to remind Manila of who its true friend is.

## WHAT DOES CHINA HOPE TO GET OUT OF THE VISIT AND ANY CHANGE OF COURSE BY DUTERTE?

While China has expressed openness to Duterte's efforts to boost trade and seek financing for railways and other infrastructure, it remains uncertain if China will back away from its longstanding South China Sea sovereignty claims, including at Scarborough, where the Chinese coast guard continues to block Filipino fishermen.

China would be expected to applaud any diminishing of U.S. influence among Asian nations since that creates more room for it to increase its economic, political and military influence. Beijing was caught off guard by the U.S. "pivot" to Asia — of which stronger ties with the Philippines was a key element — so a change of course by Manila serves Beijing's goal of negating Washington's bid to shore up its influence.

Beijing is also eager to consign the Hague arbitration panel's ruling to history and resume its approach of discussing territorial disputes on a bilateral basis with the countries concerned. The ruling bore the spirit of multilateralism that would reduce China's relative heft vis-a-vis the other claimant countries and brought the sort of outside intervention that Beijing has long condemned.

Finally, warmer ties with the Philippines might also provide opportunities for the Chinese economy, particularly the newly established Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank that Beijing has backed as an alternative to the Asian Development Bank, the International Monetary Fund and other global financial institutions. Chinese companies would move aggressively to snap up any major infrastructure projects that become available, especially road and rail construction. **AP**

VIETNAM

## Floods kill 24 as Typhoon Sarika looms

**FLOODS** triggered by heavy rains have killed 24 people and left four others missing in central Vietnam, disaster officials said Monday, as Typhoon Sarika approaches after leaving at least two people dead and displacing more than 150,000 in the Philippines.

In the worst-hit province of Quang Binh, 18 people died and authorities

are searching for three others who are missing, disaster official Tran Le Dang Hung said.

Six people died and one was reported missing in three other central provinces.

"We are worried. We have instructed district governments to outline plans for evacuating people from high-risk areas to cope with the Typhoon,"

Hung said by telephone from Quang Binh.

Heavy rains of up to 90 centimeters (3 feet) on Friday and Saturday submerged 125,000 homes in the region, temporarily disrupted the North-South Highway and damaged infrastructure, crops and fish farms.

Hung said the floods have receded in most areas in Quang Binh.

In the Philippines, fast-moving Sarika Typhoon blew out of the northern Philippines on Sunday after leaving at least two people dead and displacing more than 150,000, though the region was spared a major disaster due in part to the storm's speed.

The Typhoon is over in the South China Sea and was moving at the



speed of 15 kilometers to 20 kilometers per hour heading toward northern

Vietnam, according to Vietnam's national weather forecast center. **AP**

THAILAND

# Grief after king's death spills into anger



Umaporn Sarasat, 43, pays respects in front of a portrait of Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej in Koh Samui

Stephen Wright  
& Natnicha Chuwiruch, Bangkok

A Thai woman accused of insulting the country's late king was forced to kneel before his portrait at a police station on the tourist island of Samui as

several hundred people bayed for an apology.

The woman's arrest and public shaming over the weekend was the latest of several such incidents since King Bhumibol Adulyadej died last week after a reign of 70 years, plunging Thailand into intense mourning.

ning.

Two police officers led 43-year-old Umaporn Sarasat to a picture of Bhumibol in front of Bophut police station, where she knelt and prayed, both on the way into the station and the way out.

The crowd, some of whom

held aloft portraits of the revered monarch, jeered when she first appeared. A line of police officers linked arms to keep them from surging forward.

It is likely that Sarasat, a small business owner who is alleged to have posted disrespectful comments online, will face charges of insulting the monarchy.

"We are going to proceed with the case as best we can," district police chief Thewes Pleumsud told the crowd. "I understand your feelings. You came here out of loyalty to his majesty. Don't worry, I give you my word."

Authorities are also urging calm as social media throbs with criticism of people who aren't wearing black and white clothing to mourn the revered monarch and some arch-royalists take to reprimanding people in public.

A government spokesman said some Thais can't afford mourning clothes and stressed the need for tolerance. High-profile figures such as Bhumibol's eldest child, Princess Ubolratana, and a daughter of Thaksin Shinawatra, a former prime minister who lives in exile after being ousted in a 2006 coup, used social media to urge Thais not to rush to judgment.

There have been reports of price gouging as demand for such clothing has surged since Bhumibol's death on Thursday.

Tens of thousands of Thais have descended on the Grand Palace in Bangkok where Bhumibol's body is being kept, and a year of mourning has been declared by the government.

Several foreign governments have warned citizens traveling in Thailand to avoid behavior that could be interpreted as festive, disrespectful or disorderly.

On Friday, police and soldiers on the Thai resort island of Phuket dispersed a mob of several hundred people seeking a confrontation with a man they believed insulted the king.

A video showed the crowd blocking the road outside a soy milk shop and waving placards with slurs such as "buffalo," a slang word for stupidity. Some shouted for the man to come out.

Thailand has a draconian lese majeste law that imposes stiff prison sentences for actions or writings regarded as derogatory toward the monarch or his family.

The operator of Thailand's main cable TV network has blocked foreign news broadcasts deemed insensitive to the monarchy since Bhumibol's death.

Separately, Bhumibol's second daughter, Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, appeared yesterday at her first public event since the king's death. She was named a special ambassador for "Zero Hunger" for the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization to mark World Food Day. Although all official events have been canceled, the fact that Sirindhorn attended showed the importance she attached to the cause.

Sirindhorn's acceptance of the role "will greatly improve awareness of both policymakers and the public of what, collectively, we must do to achieve a world without hunger," said Kundhavi Kadiresan, the FAO's regional representative for Asia and the Pacific.

