



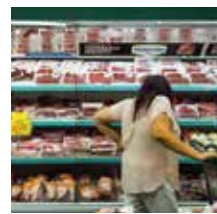
CTM REPORTS SLIGHT PROFIT DECREASE
The company's CEO said yesterday that an objective for 2017 is "to reach close to a full 4G customer base"

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MACAU TO HOST SUPERMODEL SHOW

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MEAT BAN CONFIRMED
A spokesman for China's commerce ministry confirmed yesterday the ban on imports of Brazilian beef to the country

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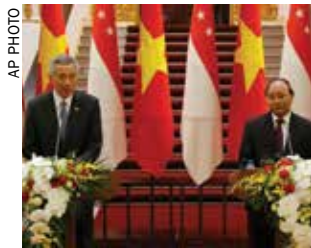
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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

WORLD BRIEFS



SINGAPORE-VIETNAM
Vietnam and Singapore signed several business agreements yesterday during a visit by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong aimed at boosting the island state's investment and trade with the communist country. Singapore, one of Vietnam's top investors and trading partners, hopes to step up investments in the country, Lee said. [More on p12](#)



INDONESIA About 50 farmers and activists opposed to a cement factory in Indonesia's Central Java province have encased their feet in concrete during a dayslong protest in Jakarta, the capital. Farmers in the village of Kendeng have battled against plans for the factory for years, saying it could taint their water.

JAPAN Prime Minister Shinzo Abe donated 1 million yen (USD9,000) through his wife to a school run by a group of ultranationalist educators, the group's leader told Parliament yesterday, while also suggesting there was "political influence" in a land-buying scandal involving the school. [More on p11](#)

RUSSIA-UKRAINE A former Russian lawmaker who became a vociferous critic of Moscow following his recent move to Ukraine was shot and killed in Kiev yesterday, prompting another war of words between the two countries. Denis Voronenkov was shot dead by an unidentified gunman near the entrance of an upscale hotel in the Ukrainian capital.

[More on backpage](#)

PERPETRATOR IDENTIFIED

IS claims responsibility for London attack

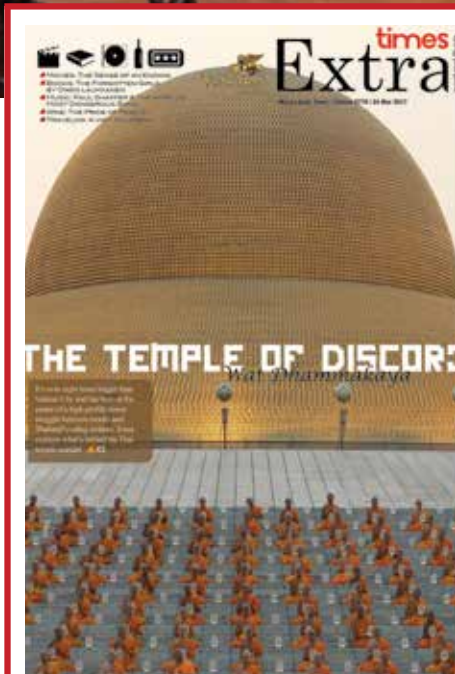
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HERITAGE

Sun Yat Sen memorialized in Macau and China, neglected in HK

P3 MDT REPORT



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weekend Guide
INSIDE

Paulo Barbosa

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

COMPANHIA de Telecomunicações de Macau (CTM) plans to expand its 4G service this year. At a press conference yesterday, the company's CEO, Vandy Poon, said that a main objective for 2017 is "to reach close to a full 4G customer base" and continue to switch internet users from ADSL to fiber network.

"This means that customers currently on 2G and 3G would move to a better speed and better service quality," said Poon. "Our fundamental responsibility is to ensure network capacity and quality," he stated, claiming that those factors are already "at a world class level."

Prior to the press conference, the telecommunications operator organized a lunch with local journalists. During his speech at the lunch, Poon reviewed CTM's performance in 2016. Last year, the company recorded a revenue of MOP4.5 billion and a profit after tax of around MOP1 billion. According to the CEO, the 6.4 percent shrink in profit "reflected the keen competition of the mobile market." Poon said that market liberalization in the mobile market and other services means that "in every aspect" CTM "has competitors and it is all decided by the market."

The tariff reduction implemented at the end of last year

CTM vows to reach 'close to full 4G customer base'



Vandy Poon (left)

will bring a revenue impact of over MOP200 million, according to the company's forecast.

Regarding the introduction of new services, CTM pledged to invest around MOP5 million

and to continue increasing the available types of electronic payment channels, including the use of Alipay and, at a later stage, WeChat.

"We are aware of the difficul-

ties of building an e-commerce platform that reaches out to the world while having a base in Macau may be far beyond what we would have imagined. Yet, we are determined to take this

step as we are confident that we can collaborate closely with the industry to establish a business model with Macau characteristics," Poon said.

The company is also interested in providing integrated Internet, TV and telephone services (the so-called triple play service) once the government regulates them. "The government has indicated in the recent past that they are working on stimulating the licensing of those services," Poon noted.

Our fundamental responsibility is to ensure network capacity and quality.

VANDY POON
CTM'S CEO

This year, CTM entered into the second term of the concession contract (which lasts for another five years) and the company's CEO is convinced that future renewals of the concession will be granted. "We have confidence that our work arrangements will reach the government's target."

TOURISM

Feb visitor arrivals down 5.6 percent

VISITOR arrivals in February 2017 totaled just over 2,495,000, down by 5.6 percent year-on-year and 13.2 percent month-to-month, according to information released by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) yesterday.

According to a statement issued by DSEC, visitors' average length of stay was 1.2 days, up by 0.1 days year-on-year, with the average stay of overnight visitors rising marginally to 2.2 days.

Analyzed by place of origin, visitors from mainland China decreased by 7.5 percent year-on-year to about 1,665,000 in February, with the majority coming from Guangdong Province (780,000) followed by Hu-

nan Province (55,000).

Visitors from Hong Kong (501,000) dropped by 8.6 percent when compared to the same month in 2016, while those from South Korea (82,000) and Taiwan (87,000) increased by 31.3 percent and 0.6 percent respectively.

Further abroad, visitors from Australia (5,800) increased year-on-year, while those from the U.S. (12,500), Canada (5,500) and the U.K. (4,000) decreased.

Analyzed by mode of transport, visitor arrivals by land dropped by 9 percent year-on-year to around 1,460,000, with those arriving via the Border Gate (1,246,000) decreasing by

8.2 percent.

Visitor arrivals by sea edged up by 0.4 percent annually to 817,000, where those disembarking at the Provisional Ferry Terminal in Taipa (315,000) rose by 12.4 percent, while those at the Outer Harbor (501,000) decreased by 5.9 percent. Meanwhile, visitor arrivals by air were down last month by 3.4 percent year-on-year to 217,000, with those arriving at the airport constituting the vast majority.

In the first two months of 2017, visitor arrivals totaled 5,371,000, up by 5.5 percent year-on-year. Overnight visitors (2,595,000) and same-day visitors (2,776,000) rose by 11.1

percent and 0.8 percent respectively, compared to the same period of the previous year.

In the first two months of 2017, visitors from mainland China reached 3,662,000, up by 5.9 percent year-on-year. At the same time, visitors from South Korea (164,000) and Hong Kong (1,028,000) increased by 24.2 percent and 3.2 percent respectively, while those from Taiwan (171,000) decreased slightly by 0.7 percent.

Visitors from the U.S. (28,900) and Canada (11,600) increased year-on-year, while those from Australia (15,100) and the United Kingdom (8,100) decreased.



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HERITAGE

Sun Yat Sen memorialized in Macau and China, neglected in HK

Daniel Beittler

THE honoring of Sun Yat Sen, the revered 20th-century Chinese revolutionary who spent some time living in Portuguese-administered Macau, has been the motivation behind the preservation of numerous buildings, monuments and relics across the greater China area for almost a century.

Some of these, such as the statue outside Macau's Kiang Wu hospital or the Memorial Hall in central Guangzhou, were constructed to protect the memory of the early modern Chinese leader. Others - used, lived or worked in by Sun - have been revamped and opened to the public in a bid to preserve the memory of the revolutionary, considered by Beijing to be the "forerunner of democratic revolution" and a prototype for the communist insurgents of the early 20th century.

However, while authorities in Macau, mainland China and Taiwan have dedicated significant resources to commemorating Sun, neighboring Hong Kong has fallen into disrepute over its authorities' handling of Sun Yat Sen heritage sites.

Earlier this month, the South China Morning Post reported that an old building in Hong Kong's Tuen Mun, allegedly used as a secret revolutionary base for Sun and his followers, had narrowly "escaped the wrecking ball."

The so-called Red House, built between 1905 and 1910, was formerly designated a "grade one heritage site", meaning that it was not legally protected from demolition. Hong Kong's heritage grading system ranges from one to three, with the higher numbers denoting a more imperative need for preservation.

Earlier this month, however, Hong Kong's Develop-

ment Bureau declared the Red House a "proposed monument", though not before some of the building's windows were dismantled and the site's outer walls torn down.

The latest declaration does not guarantee that the building will be protected, but it does prevent it from being demolished and altered during a grace period of one year. This, according to Hong Kong authorities, will allow the government to negotiate how to preserve the historic site with the building's current owner.

The decision was welcomed by Hong Kong residents, who were alarmed and concerned for the fate of the heritage site, after a video depicting its alteration was released online.

However, the last-minute decision by Hong Kong authorities prompts comparisons between the approach to Sun Yat Sen heritage in the neighboring SAR and in the rest of the greater China area.

In Macau, a memorial house of the revolutionary leader has been converted into a museum that exhibits relics of Sun's life (pictured above). This was complemented late last year with the opening of a newly-renovated clinic in the territory, thought to have been used in the 1890s by Sun to treat patients using both Western and Chinese medicine, and was advertised and promoted by cultural authorities in the city seeking to emphasize its importance as a historical site.

Joao Guedes, a journalist and writer who is knowledgeable about Macau's history, explains the differing efforts to preserve the memory of Sun in the two SARs as the natural result of the particularly strong ties the revolutionary - and his family - had with Macau.

"Macau is the birthplace of

the Sun Yat Sen family," he said. "So Sun is very much connected with Macau."

"[Some people] say that he had a connection with Hong Kong, but the link is not so strong. [Sun] was actually afraid to live in Hong Kong because he was frightened of suppression... he was a leftist [left-wing]," explained Guedes.

The respect for the revolutionary Chinese leader is not limited to Macau, however.

In most major Chinese cities, at least one of the major streets is named after Sun, as well as frequently parks, schools, universities and various geographical features. His hometown in Guangdong Province was renamed "Zhongshan" in his honor.

Meanwhile, in Guangzhou, there is a large monument-park dedicated to his memory. Known as the Dr Sun Yat Sen Memorial Hall and constructed between 1929 and 1931, the museum houses many memorabilia of Sun and his family.

Taiwan, whose opposition 'nationalist' party, the Kuomintang, was founded by Sun Yat Sen, arguably harbors the deepest links with the revolutionary leader. Broadly considered by the Taiwanese as the "National Father of the Republic of China," the Taiwanese capital, Taipei, is also home to a memorial hall for Sun.

The connection is so profound on the island-state that when Taiwan's Ministry of Education and several lawmakers proposed in 2004 that Sun was not the "National Father", but a foreigner from mainland China, a 70-year-old retired soldier committed suicide at a Sun Yat Sen statue in the southern Taiwanese city of Kaohsiung.

