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“THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’”

WORLD BRIEFS

US-CHINA President Donald Trump has issued belated well-wishes to China for the Lunar New Year, saying he hoped to work with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping to build a ‘constructive relationship.’ More on p10

AP PHOTO



JAPAN A remote-controlled cleaning robot sent into a damaged reactor at Japan’s Fukushima nuclear plant had to be removed yesterday before it completed its work because of camera problems most likely caused by high radiation levels. It was the first time a robot has entered the chamber inside the Unit 2 reactor since a March 2011 earthquake and tsunami critically damaged the Fukushima Da-ichi nuclear plant.

AP PHOTO



THAILAND Police have charged an Australian man with negligence resulting in the death of his girlfriend when their personal watercrafts collided at high speed off a resort island. Thomas Keating was charged yesterday in the death of Emily Jayne Collie near the island of Phuket. Collie was not breathing when rescuers brought her to shore after the crash Sunday. Keating was unharmed.

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Little-known company wants to buy TVB stake

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TrailHiker to start at MGM Cotai this year

■ Bowie wants to engage more local youngsters in the event

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 ■ INSIDE

Paulo Coutinho

Macau Daily Times (MDT) - Why does MGM want to be the title sponsor of the TrailHiker?

Grant Bowie (GB) - I think this opportunity is good because, one, we've always had great commitment to the community. And from all the events in Macau, it's clear that this is one of those events that has been built around community participation, something that we need a lot more of in Macau. It's not so much an international event, even though it has the capacity to grow, it really is focused on Macau participation. Two, this year, 2017, we will be moving to Cotai and TrailHiker is about Cotai and it's about Coloane and it's about the green side of Macau. It's about getting people to spend time out there, and as a new member of the Cotai community, we think that this is a great event for us to become part of that wider Cotai community.

MDT - Do you think this event will help promote your Cotai property?

GB - We would like to see it having [business] value. But more important is getting Macau people to take another look at their city. We all need to spend more time not focused just on the tourists, but on our own people. At last year's event, the one comment that kept coming out over and over again was, "We don't have enough participative events for Macau people." And that's something that excites us. From our perspective, we would like to see this event develop into being an opportunity for multiple activities during the year that celebrates different components of Macau. The best way for us to see [Macau] is on our feet with our friends. Whether you're a competitor who wants to run the course or whether you pack a lunch and take all day, this is a good thing for all of us.

MDT - One big change will be the start/finish line at MGM Cotai. Can you tell us something about the new route?

GB - Having our property in Cotai, we obviously want to start and finish the event at our property and fortunately, we've created a space, not specifically for this event, where we will be able to provide street access. For those people who have participated in the event, [they] understand that that last little pull up the ramp into the event center is tough for some people. It 'fi-

Q&A GRANT BOWIE
CEO, MGM

Event will have 'activities year-long that celebrate different components of Macau'



We see the TrailHiker as being a healthy exercise, but also an event of discovery.

nishes' some. This [finish line] is at ground level. It will really feel as if you've achieved a great success because it's almost like crossing the finish line at any great event anywhere in the world, almost like... the Arc de Triomphe. [The participants] will pass through our VIP driveway, and we're going to create a carnival atmosphere celebrating participation. The event now will stay primarily to the east of the Cotai

Strip, which means that it's safer. Hopefully it will reduce some of the pressure on the traffic and simplify the exercise and will increase participation, particularly for schools and younger people.

MDT - The working date I believe is October 28. How long will MGM Cotai have been open by then?

GB - [Laughs] The event will begin and finish at MGM Cotai and our property will certainly welcome the beginning and the end of the event and, certainly, we are looking positively at making sure the property is open at that time. As I mentioned on a number of occasions, it's a complicated project and it's still going to be dependent on government approvals.

MDT - But it will be fully operating.

GB - It'll be finished, it will be finished, yes.

MDT - You spoke earlier about creating events leading up to the main event. What kind of initiatives are you thinking of?

GB - We'd like to sit down and work with the TrailHiker team to create opportunities that may even originate on the peninsula at MGM Macau. Even to this day there's still a lot of people in our city who don't really take the time to experience some of the traditional components that make up our city. I think a lot of the young people and even many of the new citizens don't understand the depth and quality of the peninsula and where our heritage [sites] are and why are they significant. We see the TrailHiker as being a healthy exercise, but also an event of discovery. I think a lot of people who go on the event for the first time are surprised by what they find. The dams, the bridges and, frankly, the hard work that the government's put in to

creating and maintaining the trails. Since I've been going on this event, they've reforested Coloane. We know that from MGM because we've gone out there and planted the trees. So to be able to see the regeneration of the forest and the animal life, the bird life that's returning to the forest... it's a positive thing for our city. I think those are the things [we want to develop], from the heritage to the outdoors, plus creating some competitive opportunities for people to learn about it.

MDT - Do you mean trail-like events, like walks?

GB - Walks, runs. I'm a business person and business is naturally competitive and we need to encourage our young people to learn to be competitive. There's not a lot of organized sport in Macau and that's a tragedy. For me personally, I grew up in a competitive sporting environment. ▶▶

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MGM BECOMES TITLE SPONSOR

TrailHiker to start and finish in MGM Cotai this year

THIS year's community hiking event will start and finish at MGM Cotai, as the Macau-U.S. gaming operator becomes title sponsor of the TrailHiker, the Times learned. The working date for the activity is October 28, and by then MGM's Cotai property should be operating as the HKD24 billion project is expected to open during the second half of the year.

The company announced yesterday that it is the official title sponsor for the 2017 TrailHiker, which has been renamed the "MGM Macau Eco Trail Hiker."

Entering its eighth year, the annual TrailHiker hosts two race-team events, a 10-km and a 30-km event, and has grown to approximately 2,000 participants.

The initiative "successfully attracts the local community along with international tourists to enjoy physical fitness in Macau's natural environment while supporting donations made to local charitable organizations," the organizer and the new title sponsor said.

The MGM Macau Eco



From left to right: Sarah Rogers, senior VP of Strategy & Corporate Responsibility of MGM; Grant Bowie, CEO and executive director of MGM China; Kowie Geldenhuys and Robert J. Kirby, directors of Macau TrailHiker Ltd

TrailHiker "is the most popular and the largest group-hiking challenge in Macau."

According to the organizer, the event was born out "of a strong desire to organize a sports event that involved team entries instead of individual entries."

The event, founded in 2009, aims to promote the green side of Macau, teamwork, environmental awareness and contributions to the community. Each year, there are around 2,000 participants joining the activity and over 200 volunteers are recruited to ensure the safety of the event, which has had Sands China as title sponsor for the past

six years, after PokerStars sponsored the first edition.

"From its longstanding support for the Macau TrailHiker" MGM takes over as the main sponsor this year.

To date, over 1,100 MGM employees from 275 teams across different departments "have enthusiastically participated in the 10km Fun & Family and 30km Corporate Challenge courses," the company revealed.

Grant Bowie, chief executive officer and executive director of MGM China stressed that "MGM supports the Macau government's goal to organize major international

sports events, and we are proud to be the new title sponsor for this successful event."

Moreover, the new title sponsor "looks forward to sustaining its future growth," Bowie said, adding that "MGM Macau Eco TrailHiker gives local and global participants an opportunity to simultaneously enjoy the scenic trails and raise money for a charitable cause."

This has been the organizer's goal since day one. "Promoting health, sports and teamwork among the public while giving back to local charitable organizations is at the heart of Macau Eco TrailHiker. We are very

grateful for the overwhelming support received from the previous title sponsor, Sands China, and from individuals and corporations, which has made this event a success over the past years," Robert Kirby, director of Macau TrailHiker told the Times.

Kirby, as the organizer, is also "extremely excited to welcome MGM as our new official title sponsor, and we look forward to welcoming all hiking fans to this meaningful event again soon."

In an exclusive interview with the Times, published on these pages, Grant Bowie, a veteran participant of the TrailHiker himself, said MGM wants to take the event to the next level, and that implies attracting more of the local youth to join in.

"A critical point for us is sustainability. If we can keep it going [to a point] where we get intergenerational participants [...] then we had achieved it," he said.

The registration for the 2017 event will open from June to early July.

Macau Daily Times is TrailHiker's official media partner



'Rabbit Lanterns' on exhibition from tomorrow

"Little Rabbit Lanterns - An Exhibition by Carlos Marreiros and Friends Part 12" will be inaugurated tomorrow at the Albergue SCM at Saint Lazarus district. As has become usual, the exhibition that celebrates the festivities of the "Moon Lantern Festival" will be held at the Albergue space (A2 Gallery) for about one month (February 11 - March 5) showing a series of works on one of the most traditional local celebrations. Admission is free of charge.

Number of illegally parked cars in UM declines



The number of vehicles involved in parking space abuse at the University of Macau (UM) has dropped from 183 at the peak of the period of infringements to two, at present, according to a statement from the UM. With the assistance of the Macau police force, the UM's Security and Transport Section successfully persuaded owners of more than 100 vehicles to vacate the relevant parking spaces. The UM opened its campus and part of its facilities to the public after it completed its relocation in 2014. After implementation of the rules, the university started charging parking fees according to the 'user-pays' principle. The university said that it will continue to improve its parking facilities and parking system this year.

Djibouti grants visa-on-arrival to local passport holders

Travelers to Djibouti who hold a Macau passport will be granted a visa upon their arrival for a maximum stay of 30 days, the Djibouti Immigration Authority has confirmed. To be eligible for the visa, travelers must also possess either an invitation letter, proof of hotel reservation or round-trip air ticket. According to a statement issued by the Identification Department, the MSAR was informed by the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of PRC in Macau. At present, a total of 126 countries or territories have agreed to grant visa-free access or visa-on-arrival to MSAR Passport holders.

MDT - How did your competitor that was the previous title sponsor [SCL] take it?

GB - All the gaming concessions get on pretty well and I think everybody is finding their own space. I think Sands China provided the support that they did for a period of time and it makes sense for them to say they've taken the event as far as they could. We're looking for active participation from all gaming companies in Macau because this is another thing about this event. We're competitors on a day-to-day basis. When it comes to the TrailHiker, it's an opportunity for us to come together to provide an event where all of our employees, all of our teams, all of our citizens can just have some fun. We want to encourage more corporates to become involved, both in terms of providing teams, but also providing support and presenting their products and services because, at the end of

the day, Macau people should be using Macau products and services. It's good for the business, it's good for the community.

There's not a lot of organized sport in Macau and I think that's a tragedy.

