



DREAMING HIGH

Interview with Macau's junior race-driver Charles Leong, who hopes to win F1 races one day

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MACAU DESIGN BIENNIAL KICKS OFF

The submission period for the 11th Macau Design Biennial will be open until June 30

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VIDEO REVIEW CAUSING CONFUSION FOR FIFA

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WORLD BRIEFS



UK Authorities and Islamic leaders moved swiftly to ease concerns in the Muslim community after a man plowed his vehicle into a crowd of worshippers outside a north London mosque yesterday, injuring at least nine people. One man died at the scene, although he was receiving first aid at the time and it wasn't clear if he died as a result of the attack or from something else. [More on p15](#)

VIETNAM An international human rights group has condemned attacks on Vietnamese bloggers and activists by unknown assailants and urged the government to carry out impartial investigations and bring those responsible to justice.



INDONESIA Four foreign inmates escaped early yesterday from a prison on the Indonesian resort island of Bali, police said. Prison officers became aware of the escape while conducting a morning check of inmates at the Kerobokan penitentiary in Bali's capital, Denpasar. [More on p13](#)

SOUTH KOREA, one of the world's largest nuclear electricity producers, will scrap plans to add nuclear power plants, its president said yesterday, signaling a shift in decades of reliance on nuclear energy. [More on backpage](#)

Agnes Lam confident of winning AL seat

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China propels rise of electric ultra-high-performance cars

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Q&A CHARLES LEONG
JUNIOR RACE-DRIVER, STUDENT

'My dream is to win in the Formula One'

Renato Marques

MACAU'S junior race-driver Charles Leong was recently in the spotlight after he clocked the record-breaking time of 1:33:989 in the Asian Formula Renault Series (AFR) in Zhuhai. Leong began racing competitively at 10 years old and made an impressive leap to the Formula 4 (F4) category in late 2015, at the age of 13. The Times spoke to Leong, who divides his time between his studies at The International School and racing, about his achievements and ambitions.

Macau Daily Times (MDT) – How did you start your career in motorsports?

Charles Leong (CL) – My first time [in motorsports] was driving a go-kart – I was studying in Grade 2. It was not really a proper go-kart, but just one of those [rentals] for people to have fun with. It was during a school trip and when I sat in the car, I [felt] like I really wanted to drive fast in the future. I was the fastest of all my classmates [at that time]. When I was in Grade 3, I finally moved to Macau and had the chance to drive a proper go-kart and so it started.

MDT – You are now at Formula 4 with Black Arts Racing and also in AFR. What is your biggest challenge?

CL – My biggest challenge now is to win both [the] Formula Renault and the F4 season, but I already know I will miss one of the F4 races because of the AFR [calendar clash], so I'm aiming



to get more wins in F4 [in order to guarantee the goal even if failing to race one of events].

MDT – How far do you want to go? What is your ultimate dream?

CL – [First] I really want to go to F1 and my [ultimate] dream is win in the Formula One too.

MDT – How do you manage your school duties with racing? What kind of support do you have for that?

CL – Every time I come back to school I need to catch up with the work, and I need to manage my time well because I also [need] to go to the gym. When I find difficulty in understanding

something I will ask the teachers [for help].

It is hard because there is pressure from both sides. I need to study well and race well. It is really hard for me. I will try my best on both things. The school supports me by helping me on my studies in the evening since I have enrolled in boarding school [at The International School].

MDT – What is your favorite racing track and race idol?

CL – My favorite track is Shanghai. It is very challenging. It has a lot of fast corners, slow corners, and a very long straight. It is really fun. My [racing]

idol is Max [Verstappen]. He is a very aggressive driver. He makes perfect starts most of the time and in the rain, he is also much faster than his teammate [and I appreciate such skills].

I recall that when he was in Shanghai [earlier this year], he performed an amazing overtake from the outside line and he also overtook his teammate easily as he was starting from last. He also managed to achieve his first win [in F1] with Redbull when he was only 18.

MDT – What will be your next step? Formula 3?

CL – My next step will be going to Europe for the [European] Formula Renault, because I am

still very young and I need to have more race experience [before trying to launch myself into more competitive categories].

MDT – Do you ever race in simulators? How accurate do you find those?

CL – Yes, I do, I always race with my coach Josh Burdon when I am in the team. We usually race on RFactor [computer game]. It is really nice to test on a simulator; you get to learn the track much faster and also helps you to train your reaction time. You can get the feeling of driving when you don't get a chance to test [on the real track]. It's very nice [and helpful] to test on a simulator.



TOURISM

Macau Int'l Travel Expo to kick off in July

THE 5th Macau International Travel (Industry) Expo (MITE) will be held from July 7 to 9 at The Venetian Macao, featuring six exhibition zones about tourism resources in the mainland, Macau and the Portuguese-speaking countries.

MITE is an annual event for the Macau tourism community dedicated to forging a platform that brings together delegates from the tourism and relevant industries to exchange ideas, build partnerships and enjoy a common share in visitor

markets. The event covers different elements of the tourism industry, including dining, lodging and entertainment.

During a joint press conference by the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) and Macau Travel Agency Asso-

ciation, MGTO director Helena de Senna Fernandes said she expects the event "will make an increasingly stronger impact to bring together tourism and other related industries from the mainland and worldwide."

She added that the expo

will continue to "enhance Macau's role and function in the development of the national economy and its opening-up to the world."

This year's six featured exhibition zones include China's Maritime Silk Road, Guangdong-Hong

Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area and China - Portugal Tourism Seminar and Networking. A creative zone will also be set up to introduce Macau's renowned local stores and cultural products.

Around 180 enterprises and entities from a total of 40 countries have confirmed their participation in the expo, including travel agencies, hotels, tourist attractions and transportation operators.

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Third time's the charm: Lam confident of winning AL seat

Renato Marques

AGNES Lam's Civil Watch list is once more running for a seat at the Legislative Assembly (AL).

Lam, who is heading the group for the third time in a row, is confident that she will finally be elected, granting her a seat in the local parliament.

"I'm expecting that, I hope [it happens] and I'm trying my very best to get the seat this time," Lam said.

"We have evaluated what we did wrong and what we did right before and we came up with what I hope would be a better strategy," she said yesterday afternoon on the sidelines of the official presentation of the candidacy list at the Electoral Affairs Commission (CAEAL) office.

Lam stated that the Civil Watch list will focus on the population's major concerns – namely, common issues such as housing, transport and education – in order to attract more voters.

RENATO MARQUES



She added that in previous elections, her list had launched discussions about animal rights, as well as housing issues such as rent control and domestic violence. These gained support and entered the public eye.

Part of the list's strategy is to continue discussing issues that can gain momentum to "promote changes in the society"

and not just "see who the voters are and find a topic that is [of] their own interest."

"[This idea of] pushing our own agenda into something that everyone would think is important is our goal and I want to get the seat through this," Lam said.

The list includes five or six members (the uncertainty is due to an unreleased decision

regarding a leave authorization of one member) and will include people such as "professionals [from different fields], cultural industries people, and one representative of the minorities," she stated, without going into more detail on the members and their backgrounds.

Unlike last election, when Agnes Lam ran alongside architect Rui Leão, this list will not feature a member of the Portuguese community.

Questioned on the exact nature of the topics the Civil Watch list will discuss, Lam said she could not disclose her political platform, which will be revealed in August. "I don't know how much I can release now because the law is not very clear." Nevertheless, she put forward some topics: "We have several basic areas that we will be focusing in such as housing, public transportation, the medical system, education, minorities and environmental protection. These will be more or less our key focus [areas]."



650 students graduate from Polytechnic Institute

The Macau Polytechnic Institute (IPM) held their graduation ceremony for the 2016-2017 academic year yesterday, involving a total of 650 bachelor's degree students graduating from its 20 programs and various majors this year. IPM president Professor Lei Heong Lok said in his speech that IPM's enrollment and graduate employment rates have been very encouraging, and reiterated that the educational philosophy of "Establishing Morality and Cultivating People" has guided IPM's management since he became president in 1999. Chief Executive Chui Sai On officiated the ceremony and emphasized the government's commitment to establishing effective and sustained mechanisms for its education system and talent development.

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Civil servants' complaint regulations published

A management system to handle complaints by public servants will come into effect in 90 days, according to a notice published yesterday in the Official Gazette. The system will improve communications between classes within the civil servant structure, as well as to improve the operations of public departments. A committee will also be established to address the complaints. The Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau (SAFP) claimed that the original intention behind the system arose from the need to protect the rights of civil servants who filed complaints, and to avoid unfair situations within public departments. The SAFP added that employees will not be treated differently for filing complaints.

Macau group opens first branch in Zhuhai

The Macau Health Link Medical Group Co., Ltd (Healthlink) opened its first branch in Zhuhai. This is the first wholly Macau-owned medical organization to establish an office in Zhuhai under the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA). The medical center occupies an area of 500 square meters and predominantly provides pediatric services at present. The group plans to offer more services such as dentistry, plastic surgery and Chinese medicine in future. Healthlink also plans to open more branches in Zhuhai as well as in other cities across Guangdong.

HKZMB artificial island with charging station

The China Southern Power Grid Co., Ltd. (CSG) is building a charging station site on the artificial island of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge. The construction is expected to be finished by the end of this year, CSG announced yesterday. CSG has invested RMB400 million in the construction of a 110kV substation and a 10kV line grid, in addition to 550 charging points across the island. CSG stated that it took into consideration all three regions' standards of electric vehicles when building the charging station. According to CSG, the station – which will be located at the checkpoints and the transportation center on the island – will provide services for tourist buses, cross-border shuttle buses and electric taxis.

Macau Design Biennial to welcome fewer mainland submissions



James Chu (left) and Hong Ka Lok

THE submission period for the 11th Macau Design Biennial has begun and will be open until June 30, as revealed at a press conference last week at the Macau Design Center (MDC).

So far, over 550 pieces have been submitted to the competition for consideration, and more than 2,000 are expected before the submission period comes to a close.

The head of the organizing team behind the 11th Macau Design Biennial, Hong Ka Lok, said at the press conference that MDC expected fewer entries this year but they would be representative of a greater

variety of countries worldwide.

Meanwhile, James Chu, the chairman of the Macau Designers Association and the curator of MDC, explained the greater representation by highlighting that there would be fewer entries from mainland China this year.

"In the last biennial, we received a lot of entries from mainland China – around 6,000. But this year, we have made some changes. We don't expect the same huge number of entries, [instead] we expect a higher quality [of the entries]," he told the Times.

"It is hard to say [at the moment] the proportion of the

Chu expects just 5 to 10 percent of the works to be approved by the int'l judging panel

designers [who are] local to the city," said Chu when asked about local participation. "Macau is a very small city, with only a few thousand designers.

Compare that to Hong Kong, with over 80,000 [designers] or Shenzhen with 240,000."

He said that he expects just 5 to 10 percent of the submitted works to be approved by the international judging panel. "The judges select very seriously," said Chu. "Only 100 to 200 pieces will be chosen maximum, I believe."

Founded by the Macau Designers Association, the Macau Design Biennial has been held every two years since 1994 and is now in its 11th edition, according to organizers. Some of the award-winning works will be collected in the permanent collections of the Macau Museum of Art, while others will be shown at the Handover Gifts Museum of Macau from the day of the Grand Awards Ceremony.