This connection is perhaps the underlying reason why Taiwanese flags were flown at the site of Hong Kong's Red House this month in respon-

se to the government's decision to - at least temporarily - protect the site.

Taiwanese flags also adorn the interior of the Sun Yat Sen's memorial house in Macau; a rare oddity for a semi-autonomous territory of mainland China, which views Taiwan as a breakaway province and has made public displays of the flag illegal in the People's Republic of China.

"In Macau, after [the riots of] 1966, the Taiwanese flags were not allowed anymore," Guedes told the Times, "only

the symbols of the People's Republic of China [were allowed]."

"The memorial house is the only place that is allowed to have them - not by law, but by consensus... the Communists don't say anything," he continued. "This was by the agreement with the [former] Portuguese administration and was the only way to keep the house open after 1966, otherwise it would have been turned into a communist party base. [...] The Communists think it is not a good idea to prevent

the flags [from being hoisted]."

Sun Yat Sen was a Chinese physician, writer and revolutionary who rose up against the late Qing dynasty in the years leading up to the 1911 Chinese Revolution. Although he later became China's first president of the republic, Sun struggled throughout his political life to balance the various warlord factions in early 20th century China and did not live to see the Chinese nationalist party consolidate its power over the country.

He remains an influential figure in the greater China region for his modernizing influence on the country and the legacy of his philosophical writings embodying three key principles; non-ethnic Chinese nationalism, modern government and the betterment of the people's livelihood.

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Honorary doctorate conferred to Jia Pingwa

Noted author Jia Pingwa was conferred an honorary doctorate degree by the University of Macau (UM) on Wednesday, in recognition for his outstanding contributions to contemporary Chinese literature. Hong Gang Jin, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, read the citation for Jia. The citation said Jia is a renowned writer with great talent, energy, and charisma. His works, no matter how imaginative, are unfailingly rooted in reality, which gives him an almost Hercules-like strength, said Hong. Jia delivered a lecture on the current and future development of contemporary Chinese literature in his unique Shaanxi dialect. Jia is one of the most prolific and influential authors in China. His works have been translated into more than 20 languages.

Local volunteers join campaign for underprivileged girls

Lynzy Valles

A global campaign "Dress a Girl Around the World", which is under the Hope 4 Women International organization and led by a Portuguese Volunteer, is currently making its mark in Macau.

The campaign aims to provide at least one dress for each of the underprivileged and vulnerable girls across the most deprived countries.

Leading the project in the region, Ana Cristina Vilas told the Times that the efforts of her team are still in the early stages but have so far been successful in acquiring fabrics.

According to her, she has acquired over one hundred yards of fabrics – donated by her friends and people interested in the global campaign.

"Until now we have had a lot of people willing to help. My house is full of garments. I'm satisfied because people are doing something to help us," she said.

On April 4, Vilas' team will



hold a "solidarity event" at Casa de Portugal – the first gathering where volunteers will come together to sew the dresses.

According to the organizer, the event is set to attract 14 volunteers from the Portuguese community.

Vilas also reiterated that she refuses to receive money for purchasing fabrics, stressing that the project does not involve any financial transactions.

"It's difficult because sometimes people won't believe whether the money will be used for that project or not, so we just accept new fabrics," Vilas explained.

The local team must follow the

guidelines of the global campaign, including prohibitions against the use of black, white and transparent fabrics, and the requirement that all fabrics should be cotton.

The dresses produced by the "Dress a Girl Around the World" initiative targets underprivileged girls from 2 to 14 years of age.

Each dress contains a pocket tagged with the organization's label, which marks the children as being protected by the non-government association in order to prevent crimes such as rape and human trafficking from being committed against minors.

An undergarment will also be included in the pockets of the dresses.

The local team hopes to produce 200 to 300 dresses by September. According to Vilas, the group intends to send the dresses to countries such as Cambodia, the Philippines, and Nepal.

When asked whether the group is seeking partnerships with local associations to hasten the

campaign's growth in Macau, Vilas noted that there are no such plans currently, as the global campaign solely works with volunteers.

Vilas, who has volunteered in a number of other charitable activities in the region, also mentioned the group's significance in taking part in this global campaign. She is delighted that people in the region can contribute towards the happiness of underprivileged and vulnerable children.

"We don't get old or unworn clothes or those that are kind of used. Everything has to be new. [...] This is the objective of the project: that all girls in the world can have one new dress," she concluded.

Vilas also manages a Facebook group named "Dress a Girl Around the World – Macau," which currently has 675 members.

According to the website of the global initiative, "Dress a Girl Around the World" has delivered over 500,000 dresses to 81 countries.

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ONE WOMAN IN SERIOUS CONDITION

Number of injured in bus collision rises to 33

A triple collision involving two buses and a taxi on Governador Nobre de Carvalho Bridge left 33 injured, leaving one person in a serious condition, according to the latest update from the Health Bureau (SSM).

The accident, the cause of which has yet to be ascertained, occurred when one of the buses crossed the mid-line and collided head-to-head with the other. Concurrently, a taxi driving behind one of the buses did not stop in time and also crashed into the back of the bus.

According to a statement from SSM, the accident has left 15 males and 18 females injured, with ages ranging between 24 and 67 years old.

For now, six of the victims are hospitalized for



their injuries, the most serious being a woman (aged 52) with several head injuries accompanied by hemorrhagic shock. Three of the injured parties, said to be suffering from head injuries and limb fractures, are being treated at the Public Hospital (CHCSJ) and are now in a stable condition.

Five other people with multiple rib fractures, thoracic and back injuries, are being treated at the Kiang Wu Hospital. One of them was also diagnosed with

an upper limb fracture, and another with a nose fracture. These people required hospitalization for treatment.

The accident triggered level 1 of the contingency measures for disasters by the Emergency Department of the CHCSJ, which prompts immediate deployment of dozens of doctors and nurses to conduct emergency work.

It took approximately two hours to successfully complete triage and the start of treatment. RM

FILM

'Mr Bean' back for Chinese premiere

AFTER another internet hoax propagating a rumor that British comedian Rowan Atkinson had died, the actor behind the popular oddball of Mr Bean has surfaced in China where he is attending the premiere of his upcoming film, "Top Funny Comedian: The Movie," in which he makes a cameo appearance as his serial character.

"Top Funny Comedian: The Movie" narrates the story of a group of five

characters – four men and woman – who travel to Macau. One in the group gets lost in the city, requiring the others to search for and save them.

The character of Mr Bean, who is better known as "Mr Foolish Bean" in China, stars alongside well-known Chinese actors.

Atkinson was spotted in Macau at a Cotai resort in September last year, while shooting a scene in the movie.

A fake tweet claiming



Rowan Atkinson

that Atkinson had died in a car crash went viral last weekend having been shared and liked over 300,000 times. The tweet was sent under a twitter account set up to resemble Fox News.

Several celebrities have been the victims of similar hoaxes in recent years including actors Arnold Schwarzenegger and Jackie Chan.

UM holds career and internship fair

Lynzy Valles

THE University of Macau (UM) kicked off its Career and Internship Fair yesterday, with over 100 companies and institutions providing opportunities for internships and full-time work.

Some 1,400 students at the university are expected to graduate this June.

Elvo Sou, head of the Student Counseling Section of the Student Affairs Office, informed the press that the number of exhibitors at the event remained relatively the same as last year.

According to him, the university encourages its students to venture out and seek different possibilities in the market that do not conform to their accomplished bachelor's degree.

"We train our students to have a very diverse outlook on different disciplines so I think the university has the obligation and responsibility to provide [this kind of] platform," Sou explained.

The head of the department also cited his belief that the high numbers of graduates who acquire jobs within their first three months of graduation (according to a survey) reflect the labor market's acquisition of the region's fresh graduates.

According to the institution's data, the employment rate of its 2015/2016 graduates was nearly 75 percent, while 17 percent went on for further studies.

The data also showed that 90 percent of the university's fresh graduates have found jobs within three months.

UM noted that the average salary for fresh graduates is around MOP14,430.

While some students are filled with hopes of



getting a job during the two-day event, other students believe the event to be competitive.

Rabeea Cheang, a fourth-year public administration student noted, "This fair offers me an opportunity but it seems like there are so many people fighting for the same position."

Yet, she mentioned that she will not close doors on offers from different job sectors, and looks forward to other opportunities.

Another student, Christy Kuan, majoring in marketing, is seeking a position in the sales and marketing sector, and hoped that she would get hired at the job fair.

"I think it's not challenging to find a job but it's hard to find a job that I really like [...] and yes, it's kind of competitive," she added.

Activities of the Career and Internship Fair included training workshops and mock interview sessions. Recruitment talks were also held earlier this month.

For the different faculties, such as Banking & Finance, Medical/Pharmaceutical, Education, Leisure and Leisure Entertainment, booths are located at the Banquet Rooms of the UM Guest House. The careers fair will be held until today.

UM TO CO-HOLD WORKSHOP ON EUROPEAN COMMISSION

THE UNIVERSITY of Macau (UM), under its Jean Monnet Project "Decision-making processes: Pedagogical simulations for university students", will be marking the 60th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome with a workshop on the European Commission. The workshop, which will be held tomorrow at the UM, is set to bring together 28 university students from five tertiary institutions of Macau to learn

more about the decision-making processes within the European Commission. After a short training session in the morning, participants will simulate a meeting of the college of commissioners, which will discuss the current status of relations between the European Union and Turkey. The workshop will be held at the Faculty of Law, Building E32, from 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

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MASS

RUI ANTÓNIO CRAVEIRO AFONSO

(1947-2017)

The coming Saturday, 25th March, at 6:00 p.m., at Sé Catedral of Macau, a religious ceremony (Mass) will be held in memory of Dr. Rui Afonso, illustrious citizen of Macau who was a lawyer and a former member of the Macao Legislative Assembly.

The ceremony is promoted by a group of friends and admirers of the deceased. One of his sons will attend the ceremony.

Thanks in advance for the presence of all those who wish to be associated with this simple tribute.

Macau to host supermodel competition

THIS year, the 10th Annual World Supermodel Production and International Fashion Show will be held with a "business theme" in Macau at the Macau Tower.

The event promises to showcase the latest fashion and highlighting leading designers from around the world. According to a press release issued by the World Supermodel Production, the four shows will be blended with a mixture of "innovation, glamor, and excitement" while highlighting Macau.

This year, the World Supermodel Production selected Macau as host city based on its ability to provide a location with an "ele-

gant, sophisticated and unique lifestyle" capable of portraying an atmosphere mixed with glamor.

On May 21, between 40 to 50 of the world's top models will head to the territory to compete for the World Supermodel and World Teen Supermodel titles.

This production will also highlight an international fashion week that will be held at the Macau Tower - showcasing designers of swimwear, sportswear and bridal wear on May 24, 25 and 26 respectively.

"Macau is known as the Las Vegas of the east to most western countries, and especially to a large percentage of Mainland Chinese," said Herc Karakostas,

Director of Locations of World Supermodel Production.

"However, we would like to showcase that Macau has other attractions outside the mainstream paradigm and demonstrate its ability to host an international event of this nature in a world class venue," he continued.

In the past, Fiji was selected for its tropical climate, with its rainforest and crystal clear reef backdrops where international models participated in glamour photo shoots, underwater filming and tropical island location shoots.

Last year, South Africa was selected with its "On Safari" theme due to its natural wonders and wildlife.



Pereira Coutinho questions government on maternity leave

LAWMAKER Pereira Coutinho delivered a written enquiry to the government, last month, regarding the inequalities between the public and the private sector on the number of days of leave that women are entitled to when giving birth.

