



THE FIRST OF A SIX-STAR CHAIN
Karl Lagerfeld announced that his hotel in Macau will be the first of a six-star chain branded under his name

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CASINO STAFF DETAINED IN CHINA YET TO BE CHARGED

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BUSINESS PLATFORM ROLE HIGHLIGHTED
The platform role of Macau was highlighted in the China and Portuguese-Speaking Countries' Young Entrepreneurs Forum

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WORLD BRIEFS



PHILIPPINES A police van rammed into protesters, leaving several bloodied, as an anti-U.S. rally turns violent at the American Embassy in Manila.
More on p13



TYPHOON Philippine forecasters warn that a super typhoon set to slam into the country's northeast may bring widespread damage similar to that wrought by Typhoon Haiyan in 2013, and have asked people to flee out of harm's way. More on p13



AFGHANISTAN The U.N. mission in Afghanistan says the number of children killed or wounded in the country's conflict has increased in the first nine months of 2016, compared to the same period last year. It says the mission documented a total of 2,461 children's casualties in 2016 — 639 deaths and 1,822 wounded.

AUSTRALIA's tough gun controls will be further tightened to restrict access to new rapid-fire shotguns, the prime minister said. But a pro-gun independent senator warns Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull that the move will add to the government's difficulty in getting legislation through the Senate.

More on backpage



Pro-Beijing side thwarts new Hong Kong lawmakers' oath redo

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Group reports to CCAC regarding gov't land debts

Earlier this month, the Collective Wisdom Policy Centre (CWPC) delivered a report to the Commission Against Corruption of Macau (CCAC) regarding six land debts owned by the government, according to a notice posted by lawmaker Ho Ion Sang, the president of CWPC. The six lots occupy a total of 88,806 square meters, which had been retaken by the government previously. Ho Ion Sang said that the government has not released any information related to these lots. He expects the authority to do so in order to increase the transparency of land management.

Fong accused of interfering in operation of Flower City Complex

Lawmaker Fong Chin Keong, who is also the general manager and the administrator of Sociedade de Investimento Taipa, Limitada, has been accused of sending representatives of his company to the Flower City Complex for them to stand in the lobby of the building and rearrange office facilities at the place in order to de facto take over the running of operations there, according to a notice published earlier this week by the management committee of the complex. The notice reads that the committee is the only authorized management body of the complex. It condemns the group as well as Fong Chi Keong for interfering in the community. Previously, Fong's representatives "disturbed the mall at the complex several times." Fong even appealed to the courts, claiming that the committee was occupying property that was actually his, but the lawsuit failed.

Casino cage supervisor turns himself in to police

On Monday, a 31-year-old Macau local turned himself in to police after stealing chips worth HKD13 million from a casino cage he was working at. The suspect, surnamed Cheung, was a supervisor working in a VIP room. According to the Judiciary Police, Cheung has had a gambling addiction for seven to eight years. In recent years, Cheung has lost a total of HKD7 million. From last Friday until Sunday, Cheung obtained the chips gradually, taking them in four batches before losing all of them gambling afterwards.

Ramirez stresses importance of developing millennials' talents

Lynzy Valles

IT is no secret that the labor market in the region is tough for businesses. This has meant that retaining and reshuffling staff resources has remained an important matter for both SMEs and gaming operators as new and upcoming resorts open in the region.

Just last year, Sands China reportedly spent over a million hours promoting and developing local talent, demonstrating its desire to boost their non-gaming offering.

According to the senior vice president of human resources at Sands China, Antonio Ramirez, the gaming operator does not feel pressured by the government to promote its local employees within the company.

Despite the severe labor shortage in the region's labor market, caused by restrictions on bringing in foreign workers, Ramirez noted that the pressure is encouraging companies to utilize the right tools and programs in retaining employees.

Speaking this week at a breakfast meeting of the British Business Association of Macau, the HR expert highlighted the fact that millennials play a vital role in today's resorts and gaming industry, revealing that Sands China has been successful in attracting and retaining the youngest generation.

Ramirez highlighted that in a labor market like Macau's, there



Antonio Ramirez

is a need for business operators to actively engage their employees, especially millennials, in its projects.

"Millennials have good knowledge. They are very savvy in terms of the use of internet, they have a lot of ideas but they are also very independent," he explained. "So if we don't engage them, they will not feel that they want to be there, and that's where companies will feel disappointed."

Business operators are advised to shape their companies and platforms to match the aspirations of millennials, as their needs are a driving force in the future of the workplace.

According to Ramirez, millennials contributed significantly to the successful opening of the latest Sands China property, The Parisian Macao.

"We have a team that is more engaged and is far more productive so our productivity actually increased a lot and that's what

“Our productivity actually increased a lot and that's what allowed us to open the Parisian in a very smooth way.”

ANTONIO RAMIREZ

allowed us to open the Parisian in a very smooth way," he said in his presentation.

"Because they were focused, they knew what was important and because they all participate in the design and in the creation of every project, they were far more engaged," he added.

Ramirez advised the event attendants that this generation wants to participate in a platform that allows them to take part in developing strategy and building the business, so operators should take steps to involve them.

"They want to be engaged. They don't want just a job; they want to have a purpose," he said.

Ramirez also stated his belief that there is a growing number of locals with new sets of capabilities, ideas and methods of conceptualization.

Meanwhile, in terms of the long-standing issue of labor shortages, MGM found it challenging to hire local workers in a market where the unemployment rate is low. Yet, as previously reported, the company is confident that it will attract an adequate quality and number of people in order to open their property in Cotai.

In July, the Labor Affairs Bureau said it would not approve applications from gaming operators who sought to renew work permits or to obtain new ones for foreign workers at management levels if there are local residents qualified for the same positions, in a bid to improve prospects of upward career mobility for locals.

TOURISM

Lagerfeld's hotel in Macau to be the first of a six-star chain



Karl Lagerfeld

GERMAN fashion designer Karl Lagerfeld announced this week that his hotel in Macau will be the first of a six-star chain branded under his name.

The fashion icon has partnered with local gaming and tourism operator Sociedade de Jogos de Macau (SJM) to launch the hotel that bears his name, which is to be included in the Lisboa Palace complex project, currently in construction in Cotai.

Lagerfeld's group president and CEO, Pier Paolo Righi, was cited by AFP as saying that the group is in the process of exploring other opportunities to open new properties around the world.

At the age of 83 Lagerfeld, the artistic di-

rector of high fashion house Chanel, has participated in some interior design projects for the hotel industry in the past, namely for Hotel de Crillon in Paris and the Metropole in Monaco.

Lagerfeld is now ready to move into a new business, involving the designing of entire hotels following such examples as Armani, Bulgari or Versace that have opened properties under their highly renowned names. Versace is also opening a property in the Lisboa Palace complex, which is expected to open its doors in 2018 with a total of 2,000 hotel rooms among other luxury facilities that include shops, restaurants and a casino.

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Rod McGuirk, Canberra

Australian casino staff detained in China yet to be charged

TWO Australian executives of the country's largest casino operator are in good health after being detained in China last week over suspected gambling crimes, but they still do not know if they will face any charges, an Australian official said yesterday.

The head of Crown Resorts VIP International team, Jason O'Connor, was among three Australian and 15 Chinese Crown employees detained on Thursday or Friday, Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said. They have been caught up in an apparent crackdown on overseas tours for high rollers.

Australian consular officials visited O'Connor and another Australian, whose name was not made public, in the Shanghai detention center for the first time on Tuesday, Bishop said. The third Australian was a dual Chinese citizen who might have been traveling on his Chinese passport, she said. In that case, China would treat him as a Chinese national and he would not be entitled to Australian consular support.

"They are in good health. Their well-being is looked after," Bishop told reporters. "It's a detention center, somewhat like a prison, so the conditions are adequate but not comfortable at all."

"They have no complaints about the way they are being



treated and we've passed on this information to their families," she added.

Australia did not have specific details of the allegations under investigation, she said. The Chinese can keep the employees in detention for up to 30 days before charging them. That period could be extended for another week to allow further investigation, Bishop said. "It might be some time before we know what charges, if any, they are facing," she said.

Jonathan Galaviz, chief strate-

gist at Las Vegas-based Global Market Advisors — consultants in the casino, hospitality and airline industries — said China would likely move quickly with the investigation given its high profile.

The company was more likely to face sanctions than the employees, he said.

The investigation was part of a crackdown on Crown's operations to lure high-worth Chinese gamblers to its Australian casinos, Galaviz said.

"This is the strongest telegraphing of a message to the indus-

try that we really don't welcome you trying to incentivize our citizens to get involved in casino gaming," Galaviz said.

"Crown as a company has certainly been one of the more aggressive foreign casino companies that have been marketing in China," he said.

China would not approve of Crown's business plan to lure Chinese gamblers to pay for its USD1.5 billion six-star Crown Sydney Hotel Resort, which opens in 2019, he said. Planning of the raids was evident in that police swooped while the three Australian executives were in China, Galaviz said.

Crown's largest shareholder and founder, James Packer, an Australian gaming mogul with a personal fortune estimated by Forbes business magazine at \$3.6 billion, said on Tuesday that he was "deeply concerned for the welfare" of the detained employees. Bishop said she had personally briefed Packer.

The Chinese foreign ministry said the Australians have been detained for suspected involve-

ment in gambling crimes, but did not provide further details.

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 Macausince 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 has said in recent financial disclosures its "International VIP" business segment has surged in recent years thanks to ramped up overseas marketing. **AP**

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Macau Daily Times contest



at The Parisian Macao

Question for readers:

What can fans experience in Thriller Live?

Please email the answers to: 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.

Call to action:

Event: THRILLER LIVE
Date and Time: Sept. 30 – Nov. 13, 2016
Ticket Prices: from MOP180
Ticketing Outlets: Cotai Ticketing
www.cotaiticketing.com or call 2882 8818

THE Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) announced it will host the 40th PATA Travel Mart 2017 in Macau for three days from September 13.

PATA Travel Mart is the Pacific Asia Travel Association's trade show, featuring networking and contracting opportunities to help travel and tourism organizations access decision-makers, meet new clients, expand networks, build new and strengthen existing relationships.

Commenting on the PATA Travel Mart being once again held in the region, MGTO director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes stated, "PATA Travel Mart mobilizes a relevant contingent of travel tra-

TOURISM

MGTO to host PATA trade show



Helena de Senna Fernandes

de stakeholders from the Asia Pacific region and around the world."