FAO estimates there are nearly 800 million undernourished people in the world. The Asia-Pacific region is home to most, with 490 million not receiving enough calories to live healthy lives. AP

JAPAN

# Panel begins to study emperor's possible abdication

EXPERTS on a government-commissioned panel held their first meeting yesterday to study how to accommodate Emperor Akihito's apparent abdication wish, in a country where he is not supposed to say anything political.

Unlike many European countries where abdication of kings and queens are relatively common, Japan's modern imperial law doesn't allow abdication, and Japan's postwar constitution stipulates the emperor as a mere "symbol" with no political power or say.

Allowing Akihito to abdicate would be a major change to the system, and

raises a series of legal and logistical questions, ranging from laws subject to change to the emperor's post-abdication role, his title and residence.

The six panel members — five academics and a business organization executive — are to compile a report early next year after interviewing specialists on the constitution, monarchy and history.

Akihito, 82, suggested his wish to abdicate in a rare video message to the public in August, citing his age and concern that he may not be able to fulfill his official duties. His message was subtle and the emperor did not use the word "abdication,"

because saying that openly could have violated his constitutional status.

Current law, set in 1947, largely inherits a 19th century constitution that banned abdication as a potential risk to political stability.

About 80 percent of the general public supports Akihito's abdication, saying he should be allowed to retire and enjoy life while he is still in good health. In addition to receiving foreign dignitaries, Akihito still travels across the country to attend ceremonies and has repeatedly visited disaster-hit areas to console survivors.

The government reportedly wants to allow

Akihito's abdication as an exception and enact a special law to avoid dealing with divisive issues such as possible female succession and lack of successors.

Akihito suggested in his public message a need to consider how to make the succession process smoother. He recalled the difficulties he faced when his father, Hirohito, died in 1989 while he was largely serving as a substitute. He said he doesn't wish to cling to his title if his responsibilities have to be severely reduced and he has to rely on a regent.

The abdication issue has also renewed concerns about aging and shorta-

ge of successors in the 2,000-year-old monarchy, reflecting the overall concern about Japan's declining and rapidly aging population.

Akihito and his wife, Michiko, have two sons — Crown Prince Naruhito and his younger brother, Akishino — as first and second in line to the Chrysanthemum throne. The couple has four grandchildren but only one — Akishino's son — is eligible to become emperor under Japan's male-only succession system.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said at the outset of the meeting Monday that he hopes the discussion is carried out thoroughly



Emperor Akihito

because it is "an extremely important issue that affects the basis of our country." AP

Bassem Mroue, Beirut

MIDDLE EAST

# Activists say Aleppo province airstrikes kill 36 people

**AIRSTRIKES** on rebel-held areas in the northern province of Aleppo yesterday killed at least 36 people, including children, opposition activists said, as violence in Syria continued while a major operation began against the Islamic State group in neighboring Iraq.

Most of the deaths were in the village of Oweijel just west of the city of Aleppo, where at least 23 people were killed in an airstrike that also wounded dozens, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. Another monitoring group, the Local Coordination Committees, said the air raid was carried out by Russian warplanes and put the death toll at 30.

More than a dozen people were also killed in a besieged eastern rebel-held neighborhood in Aleppo. The eastern parts of the city, Syria's largest, have been subjected in recent weeks to the worst aerial attacks in years. The airstrikes have claimed hundreds of lives, wounded many others and demolished entire buildings. Opposition activists have blamed Russian and Syrian government warplanes for the strikes.

The Observatory said the airstrikes hit in the Marjeh neighborhood. The Aleppo Media Center, an activist collective, said those killed included 11 people with the same family name of Qabs ranging from a month-and-a-half-old baby girl to a 25-year-old man.

Monday's airstrikes coincided with the launch in neighboring Iraq of a major operation by Iraqi and Kurdish forces, backed by the U.S.-led coalition,



Rescue workers trying to remove a boy stuck in the debris of a building in the neighborhood of Qaterji in rebel-held east Aleppo

to retake the city of Mosul from the Islamic State group. There have been concerns the government in Damascus could use the timing of the Mosul offensive to press its onslaught in Aleppo while world attention is diverted to developments in Iraq.

Also yesterday, Syrian state media claimed 49 rebels were killed and wounded in fighting in the neighborhoods of Sheikh Saeed and Shurfa on the southern edges of Aleppo.

In the nearby province of Idlib, a U.S.-led coalition drone struck a car in the provincial capital that carries the same name, killing all inside, according to the Observatory and a jihadi official. It was not immediate-

ly clear who was in the vehicle, but such attacks have previously targeted officials with al-Qaida's affiliate in Syria, known as Fatah al-Sham Front.

The Observatory said the attack targeted a faction commander. An official with Fatah al-Sham Front, formerly known as Nusra Front, said all those in the car were "martyred." The man, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media, said it was not clear if members of his group were targeted.

Earlier this month, a drone attack killed top al-Qaida official Ahmed Salama Mabrouk.

The United States and Britain on Sunday acknowledged the

Western world's weak support for any military action against Syria's government as they seek ways to pressure Syrian President Bashar Assad and his chief backer, Russia, to halt the deadly Aleppo offensive.

After a meeting of 11 governments opposing Assad's rule, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson each insisted that all options were on the table. But their stark explanations about the danger of resorting to military force appeared to rule out such a move.

The government in Damascus, meanwhile, appears to be trying to improve relations with Egypt, the Arab world's most populous nation, following the first public meeting between Egyptian and Syrian security chiefs.

**Those killed included 11 people with the same family name of Qabs ranging from a baby girl to a 25-year-old man**

Maj. Gen. Ali Mamlouk, head of the National Security Bureau and one of Assad's top aides, visited Cairo Sunday at the head of a delegation to coordinate with Egypt in the fight against "terrorism" in the region, Syria's state-run news agency SANA said.

