



**ITALY WINS
MACAU FIVB
CHAMPIONSHIP**

P2



**INTERNATIONAL SALON
OF PHOTOGRAPHY OPENS**
The International Salon of
Photography 2017 was
inaugurated yesterday at the
Lou Lim leoc Garden

P4



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WORLD BRIEFS



HONG KONG A court on Friday disqualified four opposition lawmakers from office for having turned their oath-taking into apparent protests against Beijing, further entrenching the central government's hold over the legislature.



INDIA A bus plunged into a 45-meter-deep gorge in the Indian portion of Kashmir yesterday, killing at least 16 Hindu pilgrims and injuring more than two dozen as they traveled to a cave shrine in the Himalayas, police said.

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With articles republished from



**Asian
dynasties**
Battle for
the soul of
Singapore

Ho sentenced to 21 years, cries for appeal

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Family scatters Liu Xiaobo's ashes into the sea in hasty funeral

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Italy wins Macau FIVB Championship

Lynzy Valles

ITALY is taking home USD80,000 after winning first place in the 2017 Federation Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB) World Grand Prix Macau.

The Italian team bested China, USA and Turkey during the three-day event and Italy now ranks first place in Pool E1 after accruing a total of eight points.

Two players from the team, number 18 Paola Egonu and number 5, Ofelia Malinov, were awarded Best Opposite and MVP respectively.

Commenting on the win, coach Mazzanti Davide told the Times that they are looking forward to being included in the final six.

"This win is important for us as we [aim] to be in the final six. We played very well in this round and we're very proud of the team," he said.

As Italy's team is also packed



with younger players with an average age of 24, Mazzante hinted that this competition is also a part of their training as its team members would be competing for Tokyo 2020.

Asked which opponent he thought was the strongest, the coach simply said, "There are many teams [including] China, USA, Serbia and Brazil."

The team is off to Bangkok where they will compete with Turkey, Dominican Republic and Thailand.

According to him, the team is currently in a good position to be included in the final six.

Meanwhile, Macao Forum was packed yesterday by supporters of China, who were competing against USA.

After losing to USA last week, China beat USA with a final score of 3-2 yesterday.

“We played very well in this round and we’re very proud of the team.”

MAZZANTI DAVIDE
ITALIAN COACH

Zhu Ting, who scored 19 points, commented, "we attacked well today and our blocking has significantly improved compared to last week's match in Kunshan," said Zhu Ting, who was awarded the 'My Galaxy Star Player Award'.

China is set to play in the Hong Kong leg of the tournament this week and will com-

pete against Serbia, Russia and Japan.

China's coach An Jiajie, who spoke to the press yesterday, said that the competition against USA was an experience that they could learn from as they were challenged with a 'fast and high-point game.'

He reiterated that their attack and defense have improved and added that they would still have to work on the team's defense.

"We've improved a little bit but what's worrying us is Zhu's reception of the ball," said An.

China, who came in second place, was followed by USA then Turkey.

Meanwhile the USA team was not present during yesterday's awarding ceremony, as they needed to catch a flight to Brazil last night.

Two of its team players, including Carli Lloyd, were awarded Best Setter and Best Outside Spiker.

Tourism price index slightly up

THE Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) reported that the tourist price index (TPI) for the second quarter of this year went up by 0.92 percent year-on-year to MOP126.35, marking the first year-on-year increase since the second quarter of 2015.

The year-on-year increase in the second quarter was mainly attributed to the rising charges for hotel accommodation, restaurant services and local food products. Among the selection of goods and services, price indices for accommodation, restaurant services and food, alcoholic beverages and tobacco, rose by 9.21 percent, 5.99 percent and 8.39 percent respectively while the price indices for clothing and footwear, and transport and communications decreased by 10.43 percent and 7.96 percent respectively due to a reduction in the prices of handbags, men's clothing and airfares.

Compared to the previous quarter, TPI for the second quarter of 2017 decreased by 2.06 percent. Price indices for accommodation, and transport and communications went down by 13.72 percent and 3.26 percent on account of lower hotel room rates and airfares after the Lunar New Year. At the same time, the arrival of summer clothing and footwear drove up the price index on clothing and footwear by 3.65 percent quarter-to-quarter.

TPI reflects the price change of goods and services purchased by visitors. Selections of TPI goods and services are according to the consumption pattern of visitors in relation to food, alcoholic beverages and tobacco, clothing and footwear, accommodation, restaurant services, transport and communications, medicine and personal goods, entertainment and cultural activities, and miscellaneous goods.

ARTS

Second 'Y Show' concludes

THE second "Y Show," the Macau Art Graduates Joint Exhibition, took place at the Regency Art Hotel between July 13 and yesterday. The four-day exhibition included student works from five participating local universities and institutes, including the University of Macau, Macao Polytechnic Institute, and the University of Saint Joseph, among others.

Several overseas exhibitors also played a role, including the Federation of Hong Kong Industries and the Design Council of Hong Kong, the National Taiwan Normal University, the Kuwasawa Design School, and the Berlin University of the Arts, among other institutes.

In total, 113 pieces from local and overseas art graduates were showcased throughout the whole venue. The event was co-organized



by Chiu Yeng Culture and Chiii Design.

Besides the exhibition, another key event was the "Enterprise Tour", which invited international enterprises and designers to attend a tour led by professional designers, aiming to deepen the understanding between enterprises and younger creators, to directly provide a platform that may create job opportunities for design graduates.

This year, the show's

theme, blood, was focused on the students' perspective, and represents the students' efforts.

The second edition of the show also presented the Outstanding Award, to encourage and support young artists in their efforts. The winners were (in no particular order): Morito Kozuma; Luis Gabriel de Sales Marques; Ho Sze Yin Calvin; Wang Chenxu; Maiiko Leong; Zhou Yue Ying; Yolan-

da Fancy; Sacnite Tang; Marie Scheffzük and Chen Shenghao.

When talking to the media, Sabrina Ho, managing director of Chiu Yeng Culture, said "I think that both the students and enterprises need a platform to seek for new concepts and new blood."

Ho said that this show offers a good environment for new university graduates looking for jobs.

"The enterprises' design departments can really discuss with the students through this project," said Ho, adding that "it will instigate better matches between enterprises and students."

Sabrina Ho revealed that further plans for Y Show include an expansion to secondary education.

"The competition is fierce now, [...] students should start, from middle school, thinking more actively, learning more and adding value to themselves," declared Ho.

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Ho Chio Meng says 21 years in jail is unfair

Julie Zhu

WHO would imagine some years ago that the region's former top prosecutor, Ho Chio Meng, would be convicted and sentenced to 21 years in jail, leaving the court pleading for an appeal? However unlikely it may have seemed, that is precisely what happened on Friday.

Moreover, the Court of Final Appeal has ruled that Ho shall pay around MOP75 million, by himself or with others, to the Office of the Prosecutor General and around MOP12 million of his assets will be reverted to the administration.

Right after judge Song Man Lei announced the final verdict, Ho said, "this is injustice. [...] I did not receive any money, I will appeal. [...]"

Presiding judge Sam Hou Fai ordered the officers of the court to, "take him out" immediately after Ho started shouting to the court's audience. While being carried out of the court by three police officers, Ho kept repeating the above sentences out loud.

Amid the 1,500 crimes which the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) accused him of, Ho was declared innocent of approximately 80 accusations.

However, Song stated in the

beginning that, "a large part of the accusations are factual." Song even listed some of the reasons regarding the court's ruling on Ho's crimes.

Before the court eventually announced the verdict, Song noted that, according to the law, courts have the power to replace a suspect's sentence by fines.

However, the judge explained that the court chose to sentence Ho to jail.

“This case is severely serious, the period when the crimes took place is long, and there are many crimes.”

JUDGE SAM HOU FAI

"This case is severely serious, the period when the crimes took place is long, and there are many crimes," enumerated Song, who addressed Ho by telling him that he had engaged in, "intentionally illegal behaviors."

"Especially the fact that he created a criminal group, con-

ducted money laundering schemes, frauds, [...] the consequences are serious, [...] MP suffered economical losses, [...] and it [Ho's behavior] has affected a fair competition environment, the society's order and fairness, and has caused negative influences over the MP's image."

"Ho has worked for the judiciary system for many years, he should have known the laws and obeyed them. [...] Ho ignored the existence and requirements of the laws. [...] Ho used his position to seek for profits."

Song further said that Ho "gained great economical profits" from companies that were granted with MP's contracts. "[Ho] is 61 years old, has a good personality, family, social condition, [...] yet does not have a slice of regret," Song stated.

In total, Ho was found guilty of more than 1,000 crimes, including several cases of fraud, organizing criminal groups, false declarations of property ownership (together with his wife), unclear declaration of income and sharing illegal benefits.

Regarding the details behind the sanctions for each crime Ho committed, he was sentenced to between five months and a maximum of 13 years and six months, the latter for having established criminal groups.

According to Macau's law, all individual sentences combined cannot exceed 30 years.

The court also ruled that Ho is responsible for a total of MOP75.92 million in losses in the MP.

The court's rulings have ordered Ho to personally pay the amount of MOP18.36 million to the MP.

Moreover, the court has ordered that he, as well as Wang Xiandi (a defendant), should return MOP4.32 million to the MP, as Wang was declared guilty by the court.

Ho should also pay the MP another MOP3.32 million together with Wong Kuok Wai, Mak Im Tai, and a few other defendants who organized the companies with Ho.

Ho along with Lai Kin Ian, director of the Office of the Prosecutor General, and some other defendants, must also pay the MP MOP49.9 million. The court has instructed that the accumulated interest as of last Friday should be added to these payments.

The court has also ordered that Ho's MOP1.18 million in unclear income needs to be transferred to the Macau SAR government, in addition to MOP12.1 million, from Ho's income, which were not declared to the government while Ho was still occupying his

Sister: 'Over 10 years of work become sins?'

LUCIA Ho, the elder sister of Ho Chio Meng, said "how did over 10 years of work become sins? [...] I can only say that I don't understand. [...] I will not lose confidence, because the judge is in God. [...] The judgment is in the heart of every Macau resident. We were together more than 30 years. My younger brother is not a person like the one they described. Our family does not have a background, does not have wealth. Everybody knows it very clearly."

"If there is a chance of appeal, we will go to the central government."

When asked about whether Ho had previously told Lucia Ho that he had offended any of his work colleagues, she replied by saying "no, we are always harmonious."

"But it is weirder how come the defense [Ho's defense team] is so weak, [...] I can't see even one piece of evidence [money] attested to have



Lucia Ho

come from corruption. Even the money from our father was claimed to have come from corruption. [...]"

When asked if she agrees with Ho when he says the accusation was an injustice, Lucia Ho mentioned that she "completely agrees!"

Ho's older sister disclosed that currently she does not know about the next plan of action her family is going to take. As a Catholic person, Lucia Ho believes that God will have a plan.



PHOTO ARCHIVE

“I did not receive any money, I will appeal.”

HO CHIO MENG

previous position.

Ho served as the Prosecutor General in Macau from 1999 to 2014. Before that, he had been a Coordinator of the High Commissioner's Office Against Corruption of Administrative Illegality.

Oriana Pun disappointed with verdict

HO Chio Meng's lawyer, Oriana Pun, said that Ho's defense team feels disappointed with the sentence.

"We feel a little disappointed about it. [the verdict] We insisted that related facts are not sufficient to confirm the culpability of most the accusations," Pun told the media.

"We have to see the verdict first, and research on what we can do. The Court of Final Appeal is the first trial in the case, but since the defendant has not appealed again, we do not consider the current sentence as the final one," declared Pun.

"Appealing is the basic right granted by both the Basic Law and the United Nations law," said Pun, adding that "if he needs, we will see what we can do for him."

The lawyer told the media that the defense team will conduct research on the



Oriana Pun

court's ruling reference, and consider their next step.

Regarding Ho's health condition, Pun said that due to the prison's internal conditions, he has showed signs of a few health problems, and that he needs to see a doctor. However, the lawyer did not disclose further information.



Hoi Yan Fong



Kai Lon Tang

Int'l Salon of Photography sees rise in participants

Lynzy Valles

THE 19th Macao International Salon of Photography 2017 was inaugurated yesterday at Lou Lim Ieoc Garden, awarding 50 photographers from around the globe.

Organized by the Photographic Society of Macao (PSM), the biennial event provides a platform for photographers to exchange photographic experiences and techniques.