"We are enthusiastic with the perspective of providing a first-hand update about the signi-

ficant developments in our city since we last met in Macau for the PATA Travel Mart 2010 and in 2005 for the PATA Annual Conference," she added.

According to the director, PATA has been a valuable platform for the development of the city's tourism industry.

PATA CEO Mario Hardy recalled that MGTO has been a member of PATA since 1958 and has sponsored the PATA Gold Awards for the past 21 years.

PATA Travel Mart 2016 in

Indonesia attracted 1,358 delegates from 63 destinations for the three-day event. The 39th edition facilitated over 10,000 appointments for industry figures and brought together international buyers and sellers for face-to-face meetings, educational forums and networking functions.

Founded in 1951, PATA is a non-profit membership association dedicated to building responsible development of the Asia-Pacific travel and tourism industry.

Service sector grows, according to DSEC survey

TWO hundred and sixteen establishments were engaged in real estate management services in 2015, down by seven year-on-year. According to the service sector survey released by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC),

revenues in the sector amounted to MOP1.32 billion, up by 4.1 percent year-on-year. Expenditure increased by 4.5 percent to MOP1.09 billion.

According to the survey – which includes data on services related to real

estate management, security, cleaning, advertising, and conference & exhibition organization – there were 38 establishments operating in security services in 2015, up by six year-on-year. Revenues amounted to MOP 1.69 billion, up

by 41.5 percent year-on-year. Expenditure surged by 40.4 percent to MOP 1.53 billion.

A total of 157 establishments were operating in cleaning services in 2015, up by 18 year-on-year. Receipts increased by 39.9 percent to MOP

956 million. Expenditure rose by 37.7 percent to MOP 830 million.

The survey indicates that the number of establishments operating in advertising services notably increased by 80 year-on-year to 601. Receipts for this sector (MOP 917 million) recorded year-on-year growth of 7.5 percent while expenditure

amounted to MOP 804 million, up by 1.6 percent year-on-year.

A total of 67 establishments were operating in conference and exhibition organizing services, up by six year-on-year. Revenues grew by 13.9 percent year-on-year to MOP314 million while expenditure went up by 14.8 percent to MOP304 million.

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2016/2017 JUDICIAL YEAR

CE vows to safeguard courts' independence

THE Chief Executive (CE) has said that a comprehensive judicial system is indispensable to law-based governance. Chui Sai On made the remarks this afternoon during a ceremony – held at the Macao Cultural Centre – to mark the start of the 2016/2017 Judicial Year.

Safeguarding judicial independence and fairness is one of the core values of Macau's community, added Chui in his speech. The CE also revealed that the government is pushing ahead with development plans in Zone B – a land reclamation area – for buildings to house administrative and legal bodies.

The president of the Court of Final Appeal, Sam Hou Fai, the Public Prosecutor General, Ip Son Sang, and the president of the Macau Lawyers Association, Jorge Neto Valente, each gave a speech during yesterday's ceremony.

Sam Hou Fai highlighted



Chui Sai On pictured during yesterday's ceremony

that crimes related to gambling should receive special attention. He recalled that gaming-related criminality has gone up by around 38 percent, resulting from an increase of 193 cases. "Several of those cases resulted in the deaths of the abducted.

That indicates that the conflicts and crimes related to gambling debts are having repercussions outside the casinos. If those crimes are not timely repressed, they will bring negative trends to gaming," he said. He also mentioned with concern the

increasing number of illegal immigration cases.

In yesterday's ceremony for the commencement of the new judicial year, Neto Valente addressed long-term issues that affect the system, namely the lack of proper facilities (for example, the First Instance Court continues to operate from a commercial building) and the decreasing usage of the Portuguese language in courts. On the sidelines, Nelo Valente criticized in particular the slowness of legal services, citing the case of former Prosecutor General Ho Chio Meng, who has been waiting many months for his indictment after he was arrested in February.

"There are two sides to this case. On the one side we see that the system works in the sense that even the rich and powerful can get arrested. However, on the other side, when you detain someone with a high-ranking position and someone appointed by the central government precisely because of how high they are in the hierarchy, then you see that the system is not working, as it allowed that person to get so far," Neto Valente said, cited by TDM.

Most restaurants still report revenue decrease

Around 60 percent of interviewed restaurants and similar establishments reported a year-on-year decrease in receipts in the year to August 2016, down by 14 percentage points from July. According to results from a business climate survey of restaurants, conducted by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), 47 percent of interviewed restaurants and similar establishments anticipated a year-on-year decrease in receipts in September.

Local orchestra to perform at China Arts Festival

The Macao Chinese Orchestra is set to perform at the 11th China Arts Festival next Monday, October 24 in Xi'an, capital city of Shanxi province. This marks the second time the local orchestra will perform at the Chinese Festival. Their last performance was in 2010, when the festival was organized in Guangzhou, Guangdong. The orchestra will perform three pieces related to Macau and produced by Portuguese-speaking composers, including Pixinguinha from Brazil and Frederico de Brito e Ferrer Trindade from Portugal. The festival will hold more than 70 performances from professional art groups and over 80 performances by amateur players.

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Forum highlights Macau's vital role as a business platform

Lynzy Valles

THE second edition of the China and Portuguese-Speaking Countries' Young Entrepreneurs Forum kicked off yesterday at The Venetian, where eight associations from the region and Portuguese-speaking countries signed cooperation agreements. The move is a step forward for the territory in meeting one of the measures highlighted by Premier Li Keqiang; transforming Macau into a center for Small and Medium Enterprises in both China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

The Forum is aimed at boosting attending associations' efforts to promote and exchange business between participating countries and regions, particularly focusing on facilitating the entry of SMEs into the Chinese market.

During the discussion on the role of Macau in the creation of "one platform, three centers" for the cooperation of China and Portuguese-speaking countries, chairman of the Macau Youth Entrepreneur Association, Kevin Ho, said that Macau "has not done enough" to become a significant platform for trade and business.

Although he believed that the region had been effective in its efforts to be a "World Center of Tourism and Leisure," the businessman noted that as a platform for businesses in this sector, Macau should think that now is the time to promote local SMEs to China and to Portuguese-speaking countries.



Several Chinese enterprises have already been going to such countries for additional trade and business, yet according to Ho, most of these investments were infrastructure projects embarked on by big corporations from China.

Ho, also a director of Tai Fung Bank, affirmed that Premier Li's visit to the region was a 'push' to encourage the region to dynamically act as a platform for entrepreneurs abroad.

"We haven't really tapped into the youth entrepreneurs and SMEs. I think now we've got another push, so hopefully, with this forum, we'll build a closer cooperation between these people," he told reporters. Businessmen can be assured that the territory has strong links with China, thus they will attempt to bring more products and trade services into China from the Portuguese-speaking countries.

"We're trying to utilize Macau and try to bring them through us," he said.

The entrepreneur added that Macau would be of help to other countries who aimed to extend their companies' reach to Asian countries.

He also hoped that local entrepreneurs would be enlightened of the benefits of bringing their projects to Por-

tuguese-speaking countries since it is a vast market, with some 250 million residents.

The Forum is also aimed at bringing different cultures together to function within the 'core capability' of each business.

Meanwhile, Alberto Neto, president of Young Entrepreneurs Portugal-China, which is based in Portugal, recalled that the association was established to overcome trade barriers between China and Portugal. During the panel, he predicted that as the 21st Macao International Trade and Investment Fair kicks off today, entrepreneurs' associations would create closer ties with other markets in a bid to provide further opportunities for cooperation, even with Spanish-speaking countries.

Furthermore, Jackson Chang, president of Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute, reflected in his speech on the importance of young entrepreneurs in the region's economic development.

"The youngsters are the basis of the economic development and the most dynamic group with skills and potential for innovation in society," he noted, adding that the forum would bring opportunities in the areas of innovation and entrepreneurship.

Fujian and MSAR continue to strengthen ties

THE MSAR this week signed three agreements with the government of Fujian Province during the first Fujian-Macau cooperation meeting held in Macau.

The treaties include an agreement on strengthening economic and trade cooperation between Fujian and Macau, and a memorandum of cooperation on medical and health exchanges between the two regions.

The memorandum on strengthening tourism cooperation between the Pingtan General Experimentation Area Tourism Board of Fujian Province and the Macao Government Tourism Office was also signed at the meeting.

Secretary for Economy and Finance Leong Vai Tac, representing MSAR at the meeting, said the gathering marked an opportunity to further optimize the mechanism for Fujian-Macau cooperation.

The meeting was attended by the vice governor of Fujian Province, Liang Jianyong, and Fujian officials responsible for supervising the economy, business, tourism, health, finance, education and culture.

Leong said the Fujian govern-

ment has the opportunity to make use of Macau's role as a platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries. As such, it could boost Fujian's economic exchanges, trade and investment with Portuguese-speaking countries.

The secretary added that the local government would intensify the existing Fujian-Macau cooperation model for the MICE industry in particular, enhancing environmentally-friendly practices and policies in the sector.

According to him, two areas in particular would strengthen and diversify efforts to promote tourism and push forward a multi-destination travel model.

As cited in the Government Information Bureau's statement, Fujian and the MSAR will explore further opportunities in maritime tourism, focusing on cultural activities related to the goddess A-Ma.

Leong concluded that the two regions would strengthen exchanges in cultural affairs, education and youth affairs to expand their cooperation into fields related to each of their livelihoods.

Tourist prices down by 3.5 percent

THE Tourist Price Index (TPI) for the third quarter of 2016 decreased by 3.5 percent year-on-year to 126.86, slowing down after a dramatic drop during the second quarter.

Information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) indicated that the decline was attributable to lower charges for hotel accommodation and reduced prices of airfares, which pushed down the price index of "accommodation" and "transport & communications" by 15.45 percent and 14.45 percent,

respectively, year-on-year.

Meanwhile, the price index of "miscellaneous goods" and restaurant services rose by 4.36 percent and 2.17 percent, respectively.

Compared to the previous quarter, TPI for the third quarter of 2016 increased by 1.33 percent, as higher hotel room rates during the summer holidays drove up the price index of "Accommodation" by 13.23 percent.

TPI reflects the price change of goods and services purchased by visitors.

corporate bits

WYNN IS THE TITLE SPONSOR OF NATIONAL EDUCATION DRAWING COMPETITION



The "Wynn Cup - Macau Primary School Student National Education Drawing Competition" was officially launched at Wynn Macau

yesterday, sponsored by Wynn and organized by the National Conditions Education Association (Macau).

