



WORLD SUPERMODEL EVENT KICKS OFF

P2



CML PROTECTION CENTER STARTS OPERATION

The center is located inside Taipa's Immigration Department Office building

P4



TOURISTS SURGE IN APRIL

Visitor arrivals in April reached 2.7 million, representing an increase of 11 percent year-on-year

P4



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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS



JAPAN's lower house approved a bill allowing authorities to punish those found guilty of planning serious crimes, legislation that opponents say could be used to undermine basic civil liberties. [More on p12](#)

CHINA A disruptive passenger on a United Airlines flight from Shanghai to New Jersey was asked to get off the plane in a politically tinged altercation, resulting in an unscheduled stop in San Francisco. [More on p11](#)



CHINA A computer defeated China's top player of the ancient board game go in the latest test of whether artificial intelligence can master one of the last games that machines have yet to dominate. AlphaGo beat Ke Jie, 19, by a half-point, the closest margin possible.

SOUTH CHINA SEA The United States has delivered six coastal patrol boats to Vietnam's coast guard in a move that expands the two nation's security cooperation amid tension in the South China Sea. Meanwhile, two vessels clash in the disputed waters. [More on p10](#)



SOUTH KOREA Former President Park Geun-hye denied corruption charges at the start of a criminal trial that could potentially send South Korea's first female leader to prison for life if she is convicted. [More on p12](#)

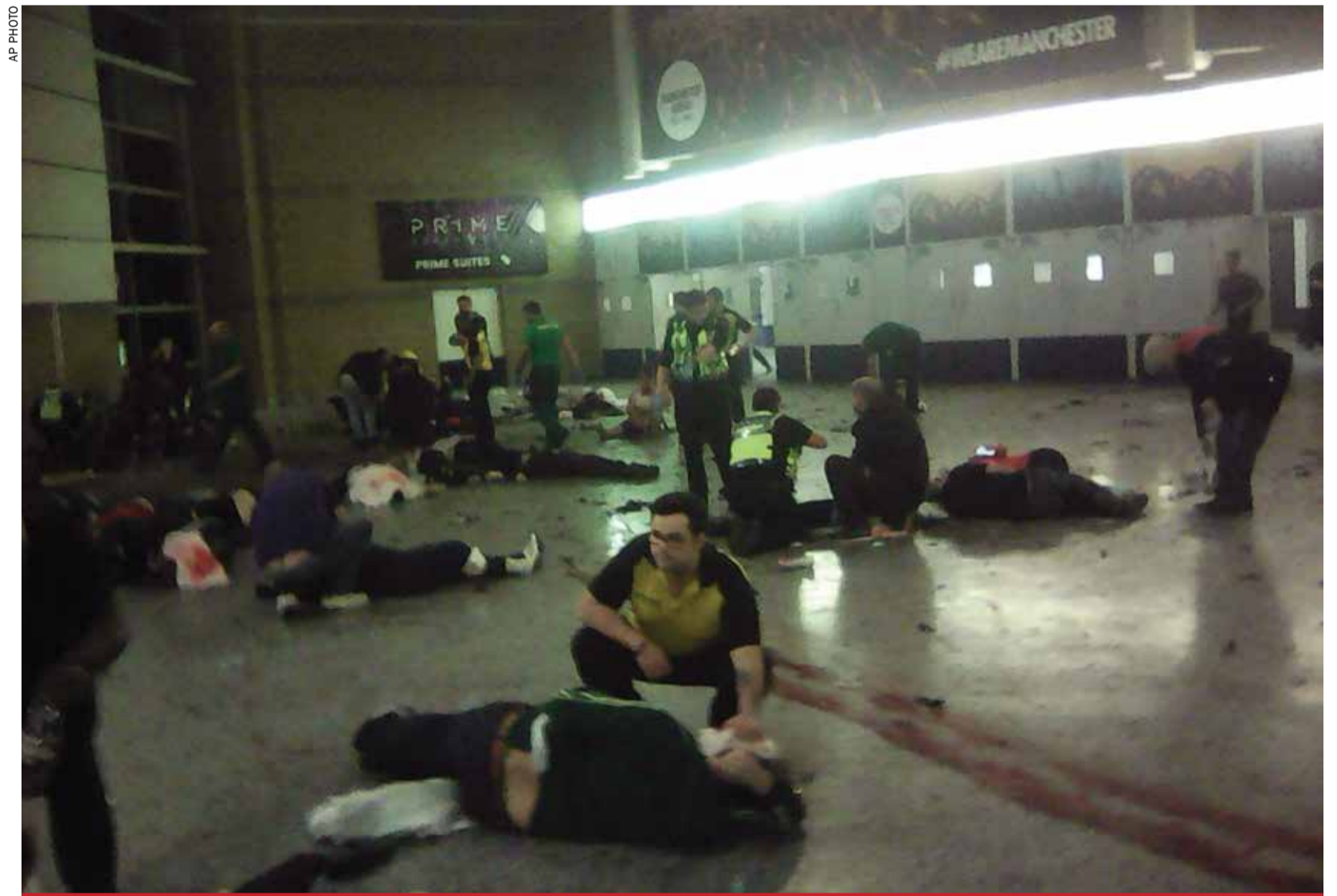
[More on backpage](#)

TERRORISM

Children among 22 dead in Manchester blast

P13, 18

Police investigating whether suicide bomber acted alone or was part of a network



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

Bangsil says more lawsuits may come against Wynn Macau

P3

World supermodel event kicks off

Renato Marques

THE 10th edition of the World Supermodel Production (WSP) event kicked off yesterday afternoon at the Macau Tower outdoors observation deck (Adventure Deck).

This is the first time that the Australian-based company behind the event has chosen Macau for the final competition, which includes the participation of a total of 39 models representing 26 countries and regions.

The models, separated into two categories "WSP" and "Teen", will compete for the title of World Supermodel.

Concurrent to the model contest, other events – including an International Fashion Week – will be held until Saturday.

These programs will start today with a fashion show featuring Macanese designers and move into tomorrow with a swimsuit fashion event and a bridal wear event on Friday.

The biggest event of the week will take place on Saturday when the crowning ceremony of this year's World Supermodel will be held.

Among the contestants there is also a Macanese representative, Annabelle Lin, a student in the undergraduate program of Social Sciences in Communication at the University of Macau.

Happy to see her homeland chosen as the host of this year's event Lin said, "I will take this opportunity to showcase the best of Macau to the world."

For today's fashion show, Lin will be collaborating with Macanese designer Nicole Tam. Tam has recently founded her own style consultancy named ANtitled.

During the inauguration ceremony held on the 61st floor of the Macau Tower, the CEO of the company, Gavin Dooley, expressed his excitement for the event saying, "we are very happy to be here in Macau for the first time. The city is beautiful, the people are great and the food fantastic."

Dooley also revealed that the World Supermodel production has partnered with US Go Indie TV to offer a role in an upcoming Hollywood production that, he has revealed, "might be [at least partially] filmed in Macau."

Two movie producers, Annette Alicanti and Gregg Cannizzaro who will serve as part of the judging panel of the event, have said they will be taking this opportunity to "explore potential shooting venues and look for potential talent in the city."

After the inauguration ceremony that was attended by all of the contestants, the models had the opportunity to experience some of the thrills offered by the venue, such as the skywalk and the bungee jump.

RENATO MARQUES



LEGAL WISE BY MdME

Joana Coimbra de Almeida*

AUTOMATIC EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION IN THE AGE OF GLOBAL TAX TRANSPARENCY

The growing concerns across multiple jurisdictions with the promotion of tax transparency and fighting cross-border tax evasion have led to a global commitment towards implementing international tax information exchange. The movement started in 2010 with the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act in which the United States of America proceeded with the unilateral implementation of the fiscal law for foreign accounts requiring all international financial institutions to provide information regarding nationals or residents of the United States. This was followed in July 2014 by a standard system of multi-lateral automatic exchange of information introduced by the United Nations Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, designated as the "Common Standard on Reporting and Due Diligence for Financial Account Information" (the "CRS").

The Macau Government was very responsive

with their intent to become involved in such a movement, firstly by implementing the CRS through the Macao Monetary Authority guidelines and recently, on the 11th of April 2017, by reinforcing the same with the introduction of a legislative proposal amending the existing Law no.20/2009. The legislative proposal entitled "The Tax Information Exchange Law" sets out the different methods to exchange information and also a regime of administrative penalties for non-compliance with the provisions.

The CRS regulates the general requirements and due diligence procedures to be applied by every reporting financial institution in respect to the exchange of financial information pertaining to more than 100 participant jurisdictions. The local legislative proposal, on the other hand, will contribute by aligning the Macau jurisdiction with the international standards and methods for automatic exchange of information.

According to the CRS regulations, financial institutions will be required to collect certain personal data from their customers, including their names, addresses, jurisdictions of residency, tax payer identification numbers and the date of birth of each account holder. In addition, and more importantly, the required financial information will also cover data related to investment income, account numbers, balances and sales proceeds from financial assets for each reporting period in order to determine the reportable accounts and entities.

Under the automatic exchange of information, if customers are identified to be tax residents of jurisdictions with which Macau has entered into international agreements, the collected information will be shared with local tax authorities and with other relevant overseas tax authorities.

In respect of the banking sector, upon the opening of new accounts, banks will firstly

need to determine if the account holder is a reportable person by requiring a self-certification form from their customers/account holders. If the self-certification form establishes that the account holder is a resident for tax purposes in a reportable jurisdiction, the bank account will be automatically treated as a reportable account.

Another crucial aspect to bear in mind in relation to reportable accounts, is the criteria based on the existing balance of an account. For instance, with respect to preexisting accounts, if the balance of an account exceeds a certain amount, enhanced due diligence and review procedures will be required regarding such accounts. On the other hand, a different and simpler set of procedures will be adequate to handle accounts with a balance lower or equal to MOP2,000,000.

The implementation of the automatic exchange of information together with the new legislative proposal, is another step in the right direction for Macau, and it will certainly contribute to the establishment of the jurisdiction as a transparent, stable and secure financial market as well as a law-abiding international business partner.

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MDT EXCLUSIVE

Pagcor official claims in lawsuit that Wynn Macau tarnished his career

Daniel Beittler*

A former Philippine gaming regulator is suing Wynn Macau on the basis of what he describes as the unlawful and “wrongful” disclosure of his personal data to an authority outside of Macau, which subsequently tarnished his professional integrity and damaged his career.

Rogelio Yusi Bangsil Jr, a former executive at Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (Pagcor), a state-owned gaming company and casino regulator, was named in a report commissioned by a U.S. law firm in 2011, regarding an improper relationship between Japanese billionaire Kazuo Okada and Philippine gaming officials.

The report, drawn up under former FBI director Louis Freeh, alleged that Okada had made unlawful payments and provided gifts to some 17 people, including Bangsil and his wife, Suzzanne, in order to earn favor with gaming regulators. A total of MOP880,000 in gifts and payments was alleged to have been provided to the 17



individuals, which included hotel stays in Macau and Las Vegas.

However, the report had relied on personal data being unlawfully transferred from Wynn Macau to a company outside of the MSAR, thereby violating Macau's Personal Data Protection Act. In 2011, the Macau Office for Personal Data Protection found the company guilty of the infraction and fined the Asian subsidiary of Wynn Resorts a sum of MOP20,000 for the unauthorized transfer of customer information.

Now, according to information leaked in a court document provided to the Times, Bangsil is suing Wynn Macau. Dated November

3, 2016, the document states that a hearing has been scheduled for June 22.

I am seeking an apology from Wynn.

ROGELIO BANGSIL

“I’m claiming damages that I incurred because of the police report disclosing [false] information about the hotel [room],” Bangsil told the Times in a phone interview yesterday.

“I am seeking an apology from Wynn. I want them to recognize that they did something wrong,” he added. “They paid [the MOP20,000 fine] so they recognize they made a mistake, so why are they not apologizing to the victims?”

“There is no truth to these allegations. They [the allegations] cut short my career and the whole family suffered because of that [...] I want to be compensated for the damages they caused us – including my wife and my child.”

Bangsil was a Pagcor executive in the Philippines for 26 years until he retired in 2012. He claims that the reason for his retirement was “because of the damage to my integrity and my career,” caused by the allegations in the report.