Coutinho claimed to have received a number of complaints from women working in the private sector. According to the labor law currently in force, women are entitled to 54 days of maternity leave while those working in the public sector are granted 90 days.

Coutinho says that article 25 of the Macau Basic Law states that, "All Macau residents shall be



equal before the law, and shall be free from discrimination, irrespective of their nationality, descent, gender, race, language, religion, political persuasion or ideological belief, educational level, economic status or social conditions."

The lawmaker sees that

although 17 years have passed since the establishment of the MSAR, "neither the law or the fundamental rights of the general population have reached the level of those working in the public sector."

Although lawmaker Leong Veng Chai already

addressed the topic and questioned the Labor Affairs Bureau (DSAL) in May 2015, Coutinho claims that the bureau did not provide a clear explanation and the establishment of 54 days of maternity leave was "taken in note of the protection to the workers and the capacity of acceptance of the employers."

Coutinho demands further explanations and clarifications remarking once more that Macau is lagging behind on maternity leave policy, citing the example of mainland China (where the maternity leave can reach 120 days) and Hong Kong where the current law provides 70 days of leave. **RM**

Portuguese Secretary of State visits Macau



José Luís Carneiro (center)

THE Portuguese Secretary of State for the Portuguese Communities, José Luís Carneiro, held a meeting in Macau with representatives from several organizations, including the Consulate General of Portugal in Macau and Hong Kong, the Investment and Foreign Trade (AICEP) Portugal Global organization and Banco Nacional Ultramarino S.A. (BNU).

The meeting was scheduled as Carneiro is making an official visit to Macau and Hong Kong.

According to a press release issued by BNU, the bank's chief executive officer, Pe-

dro Cardoso, highlighted in his welcome speech the role played by BNU in Macau among the various communities living in the territory, in which the Portuguese community continues to stand out.

The Portuguese state official pointed out that his visit to Macau had the purpose, among others, of identifying the capacity of consular services to respond to the economic, cultural, social and linguistic structures in Macau. He said that he was also visiting to establish cooperation agreements, such as the one with Macau Polytechnic Institute.

corporate bits

MGM RECEIVES TTG CHINA TRAVEL AWARDS



MGM Macau has been named the "Best Business Hotel in Macau" at the 10th Annual TTG China Travel Awards 2017.

This marks the eighth consecutive year that the Resort has received the accolade, after winning the "Best New

Hotel in Macau" in 2009.

"As we grow our footprint in Macau with the opening of MGM Cotai, more innovative and dynamic conference venues and facilities will be available to cater to all business needs," said Grant Bowie, CEO and executive director of MGM China Holdings Limited.

The 10th Annual TTG China Travel Awards 2017 Ceremony & Gala Dinner took place at Grand Kempinski Hotel Shanghai yesterday, celebrating 61 winners who represent the best and brightest in the travel industry across the Greater China region.

WYNN MACAU TO INCREASE EMPLOYEES' WAGES

Wynn Macau Limited yesterday announced a 2.5 to 6.5 percent salary increase, effective from March 1, for all eligible employees (excluding senior management) of Wynn Macau and Wynn Palace, which represents close to 98 percent of the current 12,400-member workforce.

Eligible team members with a monthly salary of MOP16,000 or below will receive a salary increase of MOP500, equivalent to an increase of 3 percent to 6.5 percent.

Eligible team members with a monthly salary above MOP16,000 will receive an



average of a 2.5 percent salary increase.

A one-month annual bonus was also recently given to all employees in advance of the Chinese New Year holiday, Wynn Macau recalled in a statement.

SHERATON AND ST REGIS TO PARTICIPATE IN EARTH HOUR 2017

The Sheraton Grand Macao Hotel, Cotai Central and The St. Regis Macao, Cotai Central go dark to shine a light on Earth Hour 2017. The hotel will join millions around the world in turning off lights for one hour tomorrow at 8:30 p.m. local time to illuminate a powerful message about environmental awareness and action.

The Sheraton Grand Macao Hotel and The St. Regis Macao are participating by turning off exterior signage lighting, dimming or turning off non-essential interior lighting, sending in-room Handy phone messages and in-room television messages to inform guests about observing Earth Hour.

The Sheraton Grand Macao Ho-



tel and The St. Regis Macao are also inviting guests to join in and celebrate the Global Earth Hour by riding on our "Power Bicycle" which generates electricity and lights up the Sheraton SPG Lobby.

The annual global environmental awareness event was created and instituted by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) in 2007 to draw attention to the threat of climate change.

Spokesman confirms China suspended imports of Brazil beef

A spokesman for China's commerce ministry confirmed yesterday his government has banned imports of Brazilian beef.

Brazil's agriculture minister said earlier China suspended imports after investigators accused Brazilian inspectors of taking bribes to overlook expired meat and chemicals. But until now Chinese officials have said only that they took unspecified precautions.

"The responsible departments of the Chinese government have taken timely and temporary measures to suspend the import of beef from Brazil," said the spokesman, Sun Jiwen, at a regular briefing.

A written version of Sun's comment given to reporters repeated the official statement that Beijing was taking "temporary measures," with no mention of an import ban.

The Chinese food safety agency, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, has yet to respond to questions about what action it is taking.

Brazilian investigators say health inspectors also were bribed to overlook other products that were added to meat to improve its



Employees move packaged poultry at a meatpacking company in Brazil

appearance and smell.

Other governments including the European Union, Japan and Mexico have limited or banned imports of Brazilian meat.

In Macau, the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) reaffirmed in a statement to the press that the measure decided for promoting an embargo on imports of meat from Brazil is "only a precautionary measure."

The region has temporarily suspended import applications for both frozen and chilled meat from Brazil and is said to be awaiting the most up-to-date information to decide whether any other measures are required, in regards to

the case that reportedly affects 21 companies currently under investigation by the Brazilian authorities.

Regarding these companies, the IACM has already notified food establishments, wholesale importers and retail establishments to remove any detected products by the mentioned companies from the market.

The bureau added that so far there are no reports of any affected meat entering the territory, and all products with their respective certifications are being inspected, in order to guarantee the safety and quality of products available for consumption in Macau.

MDT/Agencies

Dean Foods Davis tells insider jury of prostitutes, gambling

BLACKJACK, patronizing prostitutes and stealing from a charity for women and children. Those were some of the vices the U.S. government's star witness admitted to during testimony in the inside-trading trial of Las Vegas gambler Billy Walters.

Tom C. Davis, the former chairman of Dean Foods Co., also told a Manhattan jury he was enamored with Walters, who introduced him to pro golfer Phil Mickelson and was friends with investor Carl Icahn.

Even after Walters arranged a USD625,000 loan in 2010 for him, Davis said his failed investments, soaring expenses and a \$200,000 casino debt forced him to siphon \$100,000 from a golf charity that raised money for battered women. Davis repaid the money, but said he then "double-dipped" and withdrew \$50,000 from the charity's account to gamble and pay for hookers.

"I made a very poor decision at that period of time in my



Billy Walters

life," a chagrined Davis said in his gravelly Texas drawl.

Davis, 68, made the admissions under questioning by U.S. Assistant Attorney Brooke Cucinella. It's standard for a witness to disclose unsavory background information up front, rather than be forced to admit to it while questioned by a defense attorney. In that case, it might appear to a jury that the witness was trying to hide something.

Walters, 70, is on trial, accused by the U.S. of reaping illegal profits over six years based on boardroom secrets Davis passed to him. Walters made \$43 million, including \$17.1 million on a lucrative tip about a spin-off of a Dean Foods unit in 2012, according to prosecutors. **Bloomberg**

AD

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REAL ESTATE MATTERS

Real Estate Scams & How To Avoid Them - Part 3

Juliet Risdon is a Director of JML Property and a property investor. Having been established in 1994, JML Property offers investment property & homes. It specializes in managing properties for owners and investors, and providing attractive and comfortable homes for tenants.

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JULIET RISDON

We are looking at Real Estate scams and how to avoid them. Although such scams are rare in Macau, they do happen and the money involved can be significant.

Scam: Money for nothing
Are you being asked to send money for an apartment before you've even seen it or met the agent? Increasingly business is taking place online, which does of course have its benefits, but it also has its drawbacks. The scam is a simple one. The person places a property ad online, then tells everyone that responds that a deposit is required in order to view the apartment. Once the deposit is paid, they are gone. Another 'Money For Nothing' scam involves fake e-mail addresses. A tenant may be asked by the 'owner' via e-mail to change the payment details and pay rent into a different bank account. Once again, the 'owner' turns out to be an imposter, and the overseas bank account has already been drained of any cash by the time the fraud is discovered.

How to avoid the money for nothing scam:
Never send money for an apart-

ment that you haven't seen, or pass money to an agent unless they work for a legitimate and credible real estate agency. The same applies to personal information. Giving out the personal information such as your ID number or bank account information to a third party is potentially dangerous and can lead to some potentially disastrous consequences. The scammers tend to prey on people from outside Macau who have not yet moved here, so if you are asked to send money from overseas without seeing an apartment, be extremely cautious.

Final thought: "It could never happen to me"
Perhaps the biggest mistake people make when it comes to scams is to think "it could never happen to me." It's not uncommon to think that investment scams are shady operations preying on gullible people. Whilst this might sometimes be true, consider some of the higher level scams that have taken place in recent years. Amongst them we will find Bernard Madoff Investment Securities. Madoff ran what was effectively a Ponzi scheme, and

ran it very well. He managed to dupe some of the world's smartest people, and embezzled billions of dollars from private investors who included private bankers, movie moguls and stockbrokers, a very bright bunch indeed. This was not enough to stop them losing all of their investment money to Madoff though, and if it can happen to them, well... its enough to make you stop and think.

What you can do if you are scammed
It is important to report the scam to the police as soon as possible. This not only increases the chances of the scammer being caught, it also ensures that any insurance payments that are due can be claimed and of course decreases the chances of the same scam happening to another person. As far as possible, write down the dates of transactions and provide bank statements and other similar materials to back up the story. Reporting money has been stolen without the sufficient back up documents may end with you being mistaken for a scammer yourself!

