



LAI CHI VUN SHIPYARDS TO BE DEMOLISHED

P3



NORTH KOREA, MALAYSIA TUSSELE OVER CORPSE

The tightly guarded corpse of Kim Jong Nam has become the focus of a dizzying case of intrigue involving five countries

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LAM EYES GROWTH TO QUIET UNREST

Carrie Lam, widely seen as the frontrunner to lead HK, vowed to avoid moves that could revive anti-China street protests

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

WORLD BRIEFS



THAILAND A government committee has approved construction of an 800-megawatt coal power plant near pristine beaches on the Andaman Sea. The plant and an accompanying dock are slated to be built next to an existing oil plant on the coast in Krabi, a province whose sandy shores, aqua-blue waters, and soaring limestone cliffs make it a world-famous tourist destination.

MONGOLIA The Mongolian government and envoys from the International Monetary Fund said yesterday that they and other partners have agreed on terms for a more than USD5 billion loan package to the north Asian country to help get its economy back on track. [More on p13](#)

SRI LANKA Police say at least 10 people were killed and seven others were rescued after the boat they were traveling in capsized off the country's southwestern coast.

[More on backpage](#)

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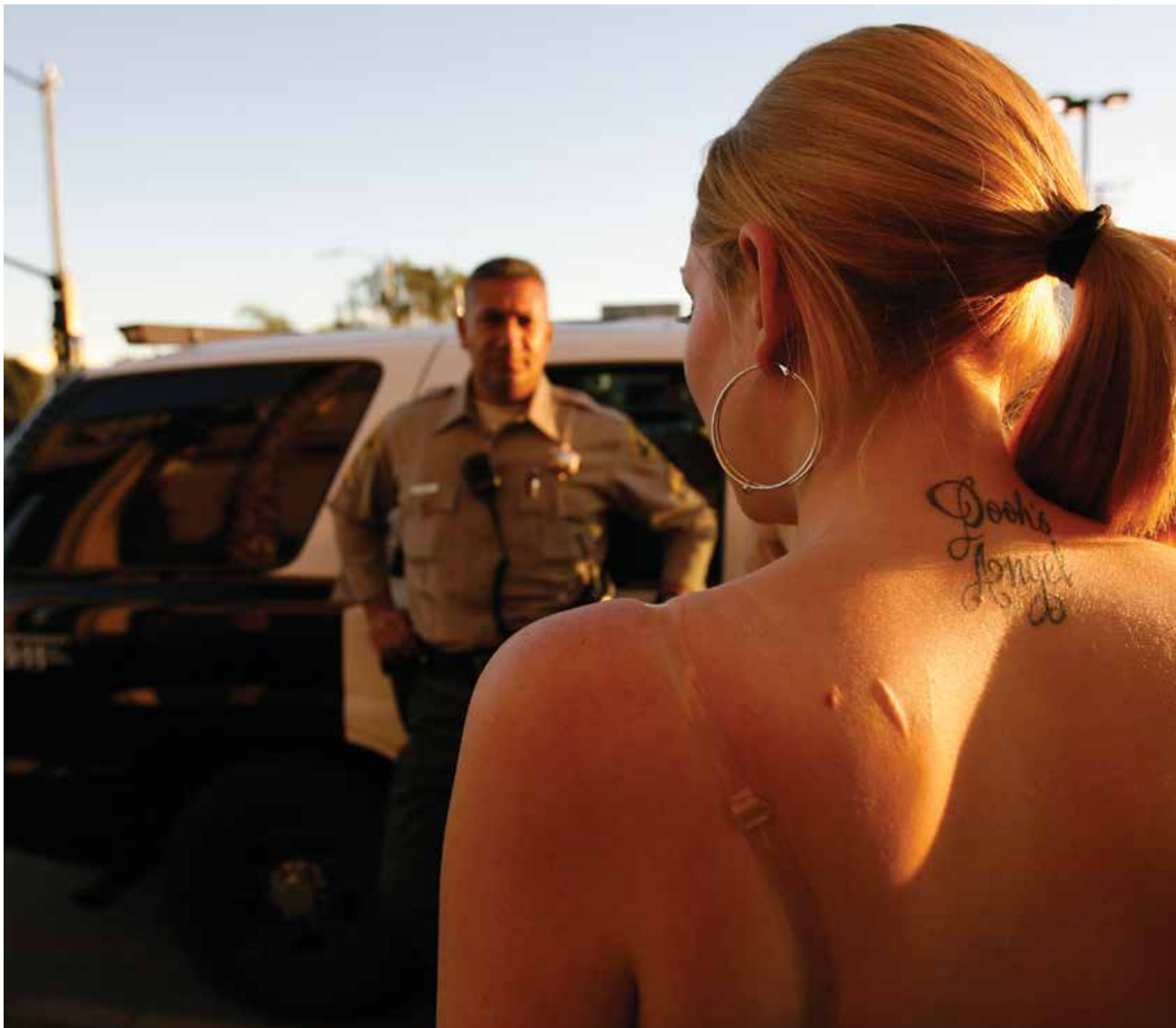
Moscow
resets
expectations
as disorder
reigns in US

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'Go-slow' drive turnout lower than expected

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AP PHOTO



Study finds underage, fearful women in Vegas sex trafficking

P14

ManaVida aims to build social and physical awareness

Lynzy Valles

THE “Donate Your Sweat” event, including a fund raiser for a local charity, was held by ManaVida yesterday at Pousada de Coloane with the aim of building social and physical awareness.

The event, which was attended by fitness enthusiasts, featured talks such as “first aid introduction talk” and discussions on gluten-free and fermented food.

Aside from the “healthy snacks workshop” for kids and adults, ManaVida also hosted some lucky draws. Raffle ticket proceeds were donated to non-profit organization Cradle of Hope.

ManaVida co-founders Cintia and Guilherme Martins also placed a donation box for a Filipina baby, who is currently being treated at Kiang Wu’s Hospital, as the Times reported on Friday.

“A great portion of the funds we receive go to charity,” said



Guilherme Martins. “We try to combine a healthy lifestyle together with social awareness. We try to make a synergy between those aspects in our society,” he told the Times.

The couple runs early morning boot camps in the region that involve classes with names such as “Body Sweat” and “Kickn TRX.” Described as “functional workouts performed outdoors

[...] such exercises are based on the everyday movements of a human being, such as crouching, pulling and running. The exercises allow the practitioner to gain strength, balance, flexibility, conditioning, endurance and agility.”

The organization also holds a “Me & You” activity aimed at children and parents, which is designed to develop trust and self-esteem.

“Today was an opportunity to show people what we’re doing. Stretches, body functional classes and [an activity] for kids and parents,” explained Cintia Martins.

“We’re just trying to show a little bit of what we are,” she added.

Guilherme Martins also said that they have to be flexible in terms of their activities and schedules.

“We adjust according to needs because this is how you build a strong community, by helping

each other.”

Although the duo admitted that it is tough to collaborate with volunteer fitness experts, the Martins said they would continue to promote social and physical awareness.

Volunteers with the organization are in charge of promoting the event, taking photographs, and managing its website and Facebook page.

Cintia Martins, also a certified trainer, remarked that the event has been popular with expatriates as classes are conducted in English.

However, ManaVida also cooperates with a local company, which assists with Chinese interpretation and helps them to reach out to the Chinese community.

ManaVida volunteer Brittany Jimerson holds classes for the group’s “Stroller Mania Class.” When asked why she chose to volunteer, she replied that she hoped to build positive energy in the community.

Jimerson also volunteered for the preparation of yesterday’s event.

ManaVida’s collaborators for the event include Pousada de Coloane, Blissful Carrot and Yoga Loft.

EDUCATION

TIS showcase new school wing at Open Day

THE International School of Macao (TIS) held an Open Day on Saturday for prospective students and their parents, during which the institution showcased its latest expansion.

The new expansion, named the North Wing, will include large classrooms, along with a library space and a theater. It is expected to accommodate both senior students at the school as well as those at kindergarten level.

According to Head of School Howard Stribbell, the TIS aims to open the North Wing and get most of the operations up and running

next month. However, some students will not move in until the summer.

“Our goal is to quickly [finish] over the next few weeks and then we will move [the] high school in [during] March,” he said at the event on Saturday according to public broadcaster TDM.

After the students return from their overseas trips next month, “grades 10, 11 and 12 will move into their new classrooms [...] kindergarten is also in that wing but they will move in over the summer.”

Other activities and programs, including a children’s musical rehearsal and a

special course on robotics and programming, were showcased during the event.

Stribbell remarked that the event had been very successful for the institution and that organizers had “focused on inviting our existing [students’] families to the school.”

“We’ve been able to invite lots of prospective families to come in and find out about the TIS program and why they may want their child to attend TIS, but we’ve also used the Open Day to invite our existing families to come into the school and to get a glimpse at what’s going on,” he explained.

IFT CAFÉ

IPM exhibition showcases works by students, teachers

AN exhibition of works by students and teaching staff from the Bachelor of Arts program at the Macau Polytechnic Institute’s (IPM) School of Art opened last week at the Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT) Café.

Three teachers contributed artworks to the exhibition, while the rest of the pieces were from selected students currently taking courses at IPM. Priority was given to students of design rather than fine art, associate professors at the institute told the Times.

Among the works exhibited at the inauguration ceremony were color pencil works such as “The Boy Who Cried Wolf” by Doria Ling.

Wilson Chan, an associate professor at the IPM who teaches illustration and assists students with their graduation projects, said that the exhibited works were only a selection of the students’ creations and that a larger exhibition is



usually held at Creative Macau each year.

“The [IFT] invited us to use the coffee shop to make it more lively. They change the exhibited works every two months and after the fine arts students showed their work [...] it was the design students’ turn.”

Patrick Lei is the associate professor responsible for assigning some of the students a project to create a print advertisement for chocolate brand Kit Kat. Some of these works are on display at the exhibition.

“The assignment was to train the student’s concept [of] how to express a brand image. They needed to make a print advertisement for newspapers

and magazines, and so needed to research about the brand and decide on a concept,” he said. “We chose Kit Kat because it already has an established brand and slogan and so it’s easier for the students [to create an advertisement],” added Lei.

The IFT Café serves two purposes, according to the institute responsible for managing the venue: to promote culture and to provide training to IFT students.

The exhibition, titled “The Voice of Design – Works Exhibition by Students and Teachers of the Bachelor of Arts in Design of Macau Polytechnic Institute”, will be open until April 15. **DB**

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'Go-slow' protest turnout lower than expected

THE "Go-slow" protest, which was finally held on Saturday, attracted fewer demonstrators than initially expected.

The demonstration, a protest against fee hikes regarding several services and penalties under the Transport Bureau (DSAT), gathered around 100 vehicles and about 150 people. The protestors traveled from the Legislative Assembly (AL) Square to Taipa and back, ending with the delivery of the petition at the government headquarters.

The organizers cited different figures. Lawmaker Leong Veng Chai claimed that around 300 vehicles participated in the protest, fulfilling "the organizers' expectations."

However, this number still falls short of the expectations previously disclosed by the group at the press conference announcing the protest. There, Lei Kit Meng, protest organizer



Leong Veng Chai speaks with reporters on the sidelines of the protest

and leader of the Workers' Self-help Union Macau, had also claimed that "at least 500 cars from [his] association are expected to be involved."

Initially scheduled for February 11, the "Go-slow" protest was postponed by a week due to lack of consensus between the organizers and the police authorities regarding the protest

route.

The protest organizers eventually agreed to follow the route chosen by the police. After the event, the organizers issued a statement saying that the protest had proceeded peacefully and without incident.

However, media sources reported several minor incidents before the motorcade left the

AL Square. One of these was a dispute between a protestor and the police, allegedly because the driver could not provide a valid driver's license upon the authorities' request.

The petition called for the sacking of the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosario, a sentiment initially expressed by Pereira Coutinho during the first press conference.

The petition also stated that the executive order "was precipitated and was granted without obtaining public consensus, which fails to meet the principles of the Code of Administrative Procedure." Pereira Coutinho was notably absent from the demonstration, as he was one of the faces of the protest and had already missed the last press conference on Thursday. When questioned on the topic, Leong explained that his partner was "busy handling some 'personal issues'." **RM**



'Sports For All Day' held at Fai Chi Kei

The February edition of the monthly Sports Bureau (ID) event "Sports For All Day" was held on Saturday at the leisure area of the Weng Hoi and Weng Kin Buildings in the Fai Chi Kei area, the ID said in a statement. The event aimed to educate participants on different sporting activities and their associated rules, and was attended by several experts from local sports associations. According to the ID's statement, a large number of residents and families attended the event, all of whom had the opportunity to participate in the games and earn prizes.

Minor fire on heritage site roof

The rooftop of a protected heritage site in the Saint Lazarus Parish caught fire yesterday morning and had to be extinguished by the Fire Services Bureau. A preliminary investigation into the case has revealed that the outbreak of the fire was caused by cigarette butts discarded on the roof of the building. The case has been forwarded to the Judiciary Police for follow-up. Meanwhile, the Cultural Affairs Bureau says it is sending representatives to investigate the building. It was claimed that the fire has not caused damage to the heritage site building. In December last year, a fire broke out in the Areia Preta neighborhood destroying about 90 motorcycles. It is believed that the cause of the fire in this case was also a discarded still-lit cigarette thrown to the floor.

