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## TOURISM MASTER PLAN

# Macau could reach 40m tourists by 2025

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## WORLD BRIEFS

AP PHOTO



**SPAIN** Politics and soccer will merge on Sunday when Barcelona becomes more than just a football club for Catalonia's separatists. Barcelona's home match falls on the day when the region's secessionist leaders have vowed to defy authorities and hold a disputed referendum on independence from Spain. The Spanish government calls the vote illegal and has ordered a crackdown, sparking protests in the streets and universities. **More on p18**

### MALAYSIA-N. KOREA

Malaysia yesterday banned its citizens from traveling to North Korea, prompting the region's football governing body to postpone for the third time an Asian Cup qualifier match scheduled for Oct. 5 in Pyongyang.

### CAMBODIA

A court yesterday sentenced a British man suspected of involvement in the gangland-style slaying of another Briton in Thailand to eight months in prison for fraud.

More on backpage

# China orders most North Korean-owned businesses closed

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# Extra

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INSIDE



## GGCT issues Level 1 Travel Alert for Bali

Given the recent possibility of volcano eruption at Bali's Mount Agung in Indonesia, the Tourism Crisis Management Office (GGCT) has issued a Level 1 Travel Alert for visitors to that destination. The GGCT alerted Macau residents who intend to travel to Bali, and those already there, to closely follow the development of the situation as it might affect their personal safety. The GGCT will keep monitoring the situation. According to information gathered by the GGCT from members of the Macau travel industry, there are currently no tour groups organized by Macau travel agencies to Bali. At present, GGCT has received one request for information but no calls for assistance.

## DSEC to commence Household Budget Survey

The Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) will launch the 2017/2018 Household Budget Survey on October 1, with the data collection period lasting one year until September 30, 2018. The Household Budget Survey (HBS) is conducted once every five years in line with international standards. The aim of the survey is to collect up-to-date information on the income and expenditure levels and patterns of households in Macau. The data is also used to update the basket of good and services that measures the rate of inflation in the territory, commonly referred to as the Consumer Price Index. According to DSEC, a total of 7,410 residential units in Macau will be selected for the sample. Some 285 units will be visited in each of the year's 26 bi-weekly cycles. Households of the selected units will receive a notification letter from DSEC three to five days prior to the start of the survey, with the date of the enumerator's visit stated in the letter.

## Le French May 2018 themed 'Tributes'

Le French May has announced that its 26th edition will be themed "Tributes," and will present another series of specially chosen programmes in Hong Kong, as announced this week during a preview cocktail reception at the Hong Kong Maritime Museum. The guests watched a preview trailer for Le French May 2018, which gave a glimpse into programmes next year that pay homage to several masters in music, visual arts and other creative fields. The Le French May Arts Festival celebrated its 25th anniversary this year. According to organizers, a record-breaking 355,000 visitors attended the highlight exhibition "Inventing Le Louvre - From Palace to Museum over 800 Years", making it one of the most visited festivals in the world in 2017.

# Music Festival opens with opera today

**T**HE 31st Macau International Music Festival (MIMF), organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau, kicks off with "Andrea Chénier", Umberto Giordano's opera in four acts. The opening ceremony will be held on Friday at 7.40 p.m. at the lobby of the Macau Cultural Centre.

The Festival's opening performance, 'Andrea Chénier', narrates the reality of different social classes during the French Revolution through a passionate love story between the protagonist Andrea Chénier, and a noblewoman, Maddalena.

A series of outreach activities



will be organized from September 28 to October 1 to familiarize the public with the opera's heritage. In the talk, "Andrea Chénier - Poet Guillotined for

Love", renowned theatre critic Chow Fan Fu will explore the opera's plot and analyze its characteristics. A backstage tour will allow participants

to appreciate the production's sets and wardrobe, hair accessories and other props, as well as providing participants with the opportunity to enjoy the excellent production work behind the scenes.

In mid-October, the festival also presents local chamber opera "A Fragrant Dream." This opera premiered at the festival last year, therefore returning to the stage this year. Besides inviting local playwright Lawrence Lei, composer Liu Chenchen and poet Un Sio San, the organiser also invited the Macao Orchestra, the Shanghai Opera House Chorus and tenor Han Peng and soprano Xu Lei from the Shanghai Opera House, to participate in this production.