The program aims to stren-

gthen the knowledge and understanding of national education among primary school students, nurture their national pride and enhance their drawing skills and capabilities in aesthetics.

In her keynote speech, Linda Chen, CEO and executive director of Wynn Macau, said that Wynn has put a lot of emphasis on corporate social responsibility since it started its business in Macau.

According to a press release issued by the gaming operator, as the title sponsor, Wynn hopes that the program can enhance Macau primary school students' knowledge of national conditions and promote exchange in the fields of culture, art and education between mainland China and Macau.

MANDARIN ORIENTAL WELCOMES CHEF FEI AS SPECIAL GUEST CHEF AT VIDA RICA RESTAURANT

Mandarin Oriental, Macau is set to welcome Chef Fei of Jiang by Chef Fei at Mandarin Oriental, Guangzhou for a special culinary collaboration with the hotel's Chinese Executive Chef Wong Tak Wing that will feature a series of exquisite Cantonese dishes from November 4 to 6, 2016.

Diners can explore Chef Fei's signature dishes including deep fried roasted duck puff pastry with black and snow fungus, kungfu soup with matsutake mushroom, sautéed Australian sirloin with Szechuan pepper and chilli, as well as crispy roasted chicken with flaxseeds, featuring in a six-course lunch menu at MOP 568 per person or an eight-course dinner menu

at MOP 888 per person. Both menus offer a choice of wine pairing.

Chef Fei began his cooking career at the age of 16 when he honed his culinary skill in a Chinese specialty restaurant, mastering all aspects of Cantonese cuisine. With an impeccable eye for detail, Chef Fei is well known on Guangzhou's fine dining scene, where his innovative creations combining an intricate taste experience and artistic presentation have won him numerous awards, including the Chinese Culinary Skill Master Gold Medal and Chinese Celebrity Chef Five Star Medal. Following his achievements, Chef Fei has been regularly invited as guest chef



to Mandarin Oriental properties such as in Hong Kong and Sanya, to showcase his Cantonese dishes with a contemporary twist.

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INTER Milan's grand plans stretch far beyond Italy as it harnesses the connections of its new Chinese ownership to expand the fan base and attract sponsors in Asia.

There is an illustrious history attached to the brand for Inter's executives to sell to companies: From the three Champions League triumphs to the 18 Italian titles.

There's just little to trumpet about the club's current showing on the field.

In the first season since being bought by Chinese electronics retailer Suning in June, Inter has won just three of its eight league games and sits 11th in Serie A. The team heads into tomorrow's Europa League game against Southampton bottom of its group without a point after two losses.

Publicly, they aren't panicking yet in the Inter boardroom or contemplating a change of coaches, with Frank de Boer only two months into the job. "He came in 10 days before the start of the season," chief executive Michael Bolingbroke said. "So we want to give him time."

Bolingbroke, a former Manchester United executive, talked enthusiastically for 40 minutes during a visit to London, about a five-year plan to transform the club that's approaching half-

Inter Milan struggling on the pitch, chasing growth in China



AP PHOTO

time. "My remit when I joined (in 2012) was to get Inter back successful on and successful off the pitch," Bolingbroke said. "Consistently in the Champions League, making money, not losing money."

The change of ownership from Indonesian businessman Erick Thohir to Chinese entrepreneur Zhang Jindong has enabled Inter to "accelerate the plan," Bolingbroke said.

Losses of around 60 million

euros (USD66 million) are set to be reported for 2015-16 but Inter expects to have cut them by a third this year and be profitable by 2019.

Although revenue is forecast to break the 200 million-euro barrier this season, that is only a third of Manchester United's 2016-17 target, one of the biggest in football. The gulf in the clubs' moneymaking abilities reflects just how far Serie A lags the English Premier League,

after being the dominant competition in Europe at the end of the last century.

Suning's ownership can help to redress the balance, with Bolingbroke regarding Chinese owners as a game-changer for Inter.

"They think we as a club have completely underestimated the value of being in China and we are guilty of not exploiting the Chinese market enough," he said. "When we sat down with them, they asked why we don't have more sponsors in Asia."

Why would Asia sponsors want to be associated with a struggling team in a league that lacks the global coverage of the Premier League or La Liga? In China, hitching yourself to football is in vogue, viewed as a shortcut to securing influence in high places now that President Xi Jinping has encouraged investment in the game to strengthen the domestic league and national team.

But Suning, which also owns Jiangsu Suning club at home,

is not just frittering cash on football to rise up the business strata. "If it was all about politics, why would they say a priority is not losing money?" Bolingbroke stresses.

To make money, 12 Inter staff will be operating from a Chinese sales office in Nanjing by next month, working closely with Suning's local HQ. "As European clubs, it's very hard in Asia unless you have a bridgehead, opening doors," Bolingbroke said. "If you don't have a Suning with you, you don't have access to that business in China. With the access they have, we have opportunities we didn't have before they came along."

Inter estimates 148 million of its 311 million fans are in China, citing data from research firm Repucom. Inter is also working in tandem with Jiangsu Suning, the Chinese Super League club also owned by Zhang. However, there is no directive to bring Chinese players over to the San Siro just to pander to the ownership at home. **MDT/AP**

AD

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Contrarian who bet on China stocks amid selloff sees more gains

Jonathan Burgos

WHEN investors were fleeing Chinese shares at the start of the year, Samir Mehta, a senior fund manager at JO Hambro Capital Management, was heading in the opposite direction.

The self-described “contrarian” investor added to holdings of companies including casino operator Sands China and technology firm Tencent Holdings amid the selloff. Mehta took the share of his portfolio invested in China to 32 percent at the end of last month from 20.5 percent a year earlier. The strategy paid off as Hong Kong’s Hang Seng Index, where many of the stocks are listed, has gained 6.5 percent year to date. Mehta’s Asia Ex-Japan Equity Fund has returned 15 percent, bea-

I’m not saying China is growing fast and furious and back to the glory days. But relative from where we were last year, things are better.

SAMIR MEHTA

ting 88 percent of its peers. “People were very pessimistic and remain pessimistic on China,” the 49-year-old Mehta said in an interview at the

Fullerton Hotel in Singapore after meeting with clients. “That’s usually the best time to buy.”

Mehta jumped into the market early this year when economic growth slowed and a surprise devaluation of the yuan rattled investors. While Asia’s largest economy has since stabilized and the hard landing anticipated by many hasn’t occurred, many investors remain cautious about the outlook. Gross domestic product rose 6.7 percent in the third quarter, data released yesterday showed, the same as in the previous two periods and in line with analysts’ forecasts.

The country’s technology stocks “remain hot” and the worst is over for Macau casinos, Mehta said before China detained 18 Crown Resorts Ltd. employees. He said he’s unlikely to increase his Chine-

se holdings further as he’s now heavily invested there. Mehta said he also bought Weibo Corp. and Beijing Capital International Airport Co. amid the selloff, as well as cyclical stocks in property, insurance, oil, steel and cement.

After falling 36 percent from a high in April 2015 to a low on Feb. 12, the Hang Seng Index has since rallied 28 percent. The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index of mainland companies listed in Hong Kong is up 29 percent from this year’s low, also on Feb. 12.

More than a quarter century of living through several financial and economic rises has helped Mehta, who was chief investment officer at Lloyd George Management from 1998 to 2007, and his co-fund manager, Cho Yu Kooi, refine their approach, he said.

In the core part of his portfolio, which makes up 75 to 80 percent of the fund, the aim is to own long-term sustainable growth businesses with good cash flows and high and sustainable margins, said Mehta. “Patience is an important ingredient. If we don’t make a mistake, we would like to own the business for three to five years or longer.”

The rest of the portfolio is allocated to cyclical stocks, where Mehta said he tries to adopt a contrarian approach to risk perceptions. He looks for companies with low valua-

Mehta started adding to his stake in Sands China amid a slump in gambling driven by President Xi Jinping’s crackdown on graft

tions and little or no debt. “If we’re wrong on the cyclical risks when we buy the stocks, they are trading at such low multiples that the risk of losses, although real, is not extreme.”

His winning picks haven’t been restricted to China, with data compiled by Bloomberg showing him starting to buy Thai Beverage Plc in the first quarter. Mehta said in July that he bought the brewer, whose share price has surged 34 percent since the end of March, because of its decent cash flows and restructuring prospects that could benefit minority shareholders.

Mehta started adding to his stake in Sands China Ltd. amid a slump in gambling driven by President Xi Jinping’s crackdown on graft. JO Hambro owns 7.4 million shares in the casino operator controlled by billionaire Sheldon Adelson from 466,000 a year ago, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

Macau reported its first monthly gain in gaming revenue since 2014 in August and Sands China is up 30 percent this year, the third-best performance of the six companies on the Bloomberg Intelligence Macau Gaming Index.

The Macau casinos have become more focused on recreational gamblers and are broadening their appeal to families after the anti-corruption campaign deterred high-rollers, said Mehta. “We picked Sands China over other casinos because the company’s management is very experienced. Their balance sheet is decent and the dividends are high.”

While acknowledging risks such as the buildup of debt and deflationary tendencies in China, Mehta says things are now starting to look up for the world’s largest economy.

“I’m not saying China is growing fast and furious and back to the glory days,” he said. “But relative from where we were last year, things are better.” **Bloomberg**

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Chinese astronauts enter space station following docking

A pair of Chinese astronauts entered the country's orbiting space station for a month-long stay early yesterday, as China's sixth and longest crewed mission gets underway in earnest.

The Shenzhou 11 spacecraft that blasted off Monday morning docked with the Tian-gong 2 station using an automated maneuver worked out during missions to an earlier experimental station.

Having changed from his space suit into blue overalls, veteran mission commander Jing Haipeng opened the hatch and entered the station shortly after 6 a.m. Beijing time (2200 GMT), followed by astronaut Chen Dong, who is making his first journey into space, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

"The two astronauts extended greetings to all the people of the nation in the space lab, and checked the status of the space complex," Xinhua said.

The space station launched Sept. 15 is orbiting about 393 kilometers above the earth.

The mission displays the growing sophistication of the country's manned program that first launched a human into space 13 years ago.

During their 30-day stay, the astronauts will 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 full operations six years from now and slated to run for at least a decade.

China's manned space program has also conducted a spacewalk, while the lunar program recently decommissioned its Yutu rover and is considering sending a crew to the moon.

The Tiangong, or "Heavenly Palace," space stations are considered stepping stones to a mission to send a rover to Mars by the end of the decade. Communications with the disused Tiangong 1 station have been cut and it is expected to burn up on entering the atmosphere next year.

