



CHILDREN'S DANCE PERFORMANCE AT CCM

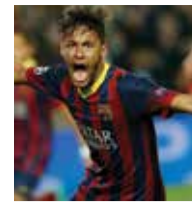
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CANDIDATE LIST PUBLISHED

The list of accepted candidate teams to the September 17 direct and indirect elections was published

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NEYMAR ON CUSP OF RECORD-BREAKING MOVE

Neymar wants to leave Barcelona and Paris Saint-Germain is ready to put up a record USD262 million to make it happen

P18 FOOTBALL



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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS



US-NORTH KOREA
Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has offered reassurance to North Korea that "we are not your enemy," though he wants help from China to push for conditions that can lead to talks with the North. He said the United States does "not seek a regime change. We do not seek a collapse of the regime. We do not seek an accelerated reunification of the peninsula."

CHINA-ASEAN
Southeast Asia's top diplomats will seek talks "as soon as possible" on a proposed non-aggression pact with China aimed at preventing clashes in the South China Sea and will likely hold back on criticism of China's aggressive acts in the disputed waters in a weekend summit.
More on p11



MALAYSIA Authorities said yesterday that they seized 23 pieces of elephant tusks and 301 kilograms of pangolin scales believed to have been smuggled from Africa in a haul worth nearly USD1 million.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA
Prime Minister Peter O'Neill was re-elected as leader of the South Pacific island nation yesterday, following a complex, chaotic election plagued by violence and allegations of ballot fraud. The nation's Parliament elected O'Neill to a second five-year term by a vote of 60 to 46.

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Chui Sai On admits shortcomings at AL

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Q&A EUGÉNIO NOVIKOFF SALES PAINTER

'There is no system that protects local artists and Macau should have one'

P4

One local arrested for phone scam

A local man has been arrested for providing aid to criminals responsible for the recent wave of phone scams. The 28-year-old taxi driver provided his personal bank account information to groups involved in the phone scams for criminal use. The man, now under arrest, admitted that he could get MOP500 for each successful transaction the fraud group completed. The Judiciary Police (PJ) stated that the bureau has already frozen all mainland and Macau bank accounts belonging to the man, who had savings amounting to MOP240,000. The PJ believes the man's accounts were used in several phone scam cases.

ID will not extend sports facilities' operation hours

The Sports Bureau (ID) indicated that it is currently not considering extending the operation time of Macau's public sports facilities. Joe Ho, Chief of the Sports Facility Management Department of ID, said during yesterday's TDM radio show that the operation hours of certain sports fields will remain at 17 hours per day. He noted that this is already a relatively long period. He also said that the bureau must conduct more investigation into the possibility of further extending operation hours. According to Ho, the public mainly uses the sports facilities during off-work and off-school times.

IC accepting applications for fashion design subsidy

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) has launched the "2017 Subsidy Program for Fashion Design on Sample Making." The program has been implemented three times previously and works to comprehensively bolster Macau's fashion design industry. The program has two main goals; to encourage Macau-based fashion designers to present practical and optimized business plans to the industry and to initiate their involvement in commercial activities as well as their participation in Macau and international fashion marketing opportunities. These are all actions that will enhance the popularity and market competitiveness of the Macau fashion industry and will spur on the steady development of the Macau design community. All eligible applicants will be granted subsidies up to MOP160,000 each for sample production and promotional materials. Submission for applications will end on August 14.

HKD falls to weakest level in 19 months

AFTER seven months of almost uninterrupted decline, the Hong Kong dollar has fallen to its weakest level against the U.S. dollar since January 2016.

During yesterday's trading, it broke the HKD7.814 ceiling, rising as high as HKD7.817 against the USD.

The last time the HKD was this weak was in January 2016, when it reached a peak of HKD7.8296 against the dollar.

The currency in the semi-autonomous territory is pegged to the U.S. dollar between a trading band of HKD7.75 to HKD7.85. However, its recent



weakness has some analysts speculating it could break out of the band, prompting immediate action from the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA).

The Macau pataca is fixed against the HKD at a rate of MOP1.032. Local authorities

are obliged to issue and redeem the currency against the HKD at this specific rate.

In order to keep within the set band, the HKMA normally tracks the U.S. base rate, which, prior to several increases this year, had been held at 0.5 per-

cent since the 2008 financial crash.

Contrary to expectations, the HKMA has held interest rates low due to abundant liquidity from the mainland. Macau authorities have followed suit.

The HKMA is empowered to use its considerable reserves to buy up the HKD in order to feed strength into the currency. This may become a necessity should the currency appear to be breaking out of its pegged band.

The Financial Times says that "the ability of the city to defend its peg is not currently in doubt," however, there is a fear "that any action will drain liquidity and sharply raise borrowing costs in the territory."

Meanwhile, against the RMB, the HKD is tracking at its lowest point since October 2016, moving against an upward trend that began in 2014. **DB**

ARTS

Interactive children's dance performance at CCM

THE Macau Cultural Center (CCM) will be holding an interactive children's dance performance titled "Puzzle" from today to Sunday. The show is for children aged one to four years old.

"Puzzle" was nominated as the best children's performance by Lithuania's Ministry of Culture.

The choreographer of the performance, Birute Baneviciute, along with two dancers, Mantas Stabacinska and Marius Pinigis, spoke with the media yesterday at a press conference.

Baneviciute explained that the show incorporates four main elements - namely movement, sound, color and shape.

"Our aim is to create space for children to enjoy movement, to enjoy the world through cognition and movement. The four elements are the basis of this show where we play with them through a puzzle," said Baneviciute.

Dancers in the performance mime the movements of children - for instance, their crawling, running or clapping. They interact with the children in this man-



Birute Baneviciute (right)

ner, incorporating brightly colored geometric shapes for the children to see and touch.

"Dancers move together with the children. We really meet children, and have contact with every child," said Baneviciute. "It's a place where children can start exploring, and start creating, at first by looking, but then we also give them space and time to really go in physically to start exploring by moving."

Having done the show for 10 years, Baneviciute commented that children's reactions to the performance have generally remained the same.

"Usually, children start moving. During the performance, we have moments of interaction so they are not sitting and watching but also touching and bouncing

with the shapes."

She added that the performance is a great chance for families to get together.

Baneviciute led a workshop for the dance performance yesterday, with 20 children in attendance.

Baneviciute and her team are part of Dansema Dance Theatre. Founded in 2007, Dansema Dance Theatre is the first professional dance theatre in Lithuania. The company creates performances for young audiences and has performed all over the world in countries such as the Netherlands, Palestine and Ukraine. The team has also performed in cities in China including Beijing, Shanghai and most recently, Hong Kong.

There will be six shows from today until Sunday, each lasting approximately 45 minutes.

Forum with new delegates from Cape Verde, São Tomé

THE new delegates from Cape Verde and São Tomé and Príncipe to the Permanent Secretariat of Forum Macau took office on Tuesday.

According to the Support Office to the Permanent Secretariat of the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese Language Countries, the new delegate from Cape Verde, Nuno Miguel Melo Furtado, previously served as the diplomatic advisor to the president of the National Assembly of Cape Verde.

The Sao Tomé and Príncipe delegate to the Permanent Secretariat of Forum Macau, Gualter Sousa Pontes da Vera Cruz, served as the ad-

visor to the Minister of Finance, Trade and the Blue Economy of São Tomé and Príncipe.

On July 31, the former Cape Verdean delegate, Mário Vicente, after being in office since March 2011, resigned from the Permanent Secretariat of Forum Macau.

São Tomé and Príncipe's entry to the Forum Macau was approved by the other member countries in March.

This move follows the re-establishment of diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, replacing Taiwan, which occurred on December 20, 2016. The Forum Macau now has all eight countries with Portuguese as an official language as members.

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DIRECTOR AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF_Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
MANAGING EDITOR_Paulo Barbosa paulo.barbosa@macaudailytimes.com
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS_Eric Sautedé, Leanda Lee, Severo Portela

NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS_Alban Martins, Annabel Jackson, Daniel Beitler, Emilie Tran, Grace Yu, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Joseph Cheung, Julie Zhu, Juliet Risdon, Lynzy Valles, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Rodrigo de Matos (cartoonist), Viviana Segui
DESIGNERS_Eva Bucho, Miguel Bandeira | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS_JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES_Associated Press, Bloomberg, Financial Times, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua | SECRETARY_Yang Dongxiao arry@macaudailytimes.com

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

SECRETARY_Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS_Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR Telephone: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

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“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”

Lynzy Valles

AN exhibition featuring the recent works of the renowned Macau-born artist Eugénio Novikoff Sales kicked off yesterday at Albergue SCM.

Showcasing 14 acrylic works in the exhibition titled "Kiss Africa - Macau+Lusofonia," the paintings are filled to the brim with color and express Sales' affection for different cultures.

Speaking to the Times, Sales, who is also a member of the prestigious OFAA-Olimpia Fine Art Association, expressed his concern that Macau lacks a system to promote local artists.

According to him, it would further hinder the growth of the local art industry, which would in turn affect the development of the region's culture.

Sales also claimed that several remarkable artists have stopped creating artworks due to limited sponsorships given to them. The artist was born in Macau in 1960 but moved to Mozambique, Africa, at the age of six. His father was from Macau and his mother from Belarus under the former Soviet Union.

Macau Daily Times (MDT) - What is the reason behind naming the exhibition 'Kiss Africa?'

Eugenio Novikoff Sales (ENS) - Usually when I see [promotions] about Africa, it's 'embrace Africa', 'help Africa' or 'donate something to Africa.' So 'Kiss Africa' is like an air of kiss for the good and bad experiences I've had before. One thing I'm happy about the exhibition is that it's the first time the Chinese community can see my paintings in a not-so-far away place.

MDT - As a Macau-born artist who has traveled across many regions, how has your experience influenced your artworks?

ENS - My painting has an African influence. It's not an influence that I wanted to [have]

Q&A EUGÉNIO NOVIKOFF SALES PAINTER

'There is no system that protects local artists and Macau should have one'



but it happened naturally because of my childhood. I used to play with many African communities from different tribes so this influence came naturally. My paintings have some savage [elements]; something that I cannot explain but happened nonetheless.

MDT - So your childhood experiences in Africa played a significant part in the current artworks you are creating?

ENS - I started to paint in Macau more than 30 years ago and did my first official exhibition in Macau. At that time, my paintings were maybe Picasso or Matisse, but nobody knew for sure what I was doing. Until recently, in 2014, I was doing my sole exhibition at the Portuguese Consulate and many

African lusophonists looked at my painting and they said it's lusophone art. And from there onwards, I was baptized and was considered as the father of lusophone art all over China, including Macau.

MDT - What is the significance of the presence of lusophone art in a region that serves as a platform between China and Portuguese speaking-countries?

ENS - For me, the way the government is [promoting] local art is not correct because everything is under the Cultural Affairs Bureau [IC], and it cannot be like this.

We know what happened last time with the previous president of IC, Ung Vai Meng. He invited his staff to work there so all the people who worked

there were his friends. There is an elite group of them. Other artists who are doing real promotion of Macau art cannot [have a breakthrough] especially if they [IC] didn't like [them]. I think the government should consider [implementing a system], as they do in many countries, [so] that if a local artist has made at least three international exhibitions, their name should be immediately be available for any sponsorship.