“I contacted my lawyer to sue Wynn [Macau] on the basis of the violation because nobody [of the other 16 individuals named in the report] has come out as a victim yet,” he explained, adding that as a government employee, he was formerly unable to file a lawsuit.

The Times contacted representatives of Wynn Macau to com-

ment on the case and received the reply: “We do not comment on litigation matters.”

However, there may be more lawsuits to follow. Bangsil told the Times that some of his colleagues have already retired from the government and “they will wait to see the outcome” of the trial.

The mention of Bangsil in the report is inextricably linked to the long-standing legal battle between billionaire businessmen Steve Wynn and Okada.

Wynn Resorts, the Las Vegas-based parent company of Wynn Macau, claimed that the Japanese entrepreneur’s alleged actions were a violation of the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

Okada, who is partly based in Hong Kong, denied making improper payments to Asian gaming regulators, but that did not prevent Steve Wynn from expelling Okada from Wynn Resorts and forcibly buying back Okada’s 20 percent stake in the company. Okada’s share was redeemed for about USD1.9 billion, considered a 30 percent discount on its actual market value, according to The Financial Times. *With Paulo Coutinho

ROADWORKS INSPECTION

‘There were days when it rained and they said the weather was sunny’

Renato Marques

FOLLOWING the report released this week by the Commission of Audit (CA) slamming roadworks coordination in Macau, Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau’s (IACM) head, José Tavares, immediately announced it would start internal disciplinary procedures against four inspectors who reportedly overlooked their responsibilities.

“There were days when it rained and they said the weather was sunny. They were on holiday and they signed inspections... I don’t know if this happened, but we need to wait for the probe. What I just said was in the [CA] report. We are going to investigate,” Tavares said on Monday, commenting on the report.

But what did these inspectors do wrong, according to the audit report? The CA accuses these IACM staff

members of being responsible for the delay of some of the roadworks or, at least, for the failure of the government to apply the due sanctions to the contractors that failed to meet the deadlines. The commission concluded even that, in some cases, the actions of such inspectors, besides disrespecting the internal procedure of the Bureau, go against decisions made by their own department heads.

Citing several examples, the CA notes for instance that in one example an official reported the execution period was seven days, but if the starting date of the work is the same as the date the document was signed it allows for unprofessional flexibility in the paperwork. “As advocated by the head of Division, the work would in fact have run for 11 days, that is, four days more than the expected,” the report says. But since the period is counted by the inspection

records, “a license renewal was not required,” with the loss of the respective fees.

In a different case, also noted by the CA, the work inspection records “should be complete and as accurate as possible.” The report highlights how that level of competency is not reflected in the IACM reports where there are “very incomplete records as well as situations hard to explain,” the CA wrote.

One of these “situations” has to do with an inspection record that states that “work that should have taken place on one of the Saturdays in June 2014, didn’t because it was raining,” therefore being left out from the calculation of the days for the deadline of such works. However, the CA found, “the inspector in question was absent on [this] day and, therefore, could not possibly have



inspected that work. In addition, according to data from the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) the precipitation on that day was null.” There were other reports from the same day where it was reported by other inspectors, at about the same time, that the sky was clear.

In other cases mentioned by the CA there were reports, which the data was only

inserted in one case more than three months after the conclusion of the works, and in another almost one year after completion of the works.

As the Times reported yesterday, Tavares, on the sidelines of a meeting held on Monday evening, told the media that the four inspectors were moved back in 2016 to “other departments and duties.”

IACM prevents repeated road digging

THE Civil and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) acting vice-president of Management Committee, Lo Chi Kin, says that the repeated digging up of roads at one single location has basically been prohibited.

Lo revealed the information yesterday during a TDM talk show. Since 2014, IACM has been studying the installation of an electronic supervision system for road construction projects. The system automatically

computes information regarding road construction activities, whereby it can calculate whether a place has been repeatedly dug up within a period of two years.

The system has been under operation since last year, recording information on road engineering works tracing back to 2014.

The Commission of Audit (CA) issued a new report heavily criticizing the work of the “Roadworks Coordi-

nation Group.”

Lo said that IACM’s leaders had noticed road work supervision problems before audit reports.

The vice-president says that IACM has a different criteria from the CA regarding the definition of repeated digging up of roads.

Lo noted that IACM considers a specific construction site as a digging spot, whereas the CA regards an entire road area as one single spot.

Julie Zhu

LOCATED inside Taipa's Immigration Department Office building, the region's new Civil Protection Operational Center officially began operations yesterday.

An opening ceremony was held at the new center yesterday morning. Ma Ion Kun, commissioner-general of the Unitary Police Service (SPU), said that "the new Civil Protection Operational Centre, regardless of space and facilities, can respond to the needs of the current civil protection."

Ma noted that, once the new civil protection system starts, the new center will have enough space to accommodate workers from 27 governmental departments.

Command systems and equipment are said to be relatively more advanced than the ones at the old center, and the new facilities "obviously improves" civil protection operations.

The Public Security Police Force (PSP), the Customs Service, and the Fire Services Bureau will co-conduct, on a daily basis, 24-hour basic operations at the center. Each of the three departments will send a member of its staff for the daily operation. The one representing PSP will be assigned as the team leader.

According to Ma, normally, PSP's 999 emergency team is responsible for overseeing civil protection works. From yesterday, civil protection works can be initiated straight from the center without having to be forwarded by the PSP.

The new center is located on the third floor of the Taipa immigration department office. It

New civil protection center starts operation



occupies an area of 826 square meters, which is seven times bigger than the old center. There is a spare space at the center preserved for the garrison, in case of serious situations.

When the typhoon signal number eight is raised the Macau Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau will inform the center 90 minutes in advance, allowing it to be prepared for

■ According to authorities, the Taishan nuclear power plant and the new bridge bring new challenges

civil protection procedures.

According to the authority's introductory speeches, the completion of Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge and the Taishan nuclear power plant, among others, will force Macau to face new, unexpected challenges.

The old center will merge with SPU tomorrow to become a new department within SPU. One assistant will be added to the

SPU force for the new operation.

Following the official opening, the center will immediately hold a drill exercise to test the center's operational capability.

The drill will stage a car accident taking place inside the Sai Yun bridge tunnels, with three vehicles involved in the crash, six people injured and one in a critical situation.

Wong believes mainland can ensure nuclear safety

THE Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak, speaking to the media on the sidelines of the opening ceremony, said that Macau delivered an agreement draft to Guangdong regarding nuclear safety cooperation works amid the Taishan Nuclear Power Plant controversy.

Wong said that when the final paperwork is decided and after Guang-

dong delivers the document to the Central Government for record, Macau and Guangdong will sign the agreement.

Wong also mentioned that Macau hopes the agreement can be signed soon.

The Secretary claims that, until now, no safety reports have been made regarding the Taishan Nuclear Power Plant.

He said that the mainland nuclear

management authority will operate the plant in safety mode, adding that the public should believe that the mainland has the ability to ensure the society's safety.

SPU head Ma Ion Kun visited Taishan last week and had a meeting with Guangdong's emergency offices regarding the aforementioned agreement draft.



TOURISM

Visitor arrivals to Macau up by 11 percent in April

VISITOR arrivals in April reached 2.7 million, representing an increase of 11 percent year-on-year and 9.7

percent month-to-month, according to data released by the Statistics and Census Service (DESC).

Overnight visitors (1,441,162) and same-day visitors (1,301,637) went up by 17.7 percent and 4.4 percent res-

pectively year-on-year. The average length of visitors' stay rose by 0.1 days year-on-year to 1.2 days, while overnight visitors and same-day visitors stayed an average of 2.1 days and 0.2 days respectively.

The DSEC data showed that visitors from mainland China increased by 7.1 percent year-on-year to 1.77 million in April and mainly came from Guangdong Province (725,648) and Hunan Province (87,911). Visitors from South Korea (64,924) and Hong Kong (608,879) surged by 48.7 percent and 25.3 percent respectively. Visitors from Taiwan (89,567) dropped by 2.8 percent.

In the first four months of 2017, visitor arrivals totaled 10.6 million, up by 6.9 percent year-on-year.

Group of doctors back to Mumbai after travel hitches

A group of 25 doctors, who were stranded in Shenzhen before traveling to Macau as part of their itinerary, left the region yesterday.

On May 16, the 25 doctors, along with their families, left for a week-long trip to Hong Kong, Shenzhen and Macau.

The trip was organized by Malad Medical Association (MMA) and was booked through Borivali-based Oppex Holidays, according to media reports.

However, the group were made to vacate their hotel rooms in Shenzhen and were reportedly forced to remain in the lobby as the tour operator failed to make payments to a Chinese travel agency.

The doctors were then asked to pay the pending amount two days after their trip began. The Chinese tour operators re-

fused to facilitate their return to India until the fee was paid.

According to reports, there is still some money pending, yet the Chinese travel agency agreed to let them continue their return journey to India.

The group then traveled to Macau on Monday and left the MSAR yesterday.

"They are in Macau and will travel to Mumbai tomorrow," an Indian official at the Consulate in Guangzhou told IANS, an Indian news agency, on Monday.

The president of MMA, Hemal Barchha, has filed a police complaint against Vinayak Zarekar, owner of Oppex Holidays.

According to the owner, there was a delay in payment to a Chinese account and he assured that he is "trying to settle all dues."

MGM PRESENTS LE FRENCH GOURMAY AT AUX BEAUX ARTS



In celebration of the ninth annual Le French May festival, MGM's brasserie Aux Beaux Arts has launched a range of authentic French delicacies and champagnes for local Francophiles and gourmands to sample

MGM's classic French restaurant devised a special menu for Le French GourMAY - which pays homage to the Champagne region - offering the dishes à-la-carte or as a three-course set priced at MOP388 per person. Each option will be accompanied by hand-picked champagne pairings, available by the bottle and glass.

Aux Beaux Arts' Champagne menu starts with three appetizers: pâté en croûte with butter lettuce, onion purée, Champagne jelly and country bread; pan-seared foie gras with red wine poached apple and gingerbread; and poached egg and white asparagus with Jambon d'Ardenne and truffle beurre blanc to complete the selection.

These are followed by popular French mains such as braised beef cheek bourguignon with root vegetables, baby onions and potato purée; as well as pan-fried trout and langoustine with fennel ragout and pink lentil. The signature Aux Beaux Arts Seafood Selection is also available for MOP980 with two glasses of Billecart-Salmon Brut Champagne.

Fruity desserts on offer include champagne mousse with berries and pink Reims biscuit, as well as warm champagne sabayon with citrus fruits and golden tuile, and a cheese platter.

Le French GourMAY, supported by more than 120 restaurants, 93 shops and 56 importers in the region, pays homage to a different French region every year. For the 2017 edition, festival organizers have teamed up with Macau's leading chefs to present the cuisine and wine of Champagne, France across restaurants in the SAR. Champagne is famed for its distinctive vineyards, and is considered a UNESCO World Heritage site due to its rich history and culture.

The food and wine festival also features 12 Champagne-themed workshops hosted by organizations such as Alliance Francaise de Macao, the Hong Kong Sommelier Bartender Training College and the Hong Kong Wine Academy.

Le French GourMAY is the gastronomic spinoff of the Le French May program, which celebrates its silver jubilee this year. Established in 1993, Le French May is one of Asia's largest arts and cultural events, with more than a million visitors annually. It is designed to foster cultural, educational and scientific cooperation between France, Hong Kong and Macau.

Aux Beaux Arts' Le French GourMAY menu is available until May 31, 2017.



Warm champagne sabayon, citrus fruits and golden tuile

Billecart-Salmon Brut Champagne, paired up with the signature Aux Beaux Arts Seafood Selections

Pan fried trout and langoustine hermal ragout with pink lentils and baby leek, carefully laid on a bed of the creamy champagne reduction

Pâté en croûte with butter lettuce, onion purée, Champagne jelly and country bread



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AL ELECTION

New Macau leadership in disarray as list deadline encroaches

Daniel Beitler

SCOTT Chiang, the former president of New Macau Association (ANM) announced his resignation from the pro-democracy group this week, leaving ANM's leadership vacant just months before the 2017 Legislative Assembly (AL) elections are due to kick off and weeks before the election lists are due.