This year, the organizers received 4,597 entries from 343 con-

testants in 43 countries and regions.

According to the vice president of the Photographic Society of Macao, Angus Fong, there was a significant growth in the number of photographers who participated in its 19th edition, compared to two years ago.

He said that there were approximately 100 participants in 2015.

Fong attributed the increase of participants to the easier access in acquiring high-quality photographs, adding that there were even photos taken by smartphones.

"The government supports this industry a lot so you can see there are a lot of events for photographers," Fong told the Times.

"In Macau, the love for photography is growing," he added.

Winning photographs of the 19th edition of the competition were approved by the Photographic Society of America (PSA) and the International Federation of Photographic Art (FIAP).

According to Fong, the association has evaluated the standards of the two federations in a bid to raise its standards in

judging the photographs.

One of the judges of the competition Alex Fung also stressed that the photographs they have received have changed in terms of their subjects.

"The subjects of the photos have changed. Many years ago it was different. For example, now we see photos [of] the northern lights but during the last few years, we didn't see these submissions," said Fung.

According to him, selecting photographs for this year's edition was 'difficult.'

The competition is divided into

four categories; namely, Color Digital Image Section, Monochrome Digital Image Selection, Nature Digital Image Section and Travel Digital Image Section.

The winner of the FIAP Silver Medal in the Nature Digital Image Section, Hoi Yan Fong, who joined the competition for the second time said that being a photographer in today's era is much easier than it was previously as taking photos have become a common activity.

The Hong Kong part-time photographer also praised the organizers for conducting a platform for photographers that 'gets better and better.'

Another local photographer, Kai Lon Tang, was awarded the Best Set of Entries award in the Color Digital Image Sections; and an Honorable Mention Ribbon by PSM.

"The technology I've used to enhance the photos have changed a lot compared to 10 years ago," said Tang.

"I think not only technology has advanced but the idea of a photograph has been enhanced," Kai, who has been a photographer for 10 years, added.

The 19th Macao International Salon of Photography 2017, supported by Henry Fok Foundation, Cultural Affairs Bureau, Macau Foundation and the Macau Government Tourism Office, will run until July 28.

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French National Day celebrations in Macau

THE French National Day (Bastille Day) was marked last Saturday in Macau with several events at the Sofitel Macau. The celebrations, which began at 4pm and ended at 11pm, also recognized the 30th anniversary of Alliance Française de Macau (AF).

A video installation titled "Crossing of Time" was presented at the start of the program. It featured people who were related to AF in Macau and showed the modern, historical and dynamic aspects of Macau through three screens.

A concert by French Bangkok-based artist Laurent Couson followed the video presentations. Laurent and his colleagues presented a tribute to French singer-songwriter Serge Gainsbourg, an icon of French culture and one of the most relevant artists in last century's French popular music.

The concert was followed by a cocktail reception, which was attended by French Consul General for Macau and Hong Kong,



Sonia Chan (left) and French Consul Eric Berti

Eric Berti and the Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan as well as the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam.

During Sonia Chan's address at the reception, she highlighted the fact that the import values of French products to Macau in 2016 was the highest among all EU countries, with values amounting to over MOP5.6 billion.

Chan added that Macau and France share strong cultural links, saying "cul-

ture is the crystallization of a nation's wisdom and it has the power of crossing national boundaries as well as time." Chan expressed her gratitude to AF and the Consulate General for their contributions to the cultural and social development of Macau.

The program ended with a French-themed buffet dinner, which included a performance by Couson and his colleagues.

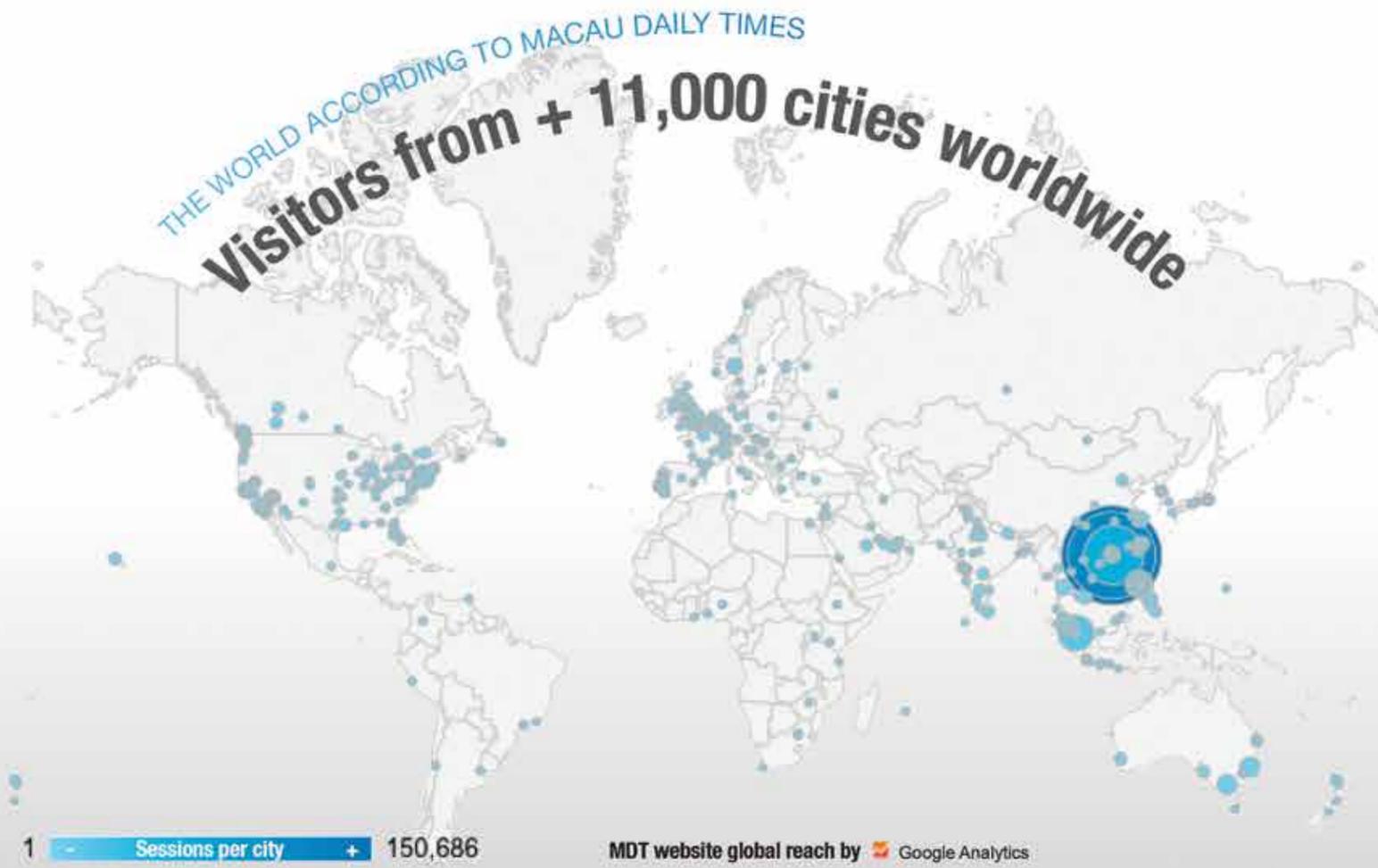
The French National Day is officially commemorated on July 14.

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Labor Affairs suspends work at 20 construction sites

AS of last Saturday, the Labor Affairs Bureau (DSAL) has inspected a total of 74 construction sites. As a result of these inspections, DSAL has ordered 20 of them to suspend their works, totally or partially, due to failures in the fulfillment of security rules and standards, as mentioned in a statement from DSAL.



According to the statement, a total of 66 official advice notices were issued to contractors suggesting improvements. Additionally, a total of 57 sanctions were issued due to unsafe working conditions, mainly involving heights, electrical risks and lack of collective protection measures, among other issues. The DSAL also informed that it would continue to inspect all construction sites in Macau (DSAL's figures estimate that there are approximately 557 construction sites in Macau) and urged all contractors to supervise the safety of the sites to ensure workers' security during the execution of the construction work. Such inspections will be conducted by around 40 people from DSAL separated into small teams, each comprising of three to four members. According to the bureau, the inspection teams have orders to tackle any hazardous situations encountered by immediately issuing orders to stop the works and solve the problems that are endangering workers. They have been instructed to impose sanctions on the contractors immediately.

The inspection operation comes after recent cases detected flaws in the security on construction sites that led to several

cases of serious injuries and death. DSAL pledged to continue to intensify its efforts to promote occupational health and safety and strengthen dialogue and cooperation between workers' associations, organizations and contractors. DSAL emphasized that a cooperation is necessary for a comprehensive overhaul of security and occupational health in the construction sector.

The bureau has also called on all parties who are involved to be fully aware of the changes and to strictly fulfill their duties in this field to create a safe working environment for workers. **RM**

Wynn announces special bonus for employees

Wynn Macau Limited announced on Friday that a special bonus equivalent to one month's gross salary will be paid to all eligible Wynn Macau and Wynn Palace team members, excluding senior management. The team members who are qualified to receive the bonus account represent more than 96 percent of the current workforce of 12,600 employees. According to a press release from Wynn, the special bonus is being awarded to show the company's appreciation to all team members for their hard work and dedication. Wynn announced a general salary increase earlier this March where employees received an increase of 2.5 percent to 6.5 percent.

Taxi driver prosecuted for not reporting loss

A 51-year-old local taxi driver has been prosecuted after he kept belongings which had been lost in his taxi by one of his passengers. The case took place in June. A MSAR resident reported that he had forgotten his luggage in the taxi of the said driver. The report reveals that a total loss of MOP95,000 was involved, which also included jade pieces. The police, by the end of last month, found the driver. The driver eventually confessed to the crime.

THREE LIVES LOST IN THREE ACCIDENTS

THREE DEATHS have been caused recently by industrial accidents, with all the victims being non-local workers. On Friday, at a Taipa construction site, a machine and some construction materials fell from a height of 10 meters, hitting three mainland workers. One of the workers died after being sent to the hospital,

while the other two sustained serious injuries. Prior to this accident, another mainland worker was hit by a falling elevator while he was servicing the elevator. The maintenance worker did not survive. In the same week, a 32-year-old mainland worker died from an accident which took place while he was on-duty.

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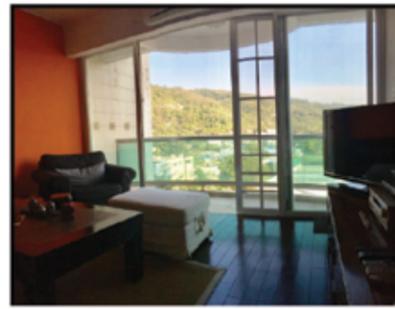
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1,663sq. ft. HKD 7.98M
Rate: HKD 4,798sq ft

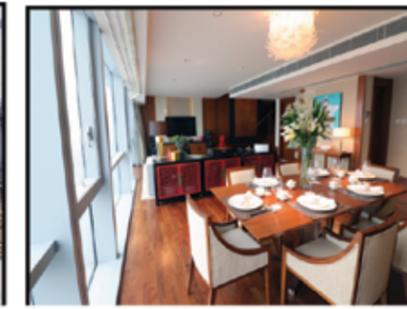
Stunning apartment with open view across towards the back of Hac Sa Beach. Renovated five years ago to a very high standard. The owner opened up the kitchen making a wonderful entertainment area for both living and dining, off the living room is a great size balcony for Al Fresco dining. Further renovations not required.



Cheoc Van, House912 Coloane

(Ref: 17065524)
5,972sq. ft. HKD 98M
Rate: HKD 16,409sq ft

This magnificent property is newly renovated, and has unobstructed sea views from all 5 floors. Both the interior and exterior of the property brandishes stylish and contemporary designs with a mix of beautiful light colours that accentuates the spaciousness and abundance of natural light. An exclusive lap pool and Jacuzzi comes ready to be enjoyed, as well as a state of the art kitchen.



Mandarin Residences Serviced Duplex

(Ref: 17065522)
3,487sq. ft. HKD 88M
Rate: HKD 25,236sq ft

The property comes tastefully designed with elegant, high-grade furnishing and floor-to-ceiling windows that provides a breath-taking panoramic view of the sea and Macau. The modern galley kitchen on the first floor comes fully-fitted with high-grade and stylish appliances from Miele and plenty of space, and the private study room offers the quiet that you need to complete your business affairs.