Now what happens in Macau? The associations are getting sponsorship but the associations only care about who's going to cut the ribbon in the exhibition, [...] while the artists are left behind. [...] In my case, Macau Foundation never gave me any sponsorship. I don't know why they don't have a

system that can recognize which artists are promoting art outside of Macau.

MDT - What should the government do?

ENS - There is no system that protects local artists and Macau should have one. The Macau government said they want to build a good culture for Macau. Here, one artist becomes famous, but after changes in government [department heads], their sentiment for this artist is different. So this artist will immediately [stagnate]. In other countries it's not like that because they show respect and protect them and give them what they need because [they know] that art is a way to promote the standard of the culture of a country. [...] Macau lacks these things.

MDT - Up to what extent will this "lack of system" hinder the growth of the local art industry?

ENS - We have good artists who have been creating paintings for a long time but because of the lack of system, they stopped. [...] The prizes and awards that I get outside of Macau have [promoted] my art. When they put me up, they're also putting up the Macau culture. Tomorrow I'm having an exhibition in Hong Kong in Ink Global 2017. The exhibition features 500 famous artists in the world, and in this 500, there are 100 artists that are part of a 'special selection' and I'm among these artists. So I'm thinking, what is the Macau government doing? What are they thinking to do about my art?

MDT - Is this discouraging you and/or other local artists?

ENS - Of course. They only like to promote the artists that they want, whether a good one or a bad one. [...] Macau really has no system [to protect local artists]. I don't know if they have this system in the music sector but for painting, absolutely nothing.

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AL PLENARY

Chui: '2018 will be a good opportunity for Macau's development'

Julie Zhu

THE Chief Executive (CE), Chui Sai On, attended the Legislative Assembly (AL) plenary meeting yesterday, where he answered lawmakers' questions on several topics relating to Macau's development.

During the plenary session, Chui said that he believes the economic slowdown is over after 20 months of economic adjustment. "The general trend of the following few years seems promising," he stated.

Several lawmakers, including Cheang Chi Keong, questioned Chui on how Macau could seize opportunities to further participate in regional cooperation activities, including cooperation with mainland China and the Portuguese-speaking countries.

Chui was questioned about Macau's future and particularly its participation in China's Greater Bay Area program, as well as Macau's intention to develop as a link between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries.

During yesterday's session, Chui repeatedly praised mainland China for always incorporating Macau in its plans.

"Thanks [to mainland China] for allowing Macau to participate in the whole development [China-Portuguese speaking countries platform]. [...] We need to enhance our investment in policy research and our in-

vestment in mainland affairs. [...] It will bring Macau a new development magic. [...] I believe that the year of 2018 will be a good opportunity for Macau's development with the support of the State. [...] This is not only the government's job, but also a job where all the residents take part," said Chui.

It is undeniable that the public administration has problems.

CHUI SAI ON

Chui pointed out that since Macau currently has many development opportunities available, all sectors should consider if the region is ready to undertake the significant amounts of work to actualize these opportunities.

Chui also noted that Macau will build itself as a leading region for training in world tourism, serving as a foundation of culture.

Sio Chi Wai asked Chui what measures the government is considering to improve the quality of the city's public servants, and to strengthen their training.

In response, Chui said, "Most civil servants are diligent. How-

ever, it is undeniable that the public administration indeed has problems. [...] The civil servants are very united when special incidents take place in Macau, which allows us to overcome these periods peacefully. [...] The civil servants contributed a lot to the region's security and regular functions," said Chui.

Lau Veng Seng asked whether the government is considering the establishment of a better medical system, by providing more opportunities to private medical service providers, and improving the medical welfare provision system.

Chui said that Macau's medical costs have been continuously increasing, and that it is "worth studying" whether the residents should and are willing to contribute more for better medical services.

The CE pointed out that issues such as these are at the heart of Lau's questions.

Ho Ion Sang criticized the government for its poor job at the Border Gate bus terminal, where people "suffer from high temperatures and polluted air."

Ho questioned how Macau could behave as if it had the reception abilities of a tourism city in light of the border gate bus terminal issues.

Chui admitted that the government was aware of the poor environmental conditions at the terminal, and that the govern-

ment "is determined to solve the problem."

"The government has implemented a series of policies [to solve the problem], however the effect has not been ideal. In a short time, [the government] will conduct a remediation project," announced Chui. According to Chui, the government will soon conduct the first phase of the project, which will last for five months.

Under this project, the government will expand the ventilation system at the border gate bus terminal, renovate the flower garden, expand the pedestrian walkways, and install a centralized air conditioner at the terminal.

During the first phase, air conditioners will be installed in the waiting lounge at the bus terminal.

Wong Kit Cheng and Melinda Chan were also among the lawmakers querying Chui about the government's policy to accommodate the aging population and provide assistance to the elderly.

Chui noted that there are 28,000 elderly people studying within the continuous education program, and stated that the government will expand the service.

Regarding the younger population, the CE said that he plans to commission a study on the feasibility of building apartments for youth. The government is also expected to increase the number of nursing schools for children.

Zheng Anting questioned the process through which the government is investigating the amendment of the region's land laws.

Chui said that the administration affairs and justice sectors are currently investigating the amendment of the region's land laws.

Ng Kuok Cheong asked Chui whether the government will ensure that lands on the new urban zone will belong exclusively to Macau people, and that the lands will not be used by big property companies for business purposes. He pointed out that no previous research had been done.

Chui noted that the government will not approve lands randomly, and all policies and actions regarding the new urban zone will be in accordance with the city's laws.

In addition, Angela Leong wanted the government to inform the public whether it will consider providing four years of free university education to students.

Chui said that Leong's question is worth discussing. However, he pointed out that the local government is ensuring that Macau students will not be prevented from attending and completing university because of their family's financial situation.

Chui told Leong that, currently, the government does not have the budget to provide four years of free tertiary education to everyone.

The CE pointed out that it is worth considering "whether our over-protection of [the students] will lead them to have a different opinion regarding competition. Even if we offer four years of free tertiary education, [...] how can we balance the society's development having so many graduates?"

Leong also wanted to know whether the government will build youth apartments over the Macau Canidrome land.

Chui confirmed that the government will not build houses on the Canidrome land.

Leonel Alberto asked whether the government is thinking about establishing laws to allow the Office for Personal Data Protection (GPDP) to meet international requirements in terms of its work, and to increase the office's credibility.

In response, Chui mentioned that the relevant law is on the way, but needs more time to be well-drafted. He promised that the GPDP will become a formal entity and will participate in international affairs.

'LEVEL OF HAPPINESS' DISAPPOINTS

CHUI DELIVERED an optimistic forecast about Macau's economy, but he acknowledged that the population is not satisfied with the standard of living here. "The level of hap-

piness of the population is not as satisfactory," he said. "We need to know what are the aspects that make the population displeased and what the social problems are."

Candidate list of the AL election published

THE Electoral Affairs Commission for the Legislative Assembly Election (CAEAL) published the definitive version of the list of accepted candidate teams to the September 17 direct and indirect elections yesterday.

Following the publication of the list of accepted teams, CAEAL will conduct a draw today to determine the order in which candidate teams will appear on the ballot paper.

The definitive version of the list confirms that a total of 25 teams, with an aggregate of 192 candidates, will contest the direct election for the Legislative Assembly.

Six teams, with a total of 15

candidates, will contest the indirect election. Four of the five functional constituencies for the indirect election have only one ticket each running for election. Two teams will contest the seats in the professional sector constituency.

From yesterday, accepted candidate teams will not be permitted to conduct promotional activities until the official campaign period begins on September 2. The official campaign period runs until September 15.

The Commission issued its second election guideline, stressing that "any violation of the guideline may amount to a criminal offence."

According to a statement issued yesterday by the CAEAL,

the guideline "requires the removal or deletion of any message or information – displayed in any public area and online platform – that aims to draw public attention to a particular candidate or candidates; as well as any message or information aimed at encouraging voters – in an explicit or implicit way – to vote or not vote for a particular candidate or candidates."

The guideline stipulates that trustees and candidates of each ticket, as well as trustees of nomination committees, must remove or delete any promotional material on or before midnight of August 2.

The Electoral Affairs Commission and the Commission Against Corruption held a mee-



The CAEAL president Tong Hio Fong (center)

ting on Tuesday to explain the guideline to ticket trustees, candidates and trustees of nomination committees. A similar session will be held on Friday.

In addition, the CAEAL also held a meeting on Tuesday with

representatives of local media outlets reporting in Chinese, English and Portuguese. According to the statement, "the session aimed to ensure a fair and objective news coverage of the election process."

Legislation allowing triple play service could take a decade

SECRETARY for Transport and Public Works Raimundo do Rosário has confirmed that the government will move forward with plans to enable telecommunications companies to be able to provide integrated Internet, TV and telephone services (the so-called triple play service) but that it could take a decade to implement. Triple play services are already common in many countries worldwide.

According to the Secretary, significant legislation needs amendment before the package services can be licensed, and current telecommunication contracts in place must also expire, reported Lusa.

"As we all know, there are four telecom operators providing mobile services at the moment, but in the future we hope that every single company can provide a [package] service to the public," said Rosário earlier this week, as cited by TDM.



"We are determined to push this forward though we are starting a bit late," he admitted.

The Telecommunications Regulation Bureau indicated last year that the government would require just two or three years to complete the regulation for the triple play services. The then-acting director, Tam Van Iu, said the licenses will offer locals more viewing choices.

Now the Secretary says that two types of license frameworks might exist; one for

network infrastructure operators such as CTM, and another for operators providing retail services. The former will provide the infrastructure services required by the latter.

Earlier this year, CTM CEO Vandy Poon said that CTM is interested in providing integrated Internet, TV and telephone services once the government regulates them. "The government has indicated in the recent past that they are working on stimulating the licensing of those services," Poon noted.

Penang team prepares TrailHiker event

FOR the fourth year in succession, the Penang running community will enter a team to participate in the Macau Eco Trail Hiker 30 kilometers Corporate Challenge held on November 4.

At a handover dinner ceremony held recently, the 2016 Penang TrailHiker team welcomed its new team for the 2017 event. The 2017 team, known as Penang Run Addicts, consists of four highly experienced trail runners. Han Khim (aged 43), Sabrina Koo (aged 30), Owen See (aged 31), and Darren Chau (aged 37). Several of the team members have recently experienced podium finishes in trail-running events in Malaysia.



Team Manager Thadeus Lee commented that this is by far the strongest team Penang has entered in the Macau Eco Trail Hiker event. Lee went on to comment that he was a member of the 2016 TrailHiker team and really enjoyed the event, recalling the challenging and scenic 30 kilo-

meter course, the fun and friendly atmosphere and the post-event lunch. Current team captain Han Kim stated that it would be the team's first time to experience Macau and that they are excited about participating in this year's event.

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MOP10 every Friday between 6p.m. and 9p.m. According to a press release

issued by The Venetian Macao, guests can enjoy one of France's leading champagnes, "Moët & Chandon Imperial" with a 'buy one get one free' offer for either MOP180 per glass or MOP880 per bottle.