UM professors present at Qualcomm

Two professors from the University of Macau (UM) recently presented an "Invited Distinguished Seminar" at Qualcomm, a company that engineers mobile phone chips, in the United States. Professors Rui Martins and Mak Pui-In from the State Key Laboratory of Analog and Mixed-Signal VLSI at the UM's Faculty of Science and Technology presented the three-hour seminar, according to a statement from the university. Among the topics discussed in the seminar were the industry developments that are leading to more affordable hardware, especially silicon chips. One of their former students, Yuan Zushu, has worked at Qualcomm since 2014 and is currently a senior engineer involved in a number of projects. The company is headquartered in San Diego and has also opened internship positions to students from the UM's lab, with the possibility of financial support.

REAL ESTATE

Number of residential units sold increases 50pct

AS per the Stamp Duty record, the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) has published a statement stating that a total of 5,132 building units and parking spaces were purchased during the fourth quarter of 2016, and the total value of transactions amounted to MOP29.33 billion. Compared to the third quarter, the two figures rose by 62.1 percent and 70.4 percent, respectively.

Of this total, the purchase and sale of residential units totaled 3,575 in the last quarter of 2016, valued at MOP23.38 billion. These figures represented an increase of nearly 50 percent in terms of sales and by 60.7 percent in terms of value over the third quarter.

More recently, the number of residential transactions in January soared by around 60 percent, according to data released by the Financial Services Bureau.

The significant increase in the number of residential properties sold during the fourth quarter coincides with the recent sta-

bilization of the gaming sector. September 2016, the last month before the start of the fourth quarter, broke the 29-month trend of contraction in gaming revenues. Growth in the sector has since been uninterrupted.

Broadly speaking, the value of properties continued to grow during the fourth quarter, in terms of average price per square meter. Residential units across the MSAR reached about MOP95,000 per square meter, up by 7.3 percent quarter-to-quarter.

The average price of pre-sale residential units increased by 4.7 percent to around MOP123,600, with those in Coloane, the Macau Peninsula and Taipa rising by 23.1 percent, 6.5 percent and 1.1 percent, respectively. According to DSEC, the average price of existing units increased marginally by 0.1 percent quarter-to-quarter to about MOP81,300 per square meter, with those in the Macau Peninsula and Coloane rising by 6.4 percent and 21.2 percent,



respectively. Existing unit prices in Taipa fell by 9.1 percent in the same period. Meanwhile, driven by the release of large-scale housing estates, the transaction volume and value of pre-sale residential units surged by 187.6 percent and 157.7 percent, respectively. The transaction volume of parking spaces also soared by 138 percent, with more than half of the parking spaces being pre-sale units.

For the entirety of 2016, the volume and value of real estate transactions increased to a total of 14,108 units and MOP74.13 billion, up by 44.4 percent and 43.5 percent, respectively. The number of residential units purchased went up by 70.2 percent to 10,170. **DB**

HERITAGE

'Peoples' opinions matter' in deciding Lai Chi Vun's fate

THE Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, said on Friday that he is paying attention to the opinions and concerns expressed by the public regarding the old shipyards of Lai Chi Vun in Coloane.

In a statement issued by the office of the Secretary, Tam said that the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) will soon proceed with the demolition of a part of the old shipyard due to safety issues, and will also launch a tender for a study and plan for the area.

Tam also stated that the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosario, is fulfilling his duties in terms of planning, adding that the services will also express their opinion on the cultural significance of the venue.

Tam hopes that after the work is completed,



The abandoned Lai Chi Vun shipyards

the area will serve as a new tourist attraction for the region and contribute to the welfare of residents in the area.

He further stated that he had been personally visiting the site and cooperating with all bureaus involved to ensure efficient collaboration between departments.

The secretary hopes that residents will understand that each service has its own duties and jurisdiction, noting that the activity in the area is performed via cooperation between the public works, the Cultural Affairs Bureau and the Macau Tourism Office.

Casino stocks flash warnings that preceded 2014 crash



Jeanny Yu, Kana Nishizawa

THE last time investors were this optimistic about Macau casino stocks, it didn't end well. Back then, in 2014, bulls misread a Chinese anti-corruption campaign that scared away high rollers and erased USD146 billion of shareholder value. Now, as casinos rebound on hopes that small-time gamblers and tourists will fill the void, some of the same signs of unbri-

dled investor enthusiasm are flaring up again.

Options traders are more bullish on Galaxy Entertainment and Sands China, the two largest Macau casino operators, than at any time since at least April 2014. Sell ratings on the two stocks have disappeared, while short interest has declined to the lowest levels since the crash. The sector's price-to-earnings ratio, meanwhile, is almost 10 percent higher than its 2014 peak.

"The market's being too bullish about the quantum of industry recovery," said Vincent Khoo, a Kuala Lumpur-based analyst at UOB Kay Hian whose recommendations on Sands China over the past year produced the top return among peers tracked by Bloomberg.

There's no doubt that business has improved in Macau, the only place in China where casinos are legal. Gaming revenue has climbed for six straight months, while visitors during the critical Chinese New Year period increased 7 percent as tourists splurged on new family-friendly resorts and attractions.

The question for investors, though, is whether the up-tick justifies a 69 percent surge in the Bloomberg Intelligence Macau index from a five-year low last January through Thursday. The gauge of six casino stocks is now valued at 24 times projected earnings for the next 12 months, exceeding its peak of 22 in 2014. It fell 1.7 percent on Friday as MGM Resorts International reported a decline in revenue from

table games on the MGM casino's main floor in Macau.

For Alfred Lau, a Hong Kong-based analyst at Bocom International Holdings, the past year's rally in casino stocks makes sense. Not only is industry wide gaming revenue recovering, he says, but Hong Kong-listed casino shares are also potential targets for Chinese investors who've been funneling money through the city's cross-border exchange link.

Skeptics say a key risk for the world's largest gambling hub is oversupply

"The market expects liquidity to favor Macau casinos this year," said Lau, who has buy ratings on Galaxy and MGM China Holdings Ltd.

History favors the contrarians.

When demand for bullish call options on Galaxy exceeded puts by this much in 2014, the stock was on the cusp of a two-year retreat. One-way bets on Sands China are also similar to those at the peak three years ago. While positioning is less extreme for MGM China, options traders are near the most optimistic since May 2015 and short interest tracked by IHS Markit has dropped to the lowest in two years.

Skeptics say a key risk for the world's largest gambling hub is oversupply. Macau casinos have been building gambling capacity and tourist attractions at a record pace, according to Bloomberg Intelligence. Planned gaming tables through 2018 could add about 40 percent to the market's 2014 total, while the number of hotel rooms may jump by 80 percent, BI estimates show.

"Some of the properties definitely have a lot of overlap," said Paul Chan, head of multi-asset and Hong Kong pensions at Invesco Ltd., which oversees about \$813 billion worldwide.

Whether demand will increase enough to support casinos' share prices remains to be seen, but the latest industry figures don't bode well for bulls. Gross gaming receipts climbed just 3.1 percent in January, missing the median analyst estimate of 8.5 percent. **Bloomberg**

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Margie Mason, Kuala Lumpur

KIM JONG NAM MURDER

A paranoid dictator's estranged brother. Two young female assassins. A crowded international airport. And a mysterious poison that kills within hours.

It's the perfect recipe for a thrilling cloak-and-dagger spy novel. Except some — or possibly even all — of this tale could be true in the apparent assassination of Kim Jong Nam, the older half brother of reclusive North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. And just like similar intriguing cases from the past, the public is hanging on to every detail because there's just something about murder by poison that captivates.

"A gun announces its mischief; poison can sneak in with a sip of champagne," said Robert Thompson, a pop culture expert at Syracuse University. "The question isn't why we are fascinated with this latest story, it's why wouldn't we be?"

Still, speculation that Kim Jong Nam was killed by two young female "agents" at the busy Kuala Lumpur airport last week left even the most seasoned toxicology sleuths shaking their heads. Add in that the portly sibling was apparently sprayed in the face with a substance so potent it killed him before he could reach the hospital, and you've got a scene straight out of a James Bond movie.

Four people, including the two women — one Indonesian and the other traveling on a Vietnamese passport — have been detained. The Indonesian told authorities she thought she was participating in a comedy show prank. Conspiracy theories and speculation abound as police scramble to unravel what really happened to Kim Jong Nam, aged 45 or 46, the son of late North Korean leader Kim Jong

Finding poison in Kuala Lumpur attack may be hardest part



Police cordon off an area with tape for a police reenactment with a suspect in the North Korean murder at the KLIA2 budget terminal

Il and a mistress. After falling out of favor with the family, the son lived for years in exile and was about to catch a flight to Macau when the attack took place. He sought help at the airport clinic after suddenly falling ill and died en route to the hospital. An autopsy has been performed, but the results have not been released.

If a chemical agent really was to blame, finding it may be the hardest part of all. Tissue and fluid samples may need to be sent abroad for analysis at a facility with greater capabilities,

such as in Japan or at the FBI's crime lab, if Malaysian experts cannot pinpoint the cause of death.

"The more unusual, the more potent, the more volatile a poison is, the less likely it is to be detected," said Olif Drummer, a toxicologist at Australia's Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine who has spent 40 years in the field.

Experts routinely tasked with finding answers in poisoning cases say the events at Kuala Lumpur's budget airline terminal are bizarre, but not impossible.

They wonder: What substance could have been used to kill the victim so quickly without sickening the women who apparently deployed it, along with anyone else nearby? Difficult, they say, but doable.

"It's not an agent that could be cooked up in a hotel room. It's going to take a lot of knowledge regarding the chemical in order to facilitate an attack like this," said Bruce Goldberger, a leading toxicologist who heads the forensic medicine division at the University of Florida. He said a nerve gas or ricin, a deadly substance found in castor beans, could be possible. A strong opioid compound could also have been used, though that would likely have incapacitated the victim immediately.

"It would have to be cleverly designed in order to be applied in this fashion without hurting anyone else," Goldberger said.

History is filled with poisoners. From jilted lovers seeking revenge to greedy spouses looking to collect on life insurance policies. Arsenic, cyanide and strychnine are often the toxins of choice

used in murders, but political hits are usually a much more complicated business.

Take the Cold War case of Bulgarian defector and journalist Georgi Markov. He was jabbed in the leg with an umbrella in 1978 at a bus stop in London. He died three days later, and a pellet of highly toxic ricin was found under his skin — shot there by a device concealed inside the umbrella. No one was ever arrested, but Bulgarian secret police were suspected with help from the Soviet KGB.

The Kremlin has been implicated in a number of high-profile cases including Alexander Litvinenko, a former Russian spy who fled to the United Kingdom and was lethally poisoned by radioactive polonium-210 in 2006. In a report published last year, a British judge wrote that Russian President Vladimir Putin probably approved the assassination carried out by the country's security service.

And just this month, another loud Putin critic, Vladimir Kara-Murza, fell into a coma and was diagnosed with "acute intoxication by an unidentified substance." The Russian nearly died from a similar unexplained poisoning two years ago.

Though the dramatic cases linked to espionage tend to make headlines, many other killings are overlooked entirely.

"To me, murder by poison is the easiest thing to get away with," said John Trestrail, a forensic toxicologist who has examined more than 1,000 poisoning crimes. "If all those people in the cemetery who have been poisoned could raise their hands, we'd probably be shocked."

While murder using toxins is far less common than stabbings and shootings, he said his research shows that poisoners often strike more than once.

"These people get away with it time and time again until somebody says, 'Well, hell, she's had four husbands and they all died suddenly,'" Trestrail said. "Then the exhumations come and: Bingo!" AP

North Korea, Malaysia tussle over corpse



North Korean Ambassador to Malaysia Kang Chol speaks to the media gathered outside the morgue in Kuala Lumpur

At a hospital morgue in Malaysia's capital, the tightly guarded corpse of a middle-aged man has become the focus of a dizzying case of international intrigue involving five countries, combative North Korean diplomats and an apparently duped female assassin.

Kim Jong Nam, who had been estranged from his younger half sibling for years, was attacked at Kuala Lumpur International Airport on Monday last week. A rotund man in his mid- 40s, he told medical workers at the

airport that he had been sprayed in the face with a chemical. He grew dizzy, suffered a seizure and was dead within hours, Malaysian officials said.

North Korean officials made no public comments for several days, but they privately demanded custody of Kim's body and strongly objected to an autopsy. The Malaysians went ahead with the autopsy anyway, saying they were simply following procedure.

On Friday night, North Korea's ambassador to Malaysia broke his silence. At an unusual news conference held close to midnight outside the morgue, Ambassador Kang Chol said Malaysia may be "trying to conceal something" and "colluding with hostile forces."

"We will categorically reject the result of the post-mortem," Kang said, adding that the procedure was carried out "unilaterally and excluding our attendance."

The results of the autopsy have not been released publicly, but a Malaysian official with knowledge of the investigation said the results were inconclusive and that there was a second autopsy Friday night.

