



SURFACING OF BRIDGE'S MAIN BODY FINISHED

The leveling of the surface on the main part of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge has now been completed

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WYNN LOST USD10M ON BACCARAT

Steve Wynn revealed that a junket operator brought in clients whose winnings cost the casino more than USD10m

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TENSIONS ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA

The U.S. flew supersonic bombers over S. Korea following Pyongyang's latest intercontinental ballistic missile test

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WORLD BRIEFS

AP PHOTO



VENEZUELA President Nicolas Maduro asked for global acceptance yesterday as he cast an unusual pre-dawn vote for an all-powerful constitutional assembly that his opponents fear he'll use to replace his country's democracy with a single-party authoritarian system. Reports have emerged that several people were killed shortly before the voting began, including a leading candidate in the election. [More on p15](#)

VIETNAM A fire broke out at a small cake factory in Vietnam's capital on Saturday, killing eight workers and seriously injuring two others.

PHILIPPINES Police in the southern Philippines said they fatally shot 15 people yesterday, including a city mayor, in the bloodiest assault so far in President Rodrigo Duterte's anti-drug crackdown. [More on p13](#)

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FINANCIAL TIMES

Music

All you need is pop

Ng Lap Seng convicted in UN bribery case

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AP PHOTO



BLOOMBERG



Singapore and Hong Kong's airport dominance is under threat

P10

Macau and Liaoning sign consumer protection protocol

The Consumer Council and Liaoning Province Consumer Association have signed a consumer protection protocol. The protocol safeguards customers in both Macau and Liaoning, where consumers can now lodge complaints at either the Consumer Council in Macau or the Consumer Association in Liaoning, if consumer disputes arise. Upon receiving a complaint, the council or association will transfer the case to the other party within 15 days to follow up accordingly. In addition, the council and the association have agreed to provide a list of "Certified Shops" and "Consumer Alerts" on their websites and the council's WeChat account for consumers' reference. Both parties will also carry out information exchange, staff training and promotional efforts.

'Traditional Chinese virtues' stamp packs to launch

The Macao Post and the Telecommunications Bureau will launch the thematic stamp pack "Traditional Chinese Virtues" on August 8. The pack will comprise three stamp issues including "Filial Love" from 2002, "Ethics and Moral Values" from 2007 and this year's "Traditional Chinese Culture". The stamp series intends to convey "traditional Chinese virtues" to the next generation, and spread the education and knowledge of familial love and sincerity. The packs will be available for sale at various local post offices and at the Communications Museum, and are priced at MOP90.

Macau wins three awards from travel association

Macau casino operators won three gold awards from the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) at this year's PATA Gold Awards. Sands China Limited won two PATA Gold Awards in the Environment - Corporate Environmental Program and Marketing Media categories, as well as Travel Advertisement Broadcast Media. Meanwhile, Melco Resorts and Entertainment won the PATA Gold Award for Marketing - Hospitality. The PATA Gold Awards luncheon and presentation will take place during PATA Travel Mart 2017, which will be held this September. PATA is a non-profit membership association that claims to be dedicated to fostering the sustainable development of Asia-Pacific's travel and tourism industry.

Some exhibitors seen packing early at Franchise Expo

Lynzy Valles

THE 2017 Macao Franchise Expo (MFE), an annual event for the franchising industry, ended yesterday after attracting more than 140 international exhibitors.

During last year's edition, the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) attracted 17,000 visitors and hosted 1,314 business negotiation sessions. This year, according to IPIM, it attracted about 24,000 visitors, including nearly 5,600 professional visitors. A total of 101 business matching sessions took place during the event.

However, the Times talked with some booth exhibitors who were not pleased with the attendance to the three-day event at The Venetian Macao. Some booths were already vacant yesterday afternoon, with some exhibitors preparing to pack their things.

Hong Kong-based Studio Fitness was among those that left the hall earlier. Its operations director, Jim Stephenson, said the platform was a good way to market the company in Macau and in the mainland market.

However, compared to other expos in which they have participated over the last two months, Stephenson described the MFE as a "more quiet show."

Despite the slow foot traffic of the event, Stephenson believed that the expo's visitors were keener on franchising the brand.

"Compared to a few shows, it's been a bit quieter. There's not as much foot traffic but of the foot traffic, they've been more qualified," he told the Times.

"They're a bit more serious and not just here to grab flyers and run away. It's [this show] more of quality, but not much quantity," Stephenson added.

He said a similar expo in Manila had been much busier, as they had engaged clients throughout the day. In the Macau exhibition, they saw "one almost every hour."

"It's quite a big difference, so we'll probably focus our efforts more on other shows," he said. "We would expect more people next time. If there aren't more people in the next show, not sure if [we'll] come again."



Jim Stephenson (right)



Aspect of the exhibition

The MFE promotes franchises and retail business collaborations through exhibitions, forums, business-matching sessions and promotional seminars.

International companies like Subway view the platform as a gateway to the Macau market.

Subway's Field and Development Operations for Hong Kong and Macau, Michael Kyprianou, said the fast-food firm aims to open at least 10 stores in Macau, and that the expo is a regional platform to find new investors and franchising partners.

Questioned by the Times if the expo met their expectations in terms of foot traffic, Kyprianou said there were "a lot of leads which they can follow up on."

He also revealed that there were businessmen from local casinos that are interested in the franchise.

Kyprianou stated that Subway had received several enquiries from the mainland market and had referred these to their mainland agency.

"We'll be back. Macau's an important market for Subway," he said, when asked whether he would participate in the 2018 MFE.

Compared to a few shows, it's been a bit quieter.

JIM STEPHENSON
STUDIO FITNESS

For the final day of the MFE, a "Start-up Launchpad" event was held for successful businesspeople to share their experiences with the audience, providing a learning opportunity for aspiring entrepreneurs or those looking to expand their business.

In a session titled "Road to Michelin Brand - Sharing by Lei's Cuisine," the managing director of Lei's cuisine, Lei Kai Tsao

shared the story behind the success of his Michelin-starred restaurant.

According to him, a number of restaurants in Macau started as family businesses and have struggled to keep up with today's culinary trends.

Lei told the press that Macau's food and beverage industry is continuously improving its quality and developing new offerings for its customers.

When asked how local restaurants are helping the government achieve its aim of becoming a UNESCO city for gastronomy, Lei noted that a number of operators are supporting the government's goal by sending chefs overseas for training.

"We're having training centers [...] so we'll try to have more trained chefs and will send chefs overseas [to gain] experience to contribute to Macau," he said.

Another highlight was the "Gourmet Avenue", which promoted local food and beverage products to help manufacturers expand their businesses abroad.

2017 GMBPF adds new exhibition and sales area

THE Guangdong & Macau Brand Products Fair (GMBPF) was also held alongside the 2017 MFE, assembling products from Guangdong, Indonesia, Macau, and Myanmar. This year, the new Myanmar Products Exhibition & Sales Area has infused the event with more diverse elements, according to the organizers.

Some 135 enterprises from Guangdong province exhibited foodstuff, daily goods, household appliances, souvenirs and other products across 194 booths.

IPIM said some featured products from last year's edition listed in categories such as "China Top Brand Products", "China Well-known Trademark" and "Guangdong Top Brand Products".

IPIM stated that some exhibitors said both sales and visitor numbers at the GMBPF surpassed expectations, and they expected final sales to soar yesterday.

A series of programs and games were held in Station Avenue, such as the "Sweet Carousel", "Macaron Ferris Wheel" and the "Mystic Egg."

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Ng Lap Seng convicted in United Nations bribery case

A Macau billionaire who wanted to build a United Nations center in Macau was convicted on Friday [Macau time] of paying more than USD1.7 million in bribes to U.N. ambassadors to get it done.

The verdict was returned after a day of deliberations in Manhattan federal court against Ng Lap Seng, one of China's richest men. Ng was convicted of bribery, conspiracy and money laundering charges.

Prosecutors presented evidence that Ng from 2010 to 2015 bribed two U.N. ambassadors, including a U.N. General Assembly president, paying one \$50,000 monthly at the scheme's peak to create a center to serve struggling Southern Hemisphere nations.

Defense lawyers contended the payments were ordinary. But the center was never built. Ng looked at jurors as the verdict was announced but otherwise did not display emotion.

U.S. District Judge Vernon S. Broderick tightened Ng's bail conditions, saying he was now "literally under house arrest," confined under \$50 million bail to a luxury Manhattan apartment where he has remained for most months under 24-hour guard since his September 2015 arrest.

"He cannot leave that apartment. No ifs, ands or buts about that," the judge said.



No sentencing date was set. Ng, 69, could face up to 65 years in prison.

Ng's lawyer, Tai Park, did not immediately comment. After the verdict, he told the judge there were multiple avenues for appeal. "Nothing has changed other than the presumption of innocence is no longer there," Park said. "We've been preparing him for this eventuality."

In a statement, Acting U.S. Attorney Joon H. Kim said Ng "cor-

rupted the highest levels of the United Nations."

"Through bribes and no-show jobs, Ng turned leaders of the league of nations into his private band of profiteers," Kim said.

The United Nations said it "cooperated extensively to facilitate the proper administration of justice in this case, by disclosing thousands of documents and waiving the immunity of officials to allow them to testify at trial."

"The organization is consid-

ring next steps as a victim of these crimes," U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said.

The verdict was a triumph for prosecutors who navigated thorny legal issues surrounding immunity given to U.N. diplomats before winning the cooperation of suspended Dominican Republic Ambassador Francis Lorenzo, who pleaded guilty to charges and testified against Ng.

Ng looked at jurors as the verdict was announced but otherwise did not display emotion

Lorenzo said Ng initially paid him \$20,000 a month as president of a media organization before boosting that by \$30,000 a month with instructions to get

Ng's construction company named on official U.N. documents as the company that would build the Macau center.

In closing arguments, Assistant U.S. Attorney Janis Echenberg said Ng paid more than \$1.7 million in bribes to build a U.N. facility as big as New York's, to create the "Geneva of Asia." She said Ng "corrupted the United Nations."

"Brick by brick, bribe by bribe, the defendant built the path that he thought would build his legacy," she said.

In closing, Park derided the prosecution as "frankly outrageous."

"It falls by its own weight," he said. "It's a big zero."

He blamed the ambassadors — former U.N. General Assembly President John Ashe and Lorenzo — for manipulating Ng.

"Mr. Ng literally threw his money in every direction he was asked," Park said.

Ashe, who was arrested in the case but was not charged with bribery, died last year in an accident at his home. **AP**

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HKZMB

Surfacing of bridge's main body finished

THE leveling of the surface on the main part of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB) has now been completed, the bridge authority announced on the weekend.

Some 700,000 square meters of the bridge's surface has been paved in preparation for vehicle traffic, and the main section is now finished.

The process of paving the bridge included the application of waterproof layers and the use of porous asphalt to protect the bridge's surface from the high level of humidity from the South China Sea. According to bridge authorities, the extra protection on the bridge's road surface should last for

approximately 15 years.

"The most important features of porous asphalt is its strong adaptability to the movement of the steel plates on the road," the deputy director of the Bridge Administration's Engineering Management Department told public broadcaster TDM. "At the same time it has a low absorbency rate so it can provide good protection to the steel plates."

The HKZMB has also been designed to withstand environmental phenomena that could potentially strike the Pearl River Delta estuary. According to the bridge authority, the bridge can endure a super typhoon as well as a magnitude 8 earthquake.



In May, Hong Kong's Independent Commission Against Corruption revealed a scandal involving the testing of concrete cubes used in the bridge's construction. It found that a government contractor had falsified the testing reports on more than 1 percent of

concrete samples, casting doubts on the bridge's safety.

Authorities in the two Special Administrative Regions have assured the public that the safety of the HKZMB has not been compromised. Macau's Chief Executive, Chui Sai On, testified last

month to the construction quality of the Macau section of the bridge.

The HKZMB will be the world's longest bridge over water, as it links the three southern Chinese cities in the Pearl River Delta estuary, and it is expected to open to vehicles later this year.

Although the project's final cost remains undisclosed, the bridge authority has previously estimated that it will exceed RMB115.9 billion (about MOP138.4 billion), more than double that forecasted in 2007.