An MDC representative told the Times last week that at least one exhibition from the competition will be held in December. **DB**

MDC VACANCIES TO OPEN IN AUGUST

THE CURATOR of the Macau Design Center (MDC) told the Times last week that some of the rental units in the organization's incubator program will become available from August this year. "Some of the companies have now reached their three-year [maximum] working partnership with us, so in August some of the vacancies will reopen to the public," said James Chu. "Of course, some of those companies can reapply, but they have to compete with new companies." He also added that the MDC is currently operat-

ing at maximum capacity, but is required by the Cultural Industries Fund to open the incubator space to new organizations at least every three years. The incubator program invites local design companies to rent office and creative spaces at below-market rates, in order to help support the fledgling industry. Asked whether he thinks some of these companies will reapply, Chu said: "I think yes [they will], because everyone is quite happy working here. There are over 100 designers working here, so it is like a community."

CRIME

Man blackmailed following naked online chat

Julie Zhu

A local man was blackmailed after a nude chat with an Internet friend through Skype, as revealed by the Judiciary Police (PJ) during yesterday's press conference.

The victim is a local resident aged around 40 years old who befriended a user, who claimed to be female, through an online social network.

After chatting for a short time through the aforementioned network, the suspect asked the local man to turn on his Skype to

chat. The victim obeyed the woman's request.

Approximately two hours into a Skype video call on Thursday, June 15, the woman requested that the local man take off his clothes and talk to her while naked.

The local man removed his clothes and continued to talk to the woman.

Last Friday, the man received a message on Skype sent by the same user. The message had an attached link to a website featuring the video of the nude victim. The sender said that the man should

pay MOP5,000 if he did not want to see the video posted on an online social network.

The man, fearing the consequences, transferred money to the woman. In total, he lost

MOP20,000 to the blackmail.

In a similar case last month, a 40-year-old local woman reportedly lost MOP3.31 million after being scammed by so-called friends on on-

line social networks.

The woman met two men claiming to be an engineer and a doctor, both Japanese. While video chatting with one of the suspects, the woman sent him topless pictures.

The suspected users, who are believed to be the same person, obtained more than three million patacas from the victim after threatening to post her pictures online.

WOMAN ROBBED NEAR HOME

A 29-year-old female mainland resident was robbed last Sunday. Although no financial losses were incurred, the victim suffered some physical injuries. The incident took place early Sunday morning as the woman was returning to her home in Areia Preta. While she was heading towards her building, she saw two men wearing hats and masks standing at the entrance. The victim also noticed another two men also

wearing hats and masks standing across from the building. The woman decided not to return to her home immediately and instead wandered around her building for a short time. When she finally approached the entrance to wait for someone to escort her up, the duo standing nearby kicked her chest and back, before taking her handbag. At 8 a.m. that same day, the victim filed a police report.

GAMING

Okada at risk of losing Nevada link

BLOOMBERG



Kazuo Okada

FOLLOWING this month's publication of a Japanese pachinko and arcade games manufacturer's note to the JASDAQ Securities Exchange, Kazuo Okada's corporate lifetime may be in jeopardy.

As the Times reported earlier, the Japanese billionaire and former company chairman of Tokyo-based Universal Entertainment Corporation has been suspended from the board of his own company pending an investigation into an alleged illegal outflow of HKD135 million. The transaction was made from a company subsidiary to an external third party in March 2015.

The ousting of Okada may not be the final blow for the septuagenarian tycoon, who is currently horns with U.S. casino magnate Steve Wynn over alleged illegal payments made to Asian gaming regulators.

He is now under investigation by the Nevada Gaming Control Board, jeopardizing his entire association with Las Vegas, the world's second largest gambling hub.

Moreover, analysts are warning of a spillover effect that could spell the end of Okada. If his license to work with Nevada casinos is terminated, other jurisdictions will follow suit, they warn.

According to the Nevada Independent, the Universal board's swift motion to expel Okada may bode well for the company, but will isolate the tycoon in his defense against the investigations.

"The impact on the founder's reputation figures to be far greater," the digital news publication noted.

Okada, who once owned a 20 percent share in Wynn Resorts, was expelled from the Nevada-based company in 2012 with his stake forcibly redeemed at a discount rate.

Wynn and Okada have taken the matter to court. The former has asked the district court of Clark County, Nevada to validate the sale, while the Japanese billionaire is fighting to restore his stake. Okada is also claiming that his dismissal from the company was unjustified.

'Business climate survey' receives mixed results

Business improved for restaurants and similar establishments in April 2017, according to a "business climate survey" by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). Some 52 percent of surveyed establishments reported year-on-year growth in receipts, up by 5 percentage points from March. On the other hand, the proportion of establishments recording a year-on-year decline in receipts went down by 12 percentage points to 23 percent. The data collected by DSEC indicates a drop of 2 percentage points in the number of interviewed retailers who reported a year-on-year increase in sales in April, compared to sales in March. Auto sales saw the steepest drop, with only 22 percent of retailers reporting higher revenue.

MGTO attends APEC High Level Policy Dialogue

MGTO Deputy Director Cheng Wai Tong attended the APEC High Level Policy Dialogue on Sustainable Tourism yesterday in Ha Long, Vietnam. Vietnamese officials and representatives from international tourism organizations delivered remarks in the opening session. During the meeting, representatives from various member economies and international tourism organizations exchanged views and held in-depth discussions on a series of topics.

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HK wants to win the next Alibaba with exchange revamp

Benjamin Robertson,
Kana Nishizawa

HONG Kong Exchanges & Clearing Ltd. is sending a message to startup companies the world over: We want your business.

The bourse operator on Friday proposed the creation of a new exchange that would allow firms to list before they've made a profit and permit dual-class shares, an issue that caused Hong Kong to miss out on Alibaba Group Holding Ltd.'s USD25 billion initial public offering. While small-cap trading in the former British colony has for years been plagued by wild price swings and low volume, a third venue would be a chance to compete with international rivals for blockbuster listings such as Ant Financial, Alibaba's finance affiliate.

In an environment where multiple share classes are becoming more common, HKEX's plans are an attempt to broaden the types of stocks it can attract. Chief Executive Officer Charles Li said on Friday that Hong Kong has missed out on \$50 billion of offerings from mainland companies that either chose the U.S., where dual-class share structures are allowed, or listed in China at a so-called pre-profit stage.

"We want to find ways to make sure we can continue to enhance Hong Kong's competitiveness as a global financial center, attract high-growth new economy companies, diversify our markets, develop Hong Kong's new tech



A co-working place in Hong Kong

ecosystem and generate new additional tax revenue from trading for our government," Li said at a media event after the proposals were published.

Pre-profit firms made up 68 percent of new listings in the U.S. last year, according to HKEX. The bourse will differentiate who can buy certain stocks on the new venue, with shares of companies available to individual investors forced to meet higher regulatory standards.

Appealing to companies that use multiple share classes or want to list before they've shown a profit "is necessary to help address the lack of growth exposures in our market, and to maintain our competitiveness as an IPO venue," HKEX said in its proposal.

HKEX shares rose 2.7 percent yesterday, the most in two weeks. The plans also suggest waiving rules that prevent Chinese companies that have gone public overseas from listing in Hong Kong. In recent years mainland firms including Alibaba, Weibo Corp. and Baidu Inc. have chosen to have their shares traded in New York.

"It's not a bad thing at all because you can attract companies like Alibaba," said Dickie Wong, executive director of research at Kingston Securities Ltd. "But such companies - will they list on the third board in Hong Kong when they can list on the main board in Nasdaq?"

Friday's proposals also addressed the city's second venue, the Growth Enterprise Market. Plans include increasing the market capitalization of companies before they can list and raising cash flow requirements for IPOs.

Controlling shareholders in Hong Kong will be unable to sell below their controlling stake within two years of debuting, while at least 10 percent of new GEM IPO shares must be issued to the public, HKEX proposed. Applicants from GEM hoping to move to the city's main exchange will face tougher rules, requiring a sponsor and submission of a prospectus.

The plans are an effort to stem some of the trading issues seen with GEM stocks. The average first day increase for new listings at the venue

was 530 percent last year, Securities and Futures Commission data show. Average daily turnover at the bourse this year was \$72 million compared to \$9.7 billion on the city's main exchange, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. The S&P/HKEX GEM Index has fallen 16 percent in the past five years while the benchmark Hong Kong Hang Seng Index has gained 33 percent.

GEM-listed funeral provider Grand Peace Group Holdings Ltd. was suspended on Friday after falling as much as 88 percent. It was the biggest plunge since the company started trading in 2000.

"When we created GEM we made too many waivers and no one knew what it stood for," said Low Chee-keong, an associate professor at the CUHK Business School and a former member of the Hong Kong exchange's listing committee. "At the start we were a bit too relaxed in our approach."

Wild stock moves on GEM triggered a warning in January from HKEX and the SFC, reminding participants of the need to ensure a fair, orderly and efficient market. A month later, the regulator suspended GME Group Holdings Ltd. shares on the first day of trading after they rose 543 percent.

GEM companies have also been popular targets for acquisitive Chinese firms chasing back-door listings in Hong Kong after the mainland delayed applications and tightened rules for new offerings.

"In recent years we saw many new issues selling their shareholding within one or two years of listing," said Matthew Kwok, managing director at China Goldjoy Asset Management Ltd. "Basically they just want to get their listing rights and then sell at a pretty good premium."

HKEX said it would also more than double the minimum size for main exchange entrants to HK\$500 million (\$64 million). **Bloomberg**



Qatar Air plans court claim in Gulf spat, condemns ICAO inaction

QATAR Airways said it could go to court in a bid to claw back the additional operating costs it's running up after neighboring states in the Persian Gulf excluded it from their airspace amid an ongoing political dispute with the carrier's state owner.

The airline is keeping tabs on the business impact of its higher fuel bill as the blockade imposed by Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt compels its aircraft to take detours that can double the flying time on some routes, Akbar al Baker, its chief executive officer told Bloomberg TV.

Qatar Air is "making sure that all our business streams are properly documented in order for us in future to go to international tribunals to reflect the pain," Al Baker said yesterday. The CEO added that he's unhappy with the response of the International Civil Aviation Organization in addressing what he says is an illegal action in closing airspace.

"They have been slow. But those countries have people on the board," Al Baker said. "We are now waiting two weeks with this situation and nobody has upheld international law."

The four rival Arab states cut diplomatic and transport links with Qatar on June 5, accusing the nation of funding Islamist terrorism, something it denies. The measures have left Qatar Air excluded from 18 regional destinations and forced some long-haul flights to detour via Iran and Oman.

Qatar Airways will "march on" with plans to add new destinations and is "successfully mitigating" some of the impact of the network disruptions, Al Baker said at the Paris Air Show. The airline is seeing an increase in bookings and expects the busy Islamic holiday of Eid to be "business as usual."

Qatar has no plans to defer any plane deliveries, the CEO said, describing the dispute as an "intimidation game." He added that the spat won't affect relations with Boeing and that he's confident President Donald Trump will take the right steps in mediating between both camps.

ICAO, a United Nations agency, has been brokering diplomatic discussions that it says are aimed at securing a consensus-based solution to the fallout. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

SANDS INAUGURATES PROCUREMENT ACADEMY



Sands China Ltd. inaugurated the Sands Procurement Academy yesterday at the Adelson Advanced Education Center at The Venetian Macao. The academy is providing tai-

lor-made practical modules to local small and medium-sized enterprises (SME), with the first round being offered every Monday from June 19 to July 24. Classes will be facilitated

by lecturers with various areas of expertise covering six topics including effective warehouse management, logistics management and supplier code of conduct.

The first training module was delivered yesterday after the inauguration ceremony.

According to the press release by Sands China, nearly 50 local SME suppliers are currently signed up to attend the six modules.

The academy is an initiative to develop local SME suppliers by sharing business knowledge and skills as part of the company's F.I.T. program (F.I.T. stands for financial support, invitational matching, and training and development).