SEARCH FOR 4 SUSPECTS WHO LEFT MALAYSIA

INVESTIGATORS ARE looking for four North Korean men who flew out of Malaysia the same day Kim Jong Nam. Yesterday, Malaysia's deputy national police chief, Noor Rashid Ibrahim, said four more suspects were on the run. He said the men were North Korean and had flown out of the country last

Monday, when Kim died. "I am not going to disclose where they are," he told a room packed with journalists, adding that Interpol was helping with the investigation. Noor Rashid showed photographs of the four men, who were traveling on regular — not diplomatic — passports and are ages 33, 34, 55 and 57.

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Ho's case continues with several defendants under trial



Julie Zhu

THE trial of Ho Chio Meng, former Prosecutor General of Macau's Prosecutions Office (MP), continued Friday at the Court of Final Appeal with two witnesses testifying in court.

Roque Silva Chan, a technician at the Office of the Prosecutor General, was the first witness during the morning session.

Chan used to work for the department led by Chan Ka Fai, another defendant involved in Ho's case.

The witness, while working for Chan Ka Fai, was responsible for following up on the MP's facility maintenance and service outsourcing.

Chan was found to have signed papers denoting the acceptance of maintenance services for the Prosecutor General's official residence. He explained that he did not follow up on all procedures for the approval of maintenance services.

Moreover, according to Chan, Wong Kuok Wai – another defendant in the case and the alleged owner of shelf companies – would contact him about the maintenance of the Prosecutor General's official residence.

However, although he was responsible for maintenance, the witness pointed out that he would not visit the scene to confirm the service had been done. In addition, he claimed that his superior told

him to sign the papers and that he could not refuse.

Later on, Chan noted that in the early days after his department was established, he would sometimes help verify the service, as only a few people were working there at the time. However, after some time working at the office, he would not sign any document without first seeing the results.

During the trial, the prosecution produced many documents pertaining to maintenance services for the MP's water and electricity grid, as well as CCTV networks.

Despite all services being awarded to alleged shelf companies involved in the case, actual maintenance was performed by companies themselves awarded by said shelf companies.

One document revealed that one of the actual service providers had contacted the alleged shelf companies to state that it would cease maintenance of the CCTV system at one of the four floors of the MP's office.

Following this service disruption, the companies – which had a direct contractual relationship with the MP – continued charging fees for the floor for 17 months.

Chan said that he had not seen the documents, and had deemed all facilities to have been continuously maintained.

The prosecution pointed out that the floor without CCTV maintenance was pre-

cisely the one where the MP kept the agarwood seized by the Customs Service.

In the afternoon, three witnesses testified in court. The first witness, Lo Lai Pang, was Ho Chio Meng's former bodyguard.

The prosecution began by pointing out that the MP had booked hotels under Lo's name in more than ten instances. Lo said that he never stayed in any rooms that he had booked himself; he would always hand over the hotel's keys to either Ho or his previous secretary.

A document exhibited at the court showed Lo's name signed on a hotel expense receipt. However, the witness said that the signature "did not look" like his.

Finally, Lo also said that Ho visited the Liaison Office in February 2015 after going to the Commission Against Corruption to make a statement.

The second witness was a 69-year-old man surnamed Tang, a security officer at the MP's office located on Hotline Center's 16th floor. The third one, surnamed Chu, is currently a technical assistant at the Social Welfare Bureau.

Between 2004 and 2007, Chu worked on the Hotline Center's 16th floor, although not as an MP employee. She had been hired by Ho Chio Chun to work there as part of a company where Lei Kun Pun, Mak Im Tai, Wong Kuok Wai and Ho Chio Shun (Shun, Ho Chio Meng's older brother) could be seen at the

office. Mak, Lei, Wong, and Shun were all defendants in Ho's case to testify on the topic of shelf companies.

Chu said that when she was hired, Shun did not tell her the specifics of the company for which she would be working.

According to Lo's testimony, Shun told her that Lei was working at the office. Mak and Wong were said to rarely show up at the office.

The prosecutors named more than five of the alleged shelf companies involved in the case, and wanted Lo to indicate the companies for which she worked.

Lo recognized six of the companies mentioned by the prosecutors. She revealed that she used to provide quotations featuring the names of all the six companies she recognized. Moreover, she said that Wong, Lei and Shun would deliver quotations for her to make proposals; she would only make quotations by copying what her superiors gave her.

According to Lo, Wong would instruct her to mark up the prices by a certain percentage. For engineering projects, the increases ranged from 3 to 50 percent.

Lo also said that her company would award contracts received from the MP to other service providers.

Regarding the time she worked for Wong, Mak, Ho and Lei, Lo said that she did not recall her company providing services to any companies or governmental departments other than the MP.

The witness also told the prosecutors that none of the four defendants admitted to being the owner of the company.

The court trial concluded at 7 p.m. Ho Chio Meng stated that the afternoon's second witness, Tang, was complacent.

Presiding Judge Sam Hou Fai replied by saying that the court will make its decisions based on the witness's testimony.

Simultaneously, four defendants also testified yesterday at the Court of First Instance, including former Chief of Office of the Prosecutor General of Public Prosecutions Office Lai Kin Ian, former department head Chan Ka Fai and businessmen Wong Kuok Wai and Mak Im Tai.

Five other defendants were absent from the proceedings.



New IC heads inaugurated

Leung Hio Ming and Ieong Chi Kin, the new president and vice president of the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) respectively, were both inaugurated on Friday. The ceremony was held at the IC headquarters and led by the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam. Leung and Ieong have worked at the IC since 2012 and 2010, respectively. The changes at the bureau follow the announcement five weeks ago of former IC president Ung Vai Meng's retirement. Ung said he had stepped down in order to dedicate himself to his artistic work.

FM: 'Rigorous attitude' toward subsidy applications

The Macao Foundation (FM) is "aware of the social concerns regarding the financial support given by the Foundation" and "will continue to maintain a prudent and rigorous attitude in every decision," the Vice President of the Board of Directors, Zhong Yi Seabra de Mascarenhas said during a meeting with the English and Portuguese media. Zhong noted the importance of timely public disclosure of the financial support granted by the foundation, claiming that the FM is undertaking a comprehensive review of its internal management policy in order to improve administrative procedure, as well as the rules applicable to the assessment and authorization of applications for financial support. Zhong added that the FM will continue to maintain close ties with the media and develop more activities designed to improve the well-being of citizens, especially disadvantaged groups.

Forum Macau headquarters to be built at Nam Van Lake

A total of 12 companies submitted proposals for the design and construction of the new Services Complex for Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries, informed the Lands, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) in a statement. The works are expected to begin in the third quarter of this year and be completed in under two years (600 days). The complex will be located at Nam Van Lake (land plots C15 and 16) with an area of about 14,200 square meters. Facilities will include the Portuguese-Speaking Countries' Food Products Exhibition Centre, the China and Portuguese-Speaking Countries Service Centre, the Information Centre, the Exhibition Hall on Economic and Trade Relations between China and the Portuguese-speaking Countries, and the Exhibition Hall of Macau's Urban Development. The building is also expected to house the headquarters of the Permanent Secretariat of the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Macao), among other services.

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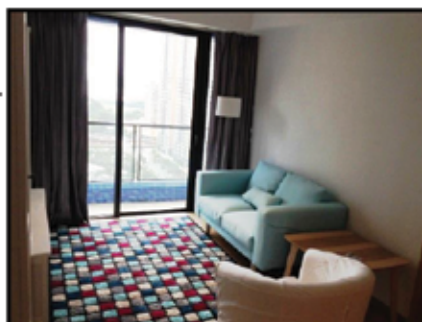


For Rent



House, Hac Sa Beach, Coloane

(Ref: 17010632)
6,000sq. ft. HKD60,000
Houses are rare in Macau but here's an opportunity to rent one. The owner recently upgraded the property by opening up the kitchen and installing new cabinets, oven, hob and extractor fan. The kitchen is now part of the dining/entrance area which is now much brighter and spacious. Off the kitchen is a good size maids quarters private bedroom and separate shower room plus a walk in storage area where the large fridge/freezer has been positioned.



Nova Park, Taipa

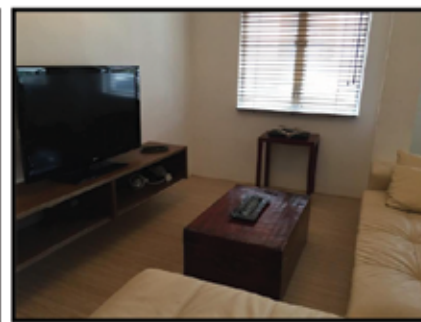
(Ref: 15090537)
1,314sq. ft. HKD 16,800

Two bedroom apartment in Taipa's newest complex, both bedrooms are doubles. Master bedroom has an en suite and has been newly furnished. Second bedroom left unfurnished can be furnished to the tenants request (bed, desk wardrobe etc). Living / dining furnished by IKEA furniture with a small balcony overlooking Central Park. Galley style well fitted modern kitchen.



Calçada da Surpresa, 12, Ching Fai Court, Macau

(Ref: 16120629)
2,000sq. ft. HKD 23,000
LOFT in the centre of Macau. A unique opportunity to live in this sleek, modern property. The large open space area on the ground floor houses the open plan living and dining areas with fabulous designer kitchen located at back of the property. On the mezzanine floor two large double bedrooms with a lots of built in storage

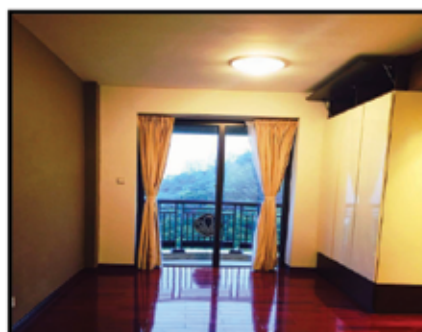


Houston Court C Unit

(Ref: 17020636)
900sq. ft. HKD 14,800

Unique opportunity to live in the centre of Coloane Village. Good size double master bedroom with en suite shower room, separate guest room with separate shower room both bedrooms have built in storage.

Open plan kitchen, dining and living area with modern built in kitchen cabinets and white goods. Shared roof terrace.



One Grantai Tower 3 N unit

(Ref: 17020637)
2,167sq. ft. HKD 23,000
Luxury unfurnished apartment with 3 bedrooms + maids room. Large open planned living/dining area with balcony showing beautiful green view. Fully fitted large kitchen. 3 bathrooms with 2 being en suite. Master bedroom has a balcony and a large en suite with walking shower and bath. Great Location with easy reach of all Macau's major transport links, schools, hospital and the Cotai Strip. Fantastic club house facilities including gym, children's play areas.



D Unit, Manhattan Taipa

(Ref: 16100627)
2,305sq. ft. HKD 29,800

4 bedrooms apartment in an excellent location, in the 5-star residence: The Manhattan. High quality finishes and furnishings. Club House facilities include gymnasium, outdoor swimming pool & sun deck, golf simulator, children door & outdoor play areas, bbq facilities, lounge/party room with private kitchen. Perfectly located, close to super markets, restaurants, cafes, shops and walking distance of the Cotai Strip. Car Park not included.



Office Space, Centro Commercial, Macau

(Ref: 16100626)
836sq. ft. HKD 12,200
Office Space available in central Macau, great location. This high floor office is light and bright with great views looking over the park towards Sanado Square. Unit F is currently one large open planned space with a small office and storage room. The office will be painted with a new ceiling and carpets throughout. Management fees of \$1,505 per month are paid by the tenant direct.



Edf. Nam Long - J Unit

(Ref: 17010634)
750sq. ft. HKD 12,800

Unique fully furnished 2 bedroom apartment located in Old Taipa Village.

Fully renovated modern fit out to a high standard with traditional balcony. Modern bathroom and shower. Fully fitted open style kitchen with oven. Separate utility room with washer / dryer. Walking distance to Cotai Strip. Viewing is highly recommended to appreciate such a rare and unique apartment.

For Sale



Manhattan E Unit

(Ref: 16105505)
1,626sq. ft. HKD11.382M
Rate: HKD7,000sq ft
Great apartment in 5 Star complex. Open plan bright and spacious living and dining area with large window overlooking Taipa Hill. Two double bedrooms, one with en suite bathroom, the second double room shares a separate shower room with the third single bedroom, all rooms have a view over the Taipa Hill. Modern kitchen with built in appliances and small balcony. The apartment is in an excellent location, with the original high quality fixtures and finished throughout. The Manhattan complex is considered Taipa premier complex with stunning club house including amazing facilities: gym, outdoor swimming pool & sun deck, kids pool, golf simulator, children door & outdoor play areas.

Office: (853) 2835 2699



Taipa Village ShopHouse, Taipa

(Ref: 16105504)
1148sq. ft. HKD 38.88M
Rate: HKD34,105sq ft

Located in the pedestrian shopping area of Taipa village, this is a unique opportunity to rent a great space.

Recently upgraded by the owner the property had two toilets, one on each level. With little investment this property could be turned into a commercial enterprise or a home.