SANA said the Syrians met with top intelligence officials, including deputy chief of Egypt's intelligence agency. It said both sides agreed on "coordinating political standpoints" and strengthening the "cooperation in fighting terrorism." Egypt's pro-government Sada al-Balad and other news websites reported on Sunday that six Syrians arrived on a private jet from Damascus.

Earlier this month, Egypt voted for rival French and Russian draft resolutions on Syria at the U.N. Security Council, arguing that both called for a truce and for aid for besieged Syrians in the rebel-held areas of the northern city of Aleppo.

The move angered Egypt's major financier Saudi Arabia, which supports rebels fighting against Assad's Moscow-backed government.

Egypt and Syria are both fighting extremists, including members of the Islamic State group. Both countries also have poor relations with Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. **AP**

## Lithuania wants Gorbachev to testify in war crimes trial



**A**Lithuanian court has called former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to testify in a mass trial related to the 1991 crackdown on the country's independence movement.

Gorbachev and Russian authorities haven't answered previous requests so it's unlikely he would comply with yesterday's request from the Vilnius district court.

The case involves more than 60 former Soviet officials charged with war crimes and other offenses for their roles in a crackdown on pro-independence demonstrators that left 14 people dead in January 1991, when Gorbachev was still in power.

The judges approved a request by one of the plaintiffs in the case to call Gorbachev to the court as a witness.

Only two defendants are present in court. Others, mainly citizens of Russia, Ukraine and Belarus, are being tried in absentia.

USA

## Clinton, Trump condemn Republican Party office firebombing

**A**UTHORITIES are investigating after a local Republican Party office in North Carolina was vandalized and set on fire in what a state GOP official called an act of "political terrorism."

A bottle filled with flammable liquid was thrown through the window of the Orange County Republican Party headquarters overnight, damaging the interior before burning out, according to a Sunday news release from the town of Hillsborough. The office was empty and no one was injured.

Also, someone spray-painted "Nazi Republicans leave town or else" on a nearby wall.

There were no new developments overnight in the investigation, Hillsborough Police Chief Duane Hampton said in an email yesterday.

The violent act in the key battleground state has been condemned by public figures across the political spectrum.

A tweet from Democratic presiden-

tial nominee Hillary Clinton said the attack "is horrific and unacceptable. Very grateful that everyone is safe." An hour later, Trump tweeted: "Animals representing Hillary Clinton and Dems in North Carolina just firebombed our office in Orange County because we are winning."

The North Carolina GOP tweeted thanks to both Clinton and Trump for their words of support.

In tweets of their own, North Carolina's Republican Gov. Pat McCrory and his Democratic challenger, state Attorney General Roy Cooper both described the violence as a threat to democracy.

"I will use every resource as governor to assist local authorities in this investigation," McCrory's added, and Cooper's said "the culprits must be caught and brought to justice."

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives was working with local investigators to solve the crime, which was discovered Sunday by another business owner.



A burnt couch is shown next to campaign signs at the Orange County Republican Headquarters in Hillsborough

Republican offices around the state are re-examining their security, state GOP executive director Dallas Woodhouse said. People sometimes work after-hours in the office, and the bottle appeared to have landed on or near the couch where volunteers sometimes take naps, he said.

"They are working around the clock. It is a miracle that nobody was killed," he said in an interview, calling the fire an act of "political terrorism." **AP**

# Amnesty: Nauru won't investigate crimes against refugees

**A**UTHORITIES failed to adequately investigate complaints of violent crimes committed against asylum seekers held at Australia's expense on the Pacific atoll nation of Nauru, Amnesty International said yesterday.

The London-based human rights group found in an investigation that it appeared that no Nauruan had been held to account despite allegations of dozens of sexual assaults and physical attacks from 1,159 asylum seekers and refugees who live among 10,000 local residents on the tiny island.

"According to confidential information provided to Amnesty International in September 2016, in the preceding two years there had not been a single prosecution involving refugees or asylum seekers as complainants in cases of assault, rape and theft," the report said.



Australia's Department of Immigration and Border Protection said the report repeated claims that had already been refuted. It said Amnesty International had failed to approach the Australian government to verify its allegations.

Australia attempts to deter

asylum seekers from Africa, the Middle East and Asia from trying to reach Australian shores by boat from Indonesian ports by sending them to immigration camps at Nauru or Papua New Guinea. Genuine refugees among them are told they will never be resettled in Australia.

The Guardian newspaper in August published more than 2,000 leaked incident reports from Nauru that included allegations of sexual abuse, assaults and self-harm among asylum seekers. The incidents were logged by the Save the Children charity between May 2013 and October last year.

Australian Federal Police Acting Deputy Commissioner Justine Saunders told a routine Senate inquiry on Monday that 14 of those incidents had been referred to Nauru police for investigation and one Nauruan had been charged with assault.

Nine investigations were closed due to insufficient evidence, one complaint was withdrawn and two investigations remained open, she said.

Australian Federal Police Commissioner Andrew Colvin told the same Senate committee he was confident Nauru police had the capability and

intent to properly investigate such incidents.

Immigration Department Secretary Michael Pezzullo visited Nauru last week and told the committee that three charges involving asylum-seeker victims were before the court. He did not detail those allegations.

Immigration Minister Peter Dutton said Australia is asking other countries to consider resettling asylum seekers from Nauru and Papua New Guinea, even if they are found not to be genuine refugees.

Amnesty International's report is based on research by senior director for research Anna Neistat, who traveled to Nauru in July for five days and met 58 refugees, asylum seekers and service providers.

