



COMMUNICATION ISSUES

Communication between local patients and medical staff needs to be improved, Alexis Tam said

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REPORT: AIR QUALITY OK

Macau's monitoring stations classified the air quality of more than 95 percent of days in 2016 as "good" or "moderate"

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WORLD BRIEFS



AP PHOTO

VENEZUELA Ruling party chief Diosdado Cabello said Venezuelan troops quashed a "terrorist" attack at a military base yesterday, shortly after a small group of men dressed in fatigues released a video declaring themselves in rebellion. Military officials said seven people were detained. [More on p14](#)

ASEAN In a surprise move, Southeast Asia's top diplomats have defied China's steadfast stance and issued a joint communique that indirectly criticizes its land reclamations and military fortifications in the disputed South China Sea. Reportedly, Vietnam had pushed for stronger language despite opposition from many of the ministers, whose countries rely heavily on China for trade and investment. [More on p10](#)

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Global economy
Rebirth of the Japanese model?

Alibaba, gov't vow to develop 'smart city'

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Singapore revokes professor's entry rights over 'subversion'

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Alexis Tam (second from right) pictured inspecting an evacuation exercise in the intensive care unit and operating room at the Conde S. Januário Hospital

AL PLENARY

Tam admits to poor relationships between patients and medical staff

Julie Zhu

THE Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, said during the Legislative Assembly (AL) plenary meeting on Friday that the relationships between the region's patients and medical service providers have improved in recent years.

Several lawmakers questioned the relations between the two parties, to which Tam admitted that the professional attitudes of medical service providers such as doctors and nurses still have "many problems."

"[They are] unfriendly, not pa-

tient when explaining, which tends to lead the public to misunderstand them. [...] Hence, I have already requested these medical professionals to engage in good communications with their patients and respective families, and to give detailed explanations to the patients because they [the patients and patients' families] have the right to know," said Tam.

"If our residents have a good educational background, I believe that all will be relatively harmonious in terms of communication. If everybody [patients and their families] is courteous and friendly, [I] believe our medical pro-

fessionals will be willing to tell the conditions to them," he added.

When questioned by lawmaker Ho Ion Sang about medical malpractice laws, Tam noted that the committee for the assessment of medical malpractice complaints had recorded 38 cases related to medical accidents between February 26 and June 20.

Lawmaker Au Kam San remarked that there are still more than 20,000 elderly people in Macau who cannot receive a full-scale retirement pension. Au has urged the government to address this situation by allowing these people to contribute to their own welfare

funds.

Tam rejected the suggestion and stated that if the authorities permit any one-off provident contributions, it will cause chaos for the city's policies.

Melinda Chan wanted Tam to disclose more data regarding the city's new subsidy system for the social welfare sector.

Tam pointed out that until June 2017, 245 associations and social welfare organizations had received a total of MOP553 million in government subsidies, benefiting a total of 3,545 social workers. He added that 179 organizations and more than 3,300 people have

been involved in the development of the region's latest subsidy systems for social welfare organizations, a situation he described as "close to ideal."

I have already requested these medical professionals to engage in good communications with their patients.

ALEXIS TAM

Leong Veng Chai asked how the government handles cases where Macau residents called for emergency medical treatment in mainland China, but had to be sent back to Macau for the actual treatment.

Public Security Police Force director Leong Man Cheong noted that it is common for mainland China and Macau to transfer patients at the border gates, adding that Macau and Zhuhai have long-term communication mechanisms in place for such exchanges.

Several lawmakers, including Lam Hong San, raised questions about the salaries of those employed by social welfare-related organizations.

The Social Affairs Bureau (IAS) president Vong Yim Mui responded that Macau's latest subsidy system for such employees is a vast improvement from previous versions.

The new system ensures that cleaning staff or average assistants can earn more than MOP10,000. For the directors of such organizations, salaries can surpass MOP50,000. Vong believes that the salaries are "competitive in some way" when compared to other sectors.

Tam also fielded enquiries from Mak Soi Kun and Wong Kit Cheng about cancer in Macau, saying that those diagnosed with lung cancer have recorded a "high" survival rate of 28 percent over the past five years, better than in the US and Singapore.

"The effects of lung cancer treatment in Macau are better than in other developed countries and regions, and is highly praised by [the] mainland and Hong Kong experts. This proves that Macau's lung cancer-related medical technology has already reached international levels," said Tam.

Nurseries to offer 10,000 places by year-end

MACAU will have more than 10,000 child nursing positions by the end of 2017, according to the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam.

This information came to light in Tam's reply to an inquiry from lawmaker Angela Leong during last Friday's meeting.

Leong had questioned Tam on how the government can respond to Macau's high demand for nursing positions.

Tam first reiterated his frequent emphasis on ensuring that Macau has enough nursing positions, but went on to say that children need familial care, citing research studies which concluded that placing children in nurseries too early can harm their growth.

Tam reaffirmed that the government does not encourage parents to leave children in nurseries at too early an age.

Si Ka Lon suggested that the government include children nursing periods into the city's free education system.

Tam disagreed with Si and said that "other places will not be like this," adding that Macau's child nursing rate has already reached 48 percent, which is higher than in Hong Kong and Japan.

Tam continued that the goal of nursing children is to help parents care for their offspring, and it is not intended as a means for education.

In his opinion, the demand for nursing po-

sitions is strong because parents want their children to get into the best schools, which is "unnecessary."

"No matter which schools they [the students] graduate from, they are still all good," said Tam.

The Social Affairs Bureau (IAS) president Vong Yim Mui noted that a survey by the University of Macau indicated that only 12.4 percent of local parents have said that they do not have a person available to take care of their children.

Vong said that in future, the authorities will prioritize nursing for vulnerable families, including low-income families or those where one parent is ill.

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The signing of the agreement was witnessed by Jack Ma (second from left) and Chui Sai On (second from right)

Alibaba to lead Macau's 'smart city' venture

THE Macau government and the Alibaba Group, the world's largest online marketplace, have announced the formation of a strategic partnership, under which the MSAR will employ Alibaba's big data processing capabilities and cloud computing technology to enhance its public services.

The agreement aims to further Macau's objective of becoming a smart city – a vision recently formalized in the introduction of Macau's first Five-Year Development Plan.

The plan seeks to accelerate Macau's development in several key areas; namely, tourism, information technology training, transportation management, medical services and urban management.

This will include the adoption of target consumer marketing tools, such as convenient mobile payments and customized online promotions at the airport and po-

pular tourist spots.

The agreement will also pave the way for a "smart transportation network" to optimize the management of Macau's roads, waterways and air traffic, so as to utilize the city's transportation resources more efficiently.

The agreement will also introduce a new electronic medical system, which will be linked to a global online database of medical information, to assist healthcare providers with decision-making.

It will also launch certificate programs to train professionals in business-to-business e-commerce and cloud computing technology.

The signing was witnessed by Chief Executive (CE) Chui Sai On and Jack Ma, the executive chairman of the Alibaba Group.

Titled "Framework Agreement of Strategic Cooperation on Smart City Development", the four-year plan is divided into two

phases. The first phase, running until June 2019, will comprise the construction of a cloud computing data center in Macau, as well as the data mapping stage, which will be managed by the government.

The government expects projects in the first phase of the rollout to start producing preliminary results by mid-2018, according to a statement released by the Government Information Bureau (GCS).

The second phase of the agreement covers the period from July 2019 to June 2021. Aside from the continuous improvement of Macau's technological infrastructure, this phase will entail the commencement of projects related to environmental protection, customs clearance procedures and forecasting models for the MSAR's economy.

According to the statement, the government chose to partner the

Alibaba Group for its experience implementing systems in other developed cities.

GCS said that the government had decided to cooperate with Alibaba Cloud – a unit of the Alibaba Group – after conducting thorough research, a decision influenced by the fact that Alibaba Cloud is the largest provider of cloud computing services in China, with clients in hundreds of cities.

The first phase of the plan will comprise the construction of a cloud computing data center in Macau

The company is also widely recognized in the Asia-Pacific region for its information security practices, and its systems are compatible with Macau's existing infrastructure, meaning that the government would not need to introduce new systems or change its current ones.

Developing Macau as a smart city is an ongoing government strategy to boost socio-economic development in the MSAR. It will also help the government fulfil its goal of developing information technology services as part of its first Five-Year Development Plan, which covers the period 2016 to 2020.

Smart cities – a relatively new and unconventional concept – use information technologies to manage city-wide assets and deliver services more efficiently.

O Lam, the chief of the CE's Office, was present to sign the agreement and has stated that Alibaba will help the city achieve its long-term development goals.

Also signing the agreement was Alibaba Cloud president Hu Xiaoming, who said that he was confident that Macau would successfully implement its projects by utilizing Alibaba's experience in this field. He said that Macau had the potential to become a model smart city for scores of other cities across the Asia-Pacific region.



Eight injured in bus accident

A bus collided with some roadside fencing at the Avenida de Amizade near the Grand Prix building yesterday, injuring eight passengers between 20 to 68 years of age, according to the Fire Services Bureau. The bus driver said about 15 passengers had been on board at the time. Six of the injured passengers, two men and four women, were sent to the central hospital and were discharged after receiving treatment. The front part of the bus sustained severe damage.

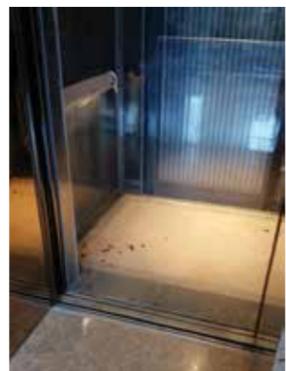
Guangdong: HKZMB will be ready in 2017

The Guangdong Transportation Department announced it is pushing forward seven of the province's ongoing projects, so as to ensure that the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge will be ready to open by the end of 2017. Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Authority deputy director Yu Lie said the remainder of the bridge's construction will be completed within the year and that the main body of the bridge will be ready for use. However, Yu noted that the timeline for the bridge's official opening is still being discussed between the authorities of the three regions.

SSM expects 30 dengue fever cases in one month

The Health Bureau (SSM) director Lei Chin Ion said that the five suspected cases of dengue fever reported on Saturday were dismissed after further testing. Macau has recorded eight dengue fever cases to date. Of these, five were infected outside the territory. SSM expects around 20 to 30 dengue fever cases in Macau over the next three to four weeks.

Two dead, one injured at One Oasis



A two-year-old girl and a 34-year-old man died after falling from a unit at the One Oasis residential complex. The 30-year-old mother of the girl was found with multiple cuts on her body. All three individuals were Hong Kong residents.

According to a statement by the Centro Hospitalar Conde de São Januário

(CHCSJ), the man died immediately after the fall, while the girl's death was only confirmed after CHCSJ's arrival.

The mother's injuries have been treated and her physical condition is stable. She has been referred to social workers for further assistance.

The Judiciary Police (PJ) said in a statement that

the deceased man was the woman's boyfriend. The girl was their daughter.

The couple had argued several times about their relationship prior to the incident.

The man returned to Macau from Hong Kong early yesterday morning. At 7:00 a.m., after the family's domestic helper left, the man suddenly

grabbed a knife to attack the woman.