Email: Info@JMLProperty.com



Bauhinia Court, Hellene Gardens Appealing Apartment

(Ref: 16045473)
1,633sq. ft. HKD 7.58M
Rate: HKD 4,6416sq ft

Three good size bedrooms. Master bedroom with ensuite. Open style kitchen, made larger by incorporating the original maids quarters and back balcony. Living and dining area has a great layout and built in balcony. Views from the living room across the Coloane mountains and from the kitchen over the swimming pool towards the South China Sea. With only 7 floors in this block this apartment can be considered a low rise building. Renovated 10 years ago the property could benefit from a face lift although with some TCL it could also be a great rental property.



Nam Long, Taipa

(Ref: 16095500)
515sq. ft. HKD 3.8M
Rate: HKD 7,378q ft

Taipa / Village apartment. Renovated and modernized apartment in Central Location, originally 2 bedrooms now changed to 1 large bedroom. Open kitchen, simple and modern interior, apartment sold as investment together with furniture and tenancy.

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Singapore, Hong Kong restart dual-class push to snag IPOs

Andrea Tan and
Benjamin Robertson

HONG Kong and Singapore are at it again. The Asian financial hub rivals are reviving a debate on dual-class shares as global competition for the hottest initial public offerings intensifies.

Singapore is a few steps ahead. Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong recently gave his approval to dual-class shares and other measures proposed by a panel to drive economic growth. The city-state's stock exchange on Thursday started a public consultation, a final hurdle before allowing the structure. Hong Kong Exchanges & Clearing Ltd. Chief Executive Officer Charles Li in January revisited the topic after a 2015 proposal was shot down by his regulator.

While Hong Kong is one of the world's leading IPO venues, it's been passed over by big Chinese companies such as Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. and Baidu Inc., which listed on New York bourses where different classes of shares are allowed. As Alibaba's banking and payments arm Ant Financial prepares an IPO, Singapore and Hong Kong are trying to balance the interests of founding shareholders with those of other investors.

"The timing is not a coincidence in that it is seemingly driven by high-profile IPOs that feature dual-class structures," said Mark Humphery-Jenner, a Sydney-based associate professor of finance at the University of New South Wales Business School. "It is an attempt to capture a share of entrepreneurial listings and to provide

an alternative to a U.S. exchange."

Dual-class structures comprise a class of stock, often distributed to founding shareholders, that carries more voting rights than the ordinary shares sold to the public. Facebook Inc. has said such shares allow its founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg to focus on long-term goals instead of being distracted by the short-term pressures of a listed company.

About 15 percent of IPOs in the U.S. had the structures in 2015, up from 1 percent in 2005, according to a presentation by Gilbert Matthews, senior managing director of Sutter Securities Inc. More than half the dual-class IPOs in the U.S. in 2015 were technology companies.

The New York Stock Exchange, now a unit of Intercontinental Exchange Inc., lifted a 60-year ban on dual-class shares in the 1980s, responding to competition from Nasdaq Inc. Weighted voting rights aren't allowed in countries including Spain, South Korea and India. One reason is because many institutional investors are opposed to the structure and its implications for effective corporate governance.

"We, as with the overwhelming majority of other long-term investors, strongly believe in 'one share one vote,' with control proportionate to economic interests," said David Smith, head of corporate governance at Aberdeen Asset Management Asia Ltd., a unit of Aberdeen Asset Management Plc. "We are very concerned that this effects a contagion across the region, with other exchanges no doubt having to reconsider their



Singapore

position on this issue if SGX does indeed go ahead."

Sutter's Matthews sees the use of such structures increasing despite some investor opposition. "The success of dual-class offerings in recent years has shown that investors continue to accept low-vote shares," he said.

In the U.S., companies with more than one type of share class have tougher reporting rules and shareholders can band together on lawsuits. The bar for similar lawsuits in Singapore and Hong Kong is much higher.

While Singapore Exchange Ltd.'s listing advisory committee gave the nod to dual-class shares, it said it wanted safeguards in place, and added that the one-share-one-vote structure would be the default for new listings. In October, Hong

Kong's chief regulator, Securities and Futures Commission CEO Ashley Alder, said it was not impossible some version of the structure could be accepted on the city's markets.

"An interesting development at an interesting time," Singapore Exchange CEO Loh Boon Chye said in January, referring to HKEX's efforts to reconsider dual-class shares.

Under the SGX proposal for dual-class shares released on Thursday, companies would need to have a market value of at least SGD500 million (USD352 million), participation by institutional and accredited investors and a so-called sunset provision, where the dual-class structure would expire. The exchange said it will hold a second consultation

to get further feedback if there's market consensus on the structure. The first consultation closes on April 17.

"If we collectively do this right, Singapore can be the preferred operating place and fund raising venue for individuals with the ideas and strategies that can radically change the business landscape, create jobs and transform our economy," said Chew Sutat, head of equities and fixed income at the Singapore Exchange.

HKEX's Li said dual-class shares may be considered for a proposed third exchange in the city - a potentially lengthy process that would require regulatory approval.

Singapore can be the preferred operating place and fund raising venue for individuals with the ideas and strategies that can radically change the business landscape.

CHEW SUTAT
SINGAPORE EXCHANGE

That bourse might be only for professional investors, he said.

"Dual-class shares will always have its supporters and its detractors," said Raymond Tong, a Singapore-based capital markets lawyer at Clifford Chance LLP. "Exchanges will always need to see how they can develop new products for their markets." **Bloomberg**

Audi China dealers demand USD4b to cover sales losses

AUDI dealers in China are demanding 28 billion yuan (USD4 billion) to cover losses over the past three years that they blame on the automaker adding too many distributors, potentially worsening a sales decline that saw BMW and Mercedes-Benz overtake the luxury brand last month.

The dealers met Thursday in Sanya, China, and issued a statement saying their newly formed group would oppose Audi's planned formation of a second joint venture in China until the German maker managed to reach 1 million in annual sales in the country. Audi sold a little more than half



that many units in China, including Hong Kong, last year.

"We are clarifying the allegations" of losses between 2014 and 2016, Johanna Barth, a spokeswoman for Audi China, said by phone on Thursday. "To our knowledge, the overall business of Audi in China was profitable in those three years." Song Tao, a repre-

sentative for the dealer group, said they're working closely with the automaker to achieve "mutual benefits," declining to specify what action they'll take if their demands aren't met.

Once a highly lucrative trade, profits from automobile distribution have slid in recent years as automakers expanded their sales network and car ownership became widespread in major cities. Dealers in China are also over-reliant on the sale of new cars, whereas used-car sales and servicing make up the bulk of a dealer's income in the U.S. Besides Audi, distributors for Kia, BMW and Toyota have also de-

manded financial assistance from automakers in the past two years.

Volkswagen AG, the parent of Audi, has sought to revive growth by adding another sales network through a second joint-venture partner. That plan ran into a wall of opposition from existing Audi dealers, who briefly threatened to stop sales before the automaker agreed to discuss the payment of subsidies.

In its statement, the Audi dealers said that back in 2012, the automaker had targeted 1 million in sales by 2020 on a network of 580 outlets. However, there are now 530 outlets even though deliveries failed to

break through a "bottleneck" in the past three years of about a half million units. Audi should come up with a "suitable solution" based on the target and excess number of distributors, the group said.

Audi delivered 591,554 units in China including Hong Kong last year, an increase of 3.6 percent. The automaker is seeking clarification as it didn't set a target of 1 million sales units by 2020 in China, Barth said.

After entering the country in the late 1980s with China FAW Group Corp. and building an early lead, Audi sales rose and the marque became the quasi-official

ride of high-ranking government officials and privileged businessmen. The luxury marque recorded its first annual sales drop in China in more than a quarter century in 2015. Near its peak, around 2000, the German brand accounted for about 70 percent of government and state-owned company fleets in China.

Audi lost its leadership in China's premium car segment in January as deliveries fell 35 percent to 35,181 units. Sales of Daimler AG's Mercedes Benz and BMW AG both surpassed Audi as they increased 39 percent and 18 percent to 59,000 units and 51,000 units respectively. **Bloomberg**

HONG KONG

Tsang found guilty in unprecedented graft trial

A former leader of Hong Kong was convicted Friday of corruption over a luxury apartment in mainland China intended for his retirement, local media reported.

The nine-member jury deliberating two days before finding Donald Tsang guilty of one count of misconduct in office and not guilty on a second count, the South China Morning Post and broadcaster RTHK said.

Tsang, 72, served as Hong Kong's leader, or chief executive, from 2005 to 2012. He becomes the highest-ranking current or former official convicted of corruption in the Asian financial hub, which prides itself on a reputation for clean governance.

It's one of several recent cases that have shaken public confidence and raised



Donald Tsang (right) walks out of the High Court after being granted bail following his conviction

concerns about cozy ties between Hong Kong's leaders and wealthy tycoons.

The jurors ruled 8-1 that he committed misconduct by failing to declare that the Shenzhen penthouse he planned to rent was owned by a businessman whose media company was applying for a digital radio license, the reports said. Tsang's defense ar-

gued the connection was too distant and didn't need to be declared.

The jurors unanimously cleared him of a charge that he nominated for an award the interior designer who renovated the penthouse but didn't disclose that connection. They couldn't decide on a third count of accepting an advantage.

Tsang was granted bail and is expected to return to court today. He faces up to seven years in prison.

In 2014, Rafael Hui, who was chief secretary — or No. 2 official, during the first two years that Tsang was in office, was convicted and sentenced to prison in a separate corruption case. **AP**

Coal imports from N.Korea suspended over missiles

CHINA yesterday began a suspension of all coal imports from North Korea for the rest of the year as it increases pressure on its communist neighbor to give up its nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

The ban is in line with U.N. Security Council sanctions imposed in November in response to North Korea's fifth nuclear test two months earlier, the Commerce Ministry said in an online statement Saturday.


China had already banned coal imports from North Korea in April last year, but those restrictions allowed some imports for civilian use.

China is North Korea's largest source of trade and aid and Sunday's suspension will deprive Pyongyang of an important source of foreign currency.

Beijing has come under pressure from President Donald Trump to lean harder on Pyongyang, but Beijing says its influence is limited.

However, it has grown increasingly frustrated with North Korea's defiance of U.N. demands that it end missile tests and development of nuclear weapons. North Korea launched its latest ballistic missile test a week ago. **AP**

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 第十二部份
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Beijing-backed HK candidate eyes growth to quiet unrest

Fion Li, Bryan Curtis

CARRIE Lam, widely seen as the frontrunner to lead Hong Kong, vowed to avoid moves that could revive anti-China street protests, and focus on revving up the economy if she's picked to run the financial hub.

"I have to be very careful in sort of taking on an issue which has a very strong potential of splitting the society again," Lam, 59, told Bloomberg in an interview last week. "Once we have some of that sort of mutual trust, I'm sure in the usual Hong Kong spirit we can tackle some of those more difficult issues."

The former chief secretary's popularity has suffered in recent weeks amid media reports that Chinese leaders had anointed her to win next month's vote by a committee of 1,200 business and political elites. Her main rival, former Financial Secretary John Tsang, said he would do a better job at healing divisions over concerns that Beijing is encroaching on the "high degree of autonomy" promised the former British colony before its return to China two decades ago.

While rank-and-file voters have no say in the March 26 decision, the government's critics have argued the city's next leader needed greater public support to counter growing discontent. The current chief executive, Leung Chun-ying, struggled with historically low public approval ratings before his surprise decision in December not to seek a second five-year term.

Lam, a career civil servant who would be Hong Kong's first fema-



Carrie Lam

le leader, enjoyed relatively high approval as Leung's No. 2 before stepping down to run for his job. She acknowledged that perceptions of Beijing's endorsement had dented her image, even as she continued to canvas for support among the election committee.

"It is demonstrated by the so-called popularity polls," Lam said. "I just don't see what I have done wrong in the last two or three weeks, but my poll seems have come down a bit."

Lam trailed Tsang by 14 percentage points in a South China Morning Post poll of 1,018 adults released Feb. 10, compared with 4.4 percent a month earlier. Meanwhile, 66 percent believed Lam would win the job, a 20-point

increase from the previous poll.

On Feb. 5, Zhang Dejiang - the Communist Party's No. 3 leader - told Hong Kong business executives and political leaders during closed-door meetings in neighboring Shenzhen that Lam was the preferred choice, the Standard newspaper reported, without saying where it got the information. Last week, 51 election committee members representing political advisers to Beijing pledged support for Lam, the Post reported, citing the group's convenor, Ambrose Lau.

Over the past five years, Lam earned a reputation for being less divisive than her boss. When a China-backed election overhaul spurred student protesters to occupy

swaths of the city two years ago, it was Lam who met with their leaders. Although she gave no ground in the talks, she acknowledged the movement's support and avoided escalating the stand-off.

The electoral reform plan, which would let the election committee vet chief executive candidates before a public vote, is one of several Beijing-supported proposals shelved by recent administrations amid protests. Another - sweeping national security legislation to outlaw treason sedition and other national threats - has regained support after the emergence of a new, more confrontational independence movement.