Tickets for the 31st MIMF are on sale at the Macau Ticketing Network. However, only a limited number of tickets are still available, the Cultural Affairs Bureau informed.

## Health Bureau cracks down on illegal clinic

**W**ITH the support of the Public Security Police Force (PSP), the Health Bureau (SSM) initiated a systematic investigation on Tuesday into medical clinics operating without a permit, or performing medical practices for which they are not legally certificated, the SSM informed in a statement.

On Tuesday, the bureau inspected medical clinics operating in a commercial building in central Macau and detected several instances of malpractice as a result. The investigation was triggered following a complaint that medical clinics in this building were supplying a large quantity of illegal medicine as well as equipment for liposuction services. The complaint also disclosed that several staff at the clinic did not possess the required certification to provide the services offered.

During the investigation, inspectors found that the "J Medical Center" clinic located at Edifício Comercial Rodrigues on Avenida da Praia Grande was guilty of multiple infractions, including being an un-



licensed premise in one instance, and in another, operating a medical clinic before the outcome of a licensing application had been granted.

Inspectors also found evidence in support of the complaint that the venue was operating illegally, including the presence of used syringes, empty medication bottles, and several medicines obtained through illegal importation. In addition, inspectors found tools and clinical utilities for liposuction surgery as well as medical files related to such procedures. These materials were immediately sealed by the Health Bureau inspectors for further investigation.

The SSM also placed a warning at the door of the unlicensed venue war-

ning of the ban to provide any medical services. According to the SSM, the clinic's activities are likely to breach Law 7/2003 (Foreign Trade Law) and Decree-Law number 84/90/M regarding medical procedures of health professionals. Additionally, operating a medical clinic without a license and providing medicine to the public without authority is likely to breach Decree-Law number 58/90/M.

According to the Bureau, the "J Medical Center," formerly known as "Dr. J Clinic," had previously breached advertising standards between 2013 and 2016 by promoting slimness and beauty in relation to medical liposuction surgery. It received a fine for this infraction. **RM**



### EDUCATION

## UM signs agreement with University of Porto

**T**HE University of Macau's (UM) Faculty of Arts and Humanities signed a cooperation agreement with University of Porto's (UP) Faculty of Arts regarding the exchange of undergraduate students. The agreement was signed in Portugal by Rui Martins, vice rector (research) of UM and two representatives of UM's rector. The ceremony was witnessed by Alexis Tam, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture. According to the agreement, the two universities will enter a formal stage of promoting student exchange.

Eligible students are those recommended by their respective universities, including third- and fourth-year undergraduate students from the eligible faculties in these universities.

So far, UM has signed collaboration agreements on student exchange with six Portuguese-speaking universities, including the University of Évora, the University of Minho, the University of Coimbra, and the University of Porto (all of which are in Portugal), the Federal University of Minas Gerais (in Brazil), and the Universidade Politécnica (in Mozambique).

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HERITAGE

# IC carries out reinforcement works in Lai Chi Vun Shipyards

**T**HE Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) is carrying out reinforcement and cleaning works in the Lai Chi Vun shipyard area, assisting in the removal of collapsed parts and objects that fell in Typhoon Hato, the IC informed in a statement.

Regarding safety and consolidation works that had been completed prior to the typhoon, the IC noted that only one shipyard was affected, but was almost totally destroyed. All remaining structures were unaffected.

A number of safety inspections were performed right after Typhoon Hato, with the IC working closely with contractors and technicians to provide help and ensure that the works were carried out effectively.

At present, the clean-up of the fallen structures has been



progressing, as have the reinforcement works, which include scaffolding and new metal roofing, among other measures.

According to the IC, all works presently being undertaken at the site are scheduled for completion in about 20 days.

The IC also stated that after these procedures, it will evaluate the preservation

value of the shipyards regarding the possible creation of a museum featuring the objects and techniques of the shipbuilding industry. The IC said they have also been in close contact with residents in the area throughout all reinforcement works, so as to ensure their safety and that of those passing through the area.

ART

# Over 30,000 visited Macau Pavilion at Venice Biennale

**T**HE exhibition "A Bonsai of My Dreams - Works by Wong Cheng Pou" is being "well received" at the Venice Biennale, according to a statement by the Cultural Affairs Bureau.