BENE LAUNCHES FOOD AND WINE SPECIAL



Bene, the Italian restaurant at Sheraton Grand Macao Hotel, is introducing the Food and Wine Mercato, a

wine and dinner buffet inspired by markets across Italy. The restaurant will source

inspiration from different regions in Italy each month. In June, it will feature Veneto, a region of northeast Italy which, according to Sheraton's press release, is best known for salami, cheese, prosciutto and tiramisu.

The Veneto menu includes the dishes "Amberjack Carpaccio," "Squid Ink Risotto," and "Pan Seared Stockyard Beef Tenderloin." The wine will be handpicked from Amorosso Fine Wines.

The Food and Wine Mercato opens on the last weekend of every month.

The dinner buffet is priced at MOP488 per adult and MOP200 per child

How Bezos's grocery shopping shakes up an USD800b industry

SINCE its founding 23 years ago, Amazon.com Inc. has upended the business of selling books, music and just about everything else we consume - except food.

Not anymore. In one fell swoop, Amazon founder Jeff Bezos charged into the supermarket business with the USD13.7 billion acquisition of Whole Foods.

The surprise deal shakes up the \$800 billion grocery sector - and the broader retail industry itself - by marrying Amazon's vast scale and digital prowess with Whole Foods Market Inc.'s 460 stores and fresh-food distribution network.

The acquisition threatens traditional grocers such as Kroger Co., which were already reeling from food deflation and encroachment from new competitors like German discounters Aldi and Lidl. Shares of rivals took a hit. The deal will likely spur other companies to defend themselves with their own buying sprees, consolidating the fragmented industry of feeding Americans.

"This is a game changer," Zachary Fadem, an analyst at Wells



BLOOMBERG

Fargo & Co., said. "It's a warning shot for the food retail industry that competition likely heightens on top of an already challenging backdrop."

The deal comes after Seattle-based Amazon spent nearly a decade trying to find a way into the fresh-food delivery business through various endeavors, without much success. None other than John Mackey, Whole Foods chief executive officer, once predicted that Amazon's quest for grocery deliveries would be "Amazon's Waterloo."

Now, Bezos will be Mackey's boss, and the combination of those two pioneers could upend the staid supermarket business. Amazon's various forays into selling groceries - Amazon Fresh, Amazon Pantry, Prime Now - will get a boost from Whole Foods's store

network and its loyal, affluent customer base.

Only about 1 to 2 percent of the industry has moved online, although that figure was expected to rise to 6 percent over the next five years because millennial consumers are almost twice as likely to purchase groceries on the web, according to Stifel Nicolaus & Co. analyst Marc Astrachan.

Amazon's ownership will also likely result in lower prices at Whole Foods, whose expensive products like \$30 emu eggs earned it the nickname "Whole Paycheck." That could force other supermarkets to follow or lose customers, Astrachan said.

"Amazon has been in the food business for over 10 years and to now come to the conclusion that it needs physical brick-and-mortar stores is a pretty big deal," Jefferies analyst Dan Binder said in a note. "Amazon gains expertise in grocery and organics in particular."

That development challenges big-box retailers Wal-Mart Stores Inc. - the biggest grocer in the United States - and Target Corp., whose food business has floundered of late.

Wal-Mart, which upended the grocery sector itself when it decided to add food to its general-merchandise stores in the late 1980s, has thus far parried Amazon's advances. It paid \$3.3 billion last year for online marketplace Jet.com and offers curbside pickup of online grocery orders in more than 600 of its 4,700 U.S. stores. Overall, the company's U.S. online sales rose 63 percent last quarter.

Wal-Mart, Target or others could respond with their own bids for Whole Foods, or for other food retailers such as Sprouts Farmers Market Inc., which is now "100 percent in play," according to Gordon Haskett analyst Chuck Grom. Sprouts didn't respond to a request for comment.

Amazon's takeout price of \$42 a share undervalues Whole Foods' prospects and powerful brand, according to Rupesh Parikh, an analyst for Oppenheimer & Co. "There could be some money left on the table," he said in a note to clients.

For now, Bezos has yet to disclose his plan for Whole Foods. Amazon held no press conference or analyst call, and the release announcing the deal was a scant 221 words long.

"Investors, analysts, competitors and suppliers are left guessing what Amazon may do," Binder, the Jefferies analyst, said.

Bloomberg

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Praia meeting is a success, says president of Cabo Verde TradeInvest

THE meeting of businesspeople from China and Portuguese-speaking countries was a "huge step" for investments to be made in Cape Verde, said the president investment agency Cabo Verde TradeInvest on Friday in Praia.

Ana Barber said the meeting, besides being a "huge step", was also a success, giving the 10 protocols that were signed by several companies and organizations in China and Portuguese-speaking countries as an example.

The protocols include boosting exchange with China by Angola and Cabo Verde, the commercial representation of Cape Verde's coffee in China, the planning, construction and management of a private hospital in the city of Praia and creation of an alliance of legal services, among others.

At the end of the meeting, which on Sunday continued with



visits to companies and the interior of the island of Santiago, Finance Minister Olavo Correia e Silva restated the government's commitment to creating conditions for the private sector to become the driving force behind development.

Cape Verde's prime minister, Ulisses Correia e Silva, said at the opening of the meeting that his government intends to make the archipelago a "safe, attractive" country to live, reside, invest and as a "platform of economic

circulation in the Mid-Atlantic." "[Cape] Verde should distinguish itself as a country with low political, security and economic risks," said the prime minister, adding that the natural wealth of the archipelago is its social and political stability and the fact that it is a country "where one can trust business relations and relations between states."

Correia e Silva acknowledged that the small size of Cape Verde's financial market is a constraint on business develop-

ment, but added that "it will be overcome through the complete liberalisation of capital movements and the creation of a Sovereign Guarantee Fund for Private Investments for companies to have access to the external banking and capital market to finance larger investments."

According to Correia e Silva, in terms of markets and making the most of the country's geographic and economic position, Cape Verde intends to play a relevant role in China's Belt and Road initiative, establishing the link between China, Europe and West Africa as well as Portuguese-speaking Africa.

More than 400 representatives of institutions and companies took part in the Meeting of Entrepreneurs for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries.

Portugal will host the next meeting, in Lisbon in 2018. **MDT/Macauhub**

ANGOLA

Caio deep-water port to start operating in 2020

CONSTRUCTION work on the Caio deep-water port in Angola's Cabinda province is expected to be completed by 2020, said the president of the project's management company Caio Porto, Jack Helton.

Helton also told Angolan news agency Angop that work is still in the first phase, which consists of dredging the coastal area where the port will be built.

At the end of this phase there will be a terminal 630 metres long, connected to the coast by a 2-kilometre bridge.

The Caio deep-water port will have a 1,130-metre dock to moor up to four ships at the same time, which will be 16 metres deep. The port will have capacity to move about 60 containers per hour.

The project will cover an area of over 2,500 hectares, where customs facilities, workshops with port support and ship repair services, warehouses and commercial establishments will be built.

This port, which will be the first deep-water in Angola, has funding of USD180 million from the Angola Sovereign Fund and the Export and Import Bank of China has granted a loan of \$600 million. Construction work was awarded to the China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRB). **MDT/Macauhub**

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A model poses near a sports sedan from Thunder Power during a brand event held in Beijing

Companies propel rise of electric ultra-high-performance cars

Joe McDonald, Beijing

WANT an insanely fast ride with zero emissions? Startup NIO has the car: An electric two-seater with muscular European lines and a top speed of 313 kilometers per hour.

The catch: The EP9 costs nearly USD1.5 million. NIO, a Chinese-Western hybrid with bases in Shanghai, London and Silicon Valley, created it to showcase the company's technology and had no sales plans. But it is taking orders for "bespoke vehicles" after hearing from buyers ready to pay the eye-popping price.

"We are actually pleasantly surprised how much interest we are getting," said the CEO of NIO's U.S. unit, Padmasree Warrior, a veteran of Cisco and Motorola.

NIO is part of a wave of fledgling automakers — all backed at least in part by Chinese investors — that are propelling the electric vehicle industry's latest trend: ultra-high-performance cars.

Manufacturers including Detroit Electric, Qiantu Motor, Thunder Power and NEVS aim to compete with Europe, Detroit and Japan by offering top speeds over 240 kph and features including carbon fiber bodies and web-linked navigation and entertainment.

The ventures mix U.S. and European technology with Chinese money and manufacturing, reflecting this country's rise as a market and investor for an industry where Beijing wants a

leading role. Communist leaders see electric vehicles as a way to clear China's smog-choked cities and as an engine for economic development.

"We really haven't seen non-Chinese companies get into this super-technology market," said Chris Robinson, who follows the industry for Lux Research.

Communist leaders see electric vehicles as a way to clear China's smog-choked cities and as an engine for economic development

NIO's backers include Chinese tech giant Tencent Holdings, operator of the popular WeChat messaging service; computer maker Lenovo Group, a Singapore government-owned investment fund and U.S.-based IDG Capital, TPG and Hillhouse Capital.

Some brands are following the strategy of Tesla Inc., which debuted with an eye-catching roadster to establish a premium image before launching lower-priced models.

The instant torque and acceleration of electric cars make them natural performance vehicles.

Detroit Electric, a revival of a pioneering U.S. electric car brand founded in 1907, launched a sports car venture this year with a Chinese battery maker and the government of Yixing, west of Shanghai. For a base price of \$135,000, the company promises zero to 100 kph in 3.7 seconds and a top speed of 250 kph.

The first seven of 100 cars ordered by European dealers have been delivered, according to its chairman and CEO, Albert Lam, a former Lotus chief executive. He said the company aims to release an SUV in 2018 and wants to have a four-vehicle lineup by 2020.

"Our target is to be the first Chinese-based vehicle company to sell worldwide," said Lam.

Thunder Power, led by Hong Kong entrepreneur Wellen Sham, has a similarly multinational plan for a sport sedan due out in late 2018.

The company is building a factory in southern China and plans a second in Spain. Engineering work is being handled by Italy's Dallara Automobili, which helped develop Bugatti's Veyron, the fastest street-legal car with a top speed of 408.84 kph.

Thunder Power promises a top speed of 245 kph. The company says its competitive edge will be a battery that can go up to 650 kilometers on one charge, or almost double the 320 to 400 kilometers

of current high-end electrics.

Beijing's backing has helped to make China the biggest electric vehicle market at a time of uncertainty about the scale of support for the industry from Washington and European governments.

Sales in China of plug-in and hybrid vehicles in the first quarter of this year totaled 55,929, versus 44,876 for the United States.

The Cabinet hopes to have 100,000 public charging stations and 800,000 private stations operating by the end of this year. Regulators are pressing manufacturers to speed up development with a proposal to require that electrics account for at least 8 percent of each brand's production by next year.

To raise its profile, the electric vehicle industry launched its own racing circuit, dubbed Formula E, in 2014 with battery-powered Formula One-style cars and events in China, Europe, the United States and Mexico.

Still, no matter how appealing they are, there aren't enough buyers to support so many high-performance brands, said Lux's Robinson. He noted Ferrari or Lamborghini might sell only 15 of their fastest vehicles, which are treated as marketing tools and even at prices above \$1 million fail to make a profit.

Manufacturers wanting to move into lower priced segments face a crowded market, he said.

"Really, not all of them are going to make it," said Robinson. Despite that, the newcomers

express confidence they can take market share from established rivals.

NIO's Warrior points to the transition from cellphones to smartphones, in which industry leaders were displaced by upstarts.

"We are in the beginning of a race. We are all at the same starting position," said Christopher Nicoll, marketing director for Thunder Power.

