



IPM STEPS INTO LUSOPHONE PLATFORM ROLE

Around 100 students from Portuguese-speaking countries will join the Macao Polytechnic Institute in the new school year

P4



ASSOCIATIONS VIOLATING PRE-CAMPAIGN BLACKOUT

The anti-graft watchdog is probing associations on suspicion they illegally promoted candidates during the pre-campaign period

P7



SPAIN SEARCHES FOR IMAM AFTER DEADLY ATTACK

P14



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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS

AP PHOTO



SYRIA President Bashar Assad yesterday refused any security cooperation with Western nations or the reopening of their embassies, until they cut ties with opposition and insurgent groups. Assad's defiant comments come at a time when his troops and pro-Iranian militiamen are gaining ground across the country under the cover of Russian airstrikes. Many countries have ceased calling for him to step down.

VIETNAM Six people have been killed when a Vietnam War-era mortar shell they were sawing for scrap metal exploded. State-run Tuoi Tre newspaper says the victims died on the spot following the explosion in south-central province of Khanh Hoa.

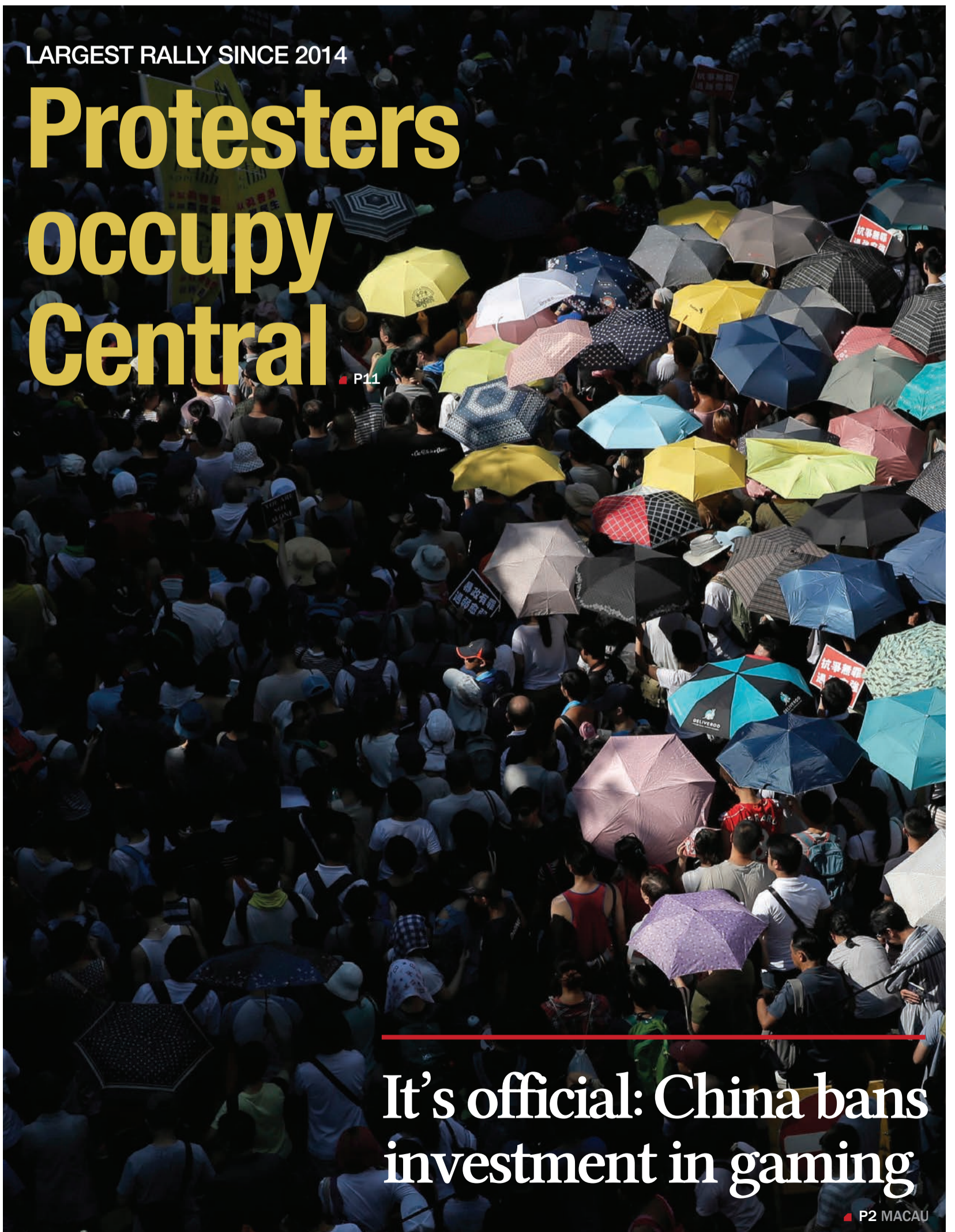
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FINANCIAL TIMES

Trump reels from an executive exodus



LARGEST RALLY SINCE 2014

Protesters occupy Central

P11

It's official: China bans investment in gaming

P2 MACAU

China says no more 'irrational' investment in gaming

CHINA formally laid down new rules on overseas investments, making explicit its de facto campaign against "irrational" acquisitions of assets in industries ranging from real estate and hotels, to gaming and entertainment.

The new rules coincide with a record-breaking USD816 billion in capital outflows leaving the world's second largest economy last year, much of it transferred through Macau's casinos.

The local gambling industry is considered to be a primary route used by high net-worth private citizens and corrupt government officials seeking to circumvent China's strict currency controls.

The real estate, hotel and entertainment industries - now covered by the new restrictions - are also popular sectors for Chinese investment, used as a conduit for bringing capital out of the mainland.

In broadly regulating such "irrational" acquisitions of assets, Chinese authorities have set out three categories: banned, restricted and encouraged.

The banned category includes investment into the gambling and sex industries, as well as core military technology or anything contrary to the mainland's national security.

Meanwhile, Beijing authorities



are keen to promote investment supporting the nation's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative, backed by President Xi Jinping.

Although subject to less stringent regulations, investment in property, hotel, film, entertainment and sports will be restricted to varying degrees.

China has embarked on a drive to reduce leverage in financial markets and snuff out systemic risks ahead of a Communist Party leadership transition later this year, while remaining vigilant for accelerated capital outflows that threaten to weaken the nation's currency.

Some of the country's most aggressive dealmakers - Anbang Insurance Group Co., Fosun International Ltd., Dalian Wanda Group Co. and HNA Group Co. - have already been the target of government pressure to scale back their foreign activities.

China's outbound investment slumped 44.3 percent in the first seven months from a year earlier as policy makers imposed brakes on companies' foreign acquisition following the record spending spree in 2016.

"This is the state saying we want better say over where China's resources are going

abroad," Andrew Polk, co-founder of research firm Trivium China, told Bloomberg. "We didn't have a clear accounting of this before, but we could piece it all together from what was said by various elements of the government. Now it's de jure policy while previously it was de facto policy."

"China wants its money to focus on specific sectors that can help boost long-term growth potential," said Zhou Hao, a senior emerging-markets strategist at Commerzbank AG in Singapore. "The new policy also tries to close the loophole of suspicious capital outflows and possible money laundering."

In a statement, China's State Council said that the new restrictions seek to mitigate several "risks and challenges" of overseas investment.

"Profound changes are taking place in international and do-

mestic situations, and Chinese enterprises face not just relatively good opportunities but also various risks and challenges in overseas investments," the State Council noted.

In a separate statement, the National Development and Reform Commission, the top economic planning body, criticized "irrational" overseas investment in some sectors, while encouraging projects linked to the Belt and Road initiative.

The real estate, hotel and entertainment industries are also covered by the new restrictions

There have been problems with overseas investments, the NDRC said, adding that some companies had made rash decisions and sustained losses. **DB/Bloomberg**

BANNED, RESTRICTED OR ENCOURAGED?

BANNED: Core military technology, gambling, sex industry, investments contrary to national security.

RESTRICTED: Property, hotels, film, entertainment, sports, obsolete equipment, investments that contravene environmental standards.

ENCOURAGED: Investments that further Belt and Road framework, enhance China's technical standards, research and development, oil and mining exploration, agriculture and fishing.

MGM CEO blasts 'hate mongers', white supremacists

MGM Resorts International denounced "hate mongers and white supremacists" in a letter to employees Friday, offering to match their donations to civil rights groups including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

"You have my commitment that we will vigorously and zealously continue to reject hate speech and hate-based actions in any form," Chief Executive Officer Jim Murren wrote, telling workers he felt compelled to speak after the violence in Charlottesville, Virginia, and the terrorist attack in Barcelona

this week.

MGM Resorts is the largest casino operator on the Las Vegas Strip and employs about 77,000 people worldwide.

Its subsidiary, MGM Macau, runs a casino on the Macau peninsula and

Murren, Adelson and Wynn have differing opinions on the still-new US president

is scheduled to open its second resort in the MSAR, MGM Cotai, by the end of this year.

Murren, a lifelong Republican, broke with his party last year and endorsed Hillary Clinton for president.

Fellow casino executives, including Wynn Resorts Ltd. CEO Steve Wynn, who is finance chairman of the Republican National Committee, and Las Vegas Sands Corp. CEO Sheldon Adelson, one of the largest Republican donors, have been silent about the events in Charlottesville in which protesters shouted "Jews will

not replace us."

Murren, Adelson and Wynn each control a stake in one of Macau's six gaming concessionaires. The three casino tycoons have differing opinions on the still-new U.S. president, who was himself a former casino executive after a failed experiment in Atlantic City.

Murren's announcement comes after a tumultuous week in which Trump blamed protesters on "both sides" at a white supremacy rally in Virginia of stirring up trouble. His comments prompted a number CEOs to resign from two presidential ad-



Jim Murren

visory boards and Trump to disband them.

In the letter to employees, Murren listed seven groups worthy of employee contributions,

including the Southern Poverty Law Center, the Council on American-Islamic Relations and the Anti-Defamation League. **MDT/Bloomberg**

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Daniel Beittler

INFRASTRUCTURE

Beijing rejects fourth bridge, sinking Macau investment

BEIJING has rejected the proposal for a new bridge connecting Macau and Taipa, citing safety concerns, the Macau Infrastructure Development Office (GIT) informed on Friday.

Authorities in the Chinese capital are demanding further studies on route safety before approval can be granted, calling into question the substantial financial investment that has already gone into the project.

Earmarked as the fourth Macau-Taipa link, the project was intended to connect the reclaimed land at Zone A, east of the peninsula, with Zone E1, northwest of the airport.

The GIT submitted the bridge proposal to the Central Government in July 2016, but received a reply last month that the project could not be green-lit before further studies into safety and waterway conditions had been conducted.

Beijing's rejection comes less than two months after Macau's government awarded a MOP188.37 million contract to Ove Arup & Partners Limited, a Hong Kong design and engineering solutions company, to provide project management services between 2017 and 2021.

Last September, the local government also awarded a separate contract for the preliminary

design of the fourth bridge to a mainland-based state-owned enterprise, CCCC Highway Consultants Co. The MOP75.19 million contract was to be paid in three installments between 2016 and 2019.