China was excluded from the International Space Station mainly due to U.S. legislation barring such cooperation and 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. AP



Two Chinese astronauts Jing Haipeng, left and Chen Dong salute in the space lab Tiangong 2

Economic growth holds steady as retail spending rises



Chinese shoppers stand near a sale advertisement at a shopping area in Beijing

Joe McDonald, Beijing

CHINA'S economic growth held steady in latest quarter, shored up by a bank lending boom and consumer spending while trade weakened.

The world's second-largest economy grew by 6.7 percent in the three months ending in September compared with a year earlier, data showed yesterday. That was in line with the two previous quarters and better than some forecasters expected.

"Economic activity seems to be holding up reasonably well, with few signs that a renewed slowdown is just around the corner," said Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics in a report. Still, analysts cautioned growth is likely to slow next year because the latest strength is based in part on a surge in bank lending and real estate prices - both of which regulators see as a risk and are trying to restrain.

China's economy has cooled steadily over the past six years as communist leaders try to steer it to more self-sustaining growth based on consumer spending instead of trade and investment.

An unexpectedly sharp slowdown over the past two years prompted fears of politically dangerous job losses. Bei-

jing launched mini-stimulus measures with higher spending on construction of highways and other public works.

Exports have contracted this year due to weak global demand but retail sales, especially e-commerce, are growing faster than the overall economy.

Retail sales rose 10.4 percent in the first three quarters, up 0.1 percentage point from the first half, according to the National Bureau of Statistics. Growth in service industries overall, boosted by a surge in real estate sales,

Economic activity seems to be holding up well, with few signs that a renewed slowdown is just around the corner.

JULIAN EVANS-PRITCHARD
CAPITAL ECONOMICS

accelerated to 7.5 percent from the previous quarter's 7.8 percent.

By contrast, exports shrank by 5.6 percent in September from a year earlier.

"Third-quarter data signaled that economic growth has stabilized at a healthy pace, and that China's transition from a high-speed, heavy industry-based economy to a moderately-fast consumer and services-based economy is well underway," said Andy Rothman of Matthews Asia in a report.

"The challenges of completing this transition will result in gradually slower growth rates and increased volatility, but the risks of a hard landing are very low."

State media have warned China's economic outlook will be "L-shaped," meaning the downturn should bottom out but growth will not rebound to the double-digit rates of the past decade.

Repeated infusions of credit to prop up growth since the 2008 global crisis has led to a rapid run-up in China's debt to the equivalent of 250 percent of gross domestic product. That has prompted warnings the country could face a financial crisis if debt growth isn't controlled.

The central bank's measure of total credit showed growth in September edged up to 11.3 percent compared with a year earlier, up from August's 11.2 percent rate.

"The recent recovery is ultimately on borrowed time given that it has been driven in large part by faster credit growth and a property market boom," said Evans-Pritchard. "As the boost from policy stimulus begins to wear off, probably at some point early next year, continued structural drags mean the economy is set to begin slowing again." AP

Philippine leader's visit watched for shift

Matthew Pennington & Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

TALKS this week between Rodrigo Duterte and Chinese President Xi Jinping will be closely scrutinized for signs of how seriously the new Philippine leader intends to pursue a shift away from Washington and toward Beijing, a move that could have a major impact on regional power dynamics.

Duterte's elevation to the presidency 3 1/2 months ago has already turned relations between Washington and Manila on their head. His courtship of Beijing could create further disruptions given the prospect of a long-stan-

ding U.S. treaty ally lining up with Washington's key rival for influence in Asia.

Duterte was greeted by Foreign Minister Wang Yi on arrival at Beijing's main airport on Tuesday evening. He was set to meet today with Xi, Premier Li Keqiang and third-ranking official Zhang Dejiang, the head of the legislature.

"This is a historic visit and presents an opportunity for relations between China and the Philippines to restart on a fresh, more positive footing," Wang told reporters earlier. Duterte was due to return home tomorrow.

Under Duterte's predecessor, Benigno Aquino III, the decades-old U.S.

-Philippine alliance had flourished. A quarter-century after a wave of anti-U.S. nationalism forced the closure of American military bases in the Philippines, Manila was poised to allow more access for U.S. forces to counter an assertive China - an important boost for President Barack Obama's "pivot" placing more emphasis on the Asia-Pacific.

Those gains now hang in the balance, although the Obama administration says it would welcome a reduction in the China-Philippine tensions that had spiraled over the disputed South China Sea, increasing the risk of a military conflict that could embroil

the U.S., which has a mutual defense treaty with the Philippines.

"The prospect of the Philippines pulling out of a long stretch of very tense relations with Beijing is a desirable one," Daniel Russel, top U.S. diplomat for East Asia, told reporters in Washington last week.

Although the U.S. and China are often portrayed as great powers vying for the loyalty of small nations in Asia, neither side wants a confrontation. But there's uncertainty in Washington about where the talks between Duterte and Xi will lead.

In an interview last week with China's state broad-



Pro-Beijing lawmakers stage a walkout, depriving the Legislative chamber of the quorum needed to continue in Hong Kong

HONG KONG

Pro-Beijing side thwarts new lawmakers' oath redo

Kelvin Chan, Hong Kong

CHAOTIC scenes erupted at Hong Kong's legislature yesterday as pro-Beijing lawmakers prevented a pair of newly elected representatives advocating independence for the Chinese region from getting a second chance at taking their oaths. Sixtus Leung and Yau Wai-ching of the radical Youngspiration party, who last week tweaked their pledges in an act of defiance against China, were among five lawmakers set to redo their swearing-in so they can take offi-

Yau said the loyalists should be the ones to apologize 'because they are the ones who are betraying Hong Kongers'

ce. They were part of a new wave of activist candidates elected last month amid a rising tide of anti-China sentiment in semiautonomous Hong Kong. However, the Beijing loyalists staged a walkout before their turn, forcing the meeting's adjournment to next week because the 70-seat chamber lacked the 35-member quorum needed. Speaking to reporters outside the chamber, they blasted Leung and Yau for being disrespectful and insulting China and demanded they apologize, before getting into a yelling match with veteran pro-de-

mocracy activist lawmaker "Long Hair" Leung Kwok-hung. Leung threw slices of luncheon meat at them, a reference to their criticisms when the pro-democracy camp used similar delaying tactics. "We haven't had any sense of remorse from them, so we just have to do what I believe to be a very unfortunate choice, to walk out from the scene, to disallow the swearing ceremony to go on," said pro-Beijing lawmaker Paul Tse. Yau said the loyalists should be the ones to apologize "because they are the ones who are betraying Hong Kongers."

“We haven't had any sense of remorse from them [localists], so we just have to do what I believe to be a very unfortunate choice.”

PAUL TSE
LAWMAKER

At the legislature's opening session a week ago, the duo and two other pro-democracy lawmakers modified their oaths, which call for pledging allegiance to the "Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China." Leung, 30, and Yau, 25, who took the English version of the oath, had vowed to defend the "Hong Kong nation" and mispronounced China as Shina, an archaic Japanese term for the country that's seen as derogatory. Leung crossed his fingers while taking the oath while Yau combined "republic" with a curse word. They were getting a second chance after the top court rejected an unprecedented legal challenge by Hong Kong's Beijing-backed top leader and justice chief, who had filed a last-minute injunction on Tuesday evening to stop them from being allowed the do-over. A third lawmaker, sociology lecturer Lau Siu-lai, was also prevented from retaking her oath. But two others finished before the walkout, including a pro-Beijing representative who forgot one word the first time. **AP**

Shift to Beijing

caster, Duterte said he wasn't looking to sever the historical connection with the U.S. "No, I am not breaking away. I just want to be friendly with everybody," the president said in the interview, which was broadcast by CCTV yesterday. The U.S. says it supports dialogue on territorial issues, so long as the Philippines sticks by a July ruling from an international tribunal in a case brought by Aquino's administration that found that China's sweeping claims in the South China Sea were invalid under a U.N. treaty. "I do not believe that public opinion in the Philippines or the national interest

of the Philippines would support the relinquishing of Philippine rights, territory or sovereignty, and I can't imagine that is President Duterte's intention," Russel said. If Manila were to sideline that ruling in reaching an accommodation with Beijing — perhaps with the prospect of increased access to fisheries or some other economic benefit — it would undermine what has been a sustained U.S. diplomatic effort to get the world to respect the tribunal ruling and for China to adhere to international law in seas crucial for trade. The U.S. advocacy for freedom of navigation and peaceful resolution

of disputes has been a pillar of Obama's outreach into Southeast Asia, where nations have looked to Washington to bolster its presence to counter China's assertive behavior. The planned rotation of U.S. forces at five Philippine military bases, agreed by Aquino, was viewed as essential to that effort. But Duterte's outbursts against the U.S. have put in doubt future military cooperation. He has said that the Philippines is stopping joint military exercises and that he opposes joint patrols with the U.S. Navy in the South China Sea. He has also said he wants U.S. counterterrorism troops out of his country's south and has criticized Obama and the U.S. ambassador in Manila in crude terms for condemning his bloody extrajudicial crackdown

on drug dealers and users. Administration officials say that the U.S. commitment to the alliance remains "ironclad" and that they have gotten no official notification about the removal of U.S. military assets and personnel. Chinese officials have refrained from commenting on Duterte's domestic program and say they expect Duterte's visit to help build trust and place the territorial dispute back on their preferred bilateral track. Duterte has said he merely wants to obtain renewed access for Filipino fishermen to Scarborough Shoal, which China seized in 2012. Both sides have played up the economic benefits of improved relations, with scores of Philippine business leaders accompanying Duterte and Chi-



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte

na considering financing billions of dollars in infrastructure projects. Beijing would be happy to shelve the issue altogether, focusing instead on economic exchanges, say Chinese government-backed scholars. "In general, the talks between Duterte and the Chi-

nese leaders will focus on economic aid to the Philippines and the Chinese leaders will continue to stick to the dual-track thought in handling the South China Sea issue," said Li Jinming, professor at the Institute for South China Sea Studies, Xiamen University. **AP**

Stephen Wright, Bangkok

WHEN Western governments began pouring money into the Mekong River Commission, they hoped it would help four Southeast Asian countries cooperate in responsibly managing one of the world's great rivers.

Two decades later, they have a surfeit of disregarded reports to show for the USD320 million they spent, and a cascade of hydro power developments that benefit the narrow interests of dam builders but are ravaging the river basin, a crucial source of rice, fish and livelihoods for 60 million people.

