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The local delegation of the Taipei government warned its citizens not to make any changes to their passports

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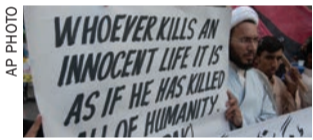
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WORLD BRIEFS



AFGHANISTAN Taliban insurgents killed 26 Afghan civilians after abducting them in the remote central province of Ghor the previous day, officials said, the latest brutal attack targeting the local population in one of the country's most lawless areas. **More on p12**



PAKISTAN's city of Quetta shut down following a militant rampage at a police academy the day before as the victims' families buried 60 police cadets and an army officer killed in the attack — one of the deadliest targeting Pakistani security forces in recent years.



JAPAN-PHILIPPINES The leaders of Japan and the Philippines agreed to cooperate in promoting regional peace and stability and endorsed Japan's provision of patrol boats and military training aircraft to bolster Philippine maritime security. **More on p12**



JAPAN Princess Aiko, the 14-year-old granddaughter of Emperor Akihito, has missed a month of school due to stomach problems and dizziness attributed to fatigue from studying and athletic events.

INDONESIA Officials say hopes are diminishing of finding alive any of the 11 men buried by a landslide at an illegal gold mine on the island of Sumatra. The miners are buried in a 50-meter-deep pit they dug themselves.

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Blood stock shortage delays surgery

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Hong Kong lawmakers defy oath ban, sparking more unrest

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The amount of waste produced continues to increase

ENVIRONMENT REPORT

More pollution in 2015 and rising awareness

LAST year we saw an increase on the amount of waste produced in the region as well as further decrease in the quality of the coastal waters, the Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA) said in their annual environment report.

The report which was released this week, shows that the total amount of waste transported to the Solid Waste Incineration Plant in 2015 surged to 11.3 percent when compared with 2014.

The deterioration of the quality of coastal waters is another of the topics addressed, due to the current environment threats that the region is facing. In general terms, it was considered that the quality of the coastal waters has decreased about 7.8 percent, despite the fact that there was a lower concentration of heavy metals compared to previous years. This increase is because the non-metallic materials in the waters increased exponentially, reaching about 20 percent higher than the higher ceiling.

Places such as Areia Preta, Airport, Cheoc Van and Hac Sa beaches, the sanitary landfill and Praia Grande were the areas that registered the biggest surges in this sort of

pollutants, with an increment between 13.1 and 33.3 percent.

It is also worth noting that there has been a reduction in number of green spaces year-on-year, registering a decrease of 3.6 percent. The Taipa island area was accountable for the largest share (-1.4 percent).

The DSPA report also remarked on energy efficiency, noting a surge on the general electricity consumption of seven percent.

Although the report conclusions highlight an estimated reduction on the emissions of greenhouse gases (GEE) of 0.4 percent, a careful analysis of the report clearly shows that the majority of the air pollutants registered an increase with highest being Pb (Lead) with 8.2 percent, as well as increases of over 5 percent on TSP, PM10 and PM2.5 (the three components that together create "smog").

According to the report, the most accountable activities for the production of this "smog" are the pollution emissions by the transportation and the construction industry.

If the environmental indicators do not seem to be improving, the same seems to be happening with the Bureau's

investment on activities to promote environmental protection. This figure registered a reduction of 37 percent on the number of activities when compared with 2014 as well as a 1.2 percent reduction on the number of cooperating entities.

Growing slightly was the financial support that surged by 2.1 percent to almost MOP12.4 Billion.

As for the population indicators, there has been a higher participation from society that has made the figures of environment-related complaints to DSPA increase by about 65 percent. Topping the list of concerns were complaints about noise (+103.4 percent).

In its conclusions, the report gives some recommendations especially in regard to the quality of the coastal waters, suggesting the adoption of measures such as "the reinforcement of treatment of the waste waters as well as the improvement on the drainage network in order to reduce the pollution emissions."

Remarks were also made regarding the search for lands to develop, calling for the need of a "balance between ecological preservation and development." **RM**

SSM lists places of greater risk for mosquito transmitted diseases

A search on mosquito breeding sites in homes and in public spaces conducted by the Health Bureau (SSM) revealed that Tap Seac, Areia Preta and Fai Chi Kei areas are the places in the territory with a greater risk for mosquito-borne diseases such as Dengue fever and Zika, the SSM informed in a statement released yesterday.

According to the data collected and a consequent study conducted and supported by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) which used three different indicators to measure the risk of spreading of Dengue Fever, the areas of the territory that showed a higher index result where topped by Tap Seac with a result of 3.1 percent on the Housing and Breteau indexes and 1.1 percent on Container Index. House index (HI) measures the percentage of houses infested with larvae and/or pupae while Breteau index (BI) counts the number of positive results in containers per 100 houses inspected. As for the Container index (CI) it measures the percentage of water-holding containers infested with larvae or pupae.

The higher these indexes reach, the more likely the possibility of prevalence of Dengue Fever.

The results obtained allowed the SSM to conclude that the le-



vel of risk of spreading of Dengue Fever in local homes of Macau. The SSM also identified plant vases were a main source of mosquito proliferation within houses.

The study which targeted 350 households and 45 buildings and condominiums, also focused on the buildings' public spaces.

Similar results were found with Fai Chi Kei area reaching the highest index of Breteau with 3.8, followed by the Islands with 1.5.

Such figures present a low risk level for the spread of the related diseases. In terms of locations for larvae proliferation, the bases of flowerpots, the water tanks and buckets as well as the air conditioning systems and pavements that accumulate backwaters are the most common places for this to occur.

CRIME

Man arrested for domestic violence

A 39-year-old local man surnamed Wong was arrested by the Judiciary Police (PJ) for alleged domestic violence, as announced by PJ earlier this week.

The incident marks the first domestic violence case arrest since the city's domestic laws came into effect this month.

According to the 38-year-old victim, she and Wong, who was a bus driver, have been married for 16 years with four children. For the past ten years, Wong, as a consequence of his gambling addiction, frequently argued verbally with his wife, and at times beating her.

The victim, out of concern for

her children, tolerated Wong's violence until two years ago, when Wong's violence escalated.

In September, the victim informed Wong she wanted a divorce, which she sought to have formalized.

Wong asked his wife to move out from their home, which she did. On October 21, the victim, while taking a bus to work, was stopped by Wong, who slapped her and took her mobile phone. The victim then reported him to the police.

Last Sunday, the victim was stalked by Wong and again abused by him. Wong was taken into custody by the police on Monday.

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL

Shortage of blood stock delays surgery

Renato Marques

AN alleged stock rupture on a rare blood type (ARh-) led to the delay of a surgery that was initially scheduled to happen last Tuesday at Conde São Januário hospital.

According to information provided by the patient in question over social media, the “surgery was canceled due to a lack of standby blood in my blood type.” The patient called on friends and acquaintances with the same blood type, asking for help and to contact him.

The message sparked a wave of solidarity on social media with several people and institutions calling for help on the matter.

Contacted by the Times on the topic, the Health Bureau (SSM) said it would be investigating the existence of such an incident but noted “The blood system in Macau is self-sufficient and responds quickly to all needs.”

Yesterday morning in another message, the patient thanked for “all the help” of the people who shared his call



for blood donors stating that the physician on his case was also aware of the solidarity that was shown.

The patient had “tweeted” yesterday afternoon that the surgery had been rescheduled for today.

The Times also contacted the

Blood Transfusion Center, an entity responsible for blood donations that is connected with the SSM.

In reply, the Times received a link to the center’s webpage where it mentions the status of the blood reserves on the “most common blood types” in the

territory, that shows four blood types (ORh+, ARh+, BRh+ and ABRh+).

Further, a SSM spokesperson said a reply regarding the referred case would be issued via a statement that would be handled by the Government’s Information Bureau at a later time.

Inflation continues to grow

For the 12 months ending September, the average Consumer Prices Index (CPI) increased by 2.98 percent from the previous period. Price index of alcoholic beverages and tobacco (+29.38 percent) and education (+8.80 percent) showed marked increases. The Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) informed in a statement that the Composite CPI increased by 1.59 percent year-on-year to 108.18 in September, down from the 1.65 percent growth that was recorded in August. The increment was attributable to higher rentals for parking spaces, dearer charges for eating out, as well as increases in property management fees, tuition fees in the new academic year and motor car prices.

Mainlanders arrested for cheating in casinos

Two mainland residents have been arrested for cheating while playing mahjong in a casino located at Zona de Aterros do Porto Exterior. Another suspect is still on the run. The two detained suspects, a 51-year-old male and a 48-year-old female, were arrested last week. The trio of cheaters pretended to not know each other when entering the casino’s mahjong area. While gambling, they used eye contact to inform each other about the number they possessed in their hands. By doing this repeatedly, the three won some money from the casino and then left the scene.

Government retakes two land plots

The government has reclaimed two lands located at Avenida Dr. Rodrigo Rodrigues which occupy an area of approximately 10,195 square meters. Part of one of the lands has already been planned as a site for the future prosecution office’s building, while the rest will be reserved for public facilities. The two land plots occupy 3,415 and 6,780 square meters respectively. One had been previously occupied by primarily construction materials. The other one had held a great number of abandoned cars and cargos. One month has been estimated to be enough time to clean both spaces.



Albergue SCM

THE Halloween-themed “Macau Zombie Walk” will be held, for the third consecutive year, to raise funds and awareness for Orbis organization.

The third edition of the “Zombie Walk” will take place on Saturday at the Albergue SCM in Sao Lazaro area, featuring Zombies from the movie “Train to Busan”.

Originating in North America as an an-

Charitable ‘Macau Zombie Walk’ on Sat.

nual celebration around Halloween season, “zombie walks” have embraced several charitable causes.

In the MSAR, the chosen topic was the promotion of awareness around eye health as contemporary lifestyles tend to lead people to spend many hours in front of computer and mobile device screens for work as well as for entertainment.

Such routines may result in a variety of eye health issues which can include eyestrain, blurry vision, and dry eyes.

In light of addressing these problems, the organizer of the “Zombie Walk” has selected Orbis as the beneficiary organization to support their efforts to promote eye health and education. The

walk will even feature a special event known as the “Eye Hunt Challenge.” The “hunt,” composed of a brain-challenging contest and team building exercise for individuals and corporate players, will allow participants to experience blindness while completing problem solving tasks in teams as zombies.

A series of other activities will take place at the same venue such as the “Zombie Craft Beer Festival”, that will be held throughout the weekend all day long. Participants of the “Macau Zombie Walk,” “Trick or Treat Macau” and “Halloween Albergue” will be able to experience and choose from a selection of over 50 craft beers from around the world with live performances in the courtyard.

Taipei delegation warns Taiwanese over passport issues

THE Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Macau advises Taiwanese citizens to not make any changes to their passports, according to a warning released by the office earlier this week.

Due to changes made to their passports, several residents of Taiwan have recently been refused an entry in the territory by Macau customs.

“After arriving in Macau, these residents saw their entrances being denied because the Macau immigration department believed that the passports did

not correspond to the passports officially recognized by us,” the warning wrote.

Moreover, the office informed that the country’s current official identity documents have been sent to all countries and airlines around the world.

Alterations to passports will see their holders being rejected by other countries when applying for their visas, as well as preventing them from boarding flights.