It remains unclear why local authorities required approval from the Central Government

It remains unclear why local authorities required approval from the Central Government. Transportation, infrastructure and urban planning fall within the scope of Macau's local autonomy, and the proposed site for the bridge was located in Macau's maritime jurisdiction.

Speaking to public broadcast-

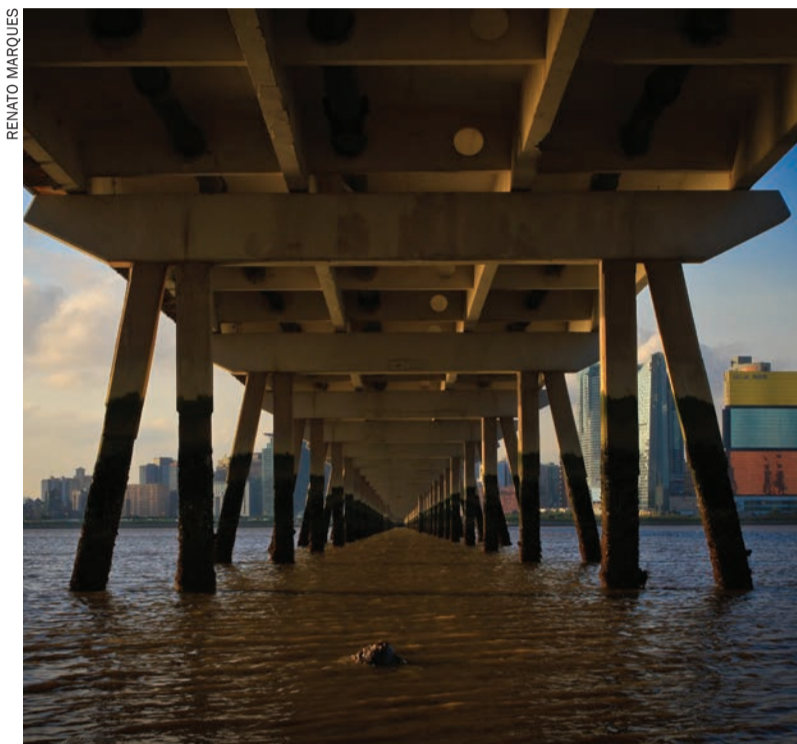
ter TDM, GIT representative Chao Vai Man said that it was "all about the safety of the route as the proposed location of the fourth bridge is in the middle of a high-speed waterway."

"[We need to] conduct further research before we submit it to the Central Government for a second look," he said, adding that "the research will begin as soon as we obtain the approval from the SAR government."

According to Macau's Five-Year Development Plan (2016-2020), construction on the fourth bridge was scheduled to begin this year and conclude by 2019, with an opening scheduled for 2020.

With the future of the fourth link in limbo, transportation authorities may now double down on the so-called fifth link: an underwater tunnel envisioned to run parallel and between the Governador Nobre do Carvalho Bridge and the Friendship Bridge.

The tunnel - intended to complement the bridge and not substitute it - is likely to be a considerably more expensive project,



RENATO MARQUES

mile-for-mile, due to more complex construction methods and the need to safeguard the structure from water pressure in the South China Sea.

Earlier this month, the head of

the Legislative Follow-up Committee for Land and Public Concession Affairs, Ho Ion Sang, said that the government will release the plan for the tunnel project by the end of this year.

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Julie Zhu

HIGHER EDUCATION

Portugal high school students apply for IPM programs

THE Macao Polytechnic Institute (IPM) held the opening ceremony for the 2017/2018 academic year last week. Approximately 10 percent of the new academic year's students at IPM are from the mainland and overseas.

A total of 900 new students enrolled in various IPM programs and more than 80 percent of them were local students.

During the ceremony, more than 500 outstanding students were awarded scholarships sponsored by governmental agencies, organizations, enterprises and individuals.

In addition to seeing steady enrolment from mainland Chinese and other international students, IPM claims to have been the most popular tertiary education choice for local high school students for seven consecutive years.

Dr. Lao Cheng Kin, speaking on behalf of all IPM faculty staff, encouraged students to develop a positive and proactive attitude towards learning.

IPM President Lei Heong Iok, speaking to the media, said that "there are 100 students coming from Portuguese-speaking countries, including exchange students. Thirty to 40 are from Portugal, and some are from Brazil and Africa. They come here to learn the Chinese language. This year, some students are coming to IPM to study in Macau's special majors - such as hospitality - while others are coming to study public administration. A full class from Cape Verde came specifically here to study public administration, and Portuguese students are coming to IPM to study [childcare]. I think all this reflects not only that the education in Macau is becoming international, but also [that Macau



The opening ceremony



IPM President Lei Heong Iok

is] the platform between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries. [...] The new campus has been useful for us solving the residency issues of our students. All students have been arranged a place to live on the new campus in Taipa."

"Overall, this year's student enrollment was very pleasing. The effect resulting from the SAR go-

vernment building Macau into the platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries is obvious."

IPM's new Taipa campus is on the former site of the University of Macau, which now provides dormitories for some of the IPM students.

Discussing IPM's future plans, Lei said: "We will try to send

more mainland students to the Portuguese-speaking countries, not only Portugal, but also Brazil and African countries, where our students are welcome to go."

Lei said IPM is running an additional Portuguese-Chinese translation course this year, and that there are also more students in other countries studying Chinese.

"This marks the first year [that] high-school students in Portugal are applying to IPM directly, which did not happen in the past. Macau and China are attracting more and more Portuguese students. In Portugal, Chinese is not only being [taught] at some universities, but also at a few primary schools and middle schools," said Lei.

New wholesale market to be ready next month

THE relocation of the Nam Yue wholesale market to Ilha Verde - to occupy a space twice the size of the old premises - will be completed next month.

The government previously said the relocation would be complete in 2016 and that it would cost MOP860 million.

With capacity for approximately 235 stalls, the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) president, Jose Tavares, said that the market will open next month, with the relocation of vendors progressing on schedule.

"I hope that by the end of September, we will have

completed the relocation. Of course the Chamber of Commerce and wholesale supplier Nam Yue have agreed on [a] day to carry out the major relocation works," Tavares told the press.

According to a TDM report, the Patane market - another old wholesale market in Ilha Verde - will be handed over to the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau at the end of October.

Tavares added that the IACM had previously agreed to pay the market's live poultry traders MOP14 million to help them shift their businesses to the new premises, but many traders

have yet to submit the documentation required. As such, said Tavares, the progress of financial compensation has been slow.

However, Tavares expressed his satisfaction over the 40 live poultry traders who have applied for permits to sell frozen poultry.

Construction of the building for the new Patane market is expected to finish by the end of this month, with the market scheduled to commence operations in late 2017.

Separately, Tavares also defended IACM from local activist Jason Chao's criticism of the bureau's implementation of a new, mandatory form for the no-

tification of assemblies and protests.

The activist claimed in a statement last week that the new requirement for organizing assemblies and protests threatens the right to freedom of assembly as enshrined in the Basic Law and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

However, the official argued that the move was to respond to applicants more quickly, and denied Chao's claim that the bureau is trying to suppress freedom of assembly.

"In the past, the applicant would submit a bespoke written [document ...], but our colleagues have had trouble over the years, so we're providing a form for them to fill [in], standardize things a bit, and respond more quickly to their applications," Tavares explained.

Tourism master plan to launch next month

THE President of the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO), Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, has revealed that the department expects to launch the Macau Tourism Industry Development Master Plan next month.

The MGTO head said that the first draft of the plan had been completed in July.

MGTO is currently reviewing some of the plan's details with consultancy firms.

Fernandes noted that the government had taken a relatively long time to process

public opinions and suggestions on potential policies to be put into practice.

"We hope that when this master plan comes out, all of our policies [in the plan] might be feasible," she said.

Fernandes denied that the plan was being launched too late, saying that MGTO had undertaken extensive research in collaboration with various parties over a long period of time, having collected more than 1,000 opinions from the public during a consultation period held last year.

21 companies call for paternity leave

TWENTY-ONE local companies and organizations signed a proposal for paid paternity leave last week.

The signatories to the proposal all hail from different sectors, and have either already granted their employees paternity leave or intend to do so.

Kuan Sio Peng, Executive Director of Macau Water, remarked that men and women should enjoy equal rights both at work and at home.

Kuan said that the ability of husbands to take care of their wives and children when their wives give birth should be recognized by employment law.

Cheang Peng Chan, Vice General Manager of TCM, noted that 90 percent of the company's 670 employees are men, and that granting these employees paid paternity leave would increase their workplace

satisfaction, making them more dedicated employees as well as promoting harmonious home lives.

Abel Kuok, Deputy General Manager of bus company New Era, said his company already grants male workers paternity leave. He agreed that "if the government is able to implement such [a] law, then society will benefit from it as a whole."

A man who attended the launch ceremony considered "one month" to be the ideal duration for paternity leave as it provides new fathers adequate time to help their wives in a variety of ways.

Ng Wai Han, Acting Director of the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL), said that the bureau is processing legislation regarding paternity leave, and that the bureau will conduct a public consultation in September.

Officer fined MOP35,000 for animal cruelty

THE Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) has fined a Judiciary Police officer MOP35,000 for mistreating a dog in amateur video footage that surfaced online in mid-January this year.

The bureau's Chief of Veterinary Inspection and Control, Choi U Fai, was speaking to the media on the sidelines of a public evaluation of the first-year results of the Animal Protection Law, which entered into force in September 2016.

The officer was subject to disciplinary proceedings following the case, which culminated in being charged with the administrative offense of animal cruelty, punishable with fines of between 20,000 and 100,000 patacas.

IACM said the accused "was notified and immediately paid the fine. He filed no appeal of defense."

The circulation of the video on several social media platforms previously made several headlines, with Anima president Albano Martins being prosecuted for breaching personal data protection laws by sharing the



Choi U Fai

footage online.

According to Choi, this is the first of two cases that have been identified and investigated by the authorities since the Animal Protection Law was implemented.

The latter case concerns another officer who is reportedly also under investigation for possible disciplinary infractions under the

Security Forces regulations, according to Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak.

"All criminal investigation officers must, first and foremost, give priority to their personal conduct and ethics," said Wong, adding that "it is the duty" of police officers to ensure their behavior is beyond reproach. **RM**



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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 Macao 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)



Manhattan Car Park

(Ref: 17075528)
00sq. ft. HKD1,800

Single Car park available for rent in Manhattan.

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

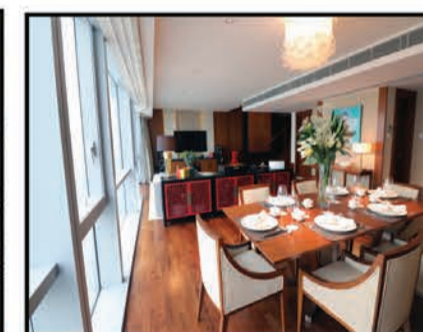
Stunning apartment with open view across towards the back of Hac Sa Beach. Renovated five years ago to a very high standard. The owner opened up the kitchen making a wonderful entertainment area for both living and dining, off the living room is a great size balcony for AI fresco dining. Further renovations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



Cheoc Van, House912 Coloane

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

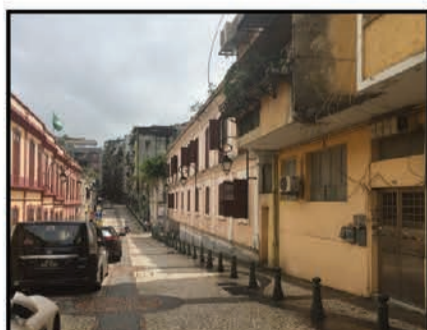
This magnificent property is newly renovated, and has unobstructed sea views from all 5 floors. Both the interior and exterior of the property brandishes stylish and contemporary designs with a mix of beautiful light colours that accentuates the spaciousness and abundance of natural light. An exclusive 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.