Critics say the commission, formed when Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam and Thailand signed the Mekong River Agreement in 1995, has been sidelined by those governments. The four countries are more at odds than ever over use of the 4,800-kilometer-long river that begins in Tibet and snakes through their territories.

Consultations for the contentious Xayaburi and Don Sahong dams by Laos on the Mekong's mainstream severely damaged the commission's credibility. The other countries opposed the Lao plans, fearing damage to fisheries and the Mekong's rice bowl delta, and the commission failed to broker an agreement.

On each occasion Laos was already working on the dams while it went through the motions of consultation. Before that, the commission's reputation was already hanging by a thread; it paid several million dollars for a scientific study that recommended a 10-year moratorium on dam building but it was not adopted as an official document because of disagreement among the member countries.

Donor funding has shriveled and the commission's staff has been slashed from about 160 to 66.

The largest donor, Denmark, provided \$86 million of Danish taxpayer money to the commission since 1995 before ending its funding last year, said Kurt Morck Jensen, chief technical adviser to Denmark's development agency during that period.

The funding slump coincides with cuts by Western governments of foreign aid programs they view as the least deserving. The commission needs \$65 million for 2016-2020 and has secured \$43 million so far. It received more than \$100 million in the previous five-year period.

"There is a risk that a Mekong River Commission without donor support could further lose influence," said Jensen. "On the other hand, donors cannot and should not be babysitting the MRC forever."

Denmark used a critical review of the commission it conducted in 2013 to press for a faster wi-



Cambodian fishermen row their wooden boat as they head back from catching fish near a site of Don Sahong dam on the Mekong river

REPORT

Mekong effort fails after years of lavish foreign funding

thdrawal by foreign donors. Originally, the organization was supposed to be totally funded by its Southeast Asian member countries by 2030. Denmark recommended that be brought forward to 2020.

The Danish report:

— Criticized gaps in the commission's knowledge that meant Vietnam and Thailand, which also fund the commission, had to conduct their own research to collect fundamental data about the river;

— Cast doubts the commission could accurately predict the effects of mainstream dams on fisheries and agriculture or know the threshold at which the river's development would reach a damaging point of no return;

— Questioned whether it had sufficient knowhow to advise member states how to mitigate the impact of dams;

— Queried an "unusual" amount of time and money spent on travel, meetings and workshops.

Consultants hired by Denmark concluded "there is generally little evidence of value for money." They found instances of drivers and secretaries being listed as professional participants in meetings to make up numbers, unjustified study tours of the Danube River in Europe and to the United States and Canada, and other wasteful spending.

The commission's CEO from that time, Hans Guttman, did not respond to emailed ques-

tions.

Philip Hirsch, a professor of human geography at Sydney University and a Mekong expert, said donor money also paid for valuable scientific research. But the commission, he said, couldn't use that knowledge to advocate on behalf of the river and the millions of people who rely on it because anything of significance had to be approved by senior officials in each country.

"It cannot be said that this has been money well spent," Hirsch said. "It now has much reduced relevance."

Earlier this year, a study funded by Vietnam predicted Mekong Delta rice production would drop steeply because up to nine mainstream dams planned by Laos would trap sediments, reducing nutrients flowing downstream, and reduce fish stocks by disrupting migratory breeding. It estimates annual fishery and farming losses of more than \$760 million in Vietnam and \$450 million in Cambodia, the two worst affected countries.

More than 100 smaller dams have been built on Mekong tributaries that were excluded from the requirement for consultations. Their cumulative social and environmental impact is much more severe than mainstream dams for the time-being, Jensen said.

One of the commission's few defenders is its new CEO, Pham Tuan Phan, who was appointed earlier this year.

As a forum for "water diplomacy," the commission is the only game in town, Pham said.

He pointed to an estimated \$400 million spent by Laos and the Thai developer of the Xayaburi dam on design changes to improve release of sediment and aid the passage of fish as an example of its relevance.

The commission is also belatedly developing a tool to assess the environmental impact of dams across borders and hopes to complete its long-delayed comprehensive study into development of the river.

Laos will not be deterred from building more dams, Pham said, because it sees them as a way to develop its impoverished economy by exporting electricity.

"I think the public expects more than the commission has a mandate to do," he said.

But researchers at the Stimson

Center, a Washington-based think tank, said Laos may have to scale back some of its plans because of uncertain power demand.

"The project-by-project approach in Laos has created a situation that is likely to fall far short of revenue goals while at the same time lays ruin to downstream agricultural outputs and fish catches in Vietnam and Cambodia," the center said.

Aside from Denmark, other major donors included Finland, Germany, Sweden, Belgium, Australia, World Bank, Netherlands, Japan, European Union, France and United States.

Several donors said a Mekong flood warning system was an example of money well spent. However it represents only a small proportion of the commission's budget.

The dissatisfaction of donors was apparent as far back as 2006 when Denmark commissioned a study into how the organization could become more effective. It recommended it be given teeth, something that would require member governments to sacrifice some sovereignty.

That never happened. But Jensen defends the foreign funding as "successful to some extent."

The knowledge generated by the commission "turned the Mekong into a political battlefield," he said. "At least now there is considerable transparency." AP

■ The funding slump coincides with cuts by Western governments of foreign aid programs they view as the least deserving

MYANMAR

48 bodies recovered after ferry capsizing on river



RESCUE teams found 48 bodies through yesterday and were searching for other victims from a crowded ferry boat that capsized during a nighttime run on a river in central Myanmar last Saturday, officials said.

The boat that was running on the Chindwin river between Monywa and Homalin townships in the Sagaing region carried more than 250 passengers.

"It is confirmed that 48 bodies have been found (through) today, the rescue teams are still looking for missing bodies but we don't know how many exactly passengers were on the boat," local official Myo Nyunt Tun said.

Authorities said 158 people were rescued and the teams of rescuers were searching for more bodies.

The cause of the capsizing was unclear but local police says the boat may have been overcrowded. A regional member of parliament said it is common that the ferry boats usually carry more passengers than they are allowed.

Kani Township police filed criminal charges against the helmsman alleging his negligence caused the deaths.

"The ferry boat was carrying more people than they were allowed, which is illegal, and that's why the police are taking action against the helmsman," said Tun Tun Win, a regional member of parliament.

Many people in Myanmar travel by boat, but poor maintenance and overcrowding makes the vessels prone to capsizing.

The local government said it will take serious action against any overcrowded ferry boat in the region. **AP**

PHILIPPINES

Police van rams protesters in front of US Embassy

A Philippine police van rammed into protesters, leaving several bloodied, as an anti-U.S. rally turned violent yesterday at the American Embassy in Manila.

At least three student activists had to be taken to a hospital after they were run over by the van driven by a police officer, protest leader Renato Reyes said.

Associated Press TV footage showed the van repeatedly ramming the protesters as it drove wildly back and forth after activists surrounded and started hitting the vehicle with wooden batons they seized from police.

In front of horrified crowds, including videojournalists and photographers, the van suddenly charged backward then sprinted forward twice over a space of about 20 meters, barreling through the scattered protesters and hurtling some to the side like bowling pins. A few got ran over but somehow managed to stand.

Some screamed in surprise, others hurled stones at the van and yelled invectives. A speaker called the police "puppies of imperialists" on a loudspeaker.

"There was absolutely no justification for it," Reyes said of the violent police dispersal of about 1,000 protesters. "Even as the president vowed an independent foreign policy, Philippine police forces still act as running dogs of the U.S."

Police lobbed tear gas and arrested at least 23 protesters



A protester is helped after a Philippine National Police van, background, rammed into protesters outside the U.S. Embassy in Manila

who broke through a line of riot police and hurled red paint at the officers and a U.S. government seal at the start of the rally at the seaside embassy compound.

A firetruck doused the rowdy protesters with water to push them back, but they took hold of the water hose and confronted the outnumbered police with rocks and red paint. After

breaking through the police corridor, they scribbled "U.S. troops out now" and other slogans at the embassy's tall fence with red paint.

The protesters, consisting of students, workers and tribespeople, were demanding an end to the presence of visiting U.S. troops in the Philippines and to support a call by President Rodrigo Duterte for a foreign po-

licy not dependent on the U.S., the country's longtime treaty ally.

The activists came from the largest left-wing umbrella group called Bayan (Nation), which has organized regular anti-U.S. protests in front of the embassy for decades, most of which are peaceful.

Duterte was on a state visit to China, where he is seeking to repair relations strained under his predecessor over territorial conflicts in the South China Sea. He is also seeking to expand two-way trade and investments and financing for badly needed infrastructure projects.

Amid an uneasy relationship with the U.S., Duterte has tried to reach out to China and Russia, bringing uncertainty to his country's long alliance with America.

But the protesters also opposed the president's effort to lean toward China. "The Philippines will not be dictated on, whether by the U.S. or China," they said in a statement. The Philippine National Police did not comment.

The violence happened as the police and Duterte are under increased international scrutiny for their alleged role in the killings of thousands of drug suspects and pushers as part of the president's war on illegal drugs. **AP**

Haiyan-like deluge feared as super typhoon nears Philippines

PHILIPPINE forecasters are warning that a super typhoon set to slam into the country's northeast may bring widespread damage similar to that wrought by Typhoon Haiyan in 2013, and have asked people to flee out of harm's way.

They say Typhoon Haima, which was packing sustained winds of 225 kilometers per hour and gusts of up to 315 kph, was tracked 275 kilometers over the Philippine Sea and was expected to slam into coast around midnight yesterday.

The government's weather agency raised the highest of a five-level storm warning over northern provinces. A massive evacuation was underway in the region.

In November 2013, Typhoon Haiyan struck the central Philippines with ferocious power, leaving more than 7,300 people dead or missing. **AP**



A Filipino girl is carried along a flooded road in suburban Mandaluyong, east of Manila

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Darlene Superville,

USA

Obama honors Italy's leader at 'bittersweet' state dinner

BITTERSWEET" was the word of the night, the one often used to describe President Barack Obama's final state dinner.

"We saved the best for last," he said Tuesday as he welcomed Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi and his wife, Agnese Landini, to the White House.

He wasn't joking.

The final gala meant everything was big or bigger, from the personality of the guest chef (Mario Batali) who collaborated on the menu to the size of the white tent (huge) on the South Lawn where the soiree was held, to the guest list (nearly 400 people).