Lok Pou, Macau

(Ref: 17065523)
700sq. ft. HKD2.98M
Rate: HKD 4,257sq ft

Lovely top floor apartment, two small bedrooms with large open living room with large picture window over looking Tap Seac Square and galley style kitchen. Great opportunity to renovate an old property in a historic area of the city.

Separate access to a large roof top area also means a great opportunity for al fresco entertaining on the cooler months.



Chun Hung Garden L Unit

(Ref: 17075526)
840sq. ft. HKD 6.3M
Rate: HKD7,500q ft

3 bedroom unit for sale in Taipa.

Open kitchen, with a balcony.

Available for viewings on Fridays 6PM onwards.



Roof Top Apartment, Macau

(Ref: 15055441)
799sq. ft. HKD3.98M
Rate: HKD4,981sq ft

Loft style apartment with concrete floor which includes a good size double bedroom, great size separate bathroom, open plan fitted kitchen, lovely bright & spacious dining area with floor to ceiling windows and cosy living area with small picture window of the view. The wooden staircase leads to the second floor open area which could be great to use as a second bedroom, or office, yoga studio or entertainment area. The roof top terrace is wonderful; a great place to entertain friends and family with its open view across the roof tops of the Chief Executives office and beautifully manicured gardens towards Taipa. This property is unique with a view that unlike most in Macau will not change for many years to come.

To view call us now on 2835 2699.



Wan Yu Villa, D Unit, Macau

(Ref: 17035513)
1,800sq. ft. HKD 11.5M
Rate: HKD 6,3882q ft

Beautifully furnished, bright and spacious 3 bedroom furnished apartment. Large open plan living/dining room with a long balcony off the living area. 3 double bedrooms, master bedroom has an en-suite bathroom.

Reverse cycle air con in both the living room and master bedroom. Western style kitchen with oven. Great location with supermarkets, restaurants, bars and ferry terminal within walking distance.

Contact Property Consultants Today.

Juliet Risdon
(English Speaker)
T: (853) 6680 9804
Juliet@JMLProperty.com

Office: (853) 2835 2699

Email: Info@JMLProperty.com

Christopher Palmeri

Disney teases 'Star Wars' hotel in park investment flurry

WALT Disney Co. said it will build an immersive "Star Wars" hotel at its resort in Orlando, Florida, as part of a flurry of investments announced Saturday by the company's theme-park division.

Disney revealed the two "Star Wars" themed lands it is building will be called Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge, with the one at Disneyland in Anaheim, California, set to open first in 2019 and the Orlando one opening later that same year.

Disney parks and resorts division chairman Bob Chapek made the announcement Saturday at the company's D23 Expo, a biennial event for fans held at the Anaheim Convention Center, near the company's Disneyland and California Adventure parks. Theme parks are Disney's second-largest division after television. The company has been investing heavily in the business on the premise that park attractions can't easily be copied by competitors or made obsolete by new technology.

"There's no virtual-reality experience in the world that's going to replicate what you get physically by walking down that Main Street," Chapek said earlier this year in reference to one of Disneyland's signature features.

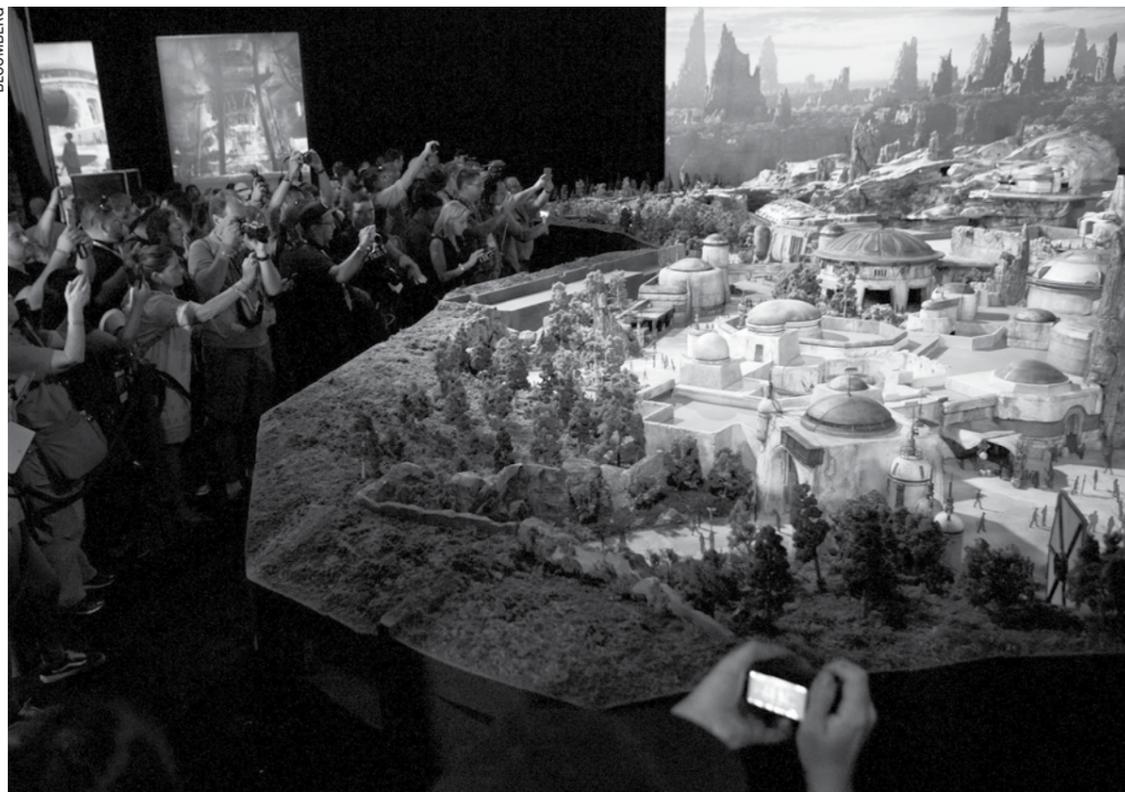
The theme-park business is betting heavily on its own characters, much as Disney's movie division began to rely more on company-owned intellectual property following the acquisitions of Marvel Entertainment in 2009 and Lucasfilm in 2012.

A ride based on the film "Tron"

that has been a hit at Disney's new Shanghai resort will be replicated at Orlando's Magic Kingdom park. The Paradise Pier at Disney's California Adventure park in Anaheim will be revamped with a Pixar theme. That same park will get Spider-Man and Avengers attractions in a new Super Hero land.

■ The company has been investing heavily in the business on the premise that park attractions can't easily be copied by competitors

Epcot, the Florida park that opened in 1982 as kind of a permanent world fair, is getting new attractions designed to turn it into more of a traditional amusement park. An attraction based on the Pixar film "Ratatouille" will be built near the base of the Eiffel Tower and a new thrill ride tied to the Marvel franchise "Guardians



The Walt Disney Co. "Star Wars" lands 3-D model is unveiled ahead of the D23 Expo in Anaheim, California

of the Galaxy" will be added.

The Burbank, California-based company announced a new cruise ship, the Disney Riviera hotel in Orlando, and a gondola-based transportation system that will connect its Epcot and Hollywood Studios parks with some of the nearby Disney hotels.

Disney is experimenting with

ways to shorten wait times for popular rides. Starting on July 19, the company will allow Anaheim park guests to reserve a time to jump on its shorter "FastPass" lines for an extra USD10 a day. Parkgoers in Orlando have already had that ability, although without an additional charge.

Elsewhere at the D23 Expo,

Disney gave fans a sneak peak of a new augmented reality game that features a lightsaber and a headset made by Lenovo Group Ltd. It will allow players to conduct virtual sword fights in their homes. The latest installment of the series, "Star Wars: The Last Jedi," hits theaters December 15. **Bloomberg**

opinion

JAPAN COULD KILL ITS CASINOS BEFORE THEY EVEN OPEN

David Bonnet, Bloomberg

When Japan's parliament legalized casino gambling last year, it created a wave of excitement among casino operators and institutional investors. But sensitivities about gambling addiction have now focused the policy discussion on a concept known as responsible gaming. This is industry terminology for programs designed to deter customers with known gambling problems from entering casinos. Although well-intentioned, lawmakers are risking a litany of unintended consequences with these policies.

Casinos could be an economic boon for Japan. By one estimate, they could bring in USD25 billion a year in revenue. Yet lawmakers are now considering restrictions that could jeopardize those benefits. These include banning cash machines on casino floors, restricting credit card

purchases of casino chips to foreign customers only, prohibiting casinos from extending credit to domestic customers, limiting how often domestic customers can visit gambling houses, and prohibiting Macau-style VIP junkets.

The extent to which such measures could reduce problem gambling is debatable, especially since Japan's gamblers already have plenty of other options, including horse racing and pachinko. But one thing is certain: They'd cripple Japan's casino industry before it could get off the ground.

One problem is that restricting casinos from lending to their own customers means that third-party creditors will fill the void. Japan has a long history of syndicated money-lending at pachinko parlors, and of organized criminal groups attempting to collect debts from insolvent gamblers. If casino patrons had to seek out-

side sources of credit, they'd be more likely to become targets for these groups.

"The Japanese police have been using new organized crime exclusionary ordinances to clamp down on traditional sources of income for Yakuza groups," said David Suzuki, of the private security firm Blackpeak Group, in an interview. "I believe they see the legalization of casino gambling as a massive, historic opportunity to resuscitate themselves."

Customers who borrow directly from a casino can also rest assured that any debt collection will be handled through the collections department or a relevant jurisdiction's courts - and not through intimidation or other illegal methods. But these best practices are in jeopardy if traditional casino credit functions are outsourced to third parties.

More important, from a business perspective, is that implementing restrictive lending

practices would significantly reduce casino revenue. Casinos function much like financial institutions. Both handle customer accounts, extend credit and collect on unsettled debts. Gaming chips are company obligations - much like bank notes. In that regard, casinos provide substantial financial liquidity, not only for gambling but also for related businesses, such as restaurants, bars and entertainment. Limiting cash in a casino is analogous to limiting beer in a bar - it just doesn't work.

Combined with the proposed limits on domestic gambling and VIP junkets, the government would thus be inhibiting most of the casino industry's key business segments. This will severely compromise the ability to generate cashflow, discourage institutional investors from committing the billions of dollars of capital needed to get major integrated resorts off the ground,

and undermine the industry's ability to create new jobs and boost economic activity. My company estimates that these measures would reduce potential gambling revenue by up to 50 percent.

In short, the government would be forfeiting most of the potential benefits that casinos could bring to Japan - before anyone has even broken ground.

A better approach is to try to address potential problems without needlessly scaring off investors and operators. For one thing, regulators should take a holistic view of the costs and benefits of casinos, and recognize that they can increase oversight at any time. Placing arbitrary stipulations on casino operations at the outset of the license application process will only discourage global gaming companies from investing in Japan in the first place. Macau - which in recent years

has rolled out increasingly sophisticated regulations, while remaining the world's top gambling hub - offers an example of how a more flexible approach can work.

Likewise, adopting a framework to address problem gambling similar to those that have worked in Las Vegas and Singapore - through public education, funding for addiction treatment and prevention, training for casino workers, and other prudent measures - could allow people to sensibly enjoy casinos in Japan without destroying the industry's proven business model.

To date, operators have expressed unbridled enthusiasm at the prospects for casino gambling in Japan. But that will quickly change if these proposed measures are put in place. Japan should be careful not to kill off its casino industry before it even has a chance.

Former China Chongqing party chief under probe, WSJ says

Keith Zhai, Ting Shi

SUN Zhengcai, the former Communist Party chief of the Chinese city of Chongqing, is under investigation by authorities, the Wall Street Journal reported Saturday, citing people it didn't identify.

Sun, 53, was the youngest member of the party's Politburo and was considered a rising star ahead of a key leadership reshuffle later this year. State media reported earlier Saturday that he was replaced by a provincial party chief - Chen Miner - who is an associate of President Xi Jinping.

A party meeting in Chongqing to announce Sun's departure was told he was under investigation, the Journal reported, adding that no details of the probe were given. Chongqing is a fast-growing mega-city and one of four centrally administered municipalities alongside Beijing, Shanghai and Tianjin.

If confirmed, it would be the first probe of a sitting Politburo member, a key leadership body in the Communist Party, since the downfall in 2012 of another one-time Chongqing chief, Bo Xilai, later sentenced to life in prison for corruption and abuse of power.