While Lam said the government was obligated to confront such is-

sues, she said her priority would be bolstering economic growth and maintaining Hong Kong's position as a global financial hub. The local economy is forecast to grow 1.8 percent this year, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. That's up from 1.5 percent last year, but slower than in 2015.

Lam said the government has been too reluctant to spend and must invest more in education and medical services. She also called for cutting red tape and taxes, saying "there are occasions where if we collect less, we gain more."

"The time has come for us to take more innovative approach," Lam said, citing the city's "structural surplus." "We should spend more and invest, with a view that we would grow the economy and make everyone happier."

Zhang Dejiang told business executives and political leaders in Shenzhen that Lam was the preferred choice

Lam sought to portray herself as a woman of action, rather than talk. While she said she was enjoying the campaign trail, Lam noted running for the office wasn't her first choice.

"I have to be very frank with you - I have planned my retirement," she said. Once Leung bowed out, she said, "I sort of tried to convince myself that I should put myself forward as another alternative for the voters and the people of Hong Kong." **Bloomberg**

Patrick Donahue

PRESIDENT Donald Trump would win congressional support if he declared China a currency manipulator as pledged during his election campaign, according to two members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, a Republican, said on a panel at the Munich Security Conference yesterday that Congress has an opportunity to unite around action against China.

"There's bipartisan support to declare China a currency manipulator," said Graham, whose stance was backed

Trump seen winning support to declare China as currency manipulator

by Jeanne Shaheen, a Democrat from New Hampshire. "I don't want a war with China; I want a better relationship. But what they're doing needs to be pushed back against - and I think currency manipulation will be an issue that may unite the Congress."

While the U.S. has long accused China of undervaluing its currency to aid exports, Chinese authorities have actually been burning through

foreign reserves to support the yuan amid an economic slowdown and capital outflows. The yuan gained 0.9 percent against the dollar in January, its steepest advance since March, after sinking 13 percent in the three years through 2016.

Trump, who pilloried China on the campaign trail for alleged unfair trade practices, vowed to declare the country a currency manipulator on his first day in office, a

pledge yet to be fulfilled. Trump this month backed off another threat, committing the U.S. to the 'One China' policy that's underpinned U.S. relations since the 1970s.

"I'm not clear yet what the policy is of this administration on China," Shaheen said. "I think a One China policy is very important. I agree that it's a currency manipulator and I think there's probably bipartisan agreement in Congress on that." **Bloomberg**



ANGELINA Jolie said Saturday that she hopes her new film about Cambodia under the Khmer Rouge will help educate the world about the brutality of the 1970s regime and shed a light on the plight of young people in war zones today.

"First They Killed My Father" is based on author and human rights activist Loung Ung's account of her survival as a child under the 1975-79 communist Khmer Rouge regime, believed to be responsible for the deaths of 1.7 million Cambodians from starvation, disease and execution.

Speaking at a news conference ahead of the film's premiere, the actress-turned-director said she hopes the movie will "remind everybody that there are little Loung's all around the world today" in various war zones and corners of the world.

"Her story is their story and so this is, in many ways, universal, and we hope that

Angelina Jolie in Cambodia for premiere of her new film

that is something that you think about as well," said Jolie, who directed the film and co-wrote the screenplay with Loung.

Jolie has had an affinity for Cambodia since she began goodwill work for the

I hope that the young people, when they see this film, that yes, they will learn part of their history.

ANGELINA JOLIE

U.N.'s refugee agency in 2001, and her eldest son, Maddox, 15, was adopted from the country. She also has established a foundation to promote social development in rural Cambodia.

However, the Hollywood superstar stressed that Cambodia's history is not just the war.

"I hope that the young people, when they see this film, that yes, they will learn part of their history, but I hope they also see — I hope all of you see — that this is a country of talent and art and love and beauty," Jolie said.

Maddox worked on the production of the movie, which was shot on location in Cambodia in late 2015 and early 2016. Jolie said

that Maddox is very proud of his Cambodian heritage and that she and her children see Cambodia as their "second home."

"The children are very close to the children who are in the film and, in fact, many of them are best friends," she said. "So, they're simply happy to be back with their friends. Maddox is happy to be back in his country."

The film, a Netflix original production, will be shown on the streaming service later this year.

Jolie's previous directorial projects include the 2015 marriage drama "By the Sea," in which she starred alongside then-husband Brad Pitt, and the 2014 survival story "Unbroken." AP



Angelina Jolie holds a press conference in Siem Reap

Vietnam marks anniversary of border war with China



A man places incense while others pray in front of the statue of the 11th century founding father of Hanoi King Ly Thai To in central Hanoi

SEVERAL dozen people gathered Friday in Hanoi to commemorate Vietnam's brief but bloody border war with China nearly 40 years ago.

The participants laid flowers and lit incense at the statue of King Ly Thai To, the founder of capital Hanoi, amid a heavy police presence.

The authorities used loudspeakers to urge the crowd to disperse.

There are no official government activities marking the event, but it was extensively covered in the state media this week.

"I was moved because many people came here to lit incense to remember these heroic martyrs who sacrificed themselves defending Vietnamese borders," said Phung The Dung, one of the participants. He added he had mixed feelings because the authorities were also trying to limit the public commemoration.

The government tries to limit any non-official protests.

China sent hundreds of thousands of troops into northern Vietnam 38 years ago, for what it said was

to teach Vietnam a lesson for invading the China-backed Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia.

China withdrew its troops one month later with both sides claiming victory, but periodic fighting continued along the border for more than 10 years before the communist neighbors normalized relations in 1991.

Beijing was against Vietnam's invasion of the China-backed Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia

The online newspaper Vnexpress reported Friday that for many reasons the border war was rarely mentioned along for a long time, and that there were only 11 lines in a high school history textbook about the war. AP

THAILAND

Police hunting for monk increase pressure on temple

Dake Kang

POLICE in Thailand who spent three days in an orderly but unsuccessful search of a vast Buddhist temple for a prominent monk accused of financial wrongdoing kept up the pressure yesterday, sending fresh forces to confront devotees and monks at the compound's gates.

Around 3,000 police had surrounded the Dhammakaya sect temple north of Bangkok from Thursday through Saturday, while smaller squads searched for its chief, Phra Dhammajayo, who is accused of accepting USD40 million in embezzled money.

Both security forces and Dhammajayo's followers gathered in growing numbers at the temple yesterday after the Department of Special Investigation Thailand's FBI — ordered all people not residing there to leave. Numbers on both sides were difficult to estimate.

Yesterday's standoff ended peacefully, with the police forces withdrawing shortly after dark.

Dhammajayo has been charged with money-lau-



Buddhist monks of the Dhammakaya sect hold placards protesting an anticipated police raid

ndering and receiving stolen property. His defenders say he did not know the money was tainted.

Some devotees believe his legal troubles are politically motivated because the temple and its followers are seen as supporters of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who was deposed in a 2006 military coup. Thailand had another coup in 2014 and currently has a military government.

The police are operating under an emergency order issued Thursday by Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha allowing them to shortcut normal legal procedures with broad powers to search property

and arrest people.

They have sought to block people from entering the temple, but many seemed to have gotten through yesterday after senior monks issued statements suggesting the temple was under threat.

Police also issued summonses for more than a dozen senior monks, including Dhammajayo — who has not been seen in public for months — to present themselves at the local police station.

"Our hearts break because we love Buddhism. We can die, but Buddhism, never," said Dhammakaya devotee Manoj Hemprommaraj. "We will protect our temple, [even] if we die." AP

IMF to loan Mongolia USD440 million as part of bailout package



A statue stands in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Michael Kohn

MONGOLIA reached an initial agreement with the International Monetary Fund for a three-year program that includes a USD440

million loan package as part of a \$5.5 billion bailout to help the north Asian country with looming debt repayments. "The Asian Development Bank, the World Bank and bilateral partners including Japan and Korea are expected

to provide up to another \$3 billion in budget and project support, while the People's Bank of China is expected to extend its 15 yuan billion [\$2.2 billion] swap line with the Bank of Mongolia for at least another three years," the IMF

said in a statement yesterday. "The total external financing package will thus be around \$5.5 billion."

Economic growth in Mongolia slowed to 1 percent last year as commodity prices fell and growth slowed in China, the main buyer of the nation's copper and coal exports. The country also saw foreign investment collapse after a dispute with Rio Tinto Plc over the Oyu Tolgoi copper mine.

The Extended Fund Facility (EFF) will support the government's plan to address balance-of-payment pressures and also help the government repay looming debts, including the Development Bank of Mongolia's \$580 million bond repayment due in March.

This marks the sixth time since 1990 that the IMF has bailed out Mongolia, the most recent a stand-by agreement in 2009-2010, according to an e-mail from IMF spokesman Keiko Utsunomiya.

The financing will support a Mongolian program, "which intends to restore economic stability and debt sustainability as well as to create the conditions for strong, sustainable and inclusive growth," according to the IMF statement. The agreement is subject to the confirmation of financing assurances, the completion of prior ac-

tions by the authorities, and the approval of the IMF Executive Board. The board is expected to consider Mongolia's request in March.

This is "great news, the market will receive this

The country's budget deficit at the end of 2016 tripled to USD1.5b

positively," Dale Choi, head of the research firm Mongolia Metals & Mining, said in an e-mail. It is the "bottom out everyone has been waiting for and the only way is up."

Ahead of the agreement, parliament amended the development bank law, making changes recommended by the IMF. The amendments were designed to depoliticize the bank and include a rule that board members can't have held political office in the past five years.

Mongolia's central bank had \$1.3 billion in foreign reserves at the end of December, well below the \$4.1 billion it held at the same time in 2012, when money was pouring into Mongolia's mining sector amid the commodities boom. The tugrik fell 20 percent

last year, fifth-worst among exotic currencies tracked by Bloomberg.

"While many Mongolian businesses may feel the short-term pressure of a marginal increase in taxes, the successful implementation of the EFF arrangement in Mongolia will stabilize the domestic currency and boost confidence in the banking sector," Bilguun Ankhbayar, Chief Executive Officer of the Mongolian Investment Banking Group, said by e-mail. "This will likely result in increased activity in those economic sectors that have the most competitive advantage."

Foreign exchange reserves should rise to \$3.8 billion by the end of the program, according to the IMF statement. By 2019, economic growth is projected to pick up to around 8 percent.

"Fiscal consolidation will leave room for the banking sector, over time, to extend more credit to the private sector, consistent with projected growth. These policies would also put public debt on a declining path over the course of the program," the IMF said.

The country's budget deficit at the end of 2016 tripled to 3.67 trillion tugrik (\$1.5 billion), compared to a year earlier, while total external trade dropped 2.3 percent and non-performing loans in the banking system rose 25 percent.

"Attempts to stem the decline through expansionary policies proved ineffective after a few years, and the economy is now stagnating, weighed down by high debt and low foreign-exchange reserves," according to the IMF. **Bloomberg**

Samsung heir Lee returns to prosecutors for 2nd day



Jay Y. Lee, co-vice chairman of Samsung, is escorted by police officers

Hooyeon Kim

SAMSUNG Group's Jay Y. Lee was taken back to a special prosecutor's office for a second day following another night in police custody as part of a corruption probe that has widened to include South Korea's largest industrial conglomerate.

Lee, vice chairman of Samsung Electronics Co., was shown on a YTN television broadcast being led into the office in Seoul around 9:50 a.m. local time. Lee was inside the office for about eight hours the day before. On Friday, the Seoul

Central District Court arrested Lee on a warrant including allegations of bribery, perjury, embezzlement, hiding assets abroad and concealing illegal profits.

Lee has been the acting head of Samsung while his father, Samsung Electronics Co. Chairman Lee Kun Hee, has been hospitalized since 2014. The probe could eventually interfere with the son's ability to take full control of the group after his father formally steps down.

As head of a conglomerate that is the world's largest maker of smartphones, Lee is the highest-profile

business figure yet accused in an influence-peddling scandal that has already seen President Park Geun-hye impeached. Prosecutors have cited evidence that Samsung paid bribes to a confidante of the president to ensure government support for a 2015 merger of affiliates that tightened Lee's grip on the chaebol, as Korea's dominant business groups are called.

The probe is part of a broader investigation into contributions that dozens of Korean companies gave to Choi Soon-sil, a confidante of Park. The scandal has rocked South Korea, with millions of people taking to the streets in protest. President Park has been impeached and her powers suspended. A separate constitutional court will determine whether she is ultimately removed from office, another tumultuous chapter for a country that became a full-fledged democracy in 1987. **Bloomberg**

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Student Recruitment 2017-18

| | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--|
| Date of application | | March 1 to 10, 2017 | |
| Date of Admission test | PK | March 4 and 18 | |
| | JK to Grade 3 | March 13 to 27 | |
| | Grade 4 to 12 | 18 March 1pm-4pm | |
| Open House | 18 February, 2017 | | |
| School introduction | JK | 9:00 am | |
| | Elementary school | 9:00 am | |
| | Secondary school | 10 am | |
| | Boarding house tour | 10:45 am to 11:30 am | |
| Results Notification | April 16, 2017 onwards | | |

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Ken Ritter

A yearlong academic study of sex trafficking in Las Vegas is providing a glimpse into a shadowy world beneath the neon glow where underage girls, threatened by pimps, solicit for business in casinos, on streets and online.