Rep. Gerald Connolly, D-Va., said it's "a little sad" that it's Obama's last state dinner. But to make the occasion even more memorable, he said: "For tonight only, I pronounce my name 'Canoli,' not 'Connolly.'"

Michelle Obama's hairstylist, Johnny Wright, also described the moment as "bittersweet," but he was still excited to have been invited. The first lady also invited her makeup artist, Carl Ray; her trainer, Cornell McClellan; and Meredith Koop, who helps Mrs. Obama with her wardrobe.

"I'm excited that it's the last state dinner, so it's a bittersweet thing," said actress-comedian Alexandra Wentworth. "I love the Obamas."

Others, meanwhile, sought to inject some levity into the evening.

"We're Jews, but we identify as Italian," joked Jerry Seinfeld. By way of explaining why the Obamas may have invited the comedian and his wife, Jessica, Seinfeld said the couple spends a lot of time traveling in Italy "and we almost exclusively go out for Italian food, but that's as far as I can figure."

After tripping while climbing stairs and then cutting out the lining of her dress, celebrity chef Rachael Ray joked that



President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama wait at North Portico of the White House to greet Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi and his wife Agnese Landini, for a State Dinner

"I should only come here in sneakers." Ray has done numerous events with Mrs. Obama to support the first lady's "Let's Move" anti-childhood obesity initiative.

Obama has had one dinner bigger than Tuesday's, a 2014 event for African heads of state to which more than 400 people were invited.

Tuesday's guest list included a touch of everything: celebrities, lawmakers, senior administration officials, White House staff, a larger-than-usual contingent of journalists and others, and it had the feeling of having been designed as one big final "thank you" to all.

In fact, Mrs. Obama was overhead thanking her guests

"for eight magnificent years."

"This has truly been a successful final state dinner," she said between dinner and the entertainment.

Guests of Italian descent included House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., the highest-ranking Italian-American in U.S. politics; former race car driver Mario Andretti, who sported socks designed like a checkered racing flag; fashion designer Giorgio Armani; actor John Turturro; New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo; and actor-director Roberto Benigni.

Once again, the first lady dazzled — literally — in her evening gown, a rose gold chainmail number by Italian designer Versace, the White House said. Other female guests also went Italian in their choice of attire, clothing themselves in Valentino, Roberto Cavalli and others.

Batali helped the White House kitchen crew prepare the meal, and Grammy-winning pop singer Gwen Stefani opened the after-dinner segment with her hit, "The Sweet Escape," as her boyfriend, country superstar Blake Shelton, looked on from the audience. After that song, she talked about her dad being Italian American and said "I'm trying to, like, figure this out, how I got here," meaning to the dinner.

A few guests, including fellow cook Sandra Lee, Cuomo's partner, said they were most looking forward to eating Batali's food.

In his pre-dinner toast, Obama said American democracy had been graced by a touch of Italy. He noted that the Lincoln Memorial and the interior

of the U.S. Capitol dome were done by Italians, and raised a glass to the "enduring alliance" between the U.S. and Italy.

Renzi alluded during his toast to a speech the first lady gave last week in New Hampshire in which she criticized Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump for boasting on a 2005 video about being sexually aggressive toward women.

"Michelle, your tomatoes are great. But after the last weeks, let me be very frank, your speeches are better than your tomatoes," Renzi said, thanking her as the father of a young daughter.

Batali, executive chef Cristeta Comerford and pastry chef Susie Morrison settled on a menu of sweet potato ravioli with browned butter and sage, warm butternut squash salad and an entree of beef pinwheels, an Italian classic, served with broccoli rabe. Dessert was a green apple crostata, or Italian tart, served with buttermilk gelato, or Italian ice cream.

The menu was designed to showcase traditional Italian dishes that are familiar to Americans and were made using ingredients pulled from Mrs. Obama's garden during this month's final harvest, such as the sweet potatoes and herbs.

Obama has held 13 state dinners during nearly eight years in office, two more than President George W. Bush, but fewer than other recent predecessors, according to the White House Historical Association. President Bill Clinton far exceeded both of his successors with 28 dinners during two terms in office. AP

USA

Four shot outside San Francisco schools; suspects at large

FOUR teenage students were shot in the shared parking lot of two San Francisco high schools yesterday [Macau time], and one of the students is in critical condition, authorities said.

The shooting occurred as students were being let out of school for the day from the June Jordan School for Equity and City Arts and Technology

High School, which share a campus, San Francisco Police Officer Carlos Manfredi said.

Three of the victims ran inside the school, and police initially ordered students to stay in place until police searched each room and determined it was not an active shooter situation. A fourth victim hurt in the shooting went to the Bayview Police Sta-

tion, Manfredi said.

"One female victim has life-threatening injuries to her upper torso," he said.

Four male suspects wearing dark hoodies and jeans were seen running away from the area, Manfredi said.

The shooters, who are not students at the school, seemed to have targeted the female student, officials said.

"This was an isolated incident outside of the school building where one student was being targeted by outsiders," the San Francisco Unified School District said in a statement.

Classes at June Jordan School in the city's Excelsior District will resume today [Macau time] and extra security and counselors for students will be available, it said. AP



San Francisco Police stand at the site of a shooting outside the June Jordan School for Equity and City Arts and Technology High School

what's ON



A SEXAGENARY REVISION - MASTERS OF THE MACAO ARTISTS SOCIETY

TIME: 10am-7pm (closed on Mondays, open on public holidays, no admission after 6:30 pm)

UNTIL: December 4, 2016

VENUE: Handover Gifts Museum of Macao, Av. Xian Xing Hai Macao

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

THE VOICE - THE EXHIBITION THAT SPEAKS TO YOU

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

UNTIL: November 16, 2106

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

ADMISSION: MOP10

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2871 8063

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

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

UNTIL: November 20, 2106

VENUE: MGM Art Space, Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (852) 3678 0150

MACAU GIANT PANDA PAVILION

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

VENUE: Seac Pai Van Park, Coloane

ADMISSION: MOP10

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

THE COLLECTION EXHIBITION OF TAI FUNG TONG ART HOUSE

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

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 3537 / 2834 6626

Offbeat

MEET AZALEA THE SMOKING CHIMP, NEW STAR AT PYONGYANG ZOO



Pyongyang's newly opened zoo has a new star: Azalea, the smoking chimpanzee.

According to officials at the newly renovated zoo, which has become a favorite leisure spot in the North

Korean capital since it re-opened in July, the 19-year-old female chimpanzee, whose name in Korean is "Dallae," smokes about a pack a day. Dallae is short for azalea.

They insist, however, she doesn't inhale.

Thrown a lighter by a zoo trainer, the chimpanzee lights her own cigarettes. If a lighter isn't available, she can light up from lit cigarette if one is tossed her way.

Though such a sight would be cringe-worthy in many other locales, it seemed to delight visitors who roared with laughter yesterday as the chimpanzee, one of two at the zoo, sat puffing away as her trainer egged her on. The trainer also prompted her to touch her nose, bow thank you and do a simple dance.

The zoo is pulling in thousands of visitors a day with a slew of attractions ranging from such typical fare as elephants, giraffes, penguins and monkeys to a high-tech natural history museum with displays showing the origins of the solar system and the evolution of life on Earth.

Another of the most popular attractions that might come as a surprise to foreign visitors is the dog pavilion, which has everything from German shepherds to Shih Tsus. The zoo also has performances featuring other animals trained to do tricks, including a monkey that slam dunks basketballs, dogs trained to appear as though they can do addition on subtraction on an abacus and doves that fly around and land on a woman skating on an indoor stage.

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:45	RTPi Live
15:50	Champions League 2016/2017: Dynamo Kiev - Benfica (Repeated)
17:30	Criminal Minds S10 (Repeated)
18:10	Precious Pearl (Repeated)
19:00	Non-Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Talk Show
21:40	The Toque 12 S2
22:10	Precious Pearl
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Highlights
23:50	Miscellaneous
00:20	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:00	Europa League 2016/2017: Konyaspor - Braga (Live)
03:00	RTPi Live

cinema

CINETEATRO

20 Oct - 26 Oct



JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK

ROOM 1

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Edward Zwick

Starring: Tom Cruise, Cobie Smulders, Damika Yarosh

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 118min



HEARTFALL ARISES

ROOM 2

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Ken Wu

Starring: Nicholas Tse, Sean Lau

Language: Chinese (English and Cantonese)

Duration: 108min

THE AGE OF SHADOWS

ROOM 2

2.15, 4.45, 7.15 pm

Director: Kim Jee-Woon

Starring: Song Kang-Ho, Gong Yoo, Han Ji-Min

Language: Korean (English and Cantonese)

Duration: 140min

SADAKO VS KAYAKO

ROOM 3

9.45 pm

Director: Koji Shiraishi

Starring: Mizuki Yamamoto, Tina Tamashiro, Masanobu Ando

Language: Japanese (English and Cantonese)

Duration: 98min

MACAU TOWER

06 Oct - 26 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



1967 THOUSANDS JOIN ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT

The biggest demonstration yet against American involvement in the Vietnam War has taken place in the town of Oakland, in California.

An estimated 4,000 people poured onto the streets to demonstrate in a fifth day of massive protests against the conscription of soldiers to serve in the war.

The city was brought to a standstill as protesters built barricades across roads to prevent buses carrying recruits to the Army's conscription centre.

Police reinforcements came in from San Francisco as the protests turned violent.

Demonstrators, many wearing helmets and holding plywood shields, overturned cars and threw bottles, tin cans and stones at the police.

Four people were injured and seven arrested.

There was no repeat of the scenes three days ago, however, when police in Oakland used clubs and chemical sprays to clear the streets.

The heavy-handed treatment of demonstrators caused outrage throughout the country.

Today's demonstration was part of what is being called "Stop the Draft Week" - a nationwide initiative which has seen peace marches in cities across the United States.

It is expected to move to Washington DC tomorrow, and demonstrators are said to be targeting all roads to the capital.

It is thought up to 40,000 could join a protest march from the Lincoln Memorial to the Pentagon.

The demonstrators are trying to disrupt military induction centres, encouraging large numbers of young men to turn in their draft cards.

Many are burning the cards - an illegal act under a law passed by Congress two years ago.

About 50 conscientious objectors have already been sent to jail for their protest.

It is estimated up to 7,000 have left the country, mainly to Canada, to avoid the draft.

Recent polls suggest that American support for the war in Vietnam is declining steadily.

President Johnson is under attack from those who believe he is not being aggressive enough on Vietnam as well as those who think he should withdraw.