It comes before a party congress where many of the 25 members of the Politburo are expected to be replaced as Xi heads into the second half of his scheduled term in power. Five of seven members of the supreme Politburo Standing Committee - all except Xi and Premier Li Keqiang - are also scheduled to retire.

Xi has for more than four years embarked on a sweeping crackdown on graft at all levels of the party. He's warned corruption is one of the biggest threats to the party's future. The campaign has also allowed him to amass greater power.

Sun had previously drawn praise from the president: During a visit to Chongqing in January 2016, Xi stood side by side with Sun and admired various projects under his purview, according to the official Xinhua News Agency. While inspecting port and railway projects to support Xi's initiative for a new Silk Road trading route to Europe, the president said, "This place is very promising."

■ Sun, 53, was the youngest member of the party's Politburo and was considered a rising star

Still, the party's top anti-graft agency, the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, issued a statement in February after an inspection trip to Chongqing saying the municipality fell short of "clearing toxic residue" from Bo's era. And in June, state media said Chongqing's top police officer, He Ting, had been relieved of his post.



Sun Zhengcai

The party's Organization Department chief Zhao Leji presided over Saturday's appointment meeting and transition ceremony, where Sun was absent, according to the Chongqing Daily. Zhang urged local officials to be "highly in sync with the central party leadership with Comrade Xi Jinping as the core leader," the paper said.

"Sun's absence from the transition ceremony was highly unusual and is a good indication that he's in trouble," said Willy Lam, an adjunct political professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Sun's removal could help Xi solidify his grip on power ahead of the party reshuffle, Lam said. "It's another way to demonstrate he's in full control of the succession game."

In June 2015, Zhou Yongkang, a retired member of the Politburo's supreme Standing Committee, was sentenced to life in prison, the highest-ranking official convicted for graft in party history.

Zhou until 2012 oversaw China's vast security apparatus, including police, prosecutors and the courts. He held sway over a network of proteges and former

aides, serving on the Standing Committee with Xi before he retired and the latter was elevated to general secretary in 2012.

Sun, together with Guangdong party boss Hu Chunhua, had been regarded as potentially in line to be elevated to the Standing Committee. Instead, Chen, 56, party chief of the southwestern province of Guizhou, was announced on Saturday as the new chief of Chongqing.

Prior to his Chongqing appointment, Sun was party chief of the northeastern province of Jilin between 2009 and 2012, and was China's Agricultural Minister between 2006 and 2009 in the administration of Premier Wen Jiabao.

Chen has crossed paths with Xi during his career and the two have established links. He advanced to governor of Guizhou - his first provincial-level promotion - in December 2012, shortly after Xi became overall party chief. In July 2015, Chen was promoted to provincial party chief, only the third regional party boss born in the 1960s.

As propaganda chief previously in Zhejiang, which Xi led from 2002 to 2007, Chen shepherded Xi's regular column in the provincial newspaper. More than 200 of those columns were compiled into a book touted as the origins of Xi's political philosophies.

Chongqing, a sprawling municipality of almost 30 million people, is located more than 1,400 kilometers from the coast and served as China's capital during the Japanese invasion. Chongqing has prospered as the country's economic boom rolled inland, reinventing itself as a regional hub for manufacturing, logistics, financial services and foreign investment. **Bloomberg**

CHINESE President Xi Jinping said the central bank will play a stronger role in defending against risks, calling for more work on safeguarding the financial system and modernizing its regulatory framework.

China will set up a Financial Stability Development Committee under the State Council, Xi said at a twice-a-decade National Financial Work Conference held July 14-15, state media reported without defining the relationship with the People's Bank of China. Financial security is part of national security, and finance should better serve the real economy, Xi said.

In a speech, Xi said prudent monetary policy, a goal announced in December, should be firmly implemented and the PBOC should take a stron-

Xi Backs stronger risk-reduction role for Central Bank

ger macro-prudential policy role. He also called for greater yuan exchange-rate reform, an improved foreign-exchange market system, and steady progress in yuan internationalization, according to state media reports.

Xi is ramping up efforts to ensure stability ahead of a twice-a-decade leadership transition this fall at the 19th Communist Party Congress. He has elevated curbing risk in the USD40 trillion financial industry to a new level with "strategic importance" amid increasingly intertwined business between China's banks, brokerages, asset managers and insurers.

Read More: Xi's War on Risk Tops Agenda at Finance Pow-Wow

Establishing the committee is noteworthy, though the meeting didn't produce much surprise, according to Ming Ming, a former PBOC monetary policy official who's now head of fixed-income research at Citic Securities Co. in Beijing. The name signifies that the panel should be a ministry-level entity directly under the State Council that's mandated to oversee overall financial coordination, he wrote in a report yesterday.

China will proactively prevent and resolve systemic financial risks, and step up efforts to reduce leverage in the economy, the official Xinhua News Agency reported, citing Xi. He also called for greater accountability

for regulators, saying it's a "dereliction of duty" if they fail to spot and dispose of risks in a timely manner, and stressed that coordination of financial regulation should be improved, and weak links in supervision strengthened.

"The heavy emphasis on risk prevention will put a damper on much-needed reform in the financial market," such as developing derivatives markets, said Victor Shih, a professor at the University of California in San Diego who studies China's politics and finance. "With the wording on holding regulators for any signs of instability, they will definitely err on the side of caution. But if regulations are too stifling, financial talent may leave



People's Bank of China headquarters in Beijing

the country."

Premier Li Keqiang also spoke at the meeting, calling for moderate credit growth and keeping liquidity "basically stab-

le," according to state television. He backed "professional, consolidated, penetrating" regulation of all financial businesses to reduce risks. **Bloomberg**

Gillian Wong, Ng Han Guan

Family scatters Chinese Nobel laureate's ashes into the sea

FAMILY members of Liu Xiaobo scattered the Nobel Peace Prize laureate's ashes into the sea on Saturday in funeral proceedings closely orchestrated by the Chinese government following his death from cancer while in custody.

Liu's supporters said the move was intended by the authoritarian government to permanently erase any traces of China's best-known political prisoner, who died Thursday at the age of 61.

The sea burial took place Saturday at noon, just hours after his cremation, a spokesman for the northeastern city of Shenyang, where Liu died, told reporters.

Liu's elder brother, also addressing reporters at the briefing, thanked the ruling Communist Party and the government for its handling of his brother's funeral. The brother, Liu Xiaoguang, is regarded by Liu's friends as having long been unsupportive of Liu's political advocacy.

Liu died from multiple organ failure following a battle with liver cancer while serving an 11-year sentence for incitement to subvert state power. In the run-up to his death, Beijing faced mounting international criticism for not letting him and his wife travel for treatment abroad as he had wished.

The government held two briefings Saturday and provided photos of the funeral and the sea burial, the latest moves in a propaganda campaign seemingly aimed at countering criticism that Beijing has failed to handle Liu's deterioration and dying wishes in a humanitarian way. A video about Liu's hospital treatment released on the website of Shenyang's judicial bureau Friday appeared aimed at the same objective.

Activists and friends of the family said the sea burial appeared to be Beijing's way of removing every last physical trace of Liu. It also removes the need for a land-based grave at which his supporters would have been able to pay their respects.

"The government's thinking is that in this way, they can destroy the body and remove all traces of him," dissident and family friend Hu Jia said by phone.

"After all, he's a Nobel Peace Prize laureate and he died after being suppressed by the authorities," Hu said. "The authorities are very worried that a grave would be the focal point of the public's actions to memorialize him, which could easily turn into protests."

Activist filmmaker and friend Zeng Jinyan said the sea burial would not deter supporters from commemorating Liu's life.

"Now, Liu Xiaobo is everywhere," Zeng said. "Two-thirds of the earth's surface is covered by the sea and I can foresee that in the future, activists and ordinary people will go to the sea and memorialize Liu Xiaobo."



Protesters carry photos of late Chinese Nobel Peace laureate Liu Xiaobo as they march on a street to mourn him in Hong Kong on Saturday



Liu Xia (1st left) together with other relatives bury Liu Xiaobo at sea. According to Xinhua, this was done in accordance with the will of his family and local customs

In Hong Kong, thousands of Liu's supporters and activists attended a candlelight vigil Saturday to mourn his death.

Supporters paid their respects by observing a minute of silence and marching through the streets of Hong Kong holding lit candles.

The authorities are very worried that a grave would be the focal point of the public's actions to memorialize him.

HU JIA
DISSIDENT AND FAMILY FRIEND

Liu's wife and other family members have been closely guarded by authorities and remain largely out of contact with the outside world even after his death. Governments around the world have urged China to free his wife, Liu Xia, from the strict house arrest she has lived under for years even though she has not been convicted of any crime.

The government handout photos showed Liu Xia, who wore dark sunglasses, being comforted by her brother in a funeral parlor as they stood in a row with Liu's

older and younger siblings and their wives. Liu's body lay in an open casket in the center of the room, surrounded by an arrangement of potted white flowers.

A black banner strung on the wall read "Mr. Liu Xiaobo's funeral" in white Chinese characters. It was positioned above a framed picture of Liu. A press release issued by the government said that the ceremony was held at 6:30 a.m. to the music of Mozart's Requiem, and that the body was cremated shortly afterward.

The government also said some of Liu's friends attended the ceremony, a claim that was disputed by people who have long been close to Liu. In the handout images, none among a group of people standing by the casket were identifiable as any of Liu's friends, Zeng said.

Zeng said she was among the Liu family's friends who had traveled to Shenyang only to be prevented by the authorities from seeing Liu in his final moments.

"I just want to be closer to him and to see him, touch him even, if it's possible, and to give Liu Xia a hug, that's all," she said in English.

Zeng said it was "shameful" that the government said Liu's friends had attended the funeral. "How disgusting," she said.

Another of Liu's friends, dissident writer Mo Zhixu, said he thought the well-built young men with buzz cuts in the handout photos resembled security agents who kept track of Liu's wife. "This is just a big performance," he said.

"This regime has long been acting without humanity — that's

why they denied him even a minute of freedom even until his death," Mo said.

At the briefing in Shenyang, a spokesman for the city's information office said the authorities were looking out for Liu Xia's interests and insisted that she is free.

"As far as I know, Liu Xia has freedom. But she just lost her relative and is in deep sorrow," spokesman Zhang Qingyang said. "After Liu Xiaobo's death, let Liu Xia tend to his affairs and try to keep her away from external interference."

Liu was only the second Nobel Peace Prize winner to die in police custody, a fact pointed to by human rights groups as an indication of the Chinese Communist Party's increasingly hard line against its critics. The first, Carl von Ossietzky, died from tuberculosis in Germany in 1938 while serving a sentence for opposing Adolf Hitler's Nazi regime.

Liu rose to prominence during

the 1989 pro-democracy protests centered in Beijing's Tiananmen Square. He was sentenced to 11 years in prison in 2009 for co-authoring "Charter 08," a document that called for an end to one-party rule in China.

He was in prison when he was awarded the Nobel in 2010, which Beijing condemned as an affront to its political and legal systems.

There is little mention of Liu in China's heavily censored state media and social networking platforms. One notable exception is a newspaper published by the Communist Party that said in an editorial that the West was "deifying" Liu, a man the paper described as a criminal who was "paranoid, naive and arrogant."

"Liu's memorial tablet cannot find a place in China's cultural temple," the Global Times said in the editorial Saturday. "Deification of Liu by the West will be eventually overshadowed by China's denial of him. AP

XINHUA: A SIMPLE FUNERAL

THE OFFICIAL Xinhua news agency issued a report detailing the funeral procedures. According to Xinhua, after Liu's body was cremated, Liu Xia carried the urn containing his ashes and boarded a ship with his family and friends. At noon, the ship arrived at the planned burial area at sea. Based on local customs, Liu Xia and the relatives first put the ashes and white and yellow chrysanthemum petals into a biodegradable urn. Then Liu Xia and Liu Xiaobo's

younger brother, Liu Xiaoxuan, placed the urn into the ocean. His family members scattered flower petals into the sea. The ship later circled the spot where the urn was dropped, and his family and friends bid him farewell one last time. Xinhua notes that Liu was "convicted of subversion of state power in 2009" and adds that after his death, Liu Xia and relatives planned to hold a simple funeral immediately, with only close relatives attending.

