



DIPLOMAT NAMED SUSPECT

The second secretary of N. Korea's embassy in Kuala Lumpur was named a suspect in Kim Jong Nam's murder

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50,000 FOOTBALL ACADEMIES BY 2025

China plans to have 50,000 football academies by 2025 as part of an ambitious blueprint to grow into a football superpower

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HUMAN RIGHTS
Amnesty International says "toxic" fear-mongering by anti-establishment politicians, among them President Donald Trump and the leaders of Turkey, Hungary and the Philippines, is contributing to a global pushback against human rights, according to its 408-page annual report on rights abuses around the world released yesterday. More on p15

CHINA Authorities in far western Xinjiang region are offering rewards of up to USD730,000 for terror-related tips as they ramp up security measures in the restive area.



JAPAN is turning to those hooded samurai-era acrobatic spies known as ninja to woo tourism. The Japan Ninja Council, a government-backed organization of scholars, tourism groups and businesses, said it's starting a Ninja Academy to train people in the art of ninja, and building a new museum in Tokyo devoted to ninja, set to open in 2018.

PHILIPPINES The Bureau of Immigration said it had arrested a convicted American pedophile wanted by U.S. authorities for a string of crimes. Immigration officials said 38-year-old Cody Dean Turner was arrested Sunday in his house in northern Tuguegarao City on the request of the U.S. Embassy. The American will be deported for being an undocumented and undesirable alien who poses a risk to public safety.

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GAMING

Operators enthusiastic over Japan prospects

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Former Hong Kong chief executive gets 20 months in jail for misconduct

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Malaysia's Inspector-General of Police Khalid Abu Bakar (center on stage) speaks during a press conference at the Bukit Aman national police headquarters

KIM JONG NAM MURDER

Police: Suspects in Kim's death coated hands with poison

Eileen Ng, Kuala Lumpur

THE two women suspected of fatally poisoning a scion of North Korea's ruling family were trained to coat their hands with toxic chemicals then wipe them on his face, police in Malaysia said yesterday, announcing they were seeking a North Korean diplomat in connection with the attack.

But the North Korean embassy ridiculed the police account of Kim Jong Nam's death, demanding the immediate release of the two "innocent women" and saying there was no way for them to have poisoned him.

If the toxins were on their hands "then how is it possible that these female suspects could still be alive?" demanded a statement from North Korea's embassy in Kuala Lumpur. Police say the women — one of them Indonesian, the other Vietnamese — washed their hands soon after poisoning Kim, the long-stranged half brother of the North Korean ruler.

Earlier yesterday, Inspector-General of Police Khalid Abu Bakar also told reporters that authorities are searching for two new North Korean suspects, the second secretary of North Korea's embassy in Kuala Lumpur and an employee of North Korea's state-owned airline Air Koryo.

"We hope that the Korean embassy will cooperate with us, allow us to interview them and interview them quickly," he said. "If not, we will compel them to come to us."

Police say the substance used remains unknown, but it was potent enough to kill Kim before he could even make it to the hospital.

Khalid said the women knew they were handling poisonous materials and "were warned to take precautions." Surveillance footage showed both keeping their hands away from their bodies after the attack, he said, then going to restrooms to wash.

He said the women had practiced the attack at two Kuala Lumpur malls.

"We strongly believe it is a planned thing and that they have been trained," he told reporters.

Khalid couldn't confirm whether North Korea's government was behind Kim's death but added, "What is clear is that those involved are North Koreans."

■ The second secretary of N. Korea's embassy in KL and an employee of state-owned airline Air Koryo were named suspects

Police have already arrested four people in connection with the attack: a Malaysian, a North Korean and the two

women. The Malaysian was due to be freed yesterday on bail, Khalid said.

At least one of the women has said she was tricked into attacking Kim Jong Nam, believing she was taking part in a comedy prank TV show. Khalid rejected that claim, saying, "This is not just like shooting a movie."

But North Korea insisted the women were telling the truth.

"The liquid they daubed for a joke is not a poison and that there is another cause of death," the statement said.

Police are looking for another seven North Korean suspects in connection with the attack, including the two announced yesterday. The embassy official and the airline employee are among three North Koreans believed to remain at large in Malaysia.

The four other are believed to have fled Kuala Lumpur shortly after the attack. Khalid said authorities believe they are back in Pyongyang, and that they provided the toxin.

"That's why we asked the

North Korean Embassy to trace them and hand them over to us." He said, though, that Malaysian authorities had received no help so far from North Korea.

Determining the cause of Kim Jong Nam's death has proven difficult. Malaysian authorities say Kim did not suffer a heart attack and had no puncture wounds, such as those a needle would have left, but they were still awaiting laboratory reports.

Identifying specific poisons can be difficult, especially if a tiny amount was used. The case has perplexed leading forensic toxicologists who study murder by poison, and question how the two women could walk away unscathed after using such a deadly agent.

Khalid noted the two women "were warned to take precautions," and said security camera footage showed them quickly walking to restrooms after the attack to wash their hands.

Kim had spent most of the past 15 years living in China and Southeast Asia. He is believed to have had at least three children with two women. No family members have come forward to claim the body.

The attack spiraled into diplomatic fury when Malaysia refused to hand over Kim's corpse to North Korean diplomats after his death, and proceeded with an autopsy over the ambassador's objections. The two nations have made a series of increasingly angry statements since then, with Malaysia insisting it is simply following its legal protocols, and North Korea accusing Malaysia of working in collusion with its enemy South Korea.

Seoul's spy agency believes North Korea was behind the killing, but has produced no evidence.

Isolated North Korea has a long history of ordering killings of people it views as threats to its regime. Kim Jong Nam was not known to be seeking political power; he was best known for his penchants for drinking, gambling and expensive restaurants. But his position as eldest son of the family that has ruled North Korea since it was founded could have made him appear to be a danger.

Kim Jong Nam was at the airport to fly to Macau, where he had a home. AP

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DIRECTOR AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF_Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
MANAGING EDITOR_Paulo Barbosa paulo.barbosa@macaudailytimes.com
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS_Eric Sautedé, Leanda Lee, Severo Portela

NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS_Alban Martins, Annabel Jackson, Daniel Beitler, Emilie Tran, Grace Yu, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Joseph Cheung, Julie Zhu, Juliet Risdon, Lynzy Valles, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Rodrigo de Matos (cartoonist), Viviana Segui
DESIGNERS_Eva Bucho, Miguel Bandeira | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS_JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES_Associated Press, Bloomberg, Financial Times, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua | SECRETARY_Yang Dongxiao army@macaudailytimes.com

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

SECRETARY_Denise Lo denise@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS_Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR Telephone: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

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COURTS

Ho used villa in Cheoc Van for personal matters, witness claims

Julie Zhu

THE trial of former top prosecutor Ho Chio Meng continued yesterday with the questioning of several witnesses. The first witness called to the stand in the morning was a porter. The prosecution side started by presenting a pay cheque for MOP53,620, which was given to the porter by Wong Kuok Wai (the businessman accused of opening shelf companies with Ho Chio Meng). The porter admitted that he would always cut 15 percent off from the payment and give it to Wong. The prosecution then presented another pay cheque, for MOP63,940, which Wong had handed over to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) as a service quotation. Wong had previously claimed to be unaware of how there came to be a difference in the values on the two cheques.

The second witness surnamed Kuong, was one of Ho's former drivers. Kuong said that one night, in February 2015, he drove Ho to the Liaison Office after he had been to the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC). Kuong said that once Ho finished visiting the Liaison Office, he then told Kuong to take him to his official residence.

However, on their way to Ho's residence, Ho instructed the driver to take him a villa in Cheoc Van, Coloane, instead. The villa was rented for MOP46,000 a month between



2006 and 2014 by the MP. It was supposedly used to receive guests. When questioned about the Cheoc Van villa, Kuong informed that he used to pick up Ho, his wife and his children at this location.

After leaving the villa, Kuong noticed that Ho was carrying something wrapped in newspaper. Kuong explained that he then drove Ho to the Dynasty Plaza. At this point, the prosecutors showed a picture of some agarwood pieces, and Kuong confirmed the pieces as being the items that were wrapped in newspaper that night.

Moreover, according to Kuong, at Ho's request he used to constantly deliver sealed packages to a bank. He thought the packages contained passbooks. Despite all

this, Kuong never visited the 16th floor of the Hotline Center.

In his cross-examination, Ho's lawyer, Leong Weng Pun, asked Kuong how he knew that the agarwood showed in the court was the one wrapped in the newspaper if it had been covered.

Kuong explained that part of the newspaper was open, allowing him to see something that looked like wood. Kuong said that later, after reading the news, he realized that what he had seen was the agarwood.

Leong immediately reminded

Kuong to not talk about the news, and said that "we are talking about facts." Kuong then said that he was not sure what was wrapped in the newspaper.

Leong posed a similar question regarding Kuong's knowledge of what was inside the packages he delivered to the bank.

Kuong replied by saying that he never opened any of the packages and that he believed passbooks could have been inside because he "felt" their approximate shape when he held the packages.

The third witness, surnamed Leong, is currently an employee at a property management company located in Cheoc Van.

He has been working at this location since 1998. Leong said that he used to see Ho visiting Cheoc Van villa with other people whom he did not know.

Leong noted that he also saw vehicles with special plates, as well as Ho's wife, who would always visit for a period shorter than one hour.

Presiding Judge Sam Hou Fai asked Leong how often he saw the cars with special plates.

Leong kept reminding the judge that he saw them more frequently in earlier years, while in recent

years he saw them less frequently. He also saw people wearing suits standing outside the villa.

The third witness used to be paid by someone, commonly addressed as "Wai," to clean the villa that the MP had rented.

The third witness said that he saw both adults and children inside the house, although he did not know who they were.

The male witness also confirmed that he saw Ho's pictures inside the house, but was then uncertain about whether he had seen the other objects that the judge asked him if he could recognize.

By the end of the morning session, Ho declared that he indeed visited Cheoc Van Villa on weekends, driving himself and his family to the location.

He explained that he was busy working during the week and that he did not like not being with his family on weekends.

Therefore, he would drive his own car to the villa to meet the MP's guests, as well as "counterparts from the judiciary system."