Detroit Electric's Lam said his financial plan calls for each car to be sold at a profit by 2019.

"We are not from the internet world," he said. "We know how important it is for a car company to make money."

Other Chinese tech companies including internet search engine operator Baidu Inc. and LeEco, an online video service, are working on electric and self-driving vehicles. Most have research centers in Silicon Valley or Europe.

"China isn't necessarily a technological leader. They are a production leader," said Robinson. "A lot of the more advanced electric vehicle, power train and other technology research is going on in Europe and the United States."

Chinese city governments are forging partnerships with automakers in hopes of becoming manufacturing centers.

That helped Detroit Electric carry out its plans after other investors were uncertain, Lam said. He said the company picked Yixing after talking with four cities.

"We were invited to come to China," said Lam.

The most prominent home-grown competitor is Qiantu Motor, led by a former executive of a state-owned automaker.

Qiantu says its K50, on sale next year, will deliver a top speed of 200 kph and go 300 kilometers on one charge.

NEVS is developing a sedan to be made in China based on technology acquired from defunct Swedish automaker Saab.

Its owners include National Modern Energy Holdings Ltd., a Chinese developer of renewable energy technology, the government of the eastern city of Tianjin and State Research Information Technology Co., owned by the Chinese Cabinet.

NIO developed the EP9 to promote its technology for self-driving vehicles. The first, a seven-seat SUV, is due to be released in China in 2018.

The company worried buyers saw electrics as a "little toy car." It wants to "break that mold and say that an electric car can be a serious performance car," said Warrior.

NIO says a self-driving version of the EP9 hit 256 kph in February on an Austin, Texas, test track.

"We made seven, thinking it was essentially for a collector," said Warrior. "Now there is increased interest. People actually want to buy this car." AP

China bans more synthetic opioids blamed for US drug deaths

Louise Watt, Beijing

CHINA said yesterday it would ban a designer drug called U-47700 and three others, following U.S. pressure to do more to control synthetic opioids blamed for fast-rising overdose deaths in the United States.

In China, U-47700 has until now been a legal alternative to fentanyl and potent derivatives like carfentanil. Its usage has been growing among U.S. opioid addicts.

Last year, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration listed U-47700 in the category of the most dangerous drugs it regulates, saying it was associated with dozens of fatalities, mostly in New York and North Carolina. Some of the pills taken from Prince's estate after the musician's overdose death last year contained U-47700.

The DEA has long said that China is the top source country for synthetic opioids like fentanyl and its precursors, assertions Beijing has said lack firm evidence. Still, the two countries have deepened cooperation as the U.S. opioid epidemic intensifies.

Deng Ming, deputy director of the National Narcotics Control Commission, said that U-47700 and three other synthetic drugs — MT-45, PMMA, and 4,4'-DMAR — would be added to China's list of controlled substances as of July 1.

Yu Haibin, a division director



Deng Ming, deputy director of the National Narcotics Control Commission speaks during the National Anti-drug Committee briefing at a hotel in Beijing yesterday

at the Ministry of Public Security's Narcotics Control Bureau, said China was making "big efforts" to deal with drugs known as new psychoactive substances. These substances are made by modifying the chemical structures of controlled substances in order to get around the law, and China has now restricted 138 of them.

However, as soon as one substance is banned, chemists crea-

te slightly different and technically legal alternatives and then market them online.

"My feeling is that it's just like a race and I will never catch up with the criminals," Yu told a news conference. "Actually, we just want to make a breakthrough in dealing with this."

To counter the cat-and-mouse game, Yu said authorities had set up a system whereby information on new types of drugs

gleaned during police investigations, customs clearances and medical treatment would be transferred to the national drug lab. An expert committee would then assess this information and send alert notices to relevant agencies in order to help speed up the control of new substances, he said.

Yu said suspects use the internet to communicate with customers and use the any-

mized digital currency bitcoin to transfer money, and that authorities were working with internet companies to try to stop such trade and the advertising of drugs on websites.

To combat drugs being sent by post or express delivery service, authorities were carrying out real-name registration requirements and X-rays of parcels being delivered to "high-risk areas," he said.

Addressing the news conference, Justin Schoeman, Beijing-based country attache for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, said: "I can tell you that when China controls a substance, [new psychoactive substances] or fentanyl-classed substance, it has a huge impact on seizures and availability in the U.S., so thank you very much.

"The controlling of substances in China certainly saves lives in the U.S.," he added.

He added that China's banning of additional substances means the U.S. and China can now carry out joint investigations on those chemicals, including the tracking of packages from the source through to the recipients in the U.S.

U-47700 is a synthetic opioid, a fast-proliferating class of drugs that have caused thousands of deaths in the United States. In 2015 alone, there were 9,580 deaths due to synthetic opioids other than methadone, accounting for almost a fifth of all drug overdose deaths. **AP**

BRICS

Beijing meeting highlights climate change, trade, terrorism

CLIMATE change, trade and terrorism were high on the agenda yesterday at a Beijing meeting of foreign affairs officials from Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, known collectively as the BRICS nations.

The five countries are seeking to further align their views on key issues at a time when President Donald Trump is withdrawing the U.S. from multilateral arrangements such as the Paris climate accords and the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said China in the coming year would look to "expand with more broad and wide-ranging cooperation in areas such as trade and commerce and investment."

Together the BRICS countries account for roughly 40 percent of the world's population and 20 percent of the global economy. All five countries are members of the Group of 20 industrial and emerging-market nations, although their economic prospects have declined somewhat amid

crises in Brazil and South Africa and the impact of sanctions lodged against Russia by the West.

South African Foreign Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane pointed to climate change as a major concern.

"There is one climate and for future generations we must employ every effort at our disposal to reverse the effects of climate change," she said.

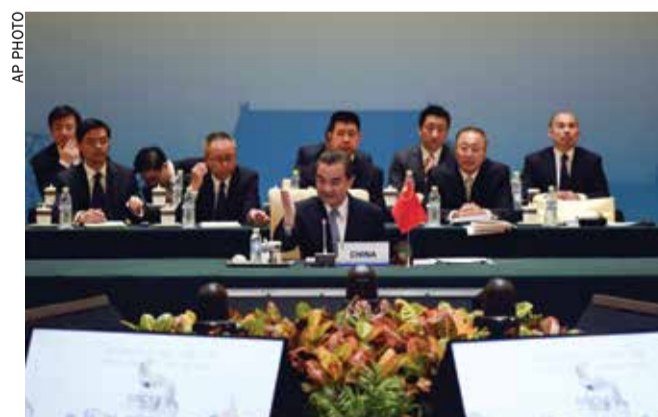
Nkoana-Mashabane also emphasized the need for joint efforts to fight terrorism, a sentiment reflected by Vijay Kumar Singh,

an Indian External Affairs official.

"It is important to enhance BRICS security in counterterrorism matters," Singh said.

Leaders of the five nations are to meet in the southeastern Chinese city of Xiamen in September.

Chinese President Xi Jinping later met with the officials at the Great Hall of the People in central Beijing, saying the six hours of discussion among the nations had produced "a lot of consensus," as well as a concluding document that



China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi (center) speaks during the BRICS foreign ministers meeting in Beijing

was not immediately released.

"At present the international situation has complexities and also factors of instability and it's right for the BRICS to speak its voice, which is very good," Xi said.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov commended China's leader-

ship of BRICS over the past year, saying the grouping that began taking shape more than 10 years ago is now coming into its prime.

"Your chairmanship certainly contributed to the strength [...] and to increasing its reputation as a factor of stability," Lavrov told Xi. **AP**



Journalist Rana Tanveer rests at a hospital in Lahore, after being attacked by Islamist radicals



Pakistani human rights activist Asma Jehangir talks to the Associated Press in Lahore

PAKISTAN

Journalists under fire from many sides

Kathy Gannon, Haripur

BAKHSHEESH Elahi was waiting for the morning bus when a lone gunman on a motorcycle pulled up beside him and shot him dead. Rana Tanveer had just taken his family to safety after radical Islamists spray-painted death threats on his door, when a car smashed into his motorcycle and sped away.

Taha Siddiqui answered his phone to hear a menacing voice from a government agency telling him he needed to come in for questioning, without saying why.

The three men are journalists in Pakistan, considered one of the most dangerous places in the world for this profession. But even by Pakistan's standards, things have gotten worse, according to journalists, Pakistani and international human rights activists, and advocacy groups.

In addition to attacks from militants or criminals, Pakistani journalists are also facing threats from government agencies or the military itself.

"Journalists are not threatened from one side alone, they are threatened by drug mafia, they are threatened by political gangs. They are also threatened by religious extremists," said Asma Jehangir, a human rights lawyer and the director of Human Rights Commission of Pakistan. "They are threatened by the military. They are also threatened by people who are deeply [involved] in corruption, but when it comes to the extremist elements, governments are very reluctant to

move because they themselves are afraid of them."

Elahi, a determined investigative reporter in northwestern Pakistan's Haripur, is just the latest example. The father of five, including a daughter born just 20 days earlier, was killed on June 11 while waiting for a bus a few hundred meters from his home.

Journalists [...] are threatened by drug mafia, they are threatened by political gangs. They are threatened by religious extremists.

ASMA JEHANGIR

Local journalists turned Elahi's funeral into a protest, carrying his body through the streets and stopping traffic to demand that the killers be brought to justice, according to Zakir Hussain Tandi, president of the Haripur Press Club.

But impunity and a lack of prosecution has characterized many of the attacks on journalists in Pakistan. Elahi, who was bureau chief of an Urdu language newspaper and sister television station, was the fourth journalist killed in Haripur

district in the last three years. All but one of the murders has gone unsolved.

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) says 60 journalists and 10 media workers have been killed in Pakistan since 1992.

Elahi's Facebook page featured his relentless reporting against political corruption. One of the country's largest television news channels to feature one of his stories.

"We think his death is probably related to journalism," said Tandi of the press club. "Lots of people didn't like his investigations, the drug mafia, corrupt politicians, car thieves. He wrote about them all."

Pakistani journalists and social media activists have been detained, often by intelligence agencies, tortured according to some who were released, and threatened with blasphemy charges, which carry the death penalty and routinely incite mobs of radical extremists to violence.

Last week, a social media activist was sentenced to death for allegedly posting an item deemed insulting to Islam.

That sentence "sends a threatening message to all [...] causing fear and leading to self-censorship," Steven Butler, Asia director of the CPJ, said in an email. "It's clear that authorities — including investigative authorities, prosecutors, and the military — are keeping a close eye on journalists and ready to act when red lines are crossed."

Last month, Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan ordered a crackdown on

"those ridiculing the Pakistan Army on social media [to protect] the prestige, reputation and goodwill" of the armed forces.

On May 18, Taha Siddiqui, Pakistan's correspondent for France 24 TV, received a threatening call from someone claiming to represent the counter-terrorism wing of the Federal Investigation Agency, ordering him to come in for questioning. Siddiqui, who is also bureau chief of the World Is One News website, is an outspoken critic of Pakistan's military and intelligence agencies.

"My work is in the public domain," Siddiqui asked. "What does counter-terrorism have to do with journalism, with free speech?"

Siddiqui phoned colleagues for advice and stopped answering his door. He eventually spoke to Jehangir, the human rights lawyer, who advised him to file a petition demanding to know why he was being investigated. Siddiqui, who didn't go in for questioning, has already made at least one court appearance and was told by the FIA that he was being investigated because of his critical stories about the military.