PHILIPPINES

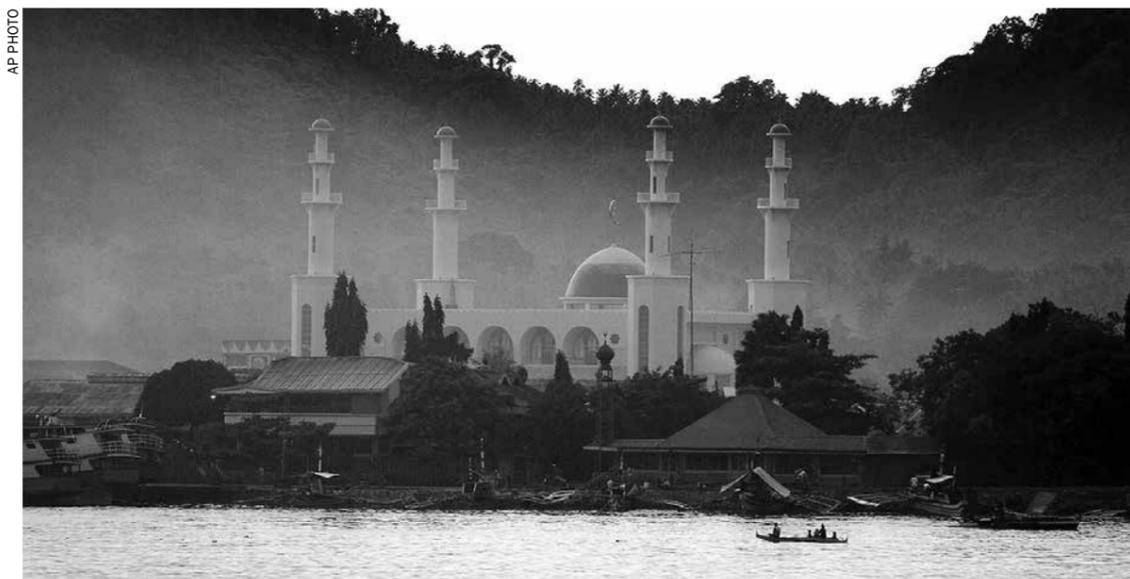
New kidnappings, jailbreak hit restive island

SUSPECTED Abu Sayyaf gunmen abducted four workers in a school in a southern Philippine province where President Rodrigo Duterte visited troops waging an offensive against the militants, officials said yesterday.

About 20 militants barged into a grade school compound in Sulu province's Patikul town shortly after midnight Saturday and seized six painters and carpenters, one of whom managed to escape and alerted the police. Army troops later rescued another worker.

Duterte pinned medals on wounded troops during a brief visit late Saturday to Sulu, a predominantly Muslim province about 950 kilometers south of Manila. The tough-talking president has ordered government forces to destroy the ransom-seeking militants, who still hold about 25 foreign and Filipino hostages in Sulu's jungles.

Meanwhile, 14 inmates, including suspected Abu Sayyaf fighters and drug dealers, escaped early Sunday from a jail in a new building that also houses the police



Sulu province

headquarters in a government compound in Sulu's main town of Jolo, police said.

Three of those who escaped were gunned down by police and another was shot and captured. Army troops were helping police track down the rest with the use of military drones and sniffer dogs,

a police statement said.

The new kidnappings and jailbreak reflect the diverse security challenges confronting Duterte's administration in the south, where thousands of troops have been separately battling militants aligned with the Islamic State group who laid siege to the city of Ma-

rawi on May 23.

After nearly two months of fighting, more than 530 people, including 405 militants and 95 soldiers and police, have died in the violence in the lakeside city, a center of Islamic faith in the southern third of the largely Roman Catholic country.

Backed by airstrikes, troops are fighting about 60 to 70 remaining militants, who are holding an unspecified number of civilian hostages in four Marawi communities in an offensive that Duterte said last week was winding down. He said the offensive won't stop until the last militant is killed.

Duterte, however, has said he would likely extend the martial law he imposed in the south because the situation in Marawi remains critical. Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said he gave the president his recommendation on the question of extending or ending martial rule last week.

Nearly 400,000 people, including most of Marawi's 200,000 residents, have been displaced by the crisis and many have yearned to return home amid the misery in overcrowded evacuation centers.

Duterte's spokesman, Ernesto Abella, however, said Marawi remains fraught with danger, especially for children and women.

"There is no assurance that areas outside the main battle zone are already safe to reside and live in as incidents of cases of stray bullet victims have been reported," Abella said. "The clearing of the entire city of Marawi of IEDs and booby traps left by terrorists, unexploded ordnance and other explosives is still ongoing. The danger and risks these pose still remain high." **AP**

SRI LANKA

UN envoy flays continued rights violations

Krishan Francis

A visiting United Nations envoy said that torture remains "endemic and routine" in Sri Lanka's counterterrorism methods and a number of persons being detained without trial under a harsh anti-terror law is a stain on the country's international reputation.

Ben Emmerson, U.N. special rapporteur on

human rights and counterterrorism, said at the end of a five-day visit to Sri Lanka Friday that he is concerned that even those arrested as recently as late last year had been subjected to torture despite a new government promising to end such practices.

The abuses continued even after Sri Lanka's bloody civil war ended in 2009 when government troops

crushed ethnic Tamil rebels' 26-year campaign for an independent state. Both sides were accused of serious human rights violations in the conflict.

"In Sri Lanka, however, such practices are very deeply ingrained in the security sector and all of the evidence points to the conclusion that the use of torture has been, and remains today, endemic and routine, for

those arrested and detained on national security grounds," Emmerson, a British lawyer, said.

The number of deaths in the conflict is not clear, and a conservative U.N. estimate suggests 100,000 had died. A subsequent U.N. report said at least 40,000 Tamil civilians were killed in the final months of the fighting.

Emmerson said that he heard "distressing stories" during his interviews with former and current detainees under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. They included asphyxiation using plastic bags drenched in kerosene, the pulling out of fingernails, the insertion of needles beneath the fingernails, the use of various forms of water torture, the suspension of individuals for several hours by their thumbs and the mutilation of genitals.

He said he obtained official figures that said 70 persons detained under the terrorism act had been in detention for more than five years without trial, with 12 for more than 10 years.

"These staggering figures



Ben Emmerson, U.N. special investigator on counter-terrorism and human rights

are a stain on Sri Lanka's international reputation. Steps should be taken to release these individuals on bail immediately, or bring them to trial within weeks or months, not years or decades," he said.

Sri Lanka was facing international sanctions for refusing to investigate allegations of human rights violations and war crimes. But the country's outlook changed after the election of a new president, Maithripala Sirisena, whose government co-sponsored a U.N. resolution in 2015 promising to address the past and ensure accountability and reconciliation.

According to a March re-

port by the International Truth and Justice Project — an evidence-gathering organization administered by a South Africa-based nonprofit foundation — 47 of the abuse victims who later fled abroad described being tortured at a Sri Lanka security forces' headquarters. They said the military's chief aim was to learn of any ongoing rebel activity as well as the location of hidden weapons caches, according to the report.

Emmerson said that the fulfillment of the Sri Lankan government's commitments to the U.N. human rights council has virtually ground to a halt. **AP**

AD

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Michael Heath

Australians are divided over their economy like never before

AUSTRALIAN companies and consumers are divided as never before over their judgment of the nation's economy.

Business confidence is powering along and conditions - a measure of hiring, sales and profits - hit a post-2008 crisis high. But consumer sentiment remains in the doldrums. Pessimists outnumbered optimists for an eighth-straight month, data showed last week, as heavily indebted households struggle with stagnant wages to make ends meet.

Rarely mentioned among explanations for the above is the Aussie dollar: five years ago the strong currency was a bonanza for consumers who could buy cheap goods from overseas; a 25 percent depreciation since then has been a boon for exporters but few others. In addition, while a spike in commodity prices in the past 12 months sent corporate profits surging, almost none of that money has made its way to workers.

"The disparity between business confidence and consumer is really just reflecting the difference in where the income is flowing," said Gareth Aird, a senior economist at Commonwealth Bank of Australia, noting low interest rates also help. "But when you look at stuff to do with the consumer - wages, the level of underemployment and so forth - it's not a surprise that consumer confidence is so weak."



The Reserve Bank of Australia predicts a gradual pickup in pay packets from their current record low pace of growth -- and officials have expressed surprise that wages aren't rising faster given their historical response to unemployment of 5.5 percent. The difference is that underemployment is hovering near a record high and the underutilization rate - the sum of unemployment and underemployment - is close to its highest since the late 1990s.

RBA Governor Philip Lowe last month urged workers to make the case for higher wages to their employers. In his view, Australia is in a similar funk to other developed nations, where

employees are concerned about rising competition from cheaper labor in foreign countries and increasing automation, including from robots.

Aird warns that, if policy makers focus too much on the unemployment rate and not enough on underemployment and underutilization, they'll end up overstating the strength of the labor market. He notes Australia's jobless rate has been higher than the U.S., U.K. and Japan's since mid-2014.

"It is too simplistic to assume that timidity from employees in asking for pay rises is holding wages growth back," Aird said. "In our view, labor market slack must recede further for wages

growth to lift."

While population growth of about 1.5 percent has helped underpin the economy's expansion for 26 years, that's only at the headline level. Drilling down, the economy expanded just 0.2 percent on a per capita basis in the year through the first quarter.

Australia has been grinding through an economic transition to services and manufacturing and away from mining over the past five years, and the RBA slashed interest rates to a record 1.5 percent to cushion the handover. While that's sparked a boom in residential housing construction that's helped soak up former mine workers, it's

also sent property prices in Sydney and Melbourne soaring. The result: a surge in household debt to a record 190 percent of income.

As households are squeezed by high debt and weak wage growth, they've supported consumption by drawing on savings, resulting in a halving of the ratio since 2013 to 4.7 percent.

Westpac Banking Corp's consumer sentiment came in at 96.6 in July, with a reading below 100 showing pessimists outweigh optimists.

"The index is not sending encouraging signals about the outlook for consumer spending," Chief Economist Bill Evans said in a statement. **Bloomberg**

INDONESIA

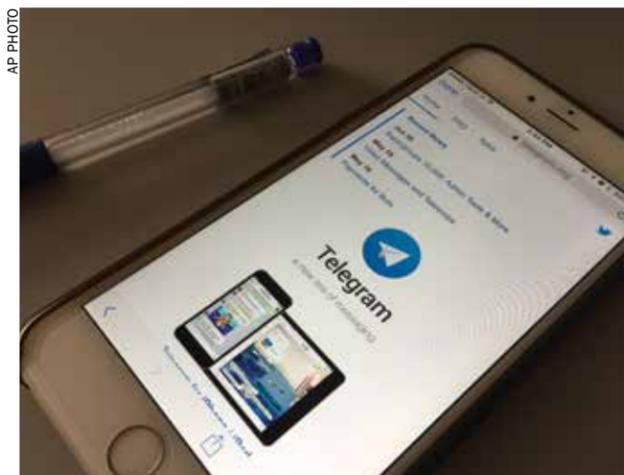
Telegram blocks terror content after ban threats

Stephen Wright, Jakarta

THE encrypted messaging app Telegram is forming a team of moderators who are familiar with Indonesian culture and language so it can remove "terrorist-related content" faster, its co-founder said yesterday, after Indonesia limited access to the app and threatened a total ban.

Pavel Durov, who with his brother Nikolai founded the app in 2013, said in a message to his 40,000 followers on Telegram that he'd been unaware of a failure to quickly respond to an Indonesian government request to block a number of offending channels — chat groups on the app — but was now rectifying the situation.

The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology on Friday said it was preparing for the total closure of Telegram



in Indonesia, where it has several million users, if it didn't develop procedures to block unlawful content. As a partial measure, it asked internet companies in the world's most populous Muslim nation to block access to 11 addresses offering the web version of Telegram.

Samuel Pangerapan, the director general of infor-

matics applications at the ministry, said the app is used to recruit Indonesians into militant groups and to spread hate and methods for carrying out attacks including bomb making.

Suspected militants arrested by Indonesian police recently have told authorities that they communicated with each other via Telegram and received orders

and directions to carry out attacks through the app, including from Bahrin Naim, an Indonesian with the Islamic State group in Syria accused of orchestrating several attacks in the past 18 months.

Durov said Telegram has now blocked the channels that were reported to it by the Indonesian government.

"We are forming a dedicated team of moderators with knowledge of Indonesian culture and language to be able to process reports of terrorist-related content more quickly and accurately," he said.