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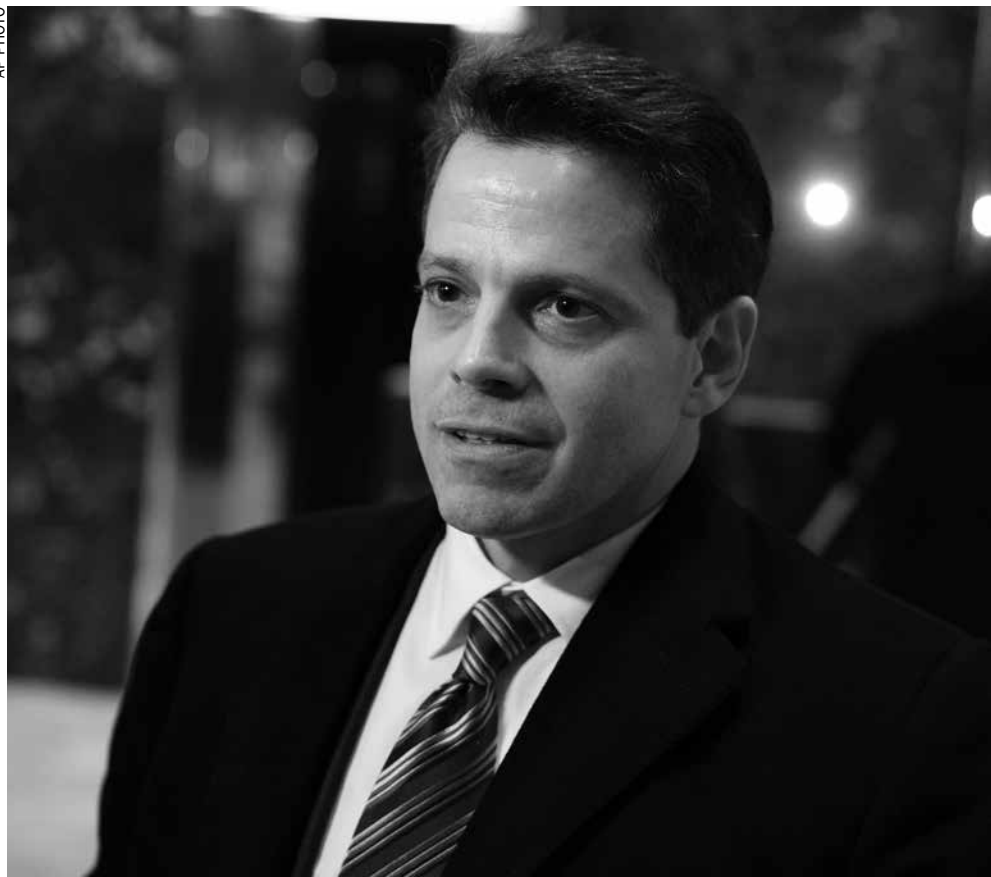
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Anthony Scaramucci



Gary Cohn

Business with China only sometimes a deal-breaker for Trump

Julie Bykowicz, Washington

ANTHONY Scaramucci announced to the world in January that he would be leaving Wall Street for the White House to become President Donald Trump's top public liaison. Not long after, Scaramucci was told by Trump's chief of staff that the sale of his hedge fund — a deal that includes a well-known Chinese conglomerate — raised too many ethics issues for him to start work immediately.

Scaramucci never left New York. It's a different story for Gary Cohn.

The former Goldman Sachs executive, the man who is now Trump's economic adviser reported for duty on Day One and has become a constant White House presence, often at the president's side. All the while, Cohn has held a multimillion-dollar stake in a Chinese bank, which he's now selling.

White House officials say Scaramucci's transaction is far more complex than Cohn's holdings, arguing that's why it gave them pause. But others point to the two cases as an example of Trump's uneven approach to handling ethics concerns.

The White House yesterday [Macau time] acknowledged it did not secure an ethics pledge from ousted national security adviser Michael Flynn, who served for two weeks after Trump signed an executive order mandating that officials agree to a five-year lobbying ban and lifetime prohibition on foreign lobbying. White House officials offered no explanation

for why Flynn didn't sign the documents.

"At least so far, the ethical standards that are being applied to high-level officials coming in are quite incoherent and seemingly haphazard," said Meredith McGehee, a chief at the government reform group Issue One who has worked on federal ethics laws and policies for decades.

With so many well-off business executives coming into the administration, the Trump team could minimize conflict-of-interest questions by being more consistent and transparent, she said. "Instead, they seem like they are leading with their chin," she added.

White House spokesman Sean Spicer said the Trump team "has been very committed to making sure that we institute high standards here and that we're held to them."

Business intersections with China are particularly nettlesome, given many Chinese companies' ties to the country's Communist Party. Adding another layer of complexity is Trump's frequent vow to take a tougher stance on China's trade and currency practices, which could affect Chinese companies' ability to sell their goods and services in the U.S.

But while Scaramucci raised red flags in the White House, others — including Trump's son-in-law and the president himself — have Chinese business ties that do not seem to have drawn as much internal hand-wringing.

Cohn is in the process of selling his stock in the Industrial and

Commercial Bank of China as he works with the Office of Government Ethics to clear out potential conflicts of interest, according to a White House official who requested anonymity to discuss the personnel matter. The New York Times reported last week that Cohn's ICBC stock was the largest in his portfolio, valued at about USD16 million.

White House officials originally said that the ethics office flagged Scaramucci's deal to sell his stake in SkyBridge Capital to a buyer group that included a subsidiary of Chinese conglomerate HNA Group as the reason he shouldn't start government work right away. However, the office issued a statement to Bloomberg News saying it "had no involvement whatsoever" in the decision not to

■ With so many well-off businessmen coming into the administration, Trump could minimize conflict-of-interest questions by being more consistent and transparent

let Scaramucci start work.

Trump's family has its own business ties to China.

Like Trump, Kushner — who is a senior adviser to the president — followed his father into New York real estate. The 36-year-old sold numerous assets to a family trust and said he has completely stepped away from his businesses and is following all conflicts of interest rules.

Kushner Companies, now led by his relatives, has been negotiating with the Chinese Anbang Insurance Group to provide what could be hundreds of millions of dollars in equity for redevelopment of a Manhattan office building.

"Kushner Companies is in advanced, ongoing discussions around 666 5th Avenue," a company spokesman said, declining to discuss Anbang specifically. A person with direct knowledge of the talks confirmed the Anbang negotiations to The Associated Press, although the person requested anonymity to discuss the private deal.

Jared Kushner sold his stake in that building to the trust as part of his agreement with the Office of Government Ethics, but his family stands to benefit from the deal. A senior White House official who requested anonymity to discuss a personnel matter said Kushner would recuse himself from any government business to which Anbang Insurance Group is a party.

Yet Kushner took a more cautious approach on a business issue that didn't involve China. When news surfaced last month

that Miami Marlins owner Jeffrey Loria was considering selling the baseball team to the Kushner family and was on deck to become Trump's ambassador to France, the Kushners called off the deal entirely.

The Kushners said in a statement at the time that they were pulling the plug on the potential deal because "we do not want this unrelated transaction to complicate" Loria's potential ambassadorship. The senior White House official said that although Jared Kushner had nothing to do with the Marlins negotiation his family wanted to avoid even the appearance of impropriety.

The president himself hasn't drawn a bright line when it comes to ethics. Although he handed daily management of his businesses to his two adult sons and a senior Trump Organization official, he placed his assets in a revocable trust that he can take control of at any time.

And while the Trump Organization pledged not to enter new foreign deals, it hasn't stopped selling its domestic properties to foreign buyers.

New York City real estate transaction records show that last month a Chinese businesswoman paid almost \$16 million for a condominium in one of Trump's properties.

Meanwhile, the sale of Scaramucci's hedge fund is expected to go through this spring. He declined to comment on his plan, but he's said publicly that he expects to eventually join the White House. **AP**

Rod McGuirk, Canberra

CHINA'S premier yesterday warned against protectionism, saying his country planned to close its USD50 billion a year deficit with Australia by expanding the trading relationship rather than retreating from it.

Premier Li Keqiang said in a speech in Australia's Parliament House that globalization created "some problems," but that free trade was not to blame.

China "cannot close our doors" to solve its trade imbalance with Australia, which last year left the Chinese with a \$50 billion deficit largely through industrial demand for iron ore and coal, he said.

"We believe that to resolve trade imbalance, we need to continue to expand trade," Li said through an interpreter.

Li and Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull will today detail an expansion of their two-year-old bilateral free trade pact in the areas of investment and services.

President Donald Trump's election promises to change the dynamics of global trade. Australia was an enthusiastic advocate of the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership, an ambitious trading bloc of Pacific Rim countries that the Obama administration had committed the United States to joining. China never intended to join.

As well as pulling the United States out of that pact, Trump — who campaigned on an "America First" platform — has said he will renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement with Mexico and Canada. Australia's 12-year-old free trade deal with the United States could also be reviewed.

Li's visit to Australia and New Zealand, which started late Wednesday, is the first by a Chinese premier in 11 years. He is also the most senior Chinese official to



Free Tibet protesters demonstrate outside Australia's Parliament House

AMID ANTI-CHINA PROTESTS

Premier Li warns Australia against protectionism

visit Australia since 2014, when President Xi Jinping finalized the free trade deal.

Turnbull suggested that as well as trade, the two leaders will discuss tensions in the South China Sea over competing territorial claims.

"Premier Li and I will discuss, as we have before, the importance of upholding and maintaining stability in our region," Turnbull said. "We believe China has much to contribute to global peace and prosperity in this time of rapid change."

Li said China would work with

Australia to ensure freedom of navigation in distributed regions.

China will "never seek hegemony and dominance," he said, adding China needed a stable world environment to grow its economy.

Li was welcomed to Parliament House by a 19-gun salute and distant protest chants of anti-China demonstrators who were kept well away from the Chinese leader.

About 100 Tibet and Xinjiang separatists along with Falun Gong supporters were cordoned off from a similar number of

China fans who wielded national flags and beat drums on the front lawn of Parliament House.

The protesters carried pla-

cards including "China stop bribing Australia," "Free Tibet" and "Stop persecuting Falun Gong." AP

PM CONDEMNS LONDON ATTACKS

CHINESE PREMIER Li Keqiang says the terrorist attack outside the British Parliament in London was the first subject of discussion when he met with Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull of Australia yesterday morning in Canberra. Li says that "together, we send our con-

dolences to the prime minister of the U.K. and together we condemn terrorism and we stand against all forms of terrorism." The Chinese leader says that "there cannot be continued instability in the world," adding: "We must cherish peace and stability."

Zombie companies are China's real problem, Peterson's Lardy says

CHINA needs to take on its state-owned "zombie companies," which keep borrowing even though they aren't earning enough to repay loans or interest, says Nicholas Lardy of the Peterson Institute for International Economics.

"That's where the real problem is," Lardy said yesterday in a Bloomberg Television interview from the Boao Forum for Asia, an annual conference on the southern Chinese island of Hainan. "It's a component of the run-up in debt that they really have to focus on."

While flagging this concern, Lardy, a senior fellow at Peterson in Washington and author of "Markets Over Mao: The Rise of Pri-

vate Business in China," said anxiety over China's debt growth is overstated. Household deposits will continue to underpin the banking and financial system, which means the situation with zombie firms is unlikely to reach a critical point.

Household savings are "very sticky, they're not going anywhere, and the central bank can come in to the rescue if there are problems," he said.

Chinese corporate profits will probably continue to recover this year and after-tax earnings needed to service the debt load is improving, Lardy said. Another positive sign is a slowdown in the buildup of debt outstanding to non-financial companies. The combina-

tion of that slackening and companies' increasing earning power "is improving the overall situation," he said.

When it comes to U.S. President Donald Trump's negative rhetoric on China, the country's leaders deserve "very high marks so far" for their cool reaction.

"They've been waiting to see what Mr. Trump is actually going to do as opposed to what he's talked about, so they haven't overreacted," he said. "They've made very careful preparations for the worst case if Trump does move in a very strong protectionist direction."

Both sides would lose a great deal in any trade war and there would also be collateral damage to

other Asian countries tied to Chinese supply chains making products ultimately bound for the U.S., he said. Lardy added that there's no merit whatsoever to labeling China a currency manipulator, as Trump threatened to do last year during the election campaign.

"The Chinese have been intervening to keep the yuan from depreciating vis-a-vis the dollar and that's led to the USD1 trillion decline in their foreign reserves, so it would be a very weak case," he said. "They couldn't possibly label China a manipulator. They would have to tweak the criteria to label China a manipulator, and I think that would be pretty provocative." Bloomberg



JAPAN

Abe accused of giving cash for nationalistic school



Yasunori Kagoike, head of an ultra-nationalistic school operator, testifies before an upper house panel at the parliament in Tokyo yesterday

Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

THE head of an ultra-nationalistic Japanese school operator at the center of a land and political scandal testified in parliament yesterday that Prime Minister Shinzo Abe donated 1 million yen (USD9,000) through his wife for an elementary school where she once was honorary principal.