In February, a Taiwanese woman was refused entry to Macau due to the fact that her

passport was decorated with “Republic of Taiwan” stickers that advocated Taiwan’s independence.

In the same month, two Taiwanese travellers were rejected entry into Hong Kong for the same reason.

Hundreds of similar cases have already been reported this year.

Taiwanese citizens have not only been rejected from entering the SARs, but also other countries, such as Singapore.

Supporters of Taiwan’s independence movement launched



a campaign in August 2015 which involved placing stickers on Taiwanese passport covers to advocate the use of the “Republic of Taiwan” instead of the Republic of China. **JZ**

GAMING

Galaxy beats profit estimates

Daniela Wei

GALAXY Entertainment Group's profit beat expectations as its tourist-friendly casino resorts drew more recreational bettors and tourists to Macau. Shares rose to the highest level in more than a year.

Adjusted earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization in the three months ended September rose 28 percent to HKD2.7 billion (USD348 million) from a year earlier, the Chinese city's second-biggest operator by market value said yesterday. That compared with the HK\$2.4 billion median estimate of nine analysts surveyed by Bloomberg.

Galaxy shares reversed earlier losses, rising as much as 3.8 percent to HK\$32.65 in Hong Kong, the highest intraday level since August 2015. The Hang Seng Index fell 0.7 percent.

Galaxy opened two tourist-focused projects last year that were followed by new local resorts by Wynn Resorts Ltd. and Las Vegas Sands Corp. this year. The new resorts have helped rever-



se Macau's two-year slump in gambling revenue, after China's government ordered the city to diversify from the industry amid an anti-corruption campaign, which scared away VIP players.

"The Macau market is clearly transitioning to a mass market focused environment and Galaxy continues to align its operations with the changing market conditions," the company said in a statement yesterday. While gambling revenue for Galaxy's main

VIP business slumped 4 percent in the third quarter, receipts for recreational gamblers, or the mass market, jumped 17 percent.

Mainland Chinese tourists, the bulk of visitors to Macau, rose to almost 1 million during the week-long National Day holiday this month. That's the most tourists from China visiting the world's largest gambling hub during Golden Week in at least a decade.

"Mass market showed strong growth at Galaxy Macau, which

was well in excess of the market," said Grant Govertsen, a gaming analyst in Union Gaming Group LLC, referring to the operator's flagship casino resort. "Galaxy is outperforming the market despite the addition of new supply during the quarter."

Galaxy shares have jumped 29 percent this year through Tuesday, ahead of the 7.5 percent rise in the Hang Seng index and the 23 percent gain in Bloomberg Intelligence's index of Macau casino stocks.

Still, the increase in number of competing casinos, with more due to open next year, could put pressure in the coming months.

An ongoing price war could bring risks to margins, as Macau casino operators cut hotel rates and lowered minimum bets to draw players, Daiwa Capital Markets Hong Kong Ltd. analysts led by Jamie Soo wrote in a note before the results. Hotel room rates fell to recent record lows after the early-October Golden Week holiday and "this is not an encouraging sign as a proxy for gaming demand," they wrote. **Bloomberg**

The Macau market is clearly transitioning to a mass market focused environment.

GALAXY STATEMENT

Prison's smoking areas may be allowed

THE creation of smoking areas inside the Macau prison is a decision that will be made by its director, the president of the Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL) said yesterday as he addressed changes to the Regime for Prevention and Control of Tobacco Use.

"The director of the prison can determine the area for that purpose," said Chan Chak Mo, as cited by Radio Macau, who spoke on the sidelines of the meeting addressing the law review held yesterday by the Second Standing Committee of the AL.

Another of the questions debated by the committee is the authorization of the creation of "Smoking Rooms" inside casinos. "The government is still studying the matter. Nothing is decided yet on the creation of such areas," said Chan who noted that the committee members had questioned the government on the topic. He remarked that a consensus on the matter has not yet been reached.

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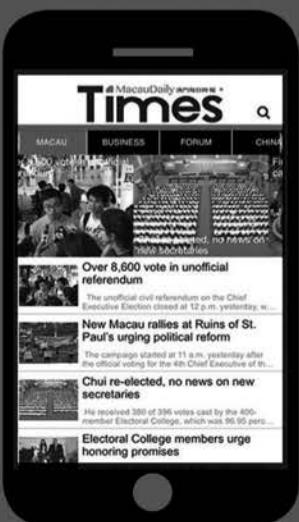
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Lynzy Valles

'The expatriate's role is to transfer knowledge'

TO develop local talent is one of the roles of expatriates in the MSAR, however a better and more systematic approach is needed to effectively promote locals, particularly into managerial positions.

The founder of Kirby Leadership Academy, Robert Kirby, discussed the keys to personal and professional success yesterday at the French Macau Business Association's monthly breakfast meeting.

In the talk, titled "Dialing Up Your Life," the leadership expert noted that there is a need for the region to develop local talent in a structured way rather than forcing locals into positions they are not ready for.

"The expatriates' role, perhaps in most cases, is to transfer knowledge on a two to three year contract and incentivize them for that," he told the Times. "Let's be more transparent about that."

According to him, the region's service standards will be lowered when local talents are forced into promotion as they may lack the right set of leadership skills.

Kirby describe the matter as a "sad state of the pace," stressing that it would eventually tarnish the image of Macau.



Robert Kirby

As the region is keen to attract tourists, its promotional material promises tourists to expect a "world class tourism hub." The expert implied that failing to deliver on that slogan by under-delivering the level of service due to poor senior leadership, would affect the flow of tourists.

"My philosophy is: everything rises and falls on leadership," he clarified.

He stressed that a more structured process in knowledge transfer is what the region needs. However, the territory

has yet to provide structures, or put rewards and processes in place.

"I think if we do that then when locals get promoted, they will be better able to do that job that is expected of them and demanded of them. I think far too often locals have been promoted, and they would be honest with you, they tell you they are not really ready yet for that new role," explained Kirby.

"They have not been given the skill set, or right amount of coaching so it just needs to be more structured," he added.

As a consequence, the role of the expatriates in the region will not be diminished as they will be further recognized for their skills.

When asked about the results of promoting poorly trained local talents, Kirby said, "It affects bottom line profit; it affects branding of a company."

The entrepreneur also highlighted the importance of technology in supporting the productivity of employees, no-

ting that the role of leaders in today's businesses has become more challenging.

"This is just why we need to move from management mindset to leadership mindset. We're moving away from command and control style of management," he argued.

Kirby noted that bringing international companies to the territory has also brought awareness of the importance of training and what it can do for brand enhancement, profitability and staff morale.

According to him, the reduction in number of blue cards that are made available will force companies to "dial up," indicating that significant efforts are needed to refine local talents.

"We have to really work harder as expatriates in transferring that knowledge and making our local workforce more competent and more capable. It's a case of just accelerating what we've been doing in the past," he argued.

Eight died in traffic accidents this year

Eight people have died in traffic accidents during the first nine months of this year, commissioner of the transportation department of the Public Security Police Force, Leong Wa Chi said yesterday. A total of 11,000 traffic accidents were recorded during this period, Leong informed. He also mentioned that there have been a total of 2,245 cases where drivers were caught using their cellphones while driving. This is a 20 percent decline compared to the same period last year. He reminded that drivers are only allowed to use their phones if they are on speakers.

Tickets refunded for two FIMM concerts

Due to adverse weather conditions, the Reunion and Roy Hargrove concerts which were a part of the 30th Macao International Music Festival were postponed and cancelled respectively. Spectators who acquired tickets for the abovementioned concerts can request a refund at the Macau Ticketing Network until November 13 by presenting the original tickets intact.

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Q&A LIU JIANHONG
UM SCHOLAR

'There is much to be done to make criminology more useful to Macau'

Daniel Beittler

PROFESSOR Liu Jianhong, a criminology scholar at the University of Macau won the Freda Adler Distinguished Scholar Award in August from the American Society of Criminology (ASC), for his "outstanding contributions" to the field.

Liu is renowned within his field and has served as the leader of several international criminology associations. He is also the editor-in-chief of the Asian Journal of Criminology and has published more than 20 books, 30 book chapters and nearly 60 journal articles. He is responsible for proposing the "Asian Paradigm and Relationism Justice Theory", which provides theoretical support for the development of the field in Asia.

The professor, who is due to formally receive his award in November at the annual ASC conference, sat down with the Times to talk about the importance of his field of study in improving Macau's ability to deal with crime, and why the current justice system may need to be rethought.

Macau Daily Times (MDT) – What does winning the Freda Adler award mean to you?

Liu Jianhong (LJ) - The award is named after a very famous criminologist, Freda Adler, and is granted to people for distinguished contributions to criminology. It's very rare for the award to be given to someone in Asia. It's a great honor for me to receive it, but also a great honor for the University of Macau and for [the city of] Macau.



MDT – What is your specific area of interest and your contribution that led to you receiving the award?

LJ - I specialize in international and comparative criminology; in particular I undertake studies comparing the West to Asia and specifically China.

We are trying to test whether theories [of criminology] produced by Western scholars are applicable to Asian countries, like China. My research finds that the culture and social organization is very different; in Europe and the U.S. there is an emphasis on individualism, whereas Asia tends toward collectivism.

Based on those differences, [Westerners and Asians] have different understandings of

how the justice system should work. Right now, Asia still borrows a lot of their systems from the West as they [such systems] are generally more advanced. There are many differences [between East and West], which are perhaps overlooked due to the dominance of the Western justice systems.

[Macau] is a good place for my research given the legacy of the Portuguese administration and the [geographical and cultural] proximity of China.

MDT - Are there many people working in the police force and other relevant areas in Macau with a background in criminology education?

LJ - There was no [study of] criminology before I came to

Macau. I was invited to build a program here and I felt it was a good opportunity. Now the program is in its seventh year and has become very prestigious.

Some of my students are now working as correctional officers in the prison or serving in the police force. However, I believe that we need more criminologists working in these roles. There is much to be done to make criminology more useful for Macau.

MDT - What do you make of the reports that show crime is falling, but gaming-related crime is on the rise?

LJ - Most likely crime, especially violent crime, is decreasing – that's what the statistics show. But we need to use more

[fact-based] methodology to more accurately collect [information on] the volume of crime. The decisions that we make [regarding crime] are based on feelings rather than scientific analysis. [To this end] I am hoping to develop a closer relationship with Macau's criminal justice system so that we can get access to more information. Right now, we just have access to public police and court records – but many crimes are

Some of my students are now working as correctional officers in the prison or serving in the police force. We need more criminologists working in these roles.

LIU JIANHONG

not even reported. It is highly likely that when the gaming downturn hit, crime in casinos increased. If we see the opportunities for committing crime increase, then there tends to be an increase in crime.

MDT - Can Macau become a model for countries developing casino industries in how to deal with gaming crime?

LJ - Yes, certainly there can be a specialization [here in Macau] based on our comparative advantages to other nearby places where gaming is fast developing. There is always a way to better position our [expertise] to take advantage of our strengths.

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China's Netflix wannabes spend billions to win viewers

TOMB-RAIDING soldiers and imperial court villains are leading the latest battlefront for China's internet giants, which are pouring billions of dollars into new digital content to create the nation's answer to Netflix Inc.