The bridge has an expected lifespan of 120 years, slightly longer than most sea bridges, which are designed to last for a century. **DB**

TOURISM

Tour groups from India surge in June

INFORMATION

Ifrom the Statistics and Census Services (DSEC) indicated that the number of visitors on package tours decreased by 4.5 percent month-to-month to 670,000 in June this year, yet increased by 18.1 percent year-on-year.

Package tour visitors from mainland China (510,000), the Republic of Korea (40,000) and Taiwan (35,000) increased by 15.8 percent, 30.7 percent and 9.5 percent respectively year-on-year. Meanwhile, those from India (24,000) surged by 167.1 percent.

In the first half year of 2017, visitors



on package tours totaled 3,775,000, up by 10.3 percent year-on-year.

In June, outbound residents using travel agency services rose by 12.4 percent to 108,000 year-on-year.

Residents travelling on package tours went up by 16.8 percent, with those leaving for mainland China increasing by 12 percent to 29,000. In the first half of 2017, outbound residen-

ts using services of travel agencies totaled to 665,000, up by 10.9 percent year-on-year.

Meanwhile, there were 107 hotels and guesthouses operating at the end of June 2017. The number of guest rooms increased by 13.9 percent year-on-year to 37,000, with 33 five-star hotels offering 22,000 rooms (60.4 percent of the total), up by 7.3 percent.

The number of guests staying in hotels and guesthouses in June increased by 15.9 percent year-on-year to 1,091,000. Guests coming from mainland China (688,000), the Republic of Korea (41,000) and Hong Kong (150,000) grew by 17.3 percent, 102.1 percent and 2.7 percent respectively year-on-year. Those from Taiwan (42,000) recorded a decrease of 5.4 percent. The average length of guests' stays held stable at 1.4 nights. The average occupancy rate of hotels and guesthouses went up by 2.4 percentage points year-on-year to 85.1 percent, with occupancy of four-star hotels increasing by 2.4 percentage points to 88.1 percent.

For the first half of 2017, guests of hotels and guesthouses totaled 6,345,000, up by 15.8 percent year-on-year. The average occupancy rate of hotels and guesthouses was 84.2 percent, up by 4.9 percentage points.

DSAL hopes for work promotions for disabled

Atotal of 78 enterprises have been recognized yesterday for their efforts in hiring people with disabilities during the seventh edition of the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL)'s program to recognize outstanding employers who are dedicated to hiring people with disabilities.

Compared to the program's previous edition, which occurred in 2015, nine more employers were honored last week. In total, the 78 awarded enterprises in Macau recruited 325 disabled staff, representing a 13 percent increase in the number noted in the sixth edition (amounting to 36 additional employees).

Not only can the efforts of local employers be inferred from the number of honored companies and the number of disabled staff, but they can also be inferred from the number of sectors in which employees with disabilities are represented, the bureau said.

In the previous edition, employees with disabilities were employed across 17 industries, but this number expanded to 22 over the last two years.

DSAL Director Wong Chi Hong noted that among all of the 325 disabled staff, 35 percent, 13 percent and 12 percent work in gaming and hospitality industries, governmental organizations, and the cleaning industry respectively.

"As the disabled's education degrees and techniques improve continuously, they are already able to undertake jobs in more sectors and undertake more types of jobs," said Wong. "In the past, they mainly did basic-level tasks,



Vong Yim Mui

but in recent years they have been sitting in more professional and multi-cultural positions."

The director of the Social Welfare Bureau, Vong Yim Mui, said that "nowadays, regardless of the size of the enterprises, they are all very willing to accept disabled employees, [...] the employment situation for the disabled is not bad currently."

"Hopefully, they can be given more opportunities to be promoted," noted Vong.

According to Vong, the general public and employers within Macau are giving more opportunities to people with disabilities. Even though only some are currently being employed, there are more individuals with disabilities who would like employment. Vong also informed that IAS is providing significant and varied assistance to help people with disabilities to obtain employment.

Vong disclosed that the government has already established subsidies for employers to encourage them to hire people with disabilities.

The awards program was established in 2005 and is held every two years. The first edition awarded 35 enterprises which came from 17 industries. **JZ**

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Local artists exhibition kicks off with 72 works

Julie Zhu

THE Collective Exhibition of Macau Artists – Exhibition of Works by Winners officially kicked off last Friday, at the Old Court Building.

In last year's edition of the Collective Exhibition of Macau Artists, young local art enthusiast Lam Wun Keng was awarded the 'Best Creation Special Prize' and 'Best Work-Western Painting'.

In addition, four artists received the New Talent Prizes. Chan In Iong took top honors in the category of Western painting while Chan Chong Hei, who started drawing different cartoon characters as a child and learned Chinese painting at the age of nine, won in the category of Chinese painting. Guan Seng Lok and Un Ka Ian came out top in the category of Chinese calligraphy, with both artists having won various Chinese calligraphy contests in the past.

This exhibition features 72 works by the aforementioned artists.

Among the works displayed in the exhibition, Lam Wung Keng presents a watercolor piece titled "Waves Scouting The Little Hill of Lions," in addition to prints created on red bricks, which reflects her emotional connection to the city and its development.

In turn, Chan In Iong seeks to break away from the traditional layout of western painting, especially in her much-lauded work "Amusement Park", which portrays the emotions of ima-



ginary persons as they play the carousel in children parks and explores issues related to each individual's growth.

At the opening ceremony, the President of the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), Leung Hio Ming, said that the IC "has always been actively pushing forward Macau's visual art's development and encouraging local artists to actively create artworks."

Leung mentioned that the artists featured in this year's exhibition offer a great variety of themes and styles that showcase each artist's unique characteristics.

Leung hopes that this exhibition will help the public to place more importance on the future development of local young artists, and also experience the atmosphere created by all the artists.

The 32nd Collective Exhibition of Macau Artists Exhibition of Works by Winners runs from 29 July to 27 August and is open daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Admission is free.

FSS explains non-mandatory central provident fund

THE Social Security Fund (FSS) met with the representatives of local fund management entities and the Macau Monetary Authority (AMCM) to discuss the implementation and processes of the central provident fund as well as the timeline for the entry of the fund management entities.

At the meeting, FSS representatives introduced the contents of the forthcoming scheme and listened to the views of the fund management entities on the operating procedures of the non-mandatory central provident fund system.

The system's contributions are mainly overseen by the fund management entities. The FSS is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the system, while the AMCM monitors the

retirement fund products and oversees the operation of the fund management entities.

In addition, the FSS' one-stop online platform for information on the central provident fund is now being tested by the fund management entities. Once the system has been implemented, account owners can use the online platform to enquire about various funds, including the government-managed sub-account, contribution sub-account, performance of pension funds, and their respective fees and charges.

Moreover, the FSS will hold public seminars to introduce the system to representatives of different industries and to members of the public.

The non-mandatory central provident fund system is expected to be operational by January.

ADVERTORIAL

SANDS CHINA NEWS

Sands China Launches International Strategic Leadership Programme for Integrated Resorts

Customised programme sending local management team members to study at Católica Lisbon in Portugal and Cornell University in the United States – plus development in Macao from University of St. Joseph

Sands China Ltd. launched an innovative initiative July 18 – the Sands China International Strategic Leadership Programme for Integrated Resorts – with a kick-off ceremony at Sands Cotai Central.

In line with the direction set by the Macao SAR government, Sands China has been collaborating with universities and tertiary education institutions in Macao, including the University of Macau, the Macao Polytechnic Institute, the Institute for Tourism Studies and the Macau University of Science and Technology, to conduct a wide diversity of programmes through the Sands China Academy, a platform focusing on team member training and development, and the professional development of Macao locals.

Aimed at developing leaders in integrated resort management, the first-of-its-kind Sands China International Strategic Leadership Programme for Integrated Resorts will send a group of local management team members around the world to receive leadership development from three prestigious universities on three continents over the course of five months, taking advantage of the unique areas of industry expertise of each educational institution – the Católica Lisbon School of Business & Economics in Lisbon, Portugal; Cornell School of Hotel Administration in Ithaca, New York, USA; and the University of St. Joseph in Macao.



Team members and guests attend a kick-off ceremony for the Sands China International Strategic Leadership Programme for Integrated Resorts on 18 July at Sands Cotai Central.

Offering international horizons for 25 potential future leaders, the customised programme includes a business challenge – a practical component of the coursework for which participants will be asked to analyse a specific, real-world business challenge and develop a set of recommendations to deal with it, culminating with a presentation of their ideas to Sands China senior executives.

The Sands China International Strategic Leadership Programme for Integrated Resorts is the latest initiative of the Sands China Academy, specially designed in conjunction with Católica Lisbon, Cornell University and the University of St. Joseph in order to develop local leaders in integrated resort management.



Team members start their first training course right after the kick-off ceremony for the Sands China International Strategic Leadership Programme for Integrated Resorts on 18 July at Sands Cotai Central.

"Sands China remains committed to developing Macao's local talent, and we will continue working alongside the Macao SAR government and with educational institutions to help team members grow and thrive both personally and professionally," said Dr. Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China Ltd. "We firmly believe that what's good for their futures is good for the future of Macao."

Sands China values the development of a well-trained workforce, not only for growing its business regionally and internationally, but also as a way of supporting Macao's development into a world centre of tourism and leisure and contributing to non-gaming diversification in Macao. To that end, the company delivered more than 1.25 million paid training hours in 2016, averaging 427 team members trained each day.



Officiating guests kick off the Sands China International Strategic Leadership Programme for Integrated Resorts with a ceremony on 18 July at Sands Cotai Central.



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Daniela Wei

GAMING

How Steve Wynn lost USD10 million on baccarat

IN the casino business, it's a cliché that the house always wins. But at Wynn Resorts Ltd. last quarter, the tables turned.

Last week, casino billionaire Steve Wynn revealed that a junket operator in his Macau casinos - essentially a subcontractor - brought in clients whose winnings cost the casino more than USD10 million in April, an astonishing swing for a business that can generate profit of as much as \$50 million.

"We had probably the most unique statistical anomaly in my 50 years of doing this," the founder and chief executive officer of Wynn Resorts told analysts on a conference call. "And that is with enormous volume, one of our leading outlets lost money for the entire month."

The contractor was Suncity Group, one of Macau's largest junket operators, according to people familiar with the matter. Contacted by Bloomberg, Suncity said it didn't have any information to disclose about the matter.

The loss occurred at baccarat tables at the Wynn Palace, the new \$4.2 billion resort on Macau's Cotai Strip. In a system prevalent in that market, junket operators bring high rollers to the casinos, front them cash and set them up in private rooms. The casinos pay the operators a commission based



on the amount their clients bet, and are on the hook for the gamblers' winnings.

"The bottom fell out and all of the players won millions of dollars," said the 75-year-old casino mogul.

Gambling is a matter of probabilities, and with baccarat the swings can be extreme. The game attracts the biggest bettors in the world and offers among the best odds for players, with the house advantage averaging 1.2 percent. That means a player can expect to lose \$1.20 for every \$100 bet

over time. In slot machines it's as much as \$12.

Given the high volume of players and betting, being unprofitable for a whole month is unusual, said Robert Hannum, a professor of risk and gaming at the University of Denver.

The bottom fell out and all of the players won millions of dollars.

STEVE WYNN

"The odds are astronomically high," he said in an e-mail. "Of course, black swans do occur and some might say that anything can happen in the casino business."

The Wynn Palace, which opened in August of last year, has disappointed in other ways. Construction on all sides of the new property has hampered access, Wynn said. The shortfall there contributed to a second-quarter earnings miss at Wynn Resorts. The shares lost almost 8 percent of their value over the past two days.

The volatility of the business has prompted some casino operators to report their results on a hold-adjusted basis, meaning they also tell investors what revenue would have been had winnings been more in line with historical norms.

In January, Las Vegas Sands Corp. blamed one lucky gambler for contributing in part to a \$15 million to \$20 million shortfall at its new Parisian resort in Macau. Last week, the company said the volatile high-end baccarat play contributed to a \$100 million revenue bump at its Marina Bay Sands in Singapore.