The report criticized Australia's offshore processing system, saying it fit the definition of torture under international law. **AP**

AD

## SUNDAY TO THURSDAY 星期日~四



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## what's ON

## MEMBERS' ART WORKS EXHIBITION "TWOS AND THREES"

TIME: 11:30pm-6:30pm (Closed on Mondays and public holidays)

UNTIL: October 23, 2106

ADMISSION: Free

VENUE: Macao Lush Valley Creative Space, Calçada da Igreja de S. Lázaro, No. 25A and Rua de Sanches de Miranda, No.18 R/C

ENQUIRES: (853) 6288 0893

## FIMM: IN AN ITALIAN GARDEN – L'ACCADEMIA D'AMORE

TIME: 8pm

VENUE: Macao Cultural Centre Grand Auditorium

ADMISSION: MOP150, MOP200, MOP300, MOP400

ENQUIRES: (853) 8399 6699

## THRILLER LIVE

TIME: 8pm (Mondays, Tuesdays Wednesdays and Fridays)

2pm & 8pm (Saturdays)

1pm & 6pm (Sundays)

UNTIL: November 13, 2016

VENUE: The Parisian Theatre

ADMISSION: MOP180, MOP280, MOP480

ENQUIRES: (853) 2882 8818

## FORMER HOME OF REVOLUTIONARY LEADER YE TING

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (Except Wednesdays, open on public holidays)

VENUE: 76, Rua Almirante Costa Cabral

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRES: (853) 8399 6699

## MACAU GRAND PRIX MUSEUM &amp; WINE MUSEUM

TIME: 10am-8pm daily (Except Tuesdays)

VENUE: Rua Luis Gonzaga Gomes, 431, basement (Tourism Activities Centre-CAT)

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRES: (853) 8798 4108 / 2833 3000

## THE TRUMPET OF THE TIMES: POET F. HUA-LIN

TIME: 10am-6pm (No admission after 5:30pm, closed on Mondays, opened on public holidays)

UNTIL: November 13, 2016

ADMISSION: free

VENUE: Jao Tsung-I Academy, Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida, No. 95 C-D

ENQUIRES: (853) 2852 2523

## Offbeat

## MOBILE GAME REPLACES POKEMON CREATURES WITH CLINTON, TRUMP

While some voters may wish the presidential candidates would just go away, Dartmouth College has created an app for those who want to find them around every corner.

Two professors at the Ivy League college worked with developers to produce "HillaryDonald Go," their take on the popular "Pokemon Go" mobile phone app.

Instead of searching for Pokemon creatures, those playing the new augmented-reality game must find the nearest Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump "booth" and send their preferred candidate "good vibes" that allow them to grow in support.

Once a booth has received more than 50 percent of the "good vibes" from those who have discovered it, it takes on the face of that candidate. Players viewing the candidates will see them react with humorous expressions and hear them recite soundbites from the campaign trail.

The college says the game can be played in nearly 1 million locations in parks, libraries, monuments, cafes and other public places across the United States, as well as U.S. embassies around the world.

"Since the birth of democracy in ancient Greece, modern politics has been, in essence, a competitive game," said professor Mikhail Gronas, a specialist in digital humanities and Slavic studies who created the game with professor Joseph Bafumi, who specializes in American politics. "Games are often considered a less serious social activity; however, elections are some of our nation's most important political decisions and are very much game-like: we follow the scores or polls, and we root for our teams."

Gronas said perhaps the game can "inject some lighthearted competition into this election season, lessen the acrimony and allow us to take a brief break from the tensions of the campaign."

Bafumi said he hopes the game will engage more people in the political process. **AP**

## TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:45	RTPi Live
17:40	Precious Pearl (Repeated)
18:30	TDM Sport (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-Daily Portuguese News
21:10	TDM Interview
21:40	Once Upon A Time S1
22:10	Precious Pearl
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	RTPi Live
02:45	Champions League 2016/2017: Sporting - Borussia Dortmund (Live)
04:45	RTPi Live

## cinema

## CINETEATRO

13 OCT - 19 OCT

## CELL

ROOM 1

2.30, 4.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Tod Williams

Starring: John Cusack, Samuel L. Jackson, Isabelle Fuhrman

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 98min

## MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN

ROOM 1

7.15 pm

Director: Tim Burton

Starring: Eva Green, Asa Butterfield, Samuel L. Jackson

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 127min

## THE ACCOUNTANT

ROOM 2

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Gavin O'Connor

Starring: Ben Affleck, Anna Kendrick, J.K. Simmons

Language: Japanese (English and Cantonese)

Duration: 128min



## MR. RIGHT

ROOM 3

2.15, 5.50, 9.30 pm

Director: Paco Cabezas

Starring: Sam Rockwell, Anna Kendrick, Tim Roth

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 90min

## SADAKO VS KAYAKO

ROOM 3

4.00, 7.30 pm

Director: Koji Shiraishi

Starring: Mizuki Yamamoto, Tina Tamashiro, Masanobu Ando

Language: Japanese (English and Cantonese)

Duration: 98min

## MACAU TOWER

06 OCT - 19 OCT

## SNOWDEN

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Oliver Stone

Starring: Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Shailene Woodley, Melissa Leo

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 134min

## this day in history



## 1989 EAST GERMANY LEADER OUSTED

The Communist leader of East Germany, Erich Honecker, has been forced to step down as leader of the country.

After 18 years in power he will be replaced by Egon Krenz, currently the head of internal and external security for the Politburo.

The official reason for his departure is said to be "ill health" but failure to deal with the tide of discontentment sweeping the country and the party is thought to be the real reason.

Up to 120,000 people marched in Leipzig on Monday to protest against a lack of political reforms and thousands of people are continuing to leave the country in search of better opportunities.

The recent visit of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is also being seen as a contributing factor to the downfall of Mr Honecker.

The Soviet leader was highly critical of the East German leadership saying there was a need for people to feel involved with their country and to have their opinions taken seriously.

The placement of Mr Krenz is being seen by the opposition as a change of tactics rather than a change of direction.

The banned opposition movement New Forum said: "Krenz's appointment shows the Communist party has no intention of sharing power. Reform under him is unlikely."