Of 190 identified sex-trafficking victims in 2014, Arizona State University researchers found two-thirds were under 18 years old, one in five was brought to southern Nevada from somewhere else and more than half were never reported as missing.

"These are kids that nobody even cares enough about to report missing," said Laura Meltzer, a Las Vegas police officer involved in the report's roll-out. "As a mom, that breaks my heart."

A victim advocate in the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, Elynn Greene, called them "throwaway kids." She said many are products of the foster care system.

The average underage victim in the study was 16. The youngest was 12.

About one in three victims was recruited by a boyfriend-turned-violent, fear-based abuser, with more than half reporting being forced through physical assault involving a gun, knife, razor or cord.

Study finds underage, fearful women in Vegas sex trafficking



The average trafficker was 29 years old, and 80 percent of them had criminal histories. Most came from outside Nevada, and most of those were from California.

Some said they were told their families would be targeted if they didn't cooperate.

"They are violently forced into

this," said Dominique Roe-Sepowitz, director of the ASU Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research, which conducted the study of a sex trade that's been made part of a "Sin City" image and reinforced by a misperception that prostitution is legal in Las Vegas.

While brothels are legal in rural

counties, prostitution is illegal in Clark and Washoe counties, home to Nevada's largest cities, Las Vegas and Reno. And while sex trafficking has drawn increasing attention in recent years from local, state and federal elected officials, it has been hard to measure and difficult to stop.

The report aims to provide data for police, prosecutors, parents and

While brothels are legal in rural counties, prostitution is illegal in Clark and Washoe counties, home to Las Vegas and Reno

the public about who sex traffickers are and how they recruit, sell and keep victims, Roe-Sepowitz said.

The report also pointed to difficulties prosecuting accused sex traffickers. Only 34 of the 159 cases studied, or a little more than one in five, resulted in convictions.

"It's a fight that will never be easy," said Clark County District Attorney Steve Wolfson, whose office offers victim advocates and a prosecutor who specializes in sex-trafficking cases. "As prosecutors, we need witnesses to come to court to be able to prosecute cases. Often, they're young, unwilling, uncooperative and fearful."

Roe-Sepowitz called the report a snapshot, but she said the ASU School of Social Work planned updates based on reports of prostitution arrests from 2015 and 2016.

"We really have to find new tools for law enforcement to work to get that trafficker off the streets, or he'll find someone else to traffic in five minutes," she said. **AP**

IRAQ

Forces advance on Islamic State-held western Mosul

U.S.-backed Iraqi forces launched a large-scale military operation on Sunday to dislodge Islamic State militants from the western half of Mosul, the latest phase in a four-month-old offensive to retake Iraq's second largest city.

The battle for western Mosul promises to be the most daunting yet, as the half of the city west of the Tigris River has older, narrower streets and is still home to hundreds of thousands of civilians, who have been told to shelter in place.

Iraq declared eastern Mosul "fully liberated" last month, but IS has continued to launch attacks there.

Plumes of smoke were seen rising into the sky yesterday morning as U.S.-led coalition jets struck militant positions southwest of Mosul and militarized Iraqi police fired artillery toward the city. Heavily armed police units were getting ready to move north



th with their armored vehicles from a base just southwest of the city.

"This is zero hour and we are going to end this war, God willing," said Mahmoud Mansour, a police officer, as he prepared to move out. The immediate objective was to take the villages on the southern outskirts of Mosul airport, a police spokesman told The Associated Press. The officer spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief reporters.

Police units quickly moved into the village of Athba, about 5 kilo-

meters southwest of the airport, encountering only light resistance, according to an AP reporter traveling with them. Separately, the army's 9th Division moved into the village of Bakhira, also southwest of the city, the Iraqi Ministry of Defense said.

The United Nations meanwhile warned that hundreds of thousands of civilians trapped inside their houses "are at extreme risk," with dwindling fuel and food supplies and scarce drinking water and electricity.

"The situation is distressing. People, right

now, are in trouble," Lise Grande, the U.N. humanitarian coordinator for Iraq, said in a statement. "We are hearing reports of parents struggling to feed their children and to heat their homes," Grande said.

Citing witnesses in western Mosul, the U.N. said nearly half of all food shops were closed and bakeries had shut down due to a lack of fuel and an inability to purchase costly flour. Prices of kerosene and cooking gas have skyrocketed, and many of the most destitute families are burning wood, furniture, plastic or garbage for cooking and heating.

"Three out of five people now depend on untreated water from wells for cooking and drinking as water systems and treatment plants have been damaged by fighting or run out of chlorine," said Peter Hawkins, of the U.N. agency for children.

The humanitarian agencies were gearing up to aid 250,000 to 400,000 civilians who may flee due to fighting, the statement said. The U.N. estimates that about 750,000 civilians may be left in western Mosul. **AP**

GERMANY

Pence visits former Nazi concentration camp



Mike Pence, his wife Karen and their daughter Charlotte walk through the former crematoriums during a visit to Dachau

U.S. Vice President Mike Pence paid a somber visit to the site of the Dachau concentration camp yesterday, walking along the grounds where tens of thousands of people were killed during World War II.

Pence was joined by his wife, Karen Pence, and the couple's 23-year-old daughter, Charlotte, as they toured the exhibits at the former concentration camp that was established by the Nazis in 1933 near Munich.

The vice president was accompanied by Abba Naor, a survivor of the camp, and other dignitaries as he passed through the wrought iron gate bearing the inscription, "Arbeit macht frei," or "Work sets you free." The Pences placed a wreath beneath the International Memorial at the center of the camp, toured the barracks and viewed the ovens inside the crema-

torium.

The Pences also stopped at religious memorials at the site and later attended a church service on the camp's grounds.

More than 200,000 people from across Europe were held at Dachau, and more than 40,000 prisoners died there. The camp was liberated by U.S. forces in April 1945.

Former Vice President Joe Biden visited Dachau during a trip to Germany in 2015.

Making his first overseas trip as vice president, Pence spoke to foreign diplomats and defense officials at the Munich Security Conference on Saturday and met with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and other world leaders.

Pence was traveling to Brussels yesterday for meetings today with NATO and European Union officials. **AP**

Geir Moulson, Munich

IRAN'S foreign minister brushed aside new pressure from the United States yesterday, declaring that his country is "unmoved by threats" but responds well to respect.

President Donald Trump has repeatedly criticized the 2015 nuclear agreement between Iran, the U.S. and five other world powers, under which Tehran agreed to curb its uranium enrichment in exchange for the lifting of international sanctions, but hasn't said what he plans to do about it.

His administration has said Iran was "on notice" over a recent ballistic missile test, and imposed new sanctions on more than two dozen Iranian companies and individuals.

"Iran doesn't respond well to threats," Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif told the Munich Security Conference, an annual gathering of top diplomats and defense officials. "We don't respond well to coercion. We don't respond well to sanctions, but we respond very well to mutual respect. We respond very well to arrangements to reach mutually acceptable scenarios."

"Iran is unmoved by threats," he said.

"Everybody tested us for many years — all threats and coercions were imposed on us," Zarif added. He mocked "the concept of crippling sanctions," which he said merely ended with Iran having acquired thousands more centrifuges, used for enriching uranium.

Iran dismisses new US pressure, calls for 'mutual respect'



Iran Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif

Iran has always said it has no interest in nuclear weapons. Asked how long it would take to make one if it did decide it wanted such weapons, Zarif replied: "We are not going to produce nuclear weapons, period. So it will take forever for Iran to produce nuclear weapons."

Iran's regional rivals aired a laundry list of grievances about Tehran's behavior, pointing to the wars in Syria and Yemen among other issues.

Saudi Arabia's foreign minister,

Adel al-Jubeir, argued that the Iranians "stepped up the tempo of their mischief" during the negotiations on the nuclear deal and have continued to do so since then.

"I believe that Iran knows where the red lines are if the red lines are drawn clearly, and I believe that the world has to make it clear to the Iranians that there is certain behavior that will not be tolerated, and that there will be consequences," Jubeir told the conference. "And those consequences have to

be in tune with the financial side."

Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman insisted that the main challenges facing the region are "Iran, Iran and Iran."

We are not going to produce nuclear weapons, period. So it will take forever for Iran to produce nuclear weapons.

IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER
JAVAD ZARIF

Asked what approach he seeks against Iran, he replied: "It's a combination of economic pressure, very tough policy and of course to impose the resolutions of [the U.N.] Security Council, for exam-

ple the ballistic missiles."

Sen. Lindsey Graham, a South Carolina Republican, said that Iran has been working to try and build a nuclear weapon, and "if they say they haven't, they're lying."

He proposed new sanctions in Iran for various reasons, including what he said were violations of U.N. resolutions and destabilizing the Mideast.

"I think it is now time for the Congress to take Iran on directly," he said. "I think most Republicans are on board with that concept and we'll see where President Trump's at."

Jubeir said that he is "very optimistic about the Trump administration."

"We see a president who's pragmatic and practical, a businessman, problem-solver, a man who's not an ideologue," he said. "He wants America to play a role in the world. Our view is that when America disengages, it creates tremendous danger in the worlds, because it leaves vacuums."

"He believes in destroying Daesh [the Islamic State group]; so do we," Jubeir added. "He believes in containing Iran; so do we. He believes in working with traditional allies; so do we." **AP**



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what's ON



WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT? - WORKS BY TIFFANY TANG

TIME: 12pm-7pm (closed on Tuesdays, open on public holidays)

UNTIL: February 26, 2017

VENUE: Ox Warehouse, intersection of Av. Coronel Mesquita and Av. do Almirante Lacerda

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026

ADMISSION: Free

'LUI CHUN KWONG THE DISTANT LINE'

EXHIBITION

TIME: 10am-9pm

UNTIL: February 26, 2017

VENUE: Tap Seac Gallery / Av. Conselheiro

Ferreira de Almeida, No. 95, Macao

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

FORMER HOME OF REVOLUTIONARY LEADER YE TING

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

VENUE: 76, Rua Almirante Costa Cabral

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

Offbeat



MILANO VICE? PALM TREES NEAR MILAN'S CATHEDRAL SPARK DEBATE

The appearance of an oasis of palm trees opposite Milan's gothic-era Duomo Cathedral has spawned a vibrant public debate.

Twitter is awash with palm-inspired memes, including pink palms in front of an aquamarine-colored Duomo subtitled, Milano Vice, referring to the 1980s television series. A well-known landscape architect wrote a page-one criticism in the daily La Repubblica dismissing the project as "neo-gothic folly" that veers "to the limits of kitsch."

The head of the anti-migrant Northern League was criticized after writing on Twitter that the scene was only missing "sand, camels and illegal migrants who will feel at home," while one of his colleagues suggested that to accompany the desert scene, the cathedral's famed spires would next be covered with minarets.

The city-organized project that provided fresh landscaping this week to two flowerbeds at the far end of Piazza del Duomo is part of a public-private initiative to periodically update the city's green spaces. This one is sponsored by Starbucks, which will soon be opening its first Italian store in Milan.

Architect Marco Bay, who won an open competition to landscape the spaces, says he wasn't completely surprised by the discussion "because it is difficult in Milan to see something new."

He dismissed criticism that palm trees don't belong to the northern Italian city, noting that there are hundreds in the city already and pointing out that palm trees were present in the same piazza for a period in the 1800s. The variety he planted, Trachycarpus fortunei, is well-suited to Milan's continental climate, resisting temperatures as low as 15 degrees Celsius below zero.

"The idea was born by looking at the space," Bay told the AP, saying the trees recalled both the columns of the porticoes skirting the piazza and the spires of the Duomo. "I wanted plants that create architecture, but also scenery."

Not everyone is a critic. The owner of a bar opposite the palms says sales are up more than 25 percent as people flock to see what the fuss is all about.

Milan "correctly wanted to do something aggressive" to liven up what are otherwise innocuous flowerbeds, said bar owner Mario Governa. **AP**

TV canal macau



| | |
|-------|--|
| 13:00 | TDM News (Repeated) |
| 13:30 | News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast |
| 14:50 | RTPi Live |
| 17:10 | Criminal Minds S.8 |
| 17:50 | Next in Line (Repeated) |
| 18:40 | Non-Daily Portuguese News (Repeated) |
| 19:40 | Soap Opera |
| 20:30 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report |
| 21:00 | TDM Sport |
| 22:10 | Next in Line |
| 23:00 | TDM News |
| 23:30 | Champions League Magazine |
| 00:05 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated) |
| 00:40 | RTPi Live |

cinema



CINETEATRO

16 FEB -22 FEB

LOVE CONTRACTUALLY

ROOM 1

2:30, 4:15, 6:00, 9:45pm

Director: Liu Guonan

Starring: Sammi Cheng, Joseph Chang

Language: Cantonese

Duration: 98min

RESIDENT EVIL: FINAL CHAPTER

ROOM 1

7:45pm

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

A CURE FOR WELLNESS

ROOM 3

2:30, 9:15pm

Director: Gore Verbinski

Starring: Dane DeHaan, Jason Isaacs, Mia Goth

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 146min

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

MACAU TOWER

16 FEB - 22 FEB

KUNG-FU YOGA

2:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30pm

Director: Stanley Tong

Starring: Jackie Chan, Disha Patani, Amyra Dastur

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 107min

this day in history



1986 SOVIETS LAUNCH SPACE STATION MIR

The Soviets have opened a new phase in space exploration with the launch of the world's biggest space station, Mir.