To pair with the champagne, Spirito Bar is also offering oysters imported from France for just MOP10 each.

The bar serves as a semi-formal area next to the main dining room where guests can relax either inside or on the outdoor terrace with their beverage of choice. This promotion is bound to be popular among locals and visitors, hence advanced bookings are recommended.

IKEA STARTS SELLING SOLAR BATTERIES TO HOMEOWNERS



Home retailer IKEA said it would start selling batteries for rooftop solar panels in the latest sign that once-costly storage technologies are becoming mainstream.

The Solar Battery Storage system was announced in partnership with U.K. panel provider Solar Century Holdings Ltd. yesterday, providing potential savings on electricity bills by

enabling users to use stored solar power when the sun is down and power grid costs are high.

The news came after the U.K. government set out last month to help energy consumers and industries save as much as 40 billion pounds (USD52 billion) on their electricity bills by opening the grid to battery storage devices. The cost of lithium-ion cells used in batteries have already fallen 73 percent since 2010 and more price declines are expected.

A solar panel and battery storage kit from IKEA would cost from USD9,155, that would be returned over 12 years, according to the statement by IKEA on its website.

The New Tiguan2. All grown-up



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LED Headlight



3D LED Taillight

The Tiguan 2 is a great all-grown-up SUV with distinctive styling which redefines its class and confidently points the way to the future. The new generation Tiguan is the first sport utility vehicle to be based on the modular transverse matrix (MQB), and it sets new standards in design, comfort and functionality. In doing so it of course remains capable of off-road, with a rugged all-wheel drive system that includes premium class technology for use on and off the highway. The Tiguan 2 is, then, both more SUV and more than an SUV.



Volkswagen

PS : 1) The pictures are for reference only.

2) In the event of any dispute, Volkswagen Hong Kong reserves the right to make the final decision.

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Apple soars to record after signaling resilient iPhone demand

Alex Webb

APPLE Inc. soared to a record after giving a revenue forecast that highlighted resilient demand for the iPhone ahead of the launch of its new models and the growing significance of the company's supporting businesses.

New iPhones typically go on sale in mid- to late September, which produces a few weeks of revenue that are included in the company's fiscal fourth-quarter results. Some analysts had reduced their estimates on concern the new high-end iPhone may be delayed, but Apple's projections on Tuesday - and increasing sales of other products and services - calmed those fears.

Revenue will be USD49 billion to \$52 billion in the three months through September, the Cupertino, California-based company said in a statement. Analysts had predicted \$49.1 billion.

The stock jumped as much as 6.5 percent, the most since February, to \$159.75 in New York yesterday, valuing the company at almost \$828 billion.

The company sold just more than 41 million iPhones in the quarter ended July 1, a 1.6 percent increase from a year earlier and generally in line with analysts' estimates.

Fiscal third-quarter revenue rose 7.2 percent to \$45.4 billion compared with the average projection of \$44.9 billion. Every product category grew, driven by services such as the App Store. Apple even sold 15 percent more iPads, a product that seemed out of fashion not that long ago.



BLOOMBERG

"There is some relief from the fear of a significant pause before the 10th anniversary iPhone refresh," said Michael Obuchowski, chief investment officer at Merlin Capital LLC in Boston, which holds Apple stock. "I'm beginning to think it won't matter if the new iPhones aren't that exciting."

Apple is likely to introduce three new handsets this year: a revamped top model, known for now as the iPhone 8, and upgrades to the existing iPhone 7 and iPhone 7 Plus, people familiar with the plans have told Bloomberg News. The high-end iPhone will include an organic light-emitting diode screen, and inadequate OLED supplies mean that

it will not be as readily available as the cheaper handsets at launch, the people said.

Cook said reporting about the new versions of the iPhone "has created a pause" in consumer buying "that is likely larger than previously."

Apple's stock has soared on expectations that the new high-end smartphone, which will also include a front-facing three-dimensional sensor to enable facial recognition, will spur a resurgence in demand that will carry into the holiday quarter and beyond. Sales growth of the company's flagship product has slowed over the past two years as the market has become increasingly sa-

turated and competitors have offered cheaper products with similar capabilities.

Slowing smartphone sales have prompted Apple to invest more heavily in developing new technologies. It's working on smart glasses, an autonomous driving system, improved health and fitness offerings, and its own semiconductor technology. Research and development spending jumped 15 percent to \$2.9 billion in the most recent quarter.

Apple unveiled the early fruits of its spending on augmented reality technology in June, releasing a set of tools which let developers build AR software for the iPhone and iPad when

the next operating system for those devices is rolled out later this year. Cook has over the past 18 months repeatedly said how excited he is about the prospects for AR.

Apple is likely to introduce three new handsets this year

Cook is preparing to release Apple's first new hardware category since 2015. The HomePod, the smart speaker that will go on sale in December, is the company's response to Amazon.com Inc.'s Echo and Alphabet Inc.'s Google Home speakers. The company is hoping that advanced acoustic capabilities will encourage consumers to pay \$349 for the device - almost three times as much as the Google Home.

The speaker will also serve as a bulwark in users' homes to deliver more revenue from services. "The App Store continued to be a major driver of the performance and we couldn't be happier with how the services business is growing," Cook said.

Sales in Greater China, which includes Hong Kong and Taiwan as well as the mainland, fell 9.5 percent from a year earlier to \$8 billion. The biggest decline came in Hong Kong. Excluding currency effects, sales on the mainland were unchanged, Cook said in an interview.

"The results were very encouraging," he said. "We were down to having an issue solely in Hong Kong." **Bloomberg**

Survey: US companies added a solid 178,000 jobs in July

Christopher S. Rugaber

U.S. businesses added a solid 178,000 jobs in July, a survey found, evidence that employers remain confident enough about future demand to keep hiring.

Payroll processor ADP said yesterday that the biggest gains were in fields such as education and health care and shipping. Manufacturers cut 4,000

jobs, while construction firms added 6,000. Mining, which includes oil and gas drilling, gained 3,000 jobs.

July's gain is below June's figure of 191,000, which was revised higher. But it is still enough to lower the unemployment rate over time. The rate is near a 16-year low of 4.4 percent.

The figures provide some reassurance that

the economy remains healthy. Consumer spending slowed in June and Americans cut back sharply last month on auto purchases. But the overall economy grew at a decent 2.6 percent annual pace in the April-June quarter.

Analysts predict the government's jobs report, to be released Friday, will show a robust 190,000 jobs were added, according to data provider Fac-

tSet.

The ADP covers only private businesses and often diverges from the official figures. The government's June report showed that employers, including federal, state and local governments, added 222,000 jobs.

Small business hiring has slowed a bit in recent months, with companies that employ fewer than 50 people adding 50,000



AP PHOTO

jobs, ADP said. In the past three months, those gains have averaged 47,000. That's down from an average of 85,000 in the previous three months.

Mid-sized firms that employ 50 to 499 workers posted big gains, adding 83,000, while companies with 500 or more workers added 45,000 jobs.

BLOOMBERG



Sun Hongbin

INVESTMENT

Billionaire triples wealth and shorts see a fat target

SHORT sellers are calling time on the remarkable rise of Sun Hongbin.

The Chinese billionaire, whose roller-coaster career has included a stint in prison and the forced sale of a developer he once predicted would become the nation's largest, finds himself in the crosshairs of hedge funds and other bearish speculators after the biggest hot streak of his nearly three decades in business. Sun's fortune has more than tripled this year to USD5.1 billion after shares of his real estate firm, Sunac China Holdings Ltd., recorded one of the largest rallies worldwide.

In Sunac, short sellers see a prime example of what ails the broader Chinese economy: an overdose of debt-fueled investment. Even as some of the company's high-flying peers have scaled back their ambitions amid rising borrowing costs and growing regulatory scrutiny, the Tianjin-based developer has piled on leverage to buy everything from distressed land assets to Dalian Wanda Group Co.'s theme-park business and a \$2.2 billion stake in LeEco, a cash-strapped Chinese media and technology conglomerate.

While investors from China have cheered Sunac's deal-

making - fueling a 212 percent jump in the stock this year - bears have zeroed in on the company's ballooning liabilities. At an estimated 349 percent, Sunac's debt-to-equity ratio is nearly five times higher than its industry peers. What's more, exchange filings indicate that Sun may have pledged 84 percent of his controlling stake in the company, a potential overhang if the stock price were to fall enough to trigger a margin call.

"People are worried about Sunac's financial stability and leverage after the LeEco investment and the Wanda deal, while Chinese banks

are generally tightening their loans to private companies," said Dan David, the chief investment officer at FG Alpha Management who's known for his short-selling reports. While he isn't currently betting against Sunac, David said he's following the company closely.

The stock fell 4.9 percent in Hong Kong yesterday, the biggest drop in the MSCI China Index, as Sunac announced plans to issue dollar bonds to refinance existing debt. The company may raise as much as \$1 billion, according to people familiar with the offering.

Short interest in the developer has swelled to a record 15.4 percent of shares available for trading, according to data compiled by IHS Markit. Sell-side analysts are bearish too, with share-price targets compiled by Bloomberg on Tuesday implying a 37 percent drop over the next 12 months, the most negative

outlook among Hong Kong-listed companies with at least two analyst forecasts.

But betting against Sunac is by no means a sure thing. The risk for short sellers is a repeat of their failed attempt to call the top in China Evergrande Group, one of Sunac's heavily indebted rivals. Evergrande shares have surged nearly 170 percent since early May, burning bears who had doubled their short positions in the preceding two months.

Despite its heavy debt load, Sunac's top-line growth has been impressive. The company's property sales almost doubled in 2016 as its push into China's booming second-tier cities proved prescient. That tailwind may continue this year, with forecasters including Nomura Holdings Inc. predicting strong first-half results from Chinese developers.

Chinese investors, meanwhile, have embraced Sunac's spending spree. Their combined stake in the developer, purchased through the country's cross-border exchange links with Hong Kong, has swelled to at least 25 percent from about 14 percent a year ago, according to data compiled by Webb-site.com.

Many retail punters admire Sun for his bold expansion plans and his ability to weather adversity. (He spent less than two years in prison in the early 1990s after being convicted for embezzlement, a ruling that was later overturned.) The Sunac founder's rags-to-riches story is one reason why Ping Jingwu, a 25-year-old individual investor from Shandong, is bullish on the company. He sees Sun as one of the savviest developers in China and says Sunac's massive land holdings make the stock cheap.

"They're fast, rational, and forward-looking," said Ping, who began investing in Sunac in mid-2016 and went "all-in" on the shares this year.

Sunac declined a request to comment for this story, while Sun didn't return a message sent to his WeChat account seeking comment on short sellers, share pledges and Sunac's leverage. Last week, the billionaire vowed to slow Sunac's expansion and reduce debt levels, according to a posting on his microblog. **Bloomberg**

Man fired at Chinese Consulate in LA before taking own life

A man opened fire outside of the Chinese Consulate in Los Angeles yesterday [Macau time] before turning the gun on himself and taking his own life, police said.