Mr Krenz, who at 55 is the youngest member of the Politburo, has been groomed to take over for more than a decade by Mr Honecker. The news has so far received mixed reactions.

Student Steffi Muller, referring to the official announcement that "health reasons" were the cause for the departure said: "They were really referring to the health of the country - we were dying on our feet under Honecker."

Rainer Eppelmann, an East Berlin vicar said: "Krenz must show that he has the will to change things, and not only cosmetically." Mr Honecker was expected to retire next year, following the country's 40th anniversary celebrations.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

In November 1989, in a bid to bolster the political regime, the Berlin Wall, set up under the personal supervision of Erich Honecker, was torn down on the orders of Egon Krenz.

It was not enough to stop people leaving East Germany and on 3 October 1990 the two Germanys merged to form a new united country.

A new administration took over in the reunified Germany, led by Helmut Kohl.

In 1990 Mr Honecker was charged with high treason, abuses of power and corruption.

Proceedings against him were suspended, due to his ill health, and he was allowed to go into exile in Chile where he died in 1994.



YOUR STARS

Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

You may find that you're able to jump right on top of a new opportunity as soon as it arises. Things may start to get really chaotic, but that just means your preparation pays off even more!

Taurus

April 20-May 20

You're feeling quite stable — emotionally and in other ways. Now is the time to tackle that issue that has been plaguing you for quite some time. Things can get better if you take decisive action!

Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

You feel held back somehow — maybe you need to get a new perspective. Things are sure to look a lot different if you can take a few giant steps backward. It's the best way to get ahead!

Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Something big and unavoidable has popped up, leaving you unsure how to proceed. Try not to worry yourself too much — just get started and the correct path should reveal itself.

Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

What you lack in resources, you more than make up for in enthusiasm! Today your sheer willpower helps you make it through seemingly insurmountable obstacles. Enjoy the ride and keep smiling!

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Your love life needs a boost — and you've got just the right kind of energy to make it happen! Things are moving along at the right pace, but you can change the mood for the better with a single word.

Libra

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

You may feel unexpectedly down today — there may or may not be a reason, but in any case, you have to be true to your emotions. That doesn't mean you get to wallow, just that you have to be honest.

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

It's okay to be ambitious — especially with the kind of energy you've got bundled up inside today! You can make great progress as long as you don't take time to apologize for your desires.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Your sharp, direct way of speaking helps you cut through the minor-league problems others seem to be having socially. Just say what you really think and that should be all you need.

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Things are looking up today, and you may be able to get back to something really good if you push yourself. Good news is on its way if it hasn't arrived already, so brace yourself for something big.

Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

All you need to make it through today is a little self-discipline. Try not to worry about the problems you're facing; just push yourself to do the right thing and all will be well.

Pisces

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

A coworker helps you with a project that you've been dreading — and the help makes all the difference! You should be able to face the rest of the day with ease thanks to the morale boost.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

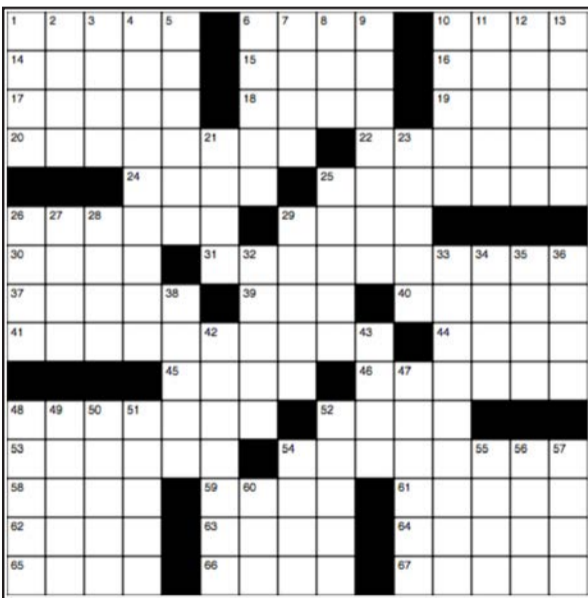
Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Rows for CHINA (Beijing, Harbin, etc.) and WORLD (Moscow, Frankfurt, etc.).

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Shut; 6- Cut of beef; 10- Mamie's predecessor; 14- Navigation acronym; 15- "Cast Away" setting; 16- Blues singer James; 17- Oxlike antelope; 18- Jazzy Fitzgerald; 19- At the drop of ...; 20- Forced high notes; 22- Seldom; 24- Belafonte bellow; 25- Cheapjack; 26- Remove the antlers; 29- Cancun coin; 30- Baseball family name; 31- The "E" of "E-mail"; 37- Connect with; 39- standstill; 40- Form of lyrical poem; 41- Appraisal; 44- Steven Chu's cabinet dept.; 45- Knocks lightly; 46- Collar; 48- Plastering tools; 52- One of the Baldwins; 53- Sharp reply; 54- Hermits; 58- Are you ... out?; 59- ... Rhythm; 61- Animated; 62- Vichyssoise ingredient; 63- Vegas gas; 64- Private student; 65- Discounted by; 66- Anarchist Goldman; 67- Edit;

DOWN: 1- Musical staff sign; 2- "Damn Yankees" character; 3- Like the Sabin vaccine; 4- Without doubt; 5- Make beloved; 6- Misdread; 7- 1952 Winter Olympics site; 8- Off one's feed; 9- Most proximate; 10- Facial hair; 11- Lucy's landlady; 12- Stagnant; 13- Nymph chaser; 21- Actress Daly; 23- Be gaga over; 25- Pie nut; 26- Statistics, collection of facts; 27- Yale students; 28- Weed whackers; 29- For ... sake!; 32- Lanterns; 33- Covering flap on a seed vessel; 34- Bar ...; 35- Mid-month times; 36- Dick Francis book "Dead ..."; 38- Blender brand; 42- Chowder cracker; 43- Bath powder; 47- Narrate; 48- Run of bird-song; 49- Actress Zellweger; 50- Siouan speakers; 51- Factory; 52- MetLife competitor; 54- Chamber; 55- Web locale; 56- Opposite of odd, especially when applied to numbers; 57- Bird feed; 60- Precious stone;