"Let's be clear, we had a lot of luck this quarter," President Rob Goldstein said on an earnings call. "I think it bears repeating that this is a highly concentrated segment that a couple of dozen players can make a difference in a quarter." **Bloomberg**

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Cardiology : Dr. Wong Kwok Yiu Chris, Dr. Jin Chun, Dr. Leong Man Kin

Gastroentero-Hepatology : Dr. Zhan De Juan

General Medicine : Dr. Ng Kam Hong, Dr. Lam Weng Chio

Dietitian : Chan Lai U Joey

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For Rent



Riveira H Unit, Tower 1

(Ref: 17060650)
1,238sq. ft. HKD 16,500

Nice two double bedroom, one bathroom apartment. Good size living room with stunning views across the river to China and over the roof tops of Macau. Small fitted kitchen with laundry balcony. Semi furnished.



Coloane, 4 Storey Commercial Building

(Ref: 17040646)
4,003sq. ft. HKD 198,000

The property is a licensed commercial space spread over 4 floors including a basement, ground floor retail, and two upper floors in the heart of the unique Coloane village situated next door to the famous 'Lord Stow's Bakery'. The property features an elevator and staircase to access all floors, and is perfectly suited for a wide range of commercial activities.



Cheoc Van, Coloane

(Ref: 17060651)
6,222sq. ft. HKD 79,800

Combining dazzling sea views, stylish interiors and cavernous comfort, this multi-storey property is a rare find in Macao. In the lower ground floor sits a private swimming pool alongside a large entertainment area that is perfect for entertaining guests during a hot Macau summer. On the ground floor, you'll find a jazzy living space with the perfect amount of natural light entry. If you can take the elevator up to the 1st floor, you'll find two kitchens (yes, two)



Macau, One Central Residences

(Ref: 16050589)
1,819sq. ft. HKD25,000

Fully furnished. 3 Bedroom apartment. Full club facilities. Fantastic views over Nam Van lake and back across Macau city. Central location next to Wynn & MGM Resorts in Macau. Available for tenancy with a 2 year agreement.

For Sale



Lai Hou, Camoes Gardens, Macau

(Ref: 17070653)
400sq. ft. HKD 2.38M
Rate: HKD 5,950sq ft

Cute one bedroom apartment, renovated five years ago with stunning views over the old historical Morrison Chapel.



Hellene Gardens, Buttercup Court, G Unit

(Ref: 17055520)
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.

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STARBUCKS Corp. suffered its biggest stock decline in almost two years after cutting its forecast, renewing fears about sputtering growth at the world's largest coffee chain.

The shares dropped as much as 8.2 percent to USD54.63 in New York, the biggest intraday plunge since August 2015.

Slowing growth in the U.S. forced Starbucks to cut its profit forecast for the fiscal year. The company also admitted defeat in its effort to run a chain of tea shops, saying it will shutter its Teavana stores, a move that will eliminate 3,300 jobs.

The tepid outlook adds the pressure on Chief Executive Officer Kevin Johnson to accelerate growth in China, which the company is increasingly targeting as a key market. Last week, Starbucks announced plans to buy out its East China joint venture for \$1.3 billion, the biggest deal in the company's history. This will allow it to take full control of 1,300 cafes in the world's most populous country, where it sees a nascent

Starbucks suffers worst rout in two years



coffee culture becoming a huge market.

With Starbucks reaching a saturation point in many places,

China looms larger than ever as key to the chain's prosperity.

"The growth opportunity in China is unparalleled," Kevin

Johnson, the company's chief executive officer, said in an interview.

Same-store sales increased 4 percent last quarter in the third quarter, which ended July 2. That missed the 4.8 percent estimate of analysts.

Tea remains more popular than coffee in China, but Starbucks is making inroads. Same-store sales - a key benchmark - rose 7 percent in the country last quarter.

Starbucks currently operates about 2,800 locations in China, with plans to hit 5,000 by 2021. And the business there will eventually be bigger than its operation in the U.S., Johnson said.

Starbucks' same-store sales have risen for seven straight

years, but slowing growth has put Johnson under pressure. The former technology executive, who took over from longtime CEO Howard Schultz in April, also has been contending with other headaches.

The company's popular mobile app has created traffic jams at its cafes, with customers bunching up in pickup areas. Johnson said that Starbucks has added "digital order managers" to 1,000 stores and has improved its ability to quickly serve customers who order and pay through their phones.

As Starbucks focuses on improving its digital app, the company is stepping back from its tea business. The company said it will shutter all 379 of its Teavana retail stores, with the majority closing by next spring.

Starbucks bought the Teavana brand in 2012 for about \$620 million, betting that it could find growth with the tea chain's locations in malls. But as Americans feverishly embrace e-commerce, and visit fewer shopping centers, the business has struggled. **MDT/Bloomberg**

Taiwan economy grows less than forecast as investment slides

Samson Ellis, Chinmei Sung

TAIWAN'S economy expanded less than economists estimated in the second quarter, as companies cut capital investment and exports eased.

Highlights of GDP report show Gross domestic product rose 2.1 percent in the second quarter from a year earlier, according to preliminary data released by the statistics bureau in Taipei on Friday. Economists predicted growth of 2.2 percent. First-quarter

growth was 2.6 percent, according to previously reported data. The government will release the final estimate for second-quarter GDP data in August.

Lower capital spending by Taiwan's major semiconductor manufacturers and airlines and easing exports contributed to the slower-than-expected growth. The government maintained its forecast of 2.05 percent growth for 2017.

Taiwan's economy, which is dependent on hardware technology firms that produce components for

Apple Inc. and other companies, is benefiting from the upcoming release of products like the iPhone series. Exports account for about two-thirds of Taiwan's economy, and machinery and electronics make up the bulk of those exports.

But there are risks as a diplomatic standoff with China since President Tsai Ing-wen took office a year ago persists. China, the island's largest-trading partner, has refused all official contact with Tsai's administration after she decli-

ned to endorse Beijing's "One-China" policy.

"GDP will likely rebound in the second half of 2017 and in 2018," Chang Liu, a London-based economist with Capital Economics, said in a note after the data. "Government spending should accelerate if the government's infrastructure spending bill is approved next month. Loose monetary policy will also help. In addition, export demand is likely to strengthen." "Consumer spending was a little disappointing," said Claire Huang, an economist at Societe Generale SA in Hong Kong. "Although government spending rebounded, it was from a low base." **Bloomberg**

Air France-KLM profits up amid high traffic, cost cuts

AIR France-KLM has announced a jump in profits as it expands its global alliances and readies to launch a new budget airline.

While the carrier appears to be coming out of a protracted slump, it warned Friday that the forecast remains "highly uncertain" because of volatile fuel prices and geopolitical risks.

Air France-KLM reported second-quarter profit of 367 million euros compared with 41 million euros in

the same period last year, helped by higher traffic, lower fuel prices, job cuts and other restructuring efforts.

Sales were up 6.3 percent to 6.6 billion euros.

A key part of Air France-KLM's turnaround strategy is upcoming low-cost airline Joon. The airline is also building new alliances, notably a deal announced Thursday to buy Richard Branson's stake in Virgin Atlantic and sell stakes to Delta and China Eastern. **AP**

corporate bits

SANDS CHINA RECEIVES TOP HONORS AT MARKETING EVENTS AWARDS



Sands China Limited received 10 awards at the Marketing Events Awards 2017 North Asia for the Parisian Macao's Grand Opening last year.

Sands China Limited won the prestigious "Best of Show - Brand award," as well as gold awards for "Best Large Event," "Best Product Launch Event," "Best Use of Venue," "Best Event - Design" and "Best VIP event," a silver

award for "Best Media Event" and bronze awards for "Most Innovative Event," "Best Use of Influencer/Advocates" and "Best Event Targeted Community."

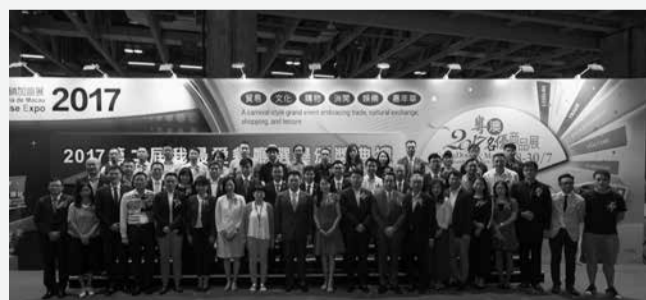
According to a press release from Sands China, the Parisian Macao grand opening took 10 months of planning and was the culmination of a USD13 billion investment. Belgian singer Lara Fabian and Chinese actress

and singer Karen Mok performed at the opening, where an eight-meter hot air balloon brought the main characters on stage, along with a finale of choreographed fireworks and a light show on the 525-foot tower. Other events for the day included a lion dance and blessing ceremony, red carpet and cocktail reception, opening ceremony and gala dinner.

Gene Capuano, Sands China's senior vice president of conventions and Venetian operations, commented, "We are honored and delighted that our newest integrated resort, the Parisian Macao, has been recognized for these prestigious awards."

According to the press release, the Marketing Events Awards, produced by the magazine Marketing Interactive, recognize and honor the best of Asia's events marketing, management and planning industry.

OVER 100 RESTAURANTS ATTEND IFOOD AWARD



The second "iFood Award" was held at the Venetian Macao on Saturday. The awards present the dining culture of Macau and show residents' preferences in food and beverage.

The iFood Award is co-organized by iFood Macau, the made-in-Macau mobile application, and the Association of Quality Green Brand.

This year's edition was held in collaboration with the Macau Franchise Expo (MFE).

According to a press release from iFood, nominations were collected in the form of on-street survey and through iFood's official WeChat. The voting process took place on iFood's Facebook page and WeChat account from mid-

April to June. Some of the awards included "Tourists' Favorite Award," "Quality Service Restaurant Award," and "My Favorite Dish Award".

Representatives from more than 100 local restaurants attended the ceremony, including 10 local food stalls that offered food samples. Representatives from the government and local associations, including the Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute and the Industry and Commerce Association of Macau, attended the ceremony to show their support.

Lei lam leong, chief executive officer of iFood Macau, stated in the press release that "the demography of citizens' preferences in terms of food and beverage, surveyed through interaction with diners, is beneficial to improving the general dining quality."



Aircraft stand parked at gates at the Hong Kong International Airport

USD1 trillion airport spree puts Singapore, Hong Kong on notice

Angus Whitley, Kyunghye Park

FOR decades, Singapore and Hong Kong have reigned supreme: as key transit points connecting travelers in Asia to and from the rest of the world. But now, a USD1 trillion global airport spree is threatening the status quo.

About half that money is due to be spent on upgrading or building new airports in Asia, the Sydney-based CAPA Centre for Aviation estimates. In Beijing, a new USD12.9 billion airport due to open in 2019 will turn China's capital into one of the world's biggest aviation hubs. Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport is set for 117 billion baht (\$3.5 billion) of upgrades through 2021 including a third runway. South Korea's Incheon International Airport is spending 5 trillion won (\$4.5 billion) on a second terminal as it aims to become "the world's leading mega-hub airport."

As part of efforts to keep up, Singapore's Changi Airport this month unveiled a SGD1.3 billion (\$950 million) fourth terminal. Hong Kong, meanwhile, plans to fill in part of the South China Sea to make room for a third runway — at a cost of HKD141.5 billion (\$18 billion).

"It's a race between global hubs," said Torbjorn Karlsson, partner in the civil aviation practice at Korn Ferry International in Singapore. "The question is

who are going to be the big winners."

According to CAPA research published July 20, about \$255 billion is currently earmarked to build new airports worldwide, with another \$845 billion to be spent on upgrades such as extra runways and terminals. All told, the construction work stretches out to 2069, CAPA said.

■ Hong Kong airport last year almost maxed out as it handled 71m passengers

New airports in Asia will soak up more than \$125 billion, compared with just \$3.6 billion on brand new sites in the U.S. and Canada, CAPA said.

The new developments are an identity crisis in-waiting for Hong Kong and Singapore. Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd. and Singapore Airlines Ltd. have made their names in the jet era ferrying visitors in and out of the cities and onward.

"Twenty years ago, airports were just sitting there waiting for airlines to come and fly there," said Joanna Lu, who specializes in airports and route networks

as the Hong Kong-based head of Asian advisory at Flight Ascend Consultancy. "Things change very quickly. It's hard to say the transfer market is going to be always yours."