On May 30, Rana Tanveer, a correspondent for the English-language daily newspaper, The Express Tribune, found death threats spray painted on his home in eastern Lahore saying he would die for writing stories about the plight of minorities in Pakistan — particularly Ahmedis, reviled by mainstream Muslims who label them as heretics because they believe in a messiah

who arrived after the Prophet Muhammad.

Pakistan has officially declared them non-Muslims, making it a crime for Ahmedis to identify themselves as Muslims. Dozens are facing charges.

"That was shocking for me," Tanveer said of the spray-painted threats. He went to the police, which didn't register a case but instead advised him against filing a formal complaint, saying it would enrage the radicals who had threatened him.

Tanveer has received several such threats over the years; even his landlord had been warned against renting to him because of his coverage of religious minorities.

On June 9, Tanveer was riding his motorcycle after meeting a colleague from the Pakistan Union of Journalists to decide how to deal with the threats when a speeding car slammed into him and sent him crashing to the pavement. He suffered a fractured leg and believes it was no accident.

Today, he is in hiding with his family, unprotected by police and unsure when he can return to his job.

Jehangir said she believes the government crackdown is being done at least partially at the behest of Pakistan's military.

"They think that the image of Pakistan is being destroyed by the word getting out of here," she said. "Now, if you stop picking up people, stop torturing people, the image will improve, but don't shoot the messenger."

JAPAN

Coast guard investigates delay in reporting US Navy ship collision

Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

JAPAN'S coast guard is investigating why it took nearly an hour for a deadly collision between a U.S. Navy destroyer and a container ship to be reported.

A coast guard official said yesterday they are trying to find out what the crew of the Philippine-flagged ACX Crystal was doing before reporting the collision off Japan's coast to authorities 50 minutes later.

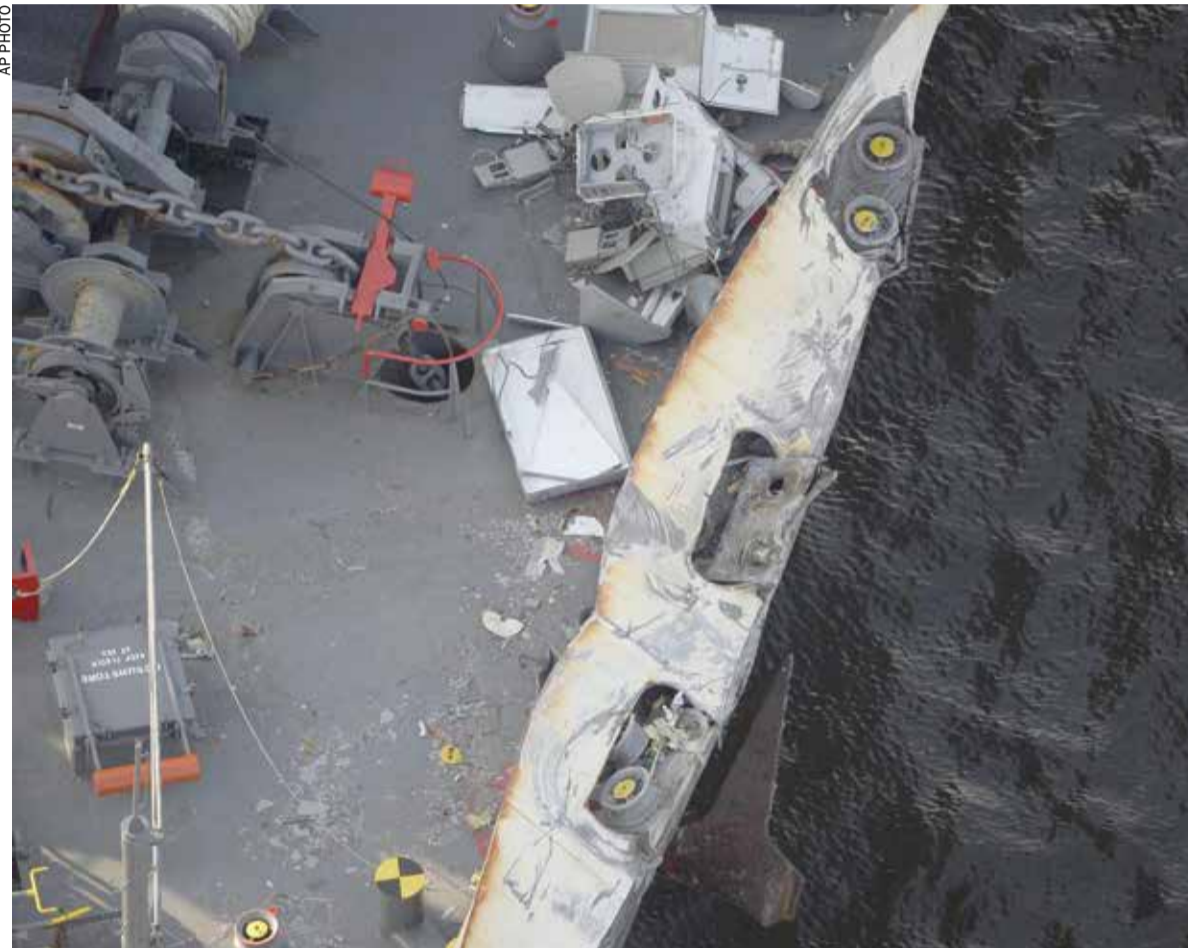
The ACX Crystal collided with the USS Fitzgerald off Japan's coast, killing seven of the destroyer's crew of nearly 300. The ships collided Saturday morning, when the Navy said most of the 300 sailors on board would have been sleeping. Authorities have declined to speculate on a cause while the crash remains under investigation.

A track of the much-larger container ship's route by MarineTraffic, a vessel-tracking service, shows it made a sudden turn as if trying to avoid something at about 1:30 a.m., before continuing eastward. It then made a U-turn and returned around 2:30 a.m. to the area near the collision.

The coast guard initially said the collision occurred at 2:20 a.m. because the Philippine ship had reported it at 2:25 a.m. and said it just happened. After interviewing Filipino crewmembers, the coast guard has changed the collision time to 1:30 a.m.

Coast guard official Tetsuya Tanaka said they are trying to resolve what happened during the 50 minutes.

He said officials are planning to



get hold of a device with communication records to examine further details of the crash. Japan's Transport Safety Board also started an accident investigation yesterday.

Nanami Meguro, a spokeswoman for NYK Line, the ship's operator, agreed with the revised timing of the collision.

Meguro said the ship was "operating as usual" until the collision at 1:30 a.m., as shown on a ship tracking service that the company uses. She said the ship reported to the coast guard at 2:25 a.m., but she could not provide

details about what the ship was doing for nearly an hour.

"Because it was in an emergency, the crewmembers may not have been able to place a call," she said.

Coast guard officials are investigating the case as possible professional negligence, but no criminal charges have been pressed so far.

Yesterday, the Navy's 7th Fleet identified the seven sailors who died. Navy divers recovered the bodies after the severely damaged Fitzgerald returned to the fleet's home in Yokosuka, Japan,

with assistance from tug boats.

The victims were Gunner's Mate Seaman Dakota Kyle Riggsby, 19, from Palmyra, Virginia; Yeoman 3rd Class Shingo Alexander Douglass, 25, from San Diego, California; Sonar Technician 3rd Class Ngoc T Truong Huynh, 25, from Oakville, Connecticut; Gunner's Mate 2nd Class Noe Hernandez, 26, from Weslaco, Texas; Fire Controlman 2nd Class Carlos Victor Ganzon Sibayan, 23, from Chula Vista, California; Personnel Specialist 1st Class Xavier Alec Martin, 24, from Halethorpe, Maryland; and

Fire Controlman 1st Class Gary Leo Rehm Jr., 37, from Elyria, Ohio.

In a statement, acting Navy Secretary Sean Stackley said, "We are all deeply saddened by the tragic loss of our fellow shipmates. [...] As details emerge, we can all be proud of the heroic effort by the crew to tend to the needs of those injured and save the ship from further damage while returning safely to port."

He thanked "our Japanese allies" for their swift assistance, and said the Navy will fully investigate the cause.

Coast guard officials are investigating the case as possible professional negligence

The mother of a Navy sailor on board the ship said her son kept diving in his flooded berth to try to save his shipmates until it began running out of air pockets, while other survivors — believing their ship was under attack — hurried to man the guns.

Mia Sykes of Raleigh, North Carolina, told The Associated Press that her 19-year-old son, Brayden Harden, was knocked out of his bunk by the impact and water immediately began filling the berth.

Sykes said her son told her that four men in his berth died, including those sleeping on bunks above and below him, while three died in the berth above his.

She said she hopes her son, from Herrin, Illinois, can come home to be with family as he works through what happened. "You have to realize most of them are 18-, 19- and 20-year-olds living with guilt. But I told him, 'There's a reason you're still here and make that count.'" AP

INDONESIA

Four foreign inmates escape from Bali prison

FOUR foreign inmates escaped early yesterday from a prison on the Indonesian resort island of Bali, police said.

Prison officers became aware of the escape while conducting a morning check of inmates at the Kerobokan penitentiary in Bali's capital, Denpasar, said Putu Ika Prabawa, an officer at Bali's Kuta Utara police station.

Prabawa said the four men were believed to have escaped through a 50-by-70-centimeter hole found

in a wall that connects to a 15-meter-long water tunnel heading toward a main street.

He identified the four as Shaun Edward Davidson, 33, of Australia; Dimitar Nikolov Iliev, 43, of Bulgaria; Sayed Mohammed Said, 31, of India; and Tee Koko King bin Tee Kim Sai, 50, of Malaysia.

Davidson is serving a one-year sentence for an immigration offense, while Iliev is serving a seven-year sentence for money laundering and another

offense. Said and King are serving 14 and seven years, respectively, for drug offenses.

Prabawa said police have distributed pictures of the escaped inmates to police stations across Bali.

Jailbreaks are common in Indonesia, where overcrowding has become a problem in prisons that are struggling to cope with poor funding and an influx of people arrested in a war on drugs. Most prisoners have been convicted on drug charges.

Last week, dozens of inmates escaped from an overcrowded prison in western Indonesia after floods caused a wall to collapse.

Last month, more than 440 prisoners escaped from an overcrowded prison on Sumatra island when they were let out of their cells to take part in Friday Muslim prayers. In July 2013, about 240 prisoners, including several convicted terrorists, escaped during a deadly riot at a prison in Medan, the capital of North Sumatra province. AP



A wall of Kerobokan prison from which four foreign inmates have escaped in Bali

BUILDINGS WORLDWIDE

Insulating skin on high-rises has fueled fires before Grenfell Tower

Justin Pritchard

FOR the last decade, engineers specializing in fire safety have worried about the hidden danger posed by the kind of insulated metallic skin that transported flames up a high-rise apartment building in London, killing dozens.

Panels of the armor-like “cladding” have become a popular facade on tall buildings worldwide, both for their sleek look and energy-saving virtues. They also have helped fuel spectacular infernos in the Middle East, Europe, Asia and the United States.

Some fire experts worry that, with energy efficiency a priority worldwide, the proliferation of “green” buildings has the unintended consequence of fanning fire danger. Though cladding can be flame-resistant, the result can be deadly when it is not.

“The good intent of sustainability translates into a potential fire safety problem,” said Brian Meacham, a fire protection engineering professor at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts. His concerns began to crystalize in 2010, he said, when he was in South Korea presenting a paper on new technology and fire safety and a cladded high-rise burned.

At London’s Grenfell Tower, flames raced with alarming speed up 24 stories of cladding in which a plastic core was sandwiched between thin sheets of aluminum. That composite is one of several kinds of exterior paneling that helps moderate



■ Fires fueled by metal composite cladding in the past five years have charred high-rises in France, Dubai and S. Korea

inside temperatures, saving on energy needed for heating and cooling.