The successful launch of Mir comes just over three weeks after the American space shuttle Challenger disaster, in which seven astronauts died.

At next week's Communist Party congress in Moscow the Mir project is likely to be hailed as proof that the Soviets are leading the peaceful exploration of space.

Mir, which means both peace and world in Russian, is intended to provide a base for a permanently manned complex orbiting the Earth.

It succeeds the Soviet Salyut models, the last of which, Salyut 7, was launched in April 1982 and is still in orbit.

The Americans also had a space station, Skylab, which suffered damage on its initial launch and eventually proved too costly to maintain and fell back to Earth in 1979.

Soviet officials say their new craft represents the transition from research to large-scale production activities in space.

The station has six docking stations, which means other modules or laboratories can be added to it, expanding its size and capability.

The deputy head of the Soviet cosmonaut training centre, Alexei Leonov, said it would only be possible to determine how long Mir would remain in orbit after it had completed its first flight.

He said the cosmonauts, now taking part in a special training programme, would have separate cabins with windows and even individual desks and armchairs. Mr Leonov explained that Salyut 7 was too small for the plans now being implemented by Soviet experts.

It has only two docking stations and can support a crew of only three, whereas Mir can carry between six and ten people. The main work of the first cosmonauts on board Mir will be to continue with the experiments in materials processing, begun on Salyut 6 and 7.

Other activities will include observation of the Earth using high-powered cameras, as well as helping locate mineral deposits on Earth and monitor the seas for trawlers.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The first crew arrived on board Mir on 15 March 1986 and it remained more or less continuously occupied until November 2000. Crew member Valeri Polyakov stayed up a record 439 days. The end of the Cold War marked a new era of space co-operation. In September 1993 US Vice-President Al Gore and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin announced plans for a new space station, which would later be called the International Space Station, or ISS.

In preparation for this new project, the US became more closely involved with Mir.

From March 1995 seven US astronauts consecutively spent 28 months on Mir, during which time the spacecraft suffered a number of emergencies included a large fire on 23 February 1997 and a collision with an unmanned cargo ship on 25 June 1997.

Mounting costs contributed to the decision to bring down Mir. While Mir contributed little in the way of scientific advances, it did allow scientists to learn more about how astronauts can survive in space for long periods of time.

Mir remained in space until 23 March 2001, during which time it orbited the Earth more than 86,000 times.

It re-entered the Earth's atmosphere near Nadi, Fiji, and what remained of the 135-tonne craft fell into the South Pacific Ocean.

YOUR STARS



Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

The stars are gently reminding you that there's more than one point of view, and you need to take a certain party's perspective into account before you move ahead. You're moving with brisk progress toward what you desire.



Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

You excel at beginnings, but when it comes to seeing things through 'til the end, you may need a little help. Team up with a like-minded buddy or coworker - one who shares a similar outlook.



Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Giving up something you love just to please someone you love just doesn't make any sense. You and a good friend or sweetheart might be locking horns over an activity that you see as necessary.



Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

Today brims with romantic potential - if you're involved, your relationship takes a delightful turn. Singletons can expect that their crush will pick up on their unspoken signals and, even better, reciprocate those feelings.



Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

When it comes to making sure you perform your best, what really counts is how much time you spend preparing. You have a series of hurdles to clear, but it won't be a problem.



Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Remember that asking for aid doesn't make you weak - it makes you smart. So if something's been on your mind, grab a friend and pour out your troubles to their sympathetic ears.



Taurus

April 20-May 20

If anyone is entitled to have some fun, it's you - and it's about darned time too. You've turned down all kinds of wonderful temptations lately, in just about every category. Entice an appropriate playmate and enjoy!



Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

It seems like everyone in your immediate vicinity has been given a mission impossible, and they've all chosen to accept it - without informing you. Meanwhile, here you sit, feeling like you might get knocked over.



Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

The time is ripe to work out the finer details in terms of negotiations of contracts at work, especially if you have a partner that you usually work with. In fact, any interactions and relationships with others are highlighted right now.



Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Be receptive and open to the influences that are intent on presenting you with experiences that will shape your mind, body and soul if only you are willing to relax your sense of control and deal with what comes your way.



Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Put aside those loose ends for now and concentrate on initiating something that's near and dear to your heart. It's a fantastic time to lay the foundations for a project that needs lots of time and TLC.



Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

Okay, you may not be able to get away to Aruba on the spur of the moment (although if you can, you definitely should), but you can find a few moments to spend some TLC on yourself.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Movable barrier; 5- Oracular; 10- Greek goddess of the earth; 14- Dull pain, often in the head or back; 15- Bahamian island; 16- St. Louis landmark; 17- Are you ___ out?; 18- Out; 19- Marsh bird; 20- Garr of "Tootsie"; 21- Canton; 23- Big bird; 25- ___ few rounds; 26- Falls back; 31- Sam, e.g.; 35- Bambi's aunt; 36- Regions; 38- Pine; 40- Soft shoes; 42- Student tables; 44- ___ dancing is popular with cowboys!; 45- More cunning; 47- Less outgoing; 49- ___ de Janeiro; 50- Baffled; 52- Hans Christian; 54- Nabokov novel; 56- Land in la mer; 57- Incidental product; 62- Fill to excess; 66- Small batteries; 67- Vive ___!; 68- Anthem starter; 69- Woes; 70- Aristotle's teacher; 71- Make angry; 72- Cut calories; 73- Troy beauty; 74- Sounds of disapproval;

DOWN: 1- Manner of walking; 2- Skin eruption; 3- Norse god of thunder; 4- More strange; 5- Front of an advancing army; 6- ___ Ben Adhem; 7- Cheerio!; 8- Frosting; 9- Black tea from China; 10- Deep cut; 11- Suffix with buck; 12- Creamy-beige color; 13- Eureka!; 22- Madcap; 24- Give ___ break!; 26- Radiation measures; 27- ___ Gay; 28- Unsaid; 29- Summer shirts; 30- Figure skater Cohen; 32- Cartoon frame; 33- Dens; 34- Tennessee ___ Ford; 37- Pelt; 39- Noble gas; 41- His, to Henri; 43- Incitement of rebellion; 46- Caboose; 48- Fam. reunion attendee; 51- Brewer Coors; 53- A place for vacationers; 55- Designer Simpson; 57- Indonesian holiday resort; 58- Ivy League school; 59- Hey, you!; 60- Russian range; 61- Sheep shelter; 63- Sale condition; 64- Confer; 65- Storm centers; 66- Help, resource;

Friday's solution

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| T | O | U | R | N | E | Y | A | T | M | E | | |
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IACM 28 387 333

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HKD 6.99M
Storage Space & Cargo Lifts
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Nova City Penthouse
Taipa
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HKD 15.54M
European Style
Ref: 16105508

Nam Long (J Unit)
Old Taipa
750 sq ft / HKD 5,733sq ft
HKD 4.3M
Stylishly Furnished Throughout
Ref: 16095499

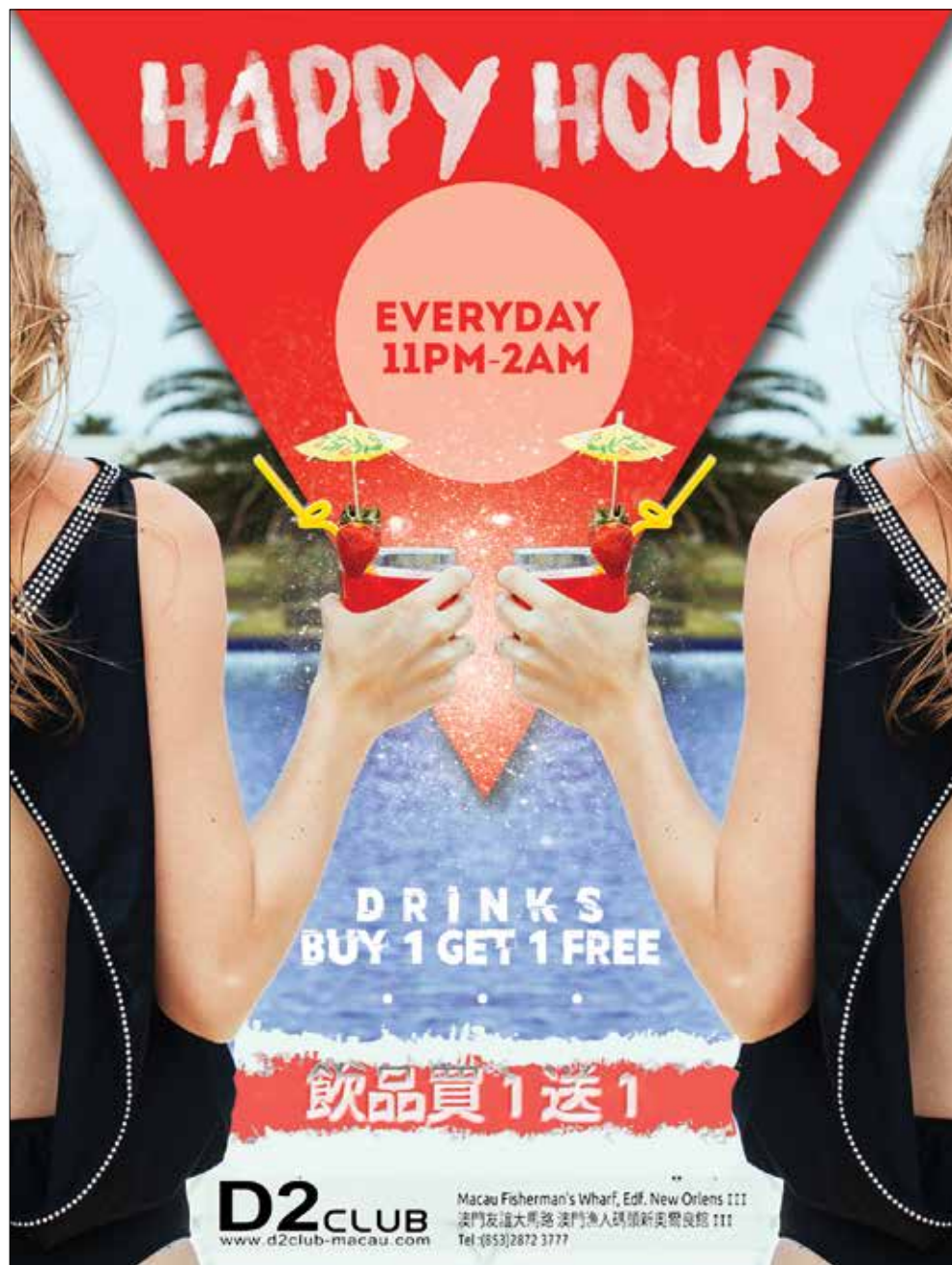
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Venue: Salon I & II, Level 1

MGM, Macau

12.30: Registration

1 pm: Lunch

1.20 pm: Presentation by Patrick Lindvall

1.45: Q&A Session

2 pm: Close

*Strict No-Show/Late Cancellation policy applies for this event***Members - MOP 200 - Non-Members - MOP 300****Inquiries and RSVP to**bbam@britchammacao.org or phone +853 8798 9697

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Winter Asian Games kick off in Sapporo

Jim Armstrong

THE Asian Winter Games officially got underway yesterday with an opening ceremony that united winter athletes from the world's most populous continent.

With the Winter Olympics just a year and a short distance away in South Korea, the continent's leading winter athletes will use the games to fine

tune for Pyeongchang 2018.

"These games will show the potential of Asia to the world," Katsuhiro Akimoto, head of Sapporo's organizing committee, said. "We have great expectations for the spectacular athletic performances of over 2,000 athletes."

Among the dignitaries at Sapporo Dome were Crown Prince Naruhito, IOC vice president John Coates and Olympic Council of Asia President

Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah.

The games run through Feb. 26 and feature more than 2,000 athletes from 31 countries competing in five sports, 11 disciplines and 64 events.

The government allowed North Korean athletes and officials to enter the country to take part in the Games despite Japan's entry ban on North Korean citizens.

The Sapporo Games will also feature athletes from Australia and New Zealand competing, bringing an Oceania element to event.

At the request of the Australian Olympic Committee, the Olympic Council of Asia and the Sapporo 2017 organizing committee agreed to



Members of the Chinese team wave their national flags as they march at the opening ceremony

allow athletes from the two countries to take part as guest athletes in individual sports only.

They won't be eligible to win medals, but will gain experience by competing against world-class winter sports athletes from the region in the time zone that will be the same as the Olympics.

The games have not been without controversy stemming from recent and older geopolitical tensions. Organizers were forced to ensure a

book denying the 1937 Nanjing Massacre will be removed from guest rooms at a hotel to be used as a dormitory in the Athletes' Village.