In China, mainland carriers such as China Southern Airlines are carrying so many first-time flyers each year that aviation authorities plan to create a mega-airport cluster almost within sight of Hong Kong. China Southern, Hainan Airlines Holding and Chengdu Airlines have opened new routes from second- and third-tier Chinese cities that go straight to the U.S. and Europe, bypassing Hong Kong.

"They have the potential to redraw the travel flows," Korn Ferry's Karlsson said.

China Southern, one of the nation's three largest state-run carriers, wants to turn its home base at Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport — less than 150 kilometers from Hong Kong — into China's primary transfer hub to Australia and Southeast Asia, it said in May.

Even closer to Hong Kong, the Civil Aviation Administration of China aims to build a cluster of airports around Shenzhen, the Chinese city on Hong Kong's northern fringes, and do the same around Beijing and Shanghai.

By 2036, China's domestic air-travel traffic will quadruple to 1.6 billion passengers, or 1.3 flights for each person per year, according to Airbus SE.

Hong Kong's answer? Fill with cement a stretch of coastal water larger than New York's Central Park. Next, lay down a 3.8 kilometer runway and build a passenger building bigger than the White House compound. Then roll out a 2.6 kilometer transport link to connect an estimated 30 million new travelers with the existing terminals.

Hong Kong International Airport last year almost maxed out as it handled 71 million passengers. Its development project is so vast that authorities are demanding between HKD70 and HKD180 from each passenger flying out of Hong Kong to help fund the construction. That's on top of increasing parking and landing fees for airlines by as much as 27 percent.

Infrastructure and capacity on their own don't guarantee success. Already, not all airlines want to use Hong Kong's customized check-in kiosks, self-service immigration gates don't work if there aren't enough staff to monitor them, and security queues are long because the system can't process bags fast enough, said Will Horton, a Hong Kong-based analyst at CAPA.

"Not all infrastructure is created equally," said Horton. "Airports need to think big but also significantly consider the unglamorous task of making better use of floor space and checkpoints."

The Hong Kong Airport Authority didn't respond to requests for comment.

At Changi Airport, the new fourth terminal is due to open by the end of this year. It will feature dozens of automated check-in kiosks and bag-drop counters, according to a media briefing on Tuesday. Changi will be the first airport in the world to use tomography scanners, which means passengers don't need to take laptops out of their bags for screening.

The new terminal will increase total capacity from 66 million to 82 million. Last year it handled a record 58.7 million passengers. Singapore is already working on a third runway and a fifth terminal due to be completed in the late 2020s.

A spokesman for Changi said advance planning will help the airport, with passenger traffic forecast to rise to 60 million this year, meet its needs.

To be sure, airport hubs can thrive even if their marquee airlines are partially displaced by regional rivals. Singapore is still a launch pad for Southeast Asian destinations such as Penang in Malaysia and Thailand's Phuket, islands that might be commercially unviable as stand-alone routes. Some 30 percent of all passengers at Changi Airport are in transit.

And fuel-efficient, long-range airliners such as Boeing Co.'s 787 Dreamliner aren't about to destroy hubs, even as Qantas Airways Ltd. plans to fly the jet non-stop from Australia to the U.K. for the first time next year.

"Ultra-long haul flights are not necessarily cheaper to operate," said Mathieu De Marchi, a Bangkok-based aviation consultant at Landrum & Brown Inc. "Hub bypass only works if there is significant demand for that point-to-point route."

On the website for Hong Kong's proposed third runway, the project is described as "urgent" in order to preserve the airport's hub status. It points to growing competition from Singapore, Seoul and Shenzhen, as well as Guangzhou and Shanghai, which both plan to operate five runways.

When it comes to adding capacity and adding destinations, timing is everything.

"The challenge is building them early enough not to constrain growth but not so early that the growth can't pay for the cost of running them," said Korn Ferry's Karlsson. **Bloomberg**

China has closed off a swath of ocean off its east coast for military activities, but has said little about what the exercises entail.

China closes east seas for military drills but says little

A notice from the government of the eastern port city of Lianyungang says

scale military activities" are being held between Lianyungang in Jiangsu province and the Shandong province port of Qingdao that is home to the navy's North Sea Fleet.

The exercises come days ahead of commemora-

tions of the PLA's 90th anniversary, specifics of which have not yet been announced.

China has lately stepped-up navy exercises conducted further from home ports, including those involving its sole operating

aircraft carrier and its battle group. On Thursday, the Chinese and Russian navies were wrapping up an initial set of drills in the Baltic Sea near St. Petersburg.

The eight-day "Joint Sea 2017" exercises in-

clude the Chinese missile destroyer Hefei and missile frigate Yuncheng and were focused on joint rescue missions and "ensuring maritime economic activities," China's official Xinhua News Agency reported. **AP**

Ralph Jennings, Taipei

Typhoon injures 111 in Taiwan as another storm approaches

TAIWAN'S first typhoon of the year left 111 people injured and coastal towns flooded as the island braced for a second tropical storm yesterday.

Howling winds toppled motor scooters and hit people with flying glass, the Central Emergency Operations Center said. In Yilan county on the northeast coast, one person was blown down, another was struck by a wind-driven object and a third was injured when a utility truck flipped.

Typhoon Nesat made landfall on the northeast coast of Taiwan Saturday evening with maximum sustained winds of 137 kilometers per hour and gusts of up to 173 kph, according to the national weather bureau.

All but two of the injuries were minor, an operations center staff person said.

The typhoon also left shops and streets in agricultural Pingtung county knee deep in muddy water after dumping about 600

millimeters of rain.

More than 10,000 people, largely from Taiwan's south, were evacuated before the typhoon and 1,612 were still in shelters yesterday morning.

More than 10,000 people, largely from Taiwan's south, were evacuated before the typhoon

Nesat caused the cancellation of 145 international flights and cut power to nearly half a

million households.

The typhoon passed through Taiwan and reached Fujian province in southeastern China by 7 a.m. yesterday as a less severe tropical storm, officials said.

Close to 70,000 people have been evacuated so far and dozens of trains and flights suspended in Fuzhou, the provincial capital, Fujian's water resources department said.

Taiwan, meanwhile, is on alert again as a second tropical storm was due to make landfall soon.

Taiwan, China, Japan and the Philippines regularly see typhoons from June through November. The deadliest in Taiwan since 2000 was Typhoon Morakot, which set off landslides that left about 680 people dead in 2009. **AP**



A police officer controls the traffic in front of a tree uprooted by strong winds caused by Typhoon Nesat in Taipei

Xi oversees military parade in show of might

Gerry Shih

CHINA'S military has the "confidence and capability" to bolster the country's rise into a world power, President Xi Jinping said yesterday as he oversaw a large-scale military parade meant to show off the forces at his command to foreign and domestic audiences.

Live state television broadcasts showed Xi, dressed in fatigues and speaking from an open-top jeep, telling his troops that China needed a strong military "more than ever" as it moved "closer to the goal of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation."

Xi, who commands the People's Liberation Army as chairman of the Central Military Commission, has frequently spoken of his "China Dream" to restore China to a leadership position in international affairs with a modern, far-reaching military force to match.

The parade at the Zhurihe military training base in China's Inner Mongolia region was also a sign domestically of how Xi has enhanced his control over the PLA, just as he has over every other political power base within the sprawling Communist Party, ahead of a pivotal party congress this autumn.

A Communist Party "princeling" fond of deploying revolutionary lore and nationalistic rhetoric, Xi declared the PLA



ready to defeat all "invading enemies" as he celebrated the 90th anniversary of the PLA's founding. It was the first time a parade has been held to mark the occasion.

"We need to build a strong people's military more than any other time in history," Xi said as he inspected troops, armored vehicles, missiles and aircraft, hailing each formation by shouting "Comrades, you've worked hard!"

The forces addressed him as "Chairman Xi" as they rumbled past. The parade was blanketed by state media coverage and streamed for foreign audiences on YouTube, which is blocked inside China.

On display were advanced weaponry including a new Dongfeng-31AG variant of the nuclear-tipped intercontinental ballistic missile and the Dongfeng-21D "carrier killer." Several H-6K bombers, the long-range aircraft

Always listen to and follow the party's orders. And march to wherever the party points.

XI JINPING

recently involved in exercises near Japan and the South China Sea, were shown flying by overhead.

Xi has emphasized combat readiness for the PLA — long criticized as a corrupt bureaucracy with scant combat experience — and pushed for an ambitious modernization program to make it a leaner force capable of projecting power overseas.

Xi ordered 300,000 troops cut from the world's largest standing army two years ago while overseeing investments in aircraft carriers, nuclear submarines and stealth fighters with the goal of surpassing the United States in regional and even global influence.

Although China has framed its growing military as a force for stability and peace, its expanding footprint and assertive posture in contested regions like the South and the East China Seas have worried neighboring nations and U.S. allies in the Pacific.

Xi has been similarly emboldened on the domestic front as he took on powerful figures within the influential military establishment. He ordered anti-corruption campaigns that took down top-ranking generals and creating new battle theaters that placed trusted officers in command and shunted aside others.

To reinforce his political position, Xi has extracted televised vows of loyalty from top generals while holding frequent events to show his affinity and support for the military, including a troop inspection in Hong Kong in June and a ceremony to present citations to 10 officers last week.

Yesterday, Xi issued another call for loyalty as he instructed his amassed 12,000 troops to "unswervingly stick to the fundamental principle and system of the party's absolute leadership over the army," the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

"Always listen to and follow the party's orders," Xi said. "And march to wherever the party points to." **AP**

Villager sentenced to death over massacre of 19

A court in southwest China said Friday it has sentenced to death a man who killed 19 people, including his parents and several other relatives, in a bloody rampage with a pickaxe.

The Qujing City Intermediate People's Court in Yunnan province said Yang Qingpei, a 27-year-old laborer from Yema village, pleaded guilty and would not appeal the sentence.

The court found that Yang killed his parents with a pickaxe last September after they scolded him for racking up gambling debts in the provincial capital. It said he knifed 17 other people to death, including relatives and neighbors, in an attempt to cover his tracks.

Chinese media have widely covered the case, one of the bloodiest mass killings in recent years in a country where access to guns is extremely limited.

In announcing the death sentence, the court said Yang had confessed and showed a "good attitude" during the criminal proceedings, but that did not outweigh the "vile circumstances and particularly cruel method of killing."

Yang offered an apology to the relatives of the dead during his trial on July 19. The youngest victim was 3 and the oldest 72.

Aside from the gruesome nature of the killings, Yang's case attracted national attention in part because villagers who discovered the crime scene initially suspected a terrorist attack, and videos that circulated on social media at the time showed armed police patrolling the village before they were censored.

Police quickly refuted any terror link and apprehended Yang within a day. **AP**

Forget casinos, Singapore's Indian tourists are cruising

Krystal Chia

WHEN Indian architect Rahul Maini and his parents embarked on their first trip abroad in May, Singapore was their destination of choice. But the trio wasn't going for the hawker food or even the city-state's casinos - they were there to get on a ship.

The equatorial island has become a flourishing entry point for Indian cruise-ship passengers, bolstering sales for operators, including Royal Caribbean Cruises and Genting Hong Kong. About 100,000 Indians sailed from Singapore last year, 29 percent more than in 2015, making India the biggest market for cruises departing from the Southeast Asian nation, according to the Singapore Tourism Board.

"We chose to go on a cruise because we could visit three countries in one short trip," said Maini, 26, whose four-day cruise on Royal Caribbean's Voyager of the Seas took in the Malaysian city of Penang and the Thai island of Phuket. The family spent about USD7,700, which Maini said was "expensive, but worth it."

The expenditure is part of the 777.3 billion rupees (\$12 billion) that Euromonitor International predicts middle-class Indians will shell out on overseas leisure travel this year. The market is expanding about 10 percent annually and will eclipse 1 trillion rupees by 2020, the research company says.

While the Middle East and France are the most-popular overseas destinations for Indians, Singapore is expected to register a 59 percent jump in arrivals from the world's second most-populous



country from 2015 to 2020, according to Euromonitor. Among the city-state's top 10 inbound passenger markets, India is the fastest-growing, according to Changi Airport Group, which manages Singapore's international airport.

The number of arrivals from India increased 15 percent in the first five months of this year, compared with a year earlier - outperforming China by 3 percentage points. Many of the tourists are like the Mainis, who come mainly to join a cruise.