Streaming platforms from Baidu Inc., Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. and Tencent Holdings Ltd. are among more than a dozen vying for dominance in an industry forecast to expand almost 30 percent a year through 2020. Whereas Youtube-style videos and the odd pirated TV episode were once enough to draw web viewers, they're now seeking - and willing to pay up to 19.8 yuan (USD2.95) a month to watch - more compelling characters on original, professionally made TV and movies.

The drive for content has resulted in an expensive - and so far, unprofitable - creative showdown for internet companies. They have bought studios, distribution rights and elaborate scripts to lure streaming customers who IHS Markit predicts will spend 16 billion yuan annually on subscription fees by 2020.

Alibaba ratcheted up the competition last week, with founder Jack Ma and Steven Spielberg announcing that their companies will jointly produce and finance films, tapping what Ma described as "an increasing demand for premium global content" among Chinese consumers.

Baidu's 80.5 percent-owned online video platform, iQiyi, will spend at least 10 billion yuan on content next year.



Alibaba ratcheted up the competition last week, with founder Jack Ma and Steven Spielberg announcing that their companies will jointly produce and finance films

"My boss always says there is no limit," Emily Dai, who runs the team producing iQiyi's in-house shows, said in an interview. "Every year we do at least 30 programs. So as long as we can find good programs, we can fund them all."

iQiyi is focused on buying and producing internet TV shows that can generate hundreds of millions of view, Chief Executive Officer Gong Yu said in Shanghai on Monday. The Beijing-based company moved toward a so-called freemium model last year, commissioning content and introducing a porous paywall in which users are required to buy "VIP" membership to avoid ads, enjoy higher resolution or get access to the full collection of digital content.

While the shift boosted viewer numbers, the Baidu unit is yet to make money. Video users spent the most hours on iQiyi's website in July while Alibaba's Youku.com was its closest rival,

according to iResearch data.

iQiyi's Gong told online media group Caixin last month that he doesn't expect the business to make a profit until 2018 at the earliest. Baidu spent 3.1 billion yuan on content in the first half of this year alone, compared with about 860 million yuan in 2013.

Its top hits include "the Mystic Nine," a series about 1930s Chinese tomb-raiding soldiers cracking supernatural mysteries, which garnered more than 10 billion views, and the exclusive Chinese distribution of award-winning Korean drama "Descendants of the Sun." One of last year's most-popular shows was "Lang Ya Bang," or "Nirvana in Fire," a 54-episode series portraying the 6th century war between feudal Northern Wei and Southern Liang dynasties.

Youku Tudou subsidiary Heyi Pictures aims to invest in 15 to 20 shows next year, according to its president Liu Kailuo, and

Tencent Pictures announced more than 20 new film and TV projects during a recent event in Beijing.

Internet streaming specialist LeEco said it would commission 30 movies and 400 hours of TV shows in 2017. Netflix, in comparison, is slated to make 71 shows -- not counting the service's growing number of kids series, documentaries, movies and foreign-language programming.

As Chinese streaming companies boost their spending, they are unlikely to face short-term competition from Netflix. The U.S. streaming service said Monday that the regulatory environment remains challenging and its efforts in the world's most-populous nation will be limited to licensing shows it owns to existing online service providers.

Spending on content isn't likely to ease anytime soon for China's biggest tech companies, said Michelle Ma, an internet and telecoms analyst with Bloomberg Intelligence in Hong Kong.

"It's too strategically impor-

As Chinese streaming companies boost their spending, they are unlikely to face short-term competition from Netflix

tant to them and it's too integrated into their services," she said. "Video is the driver of global traffic. It's what people do online and on mobile now. This is all about giving the users what they want."

Companies are also using their internet skills to lower risk. iQiyi knows the age, gender and wealth of every user. If a key demographic tends to fast-forward past certain characters, those actors may find their roles changed - or cut - in subsequent episodes.

The heavy investment, and persistent losses, may not be giving investors what they want at a time when China's economy is expanding at its slowest pace in 25 years. It also runs counter to optimism that recent mergers, such as the one between Uber China and Didi Chuxing, signal an end to heavy spending aimed at winning users.

Most investors want to see loss-making businesses make a profit once they reach a critical size, said Chi Tsang, an internet analyst with HSBC Securities Asia Ltd. in Hong Kong. "We just haven't really seen that in video," he said in an interview. "Clearly, we're at a very early stage of competition."

While popular titles and characters are being spun out in different ways, from plush toys to games, to provide other revenue sources, streaming remains a cash-burning exercise for now.

Tencent blamed video content-related expenses for an upswing in costs, while Alibaba said expenses related to its newly consolidated businesses, including video platform Youku Tudou, were primarily responsible.

"The video business is a loss leader for us right now, and the industry structure is actually sort of very unhealthy for everyone," Tencent President Martin Lau said on conference call in August. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

SANDS CHINA RESORTS PRESENTS 'HAIRY CRAB SEASONAL MENUS'



Sands Resorts Cotai Strip Macao and Sands Macao have unveiled seasonal menus featuring one of the region's greatest delicacies - Shanghai hairy crabs. According to Sands China's

release, Canton at The Venetian Macao will feature the 'Hairy Crab Sensation' daily from November 11 until December 11, featuring six dishes that include steamed "Yang Cheng Hu", hairy crab with vintage Hua Diao wine, poached bamboo shoots with fish maw and crab coral.

Lotus Palace at The Parisian Macao specializes in fresh seafood, spicy hot pot, dim sum and provincial Chinese dishes, as well as pan-Asian and Cantonese favorites. Its hairy crab promotion menu also features a delicious range of à la carte dishes.

Likewise, restaurants such as Dynasty 8, Rice Empire and Golden Court have also crafted special menus that will delight guests with this autumn treat.

WYNN PALACE UNVEILS SHOPPING PRIVILEGES

The "Shop and Indulge at Wynn" program at Wynn Palace Cotai is presenting an array of offers that provides an extra taste of the resort's exclusive experiences.

From a journey of taste and delicacy that includes the opportunity to dine while looking over the Performance Lake, to a night in a suite or a serene treatment for two at its spa, guests who spend MOP25,000 or more in new shops at the resort from now until December 31 can enjoy such rewards.

The program ensures that once guests have completed their shopping spree for the trendiest items from a selection of over 50 of the finest designer labels, they will be eligible



for such rewards. According to the resort, the items that can be found in its designer stores include Italian-made leather shoes, designer handbags, diamonds and unique timepieces.

WSET OPENS FIRST INTERNATIONAL OFFICE IN HONG KONG

The Wine & Spirit Education Trust (WSET) will open its first international office in Hong Kong on November 10.

According to the company, this branch is opening in response to the high demand for wine and spirit education across Greater China.

WSET is a global provider of wines and spirits qualifications, with a record of 72,171 candidates during the academic year 2015/16. Following the UK, China has overtaken the USA to be the second

biggest market for WSET and the largest growth market, with candidate numbers for 2015/16 up 38 percent from the previous year and course registrations for 2016/17 showing no signs of slowing.

The office located in Wan Chai will be staffed by a team of four equipped with operations skills, who will focus on providing support to WSET's local network of course providers, educators and corporate partners, as well as the growing WSET alumni community.

Christopher Langner*

ANALYSIS

China pain is Hong Kong property's gain

CHINA is again fully focused on cooling its overheated property market and investors are trying to decipher what impact that will have on alternative asset classes. Some are betting money that flees real estate will find its way into the stock market. Statistics, history and other analysts suggest that a more likely target may be Hong Kong apartments.

JPMorgan Asset Management has been buying mainland Chinese shares in anticipation that a crackdown on real-estate lending, along with lower valuations, will draw investors to equities, Bloomberg News reported yesterday. Credit Suisse Group AG analysts took the same tack in a research note earlier this week.

While the idea is logical and this outcome has happened on some occasions in the past, it doesn't fully pass the numbers test. A regression analysis of property prices in China and movements in the Shanghai Composite Index yields a low correlation that is statistically insignificant.

This is one of the many ways in which China is different from the rest of the world. People in Asia's largest economy tend to look at property



People exercise on the waterfront in the Tsim Sha Tsui district of Hong Kong

as their main investment and stocks as a side-gamble where you can lose big or strike it rich. That means that if a new apartment purchase is being deferred because prices are dropping, the money won't necessarily find its way into

stocks (one of the few available avenues in a nation with limited investment options).

Analysts at Bank of America Corp. are among those suggesting that funds may instead flow into property in Hong Kong, a former British

colony that retains its own currency and customs controls.

That's a relationship that does stand the numbers test. A regression of 10 years of monthly property data from Hong Kong and China shows there's a 0.15 negative correlation between the two. In other words, if home prices in Shanghai and Shenzhen are falling, they're more likely to be rising

If home prices in Shanghai and Shenzhen are falling, they're more likely to be rising in Hong Kong.

in Hong Kong.

That makes sense: Chinese investors will still want to buy property, just not in the mainland. There's plenty of anecdotal evidence that this is already happening. A surge in purchases of Hong Kong homes by non-residents has helped drive an 11 percent rebound in the city's real estate prices. Analysts and developers say mainland Chinese are the biggest foreign buyers, Bloomberg News reported last week.

How far this trend will run may depend on the success of China's efforts to clamp down on capital outflows. To buy an apartment in Hong Kong, a Chinese investor first needs to get the money offshore. Hong Kong already ranks as the world's most unaffordable property market and authorities have been trying to cool prices there too, so another wave of mainland buying may be the last thing the city needs. At least developers and landlords can look forward to a windfall.

*Christopher Langner is a markets columnist for Bloomberg Gaffly. He previously covered corporate finance for Bloomberg News, and has written for Reuters/IFR, Forbes, the Wall Street Journal and Mergermarket.

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Pro-China protesters carry placards depicting newly elected Hong Kong lawmakers Yau Wai-ching and Sixtus Leung during a demonstration outside the Legislative Council in Hong Kong

HONG KONG

Lawmakers defy oath ban, sparking more unrest

Kelvin Chan, Hong Kong

TWO newly elected pro-democracy lawmakers defied an order yesterday barring them from taking their oaths after being disqualified earlier for insulting China, sparking more unruly scenes in Hong Kong's legislature.

After Yau Wai-ching and Sixtus Leung of the Youngspiration party entered the Legislative Council's main chamber, the body's president ordered them to leave, but the two refused. Half a

Yau criticized council President Leung, telling reporters that he used 'a reason without any legal base'

dozen other pro-democracy lawmakers surrounded them at their desks to block securi-

ty guards trying to remove them. After half an hour, the session was adjourned until next week.

At a swearing-in ceremony two weeks ago, Yau, 25, and Leung, 30, modified their oaths in an act of defiance by using a derogatory word for China. Yau also slipped in an expletive.

The two were part of a new wave of youthful pro-democracy lawmakers elected in September amid a rising tide of anti-China sentiment, with many Hong Kong residents concerned about Bei-

jing eroding the city's wide autonomy.

The legislature's president has barred Yau and Leung from taking their oaths until a court rules next month on a legal challenge filed by Hong Kong's government, which wants to stop them from taking office.

Yau criticized council President Andrew Leung yesterday, telling reporters that he used "a reason without any legal base" to prevent the pair from being sworn in.

Outside the legislature,

thousands of pro-Beijing supporters rallied, waving Chinese flags and carrying placards denouncing Yau and Sixtus Leung as traitors.