Three witnesses were present at the court in the afternoon. The first one used to be a domestic helper for Ho's father, and also helped at the Cheoc Van villa by cooking meals for Ho and his family, as well as serving some of Ho's guests. However, she did not know the identity of any of the guests. The second witness was the nanny of Ho's children. The third witness was Teng Nga Kan, who is currently Chief of the Office of the Secretary for Economy and Finance. Teng used to work for the MP.

The court will resume tomorrow.

CHUI UNAWARE OF HO'S INVESTIGATION

THE CHIEF Executive (CE), Chui Sai On, said yesterday that he was unaware of the investigation involving former prosecutor general Ho Chio Meng when appointing him to be the coordinator of the Committee on Criminal and Legal Studies in February 2015. Talking at the airport before departing on an official visit to

Fuzhou and Guangdong provinces, the CE claimed that Ho's appointment was based on his experience and that he did not know Ho was being investigated. "When an official is called to testify it doesn't mean that he has committed a crime," the CE said, adding that at the time he saw no legal objections to making such a nomination.

Controversial trip to Denmark

Ho Chio Meng is accused of using public money to pay for private trips to northern Europe after attending an official event in Denmark.

Witness Teng Nga Kan went to Denmark with Ho on that official trip, and always accompanied him to the official event programs during that time.

Teng said that she had seen Ho's wife but had never seen any of the other four Portuguese prosecutors' spouses during the

official programs of that event. The four Portuguese prosecutors attended the event as well.

Teng also did not remember having registered Ho's wife to attend the event. However, she remembered having met Ho, Ho's wife, and others, including a woman she did not recognize.

When Teng completed her testimony, Ho said that he did not remember whether Teng had been with him at the welcoming ceremony, which both he and his

wife attended. He also said that on one of the nights during the trip, he and his wife were VIP guests at a banquet, but he did not remember whether Teng accompanied him to that banquet.

Prosecutor Kuok Un Man then requested the court to call Teng to return to court to prove whether she had been at the two events mentioned by Ho. However, Kuok's appeal was refused by Presiding Judge Sam Hou Fai.

HKZM bridge seawall collapse went unreported

THE delayed Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge experienced a seawall collapse on reclaimed land along the east coast of the airport island back in 2014, due to irregular additions that extended the bridge by up to 10 meters.

The Highways Department did not disclose any information regarding the incident until Sunday, following a media report accusing the department of a cover-up.

The director of Highways,

Daniel Chung, admitted that in October and November 2014, two seawalls – one measuring 300 meters long and another 250 meters long – had been extended by about 5 to 10 meters each.

Chung claimed that the Department immediately demanded the responsible contractor to examine the issue and commence remedial work, after on-site supervisors discovered the extensions.

As the land reclamation

area involves 23 hectares of land and the construction of seawalls, Chung reasoned that such incidents were a natural phenomenon. Yet he affirmed that the incident would have no effect on the target completion date (this year-end) of the multi-billion dollar bridge.

"The incident hasn't caused any impact to nearby residents. It is not a safety issue. It hasn't caused any environmental impact. The public might not be concerned about it,"

he argued.

The director also noted that the problem had been fixed by the contractor, who shouldered the extra cost of the remedial work.

"That's why we hadn't announced anything about it. We have resolved all those problems; we don't think there is a need to tell the public about it. If we do so, maybe every day we have to tell something about the project to the public," he added.



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CENTRAL LIBRARY

IC defends its position on Old Court site



cessor, Ung Vai Meng.

According to the statement, the library, which the IC expects to become “a cultural landmark of the city,” needs to be built in the urban center of Macau as per the IFLA guidelines for small- and medium-sized cities.

By preserving the building’s historic façade and “inner space with distinguishing features,” the Bureau asserts that the Old Court Building’s historical architecture will not be compromised.

“[The project] is particularly important to the city’s cultural development,” noted the IC in the statement. “By selecting the best architectural project, the New Central Library, after its completion in the future, [it] will be an excellent example of a building which harmoniously combines historical and modern architectural features.”

Last week, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam argued that it

will be beneficial to use the historical architecture of the Old Court Building in such a “landmark for the territory.”

Cultural authorities say they are paying close attention to the budgeting of the Central Library project, another issue that has been hotly debated during sessions of the Legislative Assembly.

The IC statement indicates that “in the future, following the conclusion of the New Central Library’s in-depth design, a more precise budget will be announced to the public.” This budget will in turn be examined by the Commission Against Corruption and the Commission of Audit. **DB**

NEW COLLECTION POINT AT PUBLIC LIBRARY

AN ADDITIONAL collection point for legal deposits to the Macau Public Library has been established at the Taipa Library, according to information released by the Cultural Affairs Bureau. After the legal deposit system begins at several collection points across the city the deposits are then transported to an archive center specifically for local bibliographic material. Publishers in Macau are required to submit a certain number of copies of their publications, including audiovisual and electronic mate-

rial, to the Macau Public Library. In turn, the library preserves and organizes these publications, which are available to the public for research purposes. The new collection point is located at the Taipa Library on Rua de Seng Tou.



THE Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) has issued a statement reiterating that their plan for the construction of the Central Library is in line with the views of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). Their statement was issued just one week after lawmakers once again scrutinized the rationale behind the Central

Library project and goaded the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture into defiantly insisting that the library will be built on the site of the Old Court Building.

The statement also comes just days after Leung Hio Ming was promoted to the position of IC director, suggesting that the new chief will continue the petitioning spearheaded by his prede-

Sands confident of achieving stricter smoking room standards

Lynzy Valles

SANDS China president and chief operating officer Wilfred Wong said yesterday that he is confident that the gaming operator will be able to meet the stricter technical standards that the government may soon issue on smoking rooms on casino gaming floors.

“We actually researched and discussed a lot before submitting the proposals to the government and obviously we are confident that we could achieve those standards,” he said.

“Now the government is counter proposing a higher standard where all six of us [gaming operators] are now individually examining the feasibility and we will be congregating together to give a response to the government soon,” he continued.

Wong admitted that to attain the “higher and stricter” standards, the gaming operators need more resources. However, he clarified that the higher specification is feasible.

“For ourselves [Sands China], I think we are confident we can achieve it.”

The president also noted



Wilfred Wong

that the gaming operator needs plans to set up at least 30 extra smoking rooms.

Commenting on last week’s announcement by the Health Bureau about the government’s decision not to force casino operators to dismantle smoking lounges, Wong admitted they had been worried

that if a smoking ban was implemented, it would weaken the region’s competitiveness.

“If you look at Las Vegas, Singapore, even in those areas, casinos have smoking areas, not smoking rooms. So I believe it is a great measure to retain Macau’s competitiveness,” Wong explained.

GROWTH TREND TO CONTINUE

THE SANDS China president is positive that the growth trend in the region’s Gross Gaming Revenue (GGR) will continue. When asked whether

he is expecting double digit growth for February’s GGR, Wong briefly replied, “It’s difficult to say at this stage, I mean we still have eight days to go.”

Group calls for second-hand smoke to be considered occupational hazard

THE Macau Gaming Industry Frontline Workers’ Union delivered a petition this week to the government calling for second-hand smoke to be considered an occupational hazard to casino workers.

The association would like to challenge the idea that improving the ventilation of smoking lounges is a legitimate step forward towards the final goal [the full ban], as the Health Bureau (SSM) and the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, mentioned last week.

The co-founder of the association, Cloee Chao, said that the petition is a show of opposition to the proposal that changes smoking lounges regulations. A study by the University of Macau was released last week in which the six gaming operators claim that workers are in favour of the implementation of a more moderate



Cloee Chao

rate system of managing smoke in casinos. This more moderate system would involve the use of smoking lounges “with high air quality standards.”

According to Cloee Chao, second-hand smoke should be included in the group of occupational hazards that gaming industry staff could face.

Cloee Chao affirmed the need for the petition, explaining that the results obtained from the study commissioned by the concessionaires is not a real expression of the workers’ opinion, as the respondents were

tricked by the way the questions were posed in the survey.

For this reason, Chao presented an alternative survey containing seven questions made by the association and distributed via WeChat over three days. According to the association, around 90 percent of the 1,900 respondents were against the plan to revamp smoking lounges.

“I think that the government has faulted on its promise and gave in to pressure made my gaming operators,” said Chloe Chao.

Grace Huang, Chris Cooper

GAMING

Adelson sees Japan as ultimate business opportunity

JAPAN is the ultimate business opportunity for Las Vegas Sands Corp., said its billionaire chairman as he envisions an integrated resort that would attract convention tourism and boast a record number of slot machines.

"Singapore was a warm-up to this," Sheldon Adelson, who's also chief executive officer, said in Tokyo this week. A potential resort in Japan will probably cost at least USD6 billion, similar to Marina Bay Sands in Singapore, and could be as much as \$10 billion, Adelson said in a speech at a CLSA Ltd. conference.

The resort in Japan, which passed a bill to legalize casinos in December, would feature 10,000 slot machines, the 83-year-old gambling tycoon said, the most of the Las Vegas-based operator's properties anywhere, and four times more than in Singapore.

Sands, along with Wynn Resorts Ltd and MGM Resorts International, are among operators that expressed interest in building resorts in Japan. Opening two integrated resorts in major population centers could bring in \$10 billion in revenue, with potential for \$25 billion if they spread across the country, according to CLSA.

Sands's shares are down 2.6

percent in New York trading this year, compared with the 5.7 percent gain in the Standard and Poor's 500 Index. The stock was little changed Tuesday at \$52.04.

Japan has a proven history of embracing wagering with consumers in the country already allowed to bet on boat, bicycle and horse races. Gamers also spent more than 23 trillion yen (\$202 billion) on pachinko in 2015, compared with \$25 billion in the horse-racing industry, according to the Japan Productivity Center. There are more than 10,000 pachinko parlors operating what are effectively ball-bearing-based slot machines that get around legal gambling prohibitions by paying off winners with physical prizes that can then be exchanged for cash at a different location.

"Gaming is part of the fabric of this country," said Jay Defibaugh, a senior analyst at CLSA Securities Japan Co., told reporters in Tokyo. "It certainly is a tremendous opportunity."

Sands, the world's largest casino operator, is eyeing new growth areas even as its main market in Macau recovers from a two-year gambling slump.

“Singapore was a warm-up to this.”

SHELDON ADELSON

A Sands Japan project, similar to the company's integrated resorts worldwide, would see gambling take up less than 5 percent of its floor space, with the rest of the property focused on meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions, known as MICE, Adelson said.