Yasunori Kagoike, head of the Moritomo Gakuen group, said First Lady Akie Abe handed him the cash in an envelope on behalf of her husband during her September 2015 visit to Kagoike's kindergarten in Osaka.

The outspoken Kagoike, who is affiliated with Japan's powerful political lobby Nippon Kaigi and known as a big fan and supporter of Abe, said in sworn testimony at parliament that he believed there was "political influence" over his land purchase and a plan to open an elementary school.

Kagoike's school is known for a curriculum that resembles that of pre-World War II militaristic Japan.

"I believe there political influence one way or the other at every occasion and place (during approval process)," Kagoike said, without elaborating.

Abe has denied the donation or any influence in the scandal stemming from a 2016 state property sale to Kagoike at one-seventh of its appraised price.

Kagoike's school is known for a curriculum that resembles that of pre-WWII militaristic Japan

Such a donation is not illegal because Abe's own electoral constituency is in Yamaguchi, southern Japan, not in Osaka.

Abe, who had spoken fondly about Kagoike's education policies, has distanced himself from the man, criticizing him for being too persistent. Akie also resigned from her honorary post.

Still, Abe and his wife's relationship with the man known for his extreme views on history and derogatory expressions about Chinese and Koreans have raised questions, and Abe's support ratings have declined over the scandal that has dominated Japanese media over the past month.

Kagoike said he is now revealing the truth about Abe, who he thought was on his side and supportive of his school project, before apparently turned his back on him abruptly once the scandal emerged. AP

ADVERTORIAL

SPRING PICKS

The weather is warming up and it's time to reinvigorate your wardrobe with some of the hottest new items and trend-setting pieces from the spring/summer collections. Whether you opt for the runway's standout styles – stripes, ruffles, metallics and lace are in for spring – or go your own way, there's something fabulous for every fashionista at Sands Shoppes this season.



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9. Loewe Bag
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11. Furla Bag
12. Chanel Sandals
13. Gucci Shoes
14. Tory Burch Belt
15. Tory Burch Top and skirt

JUICY COUTURE

The glamorous irreverence of Juicy Couture returns to Shoppes at Cotai Central with the re-opening of the brand's boutique, which brings with it the distinctive Los Angeles style and attitude for which the brand is known, alongside an array of casual yet luxurious apparel and accessories. To celebrate the new store, Juicy Couture has some special celebratory promotions. Get your hands on a selected tracksuit set with t-shirt for just MOP2,888 and enjoy a limited edition tote bag when you spend MOP3,800 or more.

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SOUTH KOREA

Ferry that sank 3 years ago lifted from sea

Kim Tong-Hyung, Seoul

A 6,800-ton South Korean ferry emerged from the water yesterday, nearly three years after it capsized and sank into violent seas off the country's southwestern coast, an emotional moment for the country that continues to search for closure to one of its deadliest disasters ever.

More than 300 people — most of whom were students on a high school trip — died when the Sewol sank on April 16, 2014, touching off an outpouring of national grief and soul searching about long-ignored public safety and regulatory failures. The public outrage over what was seen as a botched rescue job by the government contributed to the recent ouster of Park Geun-hye as president.

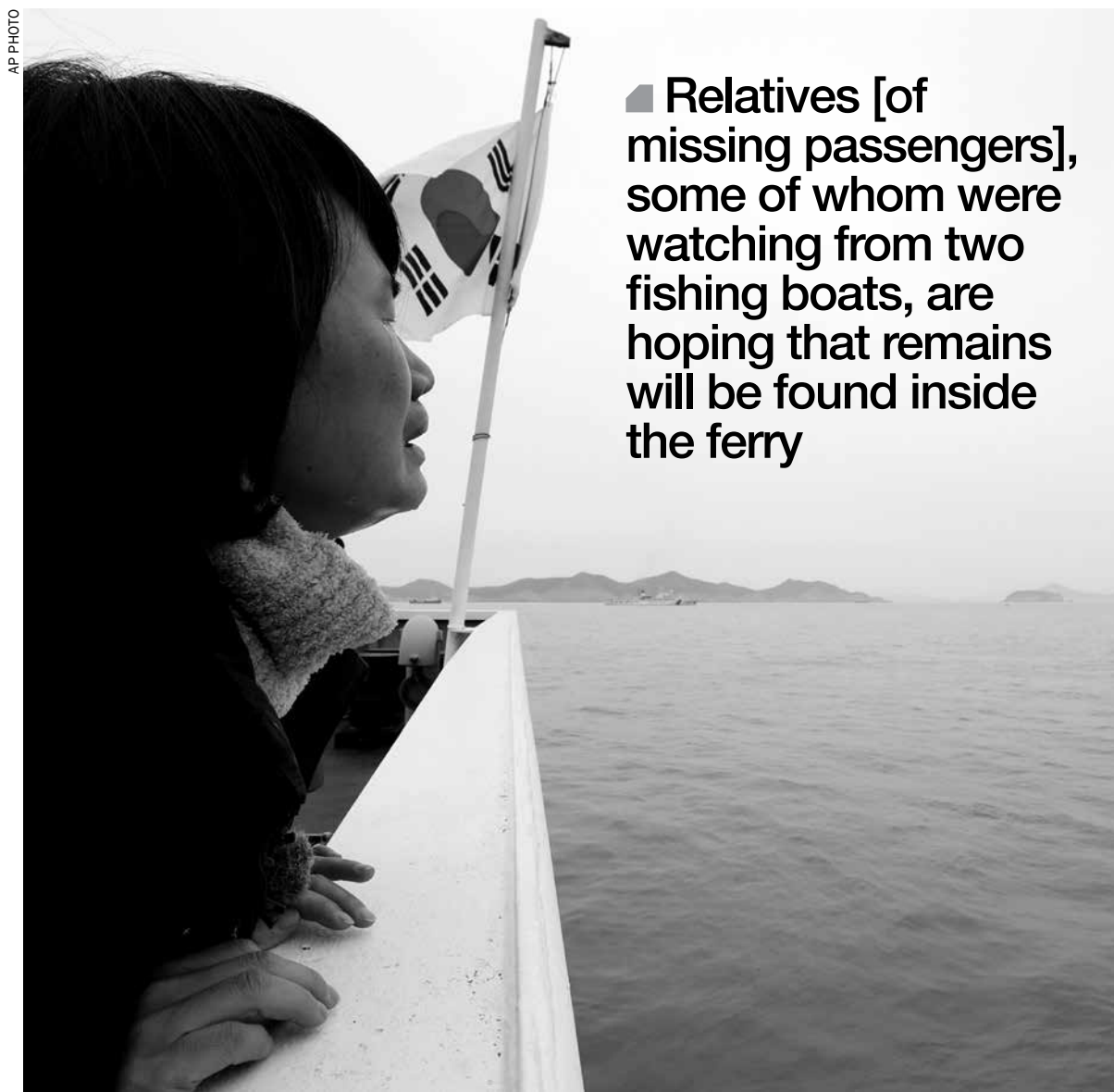
Workers on two barges began the salvaging operation Wednesday night, rolling up 66 cables connected to a frame of metal beams divers spent months putting beneath the ferry, which had been lying on its left side in about 44 meters of water.

By 3:45 a.m., Sewol's stabilizer surfaced from the water. About an hour later, the blue-and-white right side of ferry, rusty and scratched and its name "SEWOL" no longer visible from where it was, emerged for the first time in more than 1,000 days.

By about 7 a.m., the ferry had been raised enough for workers to climb on it and further fasten it to the barges. As of 2 p.m., the top of the ferry was about six meters above the water surface.

Lee Cheoljo, an official from the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, told reporters that workers will need until late afternoon or the evening to raise the ferry until its upper side is about 13 meters above the surface.

Workers had initially planned to do this by yesterday day morning, but were forced to a temporarily halt when the ferry began rubbing against pulleys



A relative of missing passengers of the sunken Sewol ferry weeps as she watches workers lifting the boat in waters off Jindo yesterday

■ Relatives [of missing passengers], some of whom were watching from two fishing boats, are hoping that remains will be found inside the ferry

and other equipment on the barges as it came up, Lee said. They resumed lifting the ferry after spending hours on operations to better balance it.

Once Sewol is raised to the desired point, salvage crews will then load the ferry onto a semi-submersible, heavy-lift vessel that will carry it to a mainland port. The loading process, including emptying the ferry of water and fuel, is expected to take days.

The bodies of 295 passengers were recovered after the sinking on April 16, 2014, but nine are still missing. Relatives, some of

whom who are watching from two fishing boats just outside the operation area, are hoping that those remains will be found inside the ferry.

"I can see it. I can see where my daughter is," Park Eun-mi, the mother of a missing 17-year-old girl, told a television crew as her boat approached the salvaging site on Wednesday. Lee Geum-hee, the mother of another missing student, said, "We just want one thing — for the ship to be pulled up so that we can take our children home."

Once the ferry reaches a port

90 kilometers away in the city of Mokpo, in about two weeks, workers will begin clearing the mud and debris and search for the remains of the missing victims. An investigation committee will also be formed to search for clues that could further explain the cause of the sinking, which has been blamed on overloaded cargo, improper storage and other negligence.

A group representing the families of the victims issued a statement demanding that it be part of the investigation committee. Many bereaved family members

and their supporters have been demanding a more thorough investigation into the government's responsibility over the sinking, questioning why higher-level officials have not been held accountable.

The ferry's captain survived and is serving a life sentence after a court found him guilty of committing homicide through "willful negligence" because he fled the ship without issuing an evacuation order.

Park was forced to defend herself against accusations that she was out of contact for several hours on the day of the sinking. The allegations were included in an impeachment bill lawmakers passed against Park in December, amid broader corruption suspicions.

Park was formally removed from office by the Constitutional Court earlier this month. She is now under criminal investigation over suspicions that she conspired with a confidante to extort money and favors from companies and allow the friend to secretly interfere with state affairs.

In a meeting with Cabinet ministers, Prime Minister Hwang Kyo-ahn, South Korea's acting head of state, urged officials to do their best to ensure a successful job salvaging the ferry, and instructed them to plan a thorough and quick investigation once the ferry reaches the Mokpo port.

Salvaging the huge, corroded ferry from a channel notorious for dangerous currents has been a difficult and expensive job. South Korea agreed in 2015 to an 85.1 billion won (USD76 million) deal with a consortium led by China's state-run Shanghai Salvage Co. to do it.

While many large shipwrecks around the world have first been cut into sections to be raised, this was never an option for Sewol because there are hopes of finding the remains of the missing victims inside the wreckage. AP

Singapore prime minister in Vietnam to up trade, investment

VIETNAM and Singapore signed several business agreements yesterday during a visit by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong aimed at boosting the island state's investment and trade with the communist country.

Two of the six memorandums of understanding witnessed by Lee and his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Xuan Phuc were for industrial parks to be developed by Singapore's

Sembcorp in central Vietnam.

"I'm very glad to be back to Vietnam after more than three years in order to take our relationship another step forward," Lee told reporters at a joint press briefing with Phuc.

Singapore, one of Vietnam's top investors and trading partners, hopes to step up investments in the country, Lee said.

"With more intensive business links and with more

tourism between both sides, travel between Vietnam and Singapore has increased substantially," Lee said.

Phuc said the two leaders were committed to enhancing the partnership between Vietnam and Singapore in all fields.