Yesterday's solution



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
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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HKD 7,271sq ft
High Floor Apartment
Ref: 16095494

Bauhinia Court, Hellene Gardens

Appealing Apartment in Coloane
1,633 sq ft / HKD 7.8M
HKD 4776sq ft
Open Views
Ref: 16045473

Kapok Court, Ocean Gardens

Taipa
2 Bedrooms Apartment
Well Furnished
HKD 13,800 / 1,030 sq ft
Ref: 16090603

One Central Tower 7 Macau

2 Bedroom Apartment
Luxurious Complex
HKD 16,900 / 1,292 sq ft
Ref: 16070598

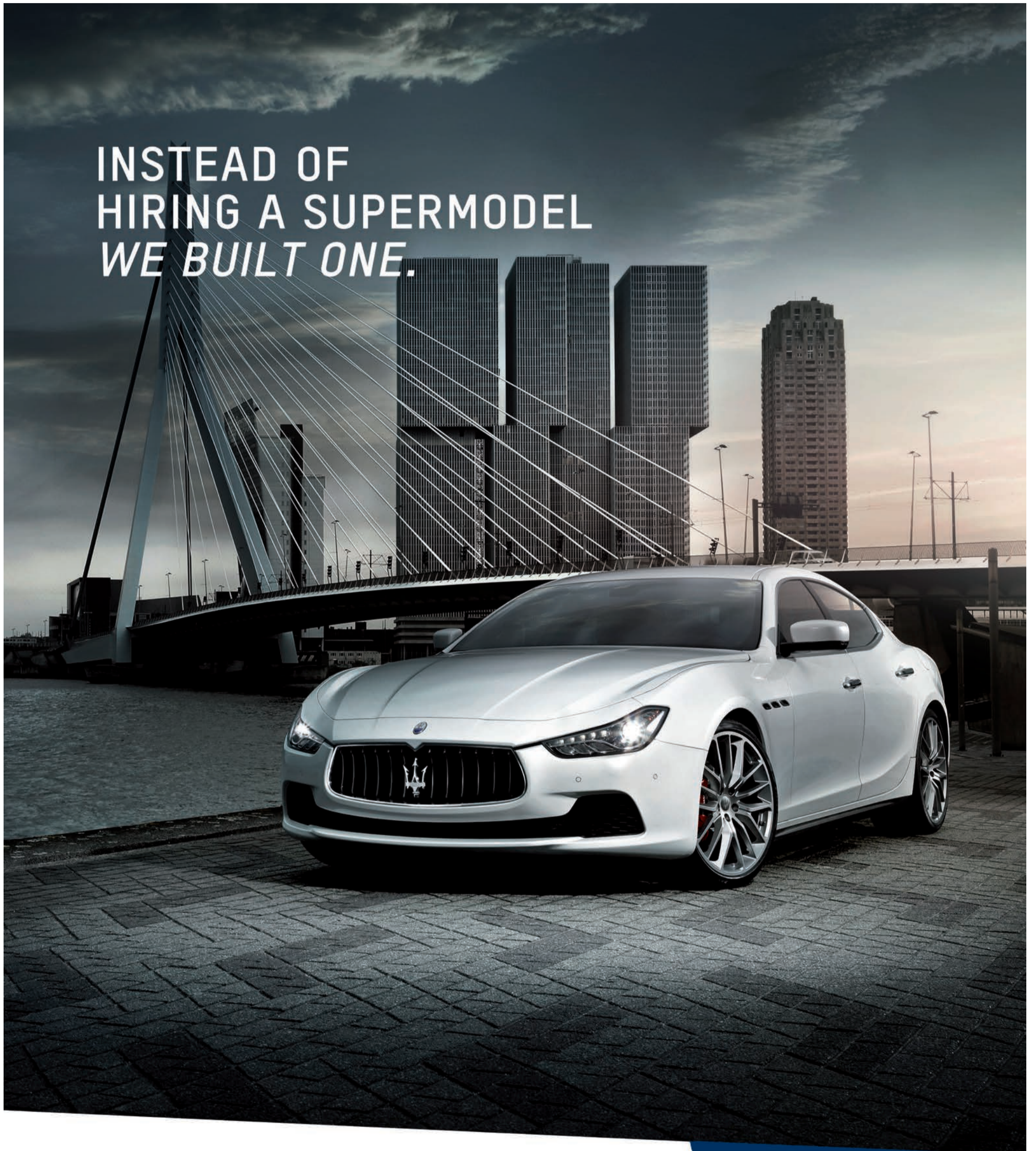
Cheung Leung Taipa

1 Bedroom Apartment
Fabulous Location
HKD 9,500 / 700 sq ft
Ref: 16090615

St Pauls Ruins Macau

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HKD 10,200 / 716 sq ft
Ref: 16090604





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Zac Boyer, London

**T**WICKENHAM Stadium has seen its share of tackles and tries, field goals and forward passes. The NFL is about to bring some more, but with a twist.

A sporting event other than rugby will be held at the venue for the first time in its 107-year history when it hosts a game between the Los Angeles Rams and the New York Giants on Sunday.

After playing 15 games over 10 years at Wembley Stadium, the league is slightly broadening its international horizons, moving one of its annual international games to a different London location.

Forget about scrums and say hello to huddles. Keep an eye out for yellow flags, not yellow cards.

Even for those who have made the trek to Wembley, Sunday's game will provide a different type of atmosphere. Think of it, in American terms, as Lambeau Field meets Wrigley Field.