The injured woman fled the apartment. When she arrived at the building lobby, she witnessed the man falling from the building.

An anonymous source told the Times that bloodstains were still visible in a lift (pictured) around 2.30 p.m.

AIR QUALITY

95pct of days in 2016 ranked as 'good' or 'moderate'

MACAU'S monitoring stations classified the air quality of more than 95 percent of days in 2016 as "good" or "moderate", according to the latest report by the Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA).

The report says that Macau's air quality has improved overall in recent years, in line with the general trend in the Pearl River Delta Region.

Although some stations registered a consistent increasing trend in the concentration of certain pollutants, the average annual concentrations of PM10 and PM2.5, recorded in all seasons of 2016, remained below standards.

The values of NH₃, NMVOC and CH₄ decreased in 2015 when compared to the previous year. However, DSPA noted that the increase in locally generated electricity and fuel consumed by

transportation had resulted in the estimated values of other atmospheric pollutants as well as GHG surpassing those recorded in 2014.

In terms of water resources, assessment indexes for coastal waters, heavy metals and non-metals decreased in 2016 compared to 2015. The quality of coastal waters improved, but pollution levels caused by non-metallic materials remain critical.

Regarding solid waste, the quantity of solid urban waste in Macau increased slightly less in 2016 when compared to 2015.

Construction waste also decreased considerably in 2016, as well as the amount of special and hazardous forms of waste. The recycling rate of solid waste slightly increased from 2015. However, the amount of municipal solid waste discarded per



capita is still fairly large.

In terms of noise pollution, noise levels recorded last year at the Estações da Avenida de Horta e Costa, Rua Cidade de Braga

and at the Avenida de Venceslau de Moraes were comparable to those recorded in 2015.

Noise levels recorded at Estação da Rua Correia da Silva and

at Estação das Zonas Ecológicas do Cotai increased greatly compared to 2015.

Regarding nature conservation, the number of tree species in 2016 stayed the same as that of 2015, despite an increase in the total number of trees.

The report also analyzes factors such as "investment and participation in the environment." The number of organizations which received environmental certificates in 2016 has grown, and the number of hotels awarded as Green Hotel has reached a new record, indicating that Macau's enterprises are paying more attention to their environmental protection efforts.

In recent years, however, fewer companies have been encouraging the public to participate in environment-related activities or organizing courses and seminars on environmental management.

Overall, the quality of Macau's air and coastal waters improved in 2016. However, the gradual economic recovery, greater population density and higher influx of tourists have resulted in higher consumption of electricity and water resources, as well as more urban waste. **JZ**

MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

Bibiano Fernandes retains Bantamweight World Champion title

BIBIANO Fernandes successfully defended his title as ONE Bantamweight World Champion on Saturday in the main event of the "Kings and Conquerors" show at the Cotai Arena at The Venetian Macao.

Featuring a top cast of some of the best in local and international martial arts, the Brazilian-born Fernandes defeated contestant American Andrew Leone to reclaim the title and set an unprecedented ONE Championship record of seven successful title defences, remaining unbeaten in the promotion.

The defending champion rushed his opponent from the outset of the fight, making quick work of Andrew Leone and submitting the American challenger with a rear-naked choke in the first frame of the clash.

Leone's death knell sounded after Fernandes hammered a knee to the American's midsection that slumped him to the mat. The 37-year-old Brazilian authored the final sequence to defeat his opponent, thereby



Bibiano Fernandes defeated contestant Andrew Leone

retaining the prestigious gold-plated strap securely fastened around his waist.

"I feel great. I feel great, thank you Macao for having me [...] I am here to stay," the defending champion said, according to a press release issued by the event organizer. "I welcome all challenges. [...] I want to continue fighting. Whoever I have to fight, I will accept. I am always ready!"

Separately, another Brazilian, Adriano Moraes, defeated Kazakhstan's Kairat Akhmetov to become the undisputed ONE Flyweight World Champion. The decision

was made following a five-round unanimous vote.

Moraes, who previously held the interim title, controlled the majority of the action with his grappling, while defending champion Akhmetov tried his best to fend off the Brazilian's advances with his wrestling. Ultimately it was the Brazilian who got the better of the exchanges and landed the harder blows.

All three judges scored the bout in favor of Moraes, who unifies the flyweight titles to become the undisputed king of the division.

According to the press release, Adriano Moraes

stated: "I'm not surprised [with the victory]. Thank you very much, one more time, for the opportunity, ONE Championship [...] I'm very grateful."

Other Brazilians contesting Saturday night's event included Leandro Issa, a blackbelt in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, who stopped Finnish martial artist Toni Tauru inside of two rounds.

Carrying his dominant momentum from the first round to the second, Issa staggered the former world title challenger and drove him to the mat with a high-impact slam. Several hard-hitting blows to Tauru prompted seasoned referee Yuji Shimada to intervene and call for a halt to the contest.

A fourth Brazilian, Leandro Ataides, collided with Polish combatant Michal Pasternak in a battle of former world title contenders. With both men seeking to vie for gold once more, the two employed efficient fighting strategies from bell to bell, but Ataides was eventually declared the victor by way of unanimous decision.

EDUCATION

Portuguese Language Summer Course concludes

THE closing ceremony for the 31st Portuguese Language Summer Course, organized by the University of Macau's (UM) Department of Portuguese, was held on Friday. According to a statement from UM, over 450 students from ten countries and regions learned the language under the guidance of 23 Portuguese-language instructors during the three-week intensive course.

At the closing ceremony, participants demonstrated what they had learned from the course by giving speeches in Portuguese and performing Portuguese folk dances and songs.

The UM said this year's course had attracted a record number of students from East Timor, Thailand, the U.S., South Korea, Moldova, India, mainland China, Hong Kong and Macau.

Classes were offered for students at various levels of proficiency - namely beginner, basic, intermediate and advanced - while other students took a class in Chinese-Portuguese translation.

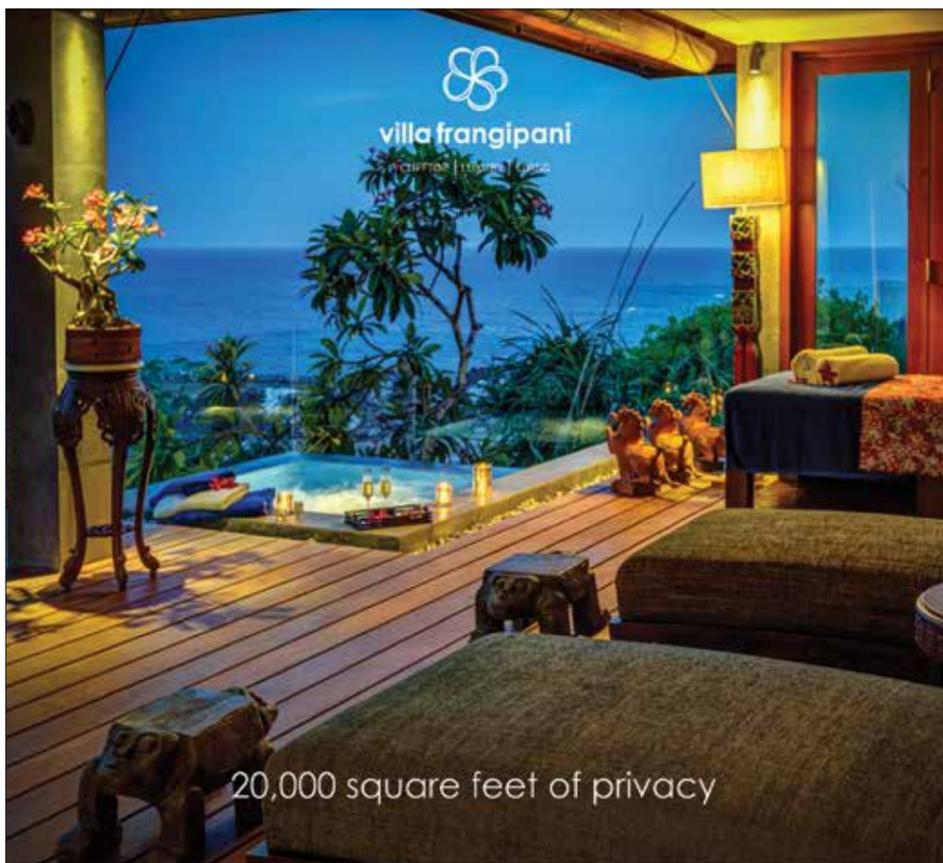
Extracurricular activities included visits to local

museums and the historic centre of Macau, lessons on Portuguese folk dances, and seminars on the cultural heritage of Macau.

Course coordinator Ana Nunes said in the UM statement that this course continued to focus on increasing participants' understanding of the history of Macau and the cultures of Portuguese-speaking countries. She added that participants in this year's course were very satisfied with the variety of activities both inside and outside the classroom.

Launched in 1986, the Portuguese Language Summer Course aims to train bilingual language professionals and promote Portuguese language and culture, through tailor-made classes to suit individual students' proficiency levels and characteristics.

This year's course was supported by the Macau Foundation, the Macau Post and Telecommunications Bureau, the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, the Tertiary Education Services Office and the International Institute of Macau.



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“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”

REPORT

Casinos spooked by land plot reversion

CASINO operators are worried about what the recent land reversion cases in Macau will portend for their upcoming license renewals in 2020. According to Reuters, the government's seizure of over 100 plots of lands from developers, on the grounds of their non- or under-utilization, has spooked casino executives. The reversion of the land plots proceeded despite protests from the developers, concerned residents and some city legislators.

The news agency has reported that some operators are concerned that the MSAR government might take a tougher stance in the unprecedented negotiations leading up to the license expiry dates between 2020 and 2022.

"It's really a warning sign that the government is not backing down for the casino concessions," one senior casino executive, who wished to remain anonymous, told Reuters.



"Nobody really knows what is going to happen."

"Just because you have a licence now doesn't mean you will have one in the future," another casino executive told Reuters. "They are setting our expectations that some operators may not continue."

Five of Macau's six casino operators had previously refused to comment on the issue.

Melco, breaking the silence,

told Reuters that it hoped it would be able to continue its casino business in Macau, highlighting its connection to the city. Lawrence Ho, the son of casino magnate Stanley Ho, is Melco's chief executive officer and chairman.

The government has rebuked the suggestion that the confiscations over the past four years are connected to the casino license renewals, and maintains

that there is no intention to revise the Land Law.

The local authorities have justified the confiscations by saying that developers have been sitting idle instead of developing the plots as agreed in their contracts. They say that the tough stance will reduce corruption and ensure that land – in scarce supply in Macau – will be used for their intended purpose.

However, developers have accused government bureaucracy of stifling development plans, citing burdensome regulations and unresponsiveness from the related government departments.

In the meantime, casino operators are taking pre-emptive action to win favor from the local government. This reportedly includes a drive to hire more local workers and widely-publicized procurement campaigns to support the city's small and medium-sized businesses.

But the upcoming license renewals have also meant caution among the operators and, according to Reuters, have also resulted in shorter-term contracts negotiated for new casino executives.