Speculation is rife over the reasons for his imminent and unusually-timed resignation, which was made public on his social media page.

One popular suggestion, among those who are close to Chiang and the inner workings of New Macau, is that he has left due to internal disagreements over the upcoming election and who should be put forward on the ANM list.

Others say that long-running generational divides within New Macau may have reached a culmination this week, after months of unusual inactivity.

ANM, which held frequent events and demonstrations last year protesting a range of issues from the rights of Macau residents to the preservation of culture and architectural heritage, has been relatively quiet in the first five months of this year.

Speaking to the Times yesterday, Chiang said the frequency of events and demonstrations organized by the group has fallen in recent months because the public are more wary of being affiliated with political associations. They are therefore reluctant



New Macau Association members pictured last year

to be involved in such activities.

Chiang said that public sentiment today in Macau suggests that if a person joins a demonstration over a particular issue, it is in some way an endorsement of the principles of the organizer. However, speaking to the Times, the former ANM president denied that this was the cause behind his recent resignation.

"It is 2017 and people have become a lot more sensitive about activities [like ANM used to organize] and who they are organized by. You see people wearing masks to hide their identity at these protests. People see it as an endorsement of the organizers [if they join demonstrations]," he said.

"I don't think New Macau has lost touch with the people," he added in response to a question about the relevance of the association today. "We have a comprehensive understanding of people

across the spectrum. Where we choose to stand depends on what benefits the society more."

Chiang's resignation, which will take effect from June 9, leaves the leadership role of the pro-democracy association wide open, only months before the September 17 AL election.

In a message posted on social media, Chiang hinted that "a due process may tell the difference between the qualities of being right and wrong, lawful and unlawful, just and unjust. After all, the end does not always justify the means."

Chiang was involved in several controversies last year during which time he served as New Macau's president.

In August, Chiang and another ANM member were arrested on suspicion of being behind the hoisting of a black banner on the derelict Hotel Estoril in Tap Seac Square, disrupting the inauguration ceremony of the Wushu Mas-

ters Challenge event. The banner, which read "Alexis Tam: Heritage Killer", was seen as an embarrassment to the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, who was in attendance of the event at the time of the incident.

A case was opened against Chiang but the former leader was never formally charged or prosecuted.

Asked whether the open case could impact the ability of New Macau to hold public events in the run-up to the election, Chiang said: "I am not the only one [at New Macau] who is under investigation; there are [open] cases against many of us."

It is 2017 and people have become a lot more sensitive about activities [like ANM used to organize].

SCOTT CHIANG

Nevertheless he warned that "someone with power is happy to see these investigations hanging over our heads and they could put pressure on us [during an election]."

Political scientist Éric Sautédé, who closely follows Macau affairs, reckons it is more likely that Chiang's departure is the result of internal divisions within ANM.

"Given that he announced the resignation through social media, that it was very sudden and that the timing was unusual [... leads me to suspect] that there was some internal fighting or disagreement with the [election] strategy," Sautédé told the Times last night.

He noted that ANM have been "less visible and active this year, which is crazy since it is an election year and the other groups are pre-campaigning now," but put that down to internal disagreements.

"There was something that couldn't be reconciled within the group," in his assessment. "It reflects the situation of New Macau at the moment: extremely divided. [...] Something happened and it must have been internal. If it were anything else [but that], why not say it or explain?"

Another pertinent question surrounding the resignation of Chiang relates to the future of lawmakers Au Kam San and Ng Kuok Cheong. Having been previously elected to the AL on the New Macau list, the two legislators who will both be 60 years old by the September election, distanced themselves in the past two years from ANM citing differences in opinion.

Asked whether the lawmakers could now step in to lead the association through the election, Sautédé said it was difficult to say since Au and Ng are "so different in their way of thinking" to the others in the group. Instead, he thinks that Sulu Sou, current vice president of the organization, will step into the role.

"I think Sulu Sou is the only one who can take over now. He must take over and reconcile with the 'old guard' [Au and Ng]. This is the only way for them [New Macau] to move forward. They are short of resources and very divided."

corporate bits**DEAR JANE TO PERFORM AT THE VENETIAN**

Dear Jane, who are due to perform at the Venetian Macao on July 15, found popularity on the back of albums

including "100", "XOXO", "GAMMA", "Yellow Fever!" and "Dear Jane (Special Edition)", along with sold-

out concerts and three well-received singles released last year.

They have also built up a substantial online presence with millions of hits on YouTube and acclaimed music videos, as cited in a statement issued by Sands China.

Formed back in 2003, the band comprises of Tim Wong on lead vocals, Jackal Ng on bass guitar, guitarist Howie Yung and drummer Nice Lai.

For their band's first ever Macau appearance, they will perform the famous love story trilogy "You & Me", "Lost", "Days Gone By" and the classic "Do Not Speak" from "XOXO", among other hit songs.

Tickets will be on sale from today at all Cotai Ticketing box offices.

HSBC MAKES 'BIG BET' ON CANADA

Sandra Stuart

HSBC Holdings Plc is getting aggressive in Canada - and one needs to look no further than its latest mortgage rate for proof of broader ambitions. HSBC Canada is offering five-year fixed-term

mortgages at 2.39 percent, undercutting the lowest discretionary rates at the largest domestic lenders including Toronto-Dominion Bank and Royal Bank of Canada.

"I want to be more competitive," Sandra Stuart, chief executive officer of the Canadian unit of London-based HSBC, said in an interview from her Vancouver office. "I will never be as big as the Big Five, but I certainly want to have our share of market, and I want to be out there with good competitive products."

"HSBC globally is making a big bet on Canada, and they're investing in us to do that," Stuart said. "There's a handful of priority markets that are going to get continued investment and our job is to develop the strategy, to execute and of course deliver the returns."

HSBC has been in Canada since 1981, expanding through takeovers of domestic lenders and the Canadian operations of foreign banks to become the seventh-largest lender in the nation with CAD95.7 billion (USD71 billion) in assets.

Microsoft unveils new Surface Pro device to reverse sales drop

MICROSOFT Corp. unveiled a new version of its Surface Pro tablet and laptop combination device with more powerful chips and better battery life, updating an aging product with declining sales that hurt financial results last quarter.

The Redmond, Washington-based company introduced the fifth version of the Surface Pro at an event in Shanghai, the first time it's held the launch of a major product outside the U.S. Microsoft also announced a version of Windows 10 for use by the Chinese government and state-owned enterprises, ending a standoff over the operating system by meeting the government's requests for increased security and data control.

Surface Pro is the workhorse of the company's computer hardware line. It's the biggest seller among the Surface devices, a category that Microsoft created - the two-in-one, or a tablet with a removable keyboard. Yet Microsoft's Pro 3 and 4 are aging, and partners like Lenovo and HP have



come out with their own Windows-based versions, that give Microsoft software revenue but take away hardware sales. Meanwhile Apple's take on the category, the iPad Pro, has been stealing market share.

Those factors contributed to a 26 percent drop in Surface sales last quarter. The new version should turn that around, said Yusuf Mehdi, who oversees marketing for devices and Windows. The device has 13.5 hours of battery life, a 50 percent improvement over the previous version, and runs

Intel Corp.'s faster seventh generation Core chips.

The Pro is available for pre-orders since yesterday starting at USD799 and goes on sale June 15, the same day as the Surface Laptop Microsoft announced earlier this month. The device has a new kickstand that lets it fold almost flat to resemble a drafting table, similar to the pricier Surface Studio computer, and the Pro can now be controlled on screen by the Surface Dial device that Microsoft introduced with the Studio. **Bloomberg**

Jaguar Land Rover margin improves on demand in China, US

JAGUAR Land Rover's fourth-quarter profit margin improved from the preceding three months on strong demand for its sport utility vehicles in major markets including China and the U.S.

The earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization margin for Tata Motors Ltd.'s luxury unit widened to 14.5 percent of revenue in the three months ended March, from 9.3 percent in the previous quarter, the company said yesterday. Profit after tax at Jaguar Land Rover unit jumped 18 percent to 557 million pounds (USD722.5 million).

Jaguar is benefiting from investments by Tata Motors and a fully overhauled product line. Sales of the British marque surged 81 percent in the quarter on demand for its F-Pace sport utility vehicle and entry-level XE sedan. The luxury unit's Chief Executive Officer Ralf Speth told reporters in Mumbai yesterday that he sees demand for its products sustaining momentum in China, North America and Europe.



Tata Motors American depositary receipts climbed as much as 6.4 percent in New York, the most intraday since May 31, 2016. The Jaguar Land Rover results failed to stem a profit decline at parent Tata Motors. Net income fell 17 percent to 42.96 billion rupees (\$662 million) in the quarter from the year earlier.

Deliveries of the luxury unit rose 13 percent on strong demand across the product portfolio, led by sales of the F-Pace, Range Rover and Discovery Sport SUVs, the company said.

Jaguar Land Rover will spend more than 4 billion pounds in the current financial year, including on its new factory in Slovakia. The automaker has said it expects start of production at the plant in the second half of next year. **Bloomberg**

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Chinese firms wary of political risks on Xi's Belt and Road

Ting Shi

AS the global limelight fades from President Xi Jinping's "Belt and Road" summit, the main actors - Chinese state-owned companies - are warning about the political risks they face along the route.

Earlier this month Xi outlined plans to direct as much as 840 billion yuan (USD122 billion) to build roads, railways, ports and pipelines across Asia and beyond, securing China's central role in world trade. The plan has the country's state-owned enterprises weighing investments in 65 participant nations, almost two-thirds of which have sovereign debt ratings below investment grade.

"Chinese companies' risk awareness has grown, but they still lack the ability to discern where to invest or effectively manage overseas risks," said Yin Yili, a vice president at a unit of China Communications Construction Co., one of the nation's largest state-owned companies. "Over these past years, we've paid a great price and suffered big losses. We've paid a large amount in tuition fees."

The concerns highlight a major challenge of Xi's signature trade-and-foreign-policy initiative: Ensuring that state companies don't become overexposed abroad at a time when they are struggling to shed costs and slash soaring debt loads at home. State-owned companies had already insured more than \$400 billion in projects in the four years before Xi's summit.

Some 71 percent of Chinese companies said political risk topped their concerns about investing abroad, according to a survey of 300 firms published in November by the Center for



A bulldozer operates on a development site at Marine Drive in Gwadar, Pakistan

China and Globalization, a Beijing-based research institution. They cited "policy changes," "political unrest" and "government expropriation" as top worries.

Yin, who heads the industrial parks department at CCC's Industrial Investment Holding Co., said that almost two decades of foreign investment experience hasn't necessarily translated into enhanced risk-control procedures for Chinese companies. Many still lack vision, negotiation skills and local knowledge, he said, adding that they sometimes assume money can solve all problems.

"A lot of times they only see a bevy of opportunities, but not pitfalls underfoot," Yin said. "There are more than 200 countries and regions in the world, and not every place is worth investment."

The Belt and Road route includes volatile areas like Afghanistan and Pakistan, as well as Iraq, Syria and Yemen. African countries including Egypt, Kenya and South Africa are also on the list

and scrambling to expand ties with China. Ethiopian Airlines Enterprise on Monday launched its fourth route to the country.

In 2014, protests over China's oil-exploration in the South China Sea forced electronics maker Midea Group Co. to withdraw investment from neighboring Vietnam, which is part of the Belt and Road Initiative. China's \$1.5 billion Colombo Port City project in Sri Lanka has been dogged by demonstrations and briefly halted in 2015 after a new government pledged to review all deals by the previous Beijing-friendly administration.

Concerns about political risk were scarcely mentioned as Xi hosted almost 30 world leaders in Beijing on May 14-15. The president's keynote address only referenced the need to manage broad financial risks, while the chairman of China's State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission told reporters that political and security threats were "completely controllable."

"China needs to not only wor-

ry about walking into political traps leading to investment loss, but also worry about security of staff and assets," said Raffaello Pantucci, director of international security studies at the Royal United Services Institute. "You are looking at parts of the world where you have politically risky and unstable governments, a variety of security threats, and a government in Beijing which has little clear skill or experience in managing these problems."