MDT - From what you have been saying, you are pretty much engaged, yourself and the company, in this event. Are you going to buy it at some point?

GB - It's not a question of buying, it's a question of building an investment and we are obviously looking to work extremely closely [with the organi-

zers]. If it requires further investment to take it to another level, then I think MGM has demonstrated - just as Sands China did in the past - it's prepared to invest if that allows us, in collaboration with the event organisers, to bring to life some of these additional opportunities, and build this event into something more significant. A critical point for us is about sustainability. History is an important thing for a commitment and having these events go on for a longer period of time is actually where you start getting true value. If we can keep it going [to a point] where we get intergenerational participants. That [would be] testament to the quality of this event and its longevity.

MDT - Are you going to promote it in schools?

GB - Clearly, we need to work with the authorities and through the Education Department, but it seems to me that this is a safe, healthy, positive way for young

Macau people to learn some important life skills. Simple things, like when you need to set yourself an objective and prepare yourself to attain it. You need to train to prepare for the event and once you start the event you don't give up; because if we don't set objectives for ourselves and we don't train, then we get into the habit of giving up.

MDT - There's a lesson about life there.

GB - That's what sport is all about. Sport for all of us is about learning the lessons of life and hopefully in an enjoyable way and there is nothing more fun than achieving things together. They say that climbing Everest is wonderful, but when you get to the top and there's no one else there, what does it mean? It means something to you. However, celebrating a team achievement is much more exciting than a personal celebration for individual achievement.

Zhuhai sees an increase in allergies during CNY

After the Chinese New Year holiday, Zhuhai's Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Center registered a 10 percent increase in the number of people with skin allergic reactions, according to a report by Jornal Va Kio. Experts at the center said that the growth was caused by the patients' unusual dining habits and by an unrestrained lifestyle. In regard to the elderly, allergies have been mainly caused by their overworking at home before the Chinese New Year, as well as by sudden changes in weather conditions. Among the younger ones, allergic reactions usually followed hair dyeing and inappropriate pill consumption for colds.

Gov't to regulate breast milk-related services

The Health Bureau (SSM) is conducting research regarding the city's non-authorized professionals who help women increase their breast milk supply, according to the Secretary of the Council for Medical Affairs in Macau, Leong Pui San. Leong said that Macau has physical therapists and medical centers registered that provide breast milk-related services, and that these services are under SSM's supervision. One nurse from SSM, surnamed Vong, stated that the local government hires professional doctors from Hong Kong to provide a 30-hour training course to local medical professionals, specifically to improve their knowledge regarding breastfeeding. Vong urges local mothers to look for professional medical staff in case they need assistance.

AIPIM's new board expresses support for English media



José Carlos Matias

Lynzy Valles

THE Macau Portuguese and English Press Association (AIPIM) has elected new governing staff during a meeting held yesterday. José Carlos Matias is the new president of the association's board of directors, replacing João Francisco Pinto.

Among other priorities for his mandate, Matias told the Times that the Association intends to highlight the role played by English-speaking media outlets.

Matias stressed to the Times yesterday that English media outlets play a significant role in the region as it keeps the En-

glish-speaking communities in Macau informed.

"The English-speaking press does provide a valuable service for the communities in the Macau SAR," Matias said during a phone interview.

"We believe that it would be desirable and we would welcome a situation where the support given to Portuguese- and Chinese-speaking press could be extended to the English speaking press," Matias, who is the editor of TDM English news, said. "I think it would be a desirable development and that it would make sense."

Meanwhile, throughout the first half of the year, the association pledged to prioritize

the analysis of the press freedom questionnaires that were handed out and collected in 2016.

The report aims to provide a comprehensive document, which would provide a better understanding of the current press freedom situation amongst Macau-based Portuguese and English-speaking journalists.

Commenting on the current status of press freedom in Macau, Matias remarked that it may still be tough for reporters to acquire access to some sources.

"It's not so much about the press freedom downstream but more about the access to sources upstream," he said.

"My general observation would be that the picture downstream seems satisfactory, but I think we have to look at the whole process in a more holistic manner."

Matias also confirmed that the association needs to conduct an Extraordinary General Assembly meeting to discuss

and give the green light to the proposed Code of Ethics (Deontological Code) and "Journalist Statute."

He noted that AIPIM is moving on with the approval process of the Code of Ethics, which will hopefully be a reference, and to be adapted on a voluntarily basis by Macau-based journalists.

Further written in the 2017/2018 action plan of AIPIM, it aims to collaborate with language centers to provide language courses in Chinese as well as in newspaper writing techniques, which would be held in English.

Regular debates and forums addressing topics of public interest related to the media industry and the MSAR's social, political and economic development is also looked into.

Meanwhile, the newly elected presidents of the association's General Assembly and Supervisory Board are João Francisco Pinto and Paulo Barbosa (who is the Times managing editor) respectively.

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RUGBY

Macau Bats to field team in Malaysian youth tournament



The team during training sessions in January



Daniel Beitter

LOCAL youth rugby club, Macau Bats, will be sending a group of under-14 players to an international tournament in Malaysia next weekend.

The tournament, which is called the KL Saracens International Rugby 10s, is now in its 10th year. It will take place this year on February 18 and 19 at the Bukit Kiara Equestrian and Country Resort in Kuala Lumpur, attracting the participation of youth teams from across Southeast Asia.

"This is a big and prestigious tournament for the players because teams are coming from

across Southeast Asia. [...] It is the toughest children's [rugby] competition in the region," Macau Bats Rugby Club president Simon Carrington told the Times.

"Historically we have ended up in the bottom half of the results table as we are a small club and the tournament is very competitive," said Carrington, "We are hoping this year to do better and to finish in the top eight."

The team has stepped up its training sessions ahead of the tournament, which Carrington describes as the "highlight of the season."

They train every Saturday morning between September and May and play some Sunday ma-

tches in Hong Kong. "There is additional training on Tuesdays now, and the intensity has been ramped up ahead of the tournament," said Carrington.

"We have our final training match this Sunday in Hong Kong against a local team there. Then we will set off [to Malaysia] on the following Friday."

According to Malaysia's The Star, some 195 teams will, this year, compete across 11 age group categories ranging from under-6s to under-18s. More than 3,000 young players from Macau, Hong Kong, Brunei, Malaysia and Singapore are expected to attend.

In 2016, more than 500 games were played during the two-day

tournament by a field of 173 teams. That year Macau did not send a delegation, despite competing in the two previous years, because of a lack of available players, explained Carrington.

The deputy president of host team KL Saracens, which is partnered with a rugby team in the U.K. and part of the Saracens Global Network, told The Star that the annual tournament is "an avenue for all players, coaches, parents and supporters to exhibit the great sportsmanship and camaraderie that had grown since it started in 2008."

He added that the competition could generate tourism revenues to the tune of 8 million Malaysian Ringgit (MOP14.4 million).

'Pan-democrats' to present three separate lists to AL



Au Kam San (left) and Ng Kuok Cheong

THE New Macau Association (ANM) and lawmakers Ng Kuok Cheong and Au Kam San will most probably run in this year's Legislative Assembly (AL) elections on three separate lists, Au Kam San told Tribuna de Macau (JTM).

Au previously left ANM due to internal differences of opinion with the current leaders and created with Ng the Macau Community Development Initiative (MCDI) that was, at the time of its creation, said not to have electoral purposes.

The lawmaker remarked that he expects Ng and the ANM to form three separate lists, ho-

ping also to count on his own list with some "new blood" in resemblance to what happened in 2013, being still uncertain if he intends to invite some of the members of ANM to be a part of it.

As for ANM itself, the president Scott Chiang has also for some time admitted that the association would run for the AL with its own list but has not yet disclosed who will be listed.

"I will support the most suitable person to head the list of the ANM," said Chiang to JTM, adding that within ANM "there isn't a sense of hierarchy established [among the three leaders]."

Rising as a possibility to integrate one of the three "pan-democrat" lists is also the former lawmaker Paul Chan Wai-chi, who has already expressed his interest in going back to the lawmaking life after having lost his seat earned in 2009 when running as the number two on Ng's list in 2013.

Leong questions gov't on more money spent with Jinan University

LAWMAKER Leong Veng Chai has yet to give up on the case of the government's donations to Jinan University.

The donation from the Macau Foundation to the Jinan University, announced in May and totaling RMB100 million, led to several protests. These included a demonstration by several associations and organizations that called for the donation to be canceled and for Chief Executive Chui Sai On to step down.

Leong recently criticized a dinner paid for by the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) on behalf of the Jinan University alumni association a few months later (November), and the justifications given by MGTO head Helena de Senna Fernandes for the expense.

According to Fernandes, this dinner would have cost at least MOP710,000, and the MGTO had paid for it by order of the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam. In addition, according to



the MGTO head, there was no budget limit.

In a written enquiry to the government, Leong hinted that there are other public services or departments that might have supported other costs related to donations to the same university. He went on to request that the government state exactly how much the MSAR had spent on and behalf of Jinan University, and exactly which services were involved in such payments.

Leong also called on the government to explain the "tightened rules" Senna Fernandes spoke of for "future financing approvals" and whether the same rules apply to both local and overseas institutions. **RM**



Live poultry imports to cease

Live poultry imports to Macau will cease permanently due to concerns over the bird flu virus, Secretary for Administration and Justice Sonia Chan has said. The decision follows the discovery last month of the H7N9 influenza virus in a sample collected from the Nam Yuet wholesale market. "Central slaughtering means the chickens will not be sent to the market [anymore]," she said as cited by public broadcaster TDM. "As long as there are live chickens and avian flu, chickens still have to be slaughtered [so] the problem will still be unresolved," she added contrarily. No decision has yet been made with regard to how the MSAR will supply consumers with chicken after the import ban, however the secretary added that "it will be necessary to issue permits" for the import of pre-slaughtered and frozen poultry.

Tam visits Fai Chi Kei Health Care Center

The Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, visited the Fai Chi Kei Health Care Center on Wednesday to foster closer contact with both users and medical staff and learn about several facilities and services of the center. The Secretary exchanged views with patients and medical staff and learned about services performed by the facility, such as colorectal cancer screening, elderly healthcare and provision of a breastfeeding room. During the visit, Tam praised the "great progress" achieved by the Health Care Center since its inauguration two years ago. The secretary also noted the sense of mission needed from professionals in the sector, further stating that he expects all health professionals to improve service levels.