"It's all very sensitive at the moment," said another casino executive. "We are just trying to understand what the government wants." **DB**

Chinese Orchestra season tickets on sale

The Macao Chinese Orchestra (OCHM) will commence its 2017-2018 concert season in September. Concert tickets go on sale today at the Macau Ticketing Network. The 2017-2018 Season Opening Concert "The Bridge" by Yan Huichang and the Macao Chinese Orchestra will take place on September 1 at the Macau Cultural Centre Grand Auditorium.

Review of Culture focuses on women in Macanese society

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) issued number 54 edition of its Review of Culture. The review touches upon issues such as the struggles of being liberated from the characteristics of the Macau-Shanghai migratory flow, in a chapter dedicated to the role of women in the Macanese "Luso-Asian" society. Another chapter is dedicated to Chinese Classical Literature, and includes commented translations by the Chinese writer Zhong Rong. In addition, the review contains a historical examination of Alexander Hume's panoramic scroll painting that gives visual insight into the history of the Canton Trade System (1757-1842), through which China controlled its trade with the West. Review of Culture is available at several local bookstores and is priced at MOP80.

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Cheoc Van, Coloane

(Ref: 17060651)
6,222sq. ft. HKD 79,800
Combining dazzling sea views, stylish interiors and cavernous comfort, this multi-storey property is a rare find in Macao. In the lower ground floor sits a private swimming pool alongside a large entertainment area that is perfect for entertaining guests during a hot Macau summer. On the ground floor, you'll find a jazzy living space with the perfect amount of natural light entry. If you can take the elevator up to the 1st floor, you'll find two kitchens (yes, two)



Soi Cheung, Taipa

(Ref: 17070655)
650sq. ft. HKD11,500
This is a lovely apartment in the very popular 'Taipa Village'. The apartment was renovated some time ago and is still in excellent condition. The building is a on older 'walk up' building, and the apartment features include a balcony and all the advantages of living in a low rise block that is within a stones' throw of some of the best restaurants in Macau.

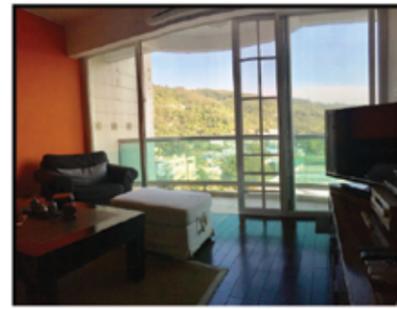
For Sale



Lai Hou, Camoes Gardens, Macau

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

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



Hellene Gardens, Buttercup Court, G Unit

(Ref: 17055520)
1,663sq. ft. HKD 7.98M
Rate: HKD 4,798sq ft

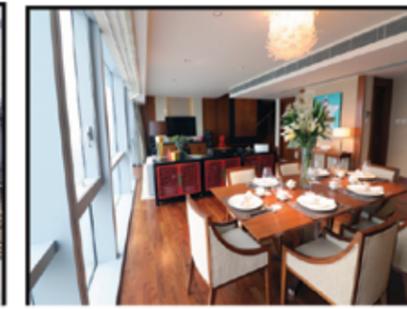
Stunning apartment with open view across towards the back of Hac Sa Beach. Renovated five years ago to a very high standard. The owner opened up the kitchen making a wonderful entertainment area for both living and dining, off the living room is a great size balcony for Al Fresco dining. Further renovations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



Cheoc Van, House912 Coloane

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

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



Mandarin Residences Serviced Duplex

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

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



Lok Pou, Macau

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

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

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



Chun Hung Garden L Unit

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

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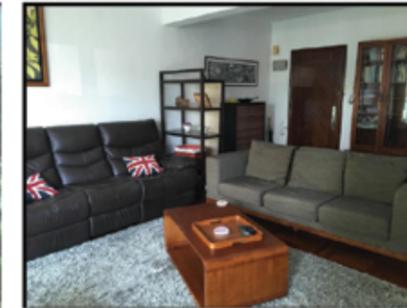


Roof Top Apartment, Macau

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

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

To view call us now on 2835 2699.



Wan Yu Villa, D Unit, Macau

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

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

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

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Toyota, Mazda plan USD1.6b US plant, to partner in EVs

Tom Krisher and Yuri Kageyama, Tokyo

JAPANESE automakers Toyota Motor Corp. and Mazda Motor Corp. plan to spend USD1.6 billion to jointly build auto manufacturing plant in the U.S. — a move that will create up to 4,000 jobs, both sides said Friday.

The plant will have an annual production capacity of about 300,000 vehicles, and will produce Toyota Corollas as well as a new Mazda crossover vehicle for the North American market.

Toyota wouldn't say where the plant would be built. But because the new plant will build the Corolla, chances are it will be located near Toyota's current Corolla plant in Mississippi to be close to parts supply companies. The companies expect the plant to begin operations by 2021.

Toyota said it changed its plan to make Corollas at a plant in Guanajuato, Mexico, now under construction, after reassessing the market. Instead it will produce Tacoma pickups there, Toyota President Akio Toyoda said.

President Donald Trump had criticized Toyota and other automakers for taking auto production and jobs to Mexi-

co, saying vehicles for the U.S. market should be built by U.S. workers. Toyoda denied that Trump's views influenced his decision.

Toyota also noted the growing competition from newcomers in the auto industry like Google, Apple and Amazon

Trump welcomed the announcement in a tweet: "Toyota & Mazda to build a new \$1.6B plant here in the U.S.A. and create 4K new American jobs. A great investment in American manufacturing!"

Sales of small cars have slumped in the U.S. amid steadily low gas prices. Corolla sales fell 10 percent through July. But Toyota hopes the market will have shifted by 2021. If not, the plant will have the flexibility to shift to another model, according to spokesman Scott Vazin.



Toyota Motor Corp. President Akio Toyoda, left, and Mazda Motor Corp. President Masamichi Kogai, right, bow to each other prior to a press conference in Tokyo

Toyota plans to acquire a 5.05 percent stake in Mazda, valued at 50 billion yen (\$455 million). Mazda, which makes the Miata roadster, will acquire 50 billion yen worth of Toyota shares, the equivalent of a 0.25 percent stake.

The companies also plan to work together on various advanced auto technology, such as electric vehicles, safety features and connected cars, as well as products that they could supply each other.

In the past, Toyota was not overly bullish on electric vehicles, which have a limited cruise range. But recent breakthroughs in batteries allow for longer travel per charge. Ja-

panese rival Nissan Motor Co. is allied with Renault SA of France and Mitsubishi Motors Corp., and is the global leader in electric vehicles. Their alliance led world vehicles sales for the first time in the first half of this year.

Toyoda also noted the growing competition from newcomers in the auto industry like Google, Apple and Amazon, stressing he was worried about autos turning into commodities. He praised Mazda as a great partner in that effort.

Friday's announcement builds on an existing partnership. Toyota, which makes the Prius hybrid, Camry sedan and Lexus luxury models, already provi-

des hybrid technology to Mazda, which makes compact cars for Toyota at its Mexico plant.

The sheer cost of the plant also makes a partnership logical, as it boosts cost-efficiency and economies of scale. Working together on green and other auto technology also makes sense as the segment becomes increasingly competitive due to concerns about global warming, the environment and safety.

"Given the massive level of competition in the industry, partnerships are no longer a surprise," said Akshay Anand, an executive analyst at Kelley Blue Book.

Politics are another incentive. "The new presidential administration has made it clear investments in the U.S. are a top priority, and this plant may be another nod to that mindset," Anand said.

Mazda, based in Hiroshima, Japan, used to have a powerful partner in Dearborn-based Ford Motor Co., which bought 25 percent of Mazda in 1979, and raised it to 33.4 percent in 1996. But Ford began cutting ties in 2008, and has shed its stake in Mazda.

Also Friday, Toyota reported its April-June profit was 613.0 billion yen (\$5.6 billion), up 11 percent from 552.4 billion yen a year earlier. Quarterly sales rose 7 percent to 7.05 trillion yen (\$64 billion), as vehicle sales improved around the world, including in the U.S., Europe and Japan.

Toyota stuck to its earlier projection for global vehicle sales for the fiscal year, ending in March 2018, at 10.25 million vehicles. **AP**

Packer's Crown says high-roller turnover sinks on China case



Angus Whitley

BILLIONAIRE James Packer's Crown Resorts Ltd. said high-roller casino revenue halved last fiscal year after Chinese authorities clamped down on

the promotion of gambling on the mainland. Crown's VIP program-play turnover in the year ended June 30 slumped 49 percent to AUD33.3 billion (USD27 billion), dragging down revenue at its Melbourne and

Perth resorts, the company said in a statement Friday. Profit excluding one-off gains fell 16 percent to AUD343.1 million.

Crown's high-roller business has been rocked since Chinese authorities arrested a group of its staff in October and Chairman John Alexander said Friday the results "reflected difficult trading conditions." Since then, the company has sold out of a Macau casino venture, closed almost all its Asian marketing offices and handed back cash to shareholders.

Crown rose 0.3 percent to AUD12.80 at 11:10 a.m. on Friday after it extended a sto-

ck buyback, taking the gain since the October detentions to about

15 percent. The company will purchase up to 29.3 million more shares, currently worth AUD375 million.

Crown is now focusing on its domestic resorts in Melbourne and Perth, and the construction of a AUD2 billion

luxury hotel and casino in Sydney.

A Shanghai court in June convicted 19 current and former Crown staff of illegally promoting gambling on the mainland and handed out jail terms of as long as 10 months. **Bloomberg**

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Teresa Cerojano, Jim Gomez

CHINA'S top diplomat said yesterday that talks for a no-aggression pact aimed at preventing clashes from erupting in the disputed South China Sea may start this year if "outside parties" don't cause a major disruption.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said the start of talks for a "code of conduct" in the disputed waters may be announced by the heads of state of China and the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations at their annual summit in the Philippines in November if Beijing's conditions are met.

Wang told a news conference in Manila that those conditions include non-interference by "outside parties," apparently referring to the United States, which Beijing has frequently accused of meddling in what it says is an Asian dispute that should be resolved only by the countries involved.

China's territorial disputes in the strategic and potentially oil- and gas-rich waterway with five other governments intensified after it built islands in disputed waters and reportedly started to install a missile defense system on them, alarming rival claimant states, the U.S. and other Western governments.

"If there is no major disruption from outside parties, with that as the precondition, then we will consider during the November leaders' meeting, we will jointly announce the official start of the code of conduct consultation," Wang said.

The situation in the South China Sea should also be "generally stable," he said.

"China and ASEAN have the ability to work together to maintain regional peace and stability and we will work out regional rules that we mutually agreed upon so as to open up a bright future for our future relations," he said.

A Philippine government spokesman, Robespierre Bolivar, also announced the adoption of the code's framework and consensus on steps to start negotiations on the actual code. He did

Beijing sets conditions for start of talks on sea feud code



Wang Yi (center) is escorted by Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Zhao Jianhua (left) upon arrival to take part in the 50th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting and its Dialogue Partners

not mention any preconditions.

"The leaders of ASEAN and China are expected to announce the formal start of negotiations on the code at their summit in November," Bolivar told reporters.

Acting U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Susan Thornton said countries locked in the sea disputes should halt provocative moves to foster a diplomatic resolution.