"Fly-cruise tourism has really taken off among Indian tourists," said Chayadi Karim, a research associate with Euromonitor.

To help, the Singapore gover-

ment created the Cruise Development Fund, which supports travel agents and event organizers trying to get people to sail from Singapore, said Annie Chang, a director at the tourism board.

The number of Indian passengers on Royal Caribbean ships jumped 149 percent so far this year, compared with the same period last year. This includes the peak summer school holiday period that runs in India from May to June, said Sean Treacy, the company's Asia Pacific managing director.

"Singapore is a regional-hub port which is near many attractive Southeast Asian cruise destinations in Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam," Treacy said. Voya-

ges from Singapore offer Indian tourists the convenience of visiting multiple destinations across different countries on a single trip while unpacking only once, he said.

The number of cruise passengers from India leaving via Singapore has been increasing by at least 10 percent a year annually, said Michael Goh, senior vice president of international sales for Genting Cruise Lines, and the company is "optimistic" about continued growth.

"Perceptions of cruising among Indian travelers are fast-changing," Goh said, adding that the unit of Genting Hong Kong counts among its cruising clientele first-timers, singles, couples, senior

citizens, multigeneration families and Indians with a higher disposable income.

Princess Cruises, a unit of Carnival Corp., also sees "positive growth from the Indian market," including honeymooners, said Farriek Tawfik, the company's Southeast Asia director. There's also a tendency among Indian expatriates living in Singapore to invite relatives to join them on a cruise, he said.

About 100,000 Indians sailed from Singapore last year, 29pct more than in 2015

Royal Caribbean is adding more cruises for India's summer school holidays, Treacy said. Voyager of the Seas will go on 18 cruises during the holidays next year, 14 more than in 2016. The number of cruises for Mariner of the Seas will almost double to 56 during the upcoming winter-spring season from 29 in 2014-2015, he said.

To better accommodate guests from India, the cruise operators offer vegetarian meals, local cuisine and culture, and special events that appeal to South Asian guests.

"More Bollywood music may be played at the pool or disco parties, and more jewelry gift sets, which are popular with Indians, may be procured for sailings that host a higher number of them on board," Royal Caribbean's Treacy said.

As for Maini, he said his inaugural overseas holiday has given him the travel bug.

"Singapore was good, but the cruise was better," the New Delhi resident said. He's now saving for a cruise from Barcelona, he said. **Bloomberg**

Zarar Khan, Islamabad

PAKISTAN

PAKISTAN'S parliament will meet tomorrow to elect a new prime minister after the disqualification of three-term prime minister Nawaz Sharif.

Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League party, which enjoys a comfortable majority in parliament, nominated Sharif's longtime loyalist Shahid Khaqan Abbasi for the top slot on Saturday. Sharif proposed Abbasi as interim prime minister until his brother Shahbaz Sharif, who is the chief minister of Punjab province, can contend in a by-election for the seat left vacant by his brother's disqualification.

The opposition is expected to name a candidate to challenge Abbasi in a vote

in parliament, but the six-time lawmaker is expected to win.

Sharif's party holds 188 of 342 seats in parliament's lower house and with additional votes from its allies is expected to obtain 214 votes. To win the top slot, Abbasi needs only 172 votes.

Pakistan's Supreme Court disqualified Sharif from office on Friday for not being honest and concealing assets. The probe against him began after his children were named in the leaked so-called Panama papers for owning off-shore accounts and properties.

Sharif's party has resolved to file a review petition in the Supreme Court to reverse the disqualification.

The probe was triggered by petitions filed by the conservative Jamaat-e-Islami party and cricket player-turned-politician Imran Khan. Khan is celebrating Sharif's ouster Sunday in Islamabad.

The three-term prime minister has a history of rocky relations with Pakistan's powerful military and he has been removed from office three times.

Sharif was first elected as prime minister in 1990 and

was hardly half way through his five-year tenure when he was removed from office by the army's hand-picked president in 1993. Sharif made a comeback in the 1997 elections but again his government was toppled by then-army chief Gen. Pervez Musharraf in a bloodless coup in October 1999. Sharif was tried for alleged hijacking, convicted and given a life prison sentence but later was exiled to Saudi Arabia. He returned to the country in 2007 after Benazir Bhutto struck a deal with Musharraf and returned from exile. She



Deposed Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif (left)

was assassinated in December 2007 after an election rally in Rawalpindi.

In seven decades, no civilian government has ever completed its term in

Pakistan. The country has been ruled by military generals for more than half of its 70-year history and the military unwilling to see its influence challenged. **AP**

THE United States flew two supersonic bombers over the Korean Peninsula yesterday in a show of force against North Korea following the country's latest intercontinental ballistic missile test. The U.S. also said it conducted a successful test of a missile defense system located in Alaska.

The B-1 bombers were escorted by South Korean fighter jets as they performed a low-pass over an air base near the South Korean capital of Seoul before returning to Andersen Air Force Base in Guam, the U.S. Pacific Air Forces said in a statement.

It said the mission was a response to North Korea's two ICBM tests this month. Analysts say flight data from the North's second test, conducted Friday night, showed that a broader part of the mainland United States, including Los Angeles and Chicago, is now in range of Pyongyang's weapons.

"North Korea remains the most urgent threat to regional stability," said Gen. Terrence J. O'Shaughnessy, Pacific Air Forces commander. "Diplomacy

US bombers fly over S. Korea after North's second ICBM test

remains the lead. However, we have a responsibility to our allies and our nation to showcase our unwavering commitment while planning for the worst-case scenario."

"If called upon, we are ready to respond with rapid, lethal, and overwhelming force at a time and place of our choosing," O'Shaughnessy said.

The United States often sends powerful warplanes in times of heightened tensions with North Korea. B-1 bombers have been sent to South Korea for flyovers several times this year in response to the North's banned missile tests, and also following the death of a U.S. college student last month after he was released by North Korea in a coma.

The Hwasong-14 ICBM, which

AP PHOTO



the North first tested on July 4, is the highlight of several new weapons systems Pyongyang launched this year. They include an intermediate range missile that North Korea says is capable of hitting Alaska and Hawaii, and a

solid-fuel midrange missile, which analysts say can be fired faster and more secretly than liquid-fuel missiles.

The U.S. Missile Defense Agency said a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, system

located in Kodiak, Alaska, was successfully tested on Saturday night. It said that a medium-range ballistic missile was air-launched over the Pacific, and that the THAAD system detected, tracked and intercepted the target. **AP**

AUSTRALIA

Police disrupt plot to 'bring down an airplane'

Rod McGuirk

POLICE disrupted the first alleged plot in Australia to bring down an airplane and arrested four men in raids on Sydney homes, officials said yesterday.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said that security has been increased at Sydney Airport since Thursday because of the plot. The increased security measures also were extended to all major international and domestic terminals around Australia overnight.

"I can report last night that there has been a major joint counterterrorism operation to disrupt a terrorist plot to bring down an airplane," Turnbull told reporters. "The operation is continuing."

Australian Federal Police Commissioner Andrew Colvin said details were scant on the specifics of the attack, the location and timing.

"In recent days, law enforcement has been become aware of information that suggested some people in Sydney were planning to commit a terrorist attack using an improvised device," Colvin said.

Deakin University se-



Federal Police and NSW Police officers work in the Surry Hills suburb of Sydney

curity expert Greg Barton said the first plot to target aircraft in Australia, which is the highest aspiration of many extremists, was a "pretty big threshold moment."

The plotters were apparently making a peroxide-based explosive device rather than using nitrate-based chemicals that can be detected by airport security swab tests, Barton said.

Manchester Arena bomber Salman Abedi used such a peroxide-based explosive, triacetone triperoxide, better known as TATP, to kill 22 concertgoers in Britain on May 22.

"TATP's called Mother of Satan because it often kills the bomb maker because it's very unstable as it's mixed," Barton said. "But if it's mixed well, it can be very potent and a small

amount can be enough to bring an aircraft down if it's done very, very expertly."

The plan most likely was to take the explosive on board in carry-on luggage unless there was a baggage handler involved who could ensure that a stowed bomb exploded near the fuselage where it would be most damaging.

"The speculation is that the bombers would like to put it in carry-on luggage so they can be sure of getting it placed near the fuselage skin," Barton said, adding however that putting something in a suitcase is "a lottery whether it ends up near the outside of the luggage hold or packed near the middle."

There was no evidence that airport security had been compromised, Colvin said.

"We believe it's Islamic-

inspired terrorism," Colvin said when asked if the Islamic State group was behind the plot.

Seven Network television reported that 40 riot squad officers wearing gas masks stormed an inner-Sydney house before an explosives team found a suspicious device. Colvin declined to say whether a fully equipped improvised explosive device had been found at that address.

A woman led from a raid by police with her head covered told Nine Network Television: "I love Australia."

None of the four suspects arrested in five raids had been charged, Colvin said. He would not discuss what charges they might face. None of the arrested men worked in the airport industry, Colvin said.

Australia's terrorist threat level remained unchanged at "probable," Turnbull said. He advised travelers in Australia to arrive at airports earlier than usual — two hours before departure — to allow for extra security screening and to minimize baggage.

The plot was the 13th significant threat disrupted by police since Australia's terrorist threat level was elevated in 2014, Justice Minister Michael Keenan said. Five plots have been executed.

Since Australia's terrorist threat level was raised in 2014, 70 suspects have been charged in 31 police operations, Keenan said. **AP**

PHILIPPINES

Mayor linked to drugs, 14 others killed in raids

POLICE in the southern Philippines said they fatally shot 15 people yesterday, including a city mayor who was among the politicians President Rodrigo Duterte publicly linked to illegal drugs, in the bloodiest assault so far in Duterte's anti-drug crackdown.

Officers were to serve warrants to Ozamiz Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog Sr. to search his houses for the suspected presence of unlicensed firearms when gunmen opened fire on the police, sparking clashes that killed the mayor and at least 14 other people, Ozamiz police chief Jovie Espenido said.

"He's a high-value target on illegal drugs," Espenido, who oversaw the simultaneous, post-midnight raids on the mayor's residence and three other houses, said at a news conference.

"We enforce the law to protect the people who want peace in this country," he said. "How can we enforce the law if [...] we're scared of the drug lords? That cannot be, they should be afraid of people who do good for all."

At least five people, including Parojinog's daughter, who serves as vice mayor of Ozamiz, a port city, were arrested during the raids. Policemen were approaching the mayor's house when his bodyguards opened fire and

hit a police car and wounded a police officer, sparking a firefight amid a power outage, Espenido said.

A grenade held by one of Parojinog's bodyguards exploded during the clash inside his house and it remains unclear if he and his wife were killed by the blast or police gunfire or both, Espenido said, adding that assault rifles, grenades, suspected methamphetamine and cash were seized in the raids.

"The administration vowed to intensify the drug campaign," presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said in connection with yesterday's raids in Ozamiz. "The Parojinogs, if you would recall, are included in [Duterte's] list of personalities involved in the illegal drug trade."

Parojinog, who also faced corruption charges, had denied any links to illegal drugs. He was the third mayor to be killed under Duterte's bloody crackdown on drugs, which has left more than 3,000 dead in reported gunfights with police and thousands of other unexplained deaths of suspects.

Parojinog's daughter, Vice Mayor Nova Echaves, was arrested and was to be flown to Manila for security reasons, regional police Chief Superintendent Timoteo Pacleb said. **AP**

Alessandro Speciale, Chad Thomas

GERMANY

Hamburg attack puts Merkel refugee policy back in spotlight

AN attack in the northern city of Hamburg thrust Chancellor Angela Merkel's refugee policy into the spotlight less than two months before Germany goes to the polls.

Police were aware that the man suspected of a stabbing spree on Friday had shown signs of Islamic radicalization, Hamburg's interior minister, Andy Grote, said in a press conference on Saturday. The attack in a supermarket in the Barmbek district left one man dead and six injured before bystanders overpowered the attacker.

The 26-year-old suspect is a Palestinian citizen whose request for refugee status had been declined. He had been ordered out of the country but lacked the necessary documents to travel, Grote said, adding that a few hours before the attack the man had inquired whether his documents were ready. The suspect, who had shown signs of mental instability, is now in police custody.