Local woman arrested for mailing drugs

A local female resident was arrested after having tried to mail marijuana to mainland China, Gongbei customs authority reported earlier this week. A total of 512 grams of marijuana was seized. According to the Gongbei customs, the mail bag originally came from Canada, and it had been declared as containing morel mushrooms. On the morning of February 5, Zhuhai police arrested the Macau resident, having seized a phone and a scale. The woman told the police that she purchased the drugs abroad, and was preparing to sell them to mainland drug users.



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Local team wins Japan's Snow Sculpture Contest

THE Macau Culinary Association Team, representing the territory, won the champion's title on the 44th edition of Japan's International Snow Sculpture Contest held in Sapporo, the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) said in a statement.

The team invited by MGTO to represent the region brought home the major title with a sculpture titled "Crane Dance in Spring."

In its second participation in the contest and after having achieved second place last year, this year's team consisting of Perry Yuan Kam Hung, Patrick Li Hing Cheung and Tam Kuong Wu managed to impress the judges with an artwork that took them four days to carve.

The Sapporo Snow Festival is a winter festival held in the eponymous Japanese city and attracts over two million visitors every year from Japan and abroad.

The 44th Edition of the Inter-

national Snow Sculpture Contest is one of the highlights in the Sapporo Snow Festival that this year reached its 68th edition.

In the contest, 11 teams, from different countries and regions including Latvia, Hawaii, Poland, Singapore and Macau, were called to carve their snow sculptures at an Odori Site from February 5 to 8.

Winners were announced at the site yesterday morning.

Last year's edition of the festival enjoyed the presence of the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, who led a delegation of MGTO to take part in the Festival and promote Macau as a travel destination, showcasing a snow sculpture of the Ruins of St. Paul's paired with video mapping projections.

According to the official figures, Japan is the second largest international source of visitors to Macau, accounting for over 300,000 visitors. This marks an increase of 6.5 percent over last year.



Brazilian port company negotiates direct sea link with Zhuhai



Cranes operate at a residential construction site in the Gongbei district of Zhuhai

BRAZILIAN port company Companhia Docas do Espírito Santo (Codesa) will negotiate with businesspeople from the Chinese special economic zone of Zhuhai to establish a direct sea link between that port city and the port city of Vitoria, the capital of Espírito Santo, according to a sector association.

The Brazilian Association of Port and Waterway Entities said in its February 2017 report that a Brazilian delegation will travel to Zhuhai on February 11 to assess the possibility of opening up the sea link with local businesspeople.

The president of Codesa, Luis Claudio Santana Montenegro, who is part of the

delegation and who is due to return to Brazil on February 19, said that Zhuhai entrepreneurs had expressed great interest in the port of Vitoria and added that "the interest in establishing a direct commercial link is mutual."

Santana Montenegro said that the Chinese interest in establishing the sea link emerged following the completion of modernization works at the port of Vitoria as well as dredging of the access channel, "whose delay has meant that we lost ships to other ports."

The Brazilian delegation visiting Zhuhai includes a representative of the Vila Velha Terminal, a port facility that handles containers and general cargo. **MDT/Macauhub**

ARTS

CCM to stage contemporary dance piece 'Rice'



A new contemporary dance piece, titled "Rice", will be held at the Macau Cultural Center's (CCM) Grand Auditorium on April 15.

The show's choreography was conceived by the Cloud Gate Dance Theatre and designed by creator Lin Hwai-min. According to a statement from CCM, the piece is "a celebration of nature's life cycles in tandem with human drama."

The piece combines a variety of soothing sounds from traditional Hakka songs to classical compositions by Camille Saint-Saëns and Richard Strauss, "balancing hyper-slow intensity

with bursts of frenetic fury."

A series of activities will be held in tandem with the performance, including a workshop hosted by the company's performers. The workshop is designed to lead dance enthusiasts to explore their physical capabilities and create their own style. A pre-performance talk and a backstage tour will also be held.

Founded in 1973, the Cloud Gate Dance Theatre has dedicated itself to transforming traditional aesthetics into a contemporary display of physical movement.

Dubbed one of the leading modern dance theatres, the troupe has been a frequent guest at New York's Next Wave Festival and other international stages such as London's Sadler's Wells and Barbican Centre, as well as Moscow's Chekhov International Theatre Festival.

The company previously performed at CCM with "Moon Water" and "Nine Songs", two productions presented back in 2004 and 2012 respectively.

Tickets are available for "Rice" from February 5 at CCM's box office and Macau Ticketing Network outlets.

ONE SHOT NEWS



Selfie moment. The Chief Executive, Chui Sai On (back, center) meets performers backstage prior to the opening of the variety show of police forces to mark the Lunar New Year.

AD

Notice of Appointment of a Liquidator under Section 204 of the BVI Business Company Act.

NB Future Inc.
(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company No. 347545

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 204, subsection (b) of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company is in voluntary liquidation.

The voluntary liquidation commenced on 11th day of January, 2017.
The liquidator is Brian JACKSON of 269 Main Street, Road Town, Tortola, the British Virgin Islands.

10 February 2017
Brian JACKSON
Voluntary Liquidator

REAL ESTATE MATTERS

Common misconceptions about renting a property in Macau - Part 3

Juliet Risdon is a Director of JML Property and a property investor.

Having been established in 1994, JML Property offers investment property & homes. It specializes in managing properties for owners and investors, and providing attractive and comfortable homes for tenants.

www.JMLProperty.com info@JMLProperty.com



JULIET RISDON

This list of common misconceptions may look innocent enough, but the difference in expectation is usually the source of major rental conflicts...

I can make any changes to the apartment that I want ...

Adding a personal touch to an apartment may end up being quite costly if you don't have permission to do so. Many owners don't mind a degree of customization as long as you put things back the way they were when you moved in...

I can give notice any time on my rental apartment?

As a tenant, you have a few choices. When the tenancy agreement is coming to an end, you can let the owner know you will not extend at any point leading up to the end of the lease.

When a lease is broken, the owner has the right to retain part or all of the security deposit dependent on the notice period and the wording in the tenancy agreement.

The landlord must ensure the safety of the building

Safety is often the major concern when people first arrive in Macau. However, it is made very clear in Macau. Owners are responsible only to ensure that the apartment itself (think 'inside the apartment') does not have any infrastructure flaws that could be dangerous for a tenant such as open electrical sockets, a major structural issue etc.

find many places safer than Macau. Crimes against the general population are rare, especially those of a violent nature. However, crimes do happen occasionally of course, so do take the time to do a security check, and consider changing the locks on the doors at your own expense to give you the peace of mind about other people having keys to your apartment.

The landlord is responsible for maintaining everything in the apartment

Macau law is very clear and may differ from other places around the world. The owner of an apartment is not obligated to do anything in an apartment unless the issue is one of a dangerous nature. It is therefore vital that the procedure for getting things fixed should be fully documented in the lease.

Continued next week...

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Boeing wins USD13.8b wide-body jet order from Singapore Air



BOEING Co. won orders for 39 wide-body aircraft from Singapore Airlines Ltd. as Southeast Asia's biggest long-distance carrier upgrades its fleet over the next decade with more fuel-efficient models in an effort to cut costs.

The airline agreed to buy 20 777-9s, which are set to debut at the decade's end, and 19 787-10s, the longest Dreamliner model, for USD13.8 billion at list prices that don't reflect customary discounts, Singapore Air said in a statement yesterday. Boeing was nearing an order for at least 35 wide-body aircraft from Singapore Air, Bloomberg News reported Wednesday.

Deliveries of the jets will start as early as in the financial year ending March 2021, the carrier said, adding it also has options to buy six more of each of the two models.

The new deal would provide a critical boost to two high-profile Boeing products amid a tough market for twin-aisle jets. The Chicago-based company has been working hard to land sales of its upgraded 777X family after twice announcing it would cut output of current models. The new aircraft will replace some of Singapore Air's aging Boeing planes such as the 777-300ER, while giving the carrier's low-cost units rights to jets not yet on the market.

"Singapore is a deeply respected long-haul carrier, both in terms of

brand quality and technical proficiency," said Richard Aboulafia, an aerospace analyst with Fairfax, Virginia-based Teal Group. "It would be a fantastic endorsement."

Shares of the airline rose 1.4 percent to SGD9.94 yesterday in Singapore trading before the announcement.

Singapore Air has ordered 67 of the A350-900 jets, including an ultra-long range version, as it courts business travelers with non-stop service to markets such as New York and Los Angeles.

The Asian carrier's current fleet includes 10 A350s, which Airbus says consume 25 percent less fuel than Boeing's 777 aircraft, with 57 more on order. The airline already has 30 787-10s on order, according to Boeing's website.

Singapore Air has also reviewed a proposed, longer version of the twin-engine 777 that would carry as many as 450 passengers, a load previously handled only by four-engine jumbo jets, Bloomberg News reported Wednesday.

Buffeted by marquee Middle Eastern peers such as Emirates and regional budget operators, the only Asian carrier to have flown the Concorde has said it will maintain vigilance over its costs. Singapore Air, following two consecutive quarters of decline in profits, said Tuesday that 2017 will be another challenging year amid "tepid global economic conditions and geopolitical concerns."

The carrier is the launch customer for the 787-10, the first Boeing jetliner to be manufactured solely at its new North Charleston, South Carolina, campus. Deliveries are slated to begin next year. Singapore Air's unit Scoot currently flies the carbon-composite 787-800 and 787-900 variants of the Dreamliners.

Bloomberg

Nokia buys Comptel to add network software

NOKIA agreed to buy Comptel Oyj for 347 million euros (USD370 million) to add technology that helps phone carriers manage their networks, part of a push into software and services as network-gear sales sputter.

Comptel shareholders will get 3.04 euros a share in cash, Espoo, Finland-based Nokia said in a statement Thursday. That's 29 percent more than Comptel's closing price on the Helsinki exchange Wednesday.

Nokia and rivals such as Ericsson AB of Sweden are trying to sell more services and software to wireless carriers to reduce reliance on cyclical network-equipment revenue. Phone companies in several key markets have largely completed their faster fourth-genera-

tion networks, putting pressure on infrastructure manufacturers such as Nokia to look for new customers and revenue streams.

The acquisition gives Nokia programs to help process and analyze data traveling in carriers' networks - part of its plan to build a standalone software business, announced in 2015. The unit will focus on enterprise software and platforms for Internet-of-Things, and Nokia aims to make it as profitable as major companies in the field.