The two leaders discussed regional and security issues and in particular the South China Sea, Lee said, where issues should be resolved "in accordance with

the international law including the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea [...] and also on the freedom of navigation on the important artery of global commerce in the South China Sea."

Vietnam and China along with the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan claim parts of or all of the South China Sea.

Vietnam is a vocal opponent of China's expansion in the South China Sea. AP



Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong

Academic Year 2017/2018

The Centralised Registration Measure for First-time Infant Education Students



Eligibility

Macao residents aged 3 by 31st December, 2017, who will enrol in infant education in Macao for the first time.

Timeline for printing out and submitting the "Registration slips" Timeline(Year 2017)

Printing out the "Registration slip"

At the self-service kiosks / on the DSEJ website :
Between 25th March and 5th April.

- Macao Residents: Parents have to insert their children's valid Macao Resident Identity Card into the self-service kiosks (same machine for medical vouchers) to print out the "Registration slip". (The slip can only be printed once. Duplicated copies will not be accepted.)

- Non-Macao Residents: Parents need to log in to the DSEJ website (www.dsej.gov.mo), input the required information and print out the "Registration slip". (Schools will have to verify the information when the "Registration slip" is submitted.)

DSEJ counters (for special cases): Between 25th March and 28th April (Except Ching-Ming Festival and Easter holidays).

Release of the admission lists and submission of the "Registration slip"

Schools release the admission lists
Between 27th and 29th March.

Parents of children on the admission lists submit the "Registration slip" to the school selected for their children to attend.
Between 30th March and 5th April (during school office hours).

Release of the waiting lists and submission of the "Registration slip"

Starting from 6th April onwards, schools release the waiting lists

Parents of children on the waiting lists submit the "Registration slip" to the preferred school or conduct the process for transferring their children to another school.
Between 6th and 29th April.

Gentle reminder:

- To enrol in Macao schools, non-Macao Residents must possess a stay or residence permit for over 90 days issued by the authorised entity of the Macao SAR.
- If infants have not been admitted to any school by 6th April, or parents want to enrol their child in other schools, parents can visit the DSEJ website to check the status of K1 places available at different schools, and go to the schools that still accept enrolment for enquiries and registration.
- The DSEJ will provide "Service of consultation and arrangement of school places" to parents who are in need.



Inquiry number :

8397 2309

For details, please browse DSEJ website:

www.dsej.gov.mo

DSEJ mobile app



DSEJ official Wechat account
Wechat ID : dsejmacau



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Members of Britain's House of Parliament observe a minute of silence paying respect to the victims of yesterday's attack in London



May delivered a defiant message to the House of Commons: "We are not afraid"

TERRORISM

IS claims responsibility for London attack; UK's May defiant

THE Islamic State group claimed responsibility yesterday for an attack by a man who plowed an SUV into pedestrians on one of London's famous bridges and then stabbed a police officer to death at Britain's Parliament. In a somber but defiant statement, Britain's prime minister declared that "we are not afraid."

The man who killed three people Wednesday and was shot to death by police was born in Britain and once came under investigation for links to religious extremism, British Prime Minister Theresa May said yesterday in a sweeping speech before the House of Commons.

Police raided properties in London and Birmingham, and made eight arrests.

An Utah man visiting London with his wife for their 25th anniversary and a British woman who was a school administrator were killed by the SUV attack on Westminster Bridge and at least 29 others were hospitalized, seven critically.

May set an unyielding tone yesterday, saluting the heroism of police as well as the ordinary actions of everyone who went about their lives in the aftermath.

"As I speak millions will be boarding trains and airplanes to travel to London, and to see for themselves the greatest city on Earth," she told the House of Commons. "It is in these actions - millions of acts of normality - that we find the best response to terrorism - a response that denies our enemies their victory, that refuses to let them win, that shows we will never give in."

Parliament began its moment of silence at 9:33 a.m., honoring the shoulder number of the slain officer, Keith Palmer, a 15-year veteran of the Metropolitan Police and a former soldier. Then Parliament, which was locked down after the attack, returned

to business - a counter to those who had attacked British democracy.

Eight people were arrested in raids, including some in the city of Birmingham

In 1,000-year-old Westminster Hall, the oldest part of Parliament's buildings, politicians, journalists and parliamentary staff lined up to sign a book of condolences for the victims. Among them was a uniformed policeman, who wrote: "Keith, my friend, will miss you."

The rampage was the first deadly incident at Parliament since 1979, when Conservative lawmaker Airey Neave was killed in a car bombing by Irish militants.

Some parliamentarians said they were shaken, and all were somber. But they were also determined. "There is no such thing as 100 percent security," said Menzies Campbell, a member of the House of Lords. "We have to learn to live with that."

The London attack echoed deadly vehicle rampages in Nice, France, and Berlin last year that IS has claimed. The Islamic State group said through its Amaq News Agency that the London attacker was a soldier of the Islamic State who "carried out the operation in response to calls for targeting citizens of the coalition" of countries fighting IS in Syria and Iraq.

The IS group has been responsible for numerous bloody attacks around the globe and has specifically called for Western followers to carry out this kind of attack in their own countries, though the group has also claimed

events later found to have no clear links to it.

Police believe the attacker acted alone and there is no reason to believe "imminent further attacks" are planned, May said. He had been investigated before but police believed he was a peripheral figure, May said.

Labour Party lawmaker Khalid Mahmood, who represents part of Birmingham, condemned the "barbaric attack" and urged his fellow Muslims to report concerns about radicalization to the police.

"We have to condemn this outright," he said. "There are no ifs

or buts. This is a hugely tragic incident. These people do not belong to any faith. They certainly don't belong to my faith of Islam."

Mahmood said the attacker and those like him "should be condemned by everybody and this shouldn't serve as a tool for division within our community."

Many suspects in British terror attacks and plots have roots in the city, which has been described in a recent terror analysis by the Henry Jackson Society conservative think tank as a center for Islamist extremism. Several local mosques have also been linked to extremist clerics.

British security forces have foiled 13 plots in the past four years. There are currently thousands of extremists in the U.K. who are known to officials but only a fraction of whom are under surveillance, according to a

A look at victims of the attack outside Parliament

HERE'S what's known about the victims of an attack in London where a man plowed a car into pedestrians on Westminster Bridge, killing two people and injuring scores of others. He then stabbed a policeman to death on the grounds of Britain's Parliament before other officers fatally shot him.

The man the police believe to be responsible for the attack in Westminster has been formally identified as Khalid Masood, Scotland Yard said yesterday. BBC reported that Masood, aged 52, was born in Kent, and detectives believe he was most recently living in the West Midlands.

Police Officer Keith Palmer, 48, was on duty protecting Parliament Wednesday when he was stabbed to death. He had been a member of the parliamentary and diplomatic protection forces for 15 years, and a soldier in the Royal Artillery before that. Honoring Palmer, Prime Minister Theresa May said he was "a husband, a father ... he was every inch a hero." His actions will ne-

ver be forgotten."

Praise for Palmer's bravery also poured in from politicians and colleagues, and Britain held a minute's silence Thursday at 9:33 a.m. in honor of his shoulder number, 933. Aysha Frade, a British national whose mother is Spanish, was one of two people killed on the bridge.

Rachel Borland, the principal of DLD College - a school in Westminster a stone's throw from Parliament - said she was a "highly regarded and loved" member of staff who worked in the school's administration team.

The Spanish Foreign Ministry says Spanish consular officials have made contact with Frade's relatives in Spain's northwestern region of Galicia, when her identity was confirmed. Frade was 43 and had two daughters, Spain's regional Voz de Galicia newspaper reported.

Kurt Cochran, a Utah man visiting London with his wife Melissa for their 25th anniversary, was named as among the dead by the Church of Jesus Christ of Lat-

security official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak about ongoing security operations. It takes dozens of officers to watch just one terror suspect.

Witnesses said the attacker went straight after the police officer after ramming into the pedestrians.

"This man got out of the car with two knives in his hands and while he was running he was stabbing people. He arrived in front of the entrance to the parliament and he started to stab a policeman," said Vincenzo Mangiacarpe, an Italian boxer who was visiting Parliament. "You can imagine if someone was playing a drum on your back with 2 knives - he gave him around 10 stabs in the back, then he left the policeman and he came toward us."

Metropolitan Police counter-terrorism chief Mark Rowley revised the death toll from five to four, including the attacker. He said 29 people required hospitalization and seven of them were in critical condition. He also said that authorities were still working out the number of "walking wounded." Police had previously given the total number of wounded in Wednesday's attack as around 40.

London has been a target for terrorism many times over past decades and the threat level for the British capital was already listed at severe, meaning an attack was "highly likely."

May said the attack in London targeted "free people everywhere," and she said she had a response for those behind it: "You will not defeat us." **AP**



Police officer Keith Palmer

ter-day Saints. She was seriously injured in the attack as is still hospitalized.

In addition to the dead, at least 30 people from 12 countries were injured. Of those who required hospital treatment, 12 were British, three were French, two were Romanian, four were South Korean, two were Greek, and one each were from Germany, Poland, Ireland, China, Italy and the U.S. Portuguese officials also said one person from Portugal was injured. Police earlier said that seven people were in critical condition.

TV canal macau



FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
17:00	Criminal Minds S.9
17:40	Castle S6 (Repeated)
18:20	Now Generation (Repeated)
19:10	TDM Talk Show (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	Miscellaneous
22:10	Now Generation
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Portuguese Movie
01:20	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
02:10	RTPi Live

SATURDAY

10:35	Comedy
11:10	Blaze Riders
11:30	Documentary Serie
12:00	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	Soap Opera
18:35	Documentary Series
19:40	Miscellaneous
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Miscellaneous
21:10	Drama
22:00	Revenge S.4
22:45	Miscellaneous
23:00	TDM News
00:15	2018 FIFA World Cup Qualifiers Highlights
00:40	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:15	RTPi Live
03:45	FIFA World Cup Qualifiers: Portugal - Hungria (Live)
05:55	RTPi Live

SUNDAY

10:05	Young Adult
11:00	Sunday Mass (Live)
12:00	Miscellaneous
12:30	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	Zig Zag
16:05	Documentary Serie
16:50	Miscellaneous
18:15	Miscellaneous
18:30	FIFA World Cup Qualifiers: Portugal - Hungria (Repeated)
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-Daily Portuguese News
22:00	Transgender kids: Who Knows Best?
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Non-Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
23:50	2018 FIFA World Cup Qualifiers Highlights
00:15	Documentary Series
00:40	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeat)
01:15	RTPi Live

Offbeat

AUSTRALIAN POLICE ARREST MAN IN TODDLER’S 1970 DISAPPEARANCE

Australian police have made an arrest in the mysterious disappearance of a toddler from a beach nearly 50 years ago, charging a man with the 3-year-old girl's slaying in a case that has baffled officials for decades.

A 63-year-old man who was once considered a person of interest in the 1970 disappearance of Cheryl Grimmer was arrested this week, New South Wales police Detective Inspector Brad Ainsworth told reporters.

“I’m not going to get into the specifics of the actual detail of the offenses, but I can say that they’re quite horrific and they’ll be unfolding in court,” Ainsworth said.