"We think all of the countries in the region should agree that while they have this diplomatic process going on that they would stop improving or expanding or militarizing any of their outposts," Thornton said.

China had long been perceived as delaying negotiations with ASEAN for the maritime code to allow it to launch and complete its land reclamations in the South

China Sea without any such regulatory restrictions. Wang's mention of the vague conditions can allow China to delay or halt the planned talks for any reason.

While China has had robust economic ties with Southeast Asia, a diverse region of more than 600 million people with a combined GDP of \$2.4 trillion, both have tangled for years over the territorial conflicts. Tensions flared alarmingly in recent years over China's island-building works in one of the most disputed regions, where U.S. naval and aerial patrols have challenged Beijing's claims.

ASEAN foreign ministers failed to promptly issue a joint communique after their annual gathering in Manila on Saturday due to a disagreement on the wordings of chapters pertaining to the territo-

rial rifts and concern over North Korea's intercontinental ballistic missile tests, two Southeast Asian diplomats told The Associated Press yesterday.

One of the diplomats said wordings on the South China Sea issue to be included in the communique had not yet been finalized, with Vietnam reiterating its position that ASEAN should cite regional concerns over China's land reclamation and construction of its man-made islands.

China has steadfastly opposed any mention in ASEAN statements of its island-building in the disputed waters, its reported installation of a missile defense system on the new features and an arbitration ruling that invalidated Beijing's historical claims to the strategic waters.

Although it's not an ASEAN

member, China can exert its influence on allies like ASEAN member Cambodia to reject any move it deems inimical to its interest. An unwieldy bloc of democracies, monarchies and authoritarian regimes, the regional grouping decides by consensus, meaning just one member state can shoot down any proposal.

Another diplomat said Cambodia also expressed concern over the ASEAN foreign ministers' issuance of a separate statement criticizing North Korea's two ICBM tests last month.

Cambodia wanted its sentiments on the Korean Peninsula better reflected in the ASEAN foreign ministers' joint communique, stalling its issuance Saturday, the diplomat said, adding that Cambodia's stance may have been influenced by China.

Both Cambodia and North Korea are China's allies.

Washington has asked countries, including the ASEAN member states, to help isolate North Korea diplomatically to force it to stop provocative acts. While China agrees with sanctions on the North, Wang, the Chinese Foreign Minister, said Sunday that they should be aimed at forcing Pyongyang to return to negotiations directed at taming its nuclear ambitions.

"Sanctions are needed, but by no means the ultimate goal," Wang, who was in Manila for the talks with the ASEAN ministers, said in a statement posted on the Chinese foreign ministry's website.

Bolivar had said the ministers' joint communique would be issued promptly on Saturday. He took back the announcement later and said the communique may be made public with other statements today and tomorrow. AP

Wang urges North Korea to halt tests

Josh Lederman

A global pressure campaign on North Korea propelled by sharp new U.N. sanctions received a welcome boost yesterday from China, the North's economic lifeline, as Beijing called on the pariah nation to halt its missile and nuclear tests.

The Trump administration cautiously embraced China's apparent newfound cooperation, while putting it on notice that the U.S. would be watching

closely to ensure it didn't ease up on Pyongyang if and when the world's attention is diverted elsewhere. But there were no signs the U.S. would acquiesce to China's call for a quick return to negotiations.

The diplomatic wrangling sought to build on the sweeping new North Korea sanctions passed by the U.N. Security Council a day earlier — the strongest in a generation, the U.S. said. As diplomats gathered in the Philippi-

nes for an annual regional meeting, President Donald Trump was cheering the move from afar. He touted the "very big financial impact" of the sanctions and noted optimistically that both China and Russia had joined in the unanimous vote. "It was a good outcome," U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said in characteristically understated fashion as he met with South Korea's top diplomat.

For the U.S., it was a long-awaited sign of progress

for Trump's strategy of trying to enlist Beijing's help to squeeze Pyongyang diplomatically and economically. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, meeting with North Korea's top diplomat during the gathering in Manila, urged the North to "maintain calm" despite the U.N. vote.

Infusing the diplomatic gathering with dramatic intrigue was the presence of Ri Yong Ho, North Korea's foreign minister, the odd man out at a meeting dominated by concerns



North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho emerges from his bilateral meeting with Wang Yi

about his nation's nuclear proliferation. Indeed, the U.S. was floating a proposal to temporarily kick North Korea out of the

27-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations Regional Forum, although other member nations are divided about that idea. AP

Ex-provincial leader sentenced to life for corruption



Wang Min, the former Communist Party leader of Liaoning Province, appears in court

A Chinese court sentenced the ex-Communist Party chief of a rust-belt province that had been hit by massive electoral fraud to life imprisonment for accepting bribes worth more than USD22 million.

A court in the central city of Luoyang on Friday handed down the sentence to Wang Min, the former party leader of Liaoning province, after convicting him of bribery, corruption and negligence of duty, the official People's Daily newspaper said.

Wang was accused of accepted money and valuables worth more than 146 million yuan (\$22 million) and abusing his power when he served as a senior official in Jilin and Liaoning provinces between 2004 and 2016, state media reported.

He was also found guilty of ne-

gligence that was "responsible for serious election fraud including vote buying."

Allegations of electoral fraud led to the removal of many of the Liaoning legislature's nearly 600 members in September last year. The legislature nominally oversees the province, though all key decisions are made by the ruling Communist Party.

President Xi Jinping has made fighting corruption a hallmark of his administration in an effort to bolster his legitimacy. In 2016 alone, prosecutions were reportedly launched against 48 officials at the provincial level and above.

In June, the former head of China's statistics bureau was sentenced to life in prison after being convicted of taking bribes equivalent to more than \$22 million over more than two decades. **AP**

Country's hottest Internet sector is old-fashioned food delivery

CHINA'S fastest-growing online industry segment in the first half was food delivery, as startups backed by Tencent Holdings Ltd. and Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. touted discounts and marshaled armies of people to get restaurant meals to the homes of almost 300 million.

The population of people who rang up meals from phones and computers surged 41.6 percent to 295 million over the first six months, the government's online industry overseers said in a biennial internet snapshot Friday. That's well in excess of other markets, including the 7.7 percent user growth in digital payments and 23.7 percent rise in ride-hailing, both more mature sectors.

Food delivery, which has existed for decades, has been turbocharged in the smartphone era to become one of the country's fiercest online battlefronts. The largest platforms, backed by the country's internet triumvirate of Tencent, Baidu Inc. and Alibaba, have plied diners with coupons and built out extensive networks. That in turn has encouraged patronage from urbanites who demand fast service at the press of a smartphone screen.

The industry has attracted billions of dollars worth of investments and spurred a flurry of deal-making. Last week, Bloomberg reported that sector-leader Meituan Dianping, which is backed by Tencent, is in talks to snag as much as \$5 billion in a round of funding that could make it the world's fourth largest startup. Baidu, the Chinese online search giant, is said to be negotiating the sale of its loss-making Waimai unit to Alibaba-backed Ele.me. Ele.me had 28 million monthly active users as of May and complements the e-commerce operator's own on-demand services affiliate Koubei. Together, they are vying for supremacy with Meituan.

Over 92 percent of the customers used smartphones to place an order, the China Internet Network Information Center or CNNIC said in its report. "As the industry matured while profitability remains low, it became an obvious choice for the platforms to explore other related businesses," the CNNIC said.

There were 751 million internet users in mainland China as of June, almost 20 million more than at the end of 2016, according to the report. **Bloomberg**

ADVERTORIAL



Sponsoring the Salvation Army Learning Centre for children with special educational needs

Many children require special educational assistance at some point during their school years. But there are those that have more severe difficulties that last throughout their education years and beyond, and for this reason additional educational support can make the world of difference.

On June 25, the Salvation Army (Macau) Learning Centre officially opened offering after school support for children with special educational needs. The Centre will provide specially designed instruction led by City University of Macau to meet the unique needs of a child with a range of learning difficulties such as attention deficit, autism, speech development and dyslexia. At MGM, we are committed to nurturing the next generation and are therefore proud to support the Salvation Army's efforts to help children with special educational needs to unleash their potential and overcome future challenges.



Throughout the summer holidays, the Centre is holding a program for 30 lower primary students providing one-on-one support, following which after school support for homework and revision guidance, amongst other support, will be on offer.

Another meaningful outcome of this Centre is its role in providing a training ground for Macau's next generation of social care workers. Students from the Social Work Programme of the City University of Macau will gain valuable working experience, whilst providing teaching assistance alongside professionally trained experts and therapists.



In advance of the Centre's opening, the MGM Golden Lion Volunteer team came together to spruce up the Centre to ensure it was ready for the students. MGM also sponsored a coloring competition for local primary students to raise awareness of the Centre's programs and the importance of inclusive education. Over 400 entries were submitted to the competition, with the winning students being recognized at the official opening ceremony.

On June 25, Ms. Wong Ka Wai, Functional Head of Division of Continuing Education, Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, Mr. Grant Bowie, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director of MGM China Holdings Limited, and Dr. Jacky Ho Chong-kin, Programme Coordinator of the Social Work Programme, City University of Macau, helped to officiate the opening of the Centre.

At the opening ceremony, Mr. Grant Bowie commented, 'our sustainability vision at MGM is to *Create a Better Tomorrow Today*, and we see no better way to do that than caring for the needs of our local children. As we are growing our business in Macau, we will also grow our community support and continue to give back to Macau.'



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Esther Htusan, Yangon

MYANMAR

Gov't says no crimes against humanity in Rakhine violence

THE Myanmar government's inquiry into violence in northern Rakhine state last year that forced tens of thousands of Muslim Rohingyas to flee to Bangladesh and led to U.N. accusations of crimes against humanity by the army has concluded that no such crimes happened.

Speaking at the release of the Rakhine Investigative Commission's final report, Vice President Myint Swe — a former general — told reporters yesterday that “there is no evidence of crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing as the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights claimed.”

He also denied charges that there had been gang rapes by the military as it swept through Rohingya villages in a security clearance operation. The army was reacting to deadly attacks against border police posts by a previously unknown insurgent group in October 2016 in the Maungdaw area of Rakhine.

The commission's report did accept that some things might have happened that broke the law, at-

tributing it to excessive action on the part of individual members of the security forces.

Rights groups have previously expressed their doubts over the commission's work, saying it lacked outside experts, had poor research methodologies and lacked credibility because it was not independent.

The report is terribly affecting our country's image.

ZAW MYINT PE
MYANMAR GOVERNMENT

The U.N. has mandated its own fact-finding mission to travel to the Maungdaw area to conduct its own inquiry, but the government has said its members will not be allowed to go.

Zaw Myint Pe, a senior member of the government commission, said the report released by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in early February, which included accusations of rights abuses by security forces, had failed to take into consideration violent acts committed by Muslim groups.

“The report does not contain forward-looking constructive recommendations but instead accuses Myanmar of committing genocide and ethnic cleansing by killing Muslims and it is terribly affecting our country's image,”



Demonstrators in the western state of Rakhine hold up protest signs as the motorcade of the U.N. Special Rapporteur on Human Rights, passes through

said Zaw Myint Pe.