Last week, Nokia reported a 13 percent decline in fourth-quarter revenue to 6.7 billion euros as equipment sales plummeted. Services sales at Nokia's networks business were relatively stable at about 2.5 billion euros. Bloomberg

ADVERTORIAL

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Valentine's Day is just around the corner, which means it's the perfect time to spoil your significant other – or yourself – with a well-deserved gift from Shoppes at Parisian. Whether you are looking for luxury lingerie, sparkling jewels, glamorous accessories or something simply chic that says it all, we have everything you need to treat that special someone



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Paris' stunning public square, Place Vendôme, in the French capital's 1st arrondissement has been recreated at Shoppes at Parisian in all its glory, and every 30 minutes a stunning projection lightshow takes place, transporting visitors to a whole new world.



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HONG KONG

TVB seeks details on unbidden suitor

TELEVISION Broadcasts Ltd., Hong Kong's dominant free-to-air TV broadcaster, said it received an unsolicited offer for 29.9 percent of the company from TLG Movie & Entertainment Group and is gathering more information about the prospective buyer.

The broadcaster's shares rose to the highest close in almost 11 months with trading volume quadruple the 3-month full-day average. A 29.9 percent stake would be valued at about HKD4 billion (USD516 million) based on yesterday's closing price.

Another change in top shareholders at TVB would come after Li Rui-gang's China Media Capital took a stake in 2015 through an investment group, and after co-founder, the late media mogul Run Run Shaw sold control to buyers including HTC Corp. Chairwoman Cher Wang in 2011. TVB said it needs to ensure any investor has resources to fulfill its six-year investment plan, while analysts estimates show the broadcaster will probably report a third annual decline in net profit for 2016 as more TV viewers turn to programming offered via internet.

Closely held TLG Movie di-

dn't provide information about its owners, source of funds or "proof of financial soundness," according to the TVB filing. TLG shareholders are Wai Ho Choi Geoffrey and Dong Wei-tsun Kelvin, also its sole director, according to a filing. Wai is a non-executive director of TLG (HK) Holdings Ltd.

TVB said it will seek more information, "including in particular whether the possible purchaser has adequate financial resources" to fulfill the company's six-year investment plan.

The offer is conditional on shareholders voting down a proposed share buyback TVB announced last month, TLG Movie said in a filing to the Hong Kong exchange Wednesday night. TVB said on Jan. 24 it planned to spend as much as HKD4.21 billion repurchasing as many as 138 million shares, an HKD30.5 offer price, 15 percent more than the previous close.

The proposed buyback would raise the combined stake of the biggest shareholders including China Media Capital, Chairman Charles Chan Kwok Keung and non-executive director Mona Fong to 43.66 percent from current 29.9 percent, TVB said in

January.

A China Media Capital representative declined to comment. A call to TLG Movie's office number in Beijing listed on its website showed the number is no longer in use.

TVB shares climbed 3.2 percent to HKD30.6, the highest closing price since March 14, 2016.

Shaw Brothers Hong Kong Ltd. is TVB's largest shareholder with a 26 percent stake as of October 2016, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

China Media Capital and its other investment vehicle CMC Holdings have about 50 billion yuan (\$7.3 billion) of investments and funds combined, Li said last month in an interview at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

China Media Capital has stakes in Shaw Brothers Holdings Ltd., the studio behind many Bruce Lee and Jackie Chan movies. The company's also known for acquiring Star China TV from Rupert Murdoch's 21st Century Fox Inc., as well as for establishing joint ventures with some of the biggest Hollywood studios such as Dreamworks Animation LLC and Warner Bros. **Bloomberg**



Trump issues belated well-wishes to China on holiday



Computer screens display a video clip showing U.S. President Donald Trump's granddaughter Arabella Kushner singing a Chinese New Year greeting song that garnered almost 20 million views

PRESIDENT Donald Trump has issued belated well-wishes to China for the Lunar New Year, the most important holiday in the world's most populous nation, saying he hoped to work with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping to build a "constructive relationship."

Trump had been the only U.S. president in recent years not to have issued greetings when the holiday fell on Jan. 28, triggering speculation in China as to whether it was an oversight or an intentional slight.

A statement from the White House late Wednesday said Trump wrote to Chinese President Xi Jinping

wishing the Chinese people greetings for the new year and the Lantern Festival that falls on Saturday.

"President Trump stated that he looks forward to working with President Xi to develop a constructive relationship that benefits both the United States and China," the statement said.

Trump has accused Beijing of unfair trade practices and currency manipulation, criticized China's military buildup in the South China Sea and accused Beijing of doing too little to pressure neighbor North Korea over its nuclear and missile programs.

He also upended four decades of diplomatic protocol by speaking by phone with Tsai Ing-wen, the president of Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory.

Beijing decried the phone call with Tsai and has rejected the other accusations. China has in fact been spending heavily from its pile of foreign currency reserves to prop up the value of its currency, which would make its exports less competitive.

The prospect of a military confrontation over the South China Sea had also been raised by Trump's chief strategist Steve Bannon when he hosted the conservative Breitbart News Daily radio show in 2015 and 2016.

Bannon said he envisioned the possibility of a U.S.-China war over the strategic waterbody within five to 10 years. China, which claims the sea virtually in its entirety, has been building man-made islands in the area and equipping them with airstrips and military installations.

Despite Trump's confrontational image, Chinese internet users were warmed by a brief video clip of Donald Trump's granddaughter singing in Chinese that circulated on the web earlier this month. **AP**

PRC to start fingerprinting foreign visitors



MILLIONS of foreigners visiting China annually will have their fingerprints collected starting this week, China's Ministry of Public Security announced yesterday. The requirement will apply to most people between the ages of 14 and 70. Foreigners holding a diplomatic passport or coming from countries that have reciprocal agreements with China will be exempted, the ministry said.

Fingerprint logging will start today in Shenzhen, the southern Chinese city bordering Hong Kong, before being gradually implemented elsewhere.

Chinese authorities coun-

ted more than 76 million entries and exits last year from foreigners, primarily from South Korea, Japan, the United States and Russia.

The ministry said in a statement that the new requirement was "an important measure to strengthen entry and exit management" that matches requirements in other countries.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection has fingerprinted most foreign visitors since 2004. The agency said on its website that it is conducting tests of facial recognition software and other biometric screening. Japan also began fingerprinting all arriving foreigners in 2007 as a public safety measure. **AP**

Rod McGuirk

US officials stop vetting Nauru refugees for resettlement

U.S. officials stopped screening refugees held on Nauru for potential resettlement in the United States this week but will return to the Pacific atoll to continue working toward a deal that President Donald Trump has condemned as “dumb,” an Australian minister said yesterday.

Immigration Minister Peter Dutton would not say when U.S. Department of Homeland Security officials would return to Nauru to conduct what Trump describes as “extreme vetting.”

Trump made enhanced screening a condition for agreeing to honor an Obama administration deal to accept up to 1,250 refugees refused entry into Australia. Australia pays Nauru and Papua New Guinea to keep more than 2,000 asylum seekers — mostly from Iran, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka — in conditions condemned by rights groups. The process of “extreme vetting” has yet to be explained.

U.S. officials were sent to Nauru within days of the deal’s announcement in November after the U.S. presidential election. But they left this week with arrangements under a cloud.

“I don’t have any comment to make in relation to when U.S. officials will be on Nauru next,” Dutton told reporters. “There have been officials there who have left



In this Sept. 19, 2001, file photo, refugees, (right) gather on one side of a fence to talk with international journalists about their journey that brought them to the Island of Nauru

[...] in the last couple of days and we would expect other officials to be there in due course.”

Dutton later denied in an interview with Sky News that the screening process was on hold, saying his staffers were working with homeland security officials in Washington to assess each of the refugees’ cases.

Refugee Action Coalition spokesman Ian Rintoul said most of the refugees on Nauru who had been accepted by the United States as candidates for resettlement had

initial interviews with U.S. officials in what they had been told was a two-step process. But there have been no second interviews so far, Rintoul said.

Australia has determined that there are 1,600 genuine refugees among 2,077 asylum seekers on Papua New Guinea and Nauru. There could also be refugees among the 370 asylum seekers who came to Australia for medical treatment then took court action to prevent their return to the island camps.

As of last week, Nauru held 1,132 asylum seekers including women and children. The Manus Island facility in Papua New Guinea housed 818 men with another 127 male asylum seekers living elsewhere in Papua New Guinea.

Australia has said the “most vulnerable” refugees on Nauru would be given priority for U.S. resettlement.

After committing to Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull that he would honor the agreement, Trump tweeted that it was a “dumb deal.”

Asked last week whether the deal would continue, Trump said: “We’ll see what happens.”

Papua New Guinea was yesterday accused of breaching the rights of 60 asylum seekers who have been told they are about to be deported. Such deportations are rare.

The 60 have had their refugee claims rejected and one has already been removed from the men-only Manus facility, said Ben Lomai, a lawyer representing them.

Most of those targeted for depor-

tation were from Iran, with others from Syria, Somalia, Sudan and Bangladesh.

It is not clear how Papua New Guinea hopes to overcome Iran’s refusal to accept back its citizens who have not returned voluntarily.

One asylum seeker from Nepal was put on a commercial flight Wednesday night and told he was being returned to his home country, Lomai said.

Lomai was preparing an application for the court in Papua New Guinea asking that the deportations be halted. The asylum seekers already have separate court applications pending asking that they be resettled in Australia, and Lomai said it would be unjust to deport them before those matters were heard.

Australian Attorney-General George Brandis defended Papua New Guinea’s legal right to deport the men, saying their refugee claims have been investigated and rejected.

The Papua New Guinea government did not immediately respond to a request for comment. **AP**

PHILIPPINES

Rebels stage new attacks, condemn Duterte for ending talks

COMMUNIST guerrillas abducted three villagers, including a policeman, and burned construction equipment in new attacks in the Philippines yesterday and condemned President Rodrigo Duterte as a “double-speaking thug” for terminating peace talks.

Government forces were pursuing the attackers, about 60 suspected New People’s Army rebels who separately seized the three people and burned construction equipment in far-flung Talakag town in southern Bukidnon province, army officials said.

The rebels burned a backhoe and two trucks at a construction company compound in Talakag apparently after failing to extort money from the firm, said Col. Eric Vinoya, an army brigade commander in Bukidnon, a mountainous pineapple-growing region about 860 kilometers southeast of Manila.

The abducted police of-



Communist New People Army militants march in unison in front of local residents and supporters during the celebration of the 42nd anniversary of the Communist Party of the Philippines

ficer was traveling on a motorcycle when taken at gunpoint by the rebels, he said.

Separately, the Marxist rebels also burned two trucks transporting copper ore in the northern mountain town of Itogon in Benguet province but didn’t harm the drivers, police said.