A Gallup poll published earlier this month showed his popularity rating plummeting to the point where if an election were held at this point in his term of office, he would lose by a landslide.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The anti-war movement grew from strength to strength, until in March 1968 President Johnson announced a pause in the bombing of North Vietnam to start negotiations for peace.

At the same time, he announced he would not be standing for re-election as President.

He left office in 1968, while the war was still at its height.

Lyndon Johnson continued to be closely involved in negotiations for peace in Vietnam, in an initiative which culminated in the Paris Peace Accords of 1973.

He did not live to see the treaty signed. Five days before, on 22 January 1973, he died suddenly of a heart attack at his Texas ranch. The hated draft ended in the same year, and America converted to an "all-volunteer military".

Despite the Accords, the fighting in Vietnam continued until the Saigon government surrendered to the Vietcong in April 1975.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You have too many little details to handle today...

Taurus April 20-May 20 All this good energy is helping your mood in a big way...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Your good advice is a blessing to those around you today...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You tend to rely more on intuition than deep analysis...

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You are less willing than usual to break out of your shell...

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Tidy up and take care of the smallest details today...

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You are great when it comes to making people feel heard...

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Your sources are more informative than ever...

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Try to tackle the details of your projects and problems today...

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Someone spills a moderately big secret early today...

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Other people are key to your success today - much more so than usual...

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You are feeling a little down on yourself - probably too much so...

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle.

Hard

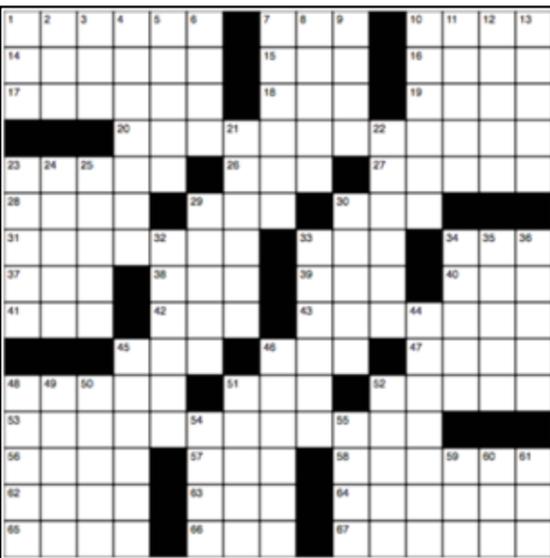
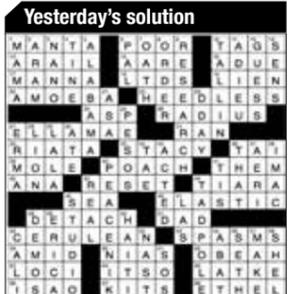
9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle.

WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Llama relative; 7- Impair; 10- Let's just leave ___ that; 14- Outcome; 15- Compass dir; 16- String tie; 17- Attacks; 18- Pathetic; 19- "Return of the Jedi" critter; 20- Transform; 23- Ablaze; 26- A really big shoe?; 27- As before; 28- Sari-clad royal; 29- Xenon, e.g.; 30- Small battery size; 31- Onslaught; 33- Dيارist AnaA's; 34- Faulkner's "___ Lay Dying"; 37- Suffix with meteor; 38- Actress Charlotte; 39- Early hrs.; 40- Prohibit; 41- D-Day craft; 42- I'm freezing!; 43- Food ordered to go; 45- Dundee denial; 46- Cereal grass; 47- Prefix with Tibetan; 48- Attack; 51- Sawbuck; 52- Attorney follower; 53- High fashion; 56- Other, in Oaxaca; 57- Accelerate; 58- Tentacle; 62- Give out; 63- Make a mistake; 64- Seep through, biologically; 65- Sand hill by the sea; 66- Afore; 67- Already?; DOWN: 1- Start of MGM's motto; 2- Apomattox figure; 3- L.A. clock setting; 4- Republic in central Europe; 5- Irish county; 6- ___ boy; 7- Untidy states; 8- Make ___ for oneself; 9- Make over; 10- Spain and Portugal; 11- Namely; 12- Up in the air; 13- Capital of Japan; 21- Less cluttered; 22- Polish seaport; 23- Thin as ___; 24- Observes Ramadan; 25- Atlas feature; 29- Stare angrily; 30- Draw a bead on; 32- Suave; 33- Swimming; 34- Bubbling; 35- Sweatbox; 36- Following; 44- Values highly; 45- Write down; 46- Body of work; 48- Did a blacksmith's job; 49- Words on a Wonderland cake; 50- Italian city; 51- ___ is human...; 52- You ___ right!; 54- Manitoba native; 55- ET transports; 59- Elton's john; 60- "___ Beso" (1962 hit); 61- Stimp's pal;



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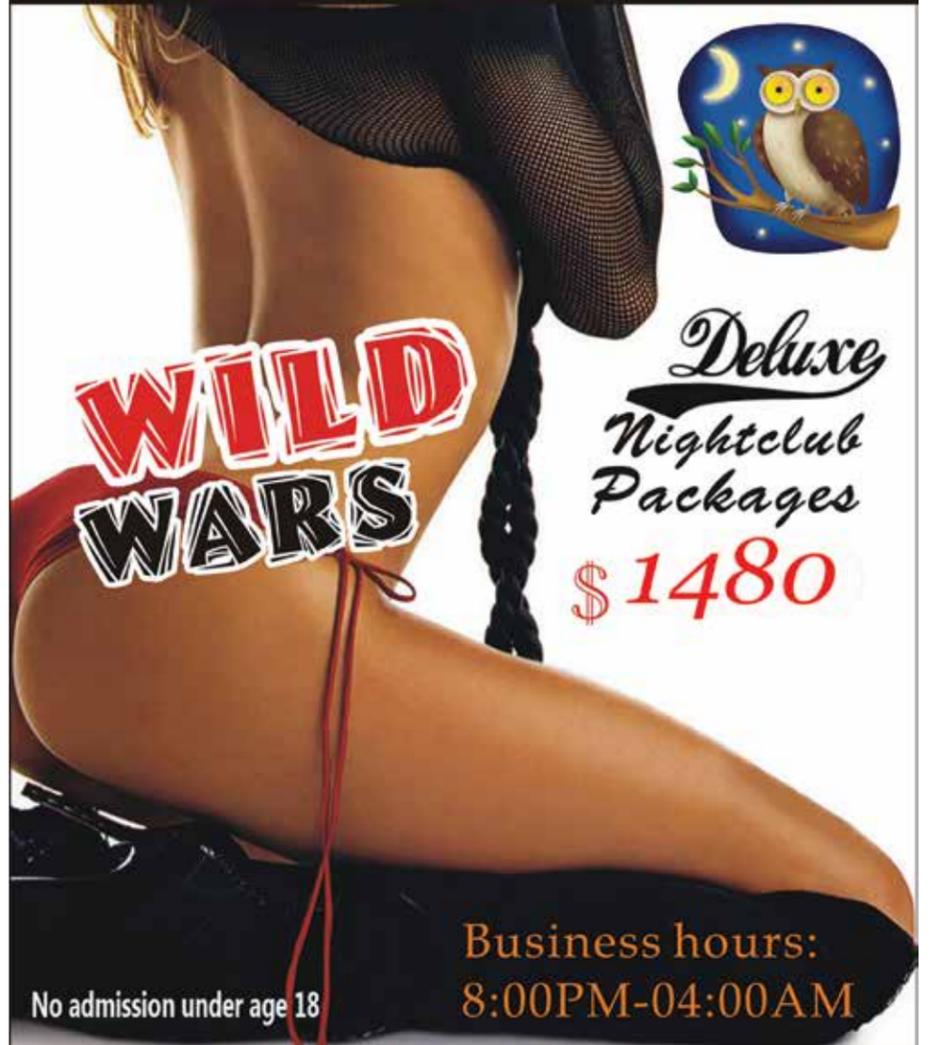
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NBA

MONTHS before Derrick Rose took the stand to defend himself in a lawsuit claiming he and two friends raped an ex-girlfriend while she was intoxicated, the NBA star was asked if he understood the word "consent."

"No. But can you tell me?" he asked at a deposition in June.

Rose came to court last week with a much better grasp of the word that is central to the USD21 million civil case, though his interpretation of the concept could prove costly.

No one disputes the New York Knicks player and his friends had sex with the woman in her apartment Aug. 27, 2013. The question is whether she gave her consent — as the men claim — or whether she was too incapacitated to do so — as she insists.

There is no commonly accepted definition for consent, which is at the heart of a "patchwork quilt" of evolving laws on rape and sexual assault that in some cases require an affirmative agreement before sex, attorney Rebecca O'Connor said.

"It is murky, and I think that's where we're seeing a lot states try to clear the weeds, if you will, and take this on and make it clear," said O'Connor, a vice president at the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network. "It's so complicated we can never just say it's black and white."

Rape was once defined as intercourse with force against a woman's will, said Matt Lyon, a law professor at Lincoln Memorial University. Reform efforts in some states led to rape being defined more by the non-consent of the victim than a use of force by the perpetrator.

States such as California have gone further in deciding that consent can be withdrawn during sex and that a victim can be too incapacitated to agree to

Sexual consent, debated across US, key to Derrick Rose case



Derrick Rose

the act.

"One of the big criticisms against the modernization is the 'he said, she said,'" Lyon said. "It's so easy when it's clear there was force used, but here the woman may say it was rape though there's no physical evidence of force or that it was done against her will."

That is the situation in the Rose case, where the woman said she blacked out after drinking earlier in the night and felt drugged after downing a few shots of tequila at Rose's Beverly Hills mansion. With no physical evidence, the case hinges as much on her credibility as that of the three men.

The woman said she went home from Rose's place, vomit-

ted and woke up around 3 a.m. to find Rose, Ryan Allen and Randall Hampton having sex with her and she was too incapacitated to stop it.

Rose may have been tripped up by the word "consent" in his videotaped deposition, but he tried to recover at trial by defining it as both parties being in agreement. He also connected dots he felt outlined consent, including the woman's racy texts that started 17 hours earlier saying he made her "horny."

"Maybe she sent suggestive texts or emails, but that doesn't prove she consented to it at the time," said Evan Lee, a law professor at the University of California, Hastings College of Law. "A woman may be willing

to have sex 23 hours in the day, but if he has sex in that 24th hour when she's not willing, then that's rape if he knows she doesn't want to."