The government has shut down northern Rakhine, where the allegations of rights abuses are ongoing, to independent journalists, rights experts and humanitarian

workers for almost nine months. The security forces launched an aggressive clearance operation in Rakhine in October 2016 after shadowy insurgents killed nine border guard police officers. **AP**

SINGAPORE

Chinese-American scholar banned as foreign agent

SINGAPORE'S government on Friday declared a scholar of Chinese studies with a prestigious appointment at a local think tank persona non grata, alleging that he has been identified as an agent of influence of a foreign country.

An announcement by the Home Affairs Ministry did not identify the country, but said that Huang Jing, a U.S. citizen, knowingly worked with intelligence organizations and agents of that country to attempt to influence Singapore's foreign policy and public opinion.

It charged that from his position at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, he tried to influence opinion in favor of the unnamed country and recruited others to help him.

The ministry said the permanent resident status of Huang and his wife, Yang Xiuping, has been canceled and they are banned from re-entering Singapore.

Hong Kong's South China Morning Post newspaper reported that it spoke to Huang in Singapore and he denied the allegations.

“It's nonsense to identify me as ‘an agent of influence’ for a foreign country,” he said, according to the newspaper. “And why didn't they identify which foreign country they're referring to? Is it the U.S. or China?”

It cited him as saying he would seek help from his lawyer and the U.S. Embassy in Singapore.

“If they have evidence, they should take me to court,” it quoted him as saying.

The newspaper said Huang “is known for his Beijing-friendly stance in regular articles for international and mainland Chinese publications.”

The Home Ministry announcement said Huang “engaged prominent and influential Singaporeans and gave them what he claimed was ‘privileged information’ about the foreign country, so as to influence their opinions in favor of that country.” It did not explain the nature of the information.

It said that when Huang gave such information to a senior member of the Lee Kuan Yew

School of Public Policy, it was forwarded to senior members of Singapore's government with the intention of changing the country's foreign policy.

“However, the Singapore government declined to act on the ‘privileged information,’” the statement said.

Huang held two positions at the Lee Kuan Yew School: director of the Centre on Asia and Globalisation and Lee Foundation Professor on U.S.-China relations. He also chaired projects studying China-India relations and the energy policies of China, Japan and the United States.

The Straits Times, a Singaporean newspaper close to the government, said Huang holds a 1995 PhD in government from Harvard University, where he also lectured in 2013-14, and had been a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution think tank in Washington, D.C.

The newspaper said Huang served on the board of several organizations in Singapore, including the company Keppel Land, part of one of the country's major conglomerates. **AP**

AUSTRALIA

Search called off for 3 US Marines who crashed into the sea

Kristen Gelineau

U.S. military officials called off a search and rescue operation yesterday for three U.S. Marines who were missing after their Osprey aircraft crashed into the sea off the east coast of Australia while trying to land.

The U.S. Navy and Marine Corps suspended the rescue operation and launched a recovery effort instead, the Marine base Camp Butler in Japan said in a statement, essentially confirming the military does not expect to find the missing Marines alive.

The Marines' next of kin had been notified, and Australia's defense force was assisting the Americans with the recovery effort, the statement said.

The MV-22 Osprey had launched from the USS Bonhomme Richard and was conducting regularly scheduled operations on Saturday when it crashed into the water, Camp Butler said. The ship's small boats and aircraft immediately responded in the search and rescue efforts, and 23 of 26 personnel aboard the aircraft were rescued.

“Recovery and salvage operations can take several months to complete, but can be extended based on several environmental factors,”



U.S. Marine MV-22B Osprey aircraft land on the deck of the USS Bonhomme Richard amphibious assault ship off the coast from Sydney

Camp Butler's statement said. “The circumstances of the mishap are currently under investigation, and there is no additional information available at this time.”

The Osprey is a tilt-rotor aircraft that takes off and lands like a helicopter, but flies like an airplane. They have been involved in a series of high-profile crashes in recent years.

The aircraft was in Australia for a joint military training exercise held by the U.S. and Australia last month in Shoalwater Bay in Queensland state. The Talisman Sabre exercise, a biennial event between the two nations, involved more than 30,000 troops and 200 aircraft.

Australian Defense Minister Marise Payne said Saturday's incident occurred off the coast of Shoalwater Bay.

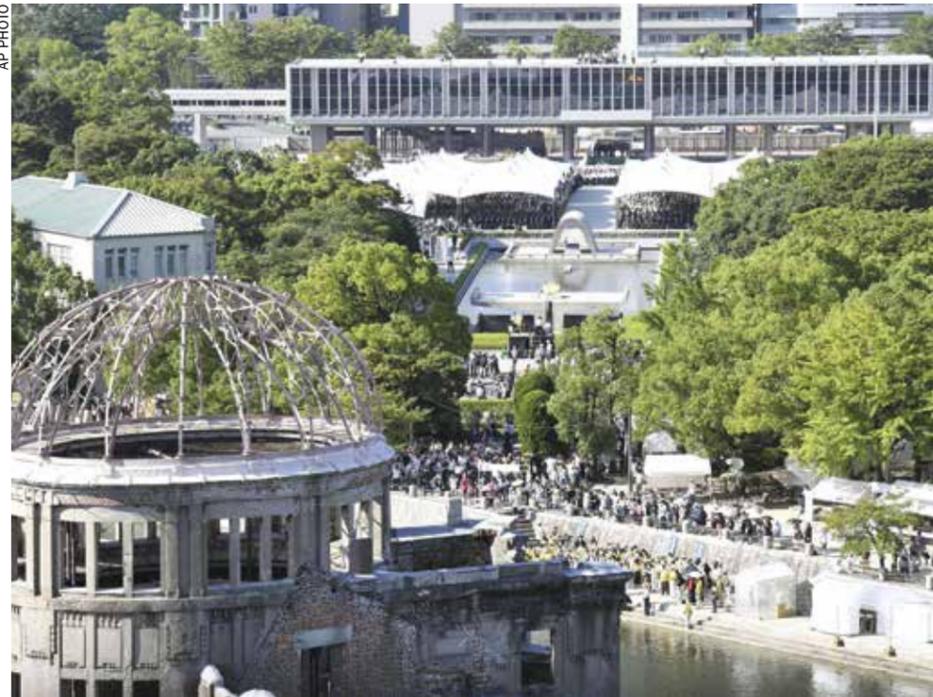
“I can confirm no Australian Defence Force personnel were on board the aircraft,” Payne said in a statement.

Payne said she had spoken with U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis “to offer Australia's support in any way that can be of assistance.”

A White House official said President Donald Trump had been briefed by chief of staff John Kelly on the mishap of an aircraft off the east coast of Australia.

In 2015, a U.S. Osprey crashed during a training exercise in Hawaii, killing two Marines. Last December, a U.S. military Osprey crash-landed off Japan's southern island of Okinawa. Its five crew members were rescued safely. And in January, three U.S. soldiers were wounded in the “hard landing” of an Osprey in Yemen. **AP**

N. Korean missiles add urgency to Hiroshima A-bomb appeals



People gathered for a ceremony are seen above the Atomic Bomb Dome at the Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima.

Mari Yamaguchi, Hiroshima

HIROSHIMA'S appeal of "never again" on the anniversary yesterday of the world's first atomic bomb attack has gained urgency as North Korea moves ever closer to acquiring nuclear weapons, showing its growing prowess with increasingly frequent missile launches.

When the U.S. dropped the bomb on Aug. 6, 1945, Toshiki Fujimori's mother was carrying him, then just a year old, piggyback to the hospital. The impact of the explosion threw them both to the ground, nearly killing him.

"Obviously tensions are growing as North Korea has been pushing ahead with nuclear tests and development," said Fujimori. "Nuclear weapons just are unacceptable for mankind."

Many Japanese and others in the region seem resigned to North Korea's apparent newfound capacity to launch missiles capable of reaching much of the continental United States. But the threat lends a deeper sense of alarm in Hiroshima, where 140,000 died in that first A-bomb attack, which was followed on Aug. 9, 1945, by another that killed more than 70,000 people in Nagasaki.

"This hell is not a thing of the past," Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui said in his peace declaration at yesterday's ceremony. "As long as nuclear weapons exist and policymakers threaten their use, their horror could leap into our present at any moment. You could find yourself suffering their cruelty."

Today, a single bomb can cause even greater damage than the bombs dropped 72 years ago, he said. "Humankind must never commit such an act," he said, urging nuclear states, as well as Japan, to join the nuclear weapons ban treaty adopted by the United Nations in July.

Fujimori said that each Aug. 6, his late mother, who also survived, insisted on retelling the story of the attack to children in their neighborhood, saying she had to keep reminding them to help prevent the same mistake from happening again. Decades later, 73-year-old Fujimori himself is a leader of Hindankyo, a major organization of atomic bomb survivors.

"We must eradicate nuclear weapons from the earth to make the world a safe place to live," he said in an interview. "There is still a lot to do and we must keep working on it."

He said the adoption of

the U.N. nuclear weapons ban, which was boycotted by all nuclear-armed nations, shows that most of the world supports that cause.

Two recent test firings of Hwasong-14 inter-continental ballistic missiles suggest that major U.S. cities such as Los Angeles and Chicago are within range of North Korean weapons. Such missiles could be armed with nuclear, biological or chemical warheads, although many experts say North Korea hasn't fully mastered miniaturizing nuclear warheads and might not have the technology to ensure a warhead would survive re-entry into the atmosphere from space or even hit an intended target.

Such developments draw mixed feelings from Kim Ji Nho, a pro-Pyongyang ethnic Korean who was born in Hiroshima. Kim, 71, is a "hibakusha," or atomic-bomb survivor, who was exposed to radiation when his mother, pregnant with him, went to the ruins of the city to search for a daughter who went missing in the blast. He grew up in a community of ethnic Koreans in the city and has a relative who had since moved to North Korea.

He is critical of the U.S., and says only dialogue, not military actions or threats, can resolve tensions with the erratic lea-

dership in Pyongyang.

But regarding nuclear weapons, "We 'hibakusha' and our groups share a clear goal, which is to abolish nuclear weapons from the world," Kim said. "Nuclear weapons should never be used."

Like his father, many Koreans were brought to Hiroshima, a wartime military hub, as forced laborers during Japan's colonization of the Korean Peninsula in the first half of the 20th century. They and their descendants have endured outright discrimination by Japanese. So have A-bomb survivors: Kim's father had told him to keep mum about his radiation exposure, because being "hibakusha" could only mean more trouble.

The two survivors said Japan's refusal to join the U.N. nuclear treaty, apparently because it's protected under the U.S.

nuclear umbrella, was heartbreaking.

In his message to Hiroshima, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the presence of some 15,000 nuclear weapons along with "dangerous rhetoric regarding their use" has exacerbated these threats.

"Yet our dream of a world free of nuclear weapons remains far from reality," he said. "The states possessing nuclear weapons have a special responsibility to undertake concrete and irreversible steps in nuclear disarmament."

Hopes that the U.S. and Japan might support the nuclear weapons ban rose during former President Barack Obama's 2016 visit to Hiroshima. But such expectation has dimmed as North Korea's threat has escalated.