"I grieve for the victim of the cruel attack in Hamburg, and I am deeply sympathetic to his relatives. I wish the wounded to recover from their physical and mental wounds," Merkel said in a statement on Saturday afternoon. "The act of violence must and will be clarified."

While authorities said they are still unsure of the motives of the attacker, the episode could damage Merkel's September re-election bid, which is based in part on ensuring public safety. The anti-immigration Alternative for Germany party was quick to react.

"After Barmbek, Merkel's Christian Democratic Union party has lost any credibility on internal security and should stop campaigning on the issue," AfD's deputy speaker, Beatrix Von Storch, said on Twitter.

In the immediate aftermath of the attack, Hamburg's mayor called for swifter deportations for failed refugees

Before the attack, support for Merkel, who is seeking a fourth term in the Sept. 24 federal election, was at the highest level since the peak of the refugee crisis nearly two years ago. An Infratest dimap poll for ARD television showed Friday that her CDU-led bloc had 40 percent support, widening the lead over her Social Democrat challengers to 17 percentage points. AfD polled third



Police officers secure the area after a knife attack at a supermarket in Hamburg

at 9 percent, after rising to as much as 15 percent when immigrant arrivals to Germany dominated headlines.

Merkel's main challenger in the election, Social Democrat leader Martin Schulz, expressed his "shock" at the attack and offered his "deepest sympathy" for the victims and their families in a tweet on Saturday morning. Schulz has also made immigration a theme of his campaign, traveling to Italy this past week to witness first-hand the situation in a country where many asylum seekers first arrive in Europe.

"We must take into account that the jihadist ideology is used as reason or justification for acts that are perhaps committed for

quite different motives," German Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere, a member of the CDU party, said in a statement. "The real motives can then also lie in the personality of the attacker."

In the immediate aftermath of the attack, Hamburg's Social Democrat mayor called for swifter deportations for failed refugees.

"What makes me especially angry is that the offender is apparently someone who claimed protection by us here in Germany and then directed his hate against us," Hamburg Mayor Olaf Scholz said in a Facebook post. "This shows all the more urgently that these legal and practical obstacles must be cleared away during the deportation process. These per-

petrators are anxious to poison our society. They will fail."

Hamburg's incident is reminiscent of an attack in December at a Berlin Christmas market where the perpetrator, from Tunisia, killed 12 people. In that case, the man's asylum application had been rejected but he hadn't been deported because he lacked a passport. The Berlin incident was the last - and most deadly - in a series of assaults involving refugees that shook Germany last year in the wake of an influx of 1 million asylum seekers into the country in 2015.

The incidents soured the German public and led Merkel last summer to vow tougher action on deporting people who shouldn't be in the country after her party suffered setbacks in two state elections. With no deadly attacks involving asylum seekers this year until Friday's Hamburg knifing, Merkel's Christian Democratic Union has rebounded in the polls and won three straight state votes.

A witness to Friday's assault told Deutsche Presse Agentur that the man shouted as he held up the knife, "Allahu Akbar," Arabic for "God is greatest." Police searched a refugee shelter where the attacker lived, the news agency reported on Saturday. **Bloomberg**

Ryan Beene, Kartikay Mehrotra

GERMANY'S major automakers were accused in a U.S. lawsuit of acting as a cartel, colluding for nearly two decades to limit the pace of technological advances in their vehicles and stifle competition - allegations that widen the scope of the latest scandal to hit the nation's auto industry.

BMW AG, Daimler AG, Volkswagen AG and its Audi and Porsche brands shared competitive information about vehicle technologies with one another from 1996 through at least 2015 in violation of anti-trust laws, according to a complaint filed Friday in San Francisco federal court.

"These coordinated actions enabled the manufacturer defendants - the self-named 'Fünfer-Kreise,' or Circle of Five - to impose a German automobile premium on consumers premised on superior German engineering, while secretly stunting incentives to innovate," the suit alleges.

Top German automakers sued in U.S. over two-decade 'cartel'



The suit, which seeks class-action status on behalf of U.S. drivers, says the companies agreed to limit the development of vehicle systems, including emissions control. The arrangement allegedly led to the development of so-called "defeat devices" used by Volkswagen to cheat on pollution tests.

Plaintiffs claim the operation of convertible roofs, body design, brakes and electronic systems were also part of the "technological innovations inhibited" by the pacts.

The supplier of VW's cheat software, Robert Bosch GmbH, was also named as a defendant in the lawsuit. "In secret, closed meetings, the manufacturer defendants identified certain key suppliers—such as Robert Bosch GmbH—that would supply the Five with a specific product," according to the suit. "Suppliers not selected were damaged by failure to participate in the market."

"We consider this class action suit to lack merit," Han Tjan, a spokesman for

Daimler, said in an emailed statement. "We will defend ourselves by all legal means."

BMW spokesman Kenn Sparks and VW's Jeannine Ginivan said their companies had no comment on Friday. The other companies didn't respond to messages and emails seeking comment after normal business hours.

The complaint builds on claims arising out of Europe that the companies may have colluded on technology, costs and supplier contracts for years. European and German officials said last week they were reviewing information about the matter.

The claims were first reported by German magazine Der Spiegel, which said the companies held discussions involving more than 200 employees in 60

working groups in areas including development of gasoline and diesel motors, brakes, transmissions and potentially the size of urea tanks used in diesel autos.

The suit filed Friday is the second in the U.S. to allege the anti-competitive actions by the companies. Drivers filed a similar class-action suit in New Jersey federal court on Tuesday alleging German automakers created an anti-competitive culture in the U.S. and conspired over 20 years to increase prices of luxury vehicles while sharing technology to skirt emissions norms.

That earlier suit also named BMW, VW, Audi, Porsche, Bentley, Daimler and Mercedes-Benz as defendants. It also included Bosch as a co-conspirator for its role in developing the so-called defeat device

used by VW to beat diesel pollution tests that's cost the company more than USD24.5 billion in U.S. civil and criminal penalties and other costs.

Central to the conspiracy allegations is the use of AdBlue tanks containing a urea-based solution that, when injected into the diesel exhaust, cleans harmful pollutants. The carmakers are alleged to have secretly agreed to install cheaper, smaller-sized tanks than the size needed to meet toughening U.S. Emissions standards, according to the New Jersey complaint.

"Volkswagen was insistent that the agreements on AdBlue tank size were necessary to ensure that U.S. emissions regulators did not scrutinize its emissions control systems," according to the filing. "Volkswagen knew that it could still pass U.S. emissions testing with a 16-liter tank because it had designed a work around that enabled its vehicles to pass emissions testing without adequately sized AdBlue tanks." **Bloomberg**

Michael Weissenstein, Fabiola Sanchez

Venezuela's leader casts unusual vote, decries 'terrorism'

VENEZUELAN President Nicolas Maduro asked for global acceptance yesterday as he cast an unusual pre-dawn vote for an all-powerful constitutional assembly that his opponents fear he'll use to replace his country's democracy with a single-party authoritarian system.

Accompanied by close advisers and state media, Maduro voted at 6:05 a.m. local time, far earlier and less publicly than in previous elections. The run-up to the vote has been marked by months of clashes between protesters and the government, including the fatal shooting of a 61-year-old nurse by men accused of being pro-government paramilitaries during a protest at a church a few hundred feet from the school where Maduro voted.

Maduro and his socialist administration deny links to violent paramilitaries and say the political opposition is responsible for the violence that has left at least 113 dead and nearly 2000 wounded in four months of protests.

"We've stoically withstood the terrorist, criminal violence," Maduro said. "Hopefully the world will respectfully extend its arms toward our country."

The Trump administration has imposed successive rounds of sanctions on high-ranking members of Maduro's administration, with the support of countries including Mexico, Colombia and Panama. Vice President Mike Pence promised on Friday that the U.S. would take "strong



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro shows his ballot after casting a vote for a constitutional assembly

and swift economic actions" if the vote went ahead. He didn't say whether the U.S. would sanction Venezuelan oil imports, a measure with the potential to undermine Maduro but cause an even deeper humanitarian crisis here.

The special assembly being selected yesterday will have powers to rewrite the country's 1999 constitution but will also have powers above and beyond other state institutions, including the opposition-controlled congress.

While opinion polls say a vast majority oppose him, Maduro made clear in a televised address Saturday evening that he intends to use the assembly to govern without limitation, describing the vote as "the election of a power that's above and beyond every other. It's the super power!"

He said he wants the assembly to strip opposition legislators of their constitutional immunity from

prosecution and jail at least one — Freddy Guevara, a hard-line opposition leader and one the highest-profile organizers of four months of protests against the government.

"This little Hitler has his cell guaranteed!" Maduro shouted, using his frequent nickname for Guevara.

The opposition is boycotting the vote, contending the election has been structured to ensure Maduro's socialist party continues to dominate. So all 5,500 candidates for the 545 seats in the constituent assembly are his supporters.

The vote's success will be measured by turnout, with the opposition urging Venezuelans to stay and the government encouraging participation with tactics that include threats to state workers' jobs and social benefits like subsidized food for the poor.

Maduro indicated he is eager to prosecute many more members of the opposition

parties that control a handful of state governments along with the National Assembly, providing one of the few remaining checks on the power of the socialist party that has ruled this OPEC nation for nearly two decades.

"The right wing already has its prison cell waiting," the president said. "All the criminals will go to prison for the crimes they've committed."

Saying the assembly will begin to govern within a week, Maduro said its first task in rewriting the constitution will be "a total transformation" of the office of Venezuela's chief prosecutor, a former government loyalist who has become the highest-ranking official to publicly split from the president.

Once one of Latin America's wealthiest nations, Venezuela has spiraled into a devastating crisis during Maduro's four years in

power, thanks to plunging oil prices and widespread corruption and mismanagement. Inflation and homicide rates are among the world's highest and widespread shortages of food and medicine have citizens dying of preventable illnesses and rooting through trash to feed themselves.

In April, Maduro's supporters on the Supreme Court tried to strip the National Assembly of its powers, setting off the protests and clashes between police and demonstrators. Most of the dead have been protesters apparently shot by police and government-linked paramilitaries.

The opposition has organized a series of work stoppages as well as a July 16 protest vote that it said drew more than 7.5 million symbolic votes against the constitutional assembly. It called Saturday for roadblocks to start before dawn Sunday and

a mass march on Caracas' main highway.

"A new stage in the democratic struggle starts tomorrow," Julio Borges, the president of the National Assembly, said at a news conference called by Democratic Unity, a coalition of some 20 opposition groups. "This new stage will need more courage [...] street protests will get stronger."

Opinion polls say more than 70 percent of the country is opposed to Sunday's vote. But as many as half of all Venezuelans support neither the government nor the opposition — a phenomenon evident in the glum paralysis that has gripped much of the country as protesters and police wage nightly battles.

"I think everything's going to get worse because our problems will keep getting bigger," said Jasson Chino, a 25-year-old food vendor. "Our problems will keep getting worse." AP

LIBYA

Committee votes in favor of constitutional draft

Rami Musa

A committee tasked with writing a constitution for Libya voted on Saturday in favor of a draft, paving the way for parliament to approve a referendum and causing an uproar among opponents.

Critics, including secessionists and people in favor of the country's 1951 constitution, called for a redo of Saturday's vote.

Protesters broke into the committee's building in the eastern town of Bayda, according to two committee

members, who said they called on the committee to reconvene yesterday. It was not immediately clear whether the committee met again.

Committee members opposing the decision issued a signed statement saying that voters failed to consider amendments proposed by opponents to articles in the draft.

Amraja Noah, a committee member from the eastern city of Tobruk, said protesters raided the building to stop the session, forcing the members to rush the vote.

He said 44 members attended the session and 42 voted in favor of passing the draft.

An opponent of the decision, Abdelkader Kadura, a committee member from Benghazi, expressed skepticism about the legitimacy of the voting.

"This serves a small minority and a certain geographical area," he said, referring to members who voted in favor.

The committee, which has a total of 60 members, has been assigned to work on a draft constitution since 2014. AP

Advertisement for the Guangdong & Macao Branded Products Fair 2017 (2017 粵澳名優精品展) from July 28-30. Includes sections for Acknowledgement, Officiating Guests, Special Supporting Organisations, Organisers, Co-organisers, Media Partner, Official Banking Partners, and Special Thanks to Sponsors.

what's ON



BOUNDLESS 4 - WORKS BY NELSON MADEIRA, SOU CHON KIT, FAN KENG IN AND LEE MAN HOU.