Last week's session ended

Outside the LegCo, thousands of pro-Beijing supporters rallied, waving Chinese flags

abruptly when the council's contingent of pro-Beijing lawmakers sparked chaos by walking out of the chamber moments before Yau and Leung were set to retake their oaths, depriving the session of a quorum. AP



Newly elected Hong Kong lawmakers Yau Wai-ching, left, and Sixtus Leung



Yau Wai-ching and Sixtus Leung are surrounded by pan-democracy lawmakers



A pro-China protester carries a printout depicting newly elected Hong Kong lawmaker Sixtus Leung

China is going the extra (5,300) miles for fresh Tasmania milk

Jason Scott

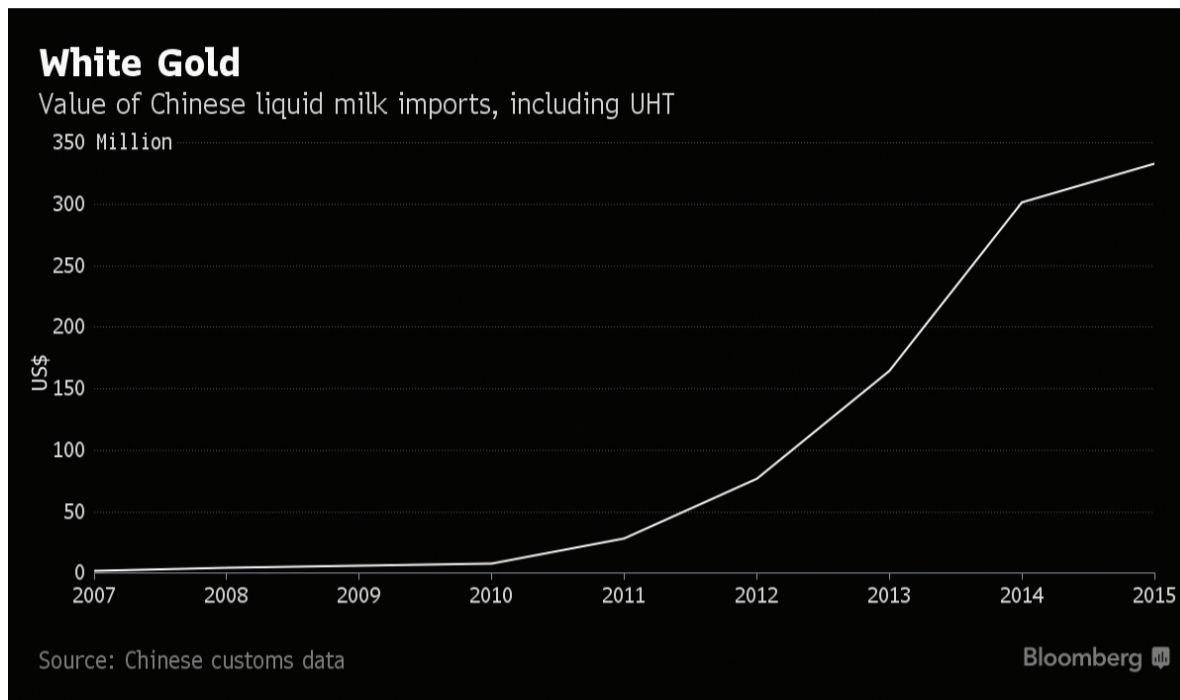
CHINA'S path to food security is taking a big swing to the south. In fact, 5,300 miles down to Tasmania, the dairy-hungry nation's newest source of fresh milk.

Businessman Lu Xianfeng plans to begin early next year flying fresh milk to his home city of Ningbo, in eastern China, from the island state where he owns Australia's largest dairy operation. Lu's Moon Lake Investments Pty bought the 191-year-old Van Diemen's Land Co. for A\$280 million (USD214 million) in March, giving him access to 25 dairy farms and enough milk to fill an Olympic-size swimming pool every nine days.

A share of that will be flown to Ningbo every week, Sean Shwe, Moon Lake's managing director, told reporters yesterday in Hobart, where the China-bound bulk deliveries will depart. While countries as far away as the Czech Republic and Chile sell milk to China, Moon Lake is counting on gaining an edge with milk from Tasmania's far northwest coast which, it says, boasts "the cleanest air in the world."

The volume of milk shipments to the world's most-populous nation has jumped an average of 126 percent a year since 2010, creating a \$333 million market dominated by the European Union, according to Chinese customs data.

Chinese consumers, ruffled by past food scandals, see imported milk as a safer alternative to domestic supplies, the



U.S. Department of Agriculture said in May. Moon Lake has already forward-sold more than 15 million yuan (\$2.2 million) of milk from its Van Diemen's Land dairies, which it calls VDL Farms.

"This is an exciting venture for our company, VDL Farms and potentially for all Tasmanian producers of fresh, perishable produce such as seafood, fruit and vegetables," Shwe said in a statement.

About 10 million liters of milk a year from VDL dairies will be trucked to Hobart for processing by Lion Dairy and packaged under the "VAN Milk" brand, a nod to the dairy operation's ties to Van Diemen's Land Co., according to the statement.

Moon Lake is in advanced talks with airlines and airports to begin weekly round trips

from Hobart to Ningbo starting in the first quarter of 2017, with a view to increasing the frequency to two-to-three times a week in a year, and adding Beijing as a destination, the company said.

The new air freight route will mark the return of international departures from Hobart International Airport after a regular passenger service to Christchurch, New Zealand, was canceled in the 1980s. Initially, fresh milk will be sold in 1-liter and 600ml cartons, with plans to add yogurt and other dairy products, Moon Lake said.

"It is great for VDL and the Northwest Coast community as it moves the farms from ones that previously just produced milk and watched it leave through the farm gate, to ones that now produce a high quality, value-added export product,

giving them more security and certainty about prices," Shwe said.

The milk exports will be a boost for Tasmania, Australia's smallest and least-populated state, where an unemployment rate of 6.5 percent lags the national rate of 5.6 percent, and its citizens are more dependent on welfare than in any other state.

"Tasmania is now a destination that investors want to be a part of," the state's Premier Will Hodgman told reporters. "We have some of the best and finest produce in the world that growing, massive markets like China want to get more of."

Moon Lake is aiming for the premium end of the market, with the milk to sell for between \$29-to-\$44 a gallon.

"VAN Milk" will represent the first sale to China of Tasma-

nian milk by a wholly-owned Chinese company. Having direct stakes in food-producing companies gives Chinese firms an advantage over Australian competitors when it comes to selling into China, according to Michael Harvey, a senior dairy analyst with Rabobank International in Melbourne.

After Germany, Australia is China's biggest supplier of liquid milk, including UHT products, shipping 61,184 metric tons of the product, worth A\$62 million, last year, Chinese customs data show.

China's dairy farms are located mostly in the country's central and northern areas, where the climate is more suitable for raising cattle, the USDA said in a report in May. Weak cold chain logistics have made it difficult to ensure the milk's freshness when it reaches major markets in northeastern and southern China, it said.

On top of that, the discovery of contaminants from melamine to mercury have made Chinese consumers wary of the local product. That's slowed the increase in milk consumption in China, which averages about 33 kilograms per person a year - less than a third of the global mean, according to the USDA, which said in May that "milk consumption has plenty of growth potential."

Moon Lake said it plans to increase milk production at its VDL Farms by 80 percent within five years. VDL currently produces 7.66 million kilograms of milk solids a year from about 30,000 cows, which graze on 7,000 hectares. Once "VAN Milk" is established in Ningbo and Beijing, Moon Lake wants to take it to Shanghai, Hangzhou and other Chinese cities. Moon Lake's owner Lu, 46, is also executive chairman and the largest shareholder of Ningbo Xianfeng New Material Co., a builder of sunscreen fabrics and shades. **Bloomberg**

SERVING tea and receiving guests may not be everyone's dream job, but it was a good enough prospect to make nearly 10,000 people apply for one receptionist job.

China's highly competitive civil service recruitment process recently saw a record-setting 9,837 applicants for a post as "China Democratic League public reception staff".

The Democratic League is one of several minority political parties in the country which have very limited powers, and is hardly seen as a prestigious placement.

So why are so many people hoping to be its receptionist?

With so many applicants every year and China's ongoing anti-corruption drive, government departments have started to become more stringent in their hiring, asking for graduates with higher qualifications and more specific skills.

"Some jobs have attracted many people because they have broader requirements for education and professional and work experience," civil service spokesman Li Zhong told People's Daily.

Anyone with a bache-

10,000 applicants for receptionist job

lor's degree and two years of "grassroots experience" can apply for the Democratic League job, according to reports.

Meanwhile, 223 openings saw hardly any interested applicants - these included bank regulatory and meteorological jobs in more far-flung regions such as Inner Mongolia and Xinjiang.

Mr Li acknowledged that these remained vacant because of their "more arduous locations".



About 1.4 million people took the civil service examination this year, and overall each job

got an average of 49.5 applicants.

But China sees similar figures every year. Last

year's applicant to job ratio was 46:1.

In 2013, more than 9,400 people applied to fill the post of "national statistics department's Chongqing and Nanchuan investigation team member".

China's official unemployment rate is about 4%, which translates to a lot of jobseekers in a country of 1.4 billion people. And with high turnovers the norm in the private sector, many still flock to the government.

Courtesy BBC News



Afghan men gathered around the bodies of several civilians who were killed by Taliban fighters in Ferozkoh

Rahim Faiez, Kabul

TALIBAN insurgents yesterday killed 26 Afghan civilians after abducting them in the remote central province of Ghor the previous day, officials said, the latest brutal attack targeting the local population in one of the country's most lawless areas.

The slain civilians were from a group of 33 taken by the militants near the provincial capital of Ferozkoh, according to Ziauddin Saqib, the deputy provincial police chief. Earlier reports suggested 20 were killed but the death toll rose later in the day.

The abductions took place while battles were underway between the Taliban and Afghan security forces on Tuesday that saw two militant commanders killed, Saqib added.

Both commanders were infamous figures in Ghor and were involved in many anti-government activities, Saqib also said, adding that the "cowar-

dly insurgents killed innocent civilians in revenge for their commanders killed by security forces."

There was no immediate statement from the Taliban on the incident in the largely lawless Ghor.

However, Abdul Hai Khateby, the spokesman for the provincial governor, said he is convinced the militants behind the attacks and abductions were a renegade Taliban group that had sworn allegiance last year to Afghanistan's Islamic State affiliate.

"The group is former Taliban who just a year ago announced their support to their Islamic State group and changed their white flag to black," Khateby told The Associated Press, speaking over the telephone from Ghor.

The two different statements could not immediately be reconciled. Khateby also said he believed the abductions and killings were in revenge for the

AFGHANISTAN

Taliban insurgents abduct, kill 26 people

deaths of the two commanders.

The civilians who were abducted are all poor people from the area, mainly villagers and shepherds, and there were even children among those taken, said Khateby.

He said that the victims' families and relatives, along with other residents of Ghor, held a protest rally near the governor's office in Ferozkoh, the provincial capital.

The demonstrators denounced the government, which they said cannot protect the local population.

"The locals were so angry and they were throwing stones toward the governor's building," he said. No one was hurt in the protest, which later ended with the help of tribal leaders who mediated between the crowd and the authorities.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's office strongly condemned the attack in Ghor, saying that "once again, the enemies of the Afghan people carried out another attack on civilians and killed innocent people."

Amnesty International denounced the Ghor killings as a "horrendous crime." The watchdog quoted Champa Patel, Amnesty's South Asia director, as saying "there can be no justification whatsoever for target-

ing and killing civilians under any circumstances."