Risks were building long before Xi first outlined in 2013 the plan to recreate ancient Silk Road trading routes between Asia and Europe by land and sea. Beijing has been encouraging state companies to "go out" since the late 1990s, with much of that investment going toward oil and other raw materials in countries such as Venezuela, where slumping commodity prices have helped weaken the Beijing-friendly government.

■ Around 71 pct of Chinese companies said political risk topped their concerns about investing abroad, according to a survey

More than \$250 billion in China's overseas investments failed between 2005 and 2015, according to the China Global Investment Tracker, a database maintained by the American Enter-

prise Institute and the Heritage Foundation. The Center for China and Globalization, which separately analyzed 120 unsuccessful investments, found that political factors accounted for a quarter of all cases.

Such overseas investments are insured by the state-owned China Export & Credit Insurance Corp., or Sinosure, which covers government seizures, nationalization, political violence, contract breaches and payment delays because of political events. In an article published on the company's website this month, Chairman Wang Yi described Sinosure as the Belt and Road Initiative's "chief brake."

Since 2013, Sinosure insured \$440 billion of exports and investments in Belt and Road countries and paid out \$1.7 billion in claims, Wang wrote. Projects insured included a 1,800 kilometer (1,100 mile) pipeline to Turkmenistan, a \$1.6 billion power plant in Jordan and an \$800 million dam in Cambodia.

Yuan Li, chairman of China Civil Engineering Construction Corp., which has more than 50 projects in Africa, said Sinosure's insurance covers "extreme circumstances" like coups and war, but not normal political reversals.

"There is a change of government almost every month," Yuan said by phone. "There is no insurance on the earth catering to that. Our policy is to make friends as widely as possible, and not to get closer to any one party than the others."

Political concerns have led China's state companies to steer clear of some markets. Gordon Li, the overseas business director for China Merchants Group's international business department, said the company hasn't considered adding India to the 48 port projects it's financing in 18 Belt and Road countries.

"For us, the No. 1 consideration is political risk," Li said. "It's extremely important whether the destination countries have good relations with China or not." **Bloomberg**

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Why the Chinese will pay for content that Americans won't

BACK in early 2016, Li Xiang was just another overworked magazine editor in Beijing. Then along came an opportunity to produce a business newsletter on a brand-new app called De Dao. In just a few months that app — which means “I Get” in English — had attracted millions of users looking for daily advice and to learn everything from music to economics. And Li? Within months, he had close to 100,000 subscribers paying about USD30 a month—which works out to almost \$3 million in annual revenue.

It's the kind of story that couldn't happen in the United States, where many people believe content should be free. In China, meanwhile, companies and individuals alike have managed to monetize smartphone apps, making money from news, entertainment and social media — by making people directly pay for it, instead of relying on advertisers. De Dao, featured in the latest episode of the Decrypted podcast, is just one in a whole economy of mobile apps where people like Li Xiang can make real money.

“In China, we don't really talk about advertising-supported models, whether it's on PC or mobile,” says Jenny Lee, a venture capitalist at GGV. “There are very few startups that actually grow very big on the back of advertising. There's Baidu with search, but beyond search-based advertising, most of large internet companies in China actually grew or monetized by charging the consumer directly.”

De Dao, just a year old, already has seven million users. You can easily subscribe to channels with content on topics like investing tips or “how to listen to

BLOOMBERG



classical music”—or even books and magazines. Each channel costs the equivalent of about \$30 per year. It can curate content for you as well. There's even a portal to an e-commerce section that sells products like books and high-end jewelry.

“Recently they opened a column by an economics professor from Peking university,” says Bob Xu Xiaoping, an early investor in De Dao and one of China's most successful angel investors. “Guess what? He became the richest economics teacher in the world!”

Xu's venture capital firm, ZhenFund, has made bets on hundreds of startups, some of which are now worth more than a billion dollars, or are publicly traded companies. He decided to back De Dao founder Luo Zhenyu, a former television

producer, because he saw a go-getter who Xu says has created a transformative startup. “This company created a revolution in China,” he says. “We call it zhi shi fu fei. Which translated is knowledge payment. You pay a fee to [get] knowledge.”

Paying for online content goes way beyond just education. Video livestreaming is also huge. All over China, millions of people watch anything from people singing, telling jokes, or just going about their daily lives. Think of those random videos you can find on YouTube, but happening live. People can watch for free but show the hosts their adoration by sending them virtual gifts, like a digital car or rose. The streamers can then exchange those gifts for cash.

Chinese watch streams that others might find banal in part

because they have fewer entertainment options, thanks to the government's strict regulation of media. There are cultural and demographic forces at work, too. In China, tens of millions of young people have migrated to the large industrial cities. They live far away from their families. So video livestreaming in particular has become a form of digital companionship. The upshot is that thousands — maybe millions — of people are able to earn a living this way.

Lee of GGV says the business model emerged from the gaming world, where people can play for free but are charged for a better experience, such as upgrades that boost the player's power. “China pioneered the free to play model,” Lee says. “The whole ecosystem shifted to where the product has to be

better designed to cater to the consumer because if the features aren't appropriate, consumers won't pay. That's key.” In other words, mobile games made paying for content seem normal. Another factor driving this trend: widespread adoption of mobile payments. For millions of people in China, a smartphone was their first internet-connected device. They may not have money for a computer or laptop, but companies like Xiaomi were selling phones at affordable prices. And because the country never had an established credit card system like in the U.S., China leapfrogged to mobile payments. That explains the rise of WeChat and Alipay, which connect your phone to your bank account.

“In China, we don't really talk about advertising-supported models, whether it's on PC or mobile.”

JENNY LEE
VENTURE CAPITALIST

For years, China was known mostly for copying U.S. innovations. Now, the copy-cattling is flowing the other way. While getting Americans to pay for online content will be a big lift, it's starting to happen on the margins. A good example is Twitch, a site where you can watch people play videogames. It's planning to make it easier for the gamers that stream themselves — the content creators — make money on the site with a feature called “cheering” that lets fans buy animated emoticons and send them to their favorite video game stars. **Bloomberg**

SOUTH CHINA SEA

Vietnam, Indonesia vessels clash in troubled waters

INDONESIA says several Vietnamese fishing vessels escaped its waters following a show of force by Vietnam's coast guard in the South China Sea.

Indonesia's Maritime and Fisheries Ministry said yesterday that Vietnam is holding an Indonesian fisheries officer, who was aboard one of the Vietnamese vessels, and Indonesia has 11 Vietnamese crew members in its custody.

According to Indonesia, the clash Sunday took

place north of the Natuna island chain within Indonesia's exclusive economic zone.

The ministry said five Vietnamese-flagged fishing vessels were intercepted by a maritime patrol vessel and were under its control until a Vietnamese coast guard ship rammed the fishing boat with the Indonesian official aboard, sinking it. The ministry said no one was hurt.

It said the Indonesian vessel withdrew after sev-

eral more Vietnamese coast guard vessels were seen approaching on radar while an Indonesian warship was 30 minutes away.

Vietnam's coast guard declined to comment.

Tensions easily flare in the South China Sea, a major global trading route. China's claim to most of the sea overlaps with the territorial waters of several Southeast Asian nations.

Indonesia has destroyed hundreds of vessels caught fishing illegally in its

waters over the past two years, many of them Vietnamese-flagged, as part of a policy of strengthening control over the archipelago nation's vast maritime territory.

Rifky Effendi Hardjianto, secretary-general of the fisheries ministry, told a news conference that ministry officials have met with Vietnam's ambassador and would resolve the incident through normal diplomatic channels. Both sides agreed to avoid a repeat of the clash, he said. **AP**

AP PHOTO





Disruptive passenger in Trump cap delays Shanghai flight

Gerry Shih, Beijing

A disruptive passenger on a United Airlines flight from Shanghai to New Jersey was asked to get off the plane in a politically tinged altercation, resulting in an unscheduled stop in San Francisco and an arrival delayed by eight hours.

Video on social media showed an unidentified man wearing a red "Make America Great Again" cap heatedly insisting that he

was entitled to a seat and arguing with fellow passengers, at one point calling one a "moron" who didn't speak English.

The caps were popular in President Donald Trump's campaign.

Sunday's incident ended with local airport authorities escorting the man off the plane while angry passengers chanted "Lock him up," cellphone footage showed. The chants likely also referred to the bitter election, when Trump frequently led chants of "Lock her up" about his rival, Hillary

Clinton, who was accused of mishandling emails as secretary of state.

Passenger Clark Gredona wrote on Facebook that the man felt entitled to several seats next to him because he could not get an upgrade. He berated a female passenger by calling her "Hillary" and a "lesbian," Gredona wrote.

Elizabeth Aulenbach, a passenger who was sitting three rows ahead of the disruptive man, told The Associated Press that the in-

cident didn't start as a political dispute but was exacerbated by the "Democratic-Republican fire that rages."

"He just wanted United to do something, anything, that would allow him to sue them — he even said so more than once," said Aulenbach, who was flying home to Pennsylvania. She added that United crew behaved professionally.

The airline has been in the spotlight in recent weeks after footage surfaced of a passenger

being violently dragged off an overbooked flight from Chicago to Louisville, prompting widespread condemnation and an undisclosed legal settlement.

United spokesman Jonathan Guerin said the disruptive passenger in Shanghai "refused to comply with crew member instructions" and eventually left the aircraft on his own accord.

The flight departed Shanghai five hours after its scheduled takeoff and made an unscheduled stop in San Francisco to change crew. It arrived in Newark at 2:25 a.m. Monday, eight hours after its scheduled landing time.

"We're grateful for the patience shown by our customers who endured the disruptive behavior of this passenger, as well as the exceptional poise and professionalism of our flight crew," Guerin said. **AP**

HONG KONG

Police arrest 21 Uber drivers in latest crackdown

HONG Kong police launched a fresh crackdown yesterday on Uber, arresting 21 drivers suspected of working for the ride-hailing giant in the Asian financial center.

It's the latest regulatory headache for Uber, which already is fighting a similar case in Hong Kong.

The drivers were arrested in an undercover operation on suspicion of carrying passengers for hire and not having third-party insurance for their cars, said Chief Inspector Lau Tat-fai.

Lau said the 20 men and one woman aged 21 to 59 were taken into custody and their vehicles impounded.

"I would like to emphasize that police are still continuing their enforcement action and I can't rule out the possibility of more drivers being arrested," he told reporters.

Lau, who did not specifically mention Uber, said anybody who "assisted or instigated" drivers might also be legally responsible. He called on people using smartpho-

nes to arrange rides to make sure that drivers have the proper vehicle hire permits.

"We are extremely disappointed by the police enforcement today. We stand together with the 21 driver partners," Uber said in a statement, adding that it would help them and provide legal support.

The San Francisco-based tech company said it has a ridesharing insurance policy that complies with Hong Kong legal requirements and covers up to 100 million

Hong Kong dollars (USD12.8 million) in liability.

"Ridesharing should not be a crime. Hong Kong is an international city known for its embrace of global economic trends and new technologies but current transportation regulations have failed to keep up with innovation," it said.

In March, a Hong Kong court convicted five Uber drivers on the same charges and fined them HKD10,000 (\$1,284) after they were arrested by



undercover police. The company said it would stand by the five drivers, whose sentences were suspended after they

launched an appeal.

In 2015, police searched Uber's Hong Kong offices and confiscated computers and documents. **AP**

JAPAN

'Conspiracy bill' draws backlash in Japan over state powers

Elaine Kurtenbach, Tokyo

JAPAN'S lower house approved a bill yesterday allowing authorities to punish those found guilty of planning serious crimes, legislation that opponents say could be used to undermine basic civil liberties.

The proposed legislation, called the "conspiracy bill," still requires upper house approval.

The government says it's needed to fight terrorism and organized crime, especially before the Tokyo Olympics in 2020.

Lawmakers speaking in support of the legislation pointed to the explosion in Manchester, England, that killed at least 22 people as a reason for backing the bill.

But thousands of Japanese have taken to the streets to protest what they see as the latest effort to unduly increase police powers.

Opposition lawmakers referred to it as an "evil law."

Japan's history as a police state before and during World War II has made many here wary of granting the government powers that might impinge on personal privacy and other rights.