TIME: 12pm-7pm

UNTIL: August 13, 2017

VENUE: Ox Warehouse

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026

CONSTELLATION - WORKS BY NICOLAS DELAROCHE

TIME: 10am-9pm

UNTIL: October 8, 2017

VENUE: Tap Seac Gallery

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

COMMEMORATIVE EXHIBITIONS OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF SUN YAT-SEN'S BIRTH

TIME: 10am-6pm (Closed on Tuesdays, open on public holidays)

VENUE: No. 80, Rua das Estalagens

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

TREASURE OF SACRED ART OF ST. JOSEPH'S SEMINARY

TIME: 10am-5pm (Closed on Wednesdays, open on public holidays)

VENUE: St. Joseph's Seminary and Church, Rua do Seminario

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

FORMER HOME OF REVOLUTIONARY LEADER YE TING

TIME: 10am-6pm (Closed on Wednesdays, open on public holidays)

VENUE: 76, Rua Almirante Costa Cabral

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

THE MANDARIN'S HOUSE

TIME: 10am-6pm (Closed on Wednesdays)

VENUE: No. 10, Travessa de António da Silva

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8820

Offbeat

20,000 FLEE SPECTACULAR FIRE AT MUSIC FESTIVAL IN BARCELONA



A spectacular fire at a music festival in Spain forced the evacuation of over 20,000 concertgoers in Barcelona, the regional government said.

Images showed towering flames consuming a large outdoor stage Saturday night at the "Tomorrowland" electronic music festival held at Barcelona's Parc de Can Zam.

Barcelona firefighters said there were no serious injuries during the concert evacuation but the event's private security treated 20 people for minor injuries or anxiety.

Firefighters are investigating the cause of the fire. The "Tomorrowland" website published a statement saying the "stage caught fire due to a technical malfunction."

The festival in Barcelona was one of several offshoot events of a main "Tomorrowland" festival in Belgium. Organizers say the Barcelona event has been canceled following the fire.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
16:30	Revenge Sr.4
17:50	Now Generation (Repeated)
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

27 Jul - 2 Aug

PRIPARA THE MOVIE

ROOM 1

2:15pm

Director: Okubo Is Male

Starring:

Language: Cantonese (Chinese)

Duration: 58min

DESPICABLE ME 3

ROOM 1

3:30, 7:45pm

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 1

5:15, 9:30pm

Director: Matt Reeves

Starring: Woody Herrelson, Sara Canning, Judy Greer

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 140min



VALÉRIAN AND THE CITY OF A THOUSAND PLANETS

ROOM 2

2:30, 5:00, 9:30pm

Director: Luc Besson

Starring: Dane DeHann, Cara Delevigne, Clive Owen

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 137min

CARS 3

ROOM 2

7:00pm

ROOM 3

4:30pm

Director: Brian Fee

Starring: Owen Wilson, Cristela Alonzo, Chris Cooper

Language: Cantonese

Duration: 102min

MEOW

ROOM 3

2:30, 7:30pm

Director: Benny Chan

Starring: Louis Koo, Mary Ma, Jessica Liu, Andy Huang

Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 109min

SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING

ROOM 3

9:15pm

Director: Jon Watts

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

Language: English

Duration: 133min

this day in history



1991 SUPERPOWERS TO CUT NUCLEAR WARHEADS

The United States and the Soviet Union have signed an historic agreement reducing their stockpiles of nuclear warheads by about a third.

The Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, known as Start, was signed in Moscow by US President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

At a joint news conference after the signing ceremony, Mr Bush described the Start treaty as "a significant step forward in dispelling half a century of mistrust". Mr Gorbachev said it promised to be the start of "an irreversible process" of arms reduction, but stressed there was "still a lot to do".

The agreement took more than nine years to negotiate, and reduces each side's strategic nuclear weapons by about 35% over seven years. The Soviet Union's land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles will also be cut by 50%.

It is the first major agreement between the two countries over arms reduction since the Salt treaties, signed in 1972 and 1979, which limited the numbers of long-range nuclear missiles.

The Start treaty goes further, however, by committing the superpowers to scaling down their fleets of nuclear missiles and bombers, rather than just limiting expansion.

However, it still leaves the US and the Soviet Union with 9,000 and 7,000 warheads respectively. There was also no agreement over space weapons, or sea-launched cruise missiles.

Throughout the two-day summit, the emphasis has been on a new era of cooperation between the two sides.

Mr Bush and Mr Gorbachev spent much of their time discussing Mr Gorbachev's attempts to reform the ailing Soviet economy and the help that might be offered by the West, although neither leader would be drawn on specific details.

They are also understood to have discussed a jointly-sponsored Middle East peace conference. Mr Bush's visit takes place at a time of increasing unrest in the Soviet republics.

Six months ago Moscow put down an uprising in Lithuania, and just yesterday six Lithuanian border guards were killed in suspicious circumstances.

Both Mr Bush and Mr Gorbachev said they regretted the incident, but refused to comment further.

In an indication of the delicate balance of power in the Soviet Union, Mr Bush has taken time during his visit to meet the President of the Russian Republic, Boris Yeltsin, for private talks.

However, he was quick to reassure journalists in Moscow he continues to support Mr Gorbachev and the Soviet government.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Soviet Union collapsed in December 1991, before the Start treaty could be ratified.

After an intense period of diplomacy, agreements were reached with the Russian Federation and three former Soviet states where nuclear weapons were stationed - Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan.

The Start Treaty finally came into effect in December 1994, although the targets set out in the treaty were not met until 2001.

In 1993, the Start II treaty agreed to scrap a further 3,000-3,500 warheads. It was ratified by the US Congress in 1996.

In 1997, US President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin extended the treaty's deadline to 2007, and set out to begin negotiations on a Start III treaty for further reductions.

Eventually Start II and Start III were superseded by a further arms reduction treaty signed in 2002.

The Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty, better known as the Treaty of Moscow, aimed to cut the nuclear warheads of each side to between 1,700 and 2,200 by 2012 - a reduction of about two-thirds.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 It's going to be an interesting day, complete with the possibility of a visit from the green-eyed monster.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Someone you're quite intimately involved with may seem to be a bit cranky today, to say the very least.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 A dear one seems to be completely out of control and totally irritated with you. Regardless of what you say, they may not believe you're telling the truth.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You're not quite sure of what's going on with a friend or coworker, but you know you don't like it.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 After all the shopping you've done recently, you thought you were through with the mall - in fact, you were praying you were done for the sake of your credit rating.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You've just about had it with the veiled comments and sarcastic remarks that have been tossed your way lately on a far too regular basis.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 This is just one of those days when even you, with your remarkable ability to make peace, restore balance and bring warring factions into balance, won't be able to work your magic.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 It's time for you to admit something: Your values have changed. What used to be important no longer matters.

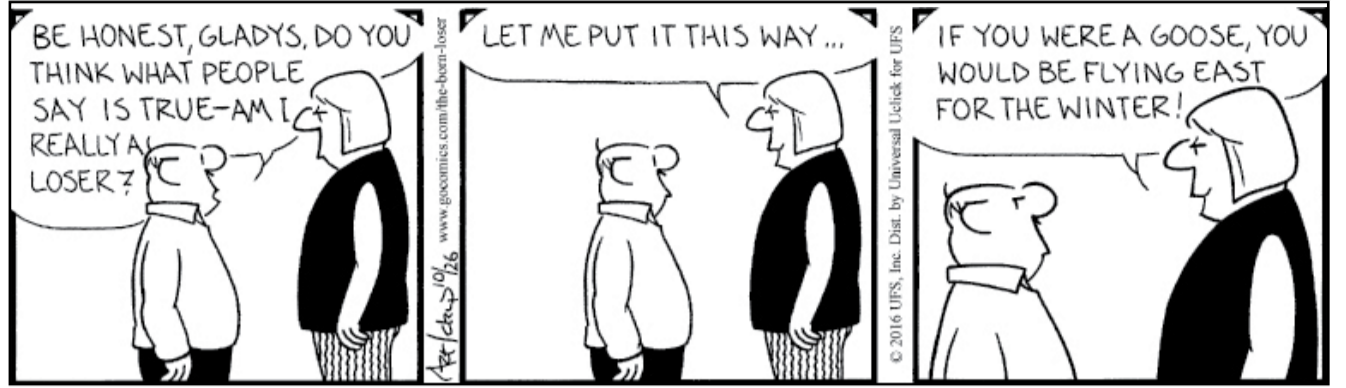
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Flinging a chair around the room won't help. You'll feel a little bit better, but not much. At the moment, you may even be convinced that you had every right, but you're only going to feel guilty afterward.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Someone whom you haven't seen in a long time - possibly someone who may actually have moved or been away - seems to be making trouble for you from behind the scenes.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Two friends of your - both of whom mean a great deal to you - have recently found it necessary to go out of their way to tick you off. At least, that's the way it seems.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You've gone out of your way to keep doing what they just recently told you were the right things to do. But now you're a bit confused.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Diary of ___ Housewife; 5- Grounded jets; 9- Brit's bottle measure; 14- Calamitous; 15- On; 16- ___ the hole; 17- Ordered to be executed; 19- ___ and desist; 20- Mildly laxative; 21- Monetary unit of the former Soviet Union; 22- Sign of a slip; 23- Yemen's capital; 24- Indignation; 25- Teacher; 28- Hazardous gas; 31- Committee head; 32- White ball, in pool; 34- Bring home; 35- A Judd; 36- WWII battle site; 37- Devoted follower; 38- Divinity; 39- Trades; 40- Highest singing voice in women; 42- ___ Gang; 43- Nerve network; 44- Make poisonous; 48- You ___ right!; 50- Certain salt; 51- At ___ for words; 52- Vexed; 53- Please, in Potsdam; 54- Nair rival; 55- Challenge to complete a task; 56- Rose; 57- "The Sweetest Taboo" singer; 58- Lamb's pseudonym; DOWN: 1- Designer Simpson; 2- Kitchen appliance; 3- Stadium used for sports or musical events; 4- Resolution; 5- Literary ridicule; 6- Range; 7- Shredded; 8- Bond, for one; 9- Ceiling; 10- Swelling reducer; 11- Greenish blue; 12- Ascend; 13- Compass point opposite WSW; 18- One-eighty; 21- Spokes; 23- Sordid; 25- Pic; 26- Twice tetra-; 27- Aquatic bird; 28- TKO caller; 29- Small batteries; 30- Bond classic; 31- The ___ Mutiny; 33- Dawn deity; 35- Peachy keen!; 36- Sing for; 38- Clad; 39- Down-filled quilt; 41- "Voila!"; 42- Like some inspections; 44- Made a mistake; 45- Birth-related; 46- Cheri of "Saturday Night Live"; 47- Euripides tragedy; 48- Came down to earth; 49- ___-Rooter; 50- Territory; 51- Stomach muscles, for short; 52- Officeholders;

Friday's solution crossword grid with filled-in words.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



FOR SALE and FOR RENT advertisement for JML Property, including website and contact information.

Real estate listings for various units in Macau, including Old Taipa, Chun Hung Garden, Lok Pou, and Pou Long Fa Un T5.

JML Property logo and contact information, including the company name in Chinese and English.



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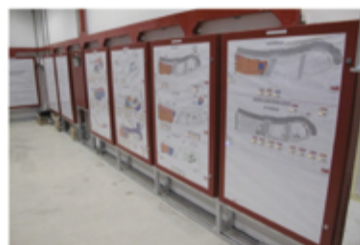


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Maintenance & Service
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AV/TV, 電話和顯示系統

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MOTORSPORT

Vettel overcomes steering problem to win Hungarian GP

Jerome Pugmire, Budapest

FERRARI'S Sebastian Vettel overcame steering difficulties to win a tense Hungarian Grand Prix yesterday and extend his championship lead over rival Lewis Hamilton to 14 points heading into the summer break.

The four-time Formula One champion made a decent start from pole position, crucially holding off teammate Kimi Raikkonen on the long straight into Turn 1. On a Hungaroring track where overtaking is notoriously hard, there were limited chances to catch him after that.

But Vettel was hampered by a steering issue for more than half the race, allowing the Mercedes cars to close the gap on him and Raikkonen — who in turn was being slowed down by Vettel.