Army troops backed by rocket-firing MG520 helicopters were pursuing the rebels, Benguet police chief Senior Superintendent Florante Camuyot said.

Duterte lifted the government’s ceasefire and discarded Norway-brokered peace talks with

the rebels last week after the guerrillas abandoned their own truce and killed six soldiers and kidnapped two others in new flare-ups in the 48-year insurgency, one of Asia’s longest-running.

Duterte, who took office in June and described himself as the country’s first left-wing leader, rapidly developed rapport with the guerrillas, initiating peace talks with them and appointing two left-wing activists to his Cabinet. All that has rapidly deteriorated in recent days, with the president labeling the insurgents terrorists and revoking an agreement that se-

veral freed rebel leaders were immune from arrests.

“Duterte has gone berserk and upturned the entire peace process,” the Communist Party of the Philippines said in a statement. His moves show “how difficult it is to conduct serious negotiations with a double-speaking thug who only recognizes his own rules.”

Duterte’s all-out war will be completely frustrated,” the communists said, citing how government troops have been overstretched fighting them and other insurgents, including Muslim militant groups in the south.

Military chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Ano played down the rebels’ rhetoric, saying nobody believes the insurgent fighters, currently estimated to number 3,700, could succeed in their rebellion even in 100 years. They squandered their chance by waging attacks on troops that led to the collapse of the peace talks, he said.

“You should go back, surrender or else hide for the rest of your lives,” Ano said. **AP**

NEW ZEALAND

Men convicted of gay sex to have records wiped

Nick Perry, Wellington

GAY men in New Zealand who were convicted of homosexuality more than three decades ago when it was considered a crime will soon be able to have their records cleared.

Justice Minister Amy Adams yesterday announced a scheme to wipe clean the criminal records of people convicted of indecency, sodomy or providing a place for homosexual acts.

She apologized to those who’d been convicted but said they would not receive any compensation.

The scheme is broadly supported by lawmakers and is expected to be approved by the Parliament. Adams estimated about 1,000 gay men would be eligible to have their convictions quashed.

In New Zealand, homosexuality was decriminalized in 1986 and same-sex marriage legalized in 2013. Sex between women was never explicitly illegal under New Zealand law.

“There is no doubt that homosexual New Zealanders who were convicted and branded as criminals for consensual acti-

vity suffered tremendous hurt and stigma,” Adams told reporters. “We are sorry for what those men and their families have gone through.”

Adams said the scheme was the first of its kind in New Zealand and had important legal and constitutional implications. She said it was possible to look back with hindsight and question whether it should have been done earlier.

“We think this is a case where society is strongly of the view now that this should not have been regarded as a conviction, even though that was the law at the time,” she said.

Those with convictions will still need to apply to have them wiped and have their cases assessed. That is because the law at the time didn’t distinguish between consensual and non-consensual homosexual activity, Adams said.

Opposition lawmaker Grant Robertson, who is openly gay, supported the move.

“This is really good news,” he tweeted. “Congrats to Amy Adams on righting this long-standing wrong.” **AP**



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SRI Lanka says it needs more time to fulfill promises given to the U.N. human rights body to investigate war crime allegations from the nation's long civil war, which ended nearly eight years ago.

Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraweera told foreign correspondents late Tuesday that the government will seek more time at the next U.N. human rights session, starting Feb. 27 in Geneva.

Samaraweera said that Sri Lanka will commit itself to going ahead as planned even though it has not been able to achieve all that it wanted.

In a joint resolution in 2015 at the U.N. Human Rights Council, Sri Lanka promised to work toward ethnic reconciliation, including investigating alleged

Sri Lanka to ask UN for more time to probe war crimes

wartime abuses.

It had promised the U.N., among other things, a truth-seeking mechanism, a judicial mechanism to prosecute those who are accused of human rights abuses and a new constitution that takes into account the island nation's varied ethnicities and religions. However, little progress has been made.

According to U.N. estimates, up to 100,000 people were killed in the 26-year civil war, but many

more are feared dead, including up to 40,000 civilians who are believed to have died in the final months of the fighting. Government troops and the Tamil Tiger rebels, who fought for an independent state for ethnic minority Tamils in the country's north and east, were both accused of war crimes.

The U.N. human rights chief had called for a hybrid court with local and international judges. Sri Lanka agreed to the parti-

icipation of foreign judges before backtracking and now insists on local courts investigating the allegations.

Samaraweera, however, said that Sri Lanka had agreed only to foreign participation at different levels in the judicial process, but not to have foreign judges hearing the cases.

The civil war ended in 2009 when Sri Lanka's military crushed the Tamil Tiger rebels. **AP**



Sri Lankan army soldiers march during Independence Day parade, marking the country's independence from British colonial rule in 1948



In this March 31, 2015, file photo, Heather Mack (left) and her boyfriend Tommy Schaefer, of Chicago, are handcuffed as they arrive at a courtroom during their trial in Bali

AN American woman imprisoned in Indonesia for killing her mother has retracted statements made in YouTube videos that her boyfriend, also convicted in the same case, was innocent.

A statement released by Heather Mack and her lawyer Yulius Benyamin Seran on Wednesday said the assertions in the videos

were false and recorded under pressure. The statement said Mack, 21, was reading words written by her boyfriend Tommy Schaefer.

In a series of three videos posted last week, Mack says that Schaefer was trying to protect her when he confessed to striking her 62-year-old mother, Sheila von Weise-Mack, in the head with a

US woman retracts claim boyfriend innocent in Bali killing

metal fruit bowl.

Mack's statement said the video was uploaded to YouTube by someone who deliberately created an account in her name.

Bali prison warden Tonny Nainggolan said authorities were investigating who recorded and uploaded the videos. He said neither Mack nor Schaefer had admitted to producing or uploading the videos and blamed each other.

The couple was convicted in April 2015 of premeditated murder, which carries a

maximum penalty of death. Schaefer was sentenced to 18 years in prison while Mack, who gave birth during the trial, received a 10-year prison sentence.

Von Wiese-Mack was the widow of highly regarded jazz and classical composer James L. Mack, who died in 2006 at the age of 76.

Schaefer testified at his trial that von Wiese-Mack was angry when she learned about her daughter's pregnancy and tried to strangle him, prompting him to strike her with a metal fruit

bowl.

In the videos, Mack said she plotted to kill her mother herself because Schaefer refused to help find someone who would kill her mother for USD50,000.

"After that I got this new savage idea in my head that I wanted to kill her in a hotel room because she killed my father in a hotel room," she said. "We were going to Bali, then I began to plot."

Mack, the composer, died in a hotel room in Athens, Greece, after suffering a pulmonary embolism, according to his Chicago Tribune

obituary.

Prosecutors said the two discussed killing von Weise-Mack in text messages, but in the videos Mack said that she took Schaefer's phone when he was asleep and sent text messages to her own phone.

"Tommy's an innocent man," said Mack. She said that he only helped her stuff the body in a suitcase and clean up the murder scene because she threatened to tell police that he committed the crime. **AP**

MALDIVES

Exiled former leader wants to contest presidency

Bharatha Mallawarachi, Colombo



Mohamed Nasheed

THE Maldives' former leader, who is living in exile in London, said yesterday he plans to contest next year's presidential election in his country despite an outstanding prison sentence.

Mohamed Nasheed said he will seek his Maldivian Democratic Party's nomination later this year.

Nasheed was imprisoned in 2015 after receiving a 13-year jail term for ordering the arrest of a senior judge while in office. The following year he received asylum in Britain, where he had traveled for medical treatment.

The Maldives constitution bars anyone sentenced to more than 12 months from contesting elections unless three years have passed since

their release or they have been officially pardoned. Nasheed insists his conviction was illegal and he is therefore able to run. "I can contest. I am a Maldivian national, I must be free to contest and I will contest," Nasheed told reporters in Colombo, the capital of neighboring Sri Lanka, where he met and held discussions with officials of his party.

However, if he is not permitted to run, Nasheed said his party will support a candidate from another party.

"We will not boycott the election," he said.

Nasheed became the Maldives' first democratically elected president in 2008, ending decades of autocratic rule by Maumoon Abdul Gayoom. He resigned after only three years after losing support over his detention of the top judge. Nasheed maintains that officials who remained loyal to Maumoon had orchestrated a coup.

Nasheed lost the 2013 presidential election to Yameen Abdul Gayoom, a half-brother of Maumoon.

Since his election, Yameen has tightened his grip on power and erased many of the country's recent democratic gains.

A number of political leaders have been given lengthy prison sentences after trials on terrorism charges

criticized for lack of due process.

Yameen is also accused of using the judiciary, police and

bureaucracy to crack down on opponents.

The government tightly controls public gatherings and

recently enacted an anti-defamation law with hefty fines and jail terms for journalists and social media users. **AP**



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Blast in French nuclear plant's machine room; no radiation



This undated photo provided by Electricite de France shows the current nuclear plant of Flamanville

A fire led to a blast in a nuclear power plant's turbine hall yesterday on France's northwest coast but there was no radiation leak or casualties, operator EDF and local authorities said.

EDF said the staff at the Flamanville plant in Normandy immediately brought the fire under control. The cause of the fire, in the machine room of the No. 1 reactor, was under investigation.

The machine room, which houses turbines that produce electricity, is a non-nuclear area of the plant.

There was no radiation leak as a result of the fire or blast, EDF said.

Fire officers checked five of the plant's workers to see if they were suffering from smoke inhalation but they did not require further medical attention, said Olivier

The machine room is a non-nuclear area of the plant

Marmion, a regional official.

Foul play was ruled out as a cause of the fire, with initial suspicions focusing on a possible electrical short-circuit, Marmion said.

EDF said the plant's No. 1 reactor was subsequently disconnected from the grid — a normal operating procedure in such circumstances.

Flamanville has two 1,300-megawatt reactors, in operation since 1985 and 1986. Nearly 80 percent of France's electricity production is generated from nuclear power. AP

ROMANIA

Justice minister quits over anti-graft law protests



Romanian Justice Minister Florin Iordache announces his resignation

ROMANIA'S justice minister resigned yesterday following mass protests over a law that would soften the corruption fight in the country.

Florin Iordache defended

Protesters said that the measure would dilute the anti-corruption fight.

The ordinance would have decriminalized abuse in office by officials if the amount involved was less than about USD48,500. The government plans to introduce another version of the law in Parliament, where it has a majority.