The tower’s aging concrete facade received the face-lift last year as part of a 10 million pound (USD13 million) publicly funded refurbishment effort aimed, in part, at making the building more energy efficient.

The tower, home to as many as 600 people, burned Wednesday. At least 58 people were confirmed or presumed dead, a tally that could rise.

Authorities are still investigating the fire. Its behavior strongly implicated the cladding, several fire safety experts said in interviews. Anger has mounted in the community following reports that contractors had used cheaper panels in which the plastic insulation was not fire-resistant.

Cladding with pure plastic insulation costs less and insulates better than an alternative that incorporates fire-slowing minerals, experts said. On short buildings, it makes sense.

Not so for taller buildings. The International Building Code — a model of construction standards adopted widely in the United States, some areas of the Middle East and the Ame-

ricas — calls for the use of fire-resistant cores in buildings over 12 meters tall. The code in England is less specific, giving architects latitude in how they make sure exterior insulation is safe as long as “the external walls of the building shall adequately resist the spread of fire.”

Two British government officials — Trade Minister Greg Hands and Treasury chief Philip Hammond — said in separate TV appearances Sunday that the cladding used on Grenfell seems to be prohibited by British regulations. Hands cautioned that officials don’t yet have exact details about the renovation.

Fires fueled by metal composite cladding in the past five years have charred high-rises in France, Dubai and South Korea. A 2007 casino fire in New Jersey was a wake-up call in the United States. Fires in buildings with other types of outer insulation have struck in other places, including Australia and China, where one killed 58 people. Though the fires may not be frequent, their quick spread makes them very dangerous.

To get a green certification, a building must, among other things, be more energy efficient than local codes require. The designation, conferred by private firms for a fee, does not focus on fire safety, referencing instead local code requirements. While the cladding made Grenfell Tower more energy efficient, the building did not reach green certification.

Green building practices may not be “inherently introducing risk, but I think it makes it a lot easier to make mistakes,” said Peter Weismantle, a Chicago-based architect who specializes in “supertall” buildings, including the world’s highest in the United Arab Emirates. He cited factors such as workmanship as well as the improper use of flammable cladding.

The U.S. Green Building Council, which oversees the industry-leading certification known as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), said in a statement to The Associated Press that the Grenfell tragedy holds safety lessons.

“We stand with those who will learn these lessons in honest efforts to advance the aligned goals of life/safety and environmental building performance,” said the statement attributed to Brendan Owens, an engineer and senior vice president at the council. “Compromising life/safety in search of environmental gain is not a choice.”

In 2012, fire safety experts invited green building representatives to a symposium in Chicago. The engineers’ concern was that various green requirements could inadvertently conspire to increase fire danger. Meacham, the Massachusetts professor, addressed the gathering and said he did not sense much interest in fire safety within the green building industry then — or since.

“I think they view it as outside of their agenda,” Meacham said. “I don’t think they’re being necessarily mean about it; I think it’s more ignorance of the issues.”

In some places, the issue is impossible to ignore.

At least 30,000 buildings across the United Arab Emirates alone have cladding or paneling similar to the kind that safety and construction experts have blamed for rapidly spreading high-rise fires there. AP

MIDDLE EAST

US shoots down Syrian aircraft for first time

THE U.S. military shot down a Syrian Air Force fighter jet that bombed local forces aligned with the Americans in the fight against Islamic State militants, an action that appeared to mark a new escalation of the conflict.

The U.S. had not shot down a Syrian regime aircraft before yesterday’s confrontation, said Navy Capt. Jeff Davis, a Pentagon spokesman. While the U.S. has said since it began recruiting, training and advising what it calls moderate Syrian opposition forces to fight IS that it would protect them from

potential Syrian government retribution, this was the first time it resorted to engaging in air-to-air combat to make good on that promise.

The U.S.-led coalition headquarters in Iraq said in a written statement that a U.S. F-18 Super Hornet shot down a Syrian government SU-22 after it dropped bombs near the U.S. partner forces, known as the Syrian Democratic Forces.

The shootdown was near Tabqa, a Syrian town in an area that has been a weekslong focus of fighting against IS militants by the

SDF as they surround the city of Raqqa and attempt to retake it from IS.

The U.S. military statement said it acted in “collective self defense” of its partner forces and that the U.S. did not seek a fight with the Syrian government or its Russian supporters.

According to a statement from the Pentagon, pro-Syrian regime forces attacked the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces-held town of Ja’Din, south of Tabqa in northern Syria, wounding a number of SDF fighters and driving the SDF from the town.

Coalition aircraft conducted a show of force and stopped the initial pro-regime advance toward the town, the Pentagon said. Following the pro-Syrian forces attack, the coalition called its Russian counterparts “to de-escalate the situation and stop the firing,” according to the statement.

A few hours later, the Syrian SU-22 dropped bombs near SDF fighters and, “in collective self-defense of coalition-partnered forces,” was immediately shot down by a U.S. F/A-18E Super Hornet, the Pentagon said.



“The coalition’s mission is to defeat ISIS in Iraq and Syria,” the Pentagon said, using an abbreviation for the Islamic State group. “The coalition does not

seek to fight Syrian regime, Russian or pro-regime forces partnered with them, but will not hesitate to defend coalition or partner forces from any threat.” AP

UK | TERRORISM

London police plead for calm after attack at mosque

LONDON police, already stretched by a series of major incidents around the capital, are putting more officers on the street to reassure the public after a driver plowed into a crowd of people leaving a mosque yesterday. One man died at the scene and 10 people were injured.

Police say a suspect was arrested immediately after the attack, which is being treated as a terrorist incident.

“Extra officers are on duty in the area to help reassure the local community,” Police Commissioner Cressida Dick said. “They will be there for as long as they are needed. Communities will see additional officers patrolling across the city and at Muslim places of worship.”

Police said the 48-year-old man who was driving the van has been arrested and taken to a hospital as a precaution. He was arrested on suspicion of attempted murder. It was not immediately clear why no charge had been made in relation to the one death.



Police officers talk with local people at Finsbury Park in north London, where a vehicle struck pedestrians yesterday

The attack will stretch the capacity of authorities in Britain, who have faced four attacks in recent months, together with a major fire that has killed dozens. London's Mayor Sadiq Khan, the first Muslim to serve in that position, urged the public to focus on

shared values and urged the city to stand together in an unprecedented period in the capital's history.

“While this appears to be an attack on a particular community, like the terrible attacks in Manchester, Westminster and London Bridge it is also an assault on all our sha-

red values of tolerance, freedom and respect,” he said. “The situation is still unfolding and I urge all Londoners to remain calm and vigilant.”

Eyewitnesses told British media that the van seemed to have veered and hit people intentionally.

Sky News reported that the mosque's imam prevented the crowd from beating the attacker until police arrived.

Mohammed Shafiq of the Ramadhan Foundation, a Muslim organization, said that based on eyewitness reports, it seems to be a “deliberate attack against innocent Muslims.”

The Finsbury Park mosque was associated with extremist ideology for several years after the 9/11 attacks in the United States, but was shut down and reorganized. It has not been associated with radical views for more than a decade.

It is located a short walk away from Emirates Stadium, home of the Arsenal football club in north London.

Prime Minister Theresa May has responded to complaints from some in the Muslim community that police failed to quickly respond to the attack on the north London mosque and declare it terrorism.

Speaking outside her Downing Street office later yesterday, May said officers responded to the attack in one minute and declared it a terror attack within eight minutes.

May says hatred and evil of this kind will never succeed and she says the government will “stop at nothing” to defeat extremism.

Britain's terrorist alert has been set at “severe,” meaning an attack is highly likely. AP

AD

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what's ON



NOCTURNE - SOLO EXHIBITION BY FILIPE DORES
TIME: 12pm-8pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)
 3pm-8pm (Mondays)

UNTIL: July 9, 2017

VENUE: Albergue SCM

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 1601

MACAO ILLUSTRATED - EXHIBITION OF CITY PLANS AND ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS FROM THE MACAO ARCHIVES' COLLECTION
TIME: 10am-6pm (Closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: December 3, 2017

VENUE: Archives of Macao

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2859 2919

COLOUR SHAPE LOVE - WORKS BY JOAQUIM FRANCO

TIME: 11am-7pm (Closed on Mondays and public holidays)

UNTIL: July 16, 2017

VENUE: Macau Art Garden

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6064

AN EXHIBITION OF MEMBERS' ARTWORKS OF YU UN CHINESE CALLIGRAPHERS AND PAINTERS ASSOCIATION OF MACAU

TIME: 9am-7pm (Open on public holidays)

UNTIL: June 25, 2017

VENUE: Chun Chou Tong Pavilion of Lou Lim Ioc Garden, No. 10, Estrada de Adolfo Loureiro

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

A GOLDEN WAY OF LIFE - TRES'ORS

TIME: 12pm-9pm (Closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)

UNTIL: September 3, 2017

VENUE: Level 2, MGM Art Space (via Grande Praça)

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8802 8888

Offbeat

CONFEDERATIONS CAT: RUSSIA UNVEILS PSYCHIC FELINE

Russia's famed Hermitage Museum has chosen one of its resident cats to predict the results of the Confederations Cup matches.

From Saturday to July 2, Russia is hosting the Confederations, the main warm-up event for next year's World Cup.

St. Petersburg's Hermitage Museum last unveiled Achilles, a white moggy who will be offered two different plates before each game to predict the Confederations Cup results.

The Hermitage is currently home to some 50 cats which live in the museum's cellars and catch mice.

Cats were introduced to the Hermitage, then the imperial Winter Palace, by Peter the Great in the 18th century. Catherine the Great officially made the cats guards of the royal picture gallery.

Achilles correctly predicted the Russian victory in the opening game against New Zealand.



TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
17:10	Revenge Sr 3
17:50	Now Generation (Repeated)
18:40	TDM Sports (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Interview
21:30	Grimm Sr 1
22:10	Now Generation
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

8-14 JUN



THE MUMMY

ROOM 1

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

Director: Alex Kurtzman

Starring: Tom Cruise, Sofia Boutella, Annabelle Walls

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 141min



RESIDENT EVIL: VENDETTA

ROOM 2

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

Director: Takahiro Tsujimoto

Starring: Orion Acaba, Erin Cahill, Darin De Paul

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 141min

WHO KILLED COCK ROBIN

ROOM 3

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

Director: Cheng Wei-Hao

Starring: Wei-ning Hsu, Chia-yen Ko, Kaiser Chuang

Language: Putonghua (Chinese, English)

Duration: 116min

MACAU TOWER

30 MAY - 21 JUNE



WONDER WOMAN

(3D) 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30pm

Director: Patty Jenkins

Starring: Chris Pine, Connie Nielsen, Robin Wright

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 141min

this day in history



1995 SHELL MAKES DRAMATIC U-TURN

Oil giant Shell has given in to international pressure and abandoned plans to dump its Brent Spar oil rig at sea.

But the company's decision, which came just hours before the 14,500-tonne structure was due to be submerged under the sea off the west coast of Scotland, has left the government in an embarrassing situation.

Just yesterday in the House of Commons, Prime Minister John Major was defending the plans to dispose of the structure 6,000ft (1,828m) under the sea.

But a spokesperson for environment group Greenpeace, which has been campaigning against the proposals for several weeks, hailed Shell's decision a victory.

"It is a victory for us but more importantly it is a victory for all the people who campaigned against the dumping," she said.

Greenpeace activists claim that dumping the structure under the sea would release highly toxic chemicals into the water and cause widespread marine pollution.