The man, a Chinese national, fired "multiple rounds" at the consulate building in the Koreatown neighborhood, said Officer Mike Lopez, a Los Angeles Police Department

spokesman.

The man, whose name was not immediately released, then fatally shot himself in his car outside of the building, Lopez said.

Investigators said no one else was injured in the shooting.

Police could not immediately provide any additional information about the shooting or the man's

possible motive.

Lopez said homicide detectives were conducting an investigation.

A call to the consulate rang unanswered yesterday.

In 2011, a man was arrested after police said he fired nine shots at a security guard outside the same consulate, but only hit the building. Police said at the time that the man was protesting China's human rights record. **AP**

SOUTH CHINA SEA

ASEAN wants talks on non-aggression pact with Beijing soon

Jim Gomez, Manila

SOUTHEAST Asia's top diplomats will seek talks "as soon as possible" on a proposed nonaggression pact with China aimed at preventing clashes in the South China Sea and will likely hold back on criticism of China's aggressive acts in the disputed waters in a weekend summit.

An initial draft of a joint communique to be issued by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations foreign ministers, seen by The Associated Press yesterday, says they will ask senior diplomats to immediately initiate talks on the so-called Code of Conduct in the disputed sea after their governments agreed on a framework of the accord with China in May.

The ASEAN ministers will ask their senior diplomats "to begin earnest discussions on a substantive and effective code of conduct on the basis of the framework as soon as possible," according to the draft communique.

The long-seething disputes in the South China Sea, alarm over North Korea's missile tests and the rise of Islamic radicalism in



The 50th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting and its regional partners is taking place in suburban Pasay city, south of Manila

the region amid a deadly siege by Islamic State group-linked militants in the southern Philippines are expected to grab the spotlight in the meetings of ASEAN foreign ministers and their Asian and Western counterparts in Manila starting Saturday.

Robespierre Bolivar, spokesman of the Department of Foreign Affairs, described the initial progress after years of efforts by Southeast Asian countries to negotiate a code of conduct with China "as a very big step."

Critics have said the framework serves only as a brief

outline of previously agreed principles and fails to mention concerns over China's newly built islands or an arbitration ruling last year that invalidated Beijing's historic basis for its claims to virtually all of the South China Sea. Beijing has refused to recognize the ruling, based on a 1982 maritime treaty.

A final copy of the framework seen by the AP also did not mention whether the Code of Conduct should be legally binding, which most ASEAN states demand but China opposes, or the extent of disputed areas to

be covered by such a code. The code will not serve as a tool to settle territorial disputes, according to the framework.

During the talks, some ASEAN states proposed language "that did not enjoy consensus," including a proposal by Vietnam for a "dispute-settlement mechanism" in case disputes arise in the future over interpretation of the code, according to an ASEAN report attached to the framework.

The draft communiqué doesn't mention concern about China's artificial islands

The draft communique, still to be expanded with inputs from other ASEAN members, also doesn't mention concern about China's artificial islands, where a missile defense system has reportedly been installed. Those concerns have appeared in previous ASEAN joint statements.

A carefully crafted line on the dangers lurking in the dispute appears in the draft statement. "We reaffirmed the importance of enhancing mutual trust and confidence, exercising self-restraint [...] and avoiding unilateral actions in disputed features that may further complicate the situation," it said.

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, who is ASEAN chairman this year, moved swiftly

after taking office last year to revive his country's once-frosty ties with China while taking an antagonistic attitude toward its U.S. ally.

Duterte set aside the Philippines' arbitration victory over China but promised to take it up with Chinese leaders before the end of his six-year term. His move has eased tensions but has been criticized as squandering an opportunity to promote the rule of law in a disputed sea that governments fear may spark Asia's next major armed conflict.

Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio, who has studied the disputes extensively, said China may benefit more from a code of conduct if it waits to fully develop its artificial islands and fortify them as military outposts before signing the code with ASEAN. Then, the code "will provide a cover to China's completed reclamation and militarization," he said.

The ASEAN ministers will also express their grave concern on North Korea's missile tests, including at Monday's ASEAN Regional Forum, a security-focused gathering which will be attended by their U.S., Russian, Chinese, South and North Korean and Japanese counterparts on Monday.

The tough-talking Duterte briefly lashed out at North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in a speech yesterday, saying Kim has a chubby, kind-looking face but he's in reality a "son of a bitch" and disturbed.

"He's a maniac, if he commits a mistake, then the Far East will become an arid land," Duterte said. **AP**

US plans trade probe over China's demands for tech transfers

PRESIDENT Donald Trump's administration is considering using rarely invoked U.S. trade laws to fend off China's demands that foreign companies share their technology in return for access to the country's vast market, a person familiar with U.S. discussions said yesterday.

The administration is discussing the use of Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974, which empowers Washington to launch an investigation into China's trade practices and, within months, raise tariffs on imports from China, or impose other sanctions, said the person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the plans have not been made public.

The investigation would

be focused on China's alleged "forced technology transfer policies and practices," the person said, adding that the Trump administration could move to launch such a probe this week.

China's Ministry of Commerce did not immediately respond to a faxed request for comment.

These deliberations come as the administration signals a harsher stance on trade than it took in the first six months of Trump's presidency.

U.S. and other Western governments and business groups accuse Beijing of blocking access to promising industries by requiring foreign companies to hand over proprietary technologies in exchange for being allowed to

operate in China. Such requirements are seen as an attempt by Beijing to nurture its own competitors in fields from medical equipment to renewable energy to electric cars.

Trump temporarily set aside complaints about market access and currency when he met with Chinese President Xi Jinping in April in hopes Beijing would help pressure North Korea to end its nuclear weapons development. But tensions bubbled up last month at a U.S.-Chinese dialogue where U.S. Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin blamed China's USD347 billion trade surplus with the United States last year on "government intervention in its economy."

The Wall Street Journal

and New York Times also reported that U.S. trade officials are discussing ways to counter piracy of copyrights and patents and other intellectual property in China.

U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, in a commentary in Tuesday's Wall Street Journal, outlined a slew of grievances against both China and the European Union that he said contributed to the global U.S. trade deficit in goods of \$725.5 billion in 2016.

"Both China and Europe also bankroll their exports through grants, low-cost loans, energy subsidies, special value-added tax refunds and below-market real estate sales, among other means," Ross wrote.

The Wall Street Journal



and New York Times stories also said U.S. officials were looking into using Section 301 of the 1974 Trade Act. Another possibility would be to invoke the "International Emergency Economic Powers Act," a law also enacted during the 1970s that gives the president wide powers to take action after declaring a national emergency, the Wall Street Journal report said.

The administration also was considering how to resist technology-sharing demands from Beijing as

part of its ambitious Made in China 2025 program, a blueprint for making China a leader in advanced technologies such as autonomous driving, artificial intelligence, robotics and other industries.

Foreign companies have long complained over rampant piracy and technology theft by Chinese companies. Though he has at times sought a more conciliatory approach, Trump also has lambasted China over such problems and over the massive U.S. trade deficit. **AP**

NinieK Karmini, Sei Mencirim

INDONESIA

Islamic school seeks to steer sons of militants to new path

THE slim boys in Muslim caps and robes at the Al Hidayah Islamic boarding school are grinning bolts of energy who love football, need a little coaxing to do their math and Quran lessons assiduously and aspire to become policemen or respected preachers.

Their school, like many in rural Indonesia, started as a modest affair with a dusty yard, spartan sleeping quarters and an open-air classroom with a dirt floor and corrugated iron roofing. The boys, though, have been spoken to roughly by villagers, the school's banners and billboards trampled and burned, and its head teacher reported to police.

The 20 pupils are the sons of Islamic militants, reviled by most Indonesians for killings and other acts of violence that they justified with distorted interpretations of Islam. Nearly half of the boys' fathers were killed in police raids, and in some cases the children witnessed the deaths. Most of the other fathers are in prison for terrorism offenses.

Al Hidayah's founder, Khairul Ghazali, is a former radical preacher whose involvement in militancy stretches back decades. He was recruited at age 19 by Abdullah Sungkar, the now-deceased leader of the Jemaah Islamiyah terror group responsible for attacks including the 2002 Bali bombings that killed more than 200 people.

Nowadays, the soft-spoken Ghazali, 52, professes to be a changed man who wants to atone by preventing his young charges, who were ostracized and taunted at mainstream schools, from becoming the next generation of Indonesian jihadists. His three sons attend the school.

A turning point, he said, came in 2010 when anti-terror police raided his home in North Sumatra and shot dead two other militants, wanted for killing police officers, in front of him, his wife and children. In prison, he dwelt on his decades of jihad and in the hours spent poring over the Quran found his past wanting. With the encouragement of prison officials, he wrote several books against radicalism, earning the enmity of other jihadists who denounced him as an infidel who deserves death.

"It's hurt our innocent children. It's hurt us," said Ghazali, who was released in 2015 after serving four years for offenses that included a major bank robbery to fund attacks. "Stigmatization, poverty and the fact that many innocent people were killed and the destruction we caused all accumulated into an inner torment."

Ghazali's school in North Sumatra is supported by counterterrorism officials but is only a small dent in a largely unaddressed problem. By his reckoning, there are at least 2,000 sons and daughters of killed and imprisoned militants at risk of becoming battle fodder for a new



A class at Al Hidayah Islamic Boarding School in Sei Mencirim, North Sumatra

wave of jihadism.

Indonesia has had successes in rooting out violent militants but officials acknowledge risks remain. A 2015 Pew survey of Indonesians showed that 4 percent, or about 10 million people, had a favorable attitude toward the Islamic State group. A survey by Saiful Mujani Research and Consulting in May this year showed 9 percent support Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation, changing from a secular to an Islamic state. A few Islamic boarding schools churn out students susceptible to violent radicalization.

The IS group's declaration of a caliphate over swaths of territory it temporarily held in Iraq and Syria, and more recently the occupation of the southern Philippine city of Marawi by IS sympathizers, has provided a psychological boost to militant networks in Indonesia that had been atomized by a sustained crackdown. As the group's territory in the Middle East shrinks, officials fear Indonesians who fought there, or in Marawi, will return to Indonesia and provide leadership and skills that could help produce more lethal attacks.

Sitting in a classroom just after dawn with students whose ages range from 9 to 15, Ghazali tells them stories about the life of the Prophet Muhammad to show them, he said, that Islam is a religion of love and mercy, not an ideology to justify a war against police, currently the most frequent target of militant attacks in Indonesia.

Abdullah, 13, and his two you-

nger brothers were sent by their mother to Ghazali's boarding school last year because of the hostility they faced at their regular school.

"I can't stand the taunts at school," he said, his lips trembling. "I dropped out when I was in the third grade and I had to move from place to place. I was insulted as a terrorist kid when my father was in prison. I was so sad."

■ The school's founder, Khairul Ghazali, is a former radical preacher whose militancy stretches back decades

Abdullah said his favorite activities at school are football and Arabic lessons. He aspires to become an Islamic teacher because "there are many people who claim to know Islam but actually they don't know what Islam is and how to practice it."

The initial hostility the school faced when it opened in 2015 has faded. Local police talked to villagers, raising awareness about its purpose. A stream of officials from the district and provincial governments and the military visited to show their support.