"Twickenham is definitely a suburban, residential venue, and so it offers a very different experience for fans," said Mark Waller, the NFL's executive vice president for international. "I think it's going to be fascinating and interesting for our fans to give us feedback on how that experience will compare to what many of them will already have seen and known at Wembley."

To prepare Twickenham for Sunday's game, the NFL and the Rugby Football Union had to make a number of significant changes.

For one, with football rosters twice the size of their rugby counterparts, the existing locker rooms will be insufficient. The Rams, the designated home team, will dress in a temporary facility in the Twickenham gym, while the Giants will utilize an adjacent reception hall.

The coaching booths, located just above the access tunnels for rugby games, will be moved to the sixth level to provide coaches with an appropriate viewpoint. Those converted suites also will need to be fit-



## NFL prepares for 1st London game at Twickenham Stadium

ted with replay and communications systems — something the NFL and RFU have been working to install.

Accommodations will also be needed for cheerleaders and the media, who will work from three sections in the southwest corner. Because of the stadium's location, a detailed transportation plan is also needed for buses transporting players and team personnel to and from Twickenham.

Some of those changes will be noticeable to longtime Twickenham attendees. In addition to the goal posts, which were installed last Monday, and the field markings, to be painted later this week, the capacity of the stadium will be reduced from 82,000 to 75,000 for NFL games.

According to Charlotte Harwood, an RFU spokeswoman, that's because views from the front several rows of the lower bowl rise just above field

level and will be obstructed by players and coaches on the sidelines.

The goal, of course, is to make sure that any potential issues have been addressed by Sunday. Those attending the first games at Wembley — the Giants, coincidentally, played in the first game in London in 2007 — reported a number of hiccups that were ironed out in subsequent years.

Waller said the RFU's experience hosting the semifinals and final of the Rugby World Cup in 2015, has eased a number of concerns about the venue.

"It's an important event for them in the same way that it's an important event for us," Waller said. "They're very focused on it being successful as well."

The Rams, who flew through the night after a 31-28 road loss to the Detroit Lions, arrived in London early Monday. Per the

■ **The NFL also has agreements to play at least two games at Wembley each year through 2020**

terms of their relocation from St. Louis, they will play at least one home game in London every year until their new stadium opens in 2019.

That game is not guaranteed to always be at Twickenham. The league and the RFU reached an agreement last October to play a minimum of three games in three years at the venue, but not necessarily one each season.

The NFL also has agreements to

play at least two games at Wembley each year through 2020 and will begin playing at least two games a year at the redeveloped White Hart Lane, the home of English Premier League club Tottenham, beginning in 2018.

Thus, how successful Sunday's game is could play a role in the NFL's future at Twickenham. Waller said the league isn't considering games at any other venues in London, and the reason Twickenham and White Hart Lane were contracted is because Wembley hosts a number of other events.

"The most exciting thing for us is the ability for us to get a new experience, a new stadium experience," Waller said. "We're very happy and have always been very happy with Wembley, and so for us, it's never been about looking for something better than Wembley. It's, 'Hey, we need to give our fans the best experience available.'" AP

TENNIS

## ATP announces suspension, fine for Nick Kyrgios

**N**ICK Kyrgios will miss the rest of the season after being suspended by the men's tour and fined an additional USD25,000 yesterday for "tanking" a match and insulting fans in the mercurial Australian's latest run-in with tennis authorities.

The ATP said Kyrgios

was sanctioned for "conduct contrary to the integrity of the game" following an investigation into his behavior during a second-round loss to German qualifier Mischa Zverev last week at the Shanghai Masters.

Kyrgios gave little effort during the 6-3, 6-1 defeat, even patting easy serves

over the net and turning away before his opponent's serve had crossed the net.

The 21-year-old Australian had already been fined a total of \$16,500 for failing to give a full effort, unsportsmanlike conduct and verbal abuse of a spectator.

The ATP said yester-

day that, in addition to the extra \$25,000 fine, Kyrgios was handed an eight-week suspension lasting through Jan. 15 — a day before the start of the Australian Open, the year's first Grand Slam tournament.

However, the tour said the suspension will be reduced to three weeks

if Kyrgios agrees to enter "a plan of care under the direction of a sports psychologist or an equivalent plan approved by the ATP." That means he would be eligible to return on Nov. 7.

There are no regular tournaments on the schedule after Nov. 7. The only event in November

is the ATP finals in London from Nov. 13-20. The 12th-ranked Kyrgios has not qualified for the eight-player finals, so he will have to wait until next year in any case to return to the tour.

Kyrgios issued a statement yesterday offering another apology for his conduct in Shanghai and saying he will be back in 2017. He did not say whether he would enter the treatment program mandated by the ATP. AP

opinion

Our Desk

Julie Zhu



AGAIN, DIVERSIFY THE ECONOMY

Recently, the Premier of China, Li Keqiang visited Macau for a three-day inspection tour. The Premier said that Macau, despite facing the world's slow recovery from the economic crisis and also its own industrial structural challenges, still manages to keep fiscal surplus, high employment rates, better livelihood and a peaceful society.

The Premier of China has said that the central government is confident that the outlook for Macau will continue to be bright. Before leaving Macau, Li said that Macau would play an ever more important role in connecting China and the Portuguese-speaking countries. This would also assist with the diversification of the local economy, as he said.

Needless to say that it never matters what Li says, but the topic of diversification of the economy, again, attracted my attention.

It has become a cliché to say Macau should diversify its economy in order to try to get rid of the image of a gambling city, where casinos are the main attraction, and evolve to become a celebrated world tourism center capable of offering tourists more than just entries to gambling spots.

Indeed, turning Macau into a tourism center will bring a series of benefits to the economy, leaving it less dependent on casino revenues, and making the economic environment in the territory stronger against external market fluctuations, which are around the corner in the current global scenario.

Casinos are important, as it is everything else that keeps the engines running in the city. The main goal is to minimize the consequences of an engine fail.