Indonesia's measures against Telegram come as Southeast Asian nations are stepping up efforts to combat Islamic radicalism following the capture of the southern Philippine city of Marawi by IS-linked militants.

Nearly two months after the initial assault, Philippine forces are still battling to regain complete control of the city. Experts fear the southern Philippines could become a new base for the IS, including Indonesian and Malaysian militants returning from the Middle East, as an international coalition retakes territory

held by the IS in Syria and Iraq.

But the government move sparked a public outcry in Indonesia, with Twitter and Facebook exploding with negative comments and some people reporting they were unable to access the web.telegram.org domain. Indonesians are among the world's biggest users of social media.

The free messaging service can be used as a smartphone app and on computers through a web interface or desktop messenger. Its strong encryption has contributed to its popularity with those concerned about privacy and secure communications in the digital era but also attracted militant groups and other criminal elements.

Durov said Telegram blocks thousands of IS-related channels a month and is "always open to ideas on how to get better at this." **AP**

■ The measures against Telegram come as Southeast Asian nations are stepping up efforts to combat Islamic radicalism

Rival groups clash in Syria's rebel-packed Idlib

Bassem Mroue

CLASHES have broken out in northwestern Syria between two of the most powerful insurgent groups there raising fears of widespread violence in the rebel-held province of Idlib, the groups and an opposition monitor said Saturday.

The fighting between the ultraconservative Ahrar al-Sham and the al-Qaida-linked Hay'at Tahrir al Sham — Arabic for Levant Liberation Committee — that is also known as HTS, are the first serious acts of violence since both sides reached a truce in February. Wider clashes between the two former allies could affect their fight against President Bashar Assad's forces who have been gaining ground over the past year under the cover of Russian airstrikes.

Idlib has taken on greater significance in Syria's civil war as opposition fighters and militants head, or are driven, there from the country's central and northern regions. Bordering Turkey, Idlib has welcomed thousands of insurgents who left the country's largest city of Aleppo when it fell to Assad's forces in December in



This photo provided by the Syrian civil defense group known as the White Helmets, shows civil defense workers extinguishing a burning car after an explosion in Idlib

the government's biggest victory since the crisis began in March 2011.

Hundreds of others also headed to Idlib this year from suburbs of the capital Damascus and the central city of Homs as part of population transfer deals with the government.

Ahrar al-Sham said in a statement Saturday that the al-Qaida-linked Levant Liberation Committee is sending reinforcements

to the town of Saraqeb and the Jabal al-Zawiya region in preparation for an attack. It accused HTS of acts of "tyranny."

The Ibaa News Agency of HTS accused Ahrar al-Sham of setting up checkpoints and detaining one of its commanders and his bodyguard, adding that HTS removed the checkpoints later by force.

Ibaa quoted an HTS military commander, who was identified as Mouawiyah al-Hashimi,

as saying that the two groups agreed to solve the crisis in accordance with Islamic law. He added that Ahrar al-Sham issued its statement about reinforcements after the attempt to solve the latest crisis.

"Our first choice is to resort to Islamic law and solve the problems away from arms and bloodletting," the Ahrar al-Sham statement said. "If the (HTS) command insists on its tyrannical acts the movement (Ahrar al-Sham) is ready to repel injustice."

Wider clashes between the two former allies could affect their fight against Bashar Assad's forces

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the clashes late Friday were concentrated near the village of Tel Touqan. It added that after the clashes, Ahrar al-Sham briefly cut water supplies to the provincial capital of Idlib that is mostly controlled by HTS.

The clashes come at a time when Ahrar al-Sham is trying to market itself as a moderate rebel group and has been recently raising the main opposition banner

— black, white and green with three red stars in the middle.

HTS is a coalition led by Fatah al-Sham Front that was formerly known as the Nusra Front. The group announced last year it was changing its name to Hay'at Tahrir al Sham and had cut all contacts with al-Qaida to market itself as a Syrian group.

Fatah al-Sham Front and the Islamic State group are considered terrorist organizations by the international community. Still, the al-Qaida-linked HTS enjoys the support of the local population in northwestern Syria where many see it as a powerful faction confronting President Bashar Assad's army and his allies.

On Wednesday, HTS issued a statement saying that two of its members were found killed near the northwestern village of Sarjeh and blamed Suqour al-Sham, a strong ally of Ahrar al-Sham for the killing.

In the northern city of Raqqa, the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces pressed ahead in their offensive aiming to retake the de facto capital of IS. The attack on the city began on June 6.

IS released a video showing its fighters being trained as snipers to target SDF fighters. The video claimed that 164 SDF fighters had been killed in Raqqa over the past month.

It was not possible to confirm the figure released by IS but SDF has been holding funerals for fighters who died in Raqqa over the past weeks. **AP**

Zeynep Bilginsoy,
Suzan Fraser

TURKEY

One year since failed coup marked with huge march

PRESIDENT Recep Tayyip Erdogan vowed to "rip the heads off" of terror groups and coup-plotters who tried to end his more than decade-long rule on Saturday, as Turkey marked the anniversary of the country's crushed military coup with a series of rallies and other commemorative events.

Accompanied by his family and the families of the victims of the coup, Erdogan joined a massive, flag-waving crowd near the iconic July 15 Martyrs' Bridge in Istanbul to remember 250 people who died on July 15, 2016 resisting the coup.

He inaugurated a hollow, globe-shaped monument featuring the names of the victims near the foot of the bridge, before flying to Ankara to attend a special session in parliament at the exact moment it was bombed a year ago. He also opened a second memorial opposite the grounds of his palace in Ankara.

"Exactly a year ago today, around this hour, a treacherous attempt took place," Erdogan told tens of thou-

sands of people in Istanbul who converged at the bridge following a "national unity march."

"The July 15 coup attempt is not the first attack against our country, and it won't be the last," he said, referring to a series of terror attacks that also hit the country. "For that reason, we'll first rip the heads off of these traitors."

The bridge was the scene of clashes between civilians and soldiers in tanks. At least 30 people died there and more than 2,000 were injured across Turkey in the struggle. Thirty-five coup plotters were also killed.

Photographs of the 250 "martyrs" were displayed on monitors and their names announced. Erdogan paid tribute to the victims saying they fought with their "bare hands" and "their faith" against the heavily armed coup-plotters.

Erdogan also told the crowd that he wants hun-

dreds of people who are on trial for plotting last year's failed coup to appear in court wearing the same type of outfit — similar to those that were worn by detainees at Guantanamo Bay. He also reiterated that he would approve a bill reinstating the death penalty if parliament proposed it.

Turkish soldiers attempted to overthrow the government and the president using tanks, warplanes and helicopters on July 15, 2016. The coup plotters declared their seizure of power on the state broadcaster, bombed the country's parliament and other key locations, and raided an Aegean resort where Erdogan had been on vacation. But Erdogan had already left and the coup attempt was put down by civilians and security forces.

Turkey blames U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gulen for orchestrating the coup and infiltrating state institutions. Gulen denies the

allegations.

In the aftermath of the coup attempt, Turkey declared a state of emergency that has been in place ever since, which has allowed the government to rule by decree and to dismiss tens of thousands of people from their jobs. More than 50,000 people have also been arrested for alleged links to Gulen and other groups.

Addressing thousands of people outside of the parliament's building, Erdogan said the country's highest security advisory body would on Monday consider further extending the state of emergency. He said the failed coup had allowed Turkey to distinguish its friends from its foes but would not name the countries saying he wanted to avoid "a serious international crisis."

In the latest government decree published Friday evening, 7,395 more state employees were fired, including teachers, academi-



Erdogan waves to his supporters as he arrives to commemorate the one year anniversary of the July 15, 2016 failed coup attempt

cs, military and police officers, bringing the number of dismissed to more than 110,000. The government calls the crackdown necessary to purge state institutions of those linked to Gulen, but critics say the dismissals are arbitrary and the victims' paths to recourse severely curtailed.

"It has been exactly one year since Turkey's darkest and longest night was transformed into a bright day, since an enemy occupation turned into the people's legend," Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said earlier in the day at a special parliamentary session in Ankara, the capital, attended by Erdogan.

The U.S. State Department on Saturday issued a statement praising the bravery of the Turkish people who took to the streets

to "preserve the rights and freedoms of their democratic society."

"The preservation of democracy requires perseverance, tolerance, dissent and safeguards for fundamental freedoms," the agency said, warning that curbs on those key freedoms erode "the foundations of democratic society."

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg paid homage to those who lost lives resisting the coup and said attempts to undermine democracy in any one of the allied nations was "unacceptable."

July 15 has been declared a national holiday in Turkey. Tens of thousands of people were holding "democracy vigils" — similar to vigils held in the days following the coup. **AP**

Iran detains president's brother, sentences American

IRAN'S judiciary said yesterday that the brother of President Hassan Rouhani has been detained and an American citizen has been sentenced to 10 years behind bars for "infiltrating" the country.

The identity of the U.S. citizen was not immediately clear and did not directly match the background of anyone known to be held in the Islamic Republic.

Judiciary spokesman Gholamhosein Mohseni Ejehi announced both developments during a regular press briefing with local journalists.

He said Rouhani's brother, Hossein Fereidoun, was taken into custody over allegations of financial impropriety and is eligible for bail, but has not paid it yet.

Fereidoun is a close confidante of the moderate president, a cleric who changed his surname to Rouhani, meaning "spiritual," after joining the seminary decades ago.

Fereidoun was part of the negotiating team that ultimately sealed Iran's landmark nuclear deal with world powers in 2015, winning the country relief from international sanctions in exchange for limits on its atomic energy program.

The deal was unpopular with Iranian hard-liners, whose influence runs deep within the judiciary. They saw the nuclear deal as giving too much away in exchange for too little.

Fereidoun has long been a target of hard-liners, who have accused him of misdeeds including money laundering and misappropriation of government funds.

The unproven allegations were a flashpoint during the May presidential election, with the president's hard-line challengers demanding that the judiciary investigate accusations against Fereidoun. Rouhani trounced his nearest opponent to secure a second term in office in the first round of voting.

The U.S. citizen whose sentence was also announced yesterday faces 10 years in prison.

"It was verified and determined that he was gathering [information] and was involved in infiltration," Ejehi said.

The judiciary spokesman did not elaborate on what specific charges led to the conviction, which he said could be appealed, or say when the verdict was handed down.

The suspect was not named but



Hossein Fereidoun, brother and top aide of Iranian President Hassan Rouhani

was described as a dual national of the United States and another foreign country.

The most likely possibility is that Ejehi was referring to Nizar Zakka, a U.S. permanent resident from Lebanon who advocates for Internet freedom. He lives in Washington D.C. and has done work for the U.S. government. He went missing in Iran in September 2015.

Permanent residents do not hold

American citizenship, but they have the right to live in the U.S. indefinitely and are eligible to apply for it after living in the country for several years.

Zakka, however, was already known to have been sentenced to 10 years behind bars last year after being accused of espionage-related charges.

Other American dual nationals who have been taken into custody and remain in Iran include Iranian-American businessman Siamak Namazi and his 81-year-old father, Baquer Namazi. They are both serving 10-year sentences for "cooperating with the hostile American government."

Another Iranian-American, Robin Shahini, was released on bail last year after staging a weeks-long hunger strike while serving an 18-year prison sentence for "collaboration with a hostile government."

Iranian-American art gallery manager Karan Vafadari and his Iranian wife were detained last year but have yet to be convicted of a crime.

Still missing is former FBI agent Robert Levinson, who vanished in Iran in 2007 while on an unauthorized CIA mission.

Egypt says 31 police injured in clashes

Egypt's Interior Ministry said 31 policemen were injured Sunday in clashes with residents of a Nile river island on the southern fringes of Cairo. A ministry statement said the violence began when police attempted to remove illegal buildings on state land on al-Waraq island. Residents attacked the police with birdshot guns and rocks, it added. The police responded with tear gas.

White House plans 'Made in America' week

The White House is dubbing the coming week "Made in America week" as it tries to break through the noise surrounding the Russia investigation and focus on issues that matter to President Donald Trump's base. Director of media affairs Helen Aguirre Ferre tells reporters Sunday that the White House will be holding a "Made in America" product showcase Monday featuring products from all 50 states.