Hundreds of protesters rallied outside the parliament building yesterday, shouting and waving



signs and banners to voice their opposition.

"This will bind us so tightly. I wonder why the government and those in power need so much power over us?" said Chizuko Kurata, a protester in her 70s.

A survey by the Kyodo News agency showed that public support for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Cabinet fell slightly after

the ruling coalition rammed the bill through a committee hearing on Friday. There, opposition lawmakers shouted and sought to rip documents from the hands of the committee chairman, trying unsuccessfully to block the vote after having failed to win a vote of no confidence against the justice minister.

Kyodo said 77 percent of the

1,033 respondents polled said the government had failed to fully explain the need for the bill. Opinions on the bill were almost evenly divided, however, with slightly more opposed than in favor.

The ruling Liberal Democrats' ability to force through legislation with help from its coalition partner the Komeito raises hackles in harmony-oriented Japan. The two parties intend to win full passage of the bill during the current parliamentary session, and debate in the upper house is likely to be ferocious.

Abe has argued that the bill is needed for Japan to ratify a United Nations treaty on international organized crime that took effect in 2003.

But legal scholars say Japan's criminal code already holds cons-

pirators responsible for criminal acts and mandates punishments for preparing for such crimes.

"In Japan's case, the police already have very broad powers of surveillance. They have other broad powers related to criminal investigations and criminal prosecutions," said Lawrence Repeeta, a legal scholar and director of the Japan Civil Liberties Union.

"To add even more at this point would really be overkill," he said.

The U.N. special rapporteur on the right to privacy sent an open letter to Abe last week citing concerns over including 277 new types of crimes in the bill, which would revise Japan's Act on Punishment of Organized Crimes and Control of Crime Proceeds.

It said the law would include offenses that have nothing to do with organized crime or terrorism, such as theft of lumber in forest reserves and violations of copyrights. It also cites planning and "preparatory actions" as justifications for investigations that would require significant amounts of surveillance.

"Serious concern is expressed that the proposed bill, in its current form and in combination with other legislation, may affect the exercise of the right to privacy as well as other fundamental public freedoms given its potential broad application," said the letter from Joseph Cannataci, the rapporteur.

The government strongly objected to the letter, said Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga, who described concerns over possible violations of privacy or other rights as "utterly incorrect." AP

Lawmakers speaking in support of the legislation pointed to the explosion in Manchester

Foster Klug, Seoul

SOUTH KOREA

Gestures tell of friendship that toppled President Park

A steely gaze from one woman. A slight, apologetic bow from another. On the first day of the biggest trial in South Korea in years, two small gestures reflect the state of a friendship that toppled a president.

Former South Korean President Park Geun-hye was a study in determination as she strode into a packed Seoul courtroom yesterday to begin a trial that could send her to prison for life if convicted on the most serious charges.

She sat down and fixed her hard gaze on a spot in front of her. Park's face betrayed no hint of whatever emotions roiled within, even as flashes exploded and a horde of cameras zoomed in for extreme close-ups that were piped to millions of curious South Koreans.

Moments later, a confidante linked to Park for four decades — and a woman whom prosecutors say Park colluded

with to bribe, extort and leak government secrets — entered the courtroom.

Choi Soon-sil ducked her head, almost shyly, in Park's direction before walking to the defendants' table.

Only one person separated them, yet they exchanged no words while the cameras rolled. As Choi's eyes darted around the courtroom, Park's stare did not waver.

They then had a chance to address the court. Park answered in calm, measured tones when asked for her address and occupation. Choi sobbed as she answered the basic questions.

Park then offered a firm, short denial of guilt. Choi called herself a sinner, claimed Park had been framed in a conspiracy and declared her wish that the trial "truly frees former Pre-

sident Park of fault and lets her be remembered as a president who lived a life devoted to her country."

This will play well with Park's hardcore conservative base, which sees her as having sacrificed her private life to focus on the country after her mother and then her dictator father were killed in separate assassinations.

About 150 of her supporters gathered outside the court, weeping and screaming with outrage as Park's prison bus passed by.

For many other South Koreans, including the millions who protested as news of Choi and Park's alleged collusion broke late last year, the small gestures — of defiance from Park and anguish from Choi — will say more than any words can. AP



Former South Korean President Park Geun-hye, front left, sits with her longtime friend Choi Soon-sil, right for her trial in a Seoul court

PARK DENIES CORRUPTION CHARGES

FORMER PRESIDENT Park Geun-hye denied corruption charges at the start of a criminal trial that could potentially send South Korea's first female leader to prison for life.

Police had earlier escorted Park, in handcuffs, into court for her first public appearance since she was jailed on March 31 for corruption allegations that led to her removal from office.

When Judge Kim Se-yun asked Park what her occupation was, she replied, "I don't have any occupation."

Her longtime confidante and alleged co-con-

spirator, Choi Soon-sil, sat near Park. The two women had been friends for four decades but did not acknowledge each other. "The accused Park Geun-hye, in collusion with her friend Choi Soon-sil, let Choi, who had no official position, intervene in state affairs ... and they abused power and pressured business companies to offer bribes, thus taking private gains," said senior prosecutor Lee Won-seok.

Both Park and her lawyer, Yoo Young-ha, denied all wrongdoing. Asked whether she had anything to add, Park said in a calm, measured voice, "I will say afterward."

HORROR IN MANCHESTER

Islamic State group claims deadly concert bombing



Jill Lawless,
Gregory Katz, Manchester

THE Islamic State group claimed responsibility yesterday [Macau time] for the suicide attack at an Ariana Grande show that left 22 people dead as young concertgoers fled, some still wearing the American pop star's trademark kitten ears and holding pink balloons.

Teenage screams filled the Manchester Arena just after the explosion, and members of the audience tumbled over guardrails and each other to escape. Fifty-nine people were injured in what British Prime Minister Theresa May called "a callous terrorist attack."

"We struggle to comprehend the warped and twisted mind that sees a room packed with young children not as a scene to cherish but as an opportunity for carnage," she said. Campaigning for Britain's June 8 election was suspended.

Greater Manchester Police said the bomber was killed in the attack. They announced yesterday that they had arrested a 23-year-old man in the south of the city, in connection with the bombing.

The attack sparked a nightlong search for loved-ones — parents for the children they had accompanied or had been waiting to pick up, and friends for each other after

groups were scattered by the blast. Twitter and Facebook were filled with appeals for the missing.

Some concert-goers said security was haphazard before the show, with some people being searched and others allowed inside unhindered. The bombing took place at the end of the concert when the audience was streaming toward the exits of the Manchester Arena, one of the largest indoor concert venues in the world.

Witnesses said they saw bolts and other bits of metal, indicating the bomb may have contained shrapnel intended to maximize injury and death. "There was this massive bang. And then everyone just went really quiet. And that's when the screaming started," said 25-year-old Ryan Molloy. "As we came outside to Victoria Station there were just people all over the floor covered in blood. My partner was helping to try to stem the blood from this one person [...] They were pouring blood from their leg. It was just awful."

Public transport shut down, and taxis offered to give stranded people free rides home, while residents opened their homes to provide lodging.

Grande, who was not injured, tweeted hours later: "broken. from the bottom of my heart, i am so so sorry. i

don't have words."

Hayley Lunt was staying at a hotel nearby and had taken her 10-year-old daughter Abigail to her first concert at Manchester Arena.

She said the explosions rang out as soon as Grande left the stage. "It was almost like they waited for her to go."

"We just ran as fast as we could to get away from that area," Lunt said. "What should have been a superb evening is now just horrible."

▲ Trump said the attack preyed upon children [...] those responsible as 'evil losers'

Police cars, bomb-disposal units and 60 ambulances raced to the scene as the scale of the carnage became clear. More than 400 officers were deployed.

"A huge bomb-like bang went off that hugely panicked everyone and we were all trying to flee the arena," said 22-year-old concertgoer Majid Khan. "It was one bang and essentially everyone from the other side of the arena where the bang was heard from suddenly came running towards us as they were trying to exit."

Home Secretary Amber Rudd decried "a barbaric attack, deliberately targeting some of the most vulnerable in our society — young people and children out at a pop concert."

The local ambulance service said 59 people were taken to hospitals.

The city's regional gover-

SUSPECT IDENTIFIED

MANCHESTER POLICE identified the bombing suspect as 22-year-old Salman Abedi but gave no other details. British election rolls listed Abedi as living at a modest red brick semi-detached house in a mixed suburb of Manchester where police performed a controlled explosion.

ment and its mayor, Andy Burnham, were among scores of Twitter users who circulated the MissinginManchester hashtag, used by people looking for family members and friends.

The first confirmed victim was Georgina Callander, whose death was reported by her former school. Bishop Raws-torne Church of England Academy in Croston, northwest of Manchester, posted a photo of Georgina on its website, smiling and looking smart in her school uniform. It described her as "a lovely young student who was very popular with her peers and the staff."

Authorities say an 8-year-old girl, Saffie Roussos, was among the 22 who died in the bombing. According to an UK ambulance official, 12 children under age of 16 were among 59 injured in concert attack.

U.S. President Donald Trump, in Bethlehem, said the attack preyed upon children and described those responsible as "evil losers."

"This wicked ideology must be obliterated. And I mean completely obliterated," he added.

Islamic State's claim of responsibility echoed others the group has made for attacks in the West, on an established communications channel but with vague details that leave room for an opportunistic attempt at propaganda.

The attack was the deadliest in Britain since four suicide bombers killed 52 London commuters on subway trains and a bus in July 2005.

The Dangerous Woman tour is the third concert tour by 23-year-old Grande and supports her album of the same name.

After Manchester, Grande was due to perform in London on Thursday and Friday, and later at venues in Europe, including Belgium, Poland, Germany, Switzerland and France, with concerts in Latin America and Asia to follow. **AP**

CHAIN OF REACTIONS

"broken. from the bottom of my heart, i am so so sorry. i don't have words." — **Ariana Grande, via Twitter.**

"My thoughts, prayers and tears for all those affected by the Manchester tragedy tonight. I'm sending all my love." — **pop star Taylor Swift, via Twitter**

"As a father & a human what has happened truly saddens me. My thoughts are with all of those that have been affected by this tragedy." — **former Manchester United star David Beckham on Facebook.**

"Praying for everyone at @ArianaGrande's show" — **pop star Katy Perry, via Twitter**

"Sending love to those affected in Manchester." — **singer Ellie Goulding, via Twitter**

"Tearing up imagining innocent concert goers losing their lives..praying for everyone and all #arianators." — **pop star Demi Lovato, via Twitter**

Liam Gallagher of Manchester band Oasis tweeted that he is "in total shock and absolutely devastated."

"I don't wanna believe that the world we live in could be so cruel." — **pop star Bruno Mars, via Twitter**

"I'm heartbroken over what happened in Manchester tonight." — **pop star Harry Styles, former member of One Direction, via Twitter**

"My heart hurts for my sister, Ariana & every family affected by this tragic event in the U.K. Innocent lives lost. I'm so sorry to hear this" — **star rapper-singer Nicki Minaj, via Twitter**

"When I think of Manchester, of the place that I know, I think of the spirit of the people there and I'm telling you, a more tight-knit group of people you will be hard-pressed to find. Strong, proud, caring people with community at its core ... We'll all go to bed holding our little ones even tighter this evening." — **British comedian James Corden, filmed on the set of The Late Late Show**

"My thoughts and prayers go out to everyone affected in Manchester." — **pop star Selena Gomez, via Twitter**

"every musician feels sick & responsible tonight _shows should be safe for you. truly a worst nightmare. sending love to manchester & art" — **singer Lorde, via Twitter**

Peter Hook of Manchester bands New Order and Joy Division tweeted that his daughter "made it home safe" from the Ariana Grande concert and added: "My heart goes out to all parents & those involved. Manchester stay strong."