Rose testified that he assumed consent based on their sexual history, the fact she had never denied him and because of sex acts she initiated with him and his friends at the Beverly Hills house earlier in the night. He and his friends all said the woman seemed sober and she willingly participated.

When the three men entered her apartment that morning, defense lawyer Mark Baute said in closing arguments Tuesday that she told them "one at a time" and welcomed them with "open arms and open legs."

The Associated Press is not naming the woman because it generally does not identify people who say they are victims of sexual assault.

Her lawyer argued that the defense concocted a story to show the woman consented through her sexually aggressive behavior, but he said it amounted to blaming the victim.

"It's an attempt to slut shame the plaintiff, which generally happens in these type of cases," attorney Waukeen McCoy said.

The topic of consent and whether someone is too incapacitated to agree to sex have been part of a broader discussion after allegations that Bill Cosby drugged and molested dozens of women over decades and after outrage over a six-month jail sentence for former Stanford swimmer Brock Turner, who sexually assaulted an unconscious woman.

The topic has even crossed into the presidential campaign with the emergence of a 2005 recording of Republican nominee Donald Trump bragging about grabbing women's genitalia and several women accusing him of groping them.

"People are starting to recognize that even if they didn't fit whatever mythological circumstance people think needs to happen in order for it to be rape or sexual assault, that there is in fact that gray area where it's still nonconsensual," O'Connor said. "Even if you wore a skirt or you didn't outwardly force someone off you, this may legally fall into the realm of sexual assault." **AP**

FOOTBALL | CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Buffon stars for Juventus while Ronaldo plays for team

GIANLUIGI Buffon kept the shots out while Cristiano Ronaldo failed to put them in.

While Buffon starred in goal for Juventus, saving a penalty and making two remarkable saves in a 1-0 win at Lyon, it was a frustrating night for record-chasing Ronaldo in the Champions League.

The Real Madrid forward needed only two goals to become the first player to score 100 career goals in European club competitions. But

he could not muster even one for the holders in a 5-1 rout of Polish strugglers Legia Warsaw — which had lost five of its past seven matches.

Madrid has scored 11 times in its past two games, but only one of those has been from the usually prolific Ronaldo. He has made an uncharacteristically quiet start to the season for Madrid with four goals in eight games so far — very low by his own lofty standards.

Madrid's goals came from Wales forward Gareth Bale, an own-goal by Tomasz Jodlowiec, and further strikes by Marco Asensio, Lucas Vazquez and Alvaro Morata, sealing an emphatic victory in Group F, two of them following outstanding assists by Ronaldo.

Madrid is level on seven points with Borussia Dortmund, but the German side leads on goal difference after winning 2-1 at Sporting Lisbon.

Prolific striker Pierre

-Emerick Aubameyang — with his ninth goal in nine games — and Julian Weigl scored in the first half for Dortmund. Midfielder Bruno Cesar pulled one back midway through the second half after an indirect free kick was awarded near the penalty spot.

Colombia midfielder Juan Cuadrado scored the winner for Juventus in the 76th minute with a brilliant angled strike, keeping the Turin team top of Group H. **MDT/AP**



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo

opinion

Made in Macao

Jenny Lao-Phillips



CAN POKÉMON THRIVE IN MACAO?

When you ask young people in Macao what the biggest cultural phenomenon is these days, most of them would tell you "Pokémon Go." This gaming app has spread Pokémon mania all over the world in three short months. According to Reuters, Nintendo's shares were up 60 percent two weeks after launching the game July 6, 2016 in the United States, Australia and New Zealand.

By early October, the game had been released in over 110 countries and was still rolling. According to Fox News, the app hit No. 1 on US iPhone sales just 13 hours after its launch, despite being a free-to-download app. Not to mention the money dedicated players are willing to spend for rides to PokeStops; rumor has it that some creative minds in Hong Kong have started businesses where they take players around the city to catch Pokémon.

Not even newspaper headlines like "Driver playing Pokémon Go swerves off road, hits tree" or "Pokémon Go behind second fatal traffic accident in Japan" seem to have any effect on the craze shared by players. When the Pokémon Go trend hit Macao a few weeks ago, it created some traffic jams with drivers stopping in the middle of the road to catch Pokémon, but that seems to be it. The hype has not seemed as intense as it has been in other places.

Judging from the reviews of the game, the hype seemed to be due to the game's ability to get players to go outdoors, walk around, enjoy fresh air, and get to know landmarks throughout the city where Pokéstops are located. Moreover, it allows players to interact and to physically meet each other as they chase down Pokémon. Sounds like quite a healthy game, but can these benefits aid the game's success in Macao?

Let's pretend that players are in control, they do not drive and catch at the same time or play while crossing the streets in Macao, so the potential dangers are not a turnoff. Still, playing this game in Macao does not seem to offer as much fun as it has in other cities.

Firstly, to enjoy the running around and getting to a Pokéstop in time, the game demands space to run and walk. Well-known for our narrow streets and high urban density, is it really that fun to have to run around to find Pokémon? Do we have the space to get to a designated location in time?

Secondly, all the landmarks in Macao are within walking distance, and mostly gathered in the city centre. We can easily see them all in an afternoon or so. Are there that many landmarks that we need an augmented reality game to help us go sightseeing?

Finally, "Macaoians" have quite a reserved culture when it comes to social interaction. We do not often greet people we recognize on the streets. Will a common goal of catching Pokémon change this culture, and get us to talk to people we don't know? The Candy Crush craze had successfully got us to connect to people years ago, but those relationships seem to have remained virtual. We send lives to each other, but seldom even talk when we meet on the street.

Of course, there may be some other benefits this game can bring to Macao. By getting people out, it has indirectly benefited some local food and beverage outlets getting business from hungry Pokémon hunters.

However, crowds and traffic jams in Macao have caused frustration among players when chasing down virtual monsters which soon outweigh the fun in playing the game. Not to mention the heavy data usage and battery drainage. Probably it shouldn't be too surprising that quite a few youngsters have told me they gave up on the game in less than a couple of weeks.

THE BUZZ THOM JONES, AUTHOR OF 'THE PUGILIST AT REST,' DIES AT 71

Thom Jones, an acclaimed short-story writer who drew upon family tragedy and his own painful struggles for "The Pugilist At Rest" and other collections, has died.

Jones died Friday in Olympia, Washington, his longtime home, according to his literary representatives, the Wylie Agency. He was 71 and died of complications from diabetes.

"The Pugilist at Rest," a best-seller published in

1993, was his debut book and a finalist for the National Book Award. Its stories of violence, trauma and spiritual striving led to comparisons to Ernest Hemingway, Norman Mailer and fellow Pacific Northwest resident Raymond Carver among others. "Jones' steady strength is in the unpretentious dialogue, in the fine gutbucket descriptions where irony tangles with Hemingwayan macho," the Los Angeles Times noted in its review.

MH370

Underwater drone to investigate sonar contacts in missing plane hunt



A piece of an aircraft wing found on the Indian Ocean island of Mauritius has been identified as belonging to missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370

Kristen Gelineau, Sydney

A ship involved with the deep-sea sonar search for missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 is being fitted with a drone that will examine several sonar contacts of interest on the remote seabed west of Australia, officials said yesterday.

None of the sonar contacts exhibit the characteristics of a typical aircraft debris field, said the Australian Transport Safety Bureau, which is heading up the hunt for the Boeing 777 in a desolate stretch of the Indian Ocean. But some of the contacts do exhibit man-made properties and therefore must be investigated before they can be eliminated as having come from the plane, the agency said in a statement.

Officials have previously said that more than 20 sonar

contacts that crews have picked up in recent months require closer examination by a sonar-equipped underwater drone. They are between 2,700 kilometers and 1,900 kilometers from the Australian port of Fremantle where the search ships are based.

Poor weather during the southern hemisphere winter has, until now, prevented the ships from deploying the drone. With the weather improving, the Chinese vessel Dong Hai Jiu 101 is being fitted with a video camera-equipped remotely operated vehicle that will scrutinize the sonar contacts.

Crews have picked up hundreds of sonar contacts of interest throughout the two-year hunt. The contacts are grouped into three classification levels based on their likelihood of being linked to the plane. Contacts dubbed

"classification 1" are considered the most likely to have come from the aircraft. None of the recent sonar contacts that the drone will investigate are classification 1. There have only been two contacts that fit into that category thus far; one turned out to be an old shipwreck, and the other was a rock field.

Search crews have so far come up empty in their attempt to find the main underwater wreckage of the plane, which vanished on March 8, 2014, during a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing with 239 people on board. The ships have less than 10,000 square kilometers (3,900 square miles) left to scour of the 120,000-square kilometer (46,000-square mile) search zone.

Officials previously said the search would be finished by December. On Wednesday, the transport bureau said it is now likely to take until January or February to complete, due to the long stretch of poor winter weather that has hampered search efforts.

Malaysia, China and Australia agreed in July that the hunt would be suspended after the crews finish scouring the current search zone, unless credible new evidence emerges that identifies the plane's location. AP

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	30-50 Good	
High Density Residential Area	30-50 Good	
Ambient	30-50 Good	

WORLD BRIEFS



INDIA New Delhi's zoo is closed temporarily after nine birds die from suspected bird flu. Autopsies conducted on the birds confirmed that at least two of them died from H5N1 avian influenza, the National Zoological Park said, adding, "we decided to close the zoo for a few days as a precautionary measure." The zoo would reopen next week.



MEKONG RIVER When Western governments began pouring money into the Mekong River Commission, they hoped it would help four Southeast Asian countries cooperate in responsibly managing one of the world's great rivers. Two decades later, they have a surfeit of disregarded reports to show for the USD320 million they spent.

More on p12



SKOREA Prosecutors indict the Lotte Group's founder, his mistress and all of his three children on embezzlement, tax evasion and other charges. Five family members including founder Shin Kyuk-ho, 94, and the group's current chair, Shin Dong-bin, 61 (pictured), together allegedly evaded a total USD76m in taxes and embezzled \$46m of company funds

UK The jobless rate in the remained at 4.9 percent, an 11-year low. Real basic pay growth slowed to 1.7 percent, and firms are already reporting cuts to hiring and investment plans. The pound rallied above USD1.23 after the data was released. The pound's rally over the past couple of days has done little to mitigate the collapse in the currency since the Brexit vote.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Lynne Sladky



C/o Anima. Bulldog Rosie sits under the desk of her owner some Barbara Goldberg, at her office in Hollywood, Fla. Goldberg is a small business owner who believes pets improve the quality of their work life, boosting morale and easing tension for staffers.