"It's the ultimate of business opportunities," he said. "I can offer an emphasis on the exhibition market. It'll be a wonderful place for MICE and gaming." **Bloomberg**



JAPAN EXPANSION

Ho pledges to spend 'whatever it takes'



Lawrence Ho

Jason Clenfield, Grace Huang

MELCO Crown Entertainment Ltd. has upped the ante against its casino rivals to win the chance to build a casino resort in Japan, declaring there's no limit on how much the company is prepared to invest.

"This opportunity is priceless and we'll spend whatever it takes to win," Chief Executive Officer Lawrence Ho said in a briefing held yesterday at a CLSA Ltd. conference in Tokyo. The

billionaire said the investment amount will depend on the host city, and his top choice for a casino resort is in the city of Osaka, where Melco has done more planning.

Ho's comments followed those of fellow casino tycoon Sheldon Adelson, who declared Japan as the ultimate business opportunity for his Las Vegas Sands (see above). Japan legalized casinos in December, drawing the interest of global gaming operators to a market CLSA predicts

could be worth as much as USD25 billion.

MGM Resorts International Chief Executive Officer James Murren, speaking at the same event, touted the Las Vegas-based operator's size and clout in bringing in entertainers, and said it was hiring more staff to explore gaming options in Japan.

“Osaka ‘really has that fun element’ and fits the profile that Melco is keen on, said Lawrence Ho

Melco's Ho, whose father Stanley Ho is a Macau gaming legend who held the city's casino monopoly for decades, took a dig at the design choices of operators in Las Vegas and in Macau, where four of Melco's properties are located. Those

won't be a good fit for Japan, he said.

"If you put up some of the tacky buildings that you have in Las Vegas or Macau here it would look out of place. Can you imagine the Venetian here?" he said in a speech to investors at the CLSA conference. Sands, the world's biggest gaming operator, has casinos in both cities that are named the Venetian.

Melco shares have gained 5.5 percent this year in New York trading, compared with the 0.5 percent drop in Bloomberg Intelligence's index of Macau gaming stocks.

"It's important we work with government authorities," the 40-year-old Ho said. "Ultimately what makes an integrated resort successful is how we work with communities." Hong Kong-based Melco would ideally want to own a majority stake in any tie-up with local partners, but the company would keep an open mind on the structure, he said.

Similarly, MGM prefers working with Japanese partners rather than have full ownership of a project,

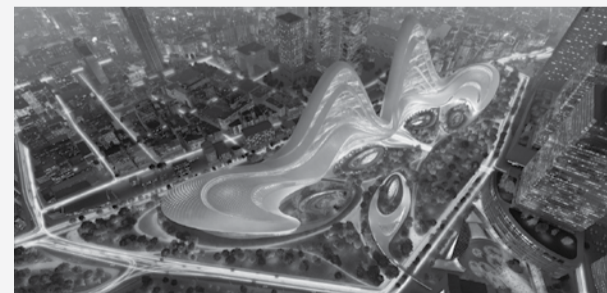
according to Murren.

Osaka "really has that fun element" and fits the entertainment profile that Melco is keen on, said Ho, whose company operates the \$3.2 billion Hollywood-

d-themed Studio City resort that opened in Macau in 2015.

Melco sees its role as helping expand Japan's tourism, Ho said, adding that he's "shocked" that the country attracts only about 20 million tourists a year. That's compared with the 30 million who visit Macau, the Chinese city that's also the world's largest gambling hub. **Bloomberg**

MELCO UNVEILS CONCEPTS FOR JAPAN CASINOS



MELCO CROWN Entertainment yesterday unveiled the "inspiration behind the potential concept" for its integrated resorts bid in Japan, specifically in Umekita and Yumeshima. The designs seek to "thoughtfully and harmoniously reflect the culture and beauty of the [respective cities'] landscapes" according to a senior executive of MCE speaking in Japan yesterday. The

design for Umekita was the creation of the late Dame Zaha Hadid, who embraced simplicity in her work. "Our commitment in Japan is for the long term," said MCE Chief Executive Officer, Lawrence Ho, according to the same statement. "I am confident that MCE's ultimate vision will support the government's aspirations for an integrate resort that is unique to Japan."

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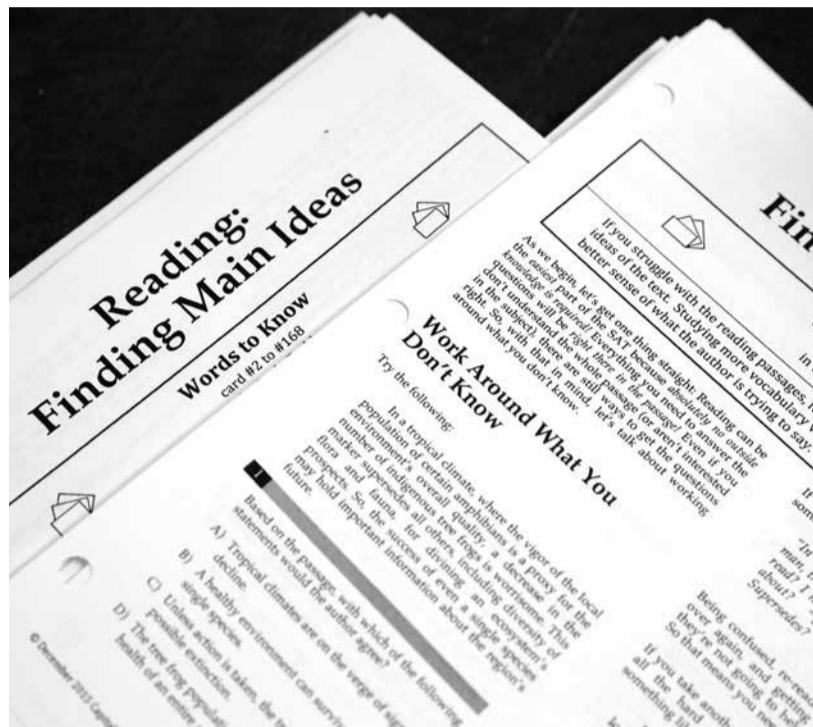
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College Board to boost SAT security globally



Joe Mandak, Pittsburgh

The firm that oversees registrations for the SAT college entrance exam is boosting security around the world following test-stealing and other cheating in recent years.

The College Board told The Associated Press it's reducing the number of international testing dates from six per year to four for the 2017-18 and 2018-19 school years. It says the move will reduce opportunities for test content to be stolen.

The New York-based college entrance exam provider also is taking steps to prevent past cheaters from retaking tests. In addition, it says it will alert law enforcement agencies in the U.S. and abroad of companies and people it suspects of illegally obtaining test content.

Other planned reforms include an increase in audits of test centers worldwide and steps to make it easier for students and educators to anonymously report suspected cheating.

The College Board canceled college entrance exams in China and Macau in January 2016

"We are unwavering in our commitment to SAT test security and we will continue to confront any efforts to undermine it, including the unauthorized disclosure of test ques-

tions and test forms," Peter Schwartz, the College Board's chief administrative officer and general counsel, said in a written statement.

The College Board canceled college entrance exams in China and Macau in January 2016 after determining some students may have obtained copies of the tests. Forty-five testing centers were affected, and similar problems have plagued the test's administration in Asia in recent years, though cheating has occurred elsewhere, too.

In 2015, federal prosecutors in Pittsburgh charged 15 Chinese citizens in a conspiracy to have impostors take the SAT and other college entrance tests in Pennsylvania since 2011.

A former University of Pittsburgh student, Han Tong, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to probation for being the go-between for Chinese students who paid up to \$6,000 to have impostors take the tests for them. All but two of those defendants, who remain in China, have pleaded guilty. Eleven of the 13 convicted have been sentenced by a federal judge in Pittsburgh, and most were deported.

The Educational Testing Service, of Princeton, New Jersey, administers the SAT, the Test of English as a Foreign Language and the GRE graduate school entry exam, which were targeted in the Pittsburgh-based scam.

The College Board, as overseer of registration for the SAT, or Scholastic Aptitude Test, is tasked with ensuring test results are legitimate for each student. **AP**

IPO's 543pct surge halted by Hong Kong regulators on its debut

Benjamin Robertson, Crystal Tse

HONG Kong's securities regulator suspended trading in a company's stock after it rose 543 percent on its public market debut.

Shares of GME Group Holdings Ltd., a tunnel excavating subcontractor, were suspended from 1 p.m. local time yesterday by the Securities and Futures Commission. The shares were trading for the first time on the city's exchange for small companies, called the Growth Enterprise Market.

"This is very surprising," said Ricky Chim, who represents the financial services constituency in the city's election committee, and was speaking about the suspension occurring on the first day of trading. "It has never happened according to my recollection."

GME Group started trading at HKD0.54, and had risen to HKD3.47 by the time of the halt, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. More than 20 million shares changed hands in the morning session, the data show.

The halt comes a month after the regulator and GEM's parent Hong Kong Exchanges & Clearing Ltd. warned listings applicants and their sponsors on the bourse to follow rules that ensure a fair market.

Half of the 10 best first-day gainers in 2015 saw their share prices plunge

by more than 90 percent from their peak within a month, HKEX and the SFC said in a joint statement. Many GEM stocks have highly concentrated shareholdings and a small shareholder base, they said. Several GEM placements, including clothing firm My Heart Bodibra, pulled their listings after the statement.

Yesterday's suspension was issued under a rule that lets the SFC call a halt when it believes that misleading, false or incomplete information has been included in documents and statements. The rule also allows the regulator to order suspensions to maintain an orderly and fair market, or in cases where it thinks the public interest would be served.

A spokesman for the SFC didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. An HKEX spokesman said the company doesn't comment on individual share suspensions. A person at GME who answered the phone but didn't provide their name said the company is "still trying to figure out" the suspension.

Francis Lun, chief executive officer of GEO Securities Ltd., said it was the first time he knew of a stock being suspended on its first day.

"A question is how can the authorities list if they have questions," he said. "They should stop it before it gets listed." **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

NICOLAS SARKOZY APPOINTED TO ACCORHOTELS' BOARD



In order to advance the implementation of AccorHotels' expansion strategy, its Board of Directors has decided to

set up an "International Strategy Committee." This Committee will focus on the development of Ac-

corHotels' network and brand portfolio throughout the world, as well as on the promotion of French tourism.

Accor's Board of Directors has also taken note of the resignation of Nadra Moussalem as director, following Colony Capital's decision to sell its shareholding in Accor.