Villager Hendra Widiarto, who

lives about 300 meters from the school, said lack of information about it and its makeshift appearance made locals suspicious, and they became confrontational when they learned about the backgrounds of Ghazali and the students.

Nowadays, Widiarto, a carpenter, helps Ghazali make cabinets and bookshelves for the school. Every Friday, people from surrounding villages and students from government schools come to Al Hidayah to pray.

"If ever possible, I want my own two children to learn morals and discipline at this school," he said.

At the request of the National Agency for Counter-Terrorism, the local government last year provided 30 hectares of land next to the school and agency's chief collected donations from companies and businessmen that allowed a substantial mosque and two sturdy classrooms, painted lime green, for up to 60 students to be built. The original open-air classroom now has a tiled floor and construction of better living quarters will start next month; Ghazali said that will allow the boarding school to also accept the daughters of militants and kids with ordinary backgrounds.

Another school that can cater to 100 students has been set up with the counterterrorism agency's assistance in Lamongan, the East Java hometown of three brothers who assembled a massive bomb used in the 2002 Bali attack.

"These children are victims of their parents' wrong ideology," said Suhardi Alius, chief of

the counterterrorism agency, who wants schools for children of jihadists to be established in areas known as hotbeds of Islamic militancy such as Poso in Sulawesi and Bima in West Nusa Tenggara.

"If these children are not rescued they will follow what their parents did," Alius said, citing the example of the 19-year-old son of executed Bali bomber Imam Samudra who police say was killed in a battle in Syria in 2015.

Alius describes Ghazali as "totally changed" and taking the right course by drawing on his experience to prevent others from taking up violence.

"The state should support him because people become radical not within a day or two, but it takes a long process, so to deradicalize them we also need a long process," he said.

Six teachers from provincial schools are voluntarily helping Ghazali and his wife teach the standard national curriculum plus religious studies, Arabic and farming at Al Hidayah.

One of them, Muhammad Haris Iskandar, 51, a math teacher and vice director at a public school in Medan, Indonesia's third-largest city, said he left his formal job because of the rare challenge offered by Al Hidayah.

"This school is very special for me," he said.

He and the other volunteers are not only educators and motivators, but also healers and role models for children traumatized by their family's radicalism and society's reaction to it, Iskandar said. **AP**

AUSTRALIA

Man freed after airline plot arrest shocked to be questioned

Rod McGuirk, Canberra

A man arrested over the weekend in Sydney has been released without charge and was shocked to be questioned about a plot to bring down an airliner, his lawyer and police said yesterday.

Four Lebanese-Australian men had been arrested late Saturday by police who also reportedly seized a meat grinder that investigators thought may be the basis of a bomb.

Abdul Merhi, 50, was released from police custody on Tuesday night, Australian Federal Police said. "This investigation remains ongoing and further information will be provided at an appropriate time," the police statement said.

Merhi's lawyer Moustafa Kheir said his client had endured intense questioning. "There's a lot of stress associated there, and not knowing, and he was shocked that he was being question-



AP PHOTO

ned," Kheir said.

The lawyer said Merhi's family was also in shock and his life had been "turned upside down" but he wanted to return to as normal a life as possible.

"It's just unfathomable that he would be associated with any-

thing like this," Kheir added.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull told reporters he would not draw any conclusions beyond one man's release. "I know my circumspection is disappointing, but you can understand there are very big issues of public safety at

stake here so you'll forgive me if I'm circumspect. More will be said, more will be revealed, at the appropriate time," he added.

A court has allowed police to hold the men for seven days without charge under counterterrorism laws designed to prevent an attack.

Australian officials will not comment on reports that the arrests followed a tip from U.S. or British intelligence agencies that had intercepted communications from Syria.

Australian authorities have said they thwarted a credible terrorist plot to down an airplane by smuggling a device onboard. They have provided few details, including the precise nature of the threat or any airlines involved.

The United Arab Emirates' national airline said it is working with Australian police in the ongoing investigation, suggesting one of its planes may have been targeted in the plot. Etihad Airways, the smallest of three

long-haul Gulf carriers that fly to Australia, refused to confirm, however, if it had been a target.

"The Etihad Airways aviation security team is assisting the Australian Federal Police with its investigation and the matter is ongoing," it said. "Etihad is complying fully with the enhanced security measures at airports in Australia and monitoring the situation closely. Safety is the airline's number one priority."

Etihad operates direct flights to four Australian cities: Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney. The airline has built strong ties to the country, buying a stake in alliance partner Virgin Australia, featuring Down Under stars including Nicole Kidman in advertising and sponsoring Melbourne's soccer team and its home stadium.

Australian media outlets have reported that the conspirators wanted to target a flight to the Middle East, possibly the Emirati city of Dubai, but they failed to get the device onboard, so they changed their focus to an Australian domestic airline.

Etihad's hub in Abu Dhabi is 130 kilometers (80 miles) from Dubai's main airport, the world's busiest for international flights.

Dubai-based Emirates, the largest Mideast carrier, said it was cooperating on the additional security procedures but did not say whether it is involved in the investigation. AP

AD

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Sam Shepard, the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright, Oscar-nominated actor and celebrated author (New York, 2011)

OBITUARY

Sam Shepard, dead at age 73, was a new kind of artist

Hillel Italie, New York

OLD enough to see the rustic world of his childhood disappear, Sam Shepard was a new kind of man who brought a new kind of language to the American stage.

In “True West,” “Buried Child” and other groundbreaking plays, Shepard’s characters spoke with a rugged poetry and raw introspection rarely heard from out of men and women from the American West. Like William Faulkner writing about the American South, Shepard gave voice to a society haunted by decline and defeat and a fear of being on the wrong side of an old and moral argument.

“There’s some hidden, deeply rooted thing in the Anglo male American that has to do with inferiority, that has to do with not being a man, and always, continually having to act out some idea of manhood that invariably is violent,” Shepard, who died last week at age 73, told *The New York Times* in 1984. “This sense of failure runs very deep — maybe it has to do with the frontier being systematically taken away, with the guilt of having gotten this country by wiping out a native race of people, with the whole Protestant work ethic. I can’t put my finger on it, but it’s the source of a lot of intrigue for me.”

The handsome, taciturn Shepard was shaped by the frontier life he mourned and critiqued and by the revolutionary changes

of the post-World War II era that helped upend it. He looked like an heir to Gary Cooper and other stars of Hollywood Westerns, but he was an artist for a rebellious and challenging time. In his 1971 one-act “Cowboy Mouth,” which he wrote with his then-girlfriend, musician and poet Patti Smith, one character says, “People want a street angel. They want a saint but with a cowboy mouth” — a role Shepard fulfilled for many.

“I was writing basically for actors,” Shepard told *The Associated Press* in a 2011 interview. “And actors immediately seemed to have a handle on it, on the rhythm of it, the sound of it, the characters. I started to understand there was this possibility of conversation between actors and that’s how it all started.”

Shepard was best remembered for his wrenching plays and his prominent role in the Off-Off-Broadway movement. His 1979 drama “Buried Child” won the Pulitzer for drama. Two other plays — “True West,” about two warring brothers, and “Fool for Love,” about a man who fears he’s turning into his father — also were nominated for Pulitzers. All are frequently revived.

He also appeared in dozens of films including Terrence Malick’s “Days of Heaven,” “Steel Magnolias,” “The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford” and 2012’s “Mud.” He was nominated for an Oscar for his performance as pilot Chuck Yeager in 1983’s “The Right

Stuff” and wrote Wim Wenders’ acclaimed 1984 drama “Paris, Texas”). He took acting gigs more frequently as he grew older and noted that one movie could pay for 16 plays.

“There’s some hidden, deeply rooted thing in the Anglo male American that has to do with inferiority.”

SAM SHEPARD

“I always felt like playwriting was the thread through all of it,” Shepard said in 2011. “Theater really when you think about it contains everything. It can contain film. Film can’t contain theater. Music. Dance. Painting. Acting. It’s the whole deal. And it’s the most ancient. It goes back to the Druids. It was way pre-Christ. It’s the form that I feel most at home in, because of that, because of its ability to usurp everything.”

Matthew McConaughey, who co-starred with “Mud” with Shepard, learned of his death Monday at the premiere of “The Dark Tower.”

“I always said that I thought and I always tell [director] Jeff

Nichols this. I said, ‘Look [...] the whole trailer for ‘Mud’ could be Sam Shepherd sitting in that green chair telling the boy about who Mud is.’ It would about a two-and-a-half minute trailer, but really badass,” McConaughey said.

“He moved on today? We lost one of the great ones. Great writer,” he said. “Well, all right [points up] see you in the next one Sam.”

Samuel Shepard Rogers VII was born in Fort Sheridan, Illinois, in 1943. He lived throughout the Southwest as a child, but spent much of his time on an avocado ranch in Duarte, California. His father was an alcoholic schoolteacher and former Army pilot; Shepard would later write frequently of the damage done by drunks. He had his own struggles, too; long stretches of sobriety were interrupted by drunk driving arrests, in 2009 and 2015.

Shepard arrived in New York in 1963 with no connections, little money and vague aspirations to act, write or make music. “I just dropped in out of nowhere,” he told *The New Yorker* in 2010. But Shepard quickly became part of the off-off-Broadway movement at downtown hangouts like Caffe Cino and La MaMa. “As far as I’m concerned, Broadway just does not exist,” Shepard told *Playboy* in 1970 — though many of his later plays would end up there.

His early plays — fiery, surreal verbal assaults — pushed American theater in an energized,

frenzied direction that matched the times. A drummer himself, Shepard found his own rock ‘n roll rhythm. Seeking spontaneity, he initially refused to rewrite his drafts, a strategy he later dismissed as “just plain stupid.”

As Shepard grew as a playwright, he returned again and again to meditations on violence, masculinity and family. His collection “Seven Plays,” which includes much of his best work, including “Buried Child” and “The Tooth of Crime,” was dedicated to his father.

“Most of it comes, I guess, from my dad’s side of the family,” he told *The Paris Review* in 1997, speaking of “Buried Child” and other work. “They’re a real bizarre bunch, going back to the original colonies. That side’s got a real tough strain of alcoholism. It goes back generations and generations, so that you can’t remember when there was a sober grandfather.”

His connection to music was enduring. He joined Bob Dylan on the 1975 Rolling Thunder Revue tour and with Dylan wrote “Brownsville Girl,” a very tall tale filled with cowboy images and including at least one line you might expect to hear in a Shepard play, “Strange how people who suffer together have stronger connections than people who are most content.” Shepard and Patti Smith were lifetime friends. “We’re just the same,” Smith once said. “When Sam and I are together, it’s like no particular time.”

While making the 1982 Frances Farmer biopic “Frances,” Shepard met Jessica Lange and the two remained together for nearly 30 years. They had two children, Hannah Jane and Samuel Walker and a relationship of extraordinary intensity before separating in 2009. Lange once said of Shepard: “No man I’ve ever met compares to Sam in terms of maleness.” Shepard was married from 1969 to 1984 to actress O-Lan Jones, with whom he had son Jesse Mojo Shepard.