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what's ON



THE 19TH MACAU INTERNATIONAL SALON OF PHOTOGRAPHY

TIME: 9am-7pm

UNTIL: July 28, 2017

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2857 2770

LOOKING THROUGH THE FOG - JOSÉ DORES SOLO EXHIBITION

TIME: 11am-10pm

UNTIL: August 21, 2017

VENUE: IFT Cafe, Anim'Arte Nam Van

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2856 1252

Offbeat



LIGHTING SHOULD HAVE ALERTED PILOTS OF POTENTIAL DISASTER

Investigators looking into the frighteningly close call involving an airliner that nearly hit planes on the ground at San Francisco International Airport will try to determine why the pilots made such a rookie mistake and nearly landed on a busy taxiway instead of the runway.

The Air Canada plane with 140 people aboard came within 100 feet of crashing onto the first two of four passenger-filled planes readying for takeoff.

Runways are edged with rows of white lights, and another system of lights on the side of the runway helps guide pilots on their descent. By contrast, taxiways have blue lights on the edges and green lights down the center.

"The lighting is different for good reason," said Steven Wallace, a former director of accident investigations at the Federal Aviation Administration. "Some of these visual mistakes are hard to believe, but a crew gets fixated with thinking 'That's the runway,' and it's not."

Then there is the radio transmission in which one of the Air Canada pilots sounded puzzled about seeing what appeared to be the lights of other planes on the runway. Safety experts said that should have prompted the crew to abort their approach long before they did.

Pilots said so-called glide slope technology in modern airliners also should have helped the crew find the runway unless they failed to set it up as they approached the airport.

"This was a clear crew error with many facets, I suspect," said Alan Price, a former chief pilot for Delta.

When investigators interview the pilots, they will focus on understanding how mistakes occurred "and why they did not realize the sequence of errors," said John Cox, a safety consultant and former airline pilot. Investigators will look at the pilots' use of automated-flying systems, their manual flying skills, and how they interacted with each other as uncertainty set in, he said.

Taxiway landings are rare, and most of them involve small planes. In February, actor Harrison Ford landed his single-engine propeller plane on a taxiway at John Wayne Airport in Southern California after narrowly missing an American Airlines plane with 100 passengers. The actor, an experienced pilot, realized his mistake immediately and was not punished by the FAA.

Some airliners have mistakenly landed or taken off from taxiways.

In 2006 a Continental Airlines jet passed through rain that reduced visibility before landing on a taxiway in Newark, New Jersey. The captain took control of the plane from the co-pilot when he realized the mistake.

In 2009, a Delta Air Lines jet landed on a taxiway in Atlanta. In 2015, an Alaska Airlines jet landed safely on a taxiway between runways in Seattle.

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
18:40	Non-Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Sport
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

13 - 19 JUL

CARS 3

ROOM 1

2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00pm

Director: Brian Fee

Starring: Owen Wilson, Cristela Alonzo, Chris Cooper

Language: Cantonese

Duration: 102min

DESPICABLE ME 3

ROOM 1

10:00pm

Director: Eric Guillon, Kyle Balda, Pierre Coffin

Starring: Steve Carell, Kristen Wiig, Trey Parker

Language: Cantonese

Duration: 90min



WAR OF THE PLANET OF THE APES

ROOM 2

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

(3D) 7:15pm

Director: Matt Reeves

Starring: Woody Herrelson, Sara Canning, Judy Greer

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 140min

SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING

ROOM 3

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

Director: Jon Watts

Starring: Tom Holland, Michael Keaton, Robert Downey Jr.

Language: English

Duration: 133min

MACAU TOWER

6 - 26 JUL



SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING

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

Director: Jon Watts

Starring: Tom Holland, Michael Keaton, Robert Downey Jr.

Language: English

Duration: 133min

this day in history



1979 SANDINISTA REBELS TAKE NICARAGUAN CAPITAL

Fighters of the left-wing Sandinista National Liberation Front have overthrown the regime in the central American republic of Nicaragua and taken the capital, Managua.

The notorious US-trained National Guard has crumbled and its surviving commanders are negotiating a surrender.

In the last six weeks Sandinista fighters have gained control of 27 cities around the capital as well as the southern part of Nicaragua that borders Costa Rica.

President Anastasio Somoza Debayle - the third member of the Somoza dynasty to rule Nicaragua since 1937 - has fled to the United States.

This evening he abandoned the battle-torn capital with about 45 other people in five planes that landed at Homestead US Air Force base near Miami, Florida.

Earlier, he had presented his resignation to the Congress and handed over to the chairman of the lower house, Francisco Urcuyo, who is now caretaker president.

Mr Urcuyo has declared the Sandinistas will have no part in his new government and demanded they lay down their arms. But the Sandinista-backed provisional government currently based in the city of Leon is expected to force Mr Urcuyo to resign.

The Sandinistas, named after Nicaraguan resistance leader Augusto Cesar Sandino, was set up in 1962 by Carlos Fonseca Amador, Silvio Mayorga and Tomas Borge. For the last seven years they have waged a civil war against the Somoza government.

Fighting has been at its most intense in the last two months and thousands have been killed and about half a million left homeless.

Last year, the assassination of the leader of the opposition Democratic Liberation Union, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, triggered a general strike and brought together moderates, the Roman Catholic Church and the Sandinistas in a united front against Mr Somoza.

The Americans have long supported the Somoza regime but realizing that the Sandinista rebels had the upper hand in the war, US officials have spent the last few weeks trying to persuade President Somoza to step down assuring him that his Liberal Party and the National Guard would survive.

Last week, William Bowdler, a special American envoy, began talks with members of the provisional government asking them to enlarge the junta by including representatives of the National Guard and Liberal Party. His request was rejected.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

President Urcuyo fled to Guatemala the following evening and the Sandinistas established a revolutionary government two days later on 20 July. Led by Daniel and Humberto Ortega, they published a guarantee of civil rights and appointed a council of state, prior to an elected national assembly and a new constitution.

General Somoza was killed in a gun and bomb attack on him in Paraguay in September 1980.

In November that year, Ronald Reagan was elected US President and Nicaragua's relations with the US deteriorated rapidly.

The Reagan administration tried to destabilize Nicaragua's left-wing government by supporting the counter-revolutionary forces, the Contras. Total US aid to the Contras was \$300 million.

Covert Central Intelligence Agency operations, including the mining of Nicaraguan harbors in 1984, were condemned by the International Court of Justice in 1986.

The Sandinistas won a decisive victory in 1984 elections and Daniel Ortega was made president.

In 1988 the Nicaraguan leadership held talks and signed a peace agreement with the Contras.

But in elections two years later, a US-backed center-right National Opposition Union defeated the Sandinistas, ending their decade-long spell in power.

The US lifted its economic embargo in March. By the end of June 1990 the Contra rebel army had been disbanded.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 This is one of those days - one of those days when just about everything goes right.

Taurus April 20-May 20 You've been working really hard with a bit more gusto than usual for the past six weeks.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Suddenly, a weight will be lifted from your shoulders, a situation that just wouldn't allow itself to be solved.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Although it sounds like it might be tough to turn something wonderful into something tricky, if you're too good to someone else, your sweetheart could easily become jealous.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Life is good, love is grand and the world is a wonderful place to be. One of you has finally gotten up the courage to mention exactly how you feel and the other has responded with an enthusiastic 'me too!'

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 The next six weeks are going to knock your romantic socks off - lots of flirtation and love at every turn.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 If you want it, you can have it now. There's just no other way to say it. If you really want it, you won't be shy about letting that fact be known.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You never bet on anything - or anyone - unless you're sure it's a well-calculated risk.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 It's often been said that you Sagittarians are the 'favorites of the Gods' because you're their clowns.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Your friends will definitely not recognize you for a while, maybe even a long while.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 This is one of those very few days out of every year when the universe smiles on us all.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 This secret can only be entrusted to someone you know will take it to their grave, unless you give them the green light.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle.

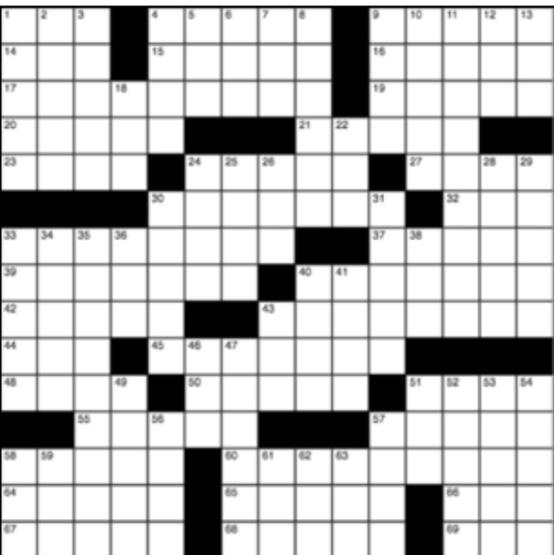
WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- FedEx rival; 4- Pago Pago locale; 9- Apportion; 14- Actress Arthur; 15- Communion table; 16- Geneva's lake; 17- Vibrate; 19- Planet's path; 20- It comes from the heart; 21- Teacher; 23- General ___ chicken; 24- The Hunter; 27- A small town; 30- Shut in; 32- ___ Canals; 33- You're on!; 37- Spring up; 39- Novelty; 40- Side by side; 42- Moan; 43- Simple cell division; 44- Bruins legend; 45- Abdomen; 48- I did it!; 50- Litmus reddeners; 51- Pitchfork-shaped letters; 55- Gaze intently; 57- Notre Dame's Fighting ___; 58- Marisa of 'My Cousin Vinny'; 60- Greek philosopher; 64- Light ___; 65- ___ Dame; 66- A really big shoe?; 67- Young rabbit; 68- Water vapor; 69- Common ID;

DOWN: 1- Lusitania sinker; 2- Mexican money; 3- Prefix with lilac; 4- Room in a casa; 5- Wholly; 6- 1959 Kingston Trio hit; 7- Muesli bit; 8- 'Am not!' rejoinder; 9- One-armed bandit; 10- Judean king; 11- Foods of the gods; 12- Thor Heyerdahl craft; 13- Med. specialty; 18- T.G.I.F. part; 22- Young ___; 24- Till stack; 25- Some VCRs; 26- Under the weather; 28- Big name in vermouth; 29- Writers of verse; 30- Perfect places; 31- 71% is under water; 33- Gold bar; 34- ___ cotta; 35- Fencer; 36- Santa ___ winds; 38- Rock's ___ Speedwagon; 40- Diary of ___ Housewife; 41- Some pens; 43- Parisian pal; 46- It paves the way; 47- Vast seas; 49- Had dinner at home; 51- Debate side; 52- Locations; 53- Capri and Man; 54- Luster; 56- Breezy; 57- Gossip bit; 58- Bar bill; 59- Buckeyes' sch.; 61- Decay; 62- Suffix with meteor; 63- Madrid Mrs.;



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
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TENNIS

Federer wins 8th Wimbledon title, beating Cilic in final

Howard Fendrich

ROGER Federer's wait for No. 8 at Wimbledon is over. He is once again the champion of the grass-court Grand Slam tournament, now more often than any other man in the history of an event first held in 1877.

Federer won his eighth title at the All England Club and 19th major trophy overall, capping a marvelous fortnight in which he never dropped a set by overwhelming Marin Cilic 6-3, 6-1, 6-4 yesterday in a lopsided final that was more coronation than contest.

When it ended, with an ace from Federer after merely 1 hour, 41 minutes, he raised both arms overhead. A minute or so later, he was sitting on the sideline, wiping tears from his eyes.

"I always believed that I could maybe come back and do it again. And if you believe, you can go really, really far in your life, and I did that," Federer said. "And I'm happy I kept on believing and dreaming and here I am today for the eighth. It's fantastic."

He turns 36 on Aug. 8, making him the oldest man to win Wimbledon in the Open era, and is a father of four. Both of his sets of twins — boys, 3, in their light blue blazers; girls, 7, in their dresses — were in the guest box for the trophy ceremony.

One son stuck a couple of fingers in his mouth; a daughter grabbed her brother's hand. "They have no clue what's on. They think it's probably a nice view and a nice playground. But it's not quite like that here, so one day hopefully they'll understand," Federer said about his boys. As for the girls, he said: "They enjoy to watch a little



bit. They come for the finals, I guess."

When Dad is Roger Federer, you can wait until the last Sunday to show up.

Truly, this outcome was only in doubt for about 20 minutes, the amount of time it took Federer to grab his first lead. Cilic, whose left foot was treated by a trainer in the late going, was never able to summon the intimidating serves or crisp volleys that carried him to his lone Grand Slam title at the 2014 U.S. Open, where he surprisingly beat Federer in straight sets in the semifinals. This one was all Federer, who last won Wimbledon in 2012.