In Moussalem's place, the board unanimously nominated Nicolas Sarkozy as an independent director for the remainder of Moussalem's term. This decision was made at the close of the shareholder meeting convened to approve the financial statements for 2018.

The former French president will chair the International Strategy Committee, whose missions and members will be further detailed by a forthcoming board meeting.

APPLE HEADQUARTERS TO HAVE THEATER NAMED FOR STEVE JOBS



Apple has announced that its new headquarters will open for employees in the spring and will include a theater named for its late co-founder, Steve Jobs.

Apple says in a news release on its website that the process of moving its 12,000 employees from its old digs in

Cupertino, California, to the new Apple Park nearby will begin in April and will take more than six months to complete.

The 175-acre campus includes a 2.8 million-square-foot main building in the shape of a giant ring. Apple says the

building will run entirely on renewable energy.

The campus will also include a 1,000-seat auditorium called the Steve Jobs Theater. Jobs famously unveiled new Apple products at theater events. He died in 2011 at 56 following a battle with cancer.



Selina Tsang (center), wife of Donald Tsang, is accompanied by her two sons, Simon Tsang Hing-yin (left) and Thomas Tsang Hing-shun, to walk out of the High Court yesterday

HONG KONG

Donald Tsang gets 20 months in jail for misconduct

A former leader of Hong Kong was sentenced yesterday to 20 months in prison for misconduct after failing to disclose plans to rent a luxury apartment for his retirement from a businessman applying for a broadcasting license.

It was a stunning downfall for Donald Tsang, 72, who served as Hong Kong's chief executive, from 2005 to 2012.

He becomes the highest-ranking current or former official sent to prison for wrongdoing in the Asian financial hub, which prides itself on a reputation for clean governance.

"Never in my judicial career have I seen a man fallen from such a height," Justice Andrew Chan said as he handed down the sentence in Hong Kong's High Court. "However, it is not in dispute that the defendant has dedicated himself to public service for the past 40 years."

The judge said he took 10 months off his initial sentence of 30 months because of Tsang's good character and contribution to Hong Kong. The maximum penal-

ty for misconduct is seven years.

Tsang showed little emotion as the sentence was read out in a packed courtroom, the Associated Press reported.

■ The judge took 10 months off [Tsang's] initial sentence of 30 months because of [his] good character and contribution to Hong Kong

Chan noted that among Tsang's major contributions to public service, one that stood out was "his effort in overcoming" the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis. Tsang, who was financial secretary at the time, led the city's successful multi-billion-dollar defense of its curren-

cy peg against speculators.

A jury found Tsang guilty last week of one count of misconduct in public office but not guilty on a second count. His wife, Selina Tsang, told reporters outside court that she and other family members were "disappointed and heartbroken" at the sentence and that they plan to appeal.

It's one of several cases in recent years that have shaken public confidence and raised concerns about cozy ties between Hong Kong's leaders and wealthy tycoons.

Jurors ruled 8-1 that he committed misconduct when he failed to disclose that the penthouse in neighboring Shenzhen in mainland China was owned by a businessman whose company was applying for a digital radio license.

They unanimously cleared him of the second misconduct charge, which alleged he failed to reveal he had nominated for an award an interior designer working on the penthouse's renovations.

The jury couldn't decide on a third charge of accepting an advantage. A retrial is tentatively scheduled for September.

Tsang joined the colonial govern-

ment in 1967, rose to financial secretary under the last British governor and was knighted for his service. The devout Roman Catholic won widespread praise for his stewardship of the economy during the Asian financial crisis, leading a USD15 billion defense of the Hong Kong dollar.

Simon Young, an associate dean of the University of Hong Kong's Faculty of Law, quoted by Bloomberg, said Tsang's prosecution had boosted confidence in the city's anti-corruption efforts. "It sends

quite a strong message to the community and to future leaders and to future politicians that the ICAC can and will look into these matters," Young said.

"Clearly the rule of law prevails and is very much alive and kicking in Hong Kong," said Alan Leong, a former leader of the pro-democracy Civic Party who ran against Tsang in the 2007 chief executive race.

"The takeaway is that those who occupy public office - especially high office - ought to be whiter than white," he told reporters yesterday.

In a separate case, the ICAC is currently investigating whether outgoing Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying failed to disclose a HKD50 million payment from an Australian construction company relating to a business deal before he took office, which he says wasn't covered by disclosure requirements. **MDT/Agencies**



The disgraced former HK leader walks into the High Court, not to come out

HONG KONG

Next chief executive to inherit improving economy



Lisa Pham

HONG Kong's next chief executive will take office with an accelerating economy and a budget that provides scope to cut taxes and boost spending in the face of criticisms over income inequality and Beijing's interventions in local affairs.

The economy is forecast to expand by 2 percent to 3 percent in 2017, faster than the 1.9 percent gain last year, Hong Kong's Financial Secretary Paul Chan told lawmakers yesterday in the annual budget speech. Chan estimated a budget surplus for the current fiscal year at HKD92.8 billion (USD12 billion), with revenue from land sales and stamp duty higher than original forecasts.

A committee of 1,200 business and political elites will be voting next month on who will become the next chief executive, with Carrie Lam widely seen as the frontrunner. The former chief secretary vowed to focus on reviving up the economy and her main rival, former Financial Secretary John Tsang, has also pledged to open the ci-

ty's coffers while trying to bridge political divides.

"Hong Kong's budget strikes a balance between support to an economy that faces both short-term and longer-term headwinds and continuing fiscal prudence," said Marie Diron, associate managing director at Moody's Investors Service based in Singapore. "The cut in salaries tax, profits tax, property rates and the increase in old-age allowance will provide material support to growth this year."

Hong Kong's retailers have seen sales fall for another year with fewer Chinese tourists shopping in the city. To help spur tourism, the government plans to waive license fees for a year for 1,800 travel agents, more than 2,000 hotels and guesthouses as well as 27,000 restaurants and hawkers.

Other key measures from the budget include:

Reducing taxes on wage earners by up to HKD20,000 for this fiscal year ended March, cutting revenue by HKD16.4 billion. Cutting taxes that companies pay on profits by up to HKD20,000 for this fiscal year ended

March, lowering revenue by another HKD1.9 billion. Waiving property rates by up to HKD1,000 per quarter for each property in the 2017-18 fiscal year, reducing revenue by HKD10.9 billion. Providing higher monthly allowances to senior citizens in need and loosening eligibility requirements. The government estimates 500,000 elderly persons will each receive about HKD10,000 to HKD30,000 more a year. Increasing capital works expenditure to HKD86.8 billion in 2017-18, allowing the construction industry to contribute 4.7 percent to gross domestic product.

"With the Chinese economy stabilizing, the economic outlook for Hong Kong seems to be faring better, however, global risks such as Trump's protectionism and Fed interest-rate hikes will cloud the market," said Raymond Yeung, Australia & New Zealand Banking Group Ltd.'s chief economist for greater China based in Hong Kong. "A more proactive stance on infrastructure projects should help improve the city's long-term competitiveness." **Bloomberg**

THE GREAT KICK FORWARD

China plans for 50,000 football academies by 2025



Players on a team from Yanbian, China, line up before a match against a team from Myanmar in a youth soccer tournament in Qinhuangdao in Hebei Province last August

CHINA plans to have 50,000 football academies by 2025 as part of an ambitious blueprint to grow into a soccer superpower.

The announcement, made by China's football association Vice President Wang Dengfeng, more than doubles the earlier target of 20,000 academies by 2020.

China has only qualified for one World Cup and Xi Jinping has made boosting football fortunes a national priority

Wang was quoted by state media yesterday as saying that each school would be able to train 1,000 young players on average, fulfilling the goal laid out in a plan announced last April of having 50 million competent players.

"This is a solid way to select football talent for our future reserves. Improving Chinese football is no

longer just a dream," Wang was quoted as saying on the website of the ruling Communist Party mouthpiece People's Daily.

China's men have only qualified for one World Cup and President Xi Jinping has made boosting China's football fortunes a national priority. Plans call for again qualifying for the sport's marquee event, hosting it and winning the title by 2050.

To that end, China last year signed Brazil's World Cup-winning manager Marcello Lippi to take over the national men's team. The government has also ordered the creation of 70,000 football fields to fill gaps in its youth program.

Teams in China's professional leagues, meanwhile, have recruited international stars such as Alex Teixeira and Jackson Martinez on highly paid contracts, raising concerns that they are neglecting home-grown talent.

In response, China's football association last month said it plans a series of measures in response to "irrational" spending by clubs. It also reduced the number of foreigners who can play per club at any given time from four to three and required that each team's starting list must include at least two Chinese players under age 23. **AP**

Xinjiang authorities offer big rewards for terror tips

AUTHORITIES in China's far western Xinjiang region are offering rewards of up to USD730,000 for terror-related tips as they ramp up security measures in the restive area.

A government memo published by state media shows that Hotan prefecture, the site of a knife attack this month, has allocated \$15 million to "reward and mobilize the masses" to fight terrorism. Eight people, including three assailants, died in

the attack.

Tipsters are eligible to claim up to \$730,000 for reporting planned attacks or identifying people who swear allegiance to jihad or organize illegal cross-border activities.

Xinjiang officials have sharply increased surveillance, street searches and police patrols in recent years amid bombings, vehicle and knife attacks blamed on separatist militants from the native ethnic Uighur minority.

CAMBODIA

Khmer Rouge tribunal drops case vs lower-ranking suspect

Sopheng Cheang, Phnom Penh

CAMBODIA'S Khmer Rouge tribunal announced yesterday that it has dropped crimes against humanity charges against a former lower-ranking Khmer Rouge official, saying she was not high enough in the regime's leadership hierarchy.

Prosecutors in 2015 had charged Im Chaem, a district chief during the Khmer Rouge's 1975-79 reign, with crimes against humanity including murder, extermination and enslavement.

An announcement by the U.N.-assisted tribunal said the investigating judges had dropped all charges in the case against Im Chaem, now in her early 70s, because she was neither a senior leader of the Khmer Rouge nor one of the most responsible officials.

The brutal policies of the Khmer Rouge are blamed for the deaths of 1.7 million Cam-



Cambodian human rights activist Am Sam Ath (center) of the Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights (LICADHO)

bodians from execution, starvation and inadequate medical care.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen has long insisted that the tribunal's targets should

not be expanded beyond the Khmer Rouge's top leaders, threatening to otherwise shut down the tribunal. He has repeatedly said that if the tribunal targets more defendants,

it could incite former Khmer Rouge members to start a civil war. Few people share his belief, since the Khmer Rouge became a spent force two decades ago.