Besides his stage work, Shepard wrote poems, short stories and a full-length work of fiction, “The One Inside,” which came out earlier this year. “The One Inside” is a highly personal narrative about a man looking back on his life and taking in what has been lost, including control over his own body as the symptoms of ALS advance.

“Something in the body refuses to get up. Something in the lower back. He stares at the walls,” Shepard writes. “The appendages don’t seem connected to the motor — whatever that is — driving this thing. They won’t take direction — won’t be dictated to — the arms, legs, feet, hands. Nothing moves. Nothing even wants to.”

Shepard’s longtime editor at Alfred A. Knopf, LuAnn Walther, said Shepard’s language was “quite poetic, and very intimate, but also very direct and plainspoken.” She said that when people asked her what Shepard was really like, she would respond, “Just read the fiction.” AP

USA

Teen jumps out of plane emergency door at San Francisco

A teenage boy traveling alone opened an emergency door after his plane landed, slid down the wing and jumped onto a tarmac at San Francisco before shocked passengers could do anything to stop him, witnesses said.

The 17-year-old, a U.S. citizen, removed the door minutes after the Copa Airlines flight arrived from Central America, San Francisco Airport spokesman Doug Yakel said.

An airfield construction crew working nearby confronted the boy and held him until police arrived and arrested him. The teen, who appeared to be in emotional distress during the flight, was not injured, Yakel said.

Witnesses said the teen seemed fidgety and anxious throughout the seven-hour flight from Panama City, Panama, and that by the time passengers realized the door had been opened, he was already on the ground, running.

Sophia Gibson, of San Jose, California, said people sitting next to him were shocked when he jumped out of the plane and onto the wing.

Over-wing emergency exits are designed to be opened by passengers after the plane reaches a lower altitude to allow for an evacuation in case of an emergency. But that it is a federal law violation to open them without having been instructed to do so by the crew. AP

USA

Senate confirms Christopher Wray, Trump's choice for FBI

THE Senate overwhelmingly confirmed Christopher Wray to lead the FBI, replacing James Comey, who was abruptly fired by President Donald Trump amid the investigation into Russian meddling in last year's presidential election.

The vote was 92-5 for Wray, a former high-ranking official in President George W. Bush's Justice Department who oversaw investigations into corporate fraud. Wray, 50, inherits the FBI at a particularly challenging time given Trump's ousting of Comey, who was admired within the bureau.

"This is a tough time to take this tough job," Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., said during a relatively low-key Senate debate of the nomination. "The previous FBI director, as we know, was fired because of the Russia investigation. The former acting attorney general was fired. And we've had a slew of other firings throughout the government over the last few months."



AP PHOTO Christopher Wray

Republican Sen. Ben Sasse of Nebraska said after the vote, "Chris Wray will bring character and competence to a city that is hemorrhaging public trust."

Wray won unanimous support from the Senate Judiciary Committee last month, with Republicans and Democrats praising his promise never to let

politics get in the way of the bureau's mission.

Asserting his independence at his confirmation hearing, Wray said: "My loyalty is to the Constitution and the rule of law. Those have been my guideposts throughout my career, and I will continue to adhere to them no matter the test."

Wray has worked on white-collar crime and regulatory cases as a partner at the King & Spalding law firm. From May 2001 to May 2005, he held various high-ranking positions in the Justice Department, rising to the head of the criminal division in September 2003. He also served as principal associate deputy attorney general.

He was a federal prosecutor in the U.S. attorney's office for the Northern District of Georgia from May 1997 to May 2001. Wray had represented New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie in the so-called Bridgegate scandal.

Wray is a graduate of Yale University, where he also received his law degree in 1992.

"Mr. Wray possesses the skill, the character and the unwavering commitment to impartial enforcement of the law that we need in a FBI director," said Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

The top Democrat on the panel, California Sen. Dianne Feinstein, said Wray "has the strength and fortitude to stand up and do what it is right when tested." AP

AD

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what's ON



BRAND STORY - POP-UP SHOP
TIME: 10am-8pm
UNTIL: October 1, 2017
VENUE: Macau Fashion Gallery
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 3341

REPRESENTING WOMEN THROUGH THE MAM COLLECTION - 19TH AND 20TH CENTURIES
TIME: 10am-7pm (Last admission at 6:30pm, closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: December 10, 2017
VENUE: Macau Art Museum
ADMISSION: Free
ORGANIZER: Cultural Affairs Bureau
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

LOOKING THROUGH THE FOG - JOSÉ DORES SOLO EXHIBITION
TIME: 11am-10pm
UNTIL: August 21, 2017
VENUE: IFT Cafe, Anim'Arte Nam Van
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2856 1252

MACAO ILLUSTRATED - EXHIBITION OF CITY PLANS AND ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS FROM THE MACAO ARCHIVES' COLLECTION
TIME: 10am-6pm (Closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: December 3, 2017
VENUE: Archives of Macau
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2859 2919

BALLADE - CONTEMPORARY ART ANIMAMIX
TIME: 10am-7pm (Last admission at 6:30pm, closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: October 15, 2017
VENUE: Macao Art Museum
ADMISSION: Free
ORGANIZER: Cultural Affairs Bureau
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

A GOLDEN WAY OF LIFE - TRES'ORS
TIME: 12pm-9pm (Closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)
UNTIL: September 3, 2017
VENUE: Level 2, MGM Art Space (via Grande Praça)
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8802 8888

Offbeat

MAN POSTS VIDEO OF CLIMBING PHILADELPHIA CITY HALL TOWER

A man has posted an online video of himself climbing Philadelphia City Hall and its clock tower, which reaches about 152 meters into the air.

The man, who identified himself on the video as Carson King, tells KYW-TV (cbsloc.al/2vjqkw) that he climbed the building while scaffolding was up this year for renovations and the maintenance of the bronze William Penn statue at its apex.

King says the video isn't meant to spawn copycats. He says: "I strongly suggest a normal citizen doesn't try this."

He says he climbed the building to take pictures from a unique vantage point.

City spokesman Mike Dunn says officials have seen the video and called the actions "dangerous and illegal."

Police say they are investigating the incident.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
18:50	Now Generation (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Miscellaneous
21:30	Yes, Chef!
22:10	Now Generation
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:05	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

3 Aug - 9 Aug

DORAEMON THE MOVIE 2017

ROOM 1
2:30, 4:30, 7:15pm
Director: Atsushi Takahashi
Starring: Wasabi Mizuta, Megumi Ohara, Yumi Kakazu
Language: Cantonese (Chinese)
Duration: 101vmin

WAR OF THE PLANET OF THE APES

ROOM 1
9:15pm
Director: Matt Reeves
Starring: Woody Herrelson, Sara Canning, Judy Greer
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 140min



THE EMOJI MOVIE

ROOM 2
2:15, 5:45, 7:30, 9:30pm
Director: Tony Leondis
Starring: T.J. Miller, James Corden, Anna Faris
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 86min

DESPICABLE ME 3

ROOM 2
4:00pm
Director: Eric Guillon, Kyle Balda, Pierre Coffin
Starring: Steve Carell, Kristen Wiig, Trey Parker
Language: Cantonese
Duration: 90min

47 METERS DOWN

ROOM 3
2:15, 6:00, 9:45pm
Director: Johannes Roberts
Starring: Mandy Moore, Claire Holt, Mathew Modine
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 89min



CARS 3

ROOM 3
4:00, 7:45pm
Director: Brian Fee
Starring: Owen Wilson, Cristela Alonzo, Chris Cooper
Language: Cantonese
Duration: 102min

this day in history



Reverend Canon Gene Robinson

2003 ANGLICAN CHURCH APPROVES GAY BISHOP

The Anglican Church in America has voted to approve the appointment of an openly gay bishop.

The Reverend Canon Gene Robinson, of New Hampshire, was approved by a substantial majority of the Episcopal Church's House of Deputies, composed of clergy and lay people.

The vote must be confirmed by the House of Bishops tomorrow, but correspondents say it is likely this vote will also be in favour of Mr Robinson.

The decision has brought an angry reaction from conservatives and religious leaders in the US and all over the world.

Some have already threatened to walk out if the vote goes in Mr Robinson's favour, and join a breakaway faction with supporters from Africa, Asia and the Caribbean outside the Anglican Convention.

Mr Robinson described himself as "calm but joyous" after the vote, and said he hoped the decision would lead to growth rather than a split in the church.

"I think I can do more for gay and lesbian folk in the Church by being a good bishop than by being the gay bishop," he said.

Mr Robinson is a divorced father of two and has lived with his male partner for 14 years.

He is highly popular with his New Hampshire congregation, who elected him bishop from a wide range of candidates.

His supporters have also stood by him throughout the storm his appointment has stirred up, and simply ask that he should be judged and celebrated for the work he does.

Religious leaders in the UK have also warned that the decision could split the Church of England.

Reverend David Phillips, general secretary of the Church Society, challenged the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, to say where he stood on the issue.

"People want to know where the Church of England stands," he said. "I would like him to say that, because of its decision, the Episcopal Church in America is no longer a part of the Anglican Communion."

A spokesman for the Church of England said the appointment was considered an internal matter for the Episcopal Church in the United States.

The Anglican Church has traditionally tolerated a wide spectrum of beliefs, and its communion includes about 80 million people worldwide.

But the current controversy seems likely to stretch the elastic nature of the church to breaking point.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The vote by the House of Bishops to confirm Gene Robinson's appointment was delayed after allegations of sexual misconduct were made against him.

The charges were dropped, and on 5 August - a day late - the House of Bishops voted for the Anglican Church's first openly gay bishop by a two-thirds majority.

An emergency meeting of Anglican Church leaders at Lambeth Palace in October 2003 strongly rebuked the American Episcopal Church for the appointment, but stopped short of expelling the church outright.

Gene Robinson was consecrated in November 2003, amid further objections voiced during the service, and took up his post in March 2004.

There was a similar crisis in the Church of England, when celibate gay priest Canon Jeffrey John was forced to step down shortly after his appointment as Bishop of Reading.

Protests at the way he was treated led to his appointment to the high-profile job of Dean of St Albans, and he was installed in July 2004.