"What if that young leader (Kim Jong Un) pushes a nuclear weapons launch button? I

think neighboring Japan has a risk of being hit," said Tamio Ishida, 59, whose father was a survivor. "I think tensions have risen and many people in Hiroshima share a sense of urgency."

Ayaka Kajihara, 18, a college student, says she imagined her late grandmother, also a "hibakusha," suffered greatly, though she was reluctant to discuss her past. Even so, she feels it was very important to learn what happened to the grandmother and her hometown 72 years ago.

More than 300,000 of the "hibakusha" have died since the attack, including 5,530 in the past year. The average age of the survivors is more than 81 years. Many suffer from long lasting effects of radiation.

"I hope more people from the rest of Japan and overseas will visit Hiroshima and just see and feel the reality of what the atomic bomb has done, and start from there," she said. "Because that's how I started thinking about peace — by meeting 'hibakusha,' including my grandmother and hearing their stories." AP

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A statue of Venezuelan hero Simon Bolivar with a mask made with the Venezuelan flag is seen at Chacao square in Caracas

Venezuela official: Military quashes attack at base

Jorge Rueda
and Joshua Goodman, Caracas

RULING party chief Diosdado Cabello said Venezuelan troops quashed a “terrorist” attack at a military base yesterday, shortly after a small group of men dressed in fatigues released a video declaring themselves in rebellion.

Cabello reported on Twitter that troops quickly contained the early morning assault at the Paramacay base in the central city of Valencia. Military officials said seven people were detained.

The announcement came after the group of men, some armed with assault rifles, announced they were disavowing the government of embattled President Nicolas Maduro and said any unit refusing to go along with their call for rebellion would be declared a military target.

“This is not a coup d’etat,” a man who identified himself as Capt. Juan Caguaripano said in the video. “This is a civic and military action to re-establish the constitutional order.”

Cabello, a former military man and vice president under the late President Hugo Chavez, called the attackers “mercenary terrorists.” Socialist party loyalists also regularly use the term “terrorist” to describe opposition leaders and protesters.

The South American nation has for months been in the throes of a political crisis with protests that have left more than 120 dead, nearly 2,000 wounded and over 500 detained. The political standoff heightened this week with the installation of an all-powerful constitutional assembly that opposition members fear Maduro will use to tighten his grip on power, install a one-party state and remove foes

from office.

Caguaripano, the leader of the alleged plot, has a history of rebellion.

In 2014, while a captain in the national guard and amid a previous wave of anti-government unrest, he released a 12-minute video denouncing Maduro. He later reportedly sought exile after a military tribunal ordered his arrest, appearing in an interview on CNN en Espanol to draw attention to dissatisfaction within the ranks over Venezuela’s demise.

He returned to Venezuela to lead Sunday’s uprising, said Giomar Flores, a mutinous naval officer who said he is a spokesman for the group from Bogota, Colombia.

Videos circulating on social media showed a police convoy speeding down a road amid the sound of apparent gunfire.

The Paramacay base, sur-

rounded by a residential neighborhood in Valencia, is one of Venezuela’s largest and houses some of the country’s most important armaments including Russian-made tanks.

Cabello is the first vice president of the ruling socialist party and a member of the constitutional assembly. He has been a vocal proponent of using the legislative super-body to strip lawmakers in the opposition-controlled National Assembly of the immunity from prosecution that comes with office.

While in the military he took part in a failed 1992 coup led by Chavez, and he has held various high-ranking positions in the government. U.S. officials have accused him of involvement in drug trafficking, a charge he denies.

On Twitter yesterday, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio said the fact that Cabello had announced the

news of the attack “shows who’s in charge of security forces” in Venezuela.

Maduro is widely considered to still have the backing of the military, though it is difficult to know whether any discord may be brewing among the rank and file.

The rebellion took place a day after the constitutional assembly voted unanimously to remove the nation’s chief prosecutor, a longtime government loyalist who has become one of Maduro’s most outspoken critics. Delegates shouted “traitor” and “justice” as they proceeded with her removal.

Luisa Ortega refused to recognize the decision to oust her and vowed to continue fighting “with my last breath” against what she considers unconstitutional overreach by the government.

The assembly later swore in as her replacement Ombudsman Tarek William Saab, who was recently sanctioned by the Trump administration for failing to protect protesters from abuses in his role as the nation’s top human rights official.

Also Saturday prominent opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez was returned home to serve his sentence under house arrest, days after being hauled back to prison in the middle of the night in a move that drew international condemnation.

The activist’s wife Lilian Tintori said in a message on Twitter that she and her husband remained committed to achieving “peace and freedom for Venezuela.”

Lopez was released from prison July 8 and placed under house arrest after serving three years of a 13-year sentence on charges of inciting violence at opposition rallies. Many human rights groups considered him a political prisoner.

But he was taken back into custody last Tuesday along with former Caracas Mayor Antonio Ledezma in what many believed was a renewed crackdown on the opposition following the election of delegates to the constitutional assembly. **AP**

ISRAEL

Netanyahu’s former aide to testify against him in graft case

PRIME Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s former chief of staff and onetime close confidant has agreed to testify in two ongoing corruption cases against him, Israeli police said Friday.

Police have been investigating Netanyahu for several months over the cases but have released sparse details. On Thur-

sday night it revealed that the cases involving Netanyahu deal with bribery, fraud and breach of trust crimes.

Netanyahu’s office has repeatedly denied wrongdoing over the investigations, portraying the accusations as a witch hunt against him and his family by a hostile media opposed to his hard-line

political views.

The police statement Friday says that Ari Harrow will serve six months of community service and pay a fine of 700,000 Shekels (about USD193,000) for his involvement in a separate corruption case, apparently a lighter-than-expected sentence in exchange for his testimony.

One investigation involving Netanyahu dubbed by police as “File 1000,” reportedly concerns claims he improperly accepted lavish gifts from wealthy supporters, including Australian billionaire James Packer and Hollywood producer Arnon Milchan.

The second investigation, “File 2000,”

reportedly concerns Netanyahu’s alleged attempts to strike a deal with publisher Arnon Mozes of the Yediot Ahrnot newspaper group to promote legislation to weaken Yediot’s main competitor in exchange for more favorable coverage of Netanyahu by Yediot.

The U.S.-born Harrow has been under investigation for the past 2 years for fraud and other crimes regarding the sale of his consulting company while working as chief of staff, media reports.

Police reportedly have a copy of a recording made

by Harrow of a 2014 conversation between Netanyahu and the publisher.

After eight years in office, in addition to an earlier term in the 1990s, Netanyahu has garnered an image as a cigar-puffing, cognac-drinking socialite who is as comfortable rubbing shoulders with international celebrities as he is making deals in parliament.

Scandals have long dogged the couple over their lavish tastes and opponents have portrayed both as being out of touch with the struggles of average Israelis. **AP**

France rethinks romance with Macron as his popularity sinks

EMMANUEL Macron's honeymoon didn't last long. Less than three months after his election, France's energetic and image-conscious president has seen his popularity drop after announcing budget cuts, launching a divisive labor reform and engaging in a damaging dispute with the military.

A series of opinion polls last week showed the percentage of French citizens who said they were satisfied with Macron's policies and trusted their young leader to deal with the country's problems plunging. The reversal might not affect the visible international profile he has cut since taking office, but it could hurt Macron's ability to secure his ambitious domestic agenda.

France's Ifop polling agency put it bluntly: "Apart from Jacques Chirac in July 1995, a newly elected president has never seen his popularity rate falling as quickly during the summer after the election."

His declining approval is

striking given that Macron was being credited two months ago with giving France a boost of much-needed confidence after years of security fears and economic stagnation. Increasingly, he instead is portrayed as power-hungry and inexperienced.

The French media have started calling Macron "Jupiter," a reference to the mythological king of the Roman gods and what is perceived as the president's superior attitude after he upended France's political landscape and shot from relative obscurity to the nation's top post at age 39.

While struggling at home, Macron has succeeded in raising France's diplomatic profile, hosting meetings with Russian President Vladimir Putin and President Donald Trump and Libyan peace talks in Paris.

Jean-Daniel Levy, director of the Policy and Opinion Department at the Harris Interactive polling institute, connects the president's popularity slide to the government's plans to reduce housing aid for students and



French President Emmanuel Macron waves as he arrives in Nice last month

to initiate tax reform. The reform aims to help lower-income employees, but could weigh on retirees.

Macron's image also has taken a hit during his standoff with the French military chief over budget cuts. Gen. Pierre De Villiers resigned and was quickly replaced, but some saw last month's public dispute as evidence of the

president's authoritarian tendencies.

Macron has promised to boost defense spending to 2 percent of gross domestic product by 2025 as part of France's commitments to NATO, but the government announced a reduction of 870 million euros in military spending for this year.

The government also launched

the labor reforms that were central to Macron's campaign promise to boost France's lagging economy through pro-free market policies. Changes would include capping the potential financial penalties for companies sued for firing employees and giving businesses greater leeway to set workplace rules instead of relying on collective bargaining agreements.

Labor unions and France's far-left parties are fighting the reforms, saying they would weaken hard-won worker protections. Critics also resent the way Macron is trying to speed their approval. The government is invoking a special procedure to avoid a lengthy debate in parliament.

Daniel Fasquelle, a lawmaker from the conservative The Republicans party denounced Macron for what he called the "will to weaken all opposition" and for refusing to give interviews. Except for carefully choreographed photo opportunities, the president has distanced himself from the media. He canceled the traditional Bastille Day television interview.

Macron is expected to return from his August vacation to a tough September, with unions and far-left parties calling for street protests against his proposed labor reforms. **MDT/AP**

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what's ON



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

TIME: 12pm-7pm

UNTIL: August 13, 2017

VENUE: Ox Warehouse

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026

CONSTELLATION - WORKS BY NICOLAS DELAROCHE

TIME: 10am-9pm

UNTIL: October 8, 2017

VENUE: Tap Seac Gallery

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

Offbeat



FRANCE WORKS TO PROTECT ITS FIRST PANDA CUB AFTER TWIN DIED

Chinese giant panda experts and French zookeepers are working to ensure a panda cub's survival after its twin died during the first-ever birth of the rare animal in France.

Images released Saturday by the Beauval Zoo south of Paris show mother Huan Huan enveloping the cub and zoo handlers feeding it in an incubator with a small bottle.

The pink, hairless male weighing 142 grams is tiny compared to its 86-kilogram mother. She bore twins Friday, but the first-born was too weak to survive.

"She's a very protective mother, which it makes it difficult" for the panda experts to check on the baby and supplement its feedings, said Delphine Delord, director of communications and educational programs at the zoo. Two Chinese panda experts brought colostrum, or early breast milk, from panda mothers in China to help in the crucial first week, Delord said.

Panda births are closely watched because they remain rare — there are only about 1,800 pandas in the wild in China and about 400 in captivity worldwide. Zookeepers frequently need to help raise the cubs to ensure their survival.

French first lady Brigitte Macron is the baby's "godmother," Delord said, and she and the Chinese ambassador to France called the zoo Saturday to congratulate it on the birth. "It's a big diplomatic moment as well as a zoological event."

Tradition holds that panda cubs born in captivity are named by China. Brigitte Macron is expected to announce the name officially at a visit to the zoo in a month or two, Delord said.