Over 30,000 visitors have been recorded at the Macau Pavilion, which is located opposite to the main arena of the Venice Biennale.

It is the sixth time that the Macau Art Museum (MAM) will present works by local contemporary artists at one of the world's prestigious contemporary art events.

Open daily until November 12, the exhibition title of the Macau Pavilion, "A Bonsai of My Dreams", is inspired by the widespread bonsai culture in the lives of Chinese ancient literati. It features 17 sculptures and paintings inspired by the deities described in the ancient Chinese classic "Shan Hai Jing" ("The Classic of Mountains and Seas") as prototypes, with a rich source of information on religion, history, geography and the species, reflecting the world view that



prevailed in China two millennia ago.

The chief curator of La Biennale di Venezia 2017, Christine Macel, dedicated the exhibition to the theme "Viva Arte Viva", in order to explore the responsibilities and roles of art in this complicated world. The exhibition has attracted various international renowned artists, art collectors, enthusiasts, academics and students.

Meanwhile, a related exhibition, "A Bonsai of My Dreams - On the Path to the International Art Exhibition - La Biennale Di Venezia," is being held in Macau on the third floor of MAM.

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## News At Hand



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Renato Marques

## TOURISM MASTER PLAN

## Macau could reach 40 million tourists by 2025

AFTER two years of studies and public consultations, the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) presented yesterday the Tourism Industry Development Master Plan, which aims to set the blueprint for local tourism sector development in the upcoming 15 years.

The extensive document was presented at the Macau Tower to an audience composed mostly of media and tourism industry professionals, highlighting eight key goals from the in-depth analysis of the current situation and prospects for the upcoming years.

MGTO director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes said that the eight key objectives and strategies are “Diversify Tourism Products and Experiences; Improve Service Quality and Skills; Rebrand Macau as Multi-day Destination and Expand High-value Markets; Optimize Urban Development Model; Manage Macau Tourism Carrying Capacity; Utilize Innovative Technology; Enhance Tourism Industry Cooperation and Enhance Macau’s Position as a Core Tourism City in the Regional and International Tourism Community.”

Senna Fernandes noted that those would be the “guidelines” that Macau needs to work on to achieve its overall goal.

Presenting a less abstract explanation of the works to be developed, the deputy director of MGTO, Cheng Wai Tong, noted that after doing a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis, the Macau airport and the quality of local tourism products were elected as “two [of] our main weaknesses where there is room for improvement.”

Cheng also noted the importance of regional cooperation, saying that Macau needs to connect with neighboring regions in many aspects, especially due to the region’s lack of land resources which makes Macau “unsuitable for entertaining developments of large scale, such as theme parks,” Cheng noted.



Helena de Senna Fernandes (center) and Cheng Wai Tong (right)

The plan proposes that areas A, B and C of the new landfills be used to “develop iconic tourism facilities” included in the government plan to improve on facilities and adopt a more “family-friendly” approach to tourism in Macau.

Another plan mentioned was to utilize the waterfront areas of Macau to develop “marine tourism products” for potential hotel industry expansion and diversification.

According to the figures, Macau is estimated to reach between 38 and 40 million visitors by 2025, a figure that represents growth of 3 to 5 percent per annum.

Using this growth rate, considered the “modest visitor growth

scenario,” the number of hotel rooms could reach almost 52,000 by the same time, an estimated growth of 22 percent compared to 2016.

Chen addressed the controversial issue of tourism capacity, citing results of surveys conducted by the MGTO.

“Society told us that we need to balance,” he said. Problems such as transportation, congestion and high agglomeration of people and traffic on touristic sites and lack of quality options are the main problems highlighted in surveys taken by tourists and local residents.

The Master Plan was also said to be closely related to the government’s Five-Year Develop-

ment Plan of the MSAR, especially in terms of the transformation of Macau into a “Smart City” with the inclusion of “Innovative Technology” such as e-booking and e-payment services, as well as digital platforms

for promotion and advertising to be put in place.

Another topic frequently mentioned during the press conference was the capacity of the local workforce in the tourism field, with deputy director Cheng noting: “In the past, the jobs related to the tourism industry were seen as low in the chain, but we need to change this and engage more local people [in] these careers, as well as provide opportunities for the ones [already in the business] to improve their knowledge and skills.” He noted the clear lack of skilled workers in the sector.