"I'm over the moon. It was a really difficult race. I had my hands full," Vettel said. "The steering started to go sideways and it got worse. I really had to stay focused the whole race."

Vettel held on for his 46th career win, while Raikkonen expertly defended his position for a Ferrari 1-2.

"Grazie! Forza Ferrari!" a jubilant Vettel shouted on the team radio after crossing the line for his fourth win of the season.

This one owed much to Raikkonen's cagey driving, and Vettel in



Ferrari driver Sebastian Vettel of Germany (front) leads into the first curve at the start of the Hungarian Formula One Grand Prix

turn owes his Finnish teammate a favor after this. He patted Raikkonen on the arm in appreciation as they prepared to mount the podium.

Raikkonen used all of his experience to fend off Hamilton, who eventually finished fourth behind Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas.

Earlier, Bottas had let Hamilton past in order to attack the Ferraris. Hamilton then sportingly gave him third place back right at the end.

"Thanks to Lewis for keeping his promise," Bottas said, underlining the feeling of mutual respect between the teammates.

Over at Red Bull, there is unlikely to be such harmony.

Red Bull's Max Verstappen was fifth after knocking out of the race his teammate Daniel Ricciardo on the first lap.

Ricciardo's race was over after the contact on Turn 2, bringing the safety car out for a few laps as his car was towed off the track.

Verstappen was the perpetrator — swerving into his teammate when going wide on the exit from a turn.

"Was that who I think it was?" a stunned Ricciardo said over his team radio seconds after being hit.

It was a big blow for Ricciardo,

who had secured five podium finishes in the previous six races. As he watched replays of the incident in his team garage, Ricciardo looked stone-faced when he saw confirmation that it was his own teammate who was responsible.

"That was amateur to say the least," Ricciardo told broadcaster Sky Sports afterward.

Verstappen was given a 10-second time penalty for the incident, helping Hamilton's cause.

But Raikkonen's wily driving never gave him a real chance.

Hamilton had written off his chances of victory after qualifying, saying it would be an "easy breeze" for Ferrari on the tight

and twisty 4.4-kilometer circuit nestled in the hills surrounding Budapest. Only the sinewy street circuit of Monaco is tougher to overtake on.

Even before the race had started, Hamilton sounded extremely anxious as he spoke on the grid about overheating in his rear tires.

The steering started to go sideways and it got worse. I really had to stay focused the whole race.

SEBASTIAN VETTEL

In the end, it was Ferrari sweating in the hot Hungarian sun.

Ferrari faced an awkward dilemma as the race wound down with Vettel leading but under instruction to avoid contact with the kerbs because of his steering problems. The result was that Vettel was slowing down Raikkonen just behind him.

"The Mercedes are catching," a worried Raikkonen said over his radio.

Bottas let Hamilton past him, on the condition that he would give the position back if he couldn't get a clean shot at Raikkonen.

With 18 laps left, Hamilton was told he had "five laps" — or about seven minutes — to catch Raikkonen.

"No pressure, then." Hamilton replied.

The team then gave him another five laps. It wasn't enough. **AP**



CRICKET

England set S. Africa massive 492 to win

ENGLAND set South Africa a massive challenge of scoring 492 to win the third test match yesterday.

England declared shortly before tea on the

fourth day at the Oval, scoring 313 for 8 and leaving South Africa to try to bat through four sessions for a draw or an unlikely victory.

England lost six wicke-

ts in the afternoon session as they forced the pace. Middle order batsmen Ben Stokes and Jonny Bairstow speeded up the run rate and Bairstow struck 63 from

58 balls.

England was dismissed for 353 in its first innings thanks to 88 from Alastair Cook and a century from Stokes. Debutant Toby Roland-Jones ripped through the South African batting and the tourists were dismissed for 175.

Yesterday, opener Keaton Jennings hit 48, debutant Tom Westley 59 and captain Joe Root 50. England's third debutant, Dawid Malan, failed again before Stokes (31) and Bairstow hurried the score along and built a commanding lead.

South Africa's best bowler Vernon Philander has been plagued by food poisoning throughout this match and bowled 15 overs, but could not take a wicket as the wicket flattened out.

The four-match series is level 1-1. **AP**



TENNIS

Fognini wins Swiss Open final

FABIO Fognini won his fifth career title by beating 170th-ranked qualifier Yannick Hanfmann 6-4, 7-5 in the Swiss Open final yesterday.

The fourth-seeded Italian was always in control, racing to a 4-0 lead in the first set and never allowing a break-point chance in the second.

Fognini's fifth title, all on

outdoor clay courts, came from a wild-card entry to play at the Swiss Alps ski resort.

He earned a prize of 86,000 euros (USD101,000), and the 25-year-old Hanfmann got a career-best 45,000-euro check (\$53,000) for his full week's work.

The 31st-ranked Fognini is now 5-8 in finals on the ATP tour. **AP**

opinion

Rear Window
Severo Portela



DRESS CODE FOR ALL SEASONS

Departing Vong Hin Fai - as an appointed benchman and one soon to replace fellow lawmaker and lawyer Leonel Alves as the Professional Interests functional constituency representative at the Nam Van floor - took the time and showed ingenuity in giving the Legislative Assembly a much-wanted gift by sorting out of the September 17 selection procedure. This was a proposal to ban lawmakers from displaying posters, placards, political banners and, wisely, other non-specified signage. Curiously, the new rules do not go as far as legislators' clothing. That is why we titled this column a dress code for all seasons - we know that the ban on posters is a wild call to the imagination.

According to VHF, who is the chair of the relevant House Rules Committee, the idea behind the change of the terms of engagement on the floor is one "to uphold the solemnity of the legislature". As an idea or objective however it looks to be disproportionate to the tepid record of the plenary sessions, which are seldom disturbed, God forbid, by the creativity of lawmakers. This one obviously limits the freedom of expression, and challenges the already challenged local political arena.

Unintentionally, Vong Hin Fai gave NMA democrats - who are already corset-constricted by the CAEAL spirit - reason to publicly cry foul over a proposal that significantly limits the freedom of expression.

Sulu Sou and others had the chance educate the chambers on Legislative Assembly solemnity and the dignity of the legislators by pointing to failings in transparency regarding the scrutiny of the government... according to the very terms of article 71 of the Basic Law. In doing this, NMA managed to build a 400 members list of support, and to enlist Pereira Coutinho, New Hope and an awkward partner in the departing powerhouse legislator, Chan Meng Kam. The latter not only condemned the ban on displaying political posters, he also made the case in support of the banners in the form of a candid interrogation: "What is the problem with displaying banners to government officials?"

Believed in some circles to be leaving his seat to consider other political options, Chan Meng Kam carefully chose his words to enlighten people about the context of Zhang Dejiang's comments on banners. This urged VHF and Co. to make a restrictive modification. Chan's subtlety is echoed in his last words: to the government officials; we repeat, to the government officials... not national officials! The mountains are high and the Emperor is far away".

CMK is also helping to avoid the greying of a legislature that is very quietly reinterpreting, without much ado, the executive-led prominence within the definition of a SAR. In this, the Basic Law would be an experiment on how to go from authoritarianism to constitutionalism without losing the authority.

August's first call for summer notes: First we give high marks to FATF's positive evaluation of the effectiveness of MSAR's regulatory framework on anti-money-laundering and anti-terrorism financing. Usually circumspect, SCMP did not hesitate to mark it as a "glowing report card". That sounds like a thumbs-up to corruption-busters.

Second, on a light note to a serious matter, we prostrate in awe before an anomaly sold as innovation and due diligence. The three-day cleaning session at the Macau Peninsula Water Sewage Treatment plant posed a challenge to public health which was threatened with 72-hours of untreated discharge. It also challenges environmental public policy that has allegedly been reduced to third-world standards. Let us hope this three-day special operation - perhaps inspired by a mixture of intensive care and beauty care - does not give ideas for ongoing waste treatment...ça-va-seul!

THE BUZZ SCOTLAND TO BRITAIN: PROTECT SCOTCH WHISKY AFTER BREXIT

Scotland has called for Scotch to be defined in U.K. law so its vital whisky industry can be protected after Brexit. Scottish Economy Secretary Keith Brown has written to officials asking for strong legal protections for the industry, which is worth around 4 billion pounds (USD5.3 billion) in exports. A European Union definition of whisky currently protects sales from substandard products - but EU laws

will no longer apply to Britain after the country exits the bloc in 2019. Brown's comments Sunday came after Britain's International Trade Secretary Liam Fox visited the U.S. this week for trade talks. Brown said the U.S. has voiced support for relaxing the definition of whisky, which he said would open the market to products that don't meet the current standard.



JOURNALISM

New CBS newsmagazine promises immersive storytelling

David Bauder, New York

CBS premieres a news program tomorrow [Macau time] designed to showcase the journalism on its CBSN streaming service, the second time this summer one of the broadcast networks has tried a fresh twist on the newsmagazine format.

"CBSN: On Assignment" airs the first of four summer episodes a day after NBC's "Sunday Night with Megyn Kelly" has its last show until next spring. The CBS series promises no host, no celebrity interviews and a storytelling style that will be familiar to young fans of Vice and John Oliver.

Its first episode includes stories on foreign workers building American auto plants, the recruitment of children as Islamic State fighters and innovative uses of robots in Japan.

The idea is to give broadcast exposure to the more immersive storytelling used on CBSN, said Mosheh Oinounou, the series' executive producer.

"We're trying to take folks there in a way that is a little less polished, a little more raw," Oinounou said. "At



a time when there's a lot of scrutiny of journalism and news, we're trying to be much more transparent about how we got the story and how we tell the story."

At times that can be distracting, like when Charlie D'Agata tells viewers about the smell of rotting bodies as he walks down a street in Iraq, or Vladimir Duthiers on an early-morning stakeout of an auto plant. But they're interesting stories off the path of the evening news and given room to breathe.

CBSN's experience, along with the popularity of Vice and in-depth segments on Oliver's HBO show, point to a taste among younger viewers to take time with worthwhile stories, said Nancy Lane, senior executive producer of CBS Digital.

The show will be simulcast on both the network and streaming service. While re-

porters and techniques familiar to CBSN viewers will be on display, the newsmagazine's stories won't be reruns of things already shown on CBSN.

"We're hopeful it will work both ways," Lane said. "It will have the more traditional audience of broadcast taste and experience what digital is, and have some of the digital people realize that CBS News is not some stuffy old network. It's actually got a broad range of reporting, ideas and voices that can bring information to them."

Duthier, who's working on a future piece about North Korea, said he enjoys bringing viewers along for the ride in his stories.

Oinounou also had a promise for viewers who may be getting political fatigue.

"This effectively can be a Washington or Trump-free zone for an hour," he said. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Francisco Seco



A man holds smoke bombs during a protest by Spanish taxi drivers unions in Madrid. Taxi drivers unions called for a 24-hours strike to protest the increase in cars run by private companies offering cheaper, mobile ride-hailing services.

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	60-80 Moderate	
High Density Residential Area	85-115 Bad	
Ambient	95-125 Bad	

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

AUSTRALIA Police disrupted the first alleged plot in Australia to bring down an airplane and arrested four men in raids on Sydney homes, officials said yesterday. More on p13

QATAR Four Arab states that cut ties with Qatar decided yesterday to refrain from immediately imposing more punitive measures against the Gulf state.



ISRAEL An Israeli military court yesterday upheld the 18-month sentence of a soldier convicted of fatally shooting a Palestinian attacker who lay on the ground wounded after stabbing and wounding another soldier.

TURKEY Seven staff members of an opposition newspaper were released from a Turkish jail pending the outcome of their trial on charges of allegedly aiding terror organizations.



GERMANY A Palestinian man who allegedly stabbed one person to death and wounded six others in Hamburg was known to authorities as a suspected Islamic radical but was also considered psychologically unstable. The man is believed to have acted alone and there are no indications he had links to any network, the Hamburg state interior minister said. More on p14

SPAIN Regional government authorities in southeastern Spain say a wildfire has forced the evacuation of 300 people and burned 1,000 hectares of pine forest.

BRAZIL Police evicted about 100 homeless families from under an overpass in downtown Sao Paulo where they had been living for months in makeshift wooden shacks.