In another related development, the Constitutional Court said it wouldn't rule on whether the ordinance was constitutional as requested by the ombudsman, saying

The ordinance would have decriminalized abuse in office by officials if the amount involved was less than about USD48,500

his tenure, saying all his initiatives were "legal and constitutional," but had failed to placate "public opinion."

Romania's two-month-old government withdrew the contentious decree this week, crafted by Iordache, to legalize some forms of official misconduct this week after hundreds of thousands protested in cities around Romania.

the decree had been withdrawn from legislation.

Court chairman Valer Dorneanu said that "we did not find elements [of the decree] which had already been applied, and would have produced judicial effects."

The government survived a vote of no confidence Wednesday in parliament, where it has a solid majority. AP

Trump lashes out at McCain for comments on deadly Yemen raid

Andrew Taylor, Washington

PRESIDENT Donald Trump yesterday lashed out at Republican Sen. John McCain, who has disputed the Trump administration's insistence that the deadly U.S. military mission in Yemen was "absolutely a success."

Trump took to Twitter to assail the Vietnam War veteran and chairman of the Armed Services Committee for "emboldening the enemy" after the Arizona lawmaker initially called last month's raid a "failure." McCain issued a statement Tuesday in which he said that while many objectives of the raid were met, "I would not describe any operation that results in the loss of American life as a success."

"Sen. McCain should not

be talking about the success or failure of a mission to the media," Trump said over several tweets. "Only emboldens the enemy! He's been losing so [...] long he doesn't know how to win anymore."

The raid was supposed to be an intelligence gathering mission but turned into a lengthy battle with al-Qaida fighters in which a Navy SEAL, Ryan Owens, was killed, a USD75 million aircraft was lost and there were multiple casualties, including women and children.

"Our hero [...] Ryan died on a winning mission [according to General Mattis], not a 'failure.' Time for the U.S. to get smart and start winning again!" Trump tweeted. Retired Gen. Jim Mattis is Trump's secretary of defense.

White House spokesman

Sean Spicer has called the raid "absolutely a success."

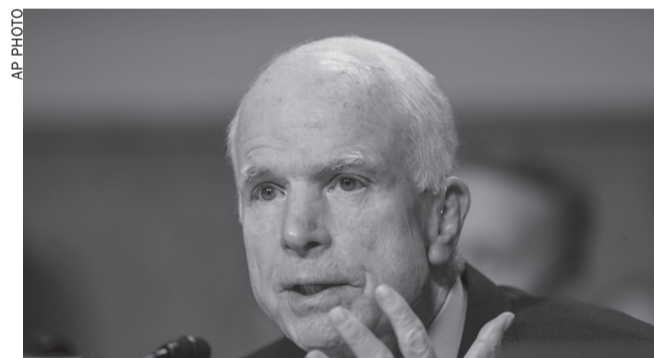
McCain, who spent 5½ years as a prisoner of war in Vietnam, has not been shy about criticizing Trump, especially over his accommodating attitude toward Russian President Vladimir Putin and his controversial immigration order suspending all immigration for citizens of seven majority-Muslim countries, including Yemen, for 90 days.

But yesterday, McCain was not eager to respond to Trump's latest missives.

"Senator McCain will continue to execute his oversight duties as chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee and support the brave men and women serving our nation in uniform," said McCain spokeswoman Julie Tarallo.

McCain, 80, cruised to a sixth Senate term in November, defeating a Democratic challenger who hounded the senator for standing by Trump even after the billionaire businessman insulted him as a "loser" and appeared to question whether he is a war hero.

Trump, who received draft deferments during the Vietnam era, also said there was nothing heroic about McCain's military record after



Sen. John McCain

he was shot down during the war.

McCain dropped his support for Trump in early October after a 2005 recording surfaced in which Trump boasted about groping women. The move led to an outcry from conser-

vative voters firmly behind Trump. McCain has sought to limit his public criticism of Trump to policy differences but often struggles to hide his exasperation when encountering reporters in the corridors of the Capitol. AP

ALABAMA'S SESSIONS SWORN IN AS ATTORNEY GENERAL

Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions has been sworn in as President Donald Trump's attorney general. During an Oval Office ceremony, Trump called Sessions a man of integrity and principal, and someone who has devoted his life to the cause of justice. Sessions was

sworn in the morning after the Senate confirmed his nomination following a contentious confirmation process. The Alabama lawmaker resigned his Senate seat shortly after his colleagues approved him on a 52-47 vote that broke largely along partisan lines.



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FRIDAY

- 13:00 TDM News (Repeat)
- 13:30 News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
- 14:50 RTPi Live
- 16:50 Criminal Minds S.8
- 17:30 Castle S6 (Repeated)
- 18:10 Precious Pearl (Repeated)
- 19:00 TDM Talk Show (Repeated)
- 19:30 Soap Opera
- 20:30 Main News, Financial & Weather Report
- 21:15 Documentary Serie
- 22:10 Precious Pearl
- 23:00 TDM News
- 23:30 Portuguese Movie
- 01:20 Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

SATURDAY

- 10:30 Comedy
- 11:05 Blaze Riders
- 11:30 Documentary Serie
- 12:30 Miscellaneous
- 13:00 TDM News (Repeat)
- 13:30 News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
- 14:50 Soap Opera
- 18:35 Documentary Series
- 19:40 Miscellaneous
- 20:30 Main News, Financial & Weather Report
- 21:00 Non Daily Portuguese News
- 21:10 Drama
- 22:00 Revenge S.4
- 22:45 Miscellaneous
- 23:00 TDM News
- 23:30 Musical
- 00:10 Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

SUNDAY

- 10:20 Young Adult
- 11:00 Sunday Mass (Live)
- 12:30 Miscellaneous
- 13:00 TDM News (Repeat)
- 13:30 News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
- 14:50 Zig Zag
- 16:40 Documentary Serie
- 17:15 Miscellaneous
- 18:30 Documentary Serie
- 19:35 Non-Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
- 19:40 Comedy
- 20:30 Main News, Financial & Weather Report
- 21:00 Non-Daily Portuguese News
- 22:00 Secrets of China
- 23:00 TDM News
- 23:30 Non-Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
- 23:50 Europa League Magazine
- 00:45 Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeat)

Offbeat



SVT reporter Fredrik Onnevall (center)

IN SWEDEN, TELEVISION TEAM CONVICTED OF HUMAN SMUGGLING

Three employees with Swedish broadcaster SVT have been sentenced to community work after being convicted of human smuggling for bringing a 15-year Syrian boy to Sweden during the 2015 migrant influx that swept across Europe. The Malmo's District Court said yesterday it was "obvious the SVT team helped for purely humanitarian reasons." Reporter Fredrik Onnevall, his cameraman and interpreter were making a documentary on the migrants when they met an unaccompanied minor in Greece who wanted to go to Sweden. They wanted to document his trip by car, ferry and train. Before the court, Onnevall admitted paying for a car rental and knowing the boy had false papers. In Sweden, the then-15-year-old boy was granted permanent asylum. It was not immediately clear whether the ruling would be appealed. AP

cinema



CINETEATRO

9 FEB -13 FEB

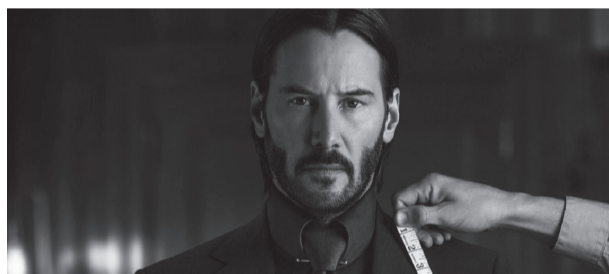


RESIDENT EVIL: FINAL CHAPTER

ROOM 1
2:30, 4:30, 9:30pm
Director: Paul W. S. Anderson
Starring: Milla Jovovich, Ali Larter, Shawn Roberts, Ruby Rose
Language: English
Duration: 103min

RESIDENT EVIL: FINAL CHAPTER

ROOM 1 (3D)
7:30pm
Director: Paul W. S. Anderson
Starring: Milla Jovovich, Ali Larter, Shawn Roberts, Ruby Rose
Language: English
Duration: 103min



JOHN WICK: CHAPTER TWO

ROOM 2
2:30, 4:45, 9:30pm
Director: Chad Stahelski
Starring: Keanu Reeves, Ian McShane, Ruby Rose
Language: English (Chinese)



LA LA LAND

ROOM 2
7:15pm
Director: Damien Chazelle
Starring: Ryan Gosling, Emma Stone
Language: English
Duration: 128min

THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE

ROOM 3
2:30, 4:30, 7:30pm
Director: Chris McKay
Starring: Jenny Slate, Will Arnett, Ralph Fiennes
Language: Cantonese (English)
Duration: 104min

H2 HZ, I LOVE YOU

ROOM 3
9:30pm
Director: Wei Te-Sheng
Starring: Van Fan, Chic Tanaka, Min-Hsiung
Language: Mandarin (Cantonese & English)
Duration: 104min

MACAU TOWER

28 JAN - 15 FEB



JOURNEY TO THE WEST: THE DEMONS STRIKE BACK

2:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30pm
Director: Hark Tsui
Starring: Bei-Er Bao, Mengke Bateer, Kenny Lin
Language: Cantonese
Duration: 109min

this day in history



1955 US EVACUATES PACIFIC ISLANDS

The American Navy has moved thousands of people from the Chinese Nationalist Tachen Islands. Communist forces on the Chinese mainland - within firing distance of the Tachens - have been threatening the Nationalist strongholds for several weeks.

The US Senate agreed the Chinese-American defence treaty two days ago to protect the anti-Communist, Nationalist power-base of Formosa (now called Taiwan) - regarded as the key to US security in the western Pacific.

Vice-Admiral Pride of America's Seventh Fleet announced nearly 14,000 civilians have been taken from both North and South Tachen to the port of Keelung on the Nationalist island of Formosa.

American Ambassador Mr Rankin and Chief of the American Advisory Group, Major General Chase, have made an inspection trip to the Tachens and expect they will be completely evacuated - of 18,000 civilians and 15,000 troops - by the weekend.

Admiral Pride claimed North Tachen had been completely cleared of civilians by Tuesday evening (8 February) in an operation he described as "satisfactory thus far".

His command of about two dozen evacuation ships worked through the night to embark civilians from the south island.

Communist forces have not interfered with the transportation process, but a statement from the Seventh Fleet revealed there had been anti-aircraft fire from Communist controlled islands against American aircraft patrolling the area.

The Americans have confirmed more than 400 carrier-based aircraft sorties in the past 44 hours. US Task Force 77 - including five aircraft carriers - is on hand to counter what its commander, Admiral Ring, calls "sneak attacks" by the Chinese Communists.