In her talk, Helena de Senna Fernandes remarked that “besides being a place for leisure and gaming,” Macau should also be a “place for the residents to have quality life, good restaurants, good sports events as well as world heritage sites,” and that “all this should be included in the goal of World Center for Tourism and Leisure.”

The director of MGTO announced that a cross-departmental Master Plan Steering Group will be established following the release of the Master Plan. The group – headed by the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam – will promote interdepartmental collaboration and oversee the implementation progress of the action plans, as well as conduct annual reviews on the progress of the plan.

There will also be mid-term reviews, although it was not made clear in the document at which point in time such reviews would commence.

## KEY OBJECTIVES PRESENTED FIVE YEARS AGO

**THE EIGHT** key objectives and strategies included in the Master Plan presented yesterday are similar to the ones drafted in the document back in 2012 – “PATA/Macao Task Force Report on Macau Tourism Positioning: Towards a World Centre of Tourism and Leisure.” At that time, ten strate-

gies were recommended to achieve the goal set by the World Center of Tourism and Leisure. These included the eight key objectives listed yesterday as well as two others: “Develop a Comprehensive Macau Tourism Master Plan and Create an Umbrella Destination Management Organization.”

## MGS Entertainment Show announces creativity contest winners

**ORGANIZERS** of the MGS Entertainment Show 2017 have announced the results of the creativity and design competitions held this year as part of the event’s contribution to local cultural and creative industries.

According to a statement released yesterday by MGS organizer, the Macau Gaming Equipment Manufacturers Association (MGEMA), “in keeping

with its theme of innovation and interaction, the exhibition this year has organized a series of related events in the hope of infusing Macau’s entertainment industry with the creative and innovative ideas of the younger generation.”

The creativity and design competitions covered the areas of color schemes, seating design, slot machine design, slot machine

background music composition, essays on responsible gaming (high school and university levels) and animation design.

Works submitted for the various competitions were carefully judged by professionals from the creative and innovative industries in an open and impartial nature based on standards including, but not limited to, the ideas presented and the creativity involved, the

development of a central theme and its expression, the relevance, the skills applied and the resultant product.

All competitions except the color scheme, seating design, high-school-level essay and animation design were open to Macau citizens over the age of 21. Individual participants and collaborating groups of five or fewer were welcome.

The competitions have officially ended and all award winners have been notified. Winners of the first prizes in their respective categories have been awarded between MOP2,000 and 20,000 and a certificate. All other winners and qualifiers have also received awards.

Enjoying the support of more than 150 of the largest entertainment companies in Asia, the MGS

Entertainment Show 2017 will hold its annual exhibition and summit this year at The Venetian Macao between November 14 and 16. This year’s event will focus on the idea of smart city development, showcasing different interpretations of the concept through recent technological innovations.

The MGS Entertainment Show 2017 was recently awarded the coveted status of a UFI Approved International Event by the Global Association of the Exhibition.

Macau Daily Times is a media partner of the event



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THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA





# Wynn Macau launches mobile app expanding networks of local SMEs

Lynzy Valles

WYNN Macau launched its newest platform "Wynn Local SME Network" this week, which facilitates the use of online business matching services and the use of procurement mobile application 'ChoicePro.'

The mobile application allows micro-enterprises, 'Made in Macao' and young entrepreneurs to register as a vendor of Wynn, and be aware of the products and services the gaming operator is currently seeking.

Through this system, local SMEs can receive news on business matching sessions organized by different companies, along with details and invitations for business meetings and exhibitions.

Speaking on the sidelines of the event, Linda Chen, president and executive director of Wynn Resorts Macau, said that the network aims to effectively link different sectors to construct a network for local micro-enterprises and SMEs.

The executive added that it is the first time that Wynn Macau has



operated an accessible technology platform to accommodate its vendors.

Wynn Macau leveraged the online business matching service platform of the Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) to conduct registrations for the business matching session – with over 80 percent of attendees having used the platform before.

"In the future, everybody can get a lot more information in a timely manner and also expand their platform on what products [vendors are] looking for, and [see products] available by other vendors," Chen told the press.

Chen added that local enterprises can also take advantage of the platform to communicate with other companies to further expand their business.