Hun Sen himself was a mid-level commander with the Khmer Rouge before defecting while the group was still in power, and several senior members of his ruling Cambodian People's Party share similar backgrounds. He helped cement his political control by making alliances with other former Khmer Rouge commanders.

The tribunal prosecutors had to charge Im Chaem in absentia, because Cambodian police refused to take her into detention.

Several cases against middle-ranking Khmer Rouge members are still pending.

The tribunal has already convicted two high-ranking Khmer Rouge leaders, Khieu Samphan, the 85-year-old Khmer Rouge head of state, and Nuon Chea, the 90-year-old right-hand man to the communist group's late top leader, Pol Pot. Also convicted was the head of its prison system, who ran a torture center in Phnom Penh.

As a district chief in the northwestern province of Banteay Meanchey, Im Chaem allegedly ran a forced labor camp to construct an irrigation project, and in that position allegedly was responsible for the deaths of possibly thousands of laborers. **AP**

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David Warren, Rod McGuirk
Dallas

AUSTRALIA

Pilot radioed in 'Mayday' call before Australian plane crash

A pilot repeatedly yelled out "Mayday" but did not say what the emergency was before his light plane crashed into the roof of an Australian shopping mall, killing himself and four American tourists, an accident investigator said yesterday.

Police blamed "catastrophic engine failure" when a twin-engine Beechcraft B200 Super King Air crashed into the Direct Factory Outlet mall in the Melbourne suburb of Essendon on Tuesday moments after takeoff from a nearby runway.

But Australian Transport Safety Bureau chief commissioner Greg Hood said modern twin-engine aircraft are designed to continue flying if an engine failed.

"My understanding is he only used the word 'Mayday' a number of times," Hood told reporters, referring to radio communication from pilot Max Quartermain to air traffic controllers.

"My understanding is he didn't refer to the specific nature of the emergency," Hood said.

Quartermain was the 63-year-old owner of the charter company Corporate and Leisure Travel.

The passengers were identified as Greg Reynolds De Haven, Russell Munsch, Glenn Garland and John Howard Washburn, who all lived in the Austin, Texas, area.

Quartermain was investigated by the Australian Transport Safety Bureau after a near mid-air collision that happened in September 2015.

Because of that incident, the



AP PHOTO

Civil Aviation Safety Authority, the industry regulatory, required Quartermain to undergo proficiency tests to demonstrate he could fly a plane by instruments alone, authority spokesman Peter Gibson said. Quartermain passed those tests weeks after the near-miss, Gibson said.

Hood said he would not comment on Quartermain or his flying record. He added his flying record as well as the plane's maintenance record would be part of the crash investigation. Australian Transport Safety Bureau investigators are to compile a preliminary report within 28 days.

The bodies were removed from the wreckage on Tuesday, said Police Superintendent Mick Frewen.

The busy shopping mall had yet to open for the day when the plane crashed after taking off from Melbourne's second-biggest airport at Essendon for a golfing trip to King Island, 255 kilometers (160 miles) to the south.

De Haven's sister, Denelle Wicht of Alexandria, Minnesota, said her brother survived dangerous work in the FBI and while serving in the U.S. Army during Vietnam only to die while enjoying retirement.

"He managed to get through all of that, to die this way," Wicht told The Associated Press.

She said the 70-year-old De Haven was "extremely athletic" and at one time aspired to become a pro golfer, but his young family at the time came first. After he

retired, De Haven went on the senior pro golf circuit.

De Haven and his wife were part of a larger group that included at least two other couples who were touring Australia over the course of three weeks and intended to also see New Zealand, Wicht said.

She earlier told KXAN-TV in Austin that the men had chartered the flight for a round of golf on an offshore island. Their wives had stayed behind to pursue other interests.

Munsch was a founding partner in the Texas law firm of Munsch Hardt, which said in a statement Tuesday that he litigated some of the most prominent bankruptcy cases in the U.S., including the 2001 bankruptcy proceedings for

Houston-based Enron Corp., one of the largest energy companies in the world before its collapse. He would have turned 62 yesterday.

"He could take something that's exceedingly complicated and boil it down and present it in a very simple way in court that was easy to understand," Rick Kopf, another founding partner of the firm, told the AP.

Munsch's neighbor, Washburn, was also a victim, his son, John Howard "Jay" Washburn Jr. said.

Meanwhile, an energy consulting firm in Austin confirmed that Garland, a former CEO and co-founder of the company, was also a victim in the crash. Garland was one of the founders in 2003 of CLEAResult and served as chief executive before retiring in 2015.

In a statement Tuesday, CLEAResult co-founder Jim Stimmel described Garland as a "visionary" when it came to finding efficiencies in producing and providing energy.

White House spokesman Sean Spicer said at a briefing Tuesday that President Donald Trump's "thoughts and prayers are with the families of the victims" and that U.S. Embassy and Consulate officials will provide assistance as the investigation progresses. AP

Netanyahu is first Israeli prime minister to visit Australia

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday praised Australia for being "courageously willing to puncture U.N. hypocrisy" on anti-Israel resolutions.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull marked the first visit to Australia by a serving Israeli leader by writing an opinion piece in yesterday's The Australian newspaper that backed Netanyahu's criticism in 2015 that the United Nations General Assembly had adopted 20 resolutions critical of Israel in the preceding year and only one in response to the Syrian war.

"My government will not support one-sided resolutions criticizing Israel of the kind recently adopted by the U.N. Security Council and we deplore the boycott campaigns designed

to delegitimize the Jewish state," Turnbull wrote, referring to the Dec. 23 resolution condemning Israeli settlements in the West Bank and east Jerusalem as a "flagrant violation" of international law.

The United States abstained from that vote and Australia, while not a member of the security council, was one of the few countries to publicly support Israel's position.

Netanyahu said he was delighted to read the article at the start of his four-day Australian visit.

"Australia has been courageously willing to puncture U.N. hypocrisy more than once, including this absurd resolution that said the Western wall, the most sacred site for the Jewish people for thousands of years — thousands of years even before

the rise of Islam — that this is occupied Palestinian territory," Netanyahu told reporters.

"So the U.N. is capable of many absurdities and I think it's important that you have straightforward and clear-eyed countries like Australia that often bring it back to Earth," he said.

Turnbull reiterated his support for a two-state solution to resolve the Palestinian conflict and described Australia as a committed and consistent friend of Israel.

"I agree with you in that the circumstances of the times [...] do appear to create the opportunity where perhaps the moons aligning such that this could be a good time [...] for the parties to come back to the table and reach an agreement, but, of course,

as with any agreement, it needs two to tango," Turnbull told Netanyahu.

Netanyahu dismissed calls from critics of Israeli West bank settlements, including former Australian Prime Ministers Kevin Rudd and Bob Hawke, for Australia to formally recognize Palestine as a state.

"I ask both former prime ministers to ask a simple question: What kind of state will it be that they are advocating? A state that calls for Israel's destruction? A state whose territory will be used immediately for radical Islam?" Netanyahu said.

Netanyahu and Turnbull signed agreements on technology and air services as well as discussed expanding co-operation in areas, including cybersecurity, innovation and science. AP



AP PHOTO

David Rising, Dohuk

IT'S been less than two weeks since Perwin Ali Baku escaped the Islamic State group, after more than two years in captivity, bought and sold from fighter to fighter and carted from Iraq to Syria and then back again.

When a door slams, the 23-year-old Yazidi woman flashes back to her captors locking away her 3-year-old daughter, captured with her, to torment her. When she hears a loud voice, she cringes at the thought of them barking orders.

"I don't feel right," she said, sitting on a mattress on the floor of her father-in-law's small canvas-topped Quonset hut in a northern Iraq refugee camp. "I still can't sleep and my body is tense all the time."

Perwin wants treatment, and is hoping to find it in a new psychological trauma institute being established at the university of Dohuk, the first in the entire region.

It's the next phase of an ambitious project funded by the wealthy German state of Baden Wuerttemberg that brought 1,100 women who had escaped Islamic State captivity, primarily Yazidis, to Germany for psychological treatment. The medical head of that project, German psychologist Jan Kizilhan, is also the driving force behind the new institute, which opens at the end of the month.

The program will train local mental health professionals to treat people like Perwin and thousands of Yazidi women, children and other Islamic State victims. About 1,900 Yazidis have escaped the clutches of IS, but more than 3,000 other women and children are believed to still be held captive, pressed into sexual slavery and subjected to horrific abuse. As the fighting rages between Iraqi forces and IS in Mosul, only about 75 kilometers from Dohuk, the number reaching freedom increases daily.

Right now there are only 26 psychiatrists practicing in the semi-autonomous Kurdish region of northern Iraq, with a population of 5.5 million people and more than 1.5 million refugees and internally displaced people. None specializes in treating trauma.

Perwin received brief, basic counseling after being freed Dec. 30 from IS near Mosul — "they asked do you sleep well and I said no, I can't sleep well" — but nothing else. She looks to her toddler, dressed in a red sweatsuit with her hair in pigtails held together with cherry bobbles, who popped into the tent only to beat a hasty retreat when she saw strangers.

The child has received no



39-year-old Gorwe stands inside the tent she shares with family members at the Sharya camp for civilians displaced by war in Iraq

IRAQ

New hope for Yazidi women raped and tortured by IS fighters

treatment at all.

"She's always scared," Perwin said. "And she's had nothing more than cough medicine."

Fighters from the Islamic State, also known as Daesh, swept into the Sinjar region of northern Iraq in August 2014, an area near the Syrian border that is the Yazidis' ancestral home.

Tens of thousands of Yazidis escaped to Mount Sinjar, where they were surrounded and besieged by Islamic State militants. The U.S., Iraq, Britain, France and Australia flew in water and other supplies, until Kurdish fighters eventually opened a corridor to allow them to safety.

Casualty estimates vary widely, but the United Nations has called the Islamic State assault genocide, saying the Yazidis' "400,000-strong community had all been displaced, captured or killed." Of the thousands captured by IS, boys were forced to fight for the extremists, men were executed if they didn't convert to Islam — and often executed in any case — and women and girls were sold into slavery.