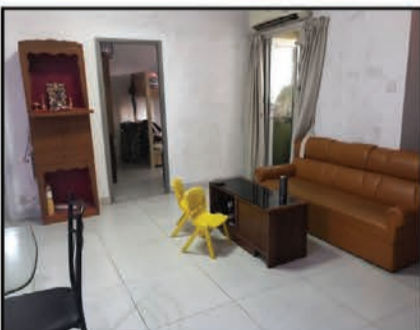


Lok Pou, Macau

(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: HKD7,500sq ft

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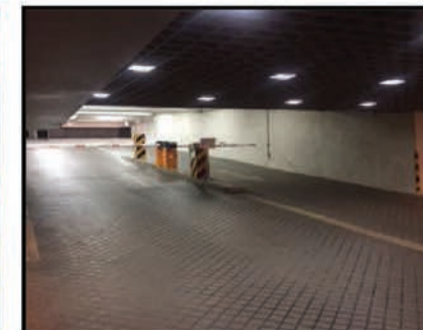


Roof Top Apartment, Macau

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

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(Ref: 17035514)
00sq. ft. HKD 1.9M

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THE Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) has found several associations conducting publicity campaigns that promote specific candidates above others for the Legislative Assembly (AL) election, as reported in the Chinese press.

Publicity campaigns that do not give equal exposure to all candidates are banned during the pre-campaign blackout period, which began earlier this month and will last until early September.

CCAC Commissioner André Cheong said the bureau has begun an investigation into the cases, but did not disclose how many there were.

He said such cases had been more frequent during previous AL elections compared to this year.

Cheong said AL election-related associations are required to declare any social welfare activities they organize between September 2 and September 17. He expects the occurrence of election-related bribes during the actual campaign period.

From the beginning of April to August 18, CCAC conducted over 2,000 blitz inspections of associations' welfare activities.

Around 1,500 inspections targeted catering events, and over 500 were directed at tourism-related activities. Most of the activities were

AL ELECTIONS

CCAC finds associations promoting before campaign period



CCAC Commissioner André Cheong

unrelated to the election. Some groups had previously been red-flagged for bribing voters, usually by transferring money through mobile applications.

Cheong said CCAC is working with more than one social media operator to spot potential instances of elec-

tion bribery. When asked why CCAC has not yet reported the results of online bribery, Cheong said the commission would not reveal anything unless there were special circumstances.

Thus far, the Electoral Commission has received a total

of 67 bribery-related reports via its hotline and its online platform. CCAC received 34 reports.

At an event last Saturday, CCAC recruited more than 80 middle school staff as volunteers to assist its officers in anti-corruption efforts. **JZ**

Urban Renewal Committee sets new building restoration ratio

THE Urban Renewal Committee has agreed to set the new building 'restoration ratio' - the percentage of apartment owners in a residential building whose consent is required to move forward with a building renovation - between 85 and 100 percent.

The ratio was first proposed in the beginning of this year, with the committee organizing several meetings since then. During the seventh meeting last week, the committee established four sets of circumstances for determining the restoration ratio.

The suggestions propose that buildings less than 30 years old should maintain a 100 percent restoration ratio, while those aged between 30 and 40 years should maintain a 90 percent restoration ratio. For buildings over 40 years of age, the ratio should be slightly lower at

85 percent. The only stated exception concerns buildings, of whatever age, with important public interests, which require just 85 percent for a renovation.

The committee believes that these arrangements will be easier to push forward as part of the city's urban renewal agenda, and described the requirements as below average.

The committee also

agreed that the government will provide temporary housing and financial support for residents who need to find alternative lodgings while their buildings are being restored.

Committee member Paul Tse said that the aforementioned proposals are just drafts, and that the matters would be addressed by a company to be established and fully owned by the Macau government. **JZ**

Dengue fever cases rises to six

The Health Bureau (SSM) said in a statement that it had confirmed a new case of dengue fever on Saturday, bringing the total number of local cases diagnosed to six. The disease was diagnosed in a 36-year-old female resident of the Praia do Manduco area, in a building adjacent to those where the first five cases were detected over the last few days. The SSM says the disease was contracted locally, but added that the woman had visited relatives in Zhuhai on August 9. According to the epidemiological analysis, the case was classified as the sixth local case of dengue fever registered this year. The patient's condition is stable and improving. She shows no signs of a fever and none of her relatives have been affected. The SSM said it would work with the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau to continue mosquito elimination procedures in the region and verify dengue hotspots at these sites, and has called on local residents to take protective measures.



Chui, Lam to step up cultural cooperation

Chief Executive (CE) Chui Sai On met his Hong Kong counterpart, Carrie Lam, late last week at the Macau government headquarters to "exchange views on the strengthening of cooperation between the two territories." The CE's office said the discussion centered on "the development of cultural and recreational industries and other issues of common interest." At the meeting, Chui remarked on the good relations between Hong Kong and Macau, noting, "the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge will create greater cooperation [opportunities] for the two territories." Lam styled large-scale projects in the region as an opportunity for "new developments" to unite the governments of the "three territories", as stated in the agreement regarding the construction of the Greater Bay Area.

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FOREX

In a good year for Asia currencies, Philippine peso is unloved

ASIAN emerging market currencies have been having their best year since before the 2013 taper tantrum, bolstered by pace-setting growth rates and attractive yields.

But the Philippine peso has been left out of the party - ironically after it held up better than peers including Indonesia's rupiah back in 2013. Unless things change, it'll be a fifth straight year of declines for the peso, which is down 3.4 percent so far in 2017 versus a 7.9 percent rise for Thailand's baht.

For now, that slide may be set to deepen as traders test the tolerance levels of Philippine policy makers, who have so far refrained from actions to prop up the exchange rate.

"The market appears to have turned to the view the Philippine authorities do not care about the PHP," said Callum Henderson, managing director of global markets-APAC at Eurasia Group UL Limited in Singapore. "In my view that is wrong, but recent statements may not be enough and the central bank may have to match words with deeds."

It's hard to make a concise case for why the peso is so forlorn, given the country's growth trending above 6 percent the past half decade. Currency analysts list a series of reasons:

The current-account deficit is set to widen because of ambitious infrastructure plans. Uncertainty over the passage of tax reforms that are winding their way through the legislature. Political upheavals such as President Rodrigo Duterte's war on drugs are harming sentiment. Battles between government troops and Islamic State-linked militants in the southern city of Marawi have prompted additional caution among investors, and the cost of the military activity is putting pressure on the budget deficit.

"When you're looking at other currencies in the region, it's less appealing from that perspective," said Stephen Innes, head of trading for Asia Pacific with Oanda, in an interview in Hong Kong on Aug. 17. "You have the current account increasing, the waves of instability in the political landscape, and it just becomes the local whipping boy."

NatWest Markets, ANZ Banking Group and Goldman Sachs Group Inc. are among those who are bearish on the currency.

The market appears to have turned to the view the Philippine authorities do not care about the PHP.

CALLUM HENDERSON
EURASIA GROUP

Philippine Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez said last week that the peso's slump is mainly due to a deteriorating trade outlook because of rising imports of capital goods, which is "normal for a country that is growing very fast." Last Thursday, GMA News reported that Economic Planning Secretary Ernesto Pernia had said an exchange rate of 52 to the dollar would be acceptable.



Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Nestor Espenilla said last week that there will be no free fall for the currency as the economic fundamentals are strong. He told Bloomberg Television's Regina Lay that the market may have overreacted to the outlook for the current account deficit.

The peso has become an obvious target for selling as tensions have risen, Innes said - not only domestically but more widely with international concerns such as North Korea's nuclear saber-rattling.

There are no signs that the central bank plans to intervene to stem the currency's losses. "It's still too early to say," Ben

Luk, global macro strategist with State Street Global Markets, said in a phone interview. "I expect them to be at a plateau level right now."

Jonathan Ravelas, chief market strategist at Banco de Oro Unibank Inc., sees no need for the central bank to intervene heavily. Fluctuations have been limited and the peso is bound to recover given that the economic fundamentals remain generally sound, he said.

"Once the tax reform comes in and more infrastructure is built we may see the peso recover," Ravelas added. "This is like the darkest hour just before dawn."

Gross international reserves

have fallen over the past year, with the central bank blaming the decline on foreign exchange operations and the national government's payment of maturing obligations. Traders say the monetary authority's presence in the spot foreign exchange market is meant to smooth out fluctuations rather than reverse the currency's direction.

"It's always been geared toward managing foreign exchange volatility and controlling irrational movements," said Steven Michael Reyes, senior vice president at Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. in Manila. "There's no indication that strategy would change." **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

BREITLING LAUNCHES COLT SKYRACER



Breitling will host an aviation exhibition at The Venetian Macao this summer to celebrate the launch of its latest chronograph: the Colt Skyracer.

Dedicated to aviation enthusiasts and thrill-seekers, the Colt Skyracer features

an ultra-light and ultra-sturdy case made in Breitling, which will be exclusively showcased alongside a Breitling Jet Team pilot exhibition.

The Colt Skyracer reflects the nature of the MXS-R "Skyracer", the high-performance plane on the Breitling Racing Team which was flown by rising aerobatics star Mika Brageot in the Red Bull Air Race World Championship.

Guests will be able to enjoy a 360-degree virtual reality flight experience, flying on jets with the largest civilian aerobatics team - the Breitling Jet Team - over the skyline of San Francisco.

CROSSTALK MASTERS TO PERFORM AT THE VENETIAN MACAO

Chinese "crosstalk" masters Guo Degang and Yu Qian, along with fellow artists Hou Zhen, Gao Feng, Luan Yunpin, Shao Bing, Cao Heyang, Zhang Yunlei and Yang Jiulang, will present "De Yun She World Tour in Macau" at The Venetian Theatre on October 6.

Sands China said in a press release that the tour will present the traditional crosstalk show with a dynamic new theme and format. This will enable the artists to offer more intimate audience interaction as well as improved ambience for a better overall experience.

One of the most popular traditional Chinese art forms,



crosstalk first appeared in the Qing Dynasty and is usually delivered in a Beijing dialect, punctuated with puns and allusions in rapid-fire banter. Performances can include singing, Chinese "rapping" and the use of traditional musical instruments.

MERCEDES-BENZ ANNOUNCES NEW SYSTEM FOR S-CLASS VEHICLES



The "Magic Body Control" suspension system that has long been considered a standard for the Mercedes-AMG S 65 and Mercedes-Maybach S 650 now comprises of "Active Body Control," "Road Surface Scan" and, for the first time in the Saloon, a curve inclination function.

The "Road Surface Scan" function receives images from a stereo camera fitted behind

the windscreen, which scans up to 15 meters ahead of the vehicle and delivers a precise image of road contours, according to a statement issued by Mercedes-Benz Hong Kong.