APA Group, the operator of the hotel chain, has been under fire after it was revealed it had distributed the book, which was written by Chief Executive Toshio Motoya, in its hotel rooms. The book claims the Nanjing Massacre never happened. China says the massacre resulted in the deaths of more than 300,000 people. **AP**

YANETANI TAKES 1ST GOLD MEDAL

ERI YANETANI of Japan won the first gold medal at the Asian Winter Games yesterday in the women's snowboard giant slalom. Yanetani took top honors with a combined

time of 1 minute, 43.47 seconds after two runs. China's Zang Ruxin was second, 2.23 seconds back while Gong Naiying, also of China, was third with a time of 1:45.81.

Ex-Australia rugby forward Dan Vickerman dies at age 37

DAN Vickerman, who played 63 rugby tests for Australia and was involved in three World Cups, has died at his home in Sydney. He was 37.

The Australian Rugby Union issued a statement yesterday saying players and officials were shocked and deeply saddened by the death overnight of the South Africa-born former Wallabies lock.

"Dan was an uncompromising competitor who forged a wonderful international rugby career despite a number of injury setbacks along the way," ARU chief executive Bill Pulver said. "He was an enforcer on the field and a much-loved character off the field."

"He cared deeply about the game and the players, helping players transition into life after rugby in his role with Rugby Union Players' Association following his retirement." No cause of death was announced.

The 204-centimeter, 119-kilogram Vickerman was born in Cape Town and moved to Australia in 2000 to pursue a professional rugby career. He played Super Rugby for the Canberra-based ACT Brumbies for three seasons from 2001 and for the Sydney-based New South Wales Waratahs — around a three-year sabbatical to study in Britain



Dan Vickerman (left) competes for the ball during a training session

— from 2004 until he was forced to retire because of a persistent injury in 2012.

"Dan was well respected for his on-field leadership and performance and equally respected by all that knew him off the field," Waratahs chief executive Andrew Hore said. "The shockwaves of his tragic passing will be felt right across our rugby community. Our thoughts are with his wife, Sarah, their two sons and other friends and family during this difficult time."

Vickerman made his international debut for Australia in June 2002 in a 31-25 win over France and played his last test in the Rugby World Cup semifinal loss to New Zealand in Auckland in 2011.

In between, Vickerman moved to Sydney in 2004 to play for the Waratahs, where he played until taking leave from the sport following the 2007

World Cup to spend three years studying at Cambridge University.

He returned to Australia to resume his career with the Waratahs and Wallabies, was rushed back into the national squad.

Jeremy Paul, a former Brumbies and Australia teammate, described Vickerman as a great character who emerged as a physical presence in the Wallabies scrum under the tutelage of Eddie Jones, who guided Australia to the 2003 World Cup final.

"He's going to be sorely missed, and at 37 years of age it's just really shocking and it's pretty hard to take in actually," Paul told Fox Sports. "I remember back in the early days, Eddie used to ride him [...] he used to give it to Dan. Dan took it on and he turned into a Wallaby and a great Wallaby." **AP**

Bach welcomes talk on 2024 and 2028 Olympic hosts pick

INTERNATIONAL Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach welcomes talk that two Summer Games hosts could be picked at the same time in September.

"I like it that people are talking in this way about the Olympic candidature procedure," Bach told The Associated Press on Saturday, amid speculation Los Angeles and Paris could both get hosting rights for either the 2024 or 2028 Olympics.

"It shows that people are caring. This we appreciate very much."

Bach fueled the dual award debate in December, when he suggested the current bidding process "produces too many losers."

Persistent ongoing speculation about rewarding two 2024 bidders "may give us some ideas," the IOC president said during a visit to the ski world championships.

The IOC has not formally begun any 2028 bid process, and it is also unclear if cities which are



Thomas Bach

targeting that contest would have grounds for complaint about a dual award in September.

Los Angeles and Paris are in the 2024 Olympics bid contest with Budapest, Hungary.

Budapest is seen as the outsider, and could even withdraw next week under pressure from an opposition political group to force a referendum.

The city's mayor, Istvan Tarlos, said on Friday he discussed the bid's status with Prime Minister Viktor Orban.

Bach was asked by

the AP on Saturday if the IOC could arrive in Lima, Peru, for the Sept. 13 hosting vote with two candidates and two winners.

"Let us discuss. This is a discussion," the president said. "It also depends on the timing. This is, you know, why I appreciate also the public discussion."

"There are many options."

Los Angeles and Paris are viewed as high-quality options for the IOC, and it is unclear if either would bid again in a new 2028 process if they failed to win the 2024 hosting rights. **AP**

opinion

Views on China

Nisha Gopalan, Bloomberg

COMING TO AMERICA NO DONE DEAL FOR CHINA'S FILM WANNABES

Chinese companies looking to escape slower economic growth at home have turned, quite naturally, to football and Hollywood. They should prepare for some unhappy endings.

Recon Group, the Chinese firm that bought the U.K.'s Aston Villa Football Club, is the latest to attempt to add movie making to its bow, in talks to acquire Millennium Films, according to people familiar with the matter. Recon will likely buy the production house behind action flicks such as "The Expendables" through Shenzhen-listed Recon Wenyuan Cable Co., the people said. Recon Wenyuan Cable said in a statement late Wednesday that one of its units plans to buy a 51 percent stake in a U.S. film maker for up to USD100 million.

Tony Xia's Recon is one of a growing list of Chinese companies reshaping their fortunes by morphing into entertainment conglomerates. Wang Jianlin's Dalian Wanda Group Co. bought Legendary Pictures Inc., of Godzilla franchise fame, last year and also owns part of Spanish football club Atletico Madrid. Many are shedding their old identities almost entirely. Cultural Investment Holdings Co. used to make auto parts while Recon Wenyuan Cable designs and sells wires for electrical equipment.

Recon Wenyuan could do with a boost. Revenue growth has been slowing and debt increased fourfold in the four years through 2015. Its stock, however, is trading at elevated levels - 91 times price earnings before it was halted from trade last month - so raising funds for any acquisition should be relatively easy.

But being in Hollywood isn't a surefire ticket to success.

Transactions by Chinese companies have faced backlash from U.S. politicians and Beijing is also clamping down on capital outflows and acquisitions that are outside a firm's core competencies. The investor group that struck a deal to buy the AC Milan football team from former Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi is still awaiting approval for its transfer of 740 million euros (\$781 million) from China to finance the purchase.

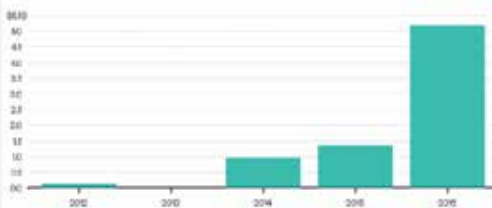
Movie-ticket sales in China, meanwhile, are only starting to recover from their worst year since 2008. "The Great Wall", a \$150 million fantasy epic starring Matt Damon in which Legendary was the largest investor, did well on the mainland but is poised for a weaker opening in North America this weekend.

To top it off, dealing with Hollywood types, or football managers for that matter, is never easy. Anhui Xinke New Materials Co. found out the hard way when it walked away from a deal to buy Midnight Investments, owner of Voltage Pictures. It cited the U.S. firm's failure to reply to requests for information as one of the reasons for the scrapped transaction.

Since Recon bought Aston Villa in May last year, the club has languished, even as the group has invested in its players. Xia may find any Hollywood forays equally unsatisfying.

Film Buff

Acquisitions of sports and movie companies by Chinese firms have risen sharply



Source: Bloomberg

(Continued)

THE WILDERS' 'MOROCCAN SCUM' COMMENTS CRITICIZED

Muslim organizations in the Netherlands have criticized disparaging comments about Moroccans made by anti-Islam lawmaker Geert Wilders, but say they are just the latest in a long string of insults.

Launching his campaign Saturday for the Netherlands' March 15 parliamentary election, Wilders criticized what he called "Moroccan scum" for making the Netherlands unsafe.

Ebubekir Ozturk, director of the Mus-

lim umbrella group Contact Organ Muslims and Government, on Sunday called Wilders comments "reprehensible," but added, "It is not the first time and probably won't be the last time," that Wilders has used such language.

Wilders was convicted late last year of inciting discrimination and insulting a group for anti-Moroccan comments he made before and after local elections in 2014. He branded the conviction "political."



BOOK AUTHOR

Kim Jong Nam was a small hope for change



Kim Jong Nam (right)

Mari Yamaguchi

THE Japanese author of a book about Kim Jong Nam, the North Korean leader's half brother who was killed this week at a Malaysian airport, says Kim opposed his family's hereditary rule and wanted economic reforms.

Tokyo-based journalist Yoji Gomi's book "My Father, Kim Jong Il, and Me," provides a rare view into North Korea's ruling family, including Kim Jong Nam, who was apparently assassinated last week.

Gomi said Kim Jong Nam, the son of late North Korean dictator Kim Jong Il and the half brother of current leader Kim Jong Un, represented a small hope for change in the isolated communist country.

"I thought he was someone

who has something meaningful to say, and perhaps bring change to North Korea," Gomi said at a news conference in Tokyo on Friday.

Their seven-year relationship began in 2004 when Gomi met Kim Jong Nam by chance at Beijing's international airport, leading to exchanges of 150 emails and two interviews in 2011 — one in Beijing and another in Macau — totaling seven hours, Gomi said.

"He was critical of the North Korean regime," and said its hereditary leadership "does not agree with a socialist system, and the leader should be chosen through a democratic process," Gomi said.

Kim Jong Nam also said North Korea cannot survive without Chinese-style econo-

mic reforms, Gomi said.

He said Kim Jong Nam appeared nervous during their 2011 interview in Macau.

"He must have been aware of the danger, but I believe he still wanted to convey his views to Pyongyang via the media," Gomi said. "He was sweating all over his body, and seemed very uncomfortable when he responded to my questions. He was probably worried about the impact of his comments and expressions. The thought now gives me a pain in my heart."

There is wide speculation that North Korea's government was involved in Kim Jong Nam's death. Kim Jong Nam said the Chinese government protected him in China and gave him a bodyguard, but did not do so elsewhere in Asia, Gomi said.

South Korea's intelligence service says Beijing had long protected Kim Jong Nam, perhaps because it may have seen him as a future North Korean leader should the current government in Pyongyang collapse.

Kim Jong Nam's frequent trips to Southeast Asian countries in recent years may have indicated a growing distance between him and China's government, Gomi said. AP

Hungarian film 'On Body and Soul' wins Golden Bear

A Hungarian love story about two slaughterhouse workers who connect in shared dreams won the top award Saturday at this year's Berlin Film Festival.

"On Body and Soul" by writer-director Ildiko Enyedi contrasts the harsh reality of the abattoir with the magical world of slumber.

Enyedi was previously best known for her 1989 debut film, "My 20th Century," which won the Golden Camera award in Cannes that year.

The Golden Bear had been expected to go to the comedy "The Other Side of Hope," which instead ear-

ned veteran filmmaker Aki Kaurismaki a Silver Bear for best director. The film sees a young Syrian refugee befriend a grouchy Finn, with Kaurismaki's deadpan humor delivering poignant messages about the horrors of war and the current refugee crisis in Europe.

The jury award went to "Felicite," a film by French-Senegalese director Alain Gomis about a singer in a Congolese nightclub.

South Korea's Kim Min-hee received the best actress award for her role in "On the Beach at Night Alone," about a woman coming to terms with the end



Actress Kim Min-hee

of an affair.

Georg Friedrich from Austria was named best actor for "Bright Nights," in which he portrays a father trying to reconnect with his teenage son. AP

| Station | Air quality | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|--|
| Roadside | 40-60 Moderate | |
| High Density Residential Area | 50-70 Moderate | |
| Ambient | 55-75 Moderate | |

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS



PAKISTAN Police say that counter-terrorism forces killed five militants in an overnight raid and seized weapons and explosives from their hideout. Nayab Haider, a spokesman for the counter-terrorism department, said yesterday that the militants were members of the banned Jamaat-ul Ahrar — which has claimed responsibility for several recent terrorist attacks.

IRAQ U.S.-backed Iraqi forces launched a large-scale military operation yesterday to dislodge Islamic State militants from the western half of Mosul, the latest phase in a four-month-old offensive to retake Iraq's second largest city. More on p14



SOMALIA A police officer says a blast at a busy market in the western part of Somalia's capital killed at least 34 people. Capt. Mohamed Hussein said the powerful blast, thought to be from a car bomb, wounded more than 50 others and casualties may rise as many of the wounded victims suffered horrific wounds.



ITALY Former Premier Matteo Renzi resigned yesterday as leader of his fractious Democratic Party in a bid to win a fresh, stronger mandate before parliamentary elections which populist political forces hope will propel them into national power for the first time.

FRANCE-RUSSIA France's foreign minister is denouncing possible Russian meddling in the French presidential campaign as "unacceptable." Jean-Marc Ayrault, in an interview published yesterday, said Russia appears to be targeting centrist candidate Emmanuel Macron, while favoring more pro-Russia candidates such as conservative Francois Fillon and nationalist Marine Le Pen.