The future of any society lies with its youth. Young people promote change and they represent a responsible sustainability of the social system, which can protect the elderly, the newest generations, even themselves. In short, young people are in charge of renewing society. Therefore, it is important to keep them around.

According to a few reputable rankings released this year, the University of Macau has some of the highest rates of international students in the world, which indicates that students worldwide are curious not only about the school but also about the territory, and that in itself is a very positive aspect in a city that has created a multi-cultural stable society in the past years. However, more important than welcoming all the brains that populate the city, it is to keep them in order to make contributions of all kinds to Macau, regardless of whether they are scientific or artistic contributions.

I believe that the strength of a society can be measured through its education. Macau, like the rest of the world, needs as many engineers and doctors as it needs artists and teachers.

If Macau wants all these young people to feel interested in the city after finishing their studies, then the city needs to come up with solid opportunities for their careers.

Diversifying the economy shouldn't just have tourists in mind, but also the people who the territory is training in its education institutions. Training intelligent and valuable people who then leave the territory in pursuit of good jobs is a waste of resources for the territory. It is the equivalent to let go of the most precious and reliable valuables in our possession.

So, the first step should consist of bringing more investment to the city, and then develop an industry beyond the tourism-based perspective.

THE BUZZ THE GERMANY WANTS, TESLA TO STOP USING TERM 'AUTOPILOT'

German authorities are telling electric automaker Tesla to stop using the term "autopilot" for its driver assistance system, saying it is misleading.

The transport ministry confirmed in an email that a letter to that effect had been sent to the company based in Palo Alto, California.

Autopilot is Tesla's array of driver assistance features such as lane maintenance and traffic-aware cruise control.

One person was killed in Florida in May when a Tesla Model S with the system on hit the side of a truck.

CO2 to fish food, other ideas advance in USD20M XPRIZE contest



The sun sets beyond visitors to Liberty Memorial as the temperature hovers around 100 degrees in Kansas City

Mead Gruver, Cheyenne (Wyo.)

WITH dreams of turning carbon dioxide into everything from concrete to fish food, teams from six countries have advanced beyond the first phase of a USD20 million XPRIZE contest to find profitable uses for CO2 emitted by power plants.

A panel of nine judges recently chose the 28 proposals from 47 entries submitted last summer. The teams now will have a year or so to demonstrate their techniques in laboratories and compete for the first \$5 million in prize money, XPRIZE announced yesterday.

"The race is really on," said Paul Bunje, principal and senior scientist at XPRIZE.

The goal is to find new ways to prevent carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, from entering the atmosphere and contributing to global

warming. Coal-fired power plants are a major source of carbon dioxide emissions, a problem contributing to hard times in the U.S. coal industry.

Semi-finalist entries came from Canada, China, India, Switzerland, Scotland and the U.S.

Successful ideas in the NRG COSIA Carbon XPRIZE must work as anticipated and will need to be profitable enough to offset their cost in a real-world application.

Ideas moving up to the contest's second round would turn CO2 into a range of products including graphene, a newly discovered substance much stronger than steel; carbon nanotubes, extremely tiny tubes with potential uses in electronics; and toothpaste.

Making high-protein fish food from carbon dioxide could have environmental benefits besides controlling

greenhouse gas. Farm-raised fish, such as salmon, could be more sustainable if they got some of their nutrition from sources that don't grow in the ocean.

In the third and final round, teams will demonstrate their ideas at a coal-fired power plant in Wyoming and at natural-gas-fired power plant in Canada.

"Each round is 10 times harder than the previous one in some respects," Bunje said.

The winners on each side of the competition — technologies destined for gas-fired-power-plants and those for use at coal-fired power plants — will get \$2.5 million after the second round. They will each get \$7.5 million after the third and final round.

NRG is a U.S. energy company based in Houston, Texas. COSIA stands for the Canadian Oil Sands Innovation Alliance, a group of companies developing the Canadian oil sands.

The gas-fired power plant where the competition will take place has yet to be announced. The XPRIZE competition will be the first tenant of a carbon-capture test center under construction at Basin Electric's Dry Fork Station near Gillette in northeast Wyoming.

The state of Wyoming has pledged \$15 million toward the project. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



Taikonauts Jing Haipeng (right) and Chen Dong wave during the see-off ceremony of the Shenzhou-11 manned space mission at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in Jiuquan, northwest China's Gansu Province (see more on page 11).

Station	Air quality
Roadside	45-65 Good
High Density Residential Area	50-70 Good
Ambient	45-65 Good

WORLD BRIEFS

**INDONESIA** Prosecutors in Indonesia seek an eight-year prison term for a Chinese Uighur accused of involvement in plots to attack government officials and minority Shiite Muslims.

**JAPAN** The Japanese government expects to raise 416 billion yen from the initial public offering of 160 million shares of Kyushu Railway Co., or JR Kyushu, the latest in the privatization of the nation's prized train operations.



**ISRAEL** A book about Israel's character and the "turning points" in its history that Nobel laureate Shimon Peres completed just weeks before he died will come out next spring. The HarperCollins imprint Custom House said that Peres' "No Room for Small Dreams" will be published April 4. Peres, whose previous books included the memoir "Battling for Peace," died last month at age 93.



**AUSTRIA** The government says it plans to demolish the house where Adolf Hitler was born and erect a new building in its place in efforts to erase any link to the Nazi dictator's birthplace. Interior Minister Wolfgang Sobotka said that "a thorough architectural remodeling is necessary to permanently prevent the recognition and the symbolism of the building."



**SOUTH AFRICA** South African protesters demanding free university education broke windows, forced open doors and threw human excrement in an effort to disrupt the resumption of classes, said an official from the University of Cape Town. In Johannesburg, students blocked a road during the morning rush hour and threw stones at the University of the Witwatersrand.