"We don't want to just purchase from the locals but we want them to expand their business so we provided a platform [with] opportunities not just within Wynn but within Macau so they can further expand their opportunities and products," the executive said.

The president concluded that Wynn aims to continually collaborate with local artists to turn their products to commercial

merchandise.

Wynn Macau is also looking at expanding the app to other gaming operators and large enterprises in future, making it accessible for local SMEs, to create an even wider network.

Through 'ChoicePro,' companies can centralize the exchange of procurement information, complementing local suppliers' databases.

Alan Hong, the creative director of a local SME Village Macau, noted that its partnership with Wynn has contributed growth to the business.

The gaming operator partnered with the local SME to offer discounts for its 10,000-plus employees, encouraging them to experience a 'getaway' in Village Macau.

The initiative also aims to foster the popularity of local artists and micro-enterprises, working closely with Village Macau to design programs that involve charitable causes.

The gaming operator has again partnered with the Macao Chamber of Commerce to organize the 'Wynn Local SME Procurement Partnership Program 2017 – Business Matching Session for Micro Enterprises, 'Made in Macao' and Young Entrepreneurs' events.

At the business matching session, Wynn arranged for supervisors from its procurement department to meet with all local SME representatives.

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# Philosophy Café reboots with timely Confucius talk

Daniel Beitler

A partnership between the Rui Cunha Foundation and the UM rebooted a philosophy discussion group on Tuesday, after three and a half years of silence. The theme of the discussion was the values of Confucianism, deeply rooted in the East Asian cultures of China, Korea and Japan, and to varying degrees in the countries of Southeast Asia.

Sunday is National Day, celebrating the Chinese Communist Party's proclamation of the People's Republic of China nearly seven decades ago. October 1, 1949, the day of the founding of 'New China', would mark the beginning of a deliberate process to sweep away the traditions and institutions that had propped up the old dynastic regime.

But 68 years on, it is evident that no degree of Marxist doctrine could displace the quasi-religious supremacy of Confucianism, notwithstanding the onset of the Chinese Revolution and the later Cultural Revolution.



tion. It curiously lives on, unaltered, in both the private lives of Chinese citizens, as well as through the methods and values of public and private sector institutions.

"Modern China is essentially founded on anti-Confucianism," said University of Macau professor of philosophy, Hans-Georg Moeller, during an event at the Rui Cunha Foundation on Tuesday evening. "People like

Lu Xun and Mao Zedong were fiercely anti-Confucian, influenced by the values of the Enlightenment."

However, the teachings of Confucius remain seemingly unassailable in East Asia; so dominant that they have come to be synonymous with the political ideology of "Asian values", which stresses the principle of collectivism, a preference for social harmony and respect for

filial and leadership authority.

Modern advocates of the Asian values ideology include Chinese President Xi Jinping and the former leaders of Singapore and Malaysia, Lee Kuan Yew and Mahathir Mohamad respectively. The latter two were part of a team spearheading the affirmation of the ideology in the 1993 Bangkok Declaration.

The discussion group, which styles itself the "Philosophy Café", stresses a "conversation, not presentation" structure. Nicolas La Jeune, a co-organizer of the event, PhD candidate at the UM and moderator to the discussion, told the Times that the idea was to generate a conversation among participants and not just present a talk.

The discussion was initially slow, and La Jeune later admitted that this might have been down to the philosopher and ideology under discussion. At least half of the participants were Western, and the teachings of Confucius are not widely known, let alone understood, outside of Asia.

But as the pace of the discus-

sion began to pick up, one of the attendees advanced what he saw as the similarities between the ideals of Confucianism and those of the Communist Party of China, namely a preference for social harmony and deference to authority.