Based on the camera feed and driving status information, the control unit constantly calculates a finely honed control strategy for overcoming uneven terrain such as prolonged bumps.

A video has surfaced online showing the wife of Liu Xiaobo for the first time since the funeral of the Nobel Peace Prize laureate, who died in Chinese custody last month.

The video shows Liu's widow, Liu Xia, saying in a hoarse voice that she hopes her friends will give her space to grieve.

The clip, which was posted on YouTube late Friday without any indication of where or when the footage was taken, quickly drew criticism from the couple's supporters Saturday that it looked staged by Liu's minders.

"Please give me time to mourn and time for my heart to be restored," said Liu Xia, speaking while seated on a couch dressed in a dark sweater and pants and smoking a cigarette.

"When Xiaobo was alive, the doctors did their best and Xiaobo regarded life and death as being very ordinary, so I have to also try hard to adjust myself," she said. "And in the future, when I'm better in various ways, I will be with you all again."

An accomplished poet and artist, Liu Xia was never charged but has been kept guarded and largely isolated for more than seven years in the apartment she once shared with her husband.

She remains unreachable, raising concerns among Western governments, the United Nations and her supporters that she is unable to move freely or leave the country if she chooses to do so.

Liu Xia's body language appeared to show that she was speaking to the person holding the camera with some formality, said Zeng Jinyang, a Hong Kong-based documentary maker and a supporter of the

AP PHOTO



Liu Xia (center) widow of late Nobel Peace Prize winner and Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo, holds a portrait of him during his funeral in Shenyang (July 15)

LIU XIAOBO

Widow of Nobel laureate in rare video amid fears for her safety

couple.

"You can tell from her body language that this is not a close relationship and the atmosphere in which she speaks is one that is not relaxed," Zeng said by phone. "Liu Xia's speaking

style also tends to be fragmented. This message is very clearly scripted, which is not her style."

Liu Xiaobo died July 13 in Chinese custody after a battle with liver cancer, amid international criticism of Beijing for

not letting him travel abroad as he had wished.

Liu was only the second Nobel Peace Prize winner to die in police custody, a fact pointed to by human rights groups as an indication of the Chinese Commu-

nist Party's increasingly hard line against its critics. The first, Carl von Ossietzky, died from tuberculosis in Germany in 1938 while serving a sentence for opposing Adolf Hitler's Nazi regime. AP

Chinese traders furious after crackdown on N. Korean imports

FURIOUS Chinese businesspeople said that Beijing's decision to enforce U.N. sanctions on North Korean seafood imports would hobble the economy of an entire northeastern city, sparking a rare public protest earlier this week after the surprise move suddenly choked off border trade.

Anger swept the city of Hunchun, home to hundreds of seafood processing plants, after Beijing began refusing entry last Tuesday to trucks carrying tons of North Korean seafood. China announced a week ago that it was cutting off imports

of North Korean goods under U.N. sanctions imposed over the North's nuclear and missile programs.

But given China's often-lax history of sanctions enforcement, seafood traders were shocked as trucks began lining up at the border with customs officials ordering them to return the seafood to the North. Dozens of people from seafood companies took to the streets, carrying red banners, in a rare display of public anger in a country where the government normally cracks down immediately on dissent.

"I have more than 30 workers and I asked them to all go home or

Dozens of people from seafood companies took to the streets, carrying red banners, in a rare display of public anger

find other jobs," said Song Min, who runs a fresh seafood business in Hunchun, and who was not involved in the protests.

"But they cannot find other jobs," she added in a telephone interview Friday. "Everyone here is in the seafood industry."

Hunchun authorities met with seafood traders one day after the protest, warning them not to make trouble or risk being detained, Yang Jian, a seafood trader, said by phone. "People who attended the meeting said the authorities were being very tough

about this, no goods are allowed to get into China," Yang said.

China, which accounts for the overwhelming majority of North Korean trade, has long been reluctant to push leader Kim Jong Un's regime too hard economically, fearing it could collapse. But Beijing is increasingly frustrated with Pyongyang, and supported a U.N. Security Council ban on Aug. 5 on key trade goods.

The Chinese customs agency said Monday it would stop processing imports of North Korean coal, iron and lead ores and fish at midnight on Sept. 5.

"After that, entry of these goods will be prohibited," a statement said.

But less than a day later, Chinese customs

officials were stopping trucks full of seafood brought from the North Korean coastline, roughly 50 kilometers (30 miles) away, setting off a daylong protest. Hunchun is the largest Chinese city in an area where the borders of China, Russia and North Korea meet.

"Hard-earned Money on China's Bridge; We hope Chinese Customs Will Release Our Trucks," read a banner in a photograph featured in a post that was widely circulated on a Chinese social media platform.

But two days later, there was no sign that Beijing had backed down.

"I have to make some changes soon," said Jin Long, who owns a Hunchun seafood restaurant. "Maybe I'll change to Russian seafood." AP



HONG KONG

Massive protests against the jailing of Occupy activists

TENS of thousands of people marched through the streets of Hong Kong yesterday in protest at the jailing of three pro-democracy activists last week.

Joshua Wong, Nathan Law and Alex Chow were initially given non-custodial sentences for their involvement in mass protests in 2014.

But on Thursday the court of appeal gave the activists jail terms of between six and eight months.

Their supporters say the process was politically motivated.

Yesterday, protesters braved sweltering temperatures above 30 degrees Celsius to march to the Court of Final Appeal, where all three men are expected to take their case.

They chanted "Release all political prisoners" while some carried a large banner reading: "It's not a crime to fight against totalitarianism."

"This shows that the Hong Kong government, the Chinese communist regime and the department of justice's conspiracy to deter Hong Kong people from continuing to participate in politics and to protest using harsh laws and punishments has completely failed," said protest organizer and former student leader Lester Shum, quoted by Reuters.

Lester Shum said the number of protesters was the highest since pro-democracy protests in 2014 that paralyzed parts of the financial hub for 79 days.

Another protester, retired teacher Jackson Wai, told AFP news agency: "These young people are our hope for the future. We shouldn't treat them like this."

Wong, 20, Law, 24 and Chow, 27, were convicted for unlawful assembly in an incident which helped to trigger the mass protests in Hong Kong, known as the Umbrella Movement.

They were among a group of student protesters who scaled a fence around Hong Kong's legislative headquarters and occupied the building's courtyard.

Their removal by police angered the public and brought tens of thousands of people on to the streets in the following days.

The three were sentenced last year to non-prison terms including community service but the justice department, seeking imprisonment, applied for a review.

The jail sentences effectively stop them from standing in forthcoming elections.

Anyone jailed for more than three months is disqualified from contesting local elections in Hong Kong for five years.

Law was elected to Hong Kong's legislature last year, but was disqualified last month when the city's high court ruled that he had improperly taken his oath.

Hong Kong's last British governor, Chris Patten, spoke out against the decision to jail the three, writing in a letter to

the Financial Times on Saturday:

"The names of Joshua Wong, Alex Chow and Nathan Law will be remembered long after the names of those who have persecuted them have been forgotten and swept into the ashcan of history."

According to BBC, Amnesty International also criticized the authorities for seeking jail terms for the activists, calling it a "vindictive attack" on freedom of expression.

In yesterday's protests, some signs said "Shame on Rimsky", referring to Justice Secretary Rimsky Yuen, who Reuters reported last week had overruled other legal officials who initially advised against pursuing jail terms for the three activists.

Wong and his colleagues triggered the 2014 mass street protests, which attracted hundreds of thousands at their peak, when they climbed into a courtyard fronting the city's

government headquarters.

They were sentenced last year to non-jail terms including community service for unlawful assembly, but the Department of Justice applied for a review, seeking imprisonment.

On Friday, Yuen denied any "political motive" in seeking jail for the trio.

The jail terms for Wong, Law and Chow disqualify them from running for the legislature for the next five years.

Lau Siu-lai, one of six legislators expelled from the city's legislature this year over the manner in which she took her oath of office, said the sentences were unreasonably harsh.

"It appears to be political suppression to strip away young people's right to stand in elections," she said, as quoted by Reuters. **MDT/Agencies**



Protesters raise a placard reading "Shame on Rimsky" (Rimsky Yuen, secretary for Justice) and a poster with an image of Chinese President Xi Jinping as thousands of protesters march to support young activists Joshua Wong, Nathan Law and Alex Chow in downtown Hong Kong

INDIA

Train derails killing at least 23

Biswajeet Banerjee, Lucknow

RESCUERS using cutting torches and cranes worked through the night to pull apart 14 coaches of a crowded train that went off the tracks in northern India, killing 23 people and injuring more than 80 others, officials said yesterday.

Two of the coaches piled on top of one another, while 12 others toppled off the tracks, said Arvind Kumar, a top official in Uttar Pradesh state, where the train derailed overnight.

Railway police and local volunteers helped pull passengers out of the upturned coaches of the Kalinga-Utkal Express, which was travelling to the Hindu holy city of Haridwar from the temple town of Puri, in the eastern state of Orissa.

As the day dawned, at least one official accused the railways of negligence, saying cracks in the track had been seen a day before and no train should have been allowed on the damaged line.



"We had spotted a break in the rail track on Friday and all day workers were at the site repairing the track," said Rajendra Kumar, the station master at Khatauli, a small town where the accident took place.

Kumar said that some trains, moving very slowly, had passed earlier Saturday, which is why the Kalinga-Utkal Express too was allowed to move on the track.

"This train driver too had been cautioned to move very slowly. The engine and first four coaches stayed upright, while the next 14

coaches derailed," Kumar said.

Federal Railways Minister Suresh Prabhu ordered an investigation, while Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted his condolences to the victims' families and pledged monetary and other help.

Accidents are relatively common on India's massive but poorly maintained railway network. Safety standards on the state-run system, which operates 9,000 passenger trains and carries some 23 million passengers every day, has been an ongoing concern amid a spate of accidents. **AP**

Malaysia apologizes for mistaken Indonesia flag

MALAYSIA apologized to Indonesia yesterday for an "unintentional" mistake in printing the Indonesian flag upside down in a souvenir guidebook for the Southeast Asian Games.

The error made the red-and-white Indonesian flag resemble Poland's and caused anger in Indonesia, where "shameonyoumalaysia" has become the most popular hashtag on Twitter.

President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo demanded an apology for hurt national pride but also cautioned against exaggerating the incident with his neighbor. The two countries share the same religion and language but often trade accusations of stealing the other's food and culture.

Malaysian Youth and Sports Minister Khairy Jamaluddin met his Indonesian counterpart Imam Nahrawi to personally apologize. After a brief private meeting yesterday, the two ministers shook hands at a news conference.

Khairy, who was quick to issue the first apology late Saturday on Twitter, said that



the guidebooks will be corrected and reprinted.

Indonesia appears to have taken particular offense because the guidebook was distributed to VIPs at Saturday's opening ceremony in Kuala Lumpur for the 29th Southeast Asian Games and only its flag was shown incorrectly.

Nahrawi, who earlier described the error as "very painful," said he accepted the apology.

"We hope these mistakes don't get repeated because flags are important symbols for each country and should be respected," he said.

On Twitter, Indonesians said their flag represents the sacrifices of independence heroes and accused Malaysia of either being stupid or deliberately misprinting it. **MDT/AP**

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AP PHOTO



US-South Korea war games set to rile Pyongyang

AMERICA'S annual joint military exercises with South Korea always frustrate North Korea.