"The victims and their families deserve justice," Amnesty added, urging Kabul to bring the perpetrators to justice.

Ghor is one of Afghanistan's poorest and least developed provinces, with many areas outside Ferozkoh believed to be under Taliban control.

In a report from eastern Paktika province, 17 people, including two children, were wounded when a bomb went off yesterday at a marketplace in the provincial capital of Sharan, according to local officials.

Dr. Wali Gul Kharoti, head of the public health department, said there were also two military personnel among the wounded. He said all of the wounded were in stable condition.

Abdul Raouf Massoud, deputy police chief in Paktika, said the explosive was "placed inside a shop at the city market" in an attack obviously meant to target civilians. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

The Taliban have in recent months stepped up attacks across Afghanistan, taking advantage of the warm weather to wage war against the Kabul government. Many civilians have been caught in the cross-fire

and also targeted by roadside bombs, which are among the insurgents' weapons of choice.

Recently, the Taliban have attacked Afghan security forces in northern Kunduz province, briefly taking control of a district headquarters. The militants have also overrun a district in northern Baghlan province and in eastern Paktia province.

Meanwhile, in eastern Nangarhar province, Taliban militants have fought pitched battles with security forces. Afghanistan's Ministry of Defense says its forces are waging operations in 15 provinces.

In July, Kabul was shaken by a massive suicide bombing that struck a peaceful rally by Afghanistan's minority ethnic Hazara community, killing more than 80 people and wounding hundreds. That attack was claimed by the Islamic State group, which emerged last year in Afghanistan as an affiliate of the militant group fighting in Iraq and Syria. Analysts believe the Islamic State affiliate in the country is mostly made up of disenfranchised Taliban fighters.

The Hazara attack was the IS Afghan branch's first assault in the country's capital and the deadliest attack in Kabul since the U.S.-led invasion to oust the Taliban regime in 2001. AP

Philippine, Japanese leaders sign military, economic deals

Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

THE leaders of Japan and the Philippines agreed yesterday to cooperate in promoting regional peace and stability and endorsed Japan's provision of patrol boats and military training aircraft to bolster Philippine maritime security, without discussing their alliances with the U.S., whose relationship with Manila has quickly become strained.

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said he expected Japan to continue playing an important role in maritime security in the region, including the South China Sea, where Manila has territorial disputes with Beijing. Japanese Prime Minister

Shinzo Abe said South China Sea disputes affect peace in the entire region and that he welcomed Duterte's recent efforts to improve ties with China.

Duterte said he expected Japan to continue playing an important role in maritime security in the region

Japan and the Philippines signed agreements including Japan's provision of two coast guard boats and T-90 military trainer aircraft as part of its contribution to step up Philippine maritime security capability. Japan also agreed to support infrastructure and agricultural promotion projects in the Philippines to help economic development.

The two leaders did not mention the Japan-U.S. security alliance, or one between the Philippines and Washington. Japan is a staunch U.S. ally and hosts 50,000 American troops, while Duterte, who took office this summer, has repeatedly spoken of distancing his country from Washington, often in crude terms.

The presence of U.S. troops in five Philippine military camps was established under a security deal signed under Duterte's predecessor as a counterbalance to China's growing military assertiveness in the region.

Earlier, Duterte said that he wants his country to be free of foreign troops, possibly within two years. "I want them out," he said.

"I want to be friends to China," he told an audience of businesspeople in Tokyo. "I do not need the arms. I do not want missiles established in my country. I do not need to have the airports to host the bombers."

Since taking office at the end of June, Duterte has reached out to Beijing whi-



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, second left, is escorted to his seat at the Philippine Economic Forum in Tokyo

le criticizing U.S. foreign policy. His approach has caused consternation in both the U.S. and Japan.

Abe was expected to hold another round of talks with Duterte later yesterday and was expected to ask him specifically about his foreign policy.

The Philippine leader spoke about the U.S. at the end of his prepared remarks on economic development and investment, saying he was addressing what he knows

is "what is in everybody's mind."

"I may have ruffled the feelings of some but that is how it is," he said. "We will survive, without the assistance of America, maybe a lesser quality of life, but as I said, we will survive."

Duterte is on a three-day visit to Japan. After two rounds of talks with Abe, he is attending a banquet hosted by the Japanese leader. Today, he is set to meet Emperor Akihito. AP

INDONESIA

Rehabilitated orangutans freed in Borneo as species dwindles

Andi Jatmiko, Kehje Sewen Forest

JAMUR didn't hesitate as the door of her temporary cramped quarters slid open. In less than a second, the stocky red-haired orangutan was savoring freedom for the first time in nearly two decades.

Her 10-year-old daughter J-lo would join her, along with three more of the endangered great apes.

The long-limbed hirsute primates were the ninth set of Bornean orangutans to be released into natural habitat by the Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation after years-long rehabilitation from trauma often inflicted by people.

Taken from their sanctuary, Samboja Lestari, to an even remoter spot on the island of Borneo, a journey by road, boat and foot that takes nearly 24 hours, the orangutans bolted from their holding boxes and scaled the nearest trees with astonishing speed and agility.

"Because we love them, we have to let them go, to be free in their habitat," said Jamartin Sihite, chief executive of the foundation, after all five orangutans had climbed into the tropical forest canopy.

"They have a right to live in their natural state and not with people as pets."



An activist shoots an orangutan with a tranquilizer blow dart prior to transporting it to a release site

The release of the five last week marked the 25th anniversary of the foundation and was done in conjunction with government conservation officials. It is part of a herculean effort to prevent

orangutans from being wiped out.

The species, known for its gentle temperament and intelligence, lives in the wild only on the Indonesian island of Sumatra and on the island of Borneo, which is divided among Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei.

Bornean orangutans were this year declared critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature due to hunting for their meat, which kills 2,000 to 3,000 a year, and destruction of tropical forests for plantation agriculture. The only other orangutan species, the Sumatran orangutan, is found only on Sumatra and has been critically endangered since 2008.

The conservation group estimates the number of Bornean orangutans has dropped by nearly two-thirds since the early 1970s and will further decline to 47,000 animals by 2025. Some conservationists are even more pessimistic, predicting extinction in the wild within 10 years.

The species is protected in Indonesia and Malaysia but deforestation has dramatically shrunk its habitat, with about 40 percent of Borneo's forests lost since the early 1970s and another huge swath of forest expected to be converted to plantation agriculture in the next decade.

The Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation, one of several

groups focused on orangutan conservation, has 60-year concession rights to about 86,000 hectares of forest in Borneo that it bought from the government in 2011 for 12.9 billion Indonesian rupiah (USD1.5 million at the time), though it says only about 20 to 25 percent of it is suitable orangutan habitat.

"We looked for a place to release them that is very far away from people. We hope that very few people will come to this area in the next 10 or 15 years," said Sihite.

"Nowadays there is only a few of that kind of area left — far away and really difficult to reach."

The foundation has released 234 orangutans since 2012. It says 90 percent of those releases are successful.

It typically takes years to return an orangutan to the wild. Finding a suitable location is challenging, as is rehabilitating orangutans so they can survive when returned to natural habitat.

J-lo was born in captivity in 2006 and had to learn survival skills such as nest building, identifying predators and foraging.

Kent, also released last week, was an orphaned 2-year-old suffering from dehydration and severe diarrhea in 1999, when he was rescued from a field.

He spent several years in forest school and graduated to a halfway house, where the apes are less dependent on humans, in preparation for release into the wild, which happened in 2014. But injuries from fights with another male meant he needed another stint in Samboja Lestari.

"We don't have a choice," said Sihite. "We have to do this to save the orangutan." AP

Because we love them, we have to let them go, to be free in their habitat.

JAMARTIN SIHITE
ORANGUTAN SURVIVAL FOUNDATION



Tourists take photos during a tour of the Hobbit movie set near Matamata

IN New Zealand there are twice as many cows as people, but it's the hobbits that are really making hay.

According to figures released yesterday, tourism has overtaken dairy as the nation's top earner of overseas dollars. And tourism officials say the success of the fantasy movie trilogy "The Hobbit" has helped.

The dairy industry is struggling to recover from a slump in prices, while a

record 3.4 million visitors arrived in New Zealand in the year ending September. The Pacific nation is particularly popular among tourists from Australia, China and the U.S.

Spending by international tourists was up by 20 percent in the year ending March when compared with the previous year, according to Statistics New Zealand. That follows a 17 percent rise the year before.

Kevin Bowler, the chief

Hobbit-fueled tourism New Zealand's top foreign-cash source

executive of Tourism New Zealand, said people were drawn to New Zealand by its spectacular landscapes and its outdoor lifestyle. The "Hobbit" movies showcased some of that scenery and were heavily marketed overseas.

"The result was a heck of a lot of interest in New Zealand," he said.

One survey showed 16 percent of tourists cited the movies as influential in their initial interest in New Zealand.

Directed by Peter Jackson, "The Hobbit" trilogy built on the success of his earlier, critically acclaimed trilogy, "The Lord of the Rings." The six

movies earned a total of nearly USD6 billion at the box office.

Bowler said planned increases in flights from the U.S. and growing economies in Asia boded well for the future. The challenge, he said, would be providing enough accommodation and ensuring tourists can savor their individual experiences.

The industry got another boost this week when "Lonely Planet" named the relatively unknown Taranaki region as a place to visit in 2017. The travel guide noted an offbeat gallery there dedicated to the late artist Len Lye.

John Matthews, who chairs the Len Lye Foun-

ation, said he was "surprised and delighted" with the inclusion.

But while tourism is booming, income from dairy products has fallen by 22 percent over the past two years, Statistics New Zealand says.

Dairy farmer Jessie Chan-Dorman, who runs 950 cows on her farm near Christchurch, said most dairy farmers have been losing money in recent years as prices for milk powder have hit record lows.

That's due to softening demand in China for premium infant formula coupled with a glut in the worldwide supply.

Prices have begun rising

again but Chan-Dorman said she remains cautious about whether that will last. It will take several years for most farmers to recover their losses, but she said she hopes many built more resilient businesses as a result.

Some farmers are cashing in on the tourism boom by offering home stays or hunting trips.

New Zealanders have long been outnumbered by their farm animals. With a population of 4.7 million people, the nation is also home to 29 million sheep and 10 million cows. And zero hobbits, of course, unless you count those on the big screen. AP

Ryan J. Foley, Iowa City

USA ELECTIONS

Hispanic woman claims co-workers used Trump images to harass

A Hispanic woman says her white co-workers at an Iowa claims office used images of Donald Trump to racially harass her for months after they learned she was angered by his description of Mexican immigrants as rapists, according to a civil rights lawsuit she filed against her company.

Alexandra Avila's co-workers at Sedgwick Claims Management Services — where they administered benefits for Wal-Mart employees — began calling her an “illegal immigrant” even though she's a natural-born U.S. citizen, according to the lawsuit filed this week in Iowa district court. The suit claims her former co-workers placed a picture of an angry-looking Trump as Avila's computer's screensaver, signed her up to volunteer for his campaign and sent her racist memes, including one that read: “How's Mr. Donald Trump going to deport all these illegals? Juan by Juan.”