"So desperately sad about Manchester." — **pop star Boy George, via Twitter**

"Not trying to #ThoughtsAndPrayers up a self serving tweet. But that #Manchester explosion man...man. The hell is goin on in this world." — **drummer-bandleader Questlove, via Twitter**



A screen grab taken from militant video Tuesday May 23, 2017 where the Islamic State group claims that one of its members planted bombs in the middle of crowds in Manchester

AMERICAN AIRLINES

Flight took off with disruptive passenger despite red flags

Jennifer Sinco Kelleher, Honolulu

ANIL Uskanli, who authorities say inspired so much fear among flight attendants that military fighter jets were scrambled to escort the plane to Hawaii, raised a series of possible red flags between purchasing his ticket and being the first passenger to board the American Airlines flight.

Uskanli, 25, of Turkey, purchased his ticket about midnight and went through security screening at Los Angeles International Airport. About 2:45 a.m. he opened a door that led to an airfield ramp, airport police said.

He smelled of alcohol, but he wasn't intoxicated enough to be held for public drunkenness, so police cited and released him.

Uskanli's boarding pass was confiscated, and he was walked out to a public area of the airport, police said. He went back, got another boarding pass for the flight and went through security screening again.

Even though he was traveling to Hawaii, he didn't have any checked luggage or any carry-ons, other than a laptop, a phone and items in his pocket, according to an FBI criminal complaint.

Before takeoff, he sat in a first-class seat and had to be asked several times to move to his as-



A man is escorted off an American Airlines flight after it landed in Honolulu, on May 19

signed seat toward the back of the plane, the complaint said.

While the six-hour flight was midair, Uskanli, with his head swathed in a blanket, tried to get to the front of the plane. When he put his laptop on a drink cart a flight attendant used to block him, flight attendants feared the computer contained explosives, prompting the captain to initiate bomb-threat procedures. Two Hawaii National Guard fighter jets escorted the plane to Honolulu, and Uskanli was arrested when it landed.

His intentions weren't known, and a federal judge in Honolulu on Monday ordered Uskanli re-

turn to the U.S. mainland to undergo a competency evaluation.

Federal Public Defender Peter Wolff said he requested the evaluation in part because of the actions described in the criminal complaint and because of comments Uskanli made that Wolff declined to describe.

A Turkish interpreter spoke with Uskanli before the brief hearing. Engin Turkalp said outside court that he told her he can speak English.

It's not common practice for police to notify an airline if someone opens a door to a restricted area, like Uskanli did, Los Angeles airport police spokes-

man Rob Pedregon said. "If he was a danger, we would not have ever let him go," he said.

Because he had walked into the restricted area at the airport and he was determined to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol, crew members helped him to the plane using a wheelchair, the complaint said.

■ He didn't have any checked luggage or carry-ons, other than a laptop, a phone, items in his pocket, according to an FBI criminal complaint

An American Airlines spokesman said, however, that it was Uskanli who requested the wheelchair at the ticket counter, then went through security and on to the gate for the flight.

At the door of the plane, flight attendants helped Uskanli, the complaint said

Passengers told the FBI that Uskanli acted strangely on the flight, including talking about being a famous actor and pounding on walls after someone walked into a restroom he had left unlocked.

Flight attendants were afraid of his laptop, the complaint said, because they are aware "that laptop computers potentially pose a new threat to airplane security because they may contain explosives that are undetected by airport screening measures."

The captain initiated bomb threat procedures, and flight attendants barricaded the laptop with crew bags. An off-duty law enforcement officer sat with Uskanli for the remainder of the flight, the complaint said.

No explosives were found after the plane landed. FBI agents then interviewed Uskanli.

"When I asked him if he ever had terroristic thoughts, he responded, 'We all have those ideas,'" an agent wrote in an affidavit.

The agent asked again later about terroristic thoughts. In response, Uskanli made a gun shape with his fingers and pretended to shoot her, she wrote.

"He then did a gesture simulating a chopping motion toward my neck," the agent wrote.

He then told another agent, "I'll kill her, get out the following day and shoot myself," according to the court documents.

The complaint said he consented to a urine test and field sobriety tests. The urinalysis was presumptively positive for benzodiazepine, a tranquilizer, and the field tests indicated possible use of stimulants or cannabis, the complaint said. **AP**

ISRAEL

Trump pushes for Mideast peace, but avoids thorny details

PRESIDENT Donald Trump yesterday pushed for elusive peace between Israel and the Palestinians, calling on both sides to put aside the "pain and disagreements of the past."

Trump met with both Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas during his quick stop in the region. Speaking at the Israel Museum, he declared both sides ready to move forward, though there were no tangible signs of the dormant peace process being revived.

"Palestinians are ready to reach for peace," Trump said. Turning to the prime minister, who joined him for the speech, Trump said, "Benjamin Netanyahu wants peace."

A longtime businessman, Trump has cast Middle East peace as the "ultimate deal" and has tasked his son-in-law Jared Kushner and former real estate lawyer Jason Greenblatt with charting a course forward. Still, White House officials had downplayed the prospects for a breakthrough on this trip, saying it was important to manage their ambitions as they waded into terrain that has tripped up more experienced diplomats.

The president notably avoided all of the thorny issues that have stymied peace efforts for decades. He did not weigh in on Israeli settlements, the status of Jerusalem or even whether the U.S. would continue to insist on a two-state solution giving

the Palestinians sovereign territory.

Aides said the approach was purposeful, and the normally free-wheeling Trump was well-aware of the risks of veering off script on issue where every word is intensely scrutinized.

From Israel, Trump was heading to Italy for an audience with Pope Francis. He'll close his ambitious first foreign trip at a pair of summits in Brussels and Sicily, where his reception from European leaders may be less effusive than his welcome in Israel and Saudi Arabia, his opening stop on the trip.

Trump and Netanyahu in particular lavished praise on each other during their multiple meetings. The prime minister, who had a frosty

relationship with Trump's predecessor, leapt to his feet when the president declared that his administration "will always stand with Israel."

Yet some Israeli officials are less certain of Trump. He's taken a tougher than expected line on settlements, saying he doesn't believe they help the peace process, though he's stopped short of calling for a full construction freeze. He's also backed away from his campaign pledge to move the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, bending to the same security risks as other presidents who have made that promise.

At the same time, Abbas and the Palestinians have been pleasantly surprised by their dealings with Trump. In the morning,



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Donald Trump walk off after a speech at the Israel Museum, in Jerusalem

Trump met with Abbas in Bethlehem, traveling across the barrier surrounding the biblical city, which serves as a visual reminder of the complexities of the conflict in the region.

Abbas said he was keen to "keep the door open to dialogue with our Israeli neighbors." He reiterated the Palestinians' demands, including esta-

blishing a capital in East Jerusalem, territory Israel claims as well, insisting that "our problem is not with the Jewish religion, it's with the occupation and settlements, and with Israel not recognizing the state of Palestine."

The White House said Trump was being updated on the attacks in Manchester, England, by his national security team. **AP**



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what's ON



EXHIBITION OF CHAN IU PUI

TIME: 11am-6pm (Closed on Mondays and public holidays)

UNTIL: August 7, 2017

VENUE: 10 Fantasia, No. 10, Calçada da Igreja de S. Lázaro

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

ARTISTIC CRAFTSMANSHIP OF OUR ANCESTORS - EXHIBITION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RELICS OF TAIPA AND COLOANE

TIME: 10am-6am daily (Last admission at 5:30pm, closed on Mondays)

ADDRESS: Rua Correia da Silva, Taipa

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

PHOTOGRAPHS OF OLD TEMPLES IN MACAU

TIME: 10am-7pm (Last admission at 6:30pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: July 16, 2017

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

Museum Admission: MOP5 (Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

Offbeat

AP PHOTO



Members of the German American Bund pose for a photo at Camp Siegfried, in Yaphank, N.Y., an enclave of Nazi sympathizers (1938)

OKLAHOMA SCHOOL APOLOGIZES FOR HITLER YEARBOOK QUOTATION

The principal of an Oklahoma high school apologized after its yearbook featured a quotation attributed to Adolf Hitler.

Students at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Oklahoma City discovered the quote when they got the books earlier this month. Graduating seniors chose quotes to pair with their portraits.

A quote listed above Hitler's name says, "If you want to shine like the sun, first you have to burn like it." Some translations of Hitler's manifesto "Mein Kampf" include similar wording, though the author of the excerpt is disputed.

It appeared in the yearbook directly below a quotation attributed to Anne Frank, the Holocaust diarist who perished in a Nazi death camp.

Principal David Morton sent parents a letter last week accepting blame for the gaffe and saying the school was buying stickers students could place over the offending quote. Morton could not be reached for comment yesterday.

A spokeswoman for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, which oversees the school, says the student who chose the Hitler quote was disciplined. The school also is reviewing its process for the student-chosen quotations.

"Unfortunately, and clearly, the process failed to work in this case," Diane Clay said in an email. "The school is evaluating changes."

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
17:00	Revenge Sr 2
17:40	Once Upon a Time Sr.2 - Final (Repeated)
18:20	Now Generation (Repeated)
19:10	TDM Interview
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
22:10	Now Generation
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:50	RTPi Live

Cinema



CINETEATRO

18 - 24 MAY

ALIEN: COVENANT

ROOM 1

2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30pm

Director: Ridley Scott

Starring: Michael Fassbender, Katherine Waterston

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 122min



KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD

ROOM 2

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

Director: Guy Ritchie

Starring: Charlie Hunnam, Jude Law, Berges-Frisbey

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 126min

GIFTED

ROOM 2

7:30pm

Director: Marc Webb

Starring: Chris Evans, Octavia Spencer, McKenna Grace

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 101min

THE CIRCLE

ROOM 3

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

Director: James Ponsoldt

Starring: Tom Hanks, Emma Watson, John Boyega

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 110min

29 + 1

ROOM 3

7:30pm

Director: Kearen Pang

Starring: Chrissie Chau, Joyce Cheng, Ben Yeung

Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 100min

MACAU TOWER

11 MAY - 29 MAY



ALIEN: COVENANT

2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30pm

Director: Ridley Scott

Starring: Michael Fassbender, Katherine Waterston

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 122min

this day in history



2001 ISRAEL WEDDING PARTY TRAGEDY

At least 20 people have been killed and hundreds have been injured at a wedding party in Jerusalem after the dance floor collapsed.

Guests were left clinging to the sides of the Versailles wedding hall when the third floor suddenly gave way at about 2245 local time and crashed through two storeys below.

There were nearly 700 guests in the building, which is in the industrial Talpiot area of Jerusalem. Many were left trapped by the falling rubble which left a gaping hole through the centre of the building.

Reports say about 250 people have been taken to hospital but rescuers say there are signs of life beneath the debris. A special Israeli army rescue unit is at the scene.

The father of the groom, Zion Dror, said: "We were dancing, and all of a sudden three storeys collapsed. My family is fine, thank God."

The bride, Keren Dror, who was standing with the groom in the centre of a circle of dancers fell with him when the floor collapsed. She is reported to have injuries to her head and limbs and has been taken to hospital.

One wedding guest Efraim Rino told Israel Radio: "I grabbed my son as the floor collapsed. We fell one floor, and then the next floor collapsed. And the next. And I'm trying to hold my son's hand all the time. He's ten years old. We dropped all the way down. We were in the ruins. We had to be pulled out."

"People were flying through the air, the orchestra, the loudspeakers, everything fell."

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert has already visited the scene and rejected suggestions of a terror attack.

There are some reports the Versailles banquet hall was built using a cheap method of construction, known as Pal-Kal, which was outlawed five years ago.

A caller to Israel's Army Radio said he had organised a wedding at the hall a week ago and had called the owners afterwards to say he was worried about the state of the dance hall floor.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The final number of dead was 23.

Ten people were arrested by the Israeli authorities. They included the hall's owners, the engineer who invented the Pal-Kal method of cheap and lightweight ceiling construction and contractors and builders involved with recent renovations. An immediate safety check of all buildings using Pal-Kal was ordered. However, there were reports the checks were not thoroughly carried out and in the first six months after the disaster only one building, Lev Hagiva, was partly closed. Seven weeks after the banquet hall collapse families of the victims won their battle to have the tragedy declared a national disaster, so they could be entitled to compensation from the state.

In December 2003 a report into the Versailles wedding hall disaster found it a "miracle" there had been no other collapses given the lack of action taken on sub-standard buildings. In October 2004 two of the owners of the hall were convicted of causing death through negligence. Two other employees were acquitted.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 It's time to give that horse one last lash and let it rest in peace...