The Ulchi Freedom Guardian drills, set to begin today and run through August 31, will be the first large-scale military exercise between the allies since North Korea successfully flight-tested two intercontinental ballistic missiles in July and threatened to bracket Guam with intermediate range ballistic missile fire earlier this month.

The drills may hold more potential to provoke than ever, given President Donald Trump's "fire and fury" threats and Pyongyang's as-yet-unpursued plan to launch missiles close to Guam.

Despite some calls to postpone or drastically modify drills to ease the hostility on the Korean Peninsula, U.S. and South Korean military officials say that the long-scheduled exercises will go ahead as planned.

The drills, which began in the 1970s and will involve 17,500 American troops and 50,000 South Korean soldiers this year, consist mainly of computer simulations aimed at honing joint-decision making and planning and improving command operations.

The United States and South Korea also hold larger war games in the spring, called Key Resolve and Foal Eagle, which involve live-fire exercises and training with tanks, aircraft and warships.

There's media speculation that the allies might try to keep this year's drills low-key by not dispatching long-range bombers and other U.S. strategic assets to the region. But that possibility worries some, who say it would send the wrong message to both North Korea and the South, where there are fears that the North's advancing nuclear capabilities may eventually undermine a decades-long alliance with the United States.

"If anything, the joint exercises must be strengthened," Cheon Seongwhun, who served as a national security adviser to former conservative South Korean President Park Geun-hye, said in an interview.

Impoverished North Korea hates the drills in part because it must frequently respond with its own expensive displays of military might.

During last year's drills, the North successfully test-fired for the first time a submarine-launched ballistic missile ruler Kim Jong Un then praised as the "success of all successes." Shortly after the drills, the North carried out its fifth and biggest nuclear test, which it claimed was of a "standardized" warhead that could fit on a variety of its rockets.

During this year's war games in March, North Korea launched four extended-range Scud missiles into the sea in what it described as a rehearsal for striking U.S. military bases in Japan.

It's therefore almost certain that this year's drills will trigger some kind of reaction from North Korea. The question is how strong it will be.

Some experts say North Korea is mainly focused on the bigger picture of testing its bargaining power against the United States with its new long-range missiles and likely has no interest in letting things get too tense during the drills.

If this is right, expect the usual propaganda belligerence in state media or low-level provocations like artillery and short-range missile drills. Or perhaps the North could conduct its first submarine-launched ballistic missile test since last August, which, if successful, would allow it to demonstrate serious military capability without posing an immediate direct threat to the United States.

"North Korea has already flight-tested ICBMs twice this year and will probably take a wait-and-see

approach to assess the impact of stronger pressure from the United States and China and maybe even seek an opportunity for talks, rather than quickly move forward with another test," said Moon Seong Mook, a former South Korean military official and current senior analyst for the Seoul-based Korea Research Institute for National Strategy.

But others think the North might use the drills as an excuse to conduct another ICBM test or maybe even act on its threat to lob missiles into the waters near Guam.

"North Korea is probably looking at all the cards it has to maximize pressure against the United States, and the drills provide a good opportunity to do it," Cheon said.

There are calls in both the United States and South Korea for the allies to pause or downsize the joint military exercises to reduce strain and potentially persuade North Korea into talks to freeze its nuclear program.

David Wright, a U.S. analyst from the Union of Concerned Scientists, said in an emailed statement that the United States should "postpone or significantly restructure" the exercises to reduce the risk of military confrontation.

"Smart military planning means ensuring that exercises do not enflame an already tense situation," Wright said.

This argument might not win over South Korean conservatives whose main fear is that a fully functional ICBM in Pyongyang would eventually force the United States to consider a peace treaty with the North and also the removal of the tens of thousands of American soldiers stationed in South Korea.

While expressing a desire to reach out to the North, South Korea's liberal President Moon Jae-in has also ordered his military officials to schedule talks with the United States to increase the warhead limits on South Korean missiles, and his prime minister said recently that the country should also consider acquiring nuclear-powered submarines to better cope with North Korean threats.

Some conservatives want more strength, however, and are calling for the United States to bring back the tactical nuclear weapons that were withdrawn from the South in the 1990s. **MDT/AP**

AMERICA'S top military official reiterated Friday his country's pledge to defend Japan against a North Korean missile attack, as western Japan carried out a test of an emergency alert system.

"I think we made it clear to North Korea

US general pledges to defend Japan

and anyone else in the region that an attack on one is an attack on both of us," Joseph Dunford, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in Tokyo.

North Korea has

threatened to test-fire missiles that would fly over Japan and land in waters off the U.S. territory of Guam. The U.S. is treaty-bound to defend Japan from outside attacks.

Dunford and his Japanese counterpart Katsutoshi Kawano agreed to work together to strengthen missile defense systems. The U.S. general is on the last stop of an Asia tour that took

him to China and South Korea and has been dominated by talk of the North Korean threat.

Sirens wailed across nine prefectures in western Japan in the test of the emergency system.

Twitter users in the region said the sirens didn't work in some areas.

The flight path of the North Korean missile test would cross that part of the country. **AP**

A missing imam and a house that exploded days ago became the focus Saturday of the investigation into an extremist cell responsible for two deadly attacks in Barcelona and a nearby resort, as authorities narrowed in on who radicalized a group of young men in northeastern Spain.

Investigators searched the home of Abdelbaki Es Satty, an imam who in June abruptly quit working at a mosque in the town of Ripoll, the home of the Islamic radicals behind the attacks that killed 14 people and wounded over 120 in the last few days. Police were trying to determine whether Es Satty was killed in a botched bomb-making operation on Wednesday, the eve of the Barcelona bloodshed.

His former mosque has denounced the deadly attacks and weeping relatives marched into a Ripoll square on Saturday, tearfully denying any knowledge of the radical plans of their sons and brothers. At least one of the suspects is still on the run, and his younger brother has disappeared, as has the younger brother of one of the five attackers slain Friday by police.

Catalan police said a manhunt was centered on Younes Abouyaaquoub, a 22-year-old Moroccan suspected of driving the van that plowed into a packed Barcelona promenade Thursday, killing 13 people and injuring 120. Another attack early Friday killed one person and wounded five in the resort of Cambrils.

The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for both.

Everyone so far known in the cell grew up in Ripoll, a town in the Catalan foothills near the French border 100 kilometers north of Barcelona. Spanish police searched nine homes in Ripoll, including Es Satty's, and two buses, and set up a roadblock that checked each car entering the town. Across the Pyrenees, French police carried out extra border checks on people coming in from Spain.

Neighbors, family and even the mayor of Ripoll said they were shocked by news of the alleged involvement of the young men, whom all described as integrated Spanish and Catalan speakers with friends of all backgrounds.

Even with Abouyaaquoub at large, Spanish Interior Minister Juan Ignacio Zoido declared the cell "broken" Saturday. In addition to the five killed by police, four were in custody and one or two were killed in a house explosion Wednesday. He said there

AP PHOTO



Spain investigates missing imam, mysterious explosion

was no new imminent threat of attack.

Police also conducted a series of controlled explosions Saturday in the town of Alcanar, south of Barcelona, where the attacks were planned in house that was destroyed Wednesday by an explosion. Authorities had initially thought it was a gas accident, but took another look after the attacks.

Initially, only one person was believed killed in the Wednesday blast. But officials said DNA tests were underway to determine if human remains found there Friday were from a second victim. A police official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the ongoing searches, said investigators believed the remains may belong to Es Satty.

The official said investigators also discovered ingredients of the explosive TATP, used by the Islamic State group in attacks in Paris and Brussels, as well as

multiple butane tanks that the group may have wanted to combine with the homemade explosive and load into their vehicles.

Neighbors on Saturday said they had seen three vehicles coming and going from the home, including an Audi used in the Cambrils attack and the van used in the Barcelona attack.

The president of the mosque where Es Satty preached, Ali Yassine, said he hadn't seen him since June, when he announced he was returning to Morocco for three months.

"He left the same way he came," said a bitter Wafa Marsi, a friend to many of the attackers, who appeared Saturday alongside their families to denounce terrorism.

Members of Ripoll's Muslim community denounced the vehicle attacks and offered their sympathy to the families of the victims.

Authorities said the two attacks were the work of a large terrorist cell that had been plotting for a long time from the house in Alcanar, 200 kilometers down the coast from Barcelona.

The lone named suspect still at large, Abouyaaquoub, figures on a police list of four main suspects sought in the attacks. Also on the list is 17-year-old Moussa Oukabir, whose brother Driss reported to police that his documents stolen. Ripoll's mayor

confirmed that those documents were found in a vehicle used in the attacks. Moussa was one of the five radicals killed, and Driss is in custody, police said.

Catalan regional police said they are mounting major road blocks throughout the northeastern region, warning people they may encounter traffic jams on different roads.

A French police official said authorities were also looking for a Kangoo utility vehicle that was believed to have been rented in Spain by a suspect in the Barcelona attack that might have crossed the border.

Fatima Abouyaaquoub, sister-in-law of the Hychami brothers and the cousin of Younes Abou-

yaaquoub, said she found it all hard to believe.

"I'm still waiting for all of it to be a lie. I don't know if they were brainwashed or they gave them some type of medication or what. I can't explain it," she said.

Islamic extremists have made a point of targeting Europe's major tourist attractions in recent years — especially in rented or hijacked vehicles.

Yet Spain decided to keep its terrorist threat alert at level 4 — out of five — declaring Saturday that no new attacks were imminent. Zoido said the country would reinforce security for events that draw large crowds as well as at popular tourist sites. **MDT/AP**

UK GOV'T CONSIDERS MORE CHECKS ON VEHICLE RENTALS

BRITAIN'S GOVERNMENT is considering more checks on drivers wishing to rent cars and vans following several attacks in which vehicles were used to mow down pedestrians. The Department for Transport is working with police and the rental industry to explore tightening regulations following attacks using rented vehicles in Britain, France, Germany and most recently, Spain. The department says in a statement that the

terror threat "is changing and so must our response." Toby Poston of the British Vehicle Rental and Leasing Association said in a statement yesterday that the industry is examining how to share data in a more timely way to enable authorities "to cross-reference rental reservation systems with the counter-terrorism watch list, for example." In Britain alone this year, vehicles have been at the center of three attacks.

NO REPORTS OF AFFECTED RESIDENTS

ACCORDING TO a statement issued yesterday by the Tourism Crisis Management Office (GGCT), there is no indication that any Macau tour groups or residents have been affected by the Barcelona attack. The GGCT confirmed that, as of yesterday, it had not received any request

for information or assistance. The bureau continues to pay "close attention to the van attack" and to maintain close contact with the Macau travel industry for further developments. If necessary, Macau residents can call the 24-hour tourism hotline on 2833 3000.

VENEZUELA

Pro-gov't assembly takes over

VENEZUELA'S pro-government constitutional assembly took over the powers of the opposition-led congress Friday, dramatically escalating a standoff between President Nicolas Maduro and his political foes.

The move triggered further international condemnation from the dozens of countries that have already criticized the creation of the all-powerful assembly as an undemocratic power grab by Maduro.