The Republican presidential candidate's promise to build a border wall to keep out Mexican immigrants has for months contributed to racial ten-

AP PHOTO
Alexandra Avila

sions nationwide. “Build a wall” chants have been used by high school students to taunt Latino opponents at sporting events in multiple states, including Iowa, Wisconsin and Indiana. At Kent

State University, Latinos marching in the Homecoming parade this month said they were taunted with the same chant.

Avila, a 32-year-old mother of one who worked at Sedgwick

■ The suit claims [Alexandra Avila's] co-workers placed a picture of an angry-looking Trump as [her] computer's screensaver

for three years, claims she faced similar heckling at her white-collar workplace in Coralville, Iowa, from the beginning of Trump's campaign in June 2015 until after she was fired five months later.

“It's been a weird political season where one candidate is taking public stances on things that, if the same words were said in the workplace, might constitute violations of our civil rights laws,” said Avila's attorney, Paige Fiedler. “His candidacy has emboldened some people to feel like that doesn't violate social norms anymore.”

Lesley Gudehus, spokeswoman for Memphis, Tennessee-based Sedgwick, declined comment on the lawsuit.

Avila, born in California to Mexican parents, told colleagues she was upset with

Trump's 2015 campaign launch when he said of Mexican immigrants: “They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists.”

Soon after, the lawsuit claims, colleagues removed the photo Avila had of her young daughter as her computer screensaver and replaced it with a picture of Trump yelling and pointing his finger. When Avila removed the photo, they kept switching it back to Trump, the suit alleges.

An email arrived from the Trump campaign last fall thanking her for the support and asking how she wanted to help, according to the suit. Avila also claims her colleagues sent offensive memes, including one showing a brown-skinned man that read: “Found Jesus — he stabbed me twice.”

When her department was voting on a potluck menu, one co-worker said Avila was ineligible because she was an “illegal immigrant,” drawing laughter from Avila's boss, the lawsuit claims. Avila contends that after she complained about the harassment, the company accused her of falsifying timecards by claiming she worked minutes more time than she actually did.

Avila was fired last November and escorted out, with Sedgwick saying it would send her personal property later. When her belongings arrived from FedEx, Avila says they contained a handwritten note that called her “La Trumpa” and added: “Illegal immigrants can't vote or work. Good luck finding a job.”

“Getting that box in the mail was a horrific experience,” Fiedler says.

After her firing, a co-worker sent her an invitation to a Trump rally on Facebook, the lawsuit claims.

The lawsuit, which names Sedgwick and two supervisors, alleges Avila suffered discrimination based on national origin and that the company failed to pay wages she earned. AP

Can't stop the voting: Timberlake casts ballot in Memphis

JUSTIN Timberlake flew from California to Tennessee in order to vote early, and state officials say that's great — but he shouldn't have taken a selfie at the ballot box.

The singer posted a picture of himself at the voting booth on Instagram, noting that if he could make that effort, then there are “No excuses, my good people!”

A Tennessee law that took effect earlier this year bars voters from taking photographs or video while inside a polling location.

Tennessee Secretary of State spokesman Adam Ghassemi says officials are “thrilled Justin can't stop the feeling” but reminded voters to use their phones inside polling locations

AP PHOTO
Justin Timberlake

only to help them vote.

Timberlake lives in California, but grew up in the Memphis area and owns property near Nashville.

'THIS JUNGLE IS NO GOOD'

French authorities declare the Calais migrant camp empty

Elaine Ganley, Calais

FRENCH authorities declared the Calais migrant camp known as “the jungle,” empty yesterday, after fires set by departing migrants accelerated plans to evacuate people from the burgeoning slum.

Local officials announced the destruction of the camp, where thousands fleeing war and poverty have lived in squalor as they waited for a chance to sneak across the En-

glish Channel into Britain. Migrants are being moved to reception centers around France where they can seek asylum.

“There are no more migrants in the camp,” said Fabienne Buccio, a local official in the camp. “Our mission has been fulfilled.”

Migrants were seen milling around after despite the announcement, but authorities said they would stop processing people by late yesterday.

Migrants have flocked

to the Calais region for decades, but the camp has grown as Europe's migrant crisis expanded. As it evolved into a massive slum supported by aid groups, France finally decided to shut it down.

As the reality of the mass evacuation took hold, fearful migrants from Afghanistan, Sudan, Eritrea, Syria and Pakistan braced for a new reality. Some pledged to just keep moving.

“This jungle is no good,” said Muhammad Afridi,

20, from Pakistan. “We go to a new jungle.”

The main alley through the camp near the city of Calais burned overnight, leaving skeleton-like hulks on either side of the road. Firefighters delved into the camp's deepest recesses, trying to prevent a massive conflagration.

Gas canisters popped as they exploded in the heat. One aid group's truck burst into flames.

Migrants stood and watched. Some laughed.

Steve Barbet, a spokes-

AP PHOTO
Nepal's new constituti Migrants wait to register outside a processing center in the makeshift migrant camp on, Prime Minister Babu

man for the regional authorities, said one migrant was hospitalized. About 100 migrants were evacuated.

The camp once housed 6,300 migrants, according to authorities, but aid groups said the number was much higher. AP



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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, 2016

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, 2016

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

CHIC-AHOLIC IN THE VISUAL LAND

TIME: 10am-7pm (closed on Mondays and public holidays)

UNTIL: November 8, 2016

VENUE: Lun Hing Art Community Macau, Rua de Francisco Xavier Pereira 45-49 Edifício Industrial Luen Heng Floor 6

ADMISSION: free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2825 9897

Offbeat

BEER RUN! SELF-DRIVING TRUCK GOES 120-PLUS MILES ON DELIVERY



Anheuser-Busch says it has completed the world's first commercial shipment by self-driving truck, sending a beer-filled tractor-trailer on a journey of more than 120 miles through Colorado.

The company says it teamed with self-driving truck maker Otto and the state of Colorado for the feat. The trailer, loaded with Budweiser beer, began the self-driving trip Thursday at a weigh station in Fort Collins, Colorado, and ran along Interstate 25 through Denver before wrapping up in Colorado Springs.

The company says a professional truck driver was on board for the entire route and monitored the trip from the cab's sleeper berth.

Anheuser-Busch says it hopes to see self-driving technology widely deployed.

Otto was recently acquired by Uber.

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:45	RTPi Live
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	Miscellaneous
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	RTPi Live

cinema

CINETEATRO

27 OCT - 2 NOV



DOCTOR STRANGE

ROOM 1

(2D) 2.30, 4.45, 9.30 pm

(3D) 7.15 pm

Director: Scott Derrickson

Starring: Benedict Cumberbatch, Chiwetel Ejiofor,

Rachel McAdams

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 115min



JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK

ROOM 2

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 3

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Ken Wu

Starring: Nicholas Tse, Sean Lau

Language: Chinese (English and Cantonese)

Duration: 108min

MACAU TOWER

27 OCT - 16 NOV

DOCTOR STRANGE

ROOM 3

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Scott Derrickson

Starring: Benedict Cumberbatch, Chiwetel Ejiofor,

Rachel McAdams

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 115min

this day in history



1950: HUNT FOR MISSING ATOMIC SCIENTIST

The British intelligence service MI5 has been brought into the hunt for the missing atomic scientist Bruno Pontecorvo who has not been seen for about seven weeks.

Professor Pontecorvo and his family arrived in Finland at the beginning of September but they have since disappeared. There is speculation the family may have gone to the Soviet Union.

The professor had recently left his post as a principal scientific officer at Harwell atomic research station in Oxfordshire and was due to begin a new job at Liverpool University in January.

His disappearance comes just 10 months after another Harwell scientist, Klaus Fuchs, confessed in January to spying for the Soviet Union.

The Minister of Supply, George Strauss, has told MPs the professor had had only limited access to "secret subjects" for some time.

But he admitted it would have been possible for the professor to gather information, at Harwell or while he was in Canada, which could be of value to the enemy.

He said Professor Pontecorvo had been screened several times in the last few years by security officers.

Professor Pontecorvo was born in Italy, moved to France in 1936 and from there to the United States in 1940.

In 1943 he became a member of the joint Anglo-Canadian atomic energy team at Montreal.

He was posted to Harwell in January 1947.

Information on Professor Pontecorvo's disappearance has been passed to the United States.

The professor's sister, Anna Pontecorvo, who lives in Hampstead in north London, travelled with her brother, his wife and three sons to France and Italy in July.

She said her brother had not mentioned any plans to go to Russia during the time she spent with them.

However, a passenger in the airliner which took the family from Stockholm to Helsinki said that during the flight the Pontecorvos' five-year-old son Antonio had told him they were going to Russia.

There are direct flights from Helsinki to Leningrad and Moscow.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Bruno Pontecorvo's post as Professor of Experimental Physics at the University of Liverpool was cancelled.

Confirmation he had fled to Moscow came in March 1955 when he appeared at a news conference in Russia.

He wrote an article in the Soviet newspapers Pravda and Isvestia saying his family had been granted refuge in the Soviet Union, where he was working with the Institute of Physical Problems of the Soviet Academy of Science.

He said he was involved in research into the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes and had left the West because in his view it was intent on "new war using atomic and nuclear weapons as a means for achieving world domination".

Documents released by the Public Records Office under the 50-year rule revealed an administrative blunder had led to Professor Pontecorvo being given security clearance to work at Harwell - even though a search of his home in 1943 had uncovered many documents on communism.

He was awarded the Lenin prize for nuclear research in 1963. He died in 1993.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Keep all your communication short and sweet today...

Taurus April 20-May 20 Keep plans short-term today - there are still variables that you can't see coming quite yet.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You are in constant motion today, and nothing can trip you up for long.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 A new project comes your way that seems daunting - but only at first.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You make a great impression on almost everyone you meet today - so meet lots of new people!

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Your logical side is fully active right now, which could make you seem like a bit of an android - but don't worry too much about it!

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You've got some new business to attend to now - so make sure you get on it right away!

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Take greater care with your work life today. If that means going over your resume for the hundredth time, so be it - though it could just as easily mean watching what you say in the office.

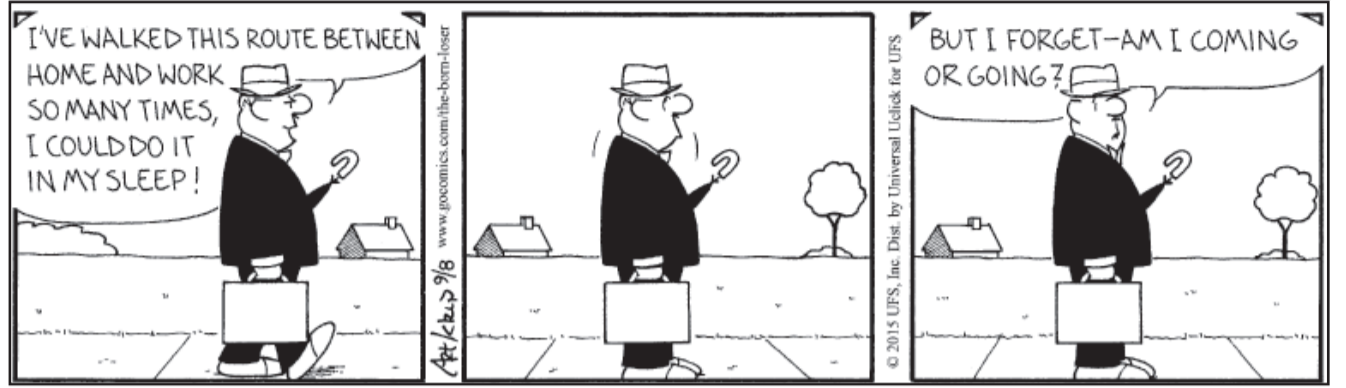
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You are thinking hard about some big issue that matters to you and your people - but you can't seem to reach the bottom of the matter.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Your ability to communicate complex ideas and feelings is heightened now, so reach out to someone new and see how it goes.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You find a new commonality between you and your sweetie - or your latest crush, perhaps. Follow it up to get to somewhere even better for both of you.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You need to busy yourself with new things or people today - boredom is the enemy! It's a great day to ask for new projects at work, tackle your to-do list at home or start volunteering somewhere new.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles categorized by difficulty: Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard. Each puzzle is a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled.

WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION. Rows include CHINA (Beijing, Harbin, etc.) and WORLD (Moscow, Frankfurt, etc.).

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Alas!; 5- Did a blacksmith's job; 10- Words of comprehension; 14- 'The Godfather' Oscar nominee; 15- Anouk of 'La Dolce Vita'; 16- Golf's Ballesteros; 17- Actress Merrill; 18- Hauls; 19- Bit attachment; 20- More awkward; 22- Like heaven's gates; 24- Approves; 25- Traditional knowledge; 26- ___ de corps; 29- Dressing choice; 33- Sudden convulsion; 34- Garr of 'Tootsie'; 36- Sprechen ___ Deutsch?; 37- Mystery writer Josephine; 38- Pale purple; 39- Singing syllable; 40- Chow down; 41- Signs; 42- Strong Australian horse; 44- Wearing; 47- Surprisingly; 48- Lotion additive; 49- The whole enchilada; 50- Ballpoint insert; 53- The right to use the property of another; 58- Point after deuce; 59- Some nobles; 61- Langston Hughes poem; 62- Spanish muralist; 63- Unwarranted; 64- Ego; 65- One hunted; 66- Tierney of 'ER'; 67- Biblical twin;

DOWN: 1- Electrically versatile; 2- Salute; 3- Hindu lawgiver; 4- Charms; 5- One who enjoys inflicting pain; 6- Bring on board; 7- Gen. Bradley; 8- Hosp. readout; 9- Tyrannic; 10- Sharon's land; 11- Prophet; 12- Devil's doing; 13- Start of a counting rhyme; 21- Milk choice; 23- Slice of history; 25- Turkish money; 26- First name in cosmetics; 27- Chucked weapon; 28- Check words; 30- Pineapple fiber; 31- Buenos ___; 32- Closes in on; 34- Slight trace; 35- Wapiti; 38- Floor covering; 42- Carnivorous mammal; 43- Court order; 45- Of delicate beauty; 46- Unwell; 47- Sickness at the stomach; 50- Coarse file; 51- Fulda tributary; 52- Process of combustion; 53- Pakistani language; 54- Insult; 55- Salt Lake City collegians; 56- Soft drink; 57- Beancurd; 60- Santa ___;

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

Large crossword puzzle grid with numbered starting points for clues.

Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
IACM 28 387 333
Tourism 28 333 000
Airport 59 888 88



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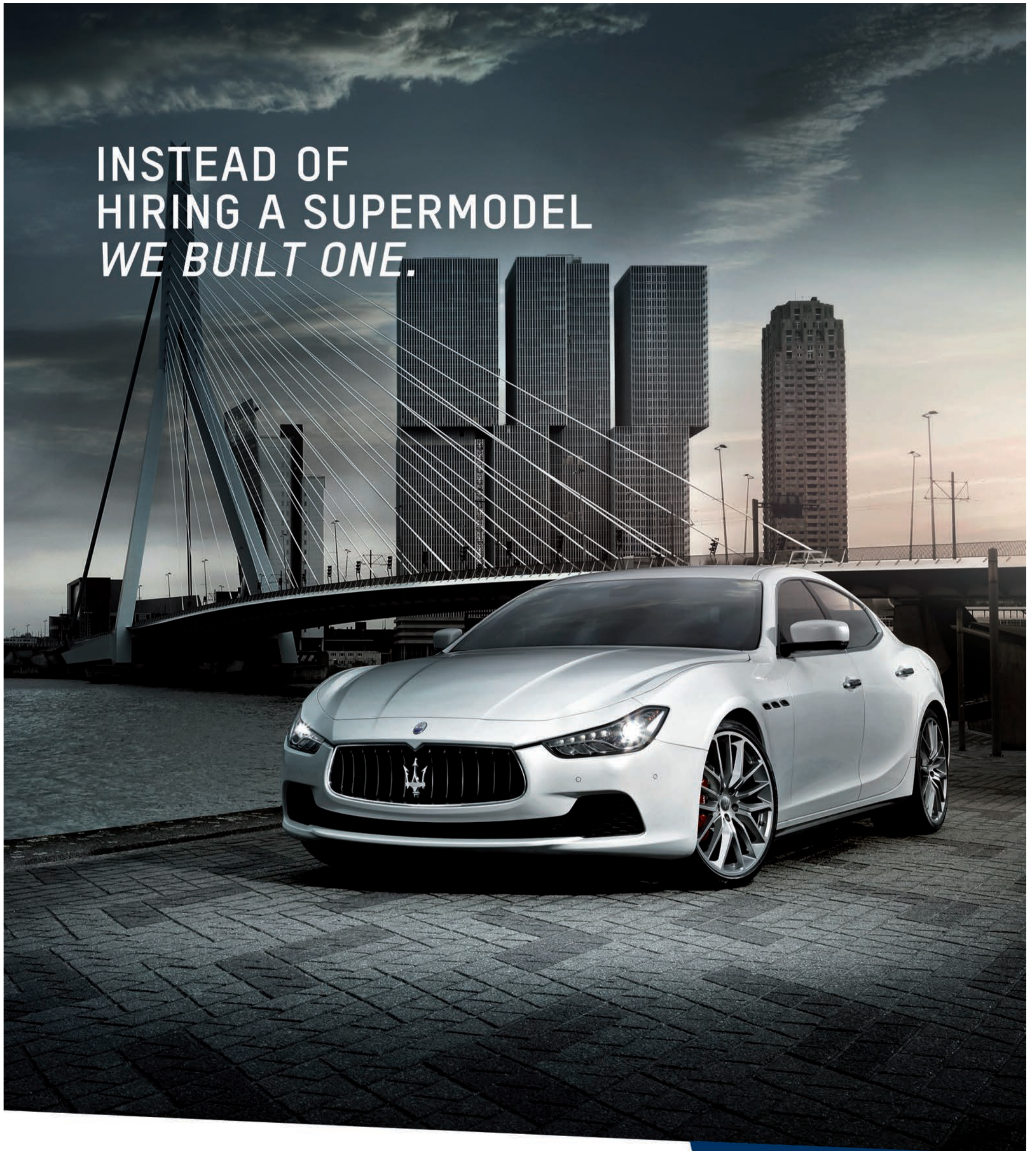
Roof Top Apartment Macau and HOI FU GARDEN Macau property listings.

EDF. VAI LONG YUEN Macau and CHUN LEUNG Taipa property listings.

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MASERATI
Ghibli

RUGBY

Try time: Sport aims to lure 1 million new players in China



China's Chen Keyi, right, runs with the ball to score a try during their match against Japan at the Asia Rugby Sevens Women qualifier in Hong Kong

THE international rugby federation is set to tackle the Chinese market, supporting a local push to attract 1 million players over the next five years and create professional leagues.

World Rugby yesterday announced a USD100 million commitment by Alisports, a division of e-commerce giant Alibaba, to develop the game in China over the next decade.

"World Rugby's strategic mission is to grow the global rugby family," World Rugby chief executive Brett Gosper said. "China is central to that mission."

"We are confident that we can build a strong and sustainable platform from which to ensure that China is in the best possible position to become a major force on the international stage with strong men's and women's sevens and 15s teams, sustainable leagues, model development and participation programs and real major event hosting potential."

Asia is a growth market for rugby union, which went professional in 1995 and has been dominated by New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, England and France at the highest level in the traditional 15-a-side format.

Japan has contributed heavily to the growth on the continent, with a long-established professional set up and growing strength on the international scene. Japan caused one of the biggest upsets ever at a Rugby World Cup by beating two-time champion South Africa last year in England, and will host the 2019 World Cup.

Japan also left its mark on rugby's return to the Olympics, when it upset New Zealand in the men's rugby sevens competition in Rio de Janeiro. Fiji won the men's gold medal — and Australia won the women's gold, the first ever awarded in women's rugby or in the abbreviated seven-a-side format.

At the 2014 Asian Games, Japan beat Hong Kong for the men's gold medal in rugby sevens and China edged Japan 14-12 in the women's final.

Rugby's growth in Asia has been driven by sevens in recent years, but the development in China is targeted at both 15s and sevens and using school and university programs to expand the sport.

The Chinese Rugby Football Association said there were 30 registered players in China in 1991, when the sport re-emerged from a dormant period in the country at a university in Beijing. That has grown into the thousands as rugby became an official sport of the military.

"Rugby is a great Olympic team sport with strong values, which is why we are so excited about its undoubted potential in China," Alisports CEO Zhang Dazhong said in a statement. "We will work tirelessly to promote the development of rugby in China with a goal of inspiring one million new players in five years."

"We believe that rugby in China will take off as an attractive, inclusive mass-participation sport of sportsmanship and character." **AP**

GOLF

Li Haotong finding himself on a big stage in world golf

Doug Ferguson, Shanghai

IN one year, Li Haotong has gone from being a contender in the HSBC Champions to a superhero.

At least on the stage.

One tradition of this World Golf Championship, billed as "Asia's major," is for the top stars to gather in downtown Shanghai for a photo opportunity showing off the culture. A year ago, the best players took part in a Chinese drum ceremony on a hotel rooftop in the Bund district. The theme this year was "superheroes" descending on Shanghai. Henrik Stenson was "The Machine." Bubba Watson was "The Magician." Dustin Johnson was "The Heat."

And tournament organizers also brought along the 21-year-old Li. He was "The Force."

Tall and wiry, rarely without that contagious smile, Li doesn't look the part. As for his exploits on the golf course, he's getting there.

"It's interesting that I've been named as 'The Force,'" Li said with a laugh. "On the other hand, it's an honor to be the first Chinese player to be participating in the WGC-HSBC Champions opening ceremony. I wish to do better, keep doing better continuously, and hopefully build up the image of China golfers."

He appears headed in that direction.

Li was one shot out of the lead going into the final round at Sheshan International last year before closing with a 72 to tie for seventh with Jordan Spieth, the highest finish ever by a Chinese player in a World Golf Championship or PGA Tour event.

He was playing on the Web.com Tour early last year when he came home and won the Volvo China Open on the European Tour, securing a two-year membership. That victory also was enough to qualify for the Olympics in Rio.

Li returned to the European Tour and posted a pair of top-20 finishes, moving him up to No. 42 in the Race to Dubai.

Asked about being in such elite company, Li raised his eyebrows and said, "Elite



Li Haotong

company. What does this mean?" And then he broke into laughter, as he so often does. He then explained that being in the company of such great players — Rickie Fowler and defending champion Russell Knox were on stage with him Tuesday night — was not going to be good enough for him to feel satisfied.