Those lucky enough to escape are left with deep psychological scars and, Kizilhan, a trauma specialist and also a university professor and Mideast expert, has been working tirelessly to help them find support.

■ The program will train local mental health professionals to treat thousands of Yazidi women, children and other Islamic State victims

"We are talking about general trauma, we are talking about collective trauma and we are talking about genocide," said Kizilhan, who is of Yazidi background and immigrated to Germany at age 6. "That's the reason we have to

help if we can — it's our human duty to help them."

The new Institute of Psychotherapy and Psychotraumatology at Dohuk University, in cooperation with Germany's University of Tuebingen, will train 30 new professionals over three years. The hope is to extend the program to other regional universities, so that after 10 years there could be more than 1,000 psychotherapists in the region.

The first class is made up of 17 women and 13 men, Muslims, Christians and Yazidis, with backgrounds in psychology, nursing, social work and teaching.

Galavej Jaafar Moheemad, a Kurdish native of Dohuk who was chosen for the inaugural class, already has some psychological training but said she wants more.

"Iraq has moved from one war to another war, but this time is the worst that has ever happened to humans — that's why I want to help," the 45-year-old said. "Even for the women who have come back from Daesh, Daesh has taken their kids, their husbands — they're free but they

don't feel free."

In the Sharya camp, one of about two dozen sprawling facilities for internally displaced people in the Dohuk area, 39-year-old Gorwe has just been visited by two sisters-in-law who are receiving treatment in Kizilhan's program in Germany. Psychological treatment has helped them, but she said it "is no use" for her.

"No matter how many doctors I see, I'll still have the same pain inside me," said Gorwe, who asked that her last name not be used out of fear that the Islamic State would harm her relatives still in captivity.

Twenty-four of her family members were taken by the Islamic State, including herself, and only 14 — all women and children — have returned. The fate of the other 10, including her husband and four of her children, are unknown.

"I will never forget what happened to us as they were selling us and buying us and beating us, I think about it all the time," she said. "How could you forget?" AP

USA

Former white supremacists help others leave hate groups

THE Celtic cross tattoo on Shannon Martinez's leg gives away her past.

A victim of sexual assault at age 14 and never quite able to meet her parents' expectations, Martinez sought out other angry teens. By 16, she was a skinhead spouting white supremacist rhetoric, giving stiff-armed Nazi salutes and tagging public property with swastikas. She favored racist fashion statements — like the symbol on her right calf.

Fortified by the love of an adopted family, Martinez left the skinheads behind. Today she's helping others do the same as part of an emerging U.S. movement that helps people quit hate organizations.

Modeled loosely upon organizations that formed in Europe years ago to combat extremism, groups and individuals are offering counseling, education and understanding to extremists seeking a way out.

Now a 42-year-old mom who homeschools her kids at their house in Georgia, Martinez vol-

unteers with Life After Hate, a leading organization dedicated to helping people leave white supremacy. On Facebook, she shares her story with others who've left or are looking to leave extremism.

"We act as a group of people who understand each other," said former skinhead Christian Picciolini, an old friend of Martinez who founded the Chicago-based Life After Hate. "We understand the motivations of where we came from and why we joined. We understand what keeps people in. And we help each other detach and disengage from that ideology and provide a support system for them as they go through that transformation."

Founded in 2009, Life After Hate was awarded a USD400,000 Justice Department grant in the closing days of the Obama administration — funding that could be endangered if the Trump administration decides to refocus a federal program combatting violent extremism solely on Islamic radicals, as is being considered.



Former skinhead Shannon Martinez talks about her time as a white supremacist during an interview at her home in Athens, Georgia

While several other grant recipients are dedicated to countering radical Muslim ideology, Life After Hate concentrates specifically on showing white extremists there's another way.

The group operates a website where people who want to explore leaving white extremism can submit contact information. It also conducts educational and counseling programs including the Facebook group where members sometimes chat with extre-

mists trying to change their lives, Picciolini said.

"I started the organization ... because it was so difficult to leave that movement," he said. "Even though I'd abandoned the ideology, I wasn't ready to give up my community and my power and my identity, and I knew how hard it would be for other people to leave this type of ideology or this type of movement."

Another group, One People's Project, was started by Daryle

Lamont Jenkins of Philadelphia. Aside from monitoring racist groups, Jenkins — who is black — confronts white nationalists at public gatherings and talks one-on-one with willing white supremacists as he can, trying to show them there is a way other than hate. Some have never met a black person, he said.

Jenkins' work is similar to that of Daryl Davis, a black musician from Maryland who has gained notice for trying to talk people out of the Ku Klux Klan.

Mark Potok, a senior fellow with the liberal Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Alabama, said it's hard to determine exact numbers, but around 100,000 people might be members in hate groups and several hundred thousand could be linked informally.

Potok said exit organizations began in Europe in the 1980s to counter the rise right-wing militants there.

"I do think that this is a particularly important moment for this kind of exit work to be happening because we have seen in the last year, year and a half, a real legitimization of these views," he said.

President Donald Trump's election with the support of neo-Nazis and the Ku Klux Klan has lent a new sense of urgency to opponents of white supremacy.

"The Trump election has absolutely lit a fire under the butts of the white nationalists," Martinez said. "It is like, 'Our time is coming.'" AP

Amnesty blames Trump, others in global rollback of rights



Trump



Erdogan



Orban



Duterte

AMNESTY International says "toxic" fear-mongering by anti-establishment politicians, among them President Donald Trump and the leaders of Turkey, Hungary and the Philippines, is contributing to a global pushback against human rights.

Releasing its 408-page annual report on rights abuses around the world yesterday, the watchdog group described 2016 as "the year when the cynical use of 'us vs. them'

narratives of blame, hate and fear took on a global prominence to a level not seen since the 1930s," when Adolf Hitler rose to power in Germany.

Amnesty named Trump, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte among leaders it said are "wielding a toxic agenda that hounds, scapegoats and dehumanizes entire groups of people."

"Poisonous" rhetoric

employed by Trump in his election campaign exemplified "the global trend of angrier and more divisive politics," Amnesty said.

"The limits of what is acceptable have shifted. Politicians are shamelessly and actively legitimizing all sorts of hateful rhetoric and policies based on people's identity: misogyny, racism and homophobia. The first target has been refugees and, if this continues in 2017, others will be in the cross-

shairs."

The White House did not respond to a request for comment on the report.

In the Philippines, Duterte's spokesman, Ernesto Abella, said the president has recently toned down his rhetoric. Duterte has previously said he would be "happy to slaughter" 3 million drug addicts and talked of fattening fish in Manila Bay with corpses. Duterte's crackdown on illegal drugs is feared to have killed more than 7,000 mostly

poor drug users and petty drug pushers since he took office last June.

Abella told the ABCBN TV network that Duterte "does listen and he's not just frothing in the mouth."

"There is anger coming there, but to refer to it as toxic as if it was a planned thing ... that he wanted to destroy people, I think obviously misses the mark," Abella said.

Amnesty's annual report, "The State of the World's Human Rights," documented what it called "grave violations of human rights" in 159 countries in 2016.

It said governments "turned a blind eye to war crimes, pushed through deals that undermine the right to claim asylum, passed laws that violate free expression, incited murder of people simply because they are accused of using drugs, justified torture and mass surveillance, and extended draconian police powers."

The report added that "the big question in 2017 will be how far the world lets atrocities go before doing something about

them."

Exceptionally, London-based Amnesty chose to launch its report in Paris.

Salil Shetty, the group's secretary-general, said France has used emergency powers introduced in 2015 in the wake of terror attacks in an abusive and "deeply discriminatory" manner, confining more than 600 people, mostly Muslims, under house arrest and banning more than 140 protests.

"Even states that once claimed to champion rights abroad are now too busy rolling back human rights at home to hold others to account," Amnesty said. "The more countries backtrack on fundamental human rights commitments, the more we risk a domino effect of leaders emboldened to knock back established human rights protections."

France's government has repeatedly defended the emergency powers as a necessary safeguard against the severe terror threat it says is facing the country, and parliament has repeatedly voted to extend those powers. AP

what's ON



ARTISTIC CRAFTSMANSHIP OF OUR ANCESTORS - EXHIBITION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RELICS OF TAIPA AND COLOANE
TIME: 10am-6am daily (Last admission at 5:30pm, closed on Mondays)
ADDRESS: Rua Correia da Silva, Taipa
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

TRANSCIENCE: DAREDEVILS AND TOWERING WEBS
TIME: 12pm-8pm (Closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: March 31, 2017
VENUE: Taipa Village Art Space, 10 Rua dos Clerigos, Taipa
Admission: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2857 6118

THE STAMP FESTIVAL
TIME: 9am-5:30pm (no admission after 5:00 pm), closed on public holidays
UNTIL: April 7, 2017
VENUE: Communication Museum of Macau / Estrada D. Maria II, No. 7
ADMISSION: MOP10
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2871 8063 / 2871 8570

PHOTOGRAPHS OF OLD TEMPLES IN MACAU
TIME: 10am-7pm (Last admission at 6:30pm, closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: July 16, 2017
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE
MUSEUM ADMISSION: MOP5 (Free on Sundays and public holidays)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

THE VOICE OF DESIGN - WORKS EXHIBITION BY STUDENTS AND TEACHERS OF THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN DESIGN OF MACAU POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
TIME: 11am-10pm
UNTIL: April 15, 2017
VENUE: IFT Café, Anim'Arte NAM VAN
ADMISSION: Free

BETWEEN GAZE AND HALLUCINATION - BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOÃO MIGUEL BARROS
TIME: 2pm-7pm (Closed on Sundays)
UNTIL: March 25, 2017
VENUE: Creative Macau, G Floor, Macao Cultural Centre, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 3282

Offbeat

MICHELIN GUIDE MISGUIDED AS LOCAL CAFE GETS STAR IN ERROR



It's a case of culinary mistaken identity. The Michelin Guide has accidentally awarded one of its coveted stars to a lowly local cafe that shares its name with a gastronomic restaurant 150 kilometers away. In the annual restaurant list unveiled Feb. 9, the publishers confused "Le Bouche a Oreilles" in Bourges, central France, which serves up burgers and fries, with "Le Bouche a Oreille" in Bou-tervilliers that boasts an award-winning chef. Calling it "impossible," cafe owner Veronique Jacquet said she laughed when the local radio called her to break the news. Jacquet, who seemed to be enjoying her 15 minutes of fame, said humbly she has "a small brasserie open from Monday to Friday, serving workers, so nothing to do with a gourmet restaurant."