The man, whose name was not released, was 16 when Cheryl vanished from a beach in the New South Wales city of Wollongong. The toddler, who had spent the morning at the beach with her mother and three brothers, went into a changing area with her siblings while their mother packed up their belongings. Cheryl was never seen again, and her body was never found. Police believe Cheryl was taken from the front of the changing area and died within an hour of her abduction, Ainsworth said.

cinema



CINETEATRO

24 MAR

POWER RANGERS

ROOM 1
2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30pm
Director: Dean Israel
Starring: Bryan Cranston, Elizabeth Banks, Naomi Scott
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 124min



LIFE

ROOM 2
2:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30pm
Director: Daniel Espinosa
Starring: Jake Gyllenhaal, Rebecca Ferguson, Ryan Reynolds
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 103min



KONG: SKULL ISLAND

ROOM 3
2:15, 4:30, 9:30pm
Director: Jordan Vogt-Roberts
Starring: Tom Hiddleston, Samuel L. Jackson, Brie Larson
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 118min



SILENCE

ROOM 3
6:45pm
Director: Martin Scorsese
Starring: Andrew Garfield, Adam Driver, Liam Neeson
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 118min

MACAU TOWER

15 MAR - 29 MAR



BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30pm
Director: Bill Condon
Starring: Emma Watson, Dan Stevens, Luke Evans
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 129min

this day in history



1965 MILLIONS WATCH SPACE PROBE CRASH INTO MOON

A ground-breaking 15-minute live broadcast has shown ordinary Americans what it feels like to be a space probe hurtling to destruction on the Moon.

The extraordinary pictures from the Ranger 9 moon lander were beamed out directly from the spacecraft's internal cameras.

They were switched on at about 0850 local time (1350 GMT) as the probe fell from a height of 1,468 miles (2,363 km) towards the Moon's surface.

Television viewers were then taken on a dizzying journey as Ranger 9 crashed headlong into the pock-marked crater Alphonsus, near the centre of the Moon's face.

Ranger 9 was the last of the moon probes sent on so-called kamikaze missions in which they are deliberately aimed at the surface of the Moon to take as many images as possible before being destroyed on impact.

The previous two, Rangers 7 and 8, sent back thousands of photographs of the Moon before hitting its surface.

But Ranger 9 was equipped to convert its signals into a form suitable for showing on domestic television, and brought images of the Moon into ordinary homes.

Viewers of the astonishing live broadcast saw a series of pictures, starting with three flat craters - Ptolemaeus, 85 miles (137 km) in diameter, Alphonsus, 50 miles (80 km) across, and Albategnius, 60 miles (96 km) wide.

As the spacecraft drew closer to the Moon's surface, the area photographed became large in scale and focussed on the crater Alphonsus.

At five minutes from impact, 400 miles (644 km) from the surface, pronounced channels looking like large roads appeared.

At 177 miles (285 km) away, the surface appeared pockmarked and rough, like a close-up of human skin.

Pictures remained sharp and clear as little as a third of a mile (540 metres) from the surface, and then the screen suddenly went black as the probe landed.

The final picture was made when the spacecraft was just two-tenths of a second from impact, and scientists hope it will reveal new details about the Moon's crust.

Scientists will now analyse the pictures, along with over 11,000 images from Rangers 7 and 8.

The successful mission comes just 24 hours after the launch of Gemini III, the second stage in America's race to land a man on the Moon.

The spacecraft has two astronauts on board - the first time America has sent two astronauts into space at the same time - and will orbit the Earth three times before coming down to land.

Courtesy of BBC

IN CONTEXT

The Ranger 9 moon lander pictures temporarily pushed the United States ahead of the Soviet Union in the space race. The pictures showed that the Moon's surface was capable of bearing the weight of a manned spacecraft - a key issue for Nasa scientists at the time.

It also showed that although choosing a landing site among the craters and mountain ranges would be difficult, it would not be impossible.

The pictures were used in developing the Surveyor lunar landers, the first of which were launched in 1966.

However, they were beaten to it by the USSR's Luna 9 lander, which in February 1966 sent back the first pictures from the surface of the Moon.

Surveyor 1 landed four months later.

When the United States landed Neil Armstrong on the moon on 21 July 1969, he stepped down in the area known as the Sea of Tranquility - chosen as a likely landing spot from photographs taken by Ranger 8.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
If you're still feeling as if your mind is a big fog bank and your emotions are hailstones, you might not be quite ready to face the usual demands you juggle from day to day, much less any extra responsibilities.

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
There's nothing flighty in your approach today. You're all business and have both the concentration and the mental sharpness to develop a full understanding of the task facing you.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
You may have the chance to pick up terrific deals at an auction or estate sale. Thoroughly examine the pieces that interest you, however, and make your own valuations.

Libra
Sep.23-Oct. 22
Financial considerations could tempt you to throw away donation requests from worthy nonprofits that you've supported in the past. Overcome your overcautious approach to cutting back expenses.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Caught up completely in the mental exercise of spinning outlandish scenarios, you could imagine yourself in all sorts of extraordinary situations. The key to your innermost dreams could lie in some of these projections.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Perhaps it is time for you to take a more active role in community affairs, or maybe you have your sights set even higher. If you make commitments, however, you must be determined to follow through with them.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
Now that you've got your outbursts under control, you can begin to examine the cause. You are obviously feeling uncharacteristically vulnerable and sensitive, but what triggered this reaction?

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
If it seems that everyone knows something you don't, perhaps you need to probe the reasons why that seems to be. Burying your head in the sand effectively keeps you out of the loop and in the dark.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Wise words sometimes come from unexpected sources. Listening to someone who has already found their way could help you find yours. Keep your ears open so that you can add these jewels to your treasure box.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
Vast reserves of inner strength keep you going, and minor setbacks don't have the slightest chance of dimming your resolve. It helps that positive strokes far outnumber the few negative barbs you might have to pull.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
An especially keen insight and plenty of background information could turn difficult decisions into child's play. That idea for transforming a hobby into a moneymaking opportunity also deserves another look.

Pisces
Feb.19-Mar. 20
You don't have to be unpleasant to make them listen. A total cessation of all unreasonable activities and an assertive declaration of your boundaries will have a remarkable effect.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

6				5	8	7		1
8			3			2		
7				6				8
	3		5			6		
	4						9	
		7			9		4	
	6			7				3
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9		1	2	3				4

Easy+

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	5			1			9	
7	3		6					
8						5		4
		7	9		2	1		
	6			4	8			

Medium

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	1		9					6
		2		3				7
	7			9			4	
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8					1		6	
5			4					8
		4	8			5	7	

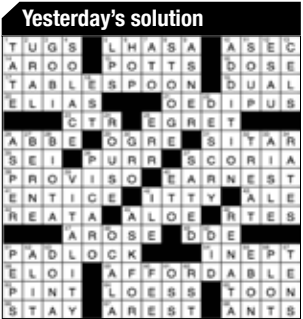
Hard

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	1					5		
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8		2		5			6	4
					6			
9			1			2		
6			7					
		4						

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Beginning on; 5- Zeno of ____; 9- Bar bills; 13- Score; 14- Infomercial knife; 16- Journalist Jacob; 17- Division word; 18- Vows; 19- Part of QED; 20- Resting place; 21- Daughter of Cadmus; 22- Except if; 24- Cubs slugger Sammy; 26- Scottish Celt; 27- Commandment word; 29- Increase by procreation; 33- Disgrace; 34- Winder for holding flexible material; 35- Gin flavoring; 36- Chatter; 37- Fall guy; 38- Actress Jillian; 39- Small combo; 41- Deck quartet; 42- Forceps; 44- Located; 46- Legal wrongs; 47- A wedding cake may have three of these; 48- Gyro meat; 49- Horrify; 52- Prefix with content; 53- Technical sch.; 57- Jutting rock; 58- Sarge's superior; 60- Big book; 61- Scrabble piece; 62- Bedeck; 63- Bard's river; 64- Iowa city; 65- Formerly, formerly; 66- Falls behind;

DOWN: 1- Not "fer"; 2- Unit of loudness; 3- Cereal grain; 4- Refuse floating on water; 5- Self-centered person; 6- Climbing vine; 7- Within (prefix); 8- Volcano output; 9- Lattice; 10- Suffix with concession; 11- Prejudice; 12- Concordes, e.g.; 15- Normally; 23- Hockey goal part; 25- Cheer for Manolete; 26- Conjecture; 27- Puppeteer Lewis; 28- Nun wear; 29- Doled (out); 30- Factory; 31- Yarns; 32- Cravings; 33- Cpls.' superiors; 34- One on track?; 37- Kneecap; 40- Power problems; 42- Aunt Polly's nephew; 43- Describing the path of a satellite; 45- Feel lousy; 46- Aptitude; 48- Dens; 49- Proceedings; 50- Prissy; 51- Lacking color; 52- Heath; 54- Bright star; 55- Air pollution; 56- Change for a fifty; 59- Form of poem, often used to praise something;



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Ref: 16100626

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HKD 6.99M
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Ref: 16095501

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Parking Upon Request
HKD 12,800 / 1,200 sq ft
Ref: 17010631

Nova City Penthouse Taipa
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HKD 15.54M
European Style
Ref: 16105508

Houston Court
Coloane Village
2 Bedroom Apartment
Furnished and Renovated
HKD 11,800 / 740 sq ft
Ref: 15110549

Nam Long (J Unit) Old Taipa
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HKD 4.3M
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Ref: 16095499

Hellene Gardens, Lot 4, D Unit
Tulip Court, Coloane
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FOOTBALL

Brazil rebuilds after 7-1 debacle and aims high at World Cup

Mauricio Savarese, Sao Paulo

THE last time Brazil's national team won six World Cup qualifiers in a row, it went on to lift the trophy in 1970 in Mexico — its third of five titles.

Coach Tite's team is far from that level, and Neymar is not Pele. But a victory in Uruguay today [Friday, 7:00am] could secure Brazil's place at next year's World Cup in Russia. If not, qualification should follow next week against Paraguay.

One thing is clear: after its biggest humiliation, Brazil is back.

The 7-1 loss to Germany in the 2014 World Cup semifinals has become an increasingly distant memory since Brazil beat top sides such as Argentina and Colombia. The emergence of new players like striker Gabriel Jesus has also helped to motivate the squad after its crushing defeat.

Under new coach Tite, Brazil is now so confident of its prospects that it has scheduled a friendly away to Germany next year.

Even teams that used to brag about having a positive record against Brazil now sound more concerned. That's the case with Uruguay and Paris Saint-Germain striker Edinson Cavani, who will face Brazil in Montevideo.

"The difficult moment that Brazil went through taught them lessons. They have a new way of playing and they made changes that brought more balance, more continuity to their

AP PHOTO



Brazil's coach Tite talks with his players during a training session in Sao Paulo

national team," Cavani told reporters.

Brazilian players have the same feeling.

"Wherever I go with Inter Milan now they say good things about us, ask about our coach," defender Miranda said. "The opponents now feel that this is the Brazil of always. A team widely respected, strong and always a candidate to achieve big things."

Before September, many Brazilians feared their team would not qualify for the World Cup for the first time. Since then, a more intense and creative style has emerged. It has produced

six wins in six matches and 17 goals in South American qualifiers. Fourteen of those came after assists, a sign that Brazilian teamwork has improved.

Brazil has also conceded just one goal in that stretch, an own-goal in a 2-1 victory over Colombia.

The old reliance on Neymar has vanished. Striker Jesus, who will miss the next matches because of a broken toe, scored five goals in World Cup qualifiers, one more than the Barcelona star. Midfielder Philippe Coutinho added another two goals, arriving from spaces opened up by the front duo. Six other

players also scored.

The number of exchanged passes also points to a different Brazil in Russia next year.

Under former coach Dunga, the average was 431 passes per game, according to figures from Brazil's football confederation. Now it's 474. Scoring opportunities have also risen, from 12.5 to 14.5, and players have said the coach's 4-1-4-1 tactics allow them to create much higher-quality chances, and closer to goal.