"Still a long way to go," he said. "So I think I just try my best. I think just keep working hard and one day I will be there for sure. So let's see."

It could be quite the test

at Sheshan International. After a summer of extraordinary heat, the course was drenched with 5 inches of rain on the weekend, and then the pro-am was cut short yesterday with another deluge. More rain is in the forecast today.

The field is the strongest ever for the HSBC Champions with 40 of the top 50 in the world, including all four major champions for the first time since 2011.

Li practically grew up with this event, dating to when it was a European Tour stop when it began in 2005

through its transition to a WGC in 2009. He took part in the HSBC junior program and received an exemption at age 19. He closed with a 67 and tied Spieth and Jimmy Walker in 35th place.

"The difficulty level to win a WGC-HSBC Champions is basically equal to all the four majors because they all have the best lineup," Li said.

He used to live in Howey-in-the-Hills, a tiny town outside Orlando, Florida, but since has moved.

"Too crowded," he said with another laugh.

His sister lives in Rancho Cucamonga, so he stays with her when his schedule brings him to the U.S. He hopes to get a few sponsor exemptions on the PGA Tour this year and earn enough FedEx Cup points to at least have a shot at the Web.com Tour Finals, his best path to a PGA Tour card. He still is exempt on the European Tour.

"I think this is a good way to go," he said. "So let's see." **AP, Golf Writer**

McIlroy's caddie cashes in on FedEx Cup

RORY McIlroy didn't have to check his bank account to know that his FedEx Cup bonus had been deposited.

His caddie, J.P. Fitzgerald, informed him with a text message.

"I think his words were, 'A tsunami just hit my bank account, so thank you very much,'" McIlroy said yesterday on the eve of the HSBC Champions. "J.P. got a nice percentage of that, so I knew at that point it was already there."

No payoff is greater than Sunday at East Lake. For the last seven years, the winner of the Tour Championship also has won the FedEx Cup and its USD10 million bonus. The player receives \$9 million in cash, and \$1 million is deferred into a retirement account. McIlroy also earned \$1.53 million from winning the tournament.

And he didn't hesitate when it came time to rewarding his longtime caddie.

Tour caddies typically get a stipend for the week and then a percentage of the earnings up to 10 percent for a victory. McIlroy said he paid his caddie 10 percent from the \$9 million he took home that day from his FedEx Cup bonus, and 10 percent from the Tour Championship earnings.

"So the total was \$1.05 million," McIlroy said. "I think he was quite happy."

The smile on McIlroy's face indicated



Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland and his caddy, J.P. Fitzgerald

he was equally happy for him.

The FedEx Cup began in 2007, and some players spent the final month debating what they should give their caddies from the bonus pool. The first year, all but \$1 million of the bonus was deferred, and some players jokingly wondered if they should wait until retirement to give their caddies a bonus. Others questioned whether a caddie was entitled to bonus money beyond the tournament earnings. McIlroy ran into those same questions his first year competing in the Race to Dubai on the European Tour. Back then, as was the case this year, he didn't have any qualms about sharing the wealth.

"He deserved it," he said. "He's a big part of what we do. He was with me when I was No. 210 in the world and when I was No. 1."

Billy Horschel gave his caddie, Micah Fugitt, a \$1 million bonus when he won the FedEx Cup in 2014.

A Pakistani investigator says the police have arrested National Geographic's famed green-eyed 'Afghan Girl' for having a fake Pakistani identity card.

Shahid Ilyas from the Federal Investigation Agency, says the police arrested Sharbat Gulla

during a raid yesterday at a home in Peshawar.

Gulla was an Afghan refugee girl when she gained international fame in 1984 after war photographer Steve McCurry's photograph of her, with piercing green eyes, was published on the cover of National Geographic.

opinion

Girl About Globe

Linda Kennedy



TRUMP AND TYPHOONS

If you can hashtag a nightmare, I just had #MakeAHurricaneEightAgain. A bad dream about Donald Trump and typhoons.

The cause was the proximity of Typhoon Haima and the third Presidential TV debate, both of which I had followed closely. It was a perfect storm. Or rather, wasn't.

I was visiting in Macau when the T8 was hoisted by its Weather Bureau. It was a bit blowy. Later in the day it started to drizzle. Maybe it reached a power drizzle. I looked out from Tai-pa across the bridge. It was empty of cars: a scene from an apocalypse in an afternoon that was just a little inclement.

In Macau, was this typhoon deserving of the 8 signal?

That night, the dream commenced with Trump's voice saying scornfully: 'That one is a total 3'. The dream was set, a bit weirdly, after the election. I had gone out on a dream limb (which wasn't swaying as the wind wasn't that strong) and Trump had lost to Clinton. He had nothing to do. Long known for his number categorisation of women, he had decided to switch to typhoons. 'Haima? Who called that an 8?'

Dream Donald had come to Macau to launch this Trump typhoon classification. It had a reverse value system of his classification of women. The uglier the typhoon, the higher the number. And it gave him a new hashtag, #MakeAHurricaneEightAgain; similar enough to his old hashtag of #MakeAmericaGreatAgain for him not to have to master much new material.

But Macau's meteorologists weren't happy with the way they heard Trump discussing their weather phenomenon.

Trump: 'Haima? A storm, you say. Does she have nice eyes?'

Meteorologist: 'She has very still eyes. Well one of them.'

Trump: 'Still eyes are my type. Where are my Tic-Tacs?'

Upon challenge, Trump denied everything: 'No one respects typhoons more than me. I respect them bigly. They are named after women. I love women'.

When I woke, to a sunny Saturday, I pondered on the real life possibilities of Trump coming to Macau. To open a new casino? To make a fresh start somewhere his gambling skillset would count? Or to start alliances for a future political run, contending, 'current typhoon classification is a conspiracy against oil companies. I'll re-grade those typhoons. We won't let them lose a day's petrol.'

Or because it's somewhere he thinks he knows the language? He used the term 'hombres' in the debate. Foreign nuance isn't a Trump strong point. 'Spanish is the same as Portuguese, right?'

As to why my subconscious was obsessing over weather and world politics, hard to say. It may have had its origins in fashion. You see, pre-Haima, I had had my typhoon chic ready. Wellington boots. Stylish ones. 'Wrong,' Trump would have muttered, if I somehow ended up in a fashion TV debate with him. Trump won't have anything to do with this initiative, but all observatories should have a Welly 8 signal. When it's hoisted, you know it's going to rain hard enough to wear your wellies all day.

The most drenched I got during that Typhoon 8 was from the sweat on my brow when I woke, before realizing it had all been a dream. But there was a tiny pang of regret: Trump's involvement with weather might have seen funds going into climate research. There's a man who would finance solutions to humidity problems. Women - this woman, anyway - might respect that.

When I got back to Hong Kong, things were different. Haima was a total 8 in Hong Kong. Even Donald Trump, using whatever classification, would agree with that one.

Police say two children lucky to survive accident at Aussie park



Two children are fortunate to be alive, police said yesterday, after they were thrown clear and survived an accident that killed their mothers and two other people on a river rapids ride at a popular theme park in Australia.

Two men and two women died in the accident on Tuesday at the Dreamworld park on Queensland state's Gold Coast, Queensland Police Assistant Commissioner Brian Codd said.

The 30-year-old Thunder River Rapids ride whisks people in circular rafts along a fast-moving, man-made river, with a conveyor belt helping move the rafts through the water. Closed-circuit television footage showed the ride was ending when two

rafts collided, Codd said. A 10-year-old boy and a 12-year-old girl were thrown clear as the six-person raft upturned and trapped the adults against the conveyor belt, he said.

"In terms of how they escaped, maybe through the providence of God or somebody, but it seems from what I've seen almost a miracle that anybody came out of that," Codd said. "If we're going to be thankful for anything, I'm thankful for that."

The children had been traumatized and were being cared for by family, he said.

Kim Dorsett, of Canberra, confirmed that two of the victims were her children: Kate Goodchild, 32, and Luke Dorsett, 35.

"I have two granddaugh-

ters - an 8-month-old and a 12-year-old - and it truly breaks my heart to know that my 8-month-old is never going to get to know her mum," she told The Courier-Mail newspaper.

She said the 12-year-old "is completely devastated - she is blaming herself for what has happened."

Kim Dorsett was on a family vacation with her children and Goodchild's daughters from Canberra. Luke Dorsett's partner, Roozi Araghi, 38, of Canberra, was also killed.

The boy's mother was Cindy Low, a 42-year-old New Zealand citizen who lived in Sydney.

Codd said police would investigate reports of problems with the ride earlier on Tuesday, as well as maintenance records and procedures.

Dreamworld said the ride had passed its annual safety inspection a month ago.

The park statement said it would reopen tomorrow, but "activities will be limited to smaller rides, animal attractions, and the water park."

Thunder River is considered one of Dreamworld's tamer, family-friendly rides, and is open to children as young as 2. AP

Top Vatican cardinal questioned over sex abuse allegations



Cardinal George Pell

AUSTRALIAN police flew to Rome to interview a top Vatican cardinal about allegations of sexual assault dating back decades, officials said yesterday.

Cardinal George Pell, Pope Francis' top financial adviser who runs the Vatican's economy ministry, has long been dogged by allegations he mishandled cases of clergy abuse when he was archbishop of Melbourne and later Sydney. In recent months, Pell has faced accusations of child abuse himself when he was a young priest in the 1970s.

yesterday, police in Australia's Victoria state confirmed that they had interviewed Pell over the allegations.

"Three members of Victoria police tra-

veled to Rome last week where Cardinal George Pell voluntarily participated in an interview regarding allegations of sexual assault," police spokeswoman Amara Bostock said. "As a result of the interview, further investigations are continuing. We are not prepared to comment further at this time."

The allegations involve two men, now in their 40s, who say Pell touched them inappropriately at a swimming pool in the late 1970s. Separately, a man told the Australian Broadcasting Corp. that he saw Pell exposing himself to three young boys in a surf club changing room in the late 1980s. Pell was at the time a senior priest in Melbourne.

Pell has repeatedly denied the allegations and did so again on Wednesday.

"The Cardinal repeats his previous rejection of all and every allegation of sexual abuse and will continue to cooperate with Victoria Police until the investigation is finalized," Pell's office said in a statement. AP

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

WORLD BRIEFS



INDONESIA Taken from their sanctuary to an even remoter spot on the island of Borneo, a journey to freedom by road, boat and foot that takes nearly 24 hours, the orangutans bolted from their holding boxes and scaled the nearest trees with astonishing speed and agility. More on p13



NEW ZEALAND There are twice as many cows as people in New Zealand, but it's the hobbits that are really making hay. New data show tourism has overtaken dairy as the nation's top earner of overseas dollars. More on p13



REFUGEES The U.N. refugee agency says the death toll for migrants in the Mediterranean has reached at least 3,800 this year so far. The Geneva-based agency said on Twitter that this makes 2016 the deadliest year ever for migrants in the Mediterranean. More on p14



TURKEY's state-run news agency says police have detained seven suspected Islamic State group militants in a raid in an apartment in Seyhan town. All were foreign nationals, but the agency did not identify which countries they were from.



GERMANY The government says it withdrew permission for a Chinese company to purchase semiconductor equipment company Aixtron due to security concerns. Germany announced that it was reconsidering the takeover bid by Fujian Grand Chip, which had bid 670m euros for Aixtron.