The zoo had two bits of good news by late Saturday: the baby urinated for the first time, and its mother successfully began breastfeeding, Delord told The Associated Press.

Nine-year-old mother Huan Huan was artificially inseminated from partner Yuan Zi this spring. Both are at Beauval on a 10-year loan from China, and their offspring officially belong to the Chinese government.

If the new cub survives, it will be shown to the French public in about two months. Then after about two or three years, it will be sent to a panda reserve in China's Chengdu province once it is autonomous.

While the French zoo is upset by the death of the firstborn twin, Delord said it chose to film the birth and share the images with the public. "We made the choice of transparency, to encouraging talking about endangered species, the fragility of their lives," Delord said.

Pandas have long been considered one of the world's most endangered animals, although last year a leading group, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, lowered its classification to "vulnerable" thanks to decades of costly conservation efforts. The Chinese government rejected the group's decision, saying the panda remains at risk.

China for decades gifted friendly nations with its unofficial national mascot in what was known as "panda diplomacy" and more recently has loaned pandas to zoos on commercial terms.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
17:50	Now Generation (Repeated)
18:40	Non-Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Miscellaneous
22:10	Now Generation
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:10	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:50	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



2003 BALI BOMBER SMILES AT GUILTY VERDICT

A court in Indonesia has convicted and sentenced to death a 41-year-old mechanic for his part in the bombing of two nightclubs in the island resort of Bali last year.

At least 190 people from 21 countries died in the blasts. Most were foreign tourists, nearly half of them from Australia. Amrozi bin Nurhasyim is the first to stand trial for the bombs, which ripped through the crowded nightclub area in the island's Kuta district. He was found guilty of conspiring, planning and carrying out an act of terrorism.

He grinned broadly as the judge read out the guilty verdict, and then punched the air and turned around to give the thumbs-up sign to the courtroom as he was handed his death sentence.

But the judge's final words were almost drowned out by cheers and applause from relatives and survivors of the bombings who packed the public gallery.

Five judges heard from more than 40 witnesses during his three-month trial, including survivors.

Throughout, Amrozi has appeared in court smiling defiantly and chanting furious slogans at the courtroom. He has been known as the "smiling bomber" by the Australian press since he appeared laughing before television crews following his arrest last year.

He was charged after admitting buying the explosives and the minivan used in the bombings. Two of his brothers were also arrested, and are awaiting trial along with two others.

Survivors and relatives of the victims have welcomed the verdict, although some believe Amrozi should not have been handed a death sentence.

"Becoming a martyr is what he wants," said Susannah Miller, who lost her brother Dan in the attack. "It will add fuel to the fire of fundamentalism."

Arguing for life imprisonment instead, she said, "It is very much a life sentence of grief for the relatives."

Amrozi has said he is not worried by the death penalty. "I'll be happy to die a martyr," he said. "After me there will be a million more Amrozis."

Police yesterday said the militant Muslim group believed to be behind the Bali bombings, Jemaah Islamiyah, was also behind the suicide car bomb attack two days ago on the Marriott Hotel in Jakarta, in which at least 10 people died.

The group is believed to have links with Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda network.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Amrozi was the first of three people to be sentenced to death for the Bali attacks. One of the others was his brother, Mukhlis, believed to be the mastermind behind the plot.

The third brother, Ali Imron, expressed remorse for what he had done and was sentenced to life imprisonment.

A fifth key suspect, Idris, was convicted in August 2004 of the Jakarta attack, but cleared of taking part in the Bali bombings - despite having admitted it - due to a legal technicality.

More than a dozen others were given lengthy jail sentences for their part in the plot.

Two suspects - university lecturer Dr Azahari Husin and electronics expert Dulmatin - have so far escaped capture by police.

Both are believed to be bomb-making experts. Husin is also a key suspect for the Jakarta hotel bombing.

Amrozi's appeal against his death sentence was thrown out by the Supreme Court in January 2004. His lawyers say they will now file a judicial review.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You're not the mushy type. In fact, you'd ordinarily choose having a root canal minus the Novocain over discussing your feelings - especially when those emotions are as close to the surface and as readily accessible as yours.

Taurus April 20-May 20 A coworker you've been thinking about a lot lately - who seems to have been returning those lingering glances across the room for some time now - is about to let you know, one way or another.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 If you're relaxed and comfortable with your new person, it really doesn't matter what anyone says or whom they say it about. You'll do exactly what you should do: make your evaluation based on your impressions of how the person treats you.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You're especially talkative, friendly, sociable and ready to paint the town red right now - and certainly no one is better at making even complete strangers feel comfortable and accepted.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You're about to shock and amaze your family, friends or anyone else who's never seen this side of you before. Sure, you're usually eerily objective, compassionate without getting too emotionally attached.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Thinking about redecorating? About redecorating yourself, that is? Sure you are. You've been thinking about this for days - maybe even longer - but now you're ready to take the first step. Get a move on, then.

Libra Sep. 23-Oct. 22 Believe it or not, you just can't wait to get back to business - it's been such an exhausting weekend that some semblance of routine is a comfort at this point. Does that mean you won't be any fun at all for the next couple of days?

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 When someone comes to you with an outrageous secret they're dying to whisper in your ear, don't be afraid to tell them you're not interested. You'd rather turn your focus away from the drama.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 The good news is you're always game for surprises and unexpected opportunities. That's even more important now that you have high-profile friends who'll help you make the most out of whatever comes about.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Lately you have been pleasing people without even trying. And the awe will continue - your quick thinking in a tricky situation will leave others quite impressed today.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Take two parts impulse and two parts romance, then add a hefty dose of the unexpected. And what have you got? Well, for starters, you have a day you won't soon forget - and neither will your lucky companion.

Pisces Feb. 19-Mar. 20 If you're really excited about something - and it looks like you are - don't even bother trying to hide it. It's officially your turn to act like a kid in a candy store.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Easy' difficulty.

Easy+

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Easy+' difficulty.

Medium

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Medium' difficulty.

Hard

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Hard' difficulty.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

Table of weather conditions for various Chinese cities like Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

WORLD

Table of weather conditions for world cities like Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Old Pontiacs; 5- Words on a Wonderland cake; 10- Zeno of ...; 14- Spellbound; 15- Confusion; 16- Sleeveless garment; 17- Chemical used on trees; 18- Birds on Canadian coins; 19- I could ___ horse!

DOWN: 1- Mardi ___; 2- After-bath powder; 3- Moonfish; 4- Wanderer; 5- Cream cake; 6- Now, in Nogales; 7- New Mexico art colony; 8- Calendar abbr.; 9- Concentrated extracts; 10- Very; 11- The Tower of Pisa does this; 12- Town near Padua; 13- Somewhat; 21- Show the way; 23- Bartlett's abbr.; 25- Relative by marriage; 26- Unemotional; 27- Artificial waterway; 28- Speed skater ___ Anton Ohno; 29- Stomach woe; 30- "The Family Circus" cartoonist Bil; 31- Early computer; 32- Loiter; 34- Sea eagles; 37- An amorous glance; 38- Priestly; 40- Perlman of "Cheers"; 41- National symbol; 43- Tried out; 44- Regalia; 46- Semi-automatic pistol; 47- Urn; 48- Sleep like ___; 49- Body of an organism; 50- Expose; 51- Director Riefenstahl; 52- Crew needs; 53- Court order; 56- Block;



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Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
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Q30# BORNTOCHALLENGE

BOXING

Vasyl Lomachenko defends belt, stops Marriaga after 7 rounds

ALTHOUGH Vasyl Lomachenko had battered Miguel Marriaga around the ring for 6 1/2 superlative rounds, the Ukrainian star couldn't break his Colombian opponent's will until he landed a body punch that told him the end was finally near.

"I hear his 'Ughhhhh,' and then I punch the body [again]," Lomachenko said with a smile.

Marriaga's corner stopped the bout after seven rounds Saturday night, and Lomachenko defended his WBO 130-pound title for the third time in nine months.

Lomachenko (9-1, 7 KOs), the two-time Olympic gold medalist, showcased his virtuosic technical skill and athletic prowess in another one-sided victory. He knocked down Marriaga (25-3) in the third round and systematically took control with precise punching and graceful footwork in the ensuing rounds.

Lomachenko floored Marriaga again in the waning seconds of the seventh, and the challenger's corner had finally seen enough.

"It was very hard to open his defense," Lomachenko said. "He was always looking down. I was happy when I finally got it."

Ray Beltran also fought through two cuts to squeak out a majority decision over Bryan Vasquez before a lively crowd of 4,102 at the



Vasyl Lomachenko in a lightweight title boxing match in June 2016

downtown Microsoft Theater.

The main event was another showcase for Lomachenko, whose superior abilities have made him a favorite of knowledgeable fight fans ever since his amateur career. Given a U.S. showcase on ESPN, he put on a show in breaking down Marriaga with skill and violence.

Lomachenko started to land big shots in the second round, and

he sent Marriaga sprawling backward onto the canvas with a straight left hand in the third. He also put on a show, backing into a neutral corner and confidently beckoning Marriaga toward him with a flair that recalled his similar gesture to Russian amateur world champion Albert Selimov in his dynamite first fight at the Beijing Olympics.

"Unlike most fighters, he realizes that professional boxing is part sport and part entertainment," promoter Bob Arum said. "He entertains when he fights, and I think the public likes it. Who else did it like that? Muhammad Ali."

A clash of heads left a cut near Lomachenko's left eye in the fourth, but the champion shrugged it off and kept slugging. He hurt

Marriaga noticeably in the fifth and sixth rounds, and Marriaga finally couldn't keep his feet.

"For one round, I could just see out of one eye," Lomachenko said. "Other than that, I did everything by the plan."

Lomachenko became the greatest amateur boxer of his generation with a 396-1 record and gold medal victories in Beijing and London. He turned pro in 2013 and rocketed to the top, winning a 126-pound belt in his third fight in 2014.

He moved up to 130 pounds in 2016 and immediately claimed a junior lightweight title. After three defenses, he could move up to lightweight soon — or he could continue to show off his skills against all comers at 130 pounds.

Lomachenko was fighting for only the second time in Southern California, where he has set up training camp since turning pro. He lives and works 90 minutes west of Los Angeles in Ventura County, and his wife and children were at the Microsoft Theater to watch.

Beltran (34-7-1) improved his chances to remain in the U.S. with another victory, albeit in an occasionally monotonous fight. The 140-pound contender, whose non-immigrant visa is near expiration, survived a rough 10th round in which he took several big shots before the final bell from Costa Rica's Vasquez.

"He hurt me a little," Beltran said. "Because of the cut, I couldn't see. I was a little surprised the judges had the fight so close. I only feel I lost the last round."

U.S. Olympian Mikaela Mayer won her professional debut on the undercard, stopping Widnelly Figueroa in 75 seconds. **AP**

ATHLETICS

Kenyan runner Kirui wins men's marathon title at worlds

GEOFFREY Kirui took a quick glance over his shoulder, just to see if his nearest competitor was possibly closing the gap. Nobody remotely in sight. This was a runaway.

Kirui bided his time and saved his strength for a late surge that helped him win the men's marathon in convincing fashion yesterday at the world championships. He became the fifth Kenyan man to win the marathon title at the worlds.