After sweeping the straits for mines, the American fleet began the mass movement of people two days ago. The first group they rescued - on board the 16 tonne transporter Henrico - consisted of approximately 100 over 65-year-olds.

Altogether the American force has the capacity to carry about 25,000 people between the Tachens and Formosa, 200 miles to the south.

Courtesy of BBC

IN CONTEXT

The US State Department announced they had completed the evacuation of the Tachen Islands on 11 February. They used 132 boats and 400 aircraft to move 14,500 civilians, 10,000 Nationalist troops and 4,000 guerrillas, along with 40,000 tons of military equipment and supplies. Three days later Chinese Communist forces invaded and overran the Tachen Islands. The American Seventh Fleet returned to its normal Pacific bases and training areas, although a fleet of Sabrejets remained on Formosa. US intervention in this region ensured the independence of the Nationalist Republic of China under the leadership of Chiang Kai-shek.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Things are freeing up a bit, and your responsibilities are centered more around being true to yourself...

Taurus April 20-May 20 You can dramatically increase your odds of winning by putting more energy into planning. So try to dedicate some time today toward putting your priorities in order.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You may feel inspired to try a new creative experience to stimulate your day and get some juices flowing. A trip to a museum, art supply store or even an artsy coffee shop would be a great way to while away a free hour...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You may need a dose of courage, or you may just need a kick in the pants. You've been inside your own head for a while now, and it's enabled you to get back in touch with your emotions and what you need.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Upcoming events that you fear might be dangerous actually hold no real threat to you or to your current lifestyle, so don't spend any time worrying today. Your fears right now are not warranted at all;

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Start preparing to live a more public lifestyle by taking care of your personal issues. Give some thought to a minor makeover of sorts - either a new hairstyle or new item of clothing, nothing more significant than that.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Today you will have time to take a step back and let go of the idea that you have to control every little detail. Listen to other people and ask them for ideas when they tell you to take it easy.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Now is the time to make declarations, stake your claim and make sure the world hears you. Whether you choose to share your true self through your wardrobe, musical tastes or pocketbook, make it a celebration.

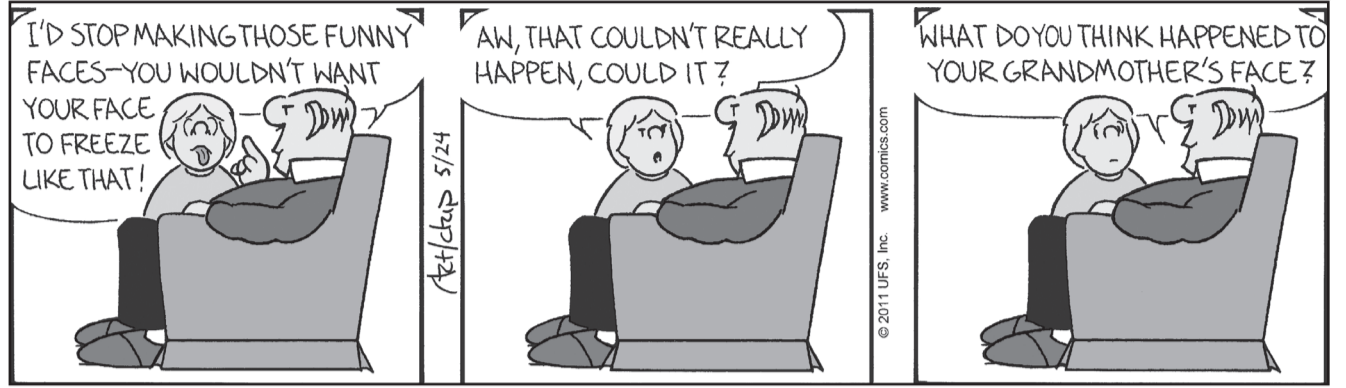
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You might think that just one more push will make things happen for you, but this is not the case. Now is not the time to keep going - now is the time to stay put and let things move on without you for a while.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 When you encounter a coworker or friend who's doing things with style, watch them very closely. There are tips and tricks you could learn that will help you get one step closer to your ideal public image.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 There's nothing holding you back, and there's little if anything for you to worry about. You've reached the point of least resistance with someone new - they just may be coming around to your way of thinking.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 This is one of those wonderful days when your achievements will far outpace any demands that are placed on you. You will definitely meet a big deadline early, so use that extra time to get ahead on another project.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

Table listing weather conditions for various Chinese cities like Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

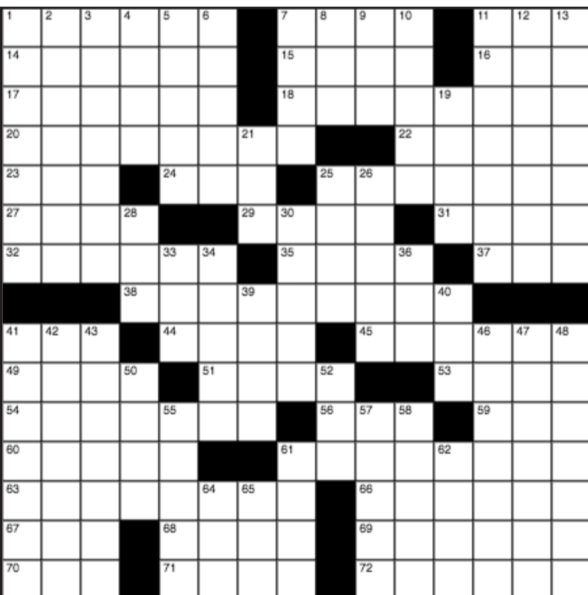
WORLD

Table listing weather conditions for various world cities like Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, etc.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Baseball's Roberto; 7- Yellow cheese coated with red wax; 11- Major-leaguer; 14- Remove from office; 15- Stow, as cargo; 16- Cartoon Chihuahua; 17- King of the fairies; 18- Rudimentary; 20- Maternal or paternal; 22- Shows up; 23- Singer's syllable; 24- Cornerstone abbr.; 25- Fricative; 27- Seemingly forever; 29- Plains native; 31- Not false; 32- Main course; 35- Spotted; 37- "Sure thing"; 38- Tram; 41- U-turn from NNW; 44- Comedian Johnson; 45- The constellation Orion; 49- Res ___ loquiter; 51- A Chaplin; 53- "Rule Britannia" composer; 54- Tank; 56- Jazzman Adderley; 59- Land in la mer; 60- Prepare to propose; 61- Shrew; 63- Bereft of company; 66- Return to a former condition; 67- PC panic button; 68- Bakery worker; 69- Exact satisfaction for; 70- Get the picture; 71- Novel ending; 72- Female sibling;

DOWN: 1- Person with new parents; 2- Bygone Chrysler; 3- Producing effects; 4- Oliver Twist's request; 5- Together; 6- Leases; 7- Airline since 1948; 8- Apply lightly; 9- "Much ___ About Nothing", play by Shakespeare; 10- Paris "thanks"; 11- First in rank; 12- Government income; 13- Ragtime dance; 19- Civil wrong; 21- From ___; 25- Chimney residue; 26- Roost; 28- SAT takers; 30- Twix's partner; 33- JFK posting; 34- Diamond flaw?; 36- It's bottled in Cannes; 39- School founded by Henry VI; 40- Genetic material; 41- Reaping-hooks; 42- Covered with prickles; 43- Spirit; 46- Three-pronged weapon; 47- Blow up; 48- Go in again; 50- To ___ (exactly); 52- Actress Alicia; 55- Borden cow; 57- Tapestry; 58- Rome's Fontana di ___; 61- Roll call response; 62- Folk singer Burl; 64- World Series mo.; 65- Ran into;



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
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HKD 4,231 sq ft
Storage Space & Cargo Lifts
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Nova City Penthouse Taipa
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HKD 7,832sq ft
European Style Built in Stylishly Furnished Throughout
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Nam Long (J Unit) Old Taipa
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Manhattan - B unit Taipa
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Ref: 16120630

Hellene Gardens, Lot 4, D Unit, Coloane
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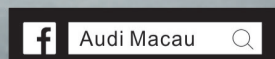
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FOOTBALL

Surprising Alaves to take on Barcelona in Copa del Rey final



Alaves's Edgar Mendez (center left) celebrates his goal after scoring against Celta during the Spanish Copa del Rey semifinal

Tales Azzoni, Madrid

THERE could hardly be more contrasting teams in the Copa del Rey final.

Alaves, the recently promoted club from Basque Country, will be playing in the final of a major tournament only for the second time in its 96-year history. Barcelona, on the other hand, will be making its 39th appearance in the domestic competition's final.

Barcelona has won virtually

every possible title in the competitions it has played. Alaves' only winner's trophy is for Spain's second division.

In the final on May 27, Barcelona will field a team that includes Lionel Messi, Andres Iniesta and Neymar. Alaves' top forward is Deyverson, a Brazilian barely known even in his native country.

"This was unthinkable in the beginning of the season," Alaves coach Mauricio Pellegrino said after the team's 1-0 home win over Celta Vigo yesterday's se-

cond leg of the semifinals. "We'll be mobilized for this final."

The only other time Alaves enjoyed this kind of success was 16 years ago when it reached the final of the UEFA Cup, the competition now known as the Europa League. It got agonizingly close to the title at the time, losing 5-4 to Liverpool in extra time in a thriller in Dortmund.

It has mostly struggled since then, spending several years out of Spain's top division. The club, founded in 1921, was promoted to the Spanish league this sea-

son after 10 years in the lower divisions, including four in the third tier.

"After 96 years, to reach the Copa final for the first time, there will be a 'before' and an 'after' this achievement," Alaves president Alfonso Fernandez de Troconiz said. "It's been an amazing season."

Barcelona, meanwhile, has been in the Copa del Rey final in seven of the last nine seasons, including the last four. It has won Spain's second-most important club competition a

record 28 times, including the last two.

But despite the lopsided matchup, there's reason to believe in a historic result in the final.

Alaves stunned Barcelona 2-1 in the Spanish league this season, handing the Catalan club its only home loss with goals by Deyverson and Ibai Gomez.

The teams will meet again in the league on Saturday in the Basque Country in a preview of the Copa final. Barcelona is second in the league with 45 points, 18 more than 12th-place Alaves.

Before the league loss this season, Barcelona had won five straight games between the two sides, including four in the Copa del Rey. It won both games in the last 16 in 2007, and then cruised to a 6-1 aggregate win in the early rounds in 2012.