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
16:00	Champions League: Porto - Juventus (Repeated)
17:40	Criminal Minds S.8
18:20	Labirint (Repeated)
19:10	Non-Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Talk Show
21:30	Castle S6
22:10	Labirint
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Highlights
23:50	Miscellaneous
00:20	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:55	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

23 FEB -1 MAR

THE SPACE BETWEEN US

ROOM 1

2:30, 4:45, 9:30pm

Director: Peter Chelsom

Starring: Gary Oldman, Asa Butterfield, Brit Robertson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 98min

LA LA LAND

ROOM 1

7:15pm

Director: Damien Chazelle

Starring: Ryan Gosling, Emma Stone

Language: English

Duration: 128min



MANCHESTER BY THE SEA

ROOM 2

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

Director: Kenneth Lonergan

Starring: Casey Affleck, Michelle Williams, Kyle Chandler

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 137min

JOHN WICK: CHAPTER TWO

ROOM 2

9:15pm

Director: Chad Stahelski

Starring: Keanu Reeves, Ian McShane, Ruby Rose

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 137min

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

KANCOLLE THE MOVIE

ROOM 3

5:15pm

Director: Keizô Kusakawa

Language: Japanese (Chinese)

Duration: 91min

RESIDENT EVIL: FINAL CHAPTER

ROOM 3

7:45pm

Director: Paul W. S. Anderson

Starring: Milla Jovovich, Ali Larter, Shawn Roberts,

Language: English

Duration: 120min

MACAU TOWER

23 FEB - 1 MAR

THE SPACE BETWEEN US

ROOM 1

2:30, 4:45, 7:17, 9:30pm

Director: Peter Chelsom

Starring: Gary Oldman, Asa Butterfield, Brit Robertson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 98min

this day in history



Antonio Tejero Molina

1981 REBEL ARMY SEIZES CONTROL IN SPAIN

Spain is in a state of political confusion after an attempted right-wing coup.

This evening about 200 soldiers and members of the paramilitary Civil Guard stormed the lower house of the Spanish Parliament, the Cortes, firing automatic weapons and shouting orders.

They took hostage about 350 MPs debating a new government.

The group - led by Lieutenant Colonel Antonio Tejero Molina, an officer of the Civil Guard - told all those present to lie down. Lt Col Tejero then called on the King to make an announcement.

All streets around the building have been sealed off. The coup plot originated in Valencia, in eastern Spain, under the command of Lieutenant General Jaime Milan del Bosch.

A supporter of the late dictator General Franco, the former commander of the elite Brunete Armoured Division near Madrid was recently transferred because of his opposition to the new political order and was suspected of plotting against it.

The general has declared a state of emergency and ordered tanks onto the streets of Valencia.

In Madrid the rebel army took over the radio and TV stations for 90 minutes. They dispersed when riot police arrived on the scene.

The King meanwhile has called on the civil service to take on the role of parliament based at Zarzuela Palace.

The joint chiefs-of-staff issued a communiqué saying all measures had been taken to put down the rebellion and restore order.

Despite these reassurances Spaniards are now wondering how long their five-year democracy can last.

Although Spain's transition from dictatorship to democracy has been fairly smooth - until now - there have been rumblings of discontent among the right.

A few weeks ago Spain's first democratically elected prime minister Adolfo Suarez resigned.

It is believed he was under pressure by the right wing of his Democratic Centre Union party and the armed forces about concessions made to separatists in Catalonia and the Basque regions.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Early the following day, King Juan Carlos appeared on national TV to tell the people he had ordered the armed forces to take all necessary measures to put down the coup.

The rebel forces and their leaders surrendered and released their captives 22 hours after the siege of the Cortes had started.

The revolt was further damaged by the coup generals' failure to drum up support from other army units around the country.

One more plot was foiled when a group of colonels was discovered planning to seize power on the eve of the October 1982 general election.

The Spanish government was involved in a long-running campaign against the violence of the Basque separatist group Eta.

The group declared a permanent ceasefire on 22 March 2006.

But in December 2006 a bomb went off at Madrid's airport leaving two people missing, presumed dead. Eta was blamed for the attack.

In January 2007, the Spanish Government declared the peace process "broken, liquidated, finished".

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You've been very good up to this point, so don't be surprised if Santa makes a special off-season trip, just to visit you.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Go out of your way to do something new, even in the smallest way. Take a different way to the office kitchen (who knew that there was a cute new hire in the east corner?) or go somewhere different for lunch.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 That the person you've been dreaming of sharing this kind of day with is either ready to join you (and one well-placed comment will convince them) or already in the vicinity, making a mental list of activities. See? The perfect day.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You're not at all willing to give in to all those fantasies - not just yet. It would take at least 15 minutes of extremely concerted efforts to talk you into a romantic weekend at the warm, sunny location of your choice.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 There are only two possible explanations for the mood you're in. One is that you've won the lottery, and you're now preparing to tell off your boss, and anyone who even remotely resembles either of them.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 There's absolutely no doubt that love is in the air. You haven't felt this lighthearted and romantic since ... well, since Valentine's Day. Keeping that in mind, you should know that it's not just you.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 For the second day in a row, you can't seem to control the comments that insist on emerging from your lips, no matter how unlike your usual style - cooperative, compromising and polite, that is - they happen to be.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You're an expert at focus - which some folks might actually call 'obsession' - and you love nothing more than that feeling of concentration. It translates into infatuation in your book, and it's all good.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You much prefer taking every experience to the absolute nth degree, pushing every envelope just as far as it can possibly be pushed, and seeing just how much fun you can actually stand.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You've never been fond of secrets. When they're kept from you, you feel as if you're not in the loop, which just won't do. After all, you wrote the book on that very same loop. It's no better on the other side either.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Okay, so you're not famous for being the type of person who conjures up Hallmark sentiments every time your mouth opens. You have other redeeming qualities - among them, the ability to call a spade a spade.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 It's romantic, it's lovely and it's all about getting together with the one you love, our job, then, is to do what you do best: Plan to make each and every moment just as special as the last.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

Table showing weather conditions for various cities in China and the World, including temperature ranges and conditions like 'clear', 'drizzle', or 'rain'.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Vows; 6- Body of an organism; 10- Manner of walking; 14- Actor Ryan; 15- First son of Adam and Eve; 16- As well as; 17- In spite of; 20- "Wheel of Fortune" buy; 21- Golfer Calvin; 22- Kick Out of You; 23- Unwanted e-mail; 24- Mimic; 25- Superfluous; 32- Cobb, e.g.; 33- Sometimes you feel like...; 34- kwon do; 35- act; 36- Winter drink; 38- Actress Suvari; 39- Lingus (Irish carrier); 40- Bern's river; 41- Composer Copland; 42- Complete change; 46- Take advantage of; 47- Lang Syne; 48- Michelangelo masterpiece; 51- Vixen's master; 53- Haw; 56- Direct; 59- And goes; 60- Llama land; 61- Very cold; 62- Gratitude; 63- Travel on water; 64- Black-wooded tree; DOWN: 1- A Chaplin; 2- Soon; 3- Head of France?; 4- Hem's partner; 5- Slid; 6- Plot; 7- Kiln; 8- Microscopic arachnid; 9- Santa, CA; 10- Doohickey; 11- I cannot tell; 12- She Lovely?; 13- Garment of ancient Rome; 18- Eye drop; 19- Try to bite; 23- Box; 24- Juan's water; 25- More reasonable; 26- Extreme; 27- One on track?; 28- Yoko; 29- Alamogordo's county; 30- Babbled; 31- Bring forth young; 32- Chair; 36- Bistro; 37- Acapulco gold; 38- Female servant; 40- Very, to Verdi; 41- On the loose; 43- Nod involuntarily; 44- Showing courage; 45- Car; 48- Over here; 49- Langston Hughes poem; 50- Actor Estrada; 51- Queens stadium; 52- Longfellow's bell town; 53- Light ring; 54- Brockovich; 55- Whirlpool; 57- Some docs; 58- Spider's creation;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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Steve Douglas, Manchester

FOOTBALL | CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Man City beats Monaco 5-3 in wild game

MANCHESTER City overcame an onslaught from Monaco's prolific attack to score three late goals in 11 minutes for a 5-3 win in a wild Champions League game yesterday.

The highest-scoring first leg in a Champions League knockout match was breathless from start to finish, leaving both coaches to congratulate their teams on producing a Round of 16 game to remember.

"It's something special for football," City manager Pep Guardiola said. "When two teams want to attack and attack, the football is marvelous."

City was on the ropes when Radamel Falcao scored with a glorious chip, his second goal of the game, to put Monaco 3-2 ahead in the 61st minute at Etihad Stadium. At that stage, Monaco — the highest-scoring team in Europe's top leagues — was threatening to score at will and City looked like it was heading out of the competition.

But in a stunning turnaround, Sergio Aguero volleyed in a 71st-minute equalizer for his second goal of the night, John Stones prodded home from a corner in the 77th, and Leroy Sane pushed City further ahead with a tap-in in the 82nd.

"I imagine everyone was happy to witness such a spectacle," said Monaco coach Leonardo Jardim, who was willing to excuse his young team for its late collapse.

Guardiola was keen to stress that the match is far from over. In a damning indictment of his defense, he said City would have to score in the second leg on March 15 to stand any chance of going through.

"If one team can score a thousand-million goals, it's Monaco," Guardiola said. "It's a long time since I saw a



Manchester City's Sergio Aguero (left) celebrates with Leroy Sane after scoring his side's third goal

team attack with such a huge amount of good players."

The night's other last-16 first leg was also a goal feast, with Atletico Madrid winning 4-2 at Bayer Leverkusen as French forwards Antoine Griezmann and Kevin Gameiro overwhelmed German side's defense.

They both scored for Atletico, last season's losing finalist, along with Saul Niguez and Fernando Torres.

Coming into the match, Mo-

naco's players had scored 108 goals in all competitions this season and they put on another attacking show against City after falling behind to Raheem Sterling's goal in the 26th minute.

Falcao, making a successful return to England after disappointing spells on loan at Manchester United and Chelsea, equalized with a diving header after City goalkeeper Willy Caballero's pass from the back was picked off by

Fabinho. Kylian Mbappe, a highly rated 18-year-old winger making his first Champions League start, then exposed more poor defending from City by latching onto Fabinho's free kick and lifting a shot past Caballero.