"This is the best moment of my career, easily," said Kirui, who also won the Boston Marathon in April.

The 24-year-old Kirui had such a big lead he spent the last part of the race waving to the crowd as he made his way across the finish line on Tower Bridge. He won in 2 hours, 8 minutes, 27 seconds — 1:22 ahead of Tamirat Tola of Ethiopia. Alphonse Simbu of Tanzania finished third.

"I was very, very prepared well for this race," Kirui said.

That's why he resisted the temptation to chase after Tola when the Ethiopian made a move in the latter stages of the race. Kirui was betting that Tola wouldn't be able to hold that pace to the finish. **MDT/AP**



IN A SHOCKER, BOLT TAKES THIRD AT WORLDS

USAIN BOLT finished third in the 100-meter dash at world championships. Not one, but two overlooked and underappreciated Americans — Justin Gatlin and Christian Coleman — withstood what was once Bolt's undeniable late charge. A bronze-medal finish Saturday night in the going-away

party for one of the planet's most entertaining icons and track and field's lone shining star. "No regrets," Bolt insisted, long after a result that stunned a pumped-up crowd into near silence. "It was always going to end, no matter what happened — win, lose or draw. It doesn't change anything in my career."

MOTORSPORT

New Formula 3 team to make debut in Macau GP

A new Formula 3 team by the name of BullFrog aims to debut in the Macau Grand Prix later this year.

The project is led by a London-based Frenchman who goes only by the name of 'JC' (or Jean-Charles).

In an in-depth interview, JC declared to Autosport, "Our plan is to be in Macau with two cars."

He adds, "We may have to try to qualify drivers for Macau, but we also have drivers that have been contacted by us who could drive in Macau already."

He explained the reason behind the name BullFrog, remarking, "It's because I'm French and I'm a Taurus."

JC also revealed, "We want to try to market F3 from a commercial and business aspect, as well as sporting."

JC said he intends to buy a Formula 3 team as well as a Formula 2 team, rather than starting from scratch. "What we are trying to do is build an academy for drivers - we want to give a chance to young and talented drivers to take them as far as we can."

"It is for the best drivers, the ones who don't have money to go through the usual process."

There is currently no agreement in place to take over any existing teams. The launch of the team was held at Spa with the help of T-Sport, who have had a reputable track record in F3 for 15 years.

BullFrog has already stated its intention to use the NBE engine that the British team used in the F3 European Championship.

opinion

World Views

Shira Ovide, Bloomberg

GOOGLE AND FACEBOOK EMERGE AS THE NEW MEDIA BARONS

A handful of big technology companies are becoming the next William Randolph Hearst and Walt Disney: They wield enormous power over what news and entertainment get made.

In case you needed more evidence of the power of big tech in people's lives, Google is giving you more. The company is negotiating with some news and information companies, including Time Inc. and CNN, to create tailor-made news and information for a new Google project. The idea, as the Wall Street Journal first reported, is to funnel people from Google to allied organizations' articles, photos and video that people can swipe through quickly, presumably on their smartphones.

It's worth cautioning that Google parent company Alphabet Inc. releases a bunch of different projects and many of them languish. This reported initiative - dubbed "Stamp" - could, too. Regardless, it's another reminder that Google, Facebook and a small number of other technology companies now have the power to control what news, entertainment programming and information gets made.

This has been de facto true for a while. If a news organization like this one wanted to lure people to read its articles, it needed to make sure people could find them prominently in Google searches, and it made sure the articles, headlines and other information were alluring to people scrolling through their Facebook news feeds.

Then the powerful gatekeepers started to dictate the format of news and entertainment. Google wanted web pages to load on computers and smartphones without even fractional seconds of delay, and it compelled many websites and advertisers to change to meet its goals. Facebook did something similar. Makers of digital video, news, apps and other media ignore the wishes of Google, Facebook, Apple, Twitter and Snapchat at their peril. Their billions of users are too alluring. Google alone has at least seven products with 1 billion or more users each month.

But something new is happening. This has gone well beyond the powerful technology companies as gatekeepers. Now they are calling the shots about what news and entertainment gets made in the first place and whether the businesses survive.

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg believed the future of the internet was going to be video, and he is effectively orchestrating his vision into reality. The company has created financial incentives for companies and celebrities to make videos to reach more than 2 billion people on Facebook and related digital hangouts each month. The company can tweak its computer algorithms to make Facebook users more inclined to watch those videos. The company has faced pushback for its video demands, but Facebook can create its own positive feedback loop to slowly compel the internet to reshape to Facebook's tastes and business goals.

Likewise, Snapchat has persuaded everyone from the National Football League to the ABC television network to custom-make videos or posts that Snapchat thinks will appeal to the young fans of its app. Google also has the power to dictate what its partners create for Stamp given how many people use its internet search, YouTube, Android phones and other products and websites.

There's no question the global popularity of digital hangouts such as Google and Facebook have created a much bigger potential audience for entertainment and news. Of course the question is whether the billions of potential readers and viewers are worth the drawbacks of being "serfs" toiling the land of Facebook and Google, as one advertising executive put it to my Bloomberg News colleagues. Google and Facebook are taking almost all the new advertising dollars, which has forced television, digital music and news organization to increasingly ask their customers to finance their industries directly or shift into digital video that (for now) commands higher ad prices.

And history shows that allowing a few people or companies to have so much influence over information and entertainment hasn't been great for the world. William Randolph Hearst and Joseph Pulitzer agitated for a war and got one.

THE CHINESE OFFICIAL FIRED FOR NOT FIGHTING EXTREMISM

A Communist Party official who oversaw a portion of China's restive northwestern Muslim region of Xinjiang has been dismissed on charges including that he failed to do enough to fight extremism.

Zhang Jinbiao, the party secretary for Hotan, is accused of "serious violations" including failing to carry out anti-terrorism work and improperly accepting gifts, said a statement by the ruling party's top discipline body.

The statement released on Saturday by the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection gave no details but said Zhang's failure to carry out anti-extremism work had "serious consequences."

Thousands of Chinese officials accused of financial offenses have been snared in a marathon anti-graft crackdown. But accusations of failing to carry out political duties such as anti-terrorism work are rare.

FOOTBALL

Neymar provides pre-match show, with PSG debut put on hold

Rob Harris

AFTER lapping up the adulation at the Parc des Princes for 20 minutes, Neymar whipped up fans into an even greater frenzy by removing his Paris Saint-Germain jersey and tossing it into the crowd.

A scramble ensued as Ultras fans in the Auteuil stand tried to grab the 155 euro (USD183) shirt that clung briefly to the torso of the most expensive player in football history.

A replacement would not be required on Saturday. The Brazil forward was only on the pitch to provide the pre-match entertainment before making way for his new teammates to get on with the serious business: opening PSG's bid to regain the French title.

A routine 2-0 victory, against a sturdy but unenterprising Amiens side making its debut in the French top flight, lacked the fanfare of the pre-match festivities. Neymar, the remaining kit replaced by jeans and sweatshirt, played his part in the stands by leaping out of his seat to be filmed celebrating the goals from Edinson Cavani and Javier Pastore.

It will be at least another week before Neymar starts earning PSG back some of the 222 million euros (\$262 million) spent acquiring him from Barcelona through performances on the pitch.

Neymar is now expected to make his debut on Aug. 13 against Guingamp.

"There is anticipation because of the football he plays and his will to show it to the world," said defender Dani Alves, who was advised to join PSG last month by his Brazil teammate. "You take a giant step when you have a player of this level to play against the other teams. This team will take a quality leap forward."

Neymar's debut was delayed because the league did not receive the international transfer certificate before Friday night's deadline despite the move



from Barcelona seemingly being completed the previous day.

"The club did everything to have the player's transfer ratified," PSG coach Unai Emery said. "He prepared for the game with the group. We waited until the very end. I don't know if Spain did everything, but PSG did all it could."

Amiens is not the type of fixture that PSG requires a game-changing dynamo up front like Neymar. Those matches will come down the line once the Champions League starts in September and Neymar is tasked with helping PSG to win European soccer's top prize for the first time.

"I'm happy to be here, I want to win many trophies with you," Neymar said in Portuguese during a brief address to the crowd after arriving on the field surrounded by fireworks being set off. "I will need your support."

There was just one phrase in French from the podium: "Paris est magique."

The magic so far has been in the PSG stores across the French capital, with queues snaking down streets filled with fans eager to snap up replica kits. More than 10,000 Neymar jerseys were sold within a day, PSG said, but the majority of the revenue will go to Nike.

PSG is relying on the player it calls a "brand" to fund his own transfer by attracting sponsors and filing

the trophy cabinet.

"The players and the dimension of the club are totally different now and it's good for the club," 30-year-old supporter David Tang said outside the stadium. "All the world knows now that is Paris is in competition with the big teams and we will be competitive with the others like Barcelona, Bayern Munich and Real Madrid."

And unlike at Barcelona, where Neymar was eclipsed by Lionel Messi throughout his four seasons, the 25-year-old Brazilian is the undoubted star in the French capital.

Even Amiens coach Christophe Pelissier was disappointed not to see Neymar in action.

"This can only make our championship more competitive," Pelissier said. "We knew we were going to play against a tremendous team, so we wanted him on the pitch. Hopefully he will be there for the return match."

Instead, the stadium had to savor Neymar's 24-minute pre-match cameo.

After briefly juggling the ball on the podium, Neymar embarked on a lap of the pitch to take in his new surroundings, pausing to pose for pictures and shake the hands of the PSG faithful.

"Neymar," fans chanted. Coming up with a more imaginative chant will take a little longer yet, just like his debut. **AP**

Station	Air quality
Roadside	30-50 Good
High Density Residential Area	25-45 Good
Ambient	25-45 Good

WORLD BRIEFS



MYANMAR The Myanmar government's inquiry into violence in northern Rakhine state last year that forced tens of thousands of Muslim Rohingya to flee to Bangladesh and led to U.N. accusations of crimes against humanity by the army has concluded that no such crimes happened.

RUSSIAN tourists are flocking to Montenegro despite warnings from Moscow against visiting its former ally and the latest NATO-member country.

PAKISTAN Scores of supporters have welcomed Pakistan's former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on his arrival to the outskirts of the capital, Islamabad from a nearby hilltop resort. He was staying at the resort after last week's dismissal from office by the Supreme Court for concealing family assets.

VIETNAM Rescuers have recovered 16 more bodies over the past three days, bringing the death toll from floods in four northern provinces to 23. Flash floods triggered by heavy rains last week also left 16 people missing and injured 21 others.

UAE Investigators said yesterday no mechanical issues affected an Emirates flight before it crash landed in Dubai and burst into flames last year, as their probe continues to look at "human performance factors" around the incident.

SYRIA Pro-government forces captured the Islamic State group's last stronghold in the energy-rich Homs province in central Syria yesterday, paving the way to advance on the besieged eastern city of Deir el-Zour, state media and a war monitoring group reported.



FRANCE A young French man who recently was discharged from a psychiatric hospital is under investigation for glorifying terrorism after he brandished a knife and tried to breach security at the Eiffel Tower, authorities said yesterday.