Several national team coaches have praised Brazil's form, including Germany's Joachim Loew and Argentina's Edgardo

Bauza. The most recent is Uruguay's Oscar Tabarez.

"Brazil leads the pack, they are playing great football," Tabarez told a news conference. "They have more than Neymar. They have midfielders that recover the ball and score. They will be in contention in Russia."

Brazil was much less impressive under Dunga, who was fired in June 2016. He took over from Luiz Felipe Scolari after the debacle against Germany in Belo Horizonte in 2014.

Brazil was languishing in sixth place in the 10-team qualifying standings for South America before September, following two wins, three draws and one loss. The team had scored 11 goals and conceded eight. Fans booed not only the bad results, but also the predictable game plan.

Now Brazil is top of the standings, with a four-point lead over second-place Uruguay.

Under Tite, the defense has become rock solid with Dani Alves, Marquinhos, Miranda and Marcelo, a back four that also has the protection of midfielder Casemiro.

However, goalkeeper Alisson, until recently a reserve at Roma, is still seen as a liability.

The rest of Tite's midfield is yet to be figured out, with Paulinho, Fernandinho and Renato Augusto fighting for two positions. Liverpool's Coutinho meanwhile faces competition from Chelsea's Willian.

But Brazil's quality of play and the string of victories in recent World Cup qualifier give Tite enormous latitude.

A World Cup winner with Brazil in 1994 and Scolari's assistant in the 7-1 German hammering, Carlos Alberto Parreira calls Tite "a magician or a wizard."

"We went from out of the World Cup to first place," he said in a recent interview with ESPN Brasil. "Brazil is now finishing these qualifiers as a favorite for the World Cup title." AP

FORMULA ONE

Faster cars means bigger, stronger drivers for 2017

RENAULT driver Nico Hulkenberg has the kind of name that sounds like big could be his thing.

In Formula One seasons past, muscle bulk hasn't really been the key requirement for drivers, with work on endurance being the focus of training in the gym. The new regulations in F1 have made the cars bigger and faster, prefacing an era that has the drivers and fans more excited than usual, and so the pilots have to follow suit.

"The cars are like driving a very fast and spectacular roller-coaster and it's a

lot more demanding than before," Hulkenberg said ahead of the season-opening Australian Grand Prix tomorrow (Sunday, 1:00pm). "Now you have to wrestle these cars!"

"The tires allow you to push harder every lap, so you can exploit and be on the limit. It's a lot more work and a lot more demanding. There's a lot that's new, but the game is still the same."

Lewis Hamilton has worked out the game, winning three drivers' titles, so he's more than ready to up the ante.

"As racing drivers in ge-

neral you want to drive the quickest cars in the world and I think you always want to go faster," the Mercedes driver said. "The cars are faster than what they were last year. The challenge of exploiting that speed with your car on the track is a great challenge and it's more in the direction of how F1 should be in the sense of the physicality side of it."

Hamilton, who won back-to-back titles with Mercedes in 2014 and '15 and narrowly missed out to teammate Nico Rosberg last season, considers himself as much an

athlete as a driver.

"F1 should be the most physically demanding sport in terms of all the driving series," he said. "In previous years that hasn't been the case — it hasn't been to the level that we train to, is relatively easy for us to do — now you have to really push the boundaries, which I like."

The F1 rule changes means wider tires, greater aerodynamics, bigger fuel loads and increased downforce, which have made the cars heavier but also significantly faster.

The tires, which are 25



Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain (left), Red Bull driver Daniel Ricciardo of Australia and Ferrari driver Sebastian Vettel of Germany (right)

percent wider, have more grip and are more durable, enabling drivers to push harder through the corners.

Even though Mercedes dominated under the previous regulations, Hamilton was a big advocate for the changes. AP

opinion

Kapok
Eric Sautedé



CHOICE MATTERS

Despite all the loathing at the pre-screening of candidates for the 2017 Chief Executive election in Hong Kong, having a somewhat contested selection process, with a few candidates vying for the top job, does make a difference and bring healthy civic benefits. And this, even though Beijing's "preferred candidate", Carrie Lam, qualified with 580 nominations (only 21 short of the majority she will need on March 26), against a mere 180 for Woo Kwok-hing and 165 for John Tsang.

This not to say that the reform package proposed by the Hong Kong government in 2014-2015 and derived from Beijing's August 31, 2014 ruling on the limit imposed as to whom could run is not a travesty of universal suffrage: it is, from every angle and by any criteria, and it does ridicule the core idea of free choice made by the whole body of citizens.

Moreover, it makes the 2007 Standing Committee of the National People's Congress ruling on universal suffrage by 2017 for the CE election look like a mockery, even more so after the successful so-called civil referendum of June 2014, with a turnout of close to 800,000 voters, that resulted in 42 percent of the participants backing up the proposal allowing the public, a nominating committee, and political parties to endorse candidates for the top position.

Hence, the frustration, that translated first in the truly unexpected period of occupation of Hong Kong landmarks for almost three months — the "Umbrella Movement" — in late 2014 and then the electoral victories of self-determination-leaning young democrats in the legislative elections of September 2016 as well as the record win of 326 seats by pan-democrats for the Election Committee sub-sector elections of last December.

If the pressure put on Beijing and the establishment has changed in nature, it is still very much present and pervasive, and the very fact that C.Y. Leung was not allowed to stand for a second mandate suggests that the central authorities are well aware of the present state of mind of society — an honorary united-front title hardly compensates.

One could argue that Long Hair's failed attempt at gathering 38,000 popular nominations (1 percent of the eligible voters, in line with the winning motion of the 2014 civil referendum) for an alternative "shadow election" indicates a serious drop in pressure. Even the unofficial referendum on the chief executive election that ended on March 20 resulted in only 63,076 people participating, and yet the final result was pretty telling: 96.1 percent opposed Lam, and Tsang prevailed. The former financial secretary had started to show his predominance in the polls as early as January, and in the most recent rolling poll administered by Hong Kong University, his overwhelming superiority had grown in strength over the whole month of March, whereas Lam had suffered an equally steady decline.

Quite ironically, the discrepancy between the popularity of one — John Tsang — and the certainty of the victory of the other — Carrie Lam — is in itself proving more stimulating than disheartening. First, because despite the election being decided by so-called "small circles", the campaign has been all about showing that each and everyone was in tune with the people's concerns — hence the campaign posters in the MTR and the TV debates. Second, because if this is also working in Beijing's interest by suggesting that the acceptance of the 2015 electoral reform package could have yielded a more congruent ultimate outcome (with universal suffrage, Tsang would probably win), it is also putting in crude light the exhaustion of the present system, to the point where even though issues get debated, alternative proposals barely look more than cosmetically contentious. The triumph of style over substance.

The campaign was indeed less audacious than in 2007, as well as less farcical and gripping than in 2012, but by giving debate a chance, accountability will be easier to assert. No wonder then that democrats in Macao would have accepted a Beijing-sponsored version of universal suffrage: the one candidate-one seat formula in our SAR is not only grotesque, but also totally obsolete!

THE BUZZ OOPS! RELIGIOUS TV STATION IN SENEGAL ACCIDENTALLY AIRS PORN

An Islamic television station in Senegal says it has filed a formal complaint against unknown saboteur "X" for taking over the network and airing pornography instead of its regularly scheduled religious programming.

Viewers tuning into Touba TV this week got a shock when hardcore pornography was aired from 1:10

p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Touba TV yesterday called the broadcasting blunder a "criminal act" and said the formal complaint will make it possible to identify the "authors who have an unknown agenda." The broadcaster said its viewers were offended, and it condemned the attempt as a "satanic move" to sabotage the values it advocates.

Eurozone chief urged to quit for 'liquor and women' quip

Raf Casert & Barry Hatton

PORTUGAL led calls yesterday [Macau time] for the eurozone's top official to resign for what many saw as derogatory comments about debt-ridden southern nations spending foolishly and relying on their northern partners to bail them out.

Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa said he was outraged by comments earlier this week from Jeroen Dijsselbloem, the Dutch finance minister who chairs discussions of his peers in the 19-country eurozone.

"I cannot spend all my money on liquor and women and then ask for your support," Dijsselbloem said in reference to European countries that needed bailouts.

The comments, made in an interview with the German newspaper Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, drew outrage in southern European nations and also from Dijsselbloem's own socialist allies.

"We regard it as absolutely unacceptable for him to stay in his post," Portugal's Costa said. "Mr. Dijsselbloem has insulted us. Mr. Dijsselbloem has shown himself to be sexist, racist, xenophobic and an embarrassment for Europe, and because of that he cannot hold any EU post."

And MEP Kathleen Van Brempt said top officials from the EU's S&D group were "unanimous" and that he'd

"better withdraw as chairman of the eurogroup."

She added that the "denigrating tone reminds us of the way that people, regions or countries in trouble are increasingly addressed."

The embarrassing spat comes just as Rome prepares to host an EU leaders' summit marking 60 years since the founding of the forerunner of the European Union.

Dijsselbloem's comments also revived a sense of a north-south divide in Europe. Supposedly thrifty northern Europeans have shouldered most of the cost of bailing out eurozone governments, mostly in the south: Greece, Portugal and Cyprus among them. Spain got loans for its banks but also had to impose painful austerity to meet EU deficit limits.

The austerity demanded has bruised their economies, most notably Greece's, which has endured a recession that saw the country lose a quarter of its national output.

Greek government spokesman Dimitris Tzanakopoulos said Dijsselbloem adopted "stereotypes that widen the gap between north and south and in reality pave the way, one would say, for extremist views."

Tzanakopoulos added that "at a time when Europe is in an intense political quest for its next political steps, statements that expand the gap between north and south are



Portugal's Prime Minister Antonio Costa

not helpful at all."

Dijsselbloem refused to apologize for his statement and insisted that financial solidarity comes with obligations, including budgetary rigor that sometimes was found wanting.

His failure to apologize irked Spanish Economy Minister Luis de Guindos, who told reporters the remarks were "unfortunate in every way," and that he'd been counting on an apology.

The EU's antitrust chief, Margrethe Vestager of Denmark, also made clear she opposed Dijsselbloem's remark. "I would not have said it, and I think it's wrong," she said.

Germany was an exception to the rule, with the finance ministry saying minister Wolfgang Schaeuble "greatly values" Dijsselbloem's work as head of the eurogroup. AP

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	45-65 Moderate	
High Density Residential Area	45-65 Moderate	
Ambient	50-70 Moderate	

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS



AFGHANISTAN The Taliban captured a key district center in Afghanistan's southern Helmand province yesterday, officials said. The fall of Sangin district, once considered the deadliest battlefield for British and U.S. troops in Afghanistan, comes amid the insurgents' year-long push to expand their footprint in the Taliban heartland.

BELGIUM A French national of North African origin was arrested in Belgium yesterday, after officials suspected he was planning to drive at a crowd at high speed. There were no reports of injuries but police found knives and a non-lethal gun in the car.



presidential candidate Marine Le Pen is headed to Moscow for meetings with lawmakers less than a month before the election, officials from her National Front party said yesterday.

EU-TURKEY The European Union has summoned Turkey's permanent representative to the bloc to explain what many have seen as threatening language by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. He said that Europeans would not be able to walk the streets safely if European nations persist in what he called arrogant conduct.

UNITED NATIONS The inspections regime put in place to closely monitor Iran's nuclear activity is in jeopardy unless the U.S. and other nations contribute more money, the head of the U.N.'s International Atomic Energy Agency said.

times square by rodrigo