Assembly delegates approved a decree giving them the authority to pass legislation to guarantee the peace, sovereignty and economic well-being of Venezuelans in the face of what they consider machinations and sabotage by Maduro's opponents. While the decree does not explicitly dissolve congress it virtually nullifies the already-enfeebled powers.

SOUTH AFRICA

Grace Mugabe gets diplomatic immunity, returns to Zimbabwe

GRANTED diplomatic immunity by South Africa, the wife of Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe returned home from Johannesburg yesterday despite calls that she be prosecuted for allegedly assaulting a young model at a luxury hotel there. Zimbabwean state broadcaster ZBC showed Grace Mugabe greeting government and military officials at the Harare airport after returning on an Air Zimbabwe plane with her husband, who had attended a summit of southern African leaders in Pretoria. The Mugabe couple did not attend a state funeral for a senior ruling party official later in the day in the Zimbabwean capital; the president usually presides over such events.

South Africa's foreign minister, Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, granted immunity to Grace Mugabe in a government gazette notice that was published yesterday. Signed on Saturday, the notice recognizes "the immunities and privileges of the First Lady of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Dr. Grace Mugabe."

South African police had previously issued a "red alert" at borders to ensure she didn't leave undetected and had said they were waiting for a government decision on the immunity appeal.

The country's main opposition party, the Democratic Alliance, called for a parliamentary inquiry into South Africa's decision to let the Zimbabwean first lady leave and said on Twitter that the government has "no more legitimacy in the arena of international diplomacy and displays a total disregard for the rule of law."

John Steenhuisen, a senior opposition official, compared the South African handling of the Mugabe case to the government's decision to allow Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir to leave the country in 2015 even though he was wanted by the International Criminal Court for alleged war crimes, the African News Agency reported.

Gabriella Engels, a 20-year-old model, said Grace Mugabe attacked her on Aug. 13, whipping her with an extension cord that cut her forehead.

In reaction to the news that Mu-



Grace Mugabe in a Dec. 16, 2016, file photo

gabe had returned to Zimbabwe, a group representing Engels said yesterday it would go to court to challenge the South African government over the immunity issue.

"We will take a long-term approach on this," said Willie Spies, legal representative at AfriForum, an organization that primarily represents South Africa's white Afrikaner minority.

"She may be back in Zimbabwe, but it may mean that she will find it very difficult to come back to South Africa in the future," Spies said.

Zimbabwe's state media have largely remained silent on the scandal over Zimbabwe's first lady.

The Zimbabwean president's outspoken wife has been criticized for a fiery temper and lavish shopping expeditions, but her rising political profile has some asking whether she is maneuvering to succeed her husband. She recently said that Zimbabwe's ruling party should restore a provision in its constitution stating that one of the party's vice presidents should be a woman, and has publicly challenged her 93-year-old husband to name a successor. MDT/AP

AD



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what's ON



EXHIBITION BY FANNY LAM
 TIME: 10am to 7pm (Closed on Sundays and public holidays)
 UNTIL: August 24, 2017
 VENUE: Rui Cunha Foundation Gallery, No. 749, Av. da Praia Grande
 ADMISSION: Free
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2892 3288

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

KISS AFRICA - MACAU + LUSOFONIA: RECENT WORKS BY EUGÉNIO NOVIKOFF SALES
 TIME: 3pm to 8pm
 UNTIL: September 3, 2017
 VENUE: Albergue SCM
 ADMISSION: Free
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550

OX WAREHOUSE CHILDREN'S ARTLAND 2017
 TIME: 12pm-7pm
 UNTIL: September 27, 2017
 VENUE: Ox Warehouse and Cultural Affairs Bureau
 ADMISSION: Free
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026

COMMEMORATIVE EXHIBITIONS OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF SUN YAT-SEN'S BIRTH
 TIME: 10am-6pm (Closed on Tuesdays, open on public holidays)
 VENUE: No. 80, Rua das Estalagens
 ADMISSION: Free
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

TREASURE OF SACRED ART OF ST. JOSEPH'S SEMINARY
 TIME: 10am-5pm (Closed on Wednesdays, open on public holidays)
 VENUE: St. Joseph's Seminary and Church, Rua do Seminario
 ADMISSION: Free
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

Offbeat

ARE YOU FOR REAL? POLICE CHECK OUT MAN LOOKING FOR DENTURES

A wary woman in southern Germany alerted police after a man buzzed on the door and asked for permission to search her balcony for his false teeth.

Police in Rheinfelden near the Swiss border reported last week that an interrogation of the 56-year-old man soon showed that his unusual request was sincere. He said he had visited a friend living a few floors above the woman and lost his dentures while sitting on the friend's balcony.

Police say the man's dentures had fallen off the balcony and he was simply trying to track down his much-needed teeth.

The man's name was not given in line with German privacy laws. Police wrote they don't know if he ever found his dentures.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
18:50	The Brazillians (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Miscellaneous
22:10	The Brazillians
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:10	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:45	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

18 Aug - 23 Aug



DORAEMON THE MOVIE 2017

ROOM 1

2:30, 4:30PM

Director: Atsushi Takahashi

Starring: Wasabi Mizuta, Megumi Ohara, Yumi Kakazu

Language: Cantonese (Chinese)

Duration: 101min



GINTAMA

ROOM 1

4:30, 7:00, 9:30pm

Director: Fukuda

yuichi

Starring: Oguri Shun, Tsuyoshi Domoto, Suda Masaki

Language: Japanese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 131min



HITMAN'S BODYGUARD

ROOM 2

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

Director: Patrick Hughes

Starring: Ryan Reynolds, Samuel L. Jackson, Gary Oldman

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 118min

THE EMOJI MOVIE

ROOM 3

2:15, 5:45, 7:30pm

Director: Tony Leondis

Starring: T.J. Miller, James Corden, Anna Faris

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 86min

THE BATTLESHIP ISLAND

ROOM 3

7:00, 9:30pm

Director: Ryoo Seung-Wan

Starring: Hwang Jung-Min, So Ji-Sub, Song Joong-Ki

Language: Korean & Japanese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 132min

this day in history



1983 FILIPINO OPPOSITION LEADER SHOT DEAD

The Philippines opposition leader, Benigno Aquino, has been assassinated just minutes after returning home from exile.

Mr Aquino, 50, had spent the last three years in the US but was returning home to contest next year's expected elections.

Speaking aboard the plane returning him to Manila, Mr Aquino told reporters he was well aware of the risk he was taking. "I suppose there's a physical danger because you know assassination's part of public service," he said.

"My feeling is we all have to die sometime and if it's my fate to die by an assassin's bullet, so be it."

When his plane landed at Manila airport Mr Aquino was taken into custody by soldiers and escorted off the plane.

Shortly afterwards witnesses on the plane said a volley of shots rang out and they saw him lying in a pool of blood on the runway tarmac.

The body of the man said to have been the assassin was nearby.

Mr Aquino's long-time rival, Philippines dictator Ferdinand Marcos, has said the assassin was a "professional killer".

But his claim that Mr Aquino was the victim of a lone gunman has not convinced many in the Philippines or the wider world.

The opposition parties in the Philippines are in disarray after nearly 20 years of rule under Ferdinand Marcos.

But it was widely expected that Mr Aquino would be able to unite them and mount a challenge to President Marcos in next year's elections.

Before his self-imposed exile he looked set for presidency after becoming the country's youngest member of parliament at the age of 35.

But after the imposition of martial law in 1972 he was labelled a Communist by President Marcos and imprisoned for seven years.

Three years after being sentenced to death for subversion in 1977 he was offered the chance to leave the country for heart surgery in the US.

After his treatment he did not return and became a focal point for dissidents in the US.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Millions of Filipinos rallied at Benigno Aquino's funeral in what was the start of a mass challenge to President Marcos. Three years later the opposition parties united behind Mr Aquino's widow, Corazon, in her challenge for the presidency. In spite of evidence to the contrary, Ferdinand Marcos was declared the winner.

But a popular revolt forced him and his wife, Imelda, to flee the country.

He died in exile in 1993.

Corazon Aquino was president of the Philippines for six years. In September 1990 a special court convicted 16 Filipino military personnel of murdering Mr Aquino and his "assassin" Ronaldo Galman.g.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Better get your chores done now because, in a couple of days, a certain something, or someone will make it their business to completely monopolize all of your attention.

Taurus April 20-May 20 The stars urge you to win your victories one at a time and maintain full awareness of your actions. As the day wears on, the increasing influence of certain astral aspects leads you to the politics of charm.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 The people you hang out with are tired of excuses. They want to see you, and they want to see you now -- even if you do have to get up for work tomorrow. After all, so do they.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 One dominating facet of your personality loves being in the center of attention -- having everyone admire your brilliance. The other side of you yearns for mystery, intrigue, and lots of drama.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 If you're single, it's time to get out there and resume your hunt for the perfect partner. You'll be amazed at how many prospective admirers will want to have a shot at the title, too.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Take a look around your home. If you're not happy with what you see, why not step it up and make some changes? Why not take out a wall, put on an addition or just toss some fresh paint on the walls.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 As much as you'd like to avoid it, a certain amount of frustration may be present in your life. You can actually turn this anxiety to your advantage if you work solo as much as possible right now.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You pride yourself on your ability to say an awful lot in a very short amount of airtime. So when you wake up in the middle of an especially long diatribe, don't panic that it was you

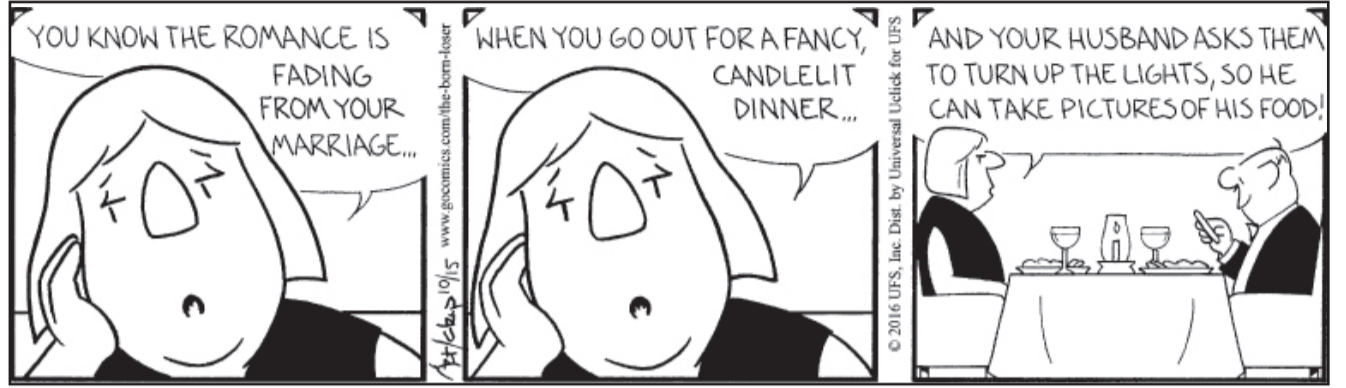
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Now, this is the kind of astrological weather you can definitely live with. For once, everyone around you will be in the mood for spontaneity and impulse -- excited to take a chance and see what happens.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You're still chatting away with just about anyone who comes within a few feet of you. Your friends will be tickled -- one in particular, perhaps, who's moved or been traveling.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 It's been far too long since you've spoken to a certain someone, and you're ready to put an end to this nonsense. The funny thing is, you may think you see them on the street today or maybe in the supermarket.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 A higher-up you've admired and respected for some time is about to let you know that the feelings are mutual -- and what could be better than having the respect of your mentor?