That seventh championship pulled Federer even with Pete Sampras and William Renshaw in what's still officially called Gentlemen's Singles. Sampras won all but one of his in the 1990s; Renshaw won each of his

in the 1880s, back in the days when the previous year's champion advanced automatically to the final and therefore was able to successfully defend a title with one victory.

Federer had come close to bettering his predecessors but couldn't quite do it. He lost in the 2014 and 2015 Wimbledon finals to Novak Djokovic — "Tough ones," Federer called them Sunday — and in the semifinals last year after erasing match points to get past Cilic in a five-set quarterfinal.

With clouds overhead and a bit of chill in the air, Federer's early play, in general, was symptomatic of jitters. For everything he's accomplished, for all of the bright lights and big settings to which he's become accustomed, the guy many have labeled the "GOAT" — Greatest of All Time — admits to feeling heavy legs

and jumbled thoughts at important on-court moments to this day.

And so it was that Federer, not Cilic, hit a double-fault in each of his first two service games. And it was Federer, not Cilic, who faced the match's initial break point, 15 minutes in, trailing 2-1 and 30-40. But Cilic netted a return there, beginning a run of 17 points in a row won by Federer on his serve. He would never be confronted with another break point.

"I gave it my best," Cilic said. "That's all I could do."

It was as if the first indication of the slightest bit of trouble jolted Federer.

In the very next game, Federer broke to lead 3-2. He broke again to take that set when Cilic double-faulted, walked to the changeover and slammed his racket on his sideline chair. Cilic then sat and covered his head with a white towel.

After Federer raced to a 3-0 lead in the second set, Cilic cried while he was visited by a doctor and trainer. At that moment, it wasn't clear, exactly, what might have been ailing Cilic. During a later medical timeout, Cilic's left foot was re-taped by the trainer.

Federer would break to a 4-3 edge in the third set and all that remained to find out was how he'd finish. It was with his eighth ace, at 114 mph (184 kph), part of a total of 23 winners. He made only eight unforced errors.

This caps a remarkable reboot for Federer, who departed Wimbledon a year ago with a lot of doubts. He had lost in the semifinals, yes, but more troublesome was that his body was letting him down for the first time in his career.

Earlier in 2016, he had surgery on his left knee, then sat out the French Open because of a bad back, ending a record streak of participating in 65 consecutive majors. Then, after Wimbledon, he did not play at all the rest of the year, skipping the Rio Olympics, the U.S. Open and everything else in an attempt to let his knee fully heal.

It worked. Did it ever.

Feeling refreshed and fully fit, Federer returned to the tour in January and was suddenly playing like the guy of old, rather than like an old guy. **AP**

MUGURUZA BEATS 'ROLE MODEL' WILLIAMS

GARBINE MUGURUZA Muguruza powered her way to her first Wimbledon championship by playing fearlessly and dominating down the stretch, putting together a 7-5, 6-0 victory over a fading

Venus Williams by claiming the final's last nine games. "It's great to go out there and play somebody that you admire," Muguruza said. "I knew she was going to make me suffer and fight for it."

F1

Hamilton wins British GP, cuts Vettel's lead to 1 point

Rob Harris, Silverstone

LEWIS Hamilton slashed Sebastian Vettel's Formula One championship lead to one point by winning a record-equating fifth British Grand Prix yesterday as his title rival was left reeling by a late puncture.

Vettel was in third heading into the penultimate lap at Silverstone only to

see his front left tire shred — immediately after Ferrari teammate Kimi Raikkonen's car experienced the same fate.

Raikkonen still made the podium by replacing Vettel in third, but the championship leader fell back to seventh as the 25-point lead he held over Hamilton going into the 10th round of the 20-race season was all but wiped out on an over-

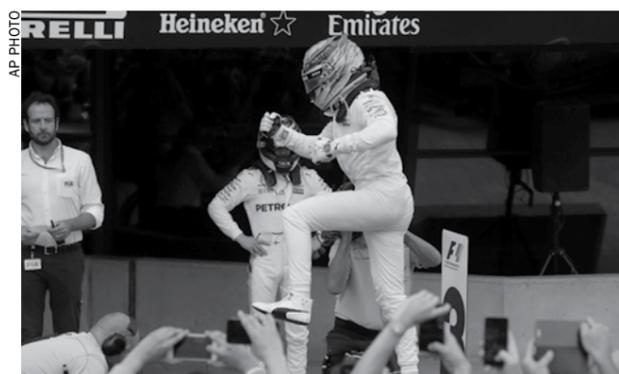
cast afternoon in central England.

It capped a dominant weekend for Hamilton in front of his home fans and the three-time world champion was assisted by Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas making up seven places to join him on the podium after finishing second.

"Great drive by Valtteri," Hamilton said over the team radio after claiming

victory. "Fantastic job, all weekend."

For Hamilton, the victory after failing to make the podium in his last two races will vindicate the decision to embark on a two-day holiday to Greece after last weekend's Austrian GP. The jaunt annoyed racing fans in London who turned up to a flagship showcase of the sport that was attended by the other 19 drivers. **AP**



Lewis Hamilton celebrates after winning during the British F1 Grand Prix

opinion

Rear Window
 Severo Portela



SHORT SUPPLY

There has been a sudden change this summer; almost all established civic associations and local heavyweights (an informal designation given to political figures in positions of power) seem to have found the button to refresh their respective lists of candidates for their September 17 direct elections to the Legislative Assembly (AL). This is the kind of change nobody would dare to seriously question, let alone argue against: to replace the old with the new, from those who have given years of service to those who are presumably ready to transform, to innovate and instigate change, is common sense. However, the MSAR has developed ways to challenge and subvert straightforward propositions during this handover process, sometimes to the point where the proposition has been changed so drastically that it becomes the opposite of its earlier draft.

The conservative pundits and players, sometimes called by the petit nom of traditionalists, have long been protecting political inertia by citing their belief that new (political) talent is a scarce commodity in the Special Administrative Region.

From here, let us try to follow the peculiar syllogisms and particular reasoning of the scarcity of political talent argument as both the basis to refresh and to not refresh. Without giving a thought to the possibility of the old political talent pool as not being so talented, we now consider the call to bring new faces to the AL floor. While stating the almost imperative obligation to rejuvenate the lists of candidates, at the same time, they are wondering whether the refreshment will represent an objective impoverishment of the political debate at the Legislative Assembly. That is to say we are going from scarcity as insufficiency to scarcity as inadequacy!

But things can and do get worse. Not only is there the negative perception of a youth-led organization comprised of inexperienced legislators at the Nam Van Lake, but there is also the preemptive assumption that the AL's capacity to make sound decisions has been downgraded. These perceptions are being highlighted to elliptically justify the option of offering tutelage dressed as electoral law. On closer examination, this tutelage makes a mockery of a genuine electoral framework. And here we go from minus to hellish in two strokes.

There is a strong possibility that pro-democrats will be running under New Macau Association's leadership ticket: Sulu Sou and Chan Wai Chi, and split-listed Ng Kuok Cheong and Au Kam San, will find themselves out of the Legislative Assembly. Even veteran Lawmaker Pereira Coutinho is in dire straits to keep his own seat, let alone his second.

Of course, there is nobody irreplaceable in the direct-elected benches. But what will the noble house look like without a democrat voice? Perhaps, it will take the shape of corporative get-together...with a possibility of entertainment.

Final notes on the disclosure of a Civil Watch political candidate: speculations are taking into consideration Civil Watch's diluted political program and their connection to the Chinese People's Political Conference in Hebei. Once believed to be an advocate for the alternative pro-democracy element, Agnes Lam delivered a proposal with eight major topics, like environment and health, to improve Macau. She is running high with the professional sectors that are willing to cooperate to introduce "evidence-based opinions".

Finally, believing that evidence-based opinions are the best, we are waiting for the decision Secretary Sonia Chan will make on Nine's (9) proposal to overcome the Land Law and consider the Pearl Horizon a "special situation". Chan's decision will determine whether the term "special situation" will mean that those responsible for Pearl Horizon have eluded any legal recourse.

THE BUZZ ARSON SUSPECT ARRESTED AFTER CHINA HOUSE FIRE KILLS 22

Authorities apprehended a man suspected of setting fire to a two-story house in eastern China yesterday, killing 22 people, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

Investigators discovered traces of gasoline at the scene of the pre-dawn fire in Jiangsu province and found all the doors of the house locked, according to the national work safety agency.

The house, located in the city of Changshu, about 80 kilometers northwest of Shanghai, was

used as a dormitory for 29 people working at a local restaurant, according to The Beijing News newspaper. The residents were mostly migrant workers in their 20s working as waitresses and cooks, the report said.

Three people were injured in the blaze.

The man who was apprehended is surnamed Jiang, Xinhua reported, without giving more details. Changshu's city government said the fire broke out at around 4:30 a.m.

CHINA

Legal activist released at end of 4-year prison term

A Chinese legal activist who founded a loose network of socially conscious citizens was released from prison Saturday at the end of a four-year sentence, his lawyer said.

Xu Zhiyong helped found the New Citizens Movement, which at the time organized monthly dinners to discuss China's constitution and other legal issues.

Zhang Qingfang, Xu's attorney, said he was freed Saturday morning from a prison in Beijing. He said Xu was in good health, but had no further details to share.

It was not immediately clear if despite his release Xu's movement continued to be restricted. Authorities commonly place activists under some form of house arrest to prevent them from speaking publicly. Xu could not be reached on his cellphone.

Xu was convicted in January 2014 of disrupting order in public places, a vaguely defined charge that activists say has been used to muzzle government critics.

Xu's arrest in 2013 and imprisonment was seen as dealing a major blow to the group's efforts to develop a socially conscious public



In this July 17, 2009, file photo, legal scholar Xu Zhiyong is seen at a meeting in Beijing

aware of their rights as citizens to call for greater official accountability in anything from corruption to equal rights to education.

Xu and his supporters purposely kept the movement unstructured so as not to challenge the party's zero intolerance on organized movements. They downplayed any political appeals and championed causes that were in line with the party's own stated goals.

Still, Xu's fledgling campaign became a target after it inspired people across the country to gather for dinner parties to discuss social issues and occasionally to unfurl banners in public places in small rallies.

Several of his supporters had also been sentenced to prison in 2014 in prosecutions that raised concerns among Western governments and human rights groups. American and European diplomats made unsuccessful attempts to attend the trials.

The sentences, derided by other dissidents as excessively heavy, reflect the increasingly hard line that China's Communist Party has taken against political dissent, no matter how peacefully expressed or loosely organized. Party leaders have been wary of any independent social force with the potential to threaten the party's rule by mobilizing groups of people. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



Paulo Barbosa

Another "can't do" in Macau. It is now forbidden to cycle at the Nam Van Nautical Center, which is one of the few traffic-free places in the downtown area where children could have learnt how to ride a bicycle. One wonders if the reasoning behind the prohibition is the safety of minors, given the closeness to the lake. This concern could have been accommodated with signs insisting that children riding bicycles are to be accompanied by their parents or a guardian. If the intention was to minimize children's proximity to dangerous environments, it seems ineffective. Given the new measure, children now cycle at the square upstairs, close to traffic.

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	10-30 Good	
High Density Residential Area	10-30 Good	
Ambient	10-30 Good	

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS



PARIS A boat that fuels itself is setting off around the world from Paris on a six-year journey that its designers hope will serve as a model for emissions-free energy networks of the future.

GERMAN authorities say a South Korean airliner headed for Switzerland was escorted to Stuttgart Airport by two German military jets after losing radio contact. Police said officials determined after the Boeing 777 landed safely on Saturday evening that there was a problem with the aircraft's radio equipment.



POLAND Thousands of government opponents gathered in Warsaw and other cities in Poland yesterday to protest the latest changes in legislation that reorganized the judiciary.

EUROPEAN UNION Authorities have arrested at least 66 people in a European food scam which sold horse meat unfit for human consumption. European Union police coordinating organization Europol announced yesterday that eight nations cooperated in the operation. In Spain, 65 people face a series of charges relating to public health, money laundering and animal abuse.

SENEGAL Witnesses said at least eight people have died and more than 50 were injured after a stadium wall collapse and stampede at a football match in the Senegalese capital. Those present said fighting broke out late Saturday between rival fans of US Ouakam and Stade de Mbour and the wall at the Demba Diop stadium in Dakar collapsed as police also fired tear gas.