Taurus April 20-May 20 If you need time to mull something over, take it. It's definitely your turn...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You may not be your usual assertive, aggressive self, but that's nothing to be ashamed of...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Show a little more compassion today, no matter how painful it is. Those you usually find to be great fun to hang around with may not be quite so much fun now...

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You may feel you're absolutely right when it comes to your point of view, but if pushing the envelope causes a long-term rift between you and someone you care about...

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 There is a happy medium and you, of all people, can manage it: Be direct, but civil. If you're irritated with a loved one now, they're certainly going to know about it.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 While you're waiting for the universe to catch up with what you want to do, make plans. Sticking to your routine will be far easier than breaking out of it now, even if you're in the mood for change.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Buckle your emotional seatbelt - you're about to hit a rocky patch on a rough journey. You may need to travel or make contact with someone who's quite a distance from you now.

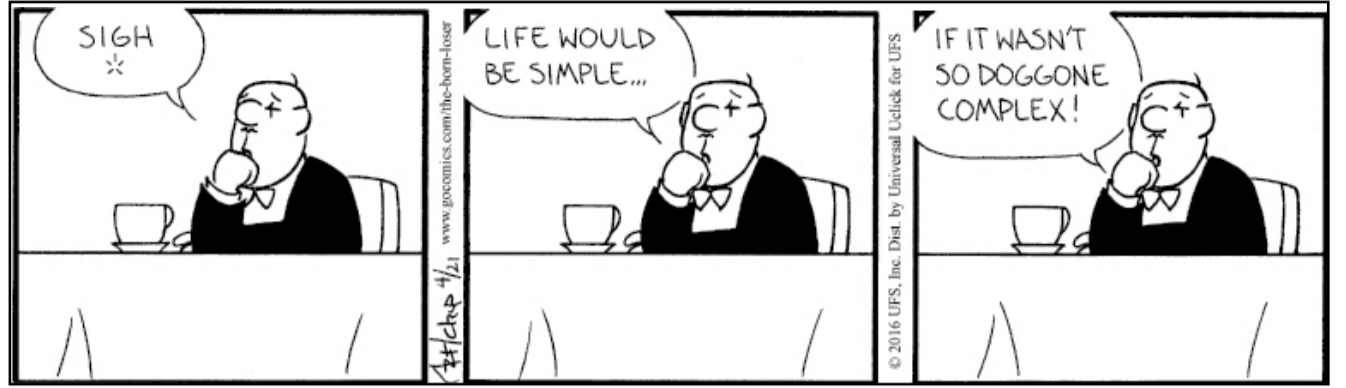
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 It's time to lay all your cards on the table, for better or worse - and it's going to be for the better. It's time to say goodbye, to a friend, a lover, a toxic relationship or a bad habit. Don't take this farewell lightly.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Money matters have been problematic lately, but it's all going to clear up soon. In fact, an action you take, over the next few days will do wonders to rectify this situation in the long term.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You're far more interested in tending to someone's emotional problems than taking care of business. Of course, those two things may end up being one in the same. If anyone starts complaining...

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Take your time and look around. What's the rush? You're in the mood to rush out and buy something - something that's not exactly what one might call a minor purchase.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle.

WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION for various cities in China and the World.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Rock star Clapton; 5- Air rifle ammo; 8- Served perfectly; 12- colada; 13- Moan; 15- Sotto ...; 16- Desktop picture; 17- Garlic sauce; 18- Poker stake; 19- Intensify; 22- Peace officer; 23- Neighbor of Braz.; 24- Thus; 26- Continues a subscription; 29- Son of the sovereign; 31- DI doubled; 32- Saline; 34- Jack Sprat could ... fat; 36- Exxon, once; 38- Hanker; 40- Learned; 41- Brief fight; 43- Fantasize; 45- Belonging to us; 46- The communication system of the body; 48- Lying on the back; 50- Billet-... (love letter); 51- Xenon, e.g.; 52- Call off; 54- Epic poem of India; 61- Couch; 63- Unit of weight in gemstones; 64- Work without ...; 65- Story line; 66- Genuinely; 67- Biblical garden; 68- 'Weird Al' Yankovic's parody of 'Lola'; 69- Compass point opposite WSW; 70- Prom wheels;

DOWN: 1- Heroic; 2- Puerto ...; 3- Party to; 4- High-kicking dance; 5- Londoner, e.g.; 6- Rude dude; 7- Room in a casa; 8- Gardner of films; 9- Mixture; 10- Prefix with plasm; 11- Profound; 13- Gangplank; 14- Gunpowder ingredient; 20- '... Tu' ('70s hit); 21- Buffalo's county; 25- Chew on; 26- Ascended; 27- Annual Welsh festival; 28- Snow conveyances; 29- Funeral fires; 30- Come next; 31- Parisian possessive; 33- It paves the way; 35- Not 'neath; 37- Other, in Oaxaca; 39- Mischievous; 42- Egg; 44- Movie-rating org.; 47- Strictly accurate; 49- Sharon's land; 52- Catch a view of; 53- ... contendere; 55- Fabled loser; 56- Make ... for it; 57- Bundle; 58- The King ...; 59- Abound; 60- ... time (never); 62- ... loss for words;



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Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
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St Pauls Ruins Central Macau 716 sq ft / HKD 5,558sq ft HKD 3.98M Modern Apartment Ref: 17035511

Villa de Mer - Tower 1 Macau 2 Bedrooms Apartment Modern Furnishing HKD 12,000 / 935 sq ft Ref: 17040645

Cattleya Court, Ocean Gardens Taipa 1,503 sq ft / HKD 7,172 sq ft HKD 10.78M Ocean Gardens complex Ref: 16095497

Kingsville, Taipa (I Unit) Taipa 3 Bedroom Apartment Parking Upon Request HKD 16,800 / 1,200 sq ft Ref: 17010631



UEFA: 'No specific intelligence' of risk to final

AFTER a deadly bombing on a concert in Manchester, Europa League organizer UEFA said it has no "specific intelligence" that the final featuring Manchester United will be a target.

United plays Ajax in the final today in Stockholm, and security was already intensified following a deadly truck attack in Sweden's capital city last month.

"The terrorist risk had been taken into account since the very beginning of the project," UEFA said yesterday, noting it has worked with Swedish authorities "for many months" to plan for the game.

The UEFA statement added "there is currently no specific intelligence which might suggest that any of the UEFA Europa League Final activities in Stockholm may be the target of attacks."

At least 22 people were killed when an apparent suicide bomber attacked an Ariana Grande concert as the performance ended in Manchester.

United's Dutch opponent joined many in the soccer world expressing support for the victims.

"From Amsterdam with love to Manchester," was posted on Ajax's official Twitter account. "Our thoughts are with the victims and the loved ones of those affected."

David Beckham, a former United star, wrote on Facebook: "As a father & a human what has happened truly saddens me."

The club said its "staff are ready to help the police and other emergency services in any way that may be required at this challenging time for our city."

The Old Trafford stadium, including a club store and museum, was closed on Tuesday.

Manchester City captain Vincent Kompany wrote on Twitter: "I would like to express my deepest condolences to the families of the victims. It's a sad day for the great city of Manchester. #Unity." AP



Ajax's coach Peter Bosz, center, gives directions to Ajax's Bertrand Traore, as substitute Justin Kluivert waits to enter the pitch during the second leg semi match

FOOTBALL | EUROPA LEAGUE

Ajax team aims to relive past glories in Stockholm

Mike Corder, Amsterdam

A year ago, Ajax could dominate possession but struggled to stamp its authority on quality opponents.

After one season in charge, coach Peter Bosz has transformed the long-dormant Dutch powerhouse into a dynamic team of young players who swarm forward in attack and are just as aggressive in defense.

What has he changed to achieve the turnaround?

"Almost everything," Bosz said ahead of his team's Europa League final against Manchester United in Stockholm on today [Thursday, 2:45am].

"When I started, I knew how to play, but I didn't know with which players," Bosz said. "Now the players understand exactly what I mean - pressing, high pressing and high ball tempo, how we build up from behind, these kinds of things."

That philosophy is hardly new to Ajax. It's the swift-passing style of play that won the Amsterdam club three straight European Cups in the early 1970s and the Champions League in 1995.

But since its 1-0 victory over AC Milan in Vienna

22 years ago, and a loss on penalties against Juventus in the Champions League final the following year, Ajax has been largely left behind by free-spending European powers.

Bosz believes his team's trip to Stockholm to play Manchester United is proof clubs with limited budgets but talented young players can still have an impact, at least in Europe's second-tier club competition.

"For a long time people in Holland said it's not possible for a Dutch team to play any finals anymore because the financial difference between the big clubs in Europe and the Dutch clubs is so big now," he said. "But we've made it."

Ajax, runner-up to Feyenoord in the Dutch league this season, is back in a European final thanks to its renowned youth program, which has for decades churned out talented stars, and the club's knack for scouting stars of the future.

Amsterdam was the first overseas stop for Manchester United striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic, who will miss the final in his home country because of injury. Ajax has uncovered another Scandinavian star in Kasper Dolberg, the 19-year-old striker who already has six

■ **It's the swift-passing style of play that won Ajax three straight European Cups in the 1970s and the Champions League in 1995**

goals in the Europa League this season and whose cool finishing has earned comparisons to Marco van Basten. Dolberg scored a goal in each leg of Ajax's semifinal victory over Lyon.

Partnering Dolberg up front will be 21-year-old Burkina Faso forward Bertrand Traore, who is on loan from Chelsea and set to again run into the manager who lured him to London - Jose Mourinho.

"He gave me so many chances to stay in Chelsea. I am excited to meet him again," Traore said.

Ajax's mix of home-grown talent and bargain basement - by current European standards - signings is also

familiar. The team coached by Louis van Gaal that won the Champions League in 1995 also blended youngsters like Clarence Seedorf, Edgar Davids and Patrick Kluivert with veteran leader Frank Rijkaard and unsung overseas players like Finidi George and Jari Litmanen.

Davinson Sanchez, a 20-year-old Colombian who has been one of Ajax's most consistent defenders all season, is the only player in the team with experience of a major final - he won the Copa Libertadores in July 2016 with Atletico Nacional.

"We're in the final because we've worked unbelievably hard. Some people think we're too young, we don't have enough international experience. We may be inexperienced, but we make up for it with our talent," Sanchez said. "We believe that experience isn't everything. That you can get a long way with talent."

Mourinho's squad has plenty of talent. But the coach has repeatedly complained that his team's hectic schedule this season is taking a toll on his players - the final in Stockholm will be United's 64th match of the season.

Bosz's players have had a busy season, too, but they've had well over a week without a competitive match to prepare for the final.

"Instead of looking at Manchester, I am rather looking at my team," Bosz said. "And the most important is that we are fit, we are fresh, nobody is injured, and that's the great way to prepare the team for the next Wednesday." AP



FOOTBALL | EUROPA LEAGUE

Man United's season hinges on winning the final

Steve Douglas, Manchester

Thursday, 2:45am
Ajax v Man Utd
H 4.8, D 3.62, A 1.91

LOSING the Europa League final is a prospect that doesn't bear thinking about at Manchester United.

Not for the players, who would face another season out of the prestigious Champions League — the bonus prize for winning Europe's second-tier competition — not to mention the pain of defeat in a high-profile title match.

Not for the club's owners, who would be hit with a big reduction in sponsorship money and, potentially, prize money from European competition next season.

And not for its famous manager, whose first year at United would be widely viewed as a failure.

"This game," United striker Marcus Rashford said, "is our season."

So much hinges on the match against Ajax in Stockholm today [Thursday, 2:45am] that United's players and their manager, Jose Mourinho, have to be fee-



Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho, center, greets his players during a training session at the Aon Training Complex, Carrington

ling the pressure heading to the Swedish capital.

United even gave up on its Premier League campaign with a few weeks remaining to give its full focus to the Europa League.

For England's biggest club, it's time to deliver.

In a year of highs and lows under Mourinho, United has won the League Cup to claim a trophy for the second straight season but finished in a disappointing sixth place in the Premier League. Missing a top-four finish — for the third time in four years — meant United failed

to earn a qualification spot for next season's Champions League, the minimum requirement for Mourinho and the club's American owners.