Its ship, the Altair, has been shadowing tugs pulling Brent Spar to its North Atlantic dumping ground since it set off last week.

Just three days ago two activists boarded the installation from a helicopter and vowed to remain "until the death" in an attempt to prevent the deep-sea disposal going ahead.

Thousands of British motorists have also boycotted the company's filling stations in protest and Shell was forced to call off its environmental awards ceremony due to be held on 21 June.

In a statement Shell UK denied that Greenpeace's actions had forced the U-turn, but conceded that the company had found itself in an "untenable position" due to widespread objections from international governments.

The statement said: "Shell UK has decided to abandon deepwater disposal and seek from the UK authorities a licence for onshore disposal.

"Shell UK Ltd still believes that deep water disposal of the Brent Spar is the best practicable environmental option, which was supported by independent studies."

Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, criticised the company for relenting.

He said: "I think they should have kept their nerve and done what they believed was right."

The fate of the concrete and steel Brent Spar rig which, for 15 years, served as a crude oil storage tank and loading buoy, is now unknown.

But energy minister Tim Eggar warned that the government would not automatically give permission for it to be broken up on land.

He said: "If Shell wishes to propose an alternative course of action the government will consider it."

"That proposal will have to contain solutions to the problems which led to the identification of deep sea disposal as the best practicable environmental option."

"Until solutions acceptable to the government departments concerned have been found, no agreement on abandonment will be available."

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

After its change of mind, Shell towed the Brent Spar to Norway and moored her in a fjord, where she remained until 1998.

In July 1998 all the governments of the north east Atlantic region agreed to ban future dumping of steel-built oil installations.

In November of the same year the company began dismantling the structure.

Brent Spar was broken into five sections in an operation costing £43m, compared to £4.5m cost of dumping the structure under the sea.

The scrap was eventually used to build the foundations of a new ferry terminal.

Whether or not recycling Brent Spar was the right decision, the international public outcry led to a change of management and a revamp of Shell's ethical standards.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 It's much better to run the risk of looking a bit naive in the beginning than end up feeling entirely clueless.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Your escapades are a lot more fun when you have a partner in crime, and you're in the mood to do something slightly -- or maybe even totally -- out of character

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You usually know exactly what to say, but for some reason, your words are getting all twisted and tangled as they come out of your mouth right now.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Leave the decisions for the people who can focus on the details while you pencil in some time for daydreaming.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Plenty of unscrupulous people are out there, especially this time of year, but you are too smart to let yourself be duped by them.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 On the one hand, you have a lot of energy and enthusiasm, but on the other hand, you've probably bitten off way more than you can chew.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Your flexibility is your greatest asset. Your boss or parents might think you can't possibly accomplish everything you set out to do today, but you should be able to make sufficient progress.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 This day is all about inspiring changes, catching people off guard and making a good impression in the process.

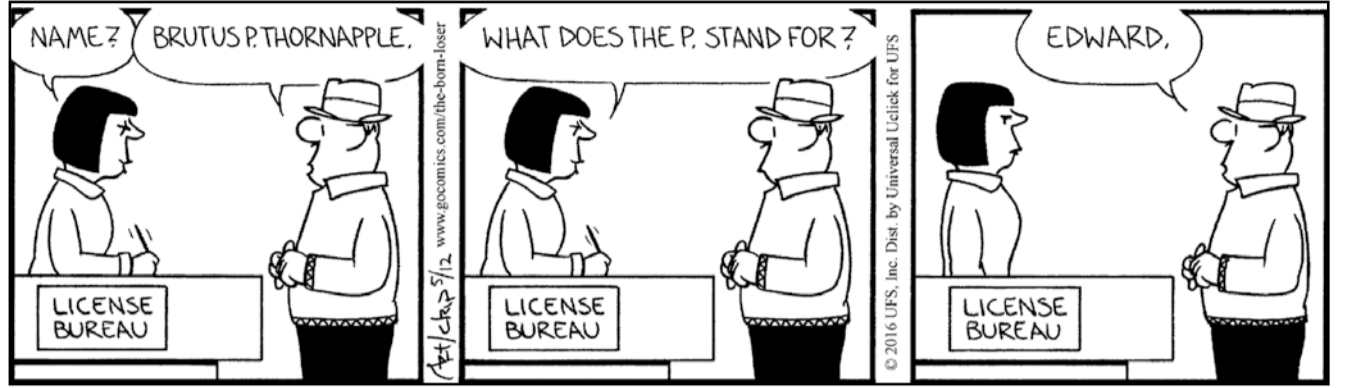
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Although it might be tempting to leap before you look, you'll have much more success if you contemplate your next move before you actually make it.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Once you're able to put your shyness aside, you'll learn to love the sound of applause. Use your creativity to your advantage.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Before spending large sums of money, you may want to double-check the transactions in your checkbook over the past few days.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You have boundless energy today, which should help you accomplish pretty much everything you set out to do.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles categorized by difficulty: Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard. Each category contains a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled.

WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION. It lists weather for various cities in CHINA and the WORLD.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Chooses; 5- Girder; 10- One of the Baldwin brothers; 14- Toward the sheltered side; 15- Kama ...; 16- Money; 17- Camp for children; 19- A big fan of; 20- Mischievous fairy; 21- Fifth Avenue store; 22- Noon; 24- One's husband or wife; 26- Delhi wrap; 27- Capital of Utah; 33- Itty-bitty; 36- Sharpens; 37- HBO alternative; 38- Franklin D.'s mother; 39- Unit just above a yard; 40- Stop up a hole; 41- ... was saying...; 42- Foundation; 43- ... say more?; 44- Remembrance; 47- Grazing sites; 48- Painter, e.g.; 52- Peeper; 55- Energy units; 57- New beginning?; 58- Zeno of ...; 59- Concerned; 62- Tidy, without fault; 63- Degrade; 64- Witty Bombeck; 65- Completed; 66- Starbucks order; 67- Meddlesome; DOWN: 1- Fertile area in a desert; 2- Fleeshy; 3- Rhythm; 4- Religious sch.; 5- Sharon's land; 6- Male of the deer; 7- JFK postings; 8- Upper limb; 9- Cartographer; 10- Like toxic rainfall; 11- Ground; 12- It is in Spain; 13- Bok ...; 18- Composition; 23- Angers; 25- Annapolis inst.; 26- Most reasonable; 28- Dissertations; 29- Living in flowing water; 30- Archipelago part; 31- Dull sound; 32- Hanna-Barbera bear; 33- Boris Godunov, for one; 34- Alleviate; 35- Rocker Clapton; 39- An infected Anopheles mosquito; 40- Confined, with "up"; 42- Chicken cordon ...; 43- Like Thor; 45- Soap ingredient; 46- Ditto!; 49- Emcee's job; 50- Appears; 51- Now; 52- Sell; 53- Yellow spread; 54- Bring forth young; 55- Coup d'...; 56- Repose; 60- Jazz org.; 61- D.C. bigwig;

Yesterday's solution crossword puzzle grid with filled-in letters.

A large crossword puzzle grid with some numbers and letters pre-filled.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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Advertisement for Mandarin Residences Serviced Duplex, Macau, featuring panoramic views and contact details.

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Advertisement for St Pauls Ruins Central Macau and Soi Cheung, Taipa Village.

Advertisement for Cattleya Court, Ocean Gardens Taipa and Pacifica Gardens, L Unit Taipa.

Advertisement for JML Property, featuring the company logo and name in Chinese and English.

Video review causing confusion for FIFA in World Cup trials

Graham Dunbar

VIDEO reviews are not giving FIFA a quick solution at the tournament it is using to fast-track the system for the 2018 World Cup.

Both Confederation Cup games played on Sunday in Russia left teams confused by decisions — reached more slowly than expected — by referees taking advice from assistants watching multiple replays.

Portugal and Chile both had goals disallowed for offside. Portugal had to wait for what seemed an unnecessary review of a good goal scored.

FIFA has told referees they must use reviews to overturn only “clear errors” in game-changing situations such as penalty kicks awarded and offside rulings affecting goals.

In trying to define a clear error, FIFA has suggested when “almost everyone who is neutral agrees the decision is incorrect.”

Portugal ended 2-2 with Mexico and, perhaps fortunately for FIFA, Chile beat Cameroon 2-0.



A giant screen reports a VAR incident is being reviewed during a Confederations Cup match

“It is a little difficult for the players,” Chile coach Juan Antonio Pizzi said. “Even if it is the right decision, this has an impact on players’ emotions and feelings.”

Chile’s star player Arturo Vidal fiercely argued with referee Damir Skomina when a goal scored in first-half stoppage time by Eduardo Vargas was overruled almost one minute later. FIFA later released still images of a razor-thin margin

of the offside ruling.

Video review seems to have plenty to prove to football’s rule-making panel, known as IFAB. Its decision is due in March whether to approve it for use at the World Cup, as FIFA President Gianni Infantino wants.

Four incidents on just the second day of the biggest tournament so far to conduct live trials has created more controversy than FIFA expected.

One “clear error” might be

overturned every four or five games, FIFA head of refereeing Massimo Busacca suggested last year.

■ In trying to define a clear error, FIFA has suggested when ‘almost everyone who is neutral agrees the decision is incorrect’

“If this is going to happen several times during a game, well it’s not very pleasant for the players,” Cameroon coach Hugo Broos said.

Count Vidal among the current skeptics. Chile players had done their choreographed goal celebration routine and were moving back into position for

the restart when referee Skomina signaled for a review.

FIFA wants to keep fans in the loop by showing slow motion images on stadium giant screens. Vidal angrily directed the referee — relying on his three video assistant referees (VARs) to interpret images he was not watching — to check them himself.

The uncertainty lasted far beyond the six-second target FIFA had set last year for officials to review their opinions.

It took at least 30 seconds for Vargas’s goal in second-half stoppage time to be confirmed after Alexia Sanchez was judged not to have been in an offside position earlier in the move.

Against Mexico, Portugal had to wait to find out that the score would stay at 0-0 in the first half when Nani’s shot was overruled for an offside call that went unflagged in an earlier phase of play.

More confusion was caused when Argentine referee Nestor Pitana called a review for unclear reasons after defender Cedric Soares’s deflected shot in the 86th gave Portugal a 2-1 lead.

“It’s the new rule, and if it brings benefits to football, that’s fine,” Portugal coach Fernando Santos said. “But we have to be careful because I don’t think people understand this new rule really well.” AP

AD

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RUGBY

Lions look to continue momentum against Chiefs

Steve McMorran, Wellington

BRITISH and Irish Lions coach Warren Gatland has called on his midweek lineup to continue the momentum gained with last weekend's win over the New Zealand Maori in today's tour match against the Chiefs at Hamilton.

Gatland believes the 32-10 win over a strong Maori side has given the Lions new impetus ahead of Saturday's first test against New Zealand. While today's team contains few, if any, of the players who will face the All Blacks at Eden Park, Gatland says the midweekers will play a role in keeping the Lions' confidence high approaching the three-test series.

Saturday's win in Rotorua was by far the Lions' best performance in five tour matches to date, improving their record to three wins and two losses and providing the best showcase yet for the style of play they will adopt throughout the test series.

A strong set piece, contestible kicking, and a good kick-chase backed up by solid work at the breakdown and sound defense set the platform for the win over the Maori. Gatland will hope to see that continue against the Chiefs.

Today's match against the Chiefs will have little impact on the Lions' test preparation, unless they suffer a third midweek defeat which will affect the mood in the touring camp.