Barcelona has yet to lose a Copa del Rey home-and-away series since coach Luis Enrique took over in 2014, a run of 12 straight triumphs.

It made it to this year's final by eliminating Athletic Bilbao, Real Sociedad and Atletico Madrid — the latter one in the semifinals. Alaves got past Deportivo La Coruna, second-division club Alcorcon and Celta, which had eliminated Madrid in the quarterfinals.

Barcelona is already certain to be without defender Sergi Roberto and striker Luis Suarez, who were sent off in Tuesday's 1-1 draw against Atletico at Camp Nou.

The venue for the final has yet to be determined, although it will likely be played in Madrid.

Last season, officials wanted Barcelona and Sevilla to play the decider at Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu Stadium, but a Bruce Springsteen concert was scheduled for the venue and the Madrid club avoided having its biggest rival celebrating a title on its grounds. The final was eventually played at Atletico's Vicente Calderon Stadium. **AP**

Steve McMorran

ALL Blacks lock Patrick Tuipulotu has been cleared of doping after tests on a B sample found no banned or specified substances.

Tuipulotu has been under provisional suspension since November when an A sample from a urine test showed the presence of an undisclosed prohibited substance. He was sent home from the All Blacks' tour of Europe before the last test against France and team officials attributed his departure to "personal issues."

The 24-year-old forward has not trained since November with the

All Blacks lock Tuipulotu cleared after analysis of B-sample

Blues, his Auckland-based Super Rugby team, but is free to return immediately.

Tuipulotu said in a statement he is "pleased the matter is now closed with my reputation and integrity intact."

"This has been a challenging and difficult time for me, my partner, family and teammates and I am grateful for their support," he said. "I look forward to getting back into training and an exciting year of rugby."

New Zealand Rugby issued a statement yesterday saying it had received notification that the results of testing on Tuipulotu's doping control B sample from the U.S.-based WADA-accredited Sports Medicine Research and Testing Laboratory in Salt Lake City confirmed no presence of a specified substance listed on the WADA's 2016 prohibited list.

The earlier handling of the matter by New Zealand Rugby

raised questions about an apparent lack of transparency while officials cited confidentiality obligations.

New Zealand Rugby Players' Association chief executive Rob Nicol said it was not yet clear why Tuipulotu's A-sample had tested positive.

"Working with Patrick through the process, we always felt confident that he would be cleared," Nicol said. "To be honest there is an element of frustration given the

initial result and publicity, but at least people now know Patrick did nothing wrong."

Nicol said the result reinforced the importance of regulations relating to confidentiality and players rights.

"Patrick was unfairly labeled as a result of the premature publicity of this matter," he said.

The fact that Tuipulotu's A sample had tested positive was first reported Sunday by Fairfax Media. New Zealand Ru-

gby initially refused to confirm the report but did so later, asking that any judgement of the player's culpability be withheld until the full investigation was completed.

New Zealand Rugby said Tuipulotu had been "fully exonerated" by the test results.

"This is an important and welcome conclusion for both Patrick and for rugby," NZR chief executive Steve Tew said. "We are pleased that a robust process has been undertaken and that he has been fully cleared. There is no room for doping in rugby and we take our responsibility to keep the game clean very seriously." **AP**

opinion

Kapok
Eric Sautédé



THE FACTS, JUST THE FACTS

With the advent of “alternative facts” and the dereliction of truth, the destructive and all-encompassing reign of opinion has come of age, with emotions as its soldiers. Very soon, albeit a tad late, one comes to realise that with passion comes suffering, as ancient Greeks knew all too well. One fully internalises the gravity of the situation when classical political philosophers start to be invoked, especially the ones who dedicated their lives to reveal the ugly and relentless workings of totalitarianism. All of a sudden, there is no more Godwin’s Law to artificially overcome blunt reality.

Among these, Hannah Arendt holds a unique place, and if I had to choose one of her numerous rays of light to provide weight to my own words, I would go for this one taken from her “Origins of Totalitarianism”: “the result of a consistent and total substitution of lies for factual truth is not that the lie will now be accepted as truth and truth be defamed as a lie, but that the sense by which we take our bearings in the real world—and the category of truth versus falsehood is among the mental means to this end—is being destroyed.” Without the facts, no well-informed opinion can be formed.

And it is not because our darkness is a little less dark, or our shadows synonymous with vacuous fuzziness that we should not turn our head towards them.

Such was my state of mind when I looked at the subsidies distributed by the Macao Foundation (MF) in the fourth quarter of 2016, but rather than focusing on the last three months, I aggregated the figures for the whole year. Despite being in decline—MOP1.536 billion against MOP1.845 in 2015—this is still a hefty bonanza.

The big winner is the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST), as its endowment of MOP524.6 million constitutes a staggering one-third of the overall subsidies for 2016! The subsidy for MUST appears to be quite generous—regardless of the private hospital there is to run—when one considers that only 31 percent of the students enrolled in 2015/2016 are local. Moreover, MUST has been the greatest beneficiary of the MF for the past three years, and the 2016 sum is simply unprecedented.

In second, with MOP124 million, we find the Kiang Wu hospital; no surprise there, as the foundation running this private institution is jointly managed by the family of the Chief Executive, the head of MUST and a loyal legislator who made a name in justifying domestic violence.

In third, the City University of Macao, headed by another member of the Executive Council (EC), swiped MOP83 million, whereas the traditional associations (Federation of Trade Unions, the Women’s General Association, and the General Union of Neighbourhoods) are being kept on a stable leash between MOP46.8 and MOP36.8 million. At least 15 out of the 20 most generously funded organisations can be traced in one way or another to a legislator or member of the EC. The legislative elections campaign, limited to 15 days you said?

And yet, by my own calculation—2 percent of the gross gaming revenues per year—the MF has accumulated MOP48.7 billion since 2002. Considering only the last five years (since 2012), this amounted to MOP29.4 billion, whereas actual subsidising (excluding negligible operating costs) added up to just MOP6.2 billion, which is less than 22 percent of the Foundation’s earnings! Where is the money going, and if it is piled up out of prudence, isn’t that excessively cautious?

The ball should now be in the camp of the reporters to search for answers—let’s test the authenticity of the freedom of the press! As it was once remarked by Milan Kundera, the Czech writer who knows a thing or two about despotism, “the power of the journalist is not based on his right to ask but on his right to demand an answer.”

THE ANGOLA SHOULD REDUCE ITS BUDGET DEFICIT, IMF SAYS

The government of Angola should reduce the budget deficit in 2017 to 2.25 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) and seek a primary non-oil budget surplus of 1 percent of GDP, according to a report issued this week in Washington by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Drawn up under Article IV, which annually examines the economies of members of the Fund, the document said that Angola should “promote economic diversification by improving the business climate and strengthening the role of the private sector in the reconstruction of infrastructure.”

Diversification of the economy, which is seen as “the main economic challenge,” is another of the recommendations from IMF experts, which analysed the Angolan economy at the end of 2016 and the findings have now been published.

“The shock of oil prices that began in mid-2014 significantly reduced tax revenues and exports, with stagnant growth and a sharp rise in inflation, which has highlighted the need to respond more forcefully to vulnerabilities and the dependence on oil and to diversify the economy,” said the analysts from the IMF’s African department.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	35-55 Good
High Density Residential Area	45-65 Good
Ambient	40-60 Good

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

AFGHANISTAN NATO drone strikes reportedly killed 11 Islamic State militants, including two senior commanders, in the eastern Nangarhar province. Mohammad Hussain Mashraqiwal, a spokesman for the provincial police chief, identified the two commanders killed in Wednesday’s strikes as Mohammed Omar Sadiq and Omar Farooq, adding that another six people were wounded.



FRENCH police are reporting another 26 arrests overnight in further unrest in suburban Paris towns rocked by arson attacks and other violence following the alleged rape of a young black man by police



GERMANY’s central bank has completed an effort to bring home 300 tons of gold stashed in the United States, part of a plan to repatriate gold bars kept abroad during the Cold War.

KOSOVO police say they have taken into custody an opposition lawmaker wanted for questioning over suspicions of disrupting the parliament with the use of tear gas. A statement yesterday said Aida Derguti of the Self-Determination Movement has been taken to the court in the capital, Pristina.

TURKEY’s state-run news agency says police have detained four Islamic State suspects who were allegedly planning to carry out a “sensational” attack. The suspects were detained in an operation in Gaziantep, near the border with Syria. Police seized 24 suicide attack belts made with some 150 kilograms of explosives, two automatic rifles and other material, it said.

Berlin Film Festival kicks off with Nazi-jazz film ‘Django’



From left: Actress Cecile de France, director Etienne Comar and actor Reda Kateb pose for the photographers during a photo call for the film ‘Django’

Kirsten Grieshaber, Berlin

A French film about a jazz guitar virtuoso who struggled under the Nazis kicked off the Berlin International Film Festival yesterday, the first of the year’s major European movie fests.

“Django,” from first-time director Etienne Comar, is the first of 18 movies competing for the festival’s top Golden Bear award.

The film, inspired by the story of guitarist Django Reinhardt, portrays the Gypsy musician’s life in France under Nazi occupation in 1943. Even as many Roma across Europe were being persecuted and

killed in the Nazis’ death camps, Reinhardt initially believes that his fame will save him. He plays his guitar in sold-out concert halls in Paris, enjoying his popularity.

“The freedom which music gives you in complex times is the topic of this film,” Comar told reporters.

However, as the story progresses, the Nazis’ pressure on Reinhardt grows.

He refuses to go on a tour to Germany to serve the Nazis’ propaganda machine, but is later forced to play in front of German officers in France. The Gypsy village where he stays af-

ter leaving Paris gets burned down and in the end he runs for his life, leaving behind his pregnant wife and mother to escape across the Alps to Switzerland.

While the movie starts with joyous swing music and frisky dancing in Parisian underground night clubs, it ends with a requiem composed by Reinhardt and played for the first time after France’s liberation in 1945. He dedicated it to all the Gypsies who were slain by the Germans.

This year’s diverse program at the Berlin festival includes Oren Moverman’s drama “The Dinner,” starring Richard Gere and Laura Linney; a documentary on artist Joseph Beuys by German director Andres Veiel; and British director Sally Potter’s dark political comedy “The Party.”

A seven-member jury led by Dutch director Paul Verhoeven will announce the winners of the Golden Bear and other honors on Feb. 18.

Verhoeven said yesterday he hoped to see diverse and “hopefully controversial” movies so that “we as a jury would really have heated arguments.” AP

times square by rodrigo