The only way to achieve that now is by winning the Europa League, which has become a more attractive competition since 2015 when the rules changed to offer the winner an automatic spot in the group stage of the Champions League.

And that's where United, a 20-time English champion and three-time winner of the European Cup, feels it belongs: on

the game's biggest stage. Not slumming it with the continent's also-rans in the Europa League.

Mourinho was hired last year to bring immediate success to United. For all his perceived downsides — a cautious, pragmatic style on the field and a confrontational, fight-picking approach off it — he has been a rapid hoarder of trophies throughout his coaching career.

Two cups and Champions League qualification would amount to a successful first season at United. One trophy and no Champions League would be a huge let-down.

"It makes sense to say it," Mourinho said, when this point of view was put to him, "but I don't feel like that. I don't want the players to feel like that. I don't think the board feels like that."

That's because, in Mourinho's opinion, United has made progress this season, recovering some of its aura of old, only for a mixture of injuries and a grueling schedule to set the team back. The last two months have been hard going, with a game every three or four days as a consequence of United going deep in every competition it entered.

The game against Ajax will be United's 64th of the season.

Mourinho has cut a grumpy figure of late, carrying an air of negativity toward the media for some of its criticism of recent performances and clearly dismayed by his team's injury problems that will deprive him of Zlatan Ibrahimovic, in particular, for the final.

Mourinho might also be weighed down by the enormity of the occasion. Rightly or wrongly, this is a defining game for him and the club.

"That's in a lot of people's minds," United defender Daley Blind said of the pressure of achieving Champions League qualification, "but, for us, the most important thing is to lift that trophy. Thinking only about Champions League is not enough."

Looking purely in financial terms, United would see a 30 percent reduction in the value of its 10-year jersey deal with Adidas — and equivalent of 21 million pounds (USD27 million) — if the team doesn't qualify for the Champions League for the second straight season.

In soccer terms, another season in the energy-sapping Europa League is hardly ideal if United plans a genuine shot at the Premier League title. No Champions League might even stop some of its biggest transfer targets, like Antoine Griezmann, coming to Old Trafford next season.

Then there's the fact that the Europa League — or its predecessor, the UEFA Cup — is the only major trophy missing from United's resume.

Ninety minutes can change all that. **AP / Oddschecker.com**

SO LONG, WAYNE?

Cup final may be Rooney's last United game

WAYNE Rooney could finish his Manchester United career by hoisting a European trophy, surrounded by jubilant teammates and with fireworks exploding around him.

Still, it wouldn't be quite the end he would have envisioned after 13 years at the English club.

Rooney is set to be a substitute for United in the Europa League final, a role which the club's captain and record scorer has become increasingly accustomed to this season. Depending on the situation in the match, he might not even come on.

That's how it's been for most of this season, watching from afar at a club where he was once the main man.

Talk about United's key



players ahead of a final that means so much to the English club, and many would say Marcus Rashford or Paul Pogba or Henrikh Mkhitaryan.

Few would say Rooney.

That's the reason why this game might be his last for United despite ha-

ving two years left on his contract, why he has been linked for much of the past few months with a return to former club Everton, a move to MLS in the United States, or a short spell in the Chinese league.

United is moving on under Jose Mourinho

and Rooney is being left behind. Speculation grows that James Rodriguez will be moving to Old Trafford from Real Madrid, adding to the list of attackers who will be ahead of Rooney in the pecking order next season.

There was a symbolic moment Sunday on the final day of the Premier League season. Rooney was one of the few senior players picked for a virtually meaningless match against Crystal Palace — Mourinho rested most of his Europa League starters — and he was replaced in the final minutes by 16-year-old attacking midfielder Angel Gomes, who became the first player born this millennium to play in the Premier League.

Rooney applauded all

corners of Old Trafford and walked off with his head down. Was he saying goodbye to the stadium he has played at since 2004, when — at 18 — he made a spectacular debut by scoring a hat trick in a Champions League game against Fenerbahce?

Since then, he has racked up 253 goals for United to surpass Bobby Charlton's longstanding club record. He is also England's record scorer with 53 goals, again overtaking Charlton.

He has won the Premier League title five times, the FA Cup once, the League Cup three times and the Champions League once. That last trophy came in 2008 when he was part of the famous frontline containing Cristiano Ronaldo and Carlos Tevez.

Rooney is no longer the

force of old, unable to influence matches in the same way or tear around the field harassing opponents. Games can pass him by and there is the fear that, after 15 years in the spotlight of the soccer world, he is simply burnt out.

In his last appearance at a news conference, prior to the second leg of the Europa League semifinals against Celta Vigo, Rooney said his priority at this stage of his career was to "play football." When asked if that meant at United, he added: "Of course." He will end this season likely having started 25 of United's 64 games. Often, he was an unused substitute.

Mourinho said he would not sell Rooney against his wishes, so it is for the player to decide if today is the last time he dons a United jersey.

Whether he actually makes it onto the field remains to be seen. **AP**

opinion

Macau Matters

Richard Whitfield



THEATRE ART LIFE

By now, it is clear that the future of Macau rests on it developing much more extensive and "family friendly" entertainment and relaxation opportunities for tourists and locals alike. The ongoing trend towards mass market tourism will continue and must be embraced. Thus, it becomes crucial for Macau to learn how to encourage and nurture entrepreneurs who can create myriad new "experiences" so that we have an offering that is broad and deep enough to satisfy all tastes. A few mega shows will not cut it - we need many, many smaller and more varied experiences that encompass the full range of food and beverage, entertainment and culture, health and wellbeing, sport, shopping, exhibition and convention and other activities that can be attractive to a wide spectrum of visitors.

When I look at the current situation, I believe that Macau has progressed a long way in the last 10+ years, but we still have a long way to go to live up to our positioning as a global centre for rest and relaxation.

For example, I am travelling to Australia next week for hip surgery. I did not even consider getting this done in Macau because the quality and capability of local medical services are far below good international standards. I did consider Hong Kong, but even with the airfare costs, Australia is significantly less expensive and generally better quality; and I get to visit with family and friends for a few months. Medical tourism is something we should be considering, but we currently lack good doctors, and as important, good technical and administrative support staff. And our expectations for medical services are far too low.

Another reason I am looking forward to visiting Melbourne is its food, entertainment and sporting attractions. Restaurants in Macau have improved greatly in recent years but, to be brutally honest, 90% of them are bland copies of each other - there is little originality or flair and service is generally mediocre. There are also very few live entertainment venues in Macau and they have limited variety. The seven-hour starting delay at the recent open-air concert at Hac Sa Beach on May 1 attests to the total incompetence of the local technical team supporting the event.

While we do have some world class attractions, such as the House of Dancing Water show and our large shopping malls and hotels, most of their expertise is imported and many locals do not see them as valid career choices. This must change. We need to be developing and guiding local talent to build on international expertise and take on world leading roles for the future. To achieve this goal we must be much more open to working with international experts and put much more effort into raising awareness and stimulating young local people to train themselves up for leadership roles in the future.

This is why I am so pleased to see new initiatives to inform and educate people to consider and work towards careers in live entertainment and the arts like the just launched TheatreArtLife (theatreartlife.com) website. Started by people living and working in Macau, this invaluable resource provides a platform for live entertainment industry professionals to connect and network with each other, seek employment opportunities around the globe and search for professional development to further develop and evolve in their careers. The starting point for building and extending industries is creating awareness of the possibilities and opportunities so that information and networking resources like this one are crucial and we need to support them and help them grow. Theatre Art Life is a great exemplar of what can be done and I would love to see other comparable Macau-based resources emerge for related fields.

THE FOOTBALL LEAKS: FRENCH POLICE RAID BUZZ PSG HQ, 3 PLAYERS' HOMES

Police investigating suspected tax fraud linked to the soccer industry have raided the headquarters of Paris Saint-Germain and the homes of three Argentine players in France.

Anti-corruption police units searched the homes of PSG players Angel Di Maria and Javier Pastore, and that of Nantes forward Emiliano Sala yesterday.

Police also raided the head offices of PSG at Parc des Princes and other offices in Boulogne-Billancourt, outside the French capital, the official said.

The national financial prosecutor's office opened an investigation in December after so-called "football leaks" reports allegedly detailed tax arrangements by top players, coaches and clubs.

Roger Moore, star of seven James Bond films, dies at 89

ROGER Moore, the suavely insouciant star of seven James Bond films, has died in Switzerland. He was 89.

The British actor died yesterday after a short battle with cancer, according to a family statement posted on Moore's official Twitter account.

"We know our own love and admiration will be magnified many times over, across the world, by people who knew him for his films, his television shows and his passionate work for UNICEF, which he considered to be his greatest achievement," the

"To me, the Bond situations are so ridiculous, so outrageous," Roger Moore once said. "I mean, this man is supposed to be a spy and yet, everybody knows he's a spy. Every bartender in the world offers him martinis that are shaken, not stirred. What kind of serious spy is recognized everywhere he goes? It's outrageous. So you have to treat the humor outrageously as well."

While he never eclipsed Sean Connery in the public's eye as the definitive James Bond, Moore did play the role of secret agent 007 in just as many films as Connery did, and he managed to do so while "finding a joke in every situation," according to film critic Rex Reed.

The actor, who came to the role in 1973 after Connery ti-



red of it, had already enjoyed a long career in films and television, albeit with mixed success.

He was remembered warmly by fans of the popular U.S. 1950s-60s TV series "Maverick" as Beauregard Maverick, the English cousin of the Wild West's Maverick brothers, Bret and Bart. He also starred in the 1959 U.S. series "The Alaskans."

In England, he had a long-running TV hit with "The Saint," playing Simon Templar, the enigmatic action hero who helps put wealthy crooks in jail while absconding with their fortunes. By the time the series, which also aired in the United States, ended in 1969, his partnership with its producers had made him a wealthy man.

In the 1970s, film critic Vincent Canby would dismiss Moore's acting abilities as

having "reduced all human emotions to a series of variations on one gesture, the raising of the right eyebrow."

Born in London, the only child of a policeman, Moore had studied painting before enrolling in the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. He played a few small roles in theater and films before his mandatory army duty, then moved to Hollywood in the 1950s. He appeared opposite Elizabeth Taylor in 1954's "The Last Time I Saw Paris" and with Eleanor Parker in "Interrupted Melody" the following year.

In 1973, he made his first Bond film, "Live and Let Die." He would make six more, "The Man With the Golden Gun," "The Spy Who Loved Me," "Octopussy," "Moonraker," "For Your Eyes Only" and "A View to a Kill" over the next 12 years. MDT/AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



'Our man' in Jerusalem. Sheldon Adelson (centre) talks with Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson, before a speech by President Donald Trump at the Israel Museum, yesterday

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	20-40 Good	😊
High Density Residential Area	25-45 Good	😊
Ambient	40-60 Moderate	😞

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

INDONESIA Two men in Indonesia's Aceh province were publicly caned dozens of times for consensual gay sex, a punishment that intensifies an anti-gay backlash in the world's most populous Muslim country and which rights advocates denounced as "medieval torture."

THAILAND The ruling junta said police will handle the investigation into a bombing at a military-run hospital that wounded more than 20 people, while security in the country is being reviewed.



AUSTRALIA A tearful Rebel Wilson testified that a series of magazine articles published in Australia was a deliberate attack on her character and damaged her acting career. Wilson is suing Australian publisher Bauer Media, which articles said Wilson had lied about her name, age and upbringing in Australia.

MIDDLE EAST President Donald Trump pushed for elusive peace between Israel and the Palestinians, calling on both sides to put aside the "pain and disagreements of the past." Trump met with both Israeli Prime Minister and Palestinian Authority President during his quick stop in the region.

More on p14

USA A Connecticut imam has been detained by immigration agents and faces deportation to Pakistan. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials said Hafiz Abdul Hannan, the leader of the Masjid Al-Islam mosque in New Haven since 2013, was taken into custody at his home last week.



GERMANY's defense minister says the country is committed to spending 2 percent of its gross domestic product on defense in keeping with its pledge to NATO. Ursula von der Leyen [pictured, center] told reporters in Berlin yesterday that defense spending would be among the topics at a NATO meeting in Brussels later this week.