Gatland has clearly divided his squad into test and midweek lineups and it was for that rea-



British & Irish Lions coach Warren Gatland (front) poses for pictures with happy fans after winning their match against the New Zealand Maori on Saturday

son he called on six players — four from Wales and two from Scotland who are currently playing in the South Pacific — to bring up his current complement to a full 46 players, the equivalent of two match-day 23s.

He has called on Gareth Davies, Cory Hill, Tomas Francis and Kristian Dacey from Wales and Scotland's Finn Russell and Allan Dell, all of whom have been named on the bench against the Chiefs. The larger squad should keep to a minimum the number

of players having to play twice in a week.

But Gatland has been heavily criticized by some British coaches and former players. England coach Eddie Jones said Gatland has resorted to selecting players on the basis of "geographical proximity" rather than ability.

Former Lions coach Ian McGeechan said Gatland's decision to add six players to his touring party "strikes the wrong note."

"I can understand why Warren Gatland has done what he has,"

McGeechan said. "I have got no issues with protecting the test team by calling up some extra cover for midweek.

"But why not call up the players who just missed out on selection in the first place? The ones who deserve to be there, who would give their right arms to be there, rather than some players purely because they happen to be in the right geographical location."

Gatland appears to be impervious to such criticism but appears more sensitive to barbs from his native New Zealand,

where the Lions are being dismissed in some quarters as "one trick ponies."

New Zealand commentators have condemned the Lions as boring and have criticized the one-dimensional nature of their game plan. The tactic of using scrumhalf Conor Murray to repeatedly kick into the box worked against the Maori on a dewy night in Rotorua but is thought less likely to succeed against the All Blacks.

While the Lions had 75 percent of possession in the Maori match, including 90 percent in the second half, they scored only one try from general play. Otherwise, they relied for their win on a penalty try and six penalties from fullback Leigh Halfpenny.

Having seen the All Blacks score 12 tries in a 78-0 win over Samoa on Friday, including a number of counter-attacking tries from kicks, the Lions must realize that kicking to the All Blacks will be a hazardous practice.

Gatland instead complained about illegal blocking tactics by New Zealand teams. He said he had already raised the issue with the officials for Saturday's test, an indication the Lions will try to exert as much pressure as possible on the referees.

"The frustrating thing for us is the amount of blocking that is going on," Gatland said. "It makes it difficult to complete attacking opportunities.

"If you listen to the refmic, they were talking about it constantly through the [Maori] game."

For that to become an issue, the Lions would have to show more attacking intent than they did against the Maori.

They might do so against the Chiefs. Gatland will want to leave a good impression in a town in which, as a player for Waikato province between 1986 and 1994 and coach between 2005 and 2007, he has always been much-admired. **AP**

Ronaldo painted on Russian mural that only the team can see

Tales Azzoni, Kazan

IT'S been dubbed as the mural that no one can see. Cristiano Ronaldo has been honored with a large mural with his image in the Russian city of Kazan, but it was painted on the facade of a private building that is only visible to hotel guests where Portugal's team is staying for the Confederations Cup football tournament.

Ronaldo and his teammates can see the huge colorful depiction of the Portugal forward, but

the public has no access to it. The image used was one of Ronaldo winking to his teammates when former Manchester United teammate Wayne Rooney was sent off in a game between Portugal and England at the 2006 World Cup.

"People are talking about this and I wanted to see it and take a photo of it," said Artem Maltsev, a 23-year-old Kazan resident standing outside the Portugal hotel. "Maybe they will let us see it after the tournament ends and

the team leaves, I don't know."

The mural is in a gated private courtyard, and fans and the media have not been allowed inside to view it. Players and hotel guests can see it perfectly because many of the rooms overlook the courtyard.

Police officers outside the hotel did not say why the public was not allowed near the building. A security guard at the courtyard's entrance said she couldn't allow anybody in because it was a private area.

The building was painted by a local collective called Supernova after a call from the city of Kazan to create murals in different parts of the municipality to celebrate the start of the Confederations Cup.

Dmitry Kudinov, a member of the collective, said they finished the mural in five days, using about 300 cans of paint.

Handouts of the artwork have been distributed and published by local media, attracting the public's attention.



A boy holds up a picture of Cristiano Ronaldo as he sits in the stands prior to the Confederations Cup, Group A match between Portugal and Mexico

Ronaldo, the reigning world player of the year, is the biggest star at the Confederations Cup. He has been attracting headlines after a report by a

Portuguese newspaper said he wants to leave Real Madrid because of allegations he defrauded Spanish tax authorities. **AP**

opinion

Our Desk

Daniel Beitler



THIS TIME LAST YEAR

One year ago, gross gaming revenue (GGR) reached its absolute bottom, ending a two-year sustained contraction in the city's dominant industry. After the MOP15.88 billion recorded in June 2016 (the lowest figure since September 2010) things could only get better. And they did, continuing since then to ebb and flow in an upward trajectory.

GGR in June 2017 will be announced in just under two weeks and is likely to record significant year-on-year growth due to the low base in the comparison month.

The growth is likely to be at least in line with last month's 23.7 percent year-on-year rise, despite the fact that June is historically a poor performing month in Macau, recording a lower take than May every single year since 2010.

Should June GGR hold the same as May – breaking a six-year trend – then the year-on-year growth will amount to more than 43 percent. If it falls from the MOP22.74 billion recorded last month to MOP20 billion, we are looking at almost 26 percent year-on-year growth.

This time last year, we didn't yet know that GGR had reached its absolute bottom, as many analysts had been predicting an end to the two-year recession for quite some time before that.

Had we known that the recession was finally over in June last year, it would have been the biggest story of an otherwise unusually quiet month. Here's a look at some of the issues that were dominating the media discourse instead:

- Taishan Nuclear Plant: It is revealed that the controversial plant, located just 67 kilometers from Macau, was being constructed with components from mainland China, as opposed to France as was initially publicized. Mainland authorities stressed that the components were of a high quality, but a history of negligence at the hands of mainland construction firms, casts doubts over the safety of the project. The recent revelation of questionable concrete used on the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge should only add to our concerns.

- Jinan University Donation: The Commission Against Corruption concludes one of its speediest investigations into a RMB100 million donation, officiated by the chief executive, to the mainland's Jinan University. The bureau finds that the donation neither breached the law nor presented a conflict of interest for Macau's head of government, who has an interest in both the MSAR and the education institution.

- St. Augustine Church: Heavy rain results in damage to the roof of the historical church, prompting the Cultural Affairs Bureau to admit that a total of four heritage sites are at risk of collapse. A report was not sent directly to UNESCO, as per the standards of the cultural institute of the United Nations, but instead to China's Ministry of Culture.

- Five Year Plan: The Government conducts a consultation period for the city's first ever Five-Year Development Plan. It finds that more than 80 percent of the expressed opinions support the plan, though it is sharply criticized for its vagueness by lawmakers and local public figures.

- Anim'Arte Nam Van: The lakeside promenade, seen by the government as a "landmark for leisure, culture and creativity," is formally opened. Soon after, the area was criticized by the public for failing to meet the expectations set at its launch, specifically due to a lack of activities and attractions.

- Integrated Shuttles: Three casino operators, Galaxy Entertainment Group, (formerly) Melco Crown Entertainment and Sands China agree to trial an integrated shuttle service in the territory. Designed to reduce road congestion, the three-month trial of the "Cotai Connection" is never heard of again.

THE BUZZ THE MERKEL SEEKS 'GOOD AGREEMENT' WITH UK ON BREXIT

German Chancellor Angela Merkel says she hopes for a "good agreement" after Brexit talks in which 27 EU countries will listen carefully to what Britain wants but also defend their own interests.

Britain yesterday finally opened negotiations with other European Union nations about leaving the bloc.

U.K. negotiator David Davis says that Bri-

tain has gone into the negotiations looking for a "positive and constructive tone" to deal with the myriad issues dividing both sides.

EU negotiator Michel Barnier said the negotiations which should lead to a breakup by March 2019 "must first tackle the uncertainties caused by Brexit – first for citizens, but also for the beneficiaries of the EU policies and for the impact on borders, in particular Ireland."

Portugal awaits foreign help to fight deadly wildfires

Barry Hatton & Helena Alves, Pedrogão Grande

MORE than 2,000 firefighters in Portugal battled yesterday to contain major wildfires in the central region of the country, where one blaze killed 62 people, while authorities came under mounting criticism for not doing more to prevent the tragedy.

Reinforcements, including more water-dropping planes from Spain, France and Italy, were due to arrive as part of a European Union cooperation program, officials said.

However, giant clouds of smoke were preventing the deployment of water-dropping aircraft on wildfires in the central region of the country.

Civil Protection Agency commander Elisio Oliveira told reporters that cooler night-time temperatures helped firefighters bring some blazes under control.

However, some of the wildfires are still racing through inaccessible parts of hill ranges about 150 kilometers northeast of Lisbon.

Portugal is observing three days of national mourning after the deaths over the weekend around the town of Pedrogao Grande, about 150 kilometers north of Lisbon, which is by far the deadliest on record.



Scorching weather, with temperatures surpassing 40 C, as well as strong winds and dry woodland after weeks with little rain fueled the blazes. The fire area is covered in dense woodland over steep hills.

Meanwhile, Portugal's leading environmental lobby group, Quercus, issued a statement yesterday blaming the blazes on "forest management errors and bad political decisions" by governments over recent decades.

The association rebuked authorities for allowing the planting of huge swathes of eucalyptus, the country's most common and most profitable species – but one that's often blamed for stoking blazes.

Emergency services have been criticized for not closing a road where 47 of the deaths occurred as people fled the flames Saturday night. The government has acknowledged

that the huge fires occasionally led to a breakdown in communications.

Wildfires are an annual scourge in Portugal. Between 1993 and 2013, Portugal recorded the highest annual number of forest fires in southern Europe, according to a report last year by the European Environment Agency.

The government announced a raft of new measures against wildfires in March. They included restrictions on eucalyptus plantations and a simplified and cheaper program of property registration that seeks to ascertain which land is being neglected.

Not all of those reforms have come into legal force yet.

Statistics show that 35 percent of Portugal is covered by woodland. The forest industry, especially the production of paper pulp, accounts for around 3 percent of GDP. AP

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	15-35 Good	😊
High Density Residential Area	15-35 Good	😊
Ambient	20-40 Good	😊

WORLD BRIEFS



SYRIA Iran says its ballistic missile strike targeting the Islamic State group in Syria was not only a response to deadly attacks in Tehran, but a powerful message to archrival Saudi Arabia and the United States. The launch, which hit Syria's eastern city of Deir el-Zour, appeared to be Iran's first missile attack in the Syrian conflict. More on p14

MALI Security forces killed at least four jihadis after the extremists attacked a resort spot popular with foreigners on the outskirts of Mali's capital in which at least five people were killed.



NORWAY Religious and indigenous leaders, gathered at a conference in the Norwegian capital of Oslo yesterday, called for an end to deforestation in the first international multi-faith, multi-cultural plea to reduce the emissions that fuel climate change.

FRANCE Visitors to an art exhibit of Auguste Rodin's works in central Paris were confined inside the Grand Palais for an hour after an attacker rammed into a police convoy on the nearby Champs-Elysees. France's interior minister says the attack justifies the state of emergency.

BRAZIL Hundreds of thousands of revelers gathered in Sao Paulo on Sunday for one of the world's largest gay pride parades.

MEXICO Foreign ministers representing countries of the Organization of American States are gathering in Mexico to discuss the ongoing political crisis in Venezuela. So far no consensus on the months-long matter has been reached.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



The shadow of Kohl. German Chancellor Angela Merkel and a portrait of Chancellor Helmut Kohl who died on Friday, June 16, at the age of 87 years.