A number of evangelical churches withdrew funding from the diocese in protest.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 It's not just your loved ones who are pleased with what you've been able to manage lately - it's also the higher-ups. They've been watching to see if you're truly ready for a bump up on the career ladder.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Something is going on behind the scenes, and you've been privy to it for some time now. This doesn't mean you have a free license to let everyone know about it - especially anyone you're sure isn't already involved.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 If you find yourself staring across the office at someone you've known for a long, long time - and you know it's not the way a friend looks at a friend - well, things may be changing.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 The heavens have decided to give you your turn at being not just charming, but also extremely persuasive. Of course, that's something you're more than acquainted with, so you're no stranger to this power.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Someone you've had your eye on recently will be more than happy to keep you up late tonight - all you have to do is be sure to make yourself available. That may mean you'll be tired at work tomorrow.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 A relationship you've recently begun is more than ready for that extra step. So if you're thinking of taking a giant leap toward intimacy, don't hesitate. You can do it now, and it will work out well.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Ready to let go and let the universe handle things between family members? Well, it's about time - especially because there's only so much you can do to solve this problem.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Ready for that long-cherished dream to become a reality? Bet you are, and bet you're thrilled. Some changes - definitely positive - are brewing on the job front.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Okay, so you might be taken by surprise. Love doesn't run on a schedule, does it? Especially not this kind of thing. You're at the beginning of a period of meeting new and interesting.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Ready or not, that certain person you've been checking out is about to let you know they're interested in much more than just long, lingering glances across the room. They'd like to be much closer, for starters.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You've never run short on charm, and you've never been known to be at a loss for words. At the moment, those talents will come in extremely handy - even more so than usual, that is.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Ready to dig in your heels and defend what you believe in? Bet you're actually quite eager to do it! If you're up against someone who's not as well armed as you verbally.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

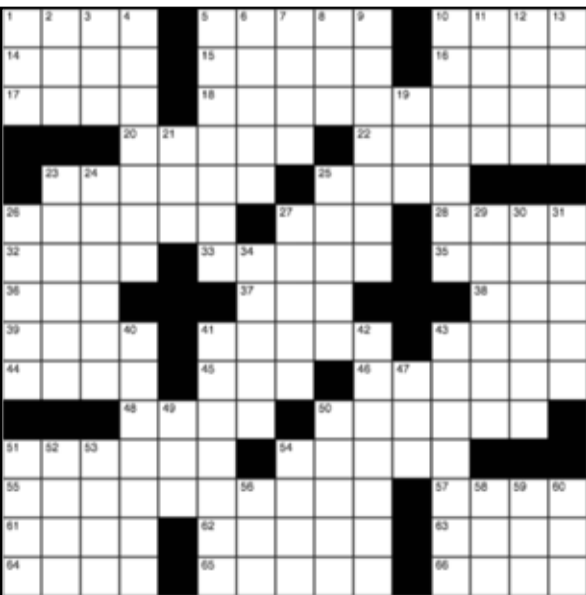
WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Rows include CHINA (Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.) and WORLD (Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, etc.).

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Fred's dancing sister; 6- T.G.I.F. part; 9- Some bridge players; 14- Bowling lane button; 15- By means of; 16- Recess in a wall; 17- Blooming; 19- Actress Sophia; 20- Bro's counterpart; 21- Dregs; 22- Grads; 23- Got on in years; 25- Influential offering; 26- Musical dramas; 29- Jutting rock; 31- Kingdoms; 32- Subscription continuation; 36- Scottish Gaelic; 37- Vinegar's partner; 38- Abhor; 40- Form of bowling; 43- Exaggerate; 45- Cease; 46- Stiff; 47- Primitive calculators; 50- Actor Rob; 51- To redden; 52- Froth; 54- HST's successor; 57- Please, in Potsdam; 58- Subsoil; 61- Divulge; 62- Wide shoe size; 63- Fencing swords; 64- Hagar the Horrible's dog; 65- PC linkup; 66- Pool stroke;

DOWN: 1- Pound sounds; 2- Sandwich shop; 3- Those, to Juan; 4- Actor Ayres; 5- Summer on the Seine; 6- Like some college walls; 7- Fork prong; 8- Droops; 9- Blow up; 10- Garlic sauce; 11- Rub vigorously; 12- Topic; 13- Chamber workers; Abbr.; 18- Like non-oyster months; 23- Senator Specter; 24- Leg, slangily; 25- Prohibit; 26- Mine find; 27- Chipper; 28- Leisure; 29- Brittle; 30- Cath. or Prot.; 33- In what place; 34- Over-50 org.; 35- Former Fords; 37- Lennon's lady; 39- Fair-hiring abbr.; 41- Crown of ancient Egypt; 42- "Lord, is ___?"; Matthew; 43- Carol start; 44- Pledge; 47- Extra-terrestrial being; 48- Montana city; 49- Mary of "The Maltese Falcon"; 50- Burdened; 51- OPEC units; 52- Combustible matter; 53- Draft classification; 54- Female rabbits; 55- Conks out; 56- Last word in a threat; 59- Sleep stage; 60- Sauna site;



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Neymar on cusp of record-breaking move to PSG

Manu Fernandez, Joseph Wilson

NEYMAR is ready to leave Barcelona, and Paris Saint-Germain is ready to put up a record USD262 million to make it happen.

The 25-year-old Brazil striker, widely considered to be among the best soccer players in the world alongside Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, broke weeks of silence yesterday when he told his Barcelona teammates he wants to move on after four trophy-laden seasons.

The cost of the player's buyout clause is 222 million euros (\$262 million), an astonishing price that Neymar's representative said PSG is willing to pay.

"After Neymar gave me the green light on Aug. 1, I went to Paris and today I brought back PSG's offer to pay the (buyout) clause, which will be done in the next hours," Wagner Ribeiro said yesterday at the airport in Barcelona.

Ribeiro, speaking at an airport entrance as Neymar headed toward a flight, said his client would

be with the French team by this weekend. He refused to say where Neymar was flying.

The payment of the buyout clause would dwarf the previous world record transfer of 105 million euros (then \$116 million) that Manchester United paid for France midfielder Paul Pogba last year.

After Neymar and his father met with Barcelona officials on Wednesday, club spokesman Josep Vives said the player was reminded of "the release clause in his current contract, which as of July 1 is 222 million euros, which must be paid in full."

Messi, who has led a dynamic striking trio with Neymar and Luis Suarez, wished the Brazilian well.

"It was an enormous pleasure to have shared all these years with you, my friend Neymar. I wish you the best of luck in the next stage of your life," Messi wrote in Spanish on Instagram along with a slide show of pictures of the two playing and celebrating together.

Driving a blue Audi with two passengers, Neymar breezed in

and out of the Barcelona's training ground outside the city earlier Wednesday. He had arrived in Spain on Tuesday night after holding publicity events for both his personal brand and Barcelona in China.

Last year, Neymar signed a new contract with Barcelona that tied him to the Catalan club through 2021. Vives noted that Neymar "is still under contract with FC Barcelona, but with temporary permission to not take part in the training session."

Barcelona said Neymar did not specify where he wanted to play next, but the only club speculated to be after him — and one of few which could handle the cost of the transfer — is the Qatari-owned PSG.

PSG did not answer messages from The Associated Press seeking comment.

A style icon and a national hero in Brazil, Neymar is a lucrative lure for advertisers. Clubs like PSG have taken notice.

With his lightning-quick feet, creative instincts and scoring touch, Neymar helped maintain Bar-



Neymar

celona as one of the top clubs in Europe for the past four seasons as he blossomed into a worldwide star. Club president Josep Bartomeu had said that the club would do everything to keep him, but to no avail.

Neymar scored 105 goals — some of them true gems — and was a key playmaker for Barcelona as it won a Champions League, two Spanish leagues, three Copa del Reys, one Club World Cup, a UEFA Super

Cup and two Spanish Super Cups.

Yet, even before this drawn-out saga, Neymar also provided more than one headache for his club.

His transfer from Brazilian club Santos in 2013 became the source of a legal dispute that has dogged Barcelona even since. Barcelona said at the time that his transfer cost 57 million euros, while an investigative judge says that the real cost was at least 83.3 million euros.

Now Bartomeu and predecessor Sandro Rosell, who resigned as president of the club amid the transfer scandal, are facing trial on charges of fraudulent administration.

Neymar has also mixed his flair for fancy goals with bouts of immaturity on the field, often needlessly taunting defenders and trying to upstage them with his dribbling skills. But nobody doubts Neymar is one of the greatest talents of his generation.

PSG saw it first-hand in last season's Champions League. In his most memorable performance for Barcelona, Neymar scored two goals and set up two more to inspire a historic 6-1 rout to overturn PSG's 4-0 first-leg win in the last 16.

Unless PSG gets last-second jitters, Neymar will take over a team that is searching for a leader who can achieve elusive Champions League success. **AP**

AD

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Eddie Pells

ATHLETICS

Bolt says no chance of loss or comeback in farewell worlds

AN encore for Usain Bolt? Unthinkable. A loss in his going-away party? Impossible. Track's fastest man and greatest entertainer made both those points clear Tuesday leading to his final world championships this week. It was an engaging hour filled with reminiscences, chats about his plans and thoughts about where his troubled and soon-to-be-starless sport might be headed.

Sporting the goatee he wears during world championships, but not the Olympics, the superstar who went 9 for 9 at the Summer Games, shattering records while dancing and smiling his way through the journey, dispensed any notion he might come back: "For me, the next championships should be fun because now it's time to watch and see who can hold their nerves," said the 11-time world champion, who turns 31 on Aug. 21.

As for the possibility he'd change his mind should he lose in Saturday night's 100-meter final: "It's not going to happen, so we won't have that problem. Don't worry," he said.

He said he's looking forward to a life of motivational speaking, occasional soccer games with friends and maybe dipping his toe into action movies to keep the adrenaline flowing.

As for the past, one of Bolt's most interesting revelations was that his now-famous "To the World" pose, which he debuted after winning his first Olympic gold medal in Beijing, was completely unplanned.

"It's just something that happened," Bolt said. "I guess it was by the grace of God. It became big. For me, it worked."

Almost every celebration since — the moderator said Bolt has



taken 147 victory laps over his career — has been pre-planned, drenched in Jamaican flags and reggae music and every bit worth the wait. Among the few impromptu moments came at the last world championships, two years ago in Beijing, when a photographer riding a Segway accidentally upended him during his victory lap.

That man made a videotaped appearance at the news conference and told Bolt: "You inspired me to become more focused

in my work."

"It was shocking," said Bolt, who popped right back up after the spill. "I didn't get hurt, so it was funny."

On a more serious note, he was asked how he has prepared for each season as his career has progressed. Like flipping through the calendar, Bolt ticked off his goals and motivations for each year since he burst onto the scene in 2008, a relative unknown whose only goal was to become an Olympic champion

in his main race, the 200 meters.

Early on, he took umbrage to the slights: for instance, that despite setting four world records, his success in 2008 came because his main challenger, Tyson Gay, was hurt. Or how in 2012, many were favoring teammate Yohan Blake at the Olympics after Bolt lost to him twice earlier in the summer in Jamaica.

Now that I got to my goal, I'm good with it. I've proven myself.

USAIN BOLT

As the calendar kept turning and Bolt kept proving himself, his mission became more about trying to secure his place in history. When he swept gold for the third straight Olympics last year in Rio de Janeiro, he reached the legendary status he sought.

"Now that I got to my goal, I'm good with it," he said. "I've proven myself."

He fielded the obligatory questions about doping. Bolt has never been caught. Many in his country, and in the sprint game he dominates, have. The last two years have been filled with sordid stories of doping corruption in Russia that brought track and field to a new low.

"The only place track and field has to go is up," Bolt said. "Hopefully we're going to get it going in the right direction and continue going in the right direction."

His most telling comments — or non-comments — came when he was asked who might fill his shoes after he leaves.

"I'm not going down that road," Bolt said. "The last guy I said was going to be great disrespected me."

It was almost certainly a reference to Andre De Grasse, the Canadian up-and-comer who brazenly pushed Bolt last year in the Olympic 200 meter semifinals.