Guardiola was incensed in his technical area, revealing afterward his frustration at being unable to control a chaotic game.

The visitors, so mobile on the break, had City exactly

where they wanted them and Falcao had a great chance to put Monaco 3-1 ahead when he was fouled by Nicolas Otamendi as he was about to apply a close-range finish. A penalty was awarded, but Caballero made amends for his earlier error by guessing the right way and smothering Falcao's low, weak attempt.

Then it was the Monaco goalkeeper's turn to make a mistake, with Danijel Subasic failing to stop Aguero's low shot and the ball dribbling slowly into the net for City's first equalizer.

That set the tone for a chaotic final half hour, which Jardim said was played at "150 percent speed."

Falcao held off Stones and applied a deft chip over Caballero to restore Monaco's lead, but City came roaring back.

Aguero met an outswinging corner with a sweet volley into the corner and, from another corner, Yaya Toure glanced on Kevin De Bruyne's cross and Stones was at the far post to poke in a volley.

Sane gave City a potentially crucial two-goal cushion when Aguero was set free by De Bruyne, and squared the ball for Sane to virtually walk into an empty net.

City scored five goals from six shots on target and Guardiola promised another open game at Monaco.

"We are going to fly to Monaco to score as many goals as possible," he said.

"You have to live these kinds of situations, be in trouble and become a better team," Guardiola added. "Huge compliment to the players to be there — don't give up and be there. We are still there."

In the other match of the Champions League round, Atletico Madrid beat Bayer Leverkusen in Germany. The quarterfinals are within reach for Atletico Madrid following the 4-2 away victory yesterday. **AP**

Female coach on losing side in Asian Champions League

AFTER the 7-0 rout mercifully ended, Luiz Felipe Scolari walked over and shook hands with counterpart Chan Yuen-ting, then gave her a warm, fatherly pat on the head.

It was a tough night for the 28-year-old coach, but yesterday's Asian Champions League match was historic nonetheless as Chan became the first woman to lead a professional men's soccer team in a

continental competition.

Chan was making her debut in the tournament with Hong Kong champion Eastern SC while Scolari, who led Brazil to the 2002 World Cup title, took over at Chinese club Guangzhou Evergrande in 2015 and led them to the Asian Champions League title that same year.

Eastern got into trouble early yesterday, and then things got worse.

Wong Tsz-Ho was sent

off for handball in the third minute and Wong Chi-chung was given a red card in the 34th, forcing Eastern to play most of the Group G match with only nine men.

Wang Shangyan and Liao Lisheng scored two goals each for the two-time champions, while Ricardo Goulart, Alan and Paulinho added the others.

In South Korea, former Chelsea midfielder Rami-

res scored a late goal to give Chinese club Jiangsu Suning a 1-0 win at Jeju United, while Japanese team Kawasaki Frontale drew 1-1 with Suwon Bluewings.

Also yesterday, Gamba Osaka defeated Adelaide United 3-0 to end a poor week for Australian clubs in the competition.

In three matches played in Australia this week, the home teams failed to score a goal. **AP**



Eastern FC head coach Chan Yuen-ting (center)

opinion

Made in Macao
Jenny Lao-Phillips



CELEBRATION OF LANGUAGES

A friend reminded me on Tuesday that February 21 was International Mother Language Day, which began in 1999 as a day to celebrate the use of each individual's mother tongue and promote peace amongst people of different languages. This got me thinking about the origin and the meaning of having different languages. They are, on the one hand, a tool for human beings to communicate, to express thoughts and on the other hand, a source of difference among people.

Remember the story of the Tower of Babel? A united community of human beings, all speaking the same language, decided to build a tower as high as heaven. As punishment for their hubris, God struck the people down by making them unable to understand each other. Here, what stopped our ancestors from continuing with their outrageous ambition was not just the fact they could no longer speak the same language, but the fact that they did not understand each other anymore.

I imagine the shock each of those people at Babel felt when suddenly they did not know what each other were saying. That alone could have stopped the building of the tower for some time. However, if they were so keen on building the tower together, couldn't they have continued to do so? The plan should have been made known to all before they started building; why couldn't they continue with their work in silence?

I believe it was not the inability to understand each other that impeded the construction, it was the beginning of the "us and them" duality that destroyed the solidarity needed to move towards a common end. Those that found out they could understand each other would of course stick together, and soon groups were formed.

Perhaps they still did try to continue their work, but the frustration of trying to make a foreign language understood among other groups and the suspicion aroused from wondering what other groups were discussing would surely have created tension that would have further divided people.

It was not the lack of a common language that defeated them, but rather the distrust that slowly built between those who could not understand one another. I often imagine if the people building the Tower of Babel had the patience to try to understand each other, they may have been able to create a lingua franca again, and we would have a Tower of Babel today. Instead, human beings were beaten not with anything as dramatic as flood or fire, but a simple language barrier.

Many will agree that language is a beautiful thing, it turns thoughts and feelings into words, turns what is in our minds into sounds that can be heard by others. But language is also a dangerous thing that often causes division, for only those who can understand the sounds we make can understand us. Even for people who speak the same language, it can be used to express care and share hope that brings people closer, or it can be used as swords or bullets that fire at each other. So, I say, language itself is neither beautiful nor dangerous, it depends what we use it for. And different mother tongues can one day unite everyone.

As people spoke in groups of different languages during the time of Babel, I imagine those groups spread out and developed their own history and culture and after thousands of years we did not know each other anymore. We forgot that once we all spoke the same language and planned to build a tower together that could reach heaven. Still, we hold the hope that one day when all the mother tongues in the world are put together, we can create a new universal mother language, rooted in all, and built upon all languages.

THE SWISS FIRM SAYS SOUTH KOREAN EXEC MADE OFF WITH MILLIONS

Swiss engineering company ABB says that an executive at its South Korean unit is suspected of leading a "sophisticated criminal scheme" to steal millions of dollars from the company. The scandal could cost it as much as USD100 million. The Zurich-based company says in a statement that the treasurer of the subsidiary, who went missing on Feb. 7, "is suspected of forging documentation and colluding with third parties to

steal from the company." ABB said it launched an investigation in cooperation with South Korean authorities and Interpol, the international police body. It has confirmed that the "situation" is limited to South Korea. South Korean police confirmed the suspect's identity as ABB Korea's vice president, surnamed Oh. ABB documents show it has an executive in South Korea named Oh Myung-se.

Life expectancy to keep rising; South Korean women could hit 91

Maria Cheng, London

WHILE most people born in rich countries will live longer by 2030 — with women in South Korea projected to reach nearly 91 — Americans will continue to have one of the lowest life expectancies of any developed country, a new study predicts.

Scientists once thought an average life expectancy beyond 90 was impossible but medical advances combined with improved social programs are continuing to break barriers, including in countries where many people already live well into old age, according to the study's lead researcher, Majid Ezzati of Imperial College London.

"I can imagine that there is a limit, but we are still very far from it," he said.

Ezzati estimated that people would eventually survive on average to at least 110 or 120 years. The longevity of South Korean women estimated in 2030 is due largely to investments in universal health care, he said. South Korea also led the list for men.

"It's basically the opposite of what we're doing in the West, where there's a lot of austerity and inequality," he said.

Ezzati and his co-authors used death and longevity trends to estimate life expectancy in 35 developed coun-



South Korean students wearing traditional costumes perform during a graduation ceremony in Seoul

tries. The calculation is for a baby born in 2030. The study was published online Tuesday in the journal *Lancet*.

Women were ahead of men in all countries. Behind South Korea, women in France, Japan, Spain and Switzerland were projected to live until 88. For South Korea men, life expectancy is expected to reach 84. Next were Australia, Switzerland, Canada and the Netherlands at nearly 84.

At the bottom of the list: Macedonia for women at nearly 78, and Serbia for men at about 73.

While some genetic factors might explain the longevity in certain countries, social and environmental factors were probably more important, Ezzati said.

The study estimated that the U.S., which already lags

behind other developed countries, will fall even further behind by 2030, when men and women are projected to live to 80 and 83. American women will fall to 27th out of 35 countries, from their current ranking of 25, and men will fall from 23rd to 26th.

The researchers note that among rich countries, the U.S. has the highest maternal and child death rates, homicide rate and is the only high-income country without comprehensive health care.

The researchers also predicted how much longer 65 year olds in 2030 would live; they guessed that among men, those in Canada would live the longest, surviving another 23 years. Among 65-year-old women in 2030, they estimated that South Koreans would live the longest, another 28 years.

In an accompanying commentary, Ailiana Santosa of Umea University in Sweden wrote that the projections raise "crucial issues" about which strategies are needed to tackle worsening inequality problems.

"Achieving universal health coverage is worthy, plausible and needs to be continued," she said.

The study was paid for by the U.K. Medical Research Council and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Francisco Seco



Two to tango. Spain's Queen Letizia (left) talks to Juliana Awada, the wife of Argentina's President Mauricio Macri, during a welcome ceremony at the Royal Palace in Madrid yesterday. Macri and his wife Awada are on the first of a four-day official visit to Spain.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	30-50 Good
High Density Residential Area	35-55 Good
Ambient	25-45 Good

SOURCE: D5M6G

WORLD BRIEFS



AUSTRALIA A pilot repeatedly yelled out "Mayday" but did not say what the emergency was before his light plane crashed into the roof of an Australian shopping mall, killing himself and four American tourists, an accident investigator says. More on p13



AUSTRALIA-ISRAEL Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu praises Australia for being "courageously willing to puncture U.N. hypocrisy" on anti-Israel resolutions. Malcolm Turnbull marked the first visit to Australia by a serving Israeli leader by writing a supporting opinion piece in yesterday's *The Australian* newspaper. More on p13



IRAQ The next phase of an ambitious project funded by the wealthy German state of Baden Wuerttemberg brought 1,100 women who had escaped Islamic State captivity, primarily Yazidis, to Germany for psychological treatment. More on p14



TONGA The South Pacific island kingdom is mourning the death of its queen mother, who dedicated her time to helping the elderly and those with disabilities. Halaevalu Mata'aho (pictured) died Sunday at the age of 90 in Auckland, New Zealand. She was the mother of two kings: George Tupou V, who died in 2012, and the current monarch, King Tupou VI. Her funeral procession will be held in Tonga on Feb. 28.