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy Sudoku grid with numbers 4, 3, 9, 2, 6, 2, 3, 3, 8, 7, 1, 4, 5, 5, 9, 4, 1, 4, 1, 5, 1, 9, 2, 7, 3, 6, 8.

Easy+ Sudoku grid with numbers 1, 9, 4, 5, 3, 7, 9, 6, 8, 7, 3, 5, 6, 5, 2, 7, 4, 8, 6, 1, 9, 6, 2, 3, 1, 4, 3, 7.

Medium Sudoku grid with numbers 5, 2, 3, 7, 8, 4, 9, 6, 7, 4, 1, 3, 7, 1, 6, 8, 4, 5, 4, 8, 4, 5, 1, 6, 2, 9, 8, 2, 5, 3.

Hard Sudoku grid with numbers 4, 3, 8, 5, 1, 4, 8, 5, 2, 3, 4, 8, 5, 1, 3, 2, 6, 7, 8, 5.

WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Rows include CHINA (Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, Urumqi, Xi'an, Lhasa, Chengdu, Chongqing, Kunming, Nanjing, Shanghai, Wuhan, Hangzhou, Taipei, Guangzhou, Hong Kong) and WORLD (Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York).

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Auctioneer's cry; 5- ___ Is Born; 10- Wraparound dress; 14- Actor Cobb; 15- "Hill Street Blues" actor Joe; 16- Ripe for drafting; 17- Feminine suffix; 18- A return to one's home; 20- Lace mat; 22- Remote button; 23- Botch; 24- Misplaces; 26- Encountered; 27- Automobile shelters; 30- Obsequies; 34- In the least; 35- Scottish loch, home to a monster; 36- Bambi's aunt; 37- ___ Lisa; 38- Chirp; 40- Epic narrative poem; 41- Author Le Shan; 42- Wings; 43- Remove by melting; 45- Associated; 47- Pest; 48- With "up," exasperated; 49- Church instrument; 50- Some nobles; 53- Bee; Prefix; 54- Uncle; 58- Gasping; 61- Blue dye source; 62- Ray of light; 63- ___-ski; 64- Streetcar; 65- Ad word; 66- Mock, annoy; 67- Electric fish; DOWN: 1- Go downhill; 2- Vintner's prefix; 3- Director Riefenstahl; 4- Loose-fitting hooded gown; 5- Shade of blond; 6- Future ferns; 7- Domesticates; 8- Again; 9- Mythical bird; 10- Zoological segment; 11- Black cuckoos; 12- Tear; 13- Shakespearean villain; 19- Signs; 21- Hanna-Barbera bear; 25- Colonized; 26- Hardy horse; 27- Private Pyle; 28- Battery terminal; 29- Related to the kidneys; 30- Charge; 31- Settle a loan; 32- Make ___ of (write down); 33- Coherent light beam; 35- Maiden name indicator; 39- Bankroll; 40- Stretch; 42- This is only ___; 44- ___ B'rith; 46- Burning; 47- Gets up; 49- Musical drama; 50- Recedes; 51- Region; 52- Actual; 53- Mont Blanc, par exemple; 55- As to; 56- Antidote holder, maybe; 57- Shade trees; 59- Covering for the head; 60- Opposite of NNW;

Friday's solution crossword grid with filled-in letters: ORALB SEAS ESOS, CACAO TETCH VERA, ARTSY LALO ELAN, LEE HALLUCINATE, ARDUOUS KOSHER, SOS AMINO, SPEED ARENA DAL, CEES APING BERG, IAN DRESS DEICE, TERSE NIL, ESSENE SYSTEMS, SUNNYSTIDEUPLAI, BPOE TORI LOVER, ARUT EWAN ALEVE, TATS DAME YESES.

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Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
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Manhattan Car Park Macau Parking For Rent in Manhattan HKD 1,800 / 00 sq ft Ref: 17075528

Lai Hou, Camoes Gardens Macau 400 sq ft / HKD 5,950 sq ft HKD 2.38M One Bedroom Apartment Ref: 17070653
Riveira H Unit, Tower 1 Macau 2 Bedroom Apartment Stunning Views Across River HKD 15,600 / 1,238 sq ft Ref: 17060650

Lok Pou Macau 700 sq ft / HKD 4,257sq ft HKD 2.98M Lovely Top Floor Apartment Ref: 17065523
Nova Taipa, Block 27 Taipa 4 Bedroom Apartment Fully Furnished HKD 23,000 / 2,105 sq ft Ref: 17070652

Chun Hung Garden L Unit Taipa 840 sq ft / HKD 7,500 sq ft HKD 6.3M 3 Bedroom Apartment Ref: 17075526
Cheoc Van Coloane Multi-Storey Property Dazzling Sea Views HKD 79,800 / 6,222 sq ft Ref: 17060651

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RUGBY

South Africa beats Argentina 37-15 in test match

SOUTH Africa took another step toward banishing the bad memories of 2016 with a 37-15 win over Argentina to open its Rugby Championship campaign this weekend.

The Springboks scored four tries to two by the Pumas, and led throughout at Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium to continue a revival that began with a 3-0 series whitewash over France in June.

Those results are a completely different story to last year, which was the worst season in the Springboks' modern history and nearly cost coach Allister Coetzee his job after just one season in charge.

South Africa twice had to respond to tries by Argentina, with the visitors touching down first and against the run of play when scrumhalf Martin Landajo finished off a counterattack in the 32nd.

Wing Courtnall Skosan bounced up from a half-tackle by Argentina's defense to score his first try five minutes later.

There was also a first test score for South Africa's other wing,



Argentina's Matias Orlando attempts to break through the defence of South Africa's, Elton Jantjies (left) and Jan Serfontein, right during their rugby test match in Port Elizabeth, South Africa

Raymond Rhule, in the second half. Forwards Siya Kolisi and Pieter-Steph du Toit made sure of an opening-round victory for the Boks after Emiliano Boffelli's try closed the gap to 23-15.

South Africa also beat Argentina at home last year before being beaten away in Salta in the return game — one of eight defeats in 12

tests in 2016, the most losses ever for South Africa in a season.

Coetzee's 2017 team, with new personnel like Skosan and Rhule, are in a much happier place when they head to Argentina for their second game of the southern hemisphere championship. That will be the Boks' first game away from home this year, though, and

will test the extent of the revival. "We can't wait for next week," said Springboks captain Eben Etzebeth, who is standing in for injured skipper Warren Whiteley.

South Africa began with a 16-phase attack and although Argentina held out well under that early onslaught, it was a sign of

things to come.

Flyhalf Elton Jantjies landed two early penalties on his way to 17 points.

The first blip came when South Africa lost possession on attack and Argentina fullback Joaquin Tuculet countered brilliantly, slicing through a gap and passing to wing Boffelli. Boffelli's clever grubber sat up for Landajo to collect and dive over in the left corner.

Skosan's reply took five minutes as he was tackled but not held and jumped back up to speed away.

South Africa had set-piece dominance, especially at scrum time, against a normally powerful Argentina front eight.

That set the base for the three second-half tries, two of which were finished by slick handling in the backline.

Rhule was sent clear after the ball was moved quickly out wide early in the second half, and flanker Kolisi scored off a similar move. Kolisi's try came after Boffelli sneaked over in the corner for Argentina to close the gap to eight points with 20 minutes to play.

Replacement Du Toit drove over from close range in the last 10, making sure there was no way back for Argentina and making it four wins from four in 2017 for the Springboks.

"We're happy with the start," Coetzee said. **AP**

AD

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Steve Douglas

FOOTBALL

Free-scoring Man United already looks team to beat in EPL

FREE-SCORING, tight at the back, and confidence oozing through the side, Manchester United already might be the team to beat in the English Premier League.

United hasn't challenged for the title since winning its record-extending 20th championship in 2013, Alex Ferguson's last year in charge. But back-to-back 4-0 wins has sent a powerful early season message to its rivals.

Swansea was on the end of United's power and new-found clinical edge over the weekend. Eric Bailly scored in the first half then Romelu Lukaku, Paul Pogba and Anthony Martial all netted in a devastating four-minute passage from the 80th.

"There was happiness in our play," United manager Jose Mourinho said. "There was no need to close the door. Just let the horses run freely, and they were magnificent."

Liverpool squeezed past Crystal Palace 1-0, Arsenal lost at Stoke 1-0, and there were comfortable first wins of the season for Leicester and Watford.

United's performance stood out, though, six days after its 4-0 win over West Ham at Old Trafford.

As United's attackers poured forward in the final 10 minutes, scoring at will and in stylish fashion too, memories flooded back to the entertaining teams that Ferguson molded. United was profligate last season, the lowest scorer by far in the top seven with 54, but that seems to be a thing of the past in Mourinho's second year in charge.

"36 more games like this please," United midfielder Juan Mata tweeted.

It is the first time in 110 years that United has scored at least four goals in each of its opening two games of a season. Tougher tests await Mourinho's side, however.



Manchester United's Paul Pogba celebrates scoring his side's third goal

Here's a look at other results on a day when players in the Premier League wore black armbands as a mark of respect following the attacks in Spain this week.

With transfer-seeking Philippe Coutinho still absent, Sadio Mane was Liverpool's inspiration in the 1-0 victory over Crystal Palace.

Mane capitalized on a defensive mix-up to prod home a 73rd-minute winner at Anfield and score for the second straight league game. Liverpool started the season with a 3-3 draw at Watford.

Coutinho was again missing — officially because of a back injury — a day after Barcelona had a third bid rejected by Liverpool for the Brazil playmaker. He has re-

quested a transfer but Liverpool says he is not for sale.

Liverpool made five changes ahead of the second leg of its Champions League playoff against Hoffenheim on Wednesday, with record signing Mo Salah starting on the bench.

Jese joined Stoke on loan this week to relaunch his career after an underwhelming spell at Paris Saint-Germain, and the Spanish forward began life in England by scoring a winner against Arsenal on his debut.

The former Real Madrid player exchanged passes with Saido Berahino before slotting home a low finish in the 47th minute, sealing a 1-0 victory. Jese was given a

standing ovation when he was substituted in the 71st.

Arsenal dominated possession but lacked a cutting edge, a week after scoring four goals in beating Leicester.

Riyad Mahrez wants to leave Leicester, and his performance in the 2-0 win over Brighton must have impressed potential suitors of the Algeria winger.

Mahrez had a hand in both goals, scored by Shinji Okazaki after 52 seconds and Harry Maguire in the 54th minute, and gave Brighton's defenders a tough time at King Power Stadium.

He put in a transfer request during the offseason but Leicester hasn't received a suitable offer for

English soccer's player of the year in 2016.

Javier Hernandez's first goals back in English soccer proved to be in vain in 10-man West Ham's 3-2 loss at Southampton.

■ It is the first time in 110 years that United has scored at least four goals in each of its opening two games of a season

The Mexico striker showed his predatory instincts by scoring two close-range goals to pull West Ham back from 2-0 down at St Mary's stadium. Charlie Austin had the final say, converting a penalty in the third minute of injury time after Pablo Zabaleta's foul on Maya Yoshida.