If there's going to be drama in Saturday's 100 final, De Grasse is the best bet to provide it.

But Bolt doesn't see that as a problem. "You guys know if I show up at a championship, you know I'm fully confident and ready to go," he said.

He unveiled the gold-and-purple shoes he'll wear for his final championships. The purple is for his school colors back home at William Knibb Memorial High School. The gold is self-explanatory.

His sponsor, Puma, has been promoting the phrase "Fastest Forever," in the lead-up to the worlds, which will take place in the same London stadium where Bolt won Olympic medals 4, 5 and 6.

But Bolt has a different idea.

"Unbeatable," he said. "For me, that would be the biggest headline. Unbeatable. Unstoppable. Hear that guys? Jot it down." **AP**

RUGBY

European competition adds 2 South African teams

Gerald Imray

EUROPE'S Pro12 has confirmed it will add two South African teams dropped from Super Rugby and expand to a 14-team, two-continent competition from this season.

Celtic Rugby, which runs the Pro12, said the Cheetahs and Southern Kings will join straight away for the 2017-18 season starting later this year. The Pro12 is currently made up of Irish, Welsh, Scottish and Italian clubs.

The prospect of northern hemisphere clubs taking on rivals from the southern hemisphere has long been wished for by rugby fans

on both sides of the equator, but conflicting seasons in the north and south have previously prevented that.

With the addition of the Bloemfontein-based Cheetahs and Port Elizabeth-based Kings, Pro12 will be rebranded as the Pro14 and change to a two-conference system, instead of a straight league table, before the knockout stages.

Seven teams from the new Pro14 will qualify for the Champions Cup, Europe's top rugby competition, but Celtic Rugby said "at present" the two South African teams won't be eligible for that competition even if they finish in the

qualification places. That will, for the moment, avoid the possibility of a South African team becoming the "European" champion.

Pro14 CEO Martin Anayi said the arrival of the Cheetahs and Kings "marks a bold and exciting new chapter for the Pro14 as a global rugby championship."

Celtic Rugby said the inclusion of the Cheetahs and Kings was part of a "long-term" agreement between it and the South African rugby union.

The South African union was forced to cut two teams from the southern hemisphere's leading club competition after Super

Rugby decided to downscale from 18 to 15 teams.

The Cheetahs and Kings were dropped as the two smallest of the six South African teams in Super Rugby.

Joining the European competition brings complications for the Cheetahs and Kings, and for South African rugby.

South Africa's main club competition, the Currie Cup, runs July-October, overlapping with the Pro14's traditional September to May season. It's unclear how the Cheetahs and Kings will compete in both during the overlap.

Also, the southern hemisphere's international



In this March 4 file photo South Africa's Christopher Anthony Cloete of the Southern Kings holds on to the ball during their Super Rugby match against Japan's Sunwolves

Rugby Championship is in August, September and October, and the South Africa team tours Europe at the end of every year, also possibly clashing with

the Pro14 schedule for international players with the Cheetahs and Kings.

Celtic Rugby says it will release its 2017-18 schedule next week. **AP**

opinion

Made in Macao

Jenny Lao-Phillips



THE GOD OF WAR AND BUSINESS PROSPERITY

One thing we all know about the Chinese religions, whether it's Taoism, Buddhism or Shennism, is that they have a large number of deities, and there is often a statue of one of them in many Chinese homes and shops. The most widely seen statue, aside from Kun lam, is the Chinese God of War or Saint of War – Guan Gong 關公 (Duke Guan) whose mortal name was Guan Yu. He is easily recognizable with his fierce red face, long black beard and usually holding a large axe-like weapon, also known as the legendary Green Dragon Crescent Blade 青龍偃月刀, which weighs fifty kilos, according to one of the four great classical novels in Chinese literature, the "Romance of the Three Kingdoms".

Guan Gong is also known as Guan Yi Gor 關二哥 (2nd brother Guan) in Macao and Hong Kong. He is known to be worshipped by the police and triad gangsters alike. It was not until someone questioned why so many restaurants have statues of the God of War that I realized Guan Gong seems to be everywhere. I used to think shop owners who worshipped him must be related to the gangsters or were retired police officers. Then I realized the God of War is more than just a symbol of zung 忠 (loyalty), ji 義 (justice), jung 勇 (courage) and mou 武 (valiance).

Guan Yu is one of the most well-known historical figures in Chinese history, which was made legendary by the classic novel and followed by numerous TV reproductions. Guan Yu served under the warlord, Liu Bei, who later became the Emperor of Shu Han during the period of the Three Kingdoms. It was because of his sworn brotherhood with Liu Bei and Zhang Fei (another general of Liu Bei) that Guan Yu has also been called Guan Yi Gor, as he is ranked second among the three brothers. Aside from being known for his valor, which caused enemies to deem him invincible, Guan Yi Gor was more respected throughout the history of China for his Ji Hei 義氣, meaning loyalty to friends, or better translated as honor to the brotherhood code. Throughout history, he was honored by different Emperors and religious heads crowning him with different titles commemorating his integrity, valor and loyalty.

Therefore, it is not surprising that policemen and triad gangsters worship Guan Gong. On the one hand, the police want blessings from the God of War in their fight against crime. But so do gangsters who might be involved in more wars against the law and other outlaws. On the other hand, by offering incense to Guan Yi Gor together, it implies a bond of brotherhood that is not to be broken, and any betrayal would be punished by the deity. But how is the God of War relevant to running businesses?

According to different sources, aside from his military ability, Guan Yu was also talented in finance, and was responsible for the bookkeeping in their army. There is a saying that he created the bookkeeping journal that is still being used by traditional Chinese businesses today. Therefore, Guan Yu is also known as the Military God of Fortune 武財神 and is believed to bring prosperity to businesses. More than merely bringing fortune to businesses, as compared to other deities of prosperity, the Military God of Fortune oversees business integrity too. So, next time we see a business worshipping the God of War, we should not worry that it could be related to the triad. Rather, we can trust that they are being monitored by the fierce, just, honest and courageous God of War/Fortune.

THE TRUMP REPORTEDLY DESCRIBED WHITE HOUSE AS A 'REAL DUMP'

President Donald Trump has told members of his New Jersey golf club that he spends so much time away from Washington because the White House is a "real dump."

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment about the account, which appeared in a lengthy article posted on the website golf.com. The story on Trump's complicated love for golf also appears in Sports Illustrated

magazine.

The story recounts a scene in which Trump was chatting with some club members. Trump told the members he makes such frequent appearances at the property in Bedminster, New Jersey, because: "That White House is a real dump."

Trump has spent nearly every weekend of his presidency visiting various properties he owns and leases, including Bedminster.

ROYALTY

Prince Philip, 96, to bid adieu to solo charity appearances

Danica Kirka, London

FOR over 65 years, he has been the unwavering presence alongside Britain's longest-serving monarch, the consummate consort and royal representative.

Today [Macao time], Prince Philip will make his 22,219th – and final – solo public engagement. He will be meeting Royal Marines who have completed a 2,678-kilometer trek to raise money for charity.

After that, the Duke of Edinburgh will still appear at Queen Elizabeth II's side – from time to time – as the 91-year-old monarch soldiers on. In the meantime, the man known for his quips and gaffes has already been joking about his big retirement day.

"I'm discovering what it's like to be on your last legs," the 96-year-old Philip told celebrity chef Prue Leith at a recent palace event.

Philip is patron, president or a member of over 780 organizations, with which he will continue to be associated – but he won't play an active role by attending engagements. The queen supported the decision, which was greeted with an international press flurry when it was announced in May.

The occasion marks a major landmark for the man born Prince Philip of Greece and Denmark in Corfu on June 10, 1921, to Princess Alice of Battenberg and Prince Andrew of Greece. Amid the upheaval of the military coup that overthrew his uncle, King Constantine, in 1922, the family fled.

King George V, the queen's grandfather, sent a Royal Navy cruiser to evacuate Philip's family and he was whisked to safety in a cot made from an orange box. Later, he rarely saw his parents and went to school in Germany and Britain.

Philip has had a long association with the military and had once had promising military career. He joined the Royal Navy as



a cadet in 1939 and served during World War II, winning mention in dispatches for service aboard the battleship HMS Valiant at Cape Matapan, on Greece's Peloponnesian peninsula. He rose to the level of commander.

Two years after the war ended, Philip married the future queen at Westminster Abbey when she was 21 and he was 26. He renounced his Greek title and King George VI made him the Duke of Edinburgh. His career came to an abrupt end with George's death in 1952. At the queen's coronation in 1953, Philip swore to be his wife's "liege man of life and limb." He settled into a life supporting Elizabeth in her role as queen and they had four children – Charles, Anne, Andrew and Edward.

And ever since, the milestones just kept falling.

Philip has given 5,496 speeches, written 14 books and gone on 637 solo visits overseas.

He's championed environmental and conservation issues, and has interests in science, engineering and industry. An accomplished sportsman, he played polo regularly until 1971. He earned his RAF wings in 1953, his helicopter wings in 1956 and his private pilot's license in 1959.

All that activity has led to overall good health. But Philip has been admitted to the hospital on a number of occasions in the last few years for abdominal surgery, bladder infections and a blocked coronary artery.

Many of his health issues are related to sports. He has arthritis in his right wrist and broke a bone in his ankle from playing polo. He developed a rheumatic condition of the tendon in the hand after a taking a fall in polo.

He takes the stairs rather than elevators and can still fit into the uniform he wore for his wedding. He was only seen wearing hearing aids for the first time at a palace reception in 2014 at the age of 93.

The palace says his health wasn't behind the retirement decision.

Philip, who enjoys a slightly wicked turn of phrase, has poked fun at himself and his advancing years. In a letter to The Oldie magazine in 2011, he said he appreciated being named "Consort of the Year."

"There is nothing like it for morale to be reminded that the years are passing – ever more quickly – and that bits are beginning to drop off the ancient frame," he wrote. "But it is nice to be remembered at all." AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	20-40 Good
High Density Residential Area	25-45 Good
Ambient	20-40 Good

WORLD BRIEFS



AUSTRALIA A man arrested over the weekend in Sydney has been released without charge and was shocked to be questioned about a plot to bring down an airliner, his lawyer and police said yesterday. More on p13

SAUDI ARABIA A state-linked Saudi news website is reporting that assailants opened fire on the Riyadh headquarters of the country's religious police.

FRANCE-ITALY Italy and France have agreed to work on resolving their dispute over an Italian shipbuilder's bid to take over a French shipyard, giving themselves until the end of September.

GERMANY-VIETNAM The German government accused Vietnamese intelligence services yesterday of involvement in what it called the kidnapping in Berlin of a former Vietnamese oil executive, and gave the country's intelligence attache 48 hours to leave Germany.



VENEZUELA The number of Venezuelans who participated in the election for an all-powerful constituent assembly was inflated by at least 1 million votes in an official count, the head of a voting technology company asserted yesterday.

BRAZIL Lawmakers were yesterday making impassioned speeches about whether to suspend the president for bribery, but few of their colleagues seemed to be paying attention. They were largely arguing for a national television audience.