West Ham's Marko Arnautovic was sent off for elbowing Jack Stephens with the score at 1-0.

West Bromwich Albion joined Man United on six points by beating Burnley 1-0 thanks to a goal from Hal Robson-Kanu, who was also sent off.

Watford won 2-0 at Bournemouth after goals by new Brazilian signing Richarlison and Etienne Capoue. **AP**

LA LIGA

Atletico salvages 2-2 draw against newcomer Girona

NEWCOMER Girona was minutes away from beating Atletico Madrid in a stunning debut in the Spanish league until Atletico scored twice after the sending off of Antoine Griezmann to salvage a 2-2 draw yesterday [Macau time].

Goals by Angel Correa in the 78th minute and Jose Gimenez in the 85th gave Atletico the draw after Girona forward Christian Stuani scored three minutes apart in the first half.

"It hurts because we were on our way to a memorable result," Girona

coach Pablo Machin said. "We deserved more for the game that we played."

Around the league there was a minute of silence before matches for the victims of the recent attacks in Barcelona and the seaside resort of Cambrils. Fans also displayed banners. "Girona is with you," read one of the signs held by Girona fans, who were seeing their team play in the top-flight for the first time in the city of about 100,000 people just north of Barcelona.

Girona outplayed Atletico in the first half and

seemed set for an historic victory when Griezmann was sent off in the 66th.

The France forward was shown a yellow card after diving inside the area. He was then issued the red after going toward the referee to complain.

"I'm leaving with a good feeling because of the way we played in the end," Atletico coach Diego Simeone said. "In the second half we had a better dynamic on offense and that allowed us to create more scoring chances. I'm going to focus on the good things

we did."

A feeder club to Manchester City, Girona trained in Manchester last month, and the team coached by Pep Guardiola, who is from the same region of Catalonia, played a pre-season friendly against the Spanish club at the 13,000-capacity Montilivi Stadium in Girona.

Atletico hasn't lost its league opener since 2009, but a slow start last season kept it from contending for the title.

Early today [Macau time], defending champion Real Madrid will open at Deportivo La

Coruna, while Barcelona hosts Real Betis.

Sevilla struggled in its home debut and couldn't manage more than drawing with Espanyol 1-1.

Clement Lenglet put the hosts ahead in the first half but Leo Baptista equalized less than 10 minutes later.

Sevilla midfielder Ever Banega was sent off in second-half injury time for complaining to the referee.

Sevilla was in contention for the title last season but couldn't do much in its first league game under coach Eduardo

Berizzo, who replaced Jorge Sampaoli.

Real Sociedad scored twice eight minutes apart at the end of the game to earn a 3-2 come-from-behind win at Celta Vigo.

Juanmi netted in the 80th and William Jose converted an 88th-minute penalty to give Sociedad the victory.

Celta twice took the lead with goals by Uruguay forward Maxi Gomez, but Sociedad rallied. Sociedad's controversial winner came after a foul that Celta Vigo players said happened outside the area. **AP**

opinion

Views on China
Christopher Balding, Bloomberg

CHINA HASN'T YET FIXED ITS
OUTFLOW PROBLEM

By some measures, China has braved the storms buffeting its currency. The yuan is up 4 percent so far this year, and foreign-exchange reserves are up by USD70 billion. State media has even called for relaxing capital and exchange-rate controls. But that would be like a sick person who stops taking his medicine when he feels better: The underlying conditions haven't really changed.

After China's surprise currency devaluation in 2015, it was reasonable to expect significant pressure on its reserves and the yuan for the foreseeable future. As recently as January - with the Federal Reserve tightening monetary policy, and China's reserves hitting their lowest level since 2011 - it seemed safe to assume that a rising dollar would hit China hard.

But a funny thing happened on the way to the yuan's collapse. Even though the Fed has raised interest rates three times since December, the dollar has fallen by 8.4 percent. This has in turn propped up the value of the PBOC's reserves while allowing the yuan - which has a soft peg to the dollar - to rise. The dollar falling faster against global currencies than the yuan gently pushed the yuan up against the dollar.

China's government also stepped in aggressively. Regulators cracked down on all types of capital outflows, threatening penalties on property investors and blocking companies from making foreign acquisitions. The PBOC is widely thought to have intervened in currency markets to keep the yuan priced within a predetermined range. It also introduced a new "counter-cyclical" pricing measure designed to reduce the yuan's volatility against the dollar. The much-touted effort to make the yuan a major global currency has been all but shelved.

The result of all this is higher reserves and a stronger yuan - even though the underlying dynamics haven't changed at all. China's citizens still want to move their money overseas. They're buying up property from Bangkok to London. With a lack of promising domestic investment opportunities and some of the most expensive real estate in the world, that's not surprising.

Corporations still want to get their money out, too. Whether by repatriating profits, going on acquisition sprees, or investing in the government's "Belt and Road" infrastructure plan, they're taking China-based capital and investing it in other markets. Although official foreign investment has fallen by 67 percent thanks to stricter regulation, the ratio of bank payments for imports to customs-recorded imports - which bottomed out last year - has been inching back upward, indicating disguised outflows.

Wanting to liberalize the yuan because it achieved stability after all these measures makes no sense. Before it can consider a liberalization, China needs to address the reasons that companies and people are trying to move capital overseas. Assets such as real estate, where most households keep their wealth, remain very expensive by global standards, and people have an enormous incentive to move real estate capital gains offshore. The government has to do more to maintain price stability for a sustained period, including strengthening its crackdown on property speculation.

Keeping corporate cash at home will probably be harder. Companies will continue looking abroad for opportunities as long as China has widespread surplus capacity, opaque regulation and markets saturated with capital. The government needs to follow through on its promises to deleverage and do more to depoliticize financial markets. Ironically, China's restrictions appear to be harming its ability to balance capital flows: Foreign investors, hesitant to see their money go through a one-way door, have reduced direct investment by 5.5 percent this year.

In the long term, it's true that China will need to relax restrictions on its currency. But first it needs to fix the problems that made them necessary in the first place.

THE SENATOR SAYS TRUMP CAN
REGAIN MORAL AUTHORITY

Sen. Tim Scott says President Donald Trump can regain his moral authority on the issue of race by spending time with people who have lived through the nation's difficult racial past.

The South Carolina Republican said that Trump's moral authority had become comprised after the president made comments that appeared to equate neo-Nazis and white suprema-

cists with those who came out to oppose them in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Scott says what's important at this point is not what Trump says next, but what he does.

Scott says that without a personal connection to the pain that racism has caused, he thinks it will be hard for Trump to regain that moral authority.



The lore and lure of
eclipses: Blood, sex
and some snacking

Seth Borenstein

IT'S not just the skies that get dark when there's a total solar eclipse. So do we.

Modern science explains that the sun disappears because the moon is passing in front of it. But before that, people had to come up with reasons for what was happening in the sky. Some of them weren't exactly bedtime stories.

The lore of early eclipses often told us more about the people spinning the yarns than it did about the sun or the moon, said Anthony Aveni, author of "In the Shadow of the Moon: The Science, Magic, and Mystery of Solar Eclipses."

"It's not myth. It's not science. It's culture," said Aveni, a professor of physics and sociology at Colgate University.

A sampling of eclipse lore and history.

VIOLENCE Perhaps the bloodiest eclipse story comes from India and "it's not for the faint of heart," said former planetarium director Mark Littmann of the University of Tennessee. A demon named Rahu tried to steal the nectar of immortality from the gods, but the sun and the moon recognized him. Rahu started drinking the nectar when Vishnu threw a discus and it "sliced right through Rahu's neck," Littmann said. The nectar was still in Rahu's mouth but the rest of the body disappeared. So the immortal head would chase the sun and moon around the sky and "whenever it catches up with the sun and moon it takes a bite." But because Rahu has no body, when he swallows the sun or moon, they soon reappear.

SEX German myth has the cold and lazy male moon, ignoring the fiery passionate female sun during the day most of the time, except for a few bits of passion during an eclipse. Then they'd squabble again and the sun would resume shining again, Littmann said. In western Africa, it's the occasional and furtive rendezvous but this time



Sept. 16, 1997: Worshippers pay their respects to Rahu (the God of Darkness) during a ceremony at the Srisathong Temple, 50 kilometers west of Bangkok, on the occasion of a lunar eclipse

between the male sun and female moon, with the couple modestly turning out the lights during an eclipse.

MUNCHING Because the sun disappears like a cookie being nibbled, eating myths abound. The Norse had a wolf that took a bite out of the sun. Elsewhere it's been a dog, dragon, bird and snake from the underworld.

RAGE Littmann described what might be the first case of California road rage. The Pomo Indians talked of a bear that was walking when it bumped into the sun. They fought about who was in the way, so the bear, in a fit of rage, bit the sun and kept eating until the moon came and saved the day.

LYING Andean people used to speak of the moon whispering lies in the sun's ear - the crescent in the eclipse. So they would bang drums and make dogs howl to alert the sun that "the moon is a liar and he's lying to the sun" about the people of Earth.

BATTLES An eclipse stopped the battle between the Lydians and the Medes more than 2,500 years ago, according to writings by the first Greek historian Herodotus. "Soldiers on both sides were so terrified they stopped fighting"

and they made peace, with the daughter of the Lydian king marrying the son of the Median king.

UNITING Tenskwatawa, a Shawnee prophet of the early 19th century, was trying to unite tribes in Indiana and Ohio. William Henry Harrison, then governor of the Indiana territory and later president, tried to belittle the efforts. He asked the prophet if he could perform miracles and challenged him to "cause the sun to stand still, the moon to alter its course, the rivers to cease to flow or the dead to rise from the graves." Tenskwatawa knew of the upcoming June 16, 1806 eclipse and proclaimed he would blot out the sun and came out in full regalia. The sun went away temporarily, "which was very embarrassing for Harrison," Littmann said.

CALCULATIONS The Babylonians, the Maya and the Chinese all hundreds and even thousands of years ago noticed a mathematical pattern in when eclipses showed up and started calculating them in advance. They noticed they return to a place after 18 years and 11 days. In Littmann's words, "If you could predict something it's no longer scary." AP

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	30-50 Good	
High Density Residential Area	40-60 Good	
Ambient	40-60 Good	

WORLD BRIEFS



MALAYSIA apologized to Indonesia yesterday for an "unintentional" mistake in printing the Indonesian flag upside down in a souvenir guidebook for the Southeast Asian Games. More on p12



IRAN Lawmakers yesterday approved 16 Cabinet members nominated by recently re-elected President Hassan Rouhani, including the first defense minister unaffiliated with the elite, hard-line Revolutionary Guard in 25 years.

SOUTH AFRICA Granted diplomatic immunity by South Africa, the wife of Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe returned home from Johannesburg yesterday despite calls that she be prosecuted for allegedly assaulting a young model at a luxury hotel there. More on p15

FINLAND has observed a minute of silence for the victims of a stabbing attack in the western city of Turku that left two people dead and eight injured.



VENEZUELA's pro-government constitutional assembly took over the powers of the opposition-led congress Friday, dramatically escalating a standoff between President Nicolas Maduro and his political foes. More on p15

GUATEMALA-EL SALVADOR El Salvador and Guatemala have joined a trend in clamping down on child marriage by passing legislation that would outlaw marriage with minors, even in cases of parental consent or pregnancy.