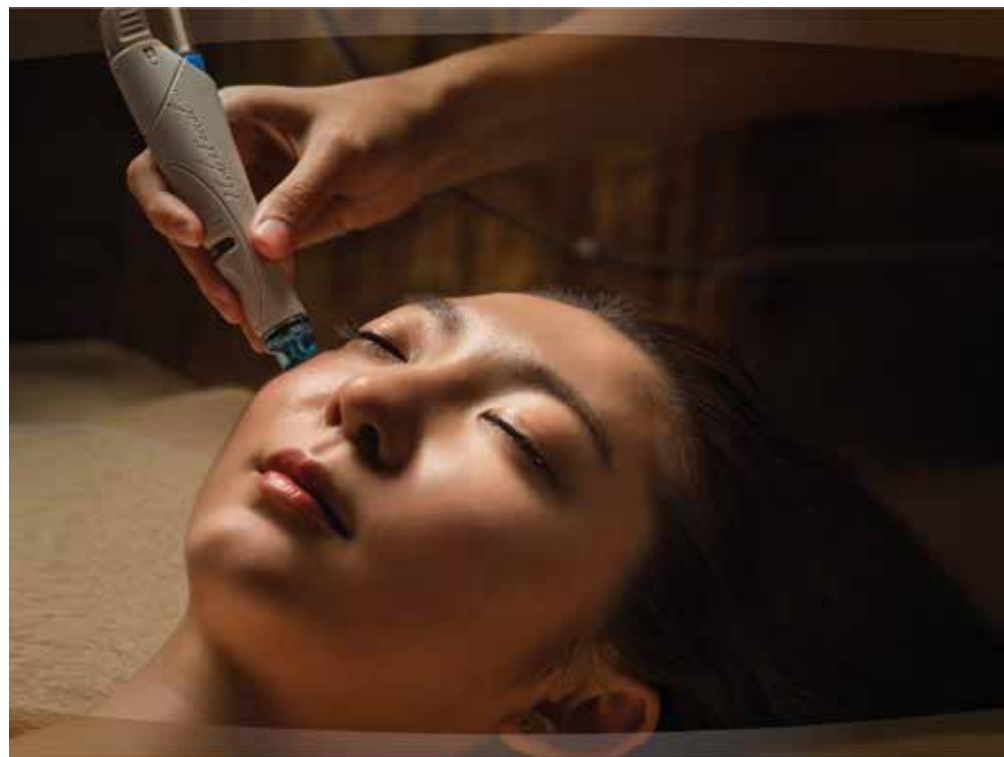
Others pointed out that, although East Asians may not readily admit a personal affinity with Confucianism, they may nevertheless abide by its principles. They argued that the ideology may be so deeply ingrained that it lives on in modern China despite the concerted effort to amputate it.

Although not its intention, the discussion continued to probe the extent to which Confucianism is still present in Chinese government and society, and not all were pleased about this.

Cândido Azevedo, a coordinator at the Rui Cunha Foundation and co-organizer of the event, said that, "it is very important to allow the foundation to be a platform where we can share and exchange ideas. But we avoid speaking about hard political talk here."

Azevedo said that future sessions of the Philosophy Café will be held once every two or so months, providing that there is still a demand for them. He said they will be conducted in English because of the involvement of the University of Macau.

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REAL ESTATE MATTERS

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6. WHY PROPERTY PRICES ARE IN HKD

It is a common misconception that the reason property prices are HKD is to take advantage of the 3% difference in the currency exchange rate. The real reason that prices are in HKD instead of the Macau Pataca (MOP) is that the MOP is not freely exchangeable, and is only valid in Macau.

As property transactions often involve overseas investment, it was vital to operate in an exchangeable currency so that money could be both remitted and sent overseas to facilitate transactions.

7. WHO CAN DECIDE ON THE RENTAL AMOUNT

The amount of rent paid on a property is a matter between the landlord and the tenant only; there are no restrictions from the government.

Whilst there have been discussions on rent control, the government has resisted the temptation to get involved in setting increment limits or limiting rents because it makes sense to avoid interfering in the market.

Furthermore, imposing artificial rent control measures could cause the opposite effect on the market and actually lead to an increase in rents if owners remove their property from the stock of available properties.

Of course it is a good idea to do a price comparison with rents before entering into a contractual agreement.

ting into a contractual agreement.

8. YOU CAN REPAY YOUR PROPERTY LOAN EARLY

If you have a mortgage loan with the bank, you can repay the loan early in its entirety or just partially.

This is an advantage if you want to reduce your monthly repayments to the bank and have an excess of cash through savings or a special bonus.

Be aware that the bank usually charge an early repayment penalty if you repay the whole amount within the first three years of the loan, and you can usually negotiate this fee with the bank.

9. PAYING RENTS LATE CAN BE VERY COSTLY

Rental payments that are overdue can quickly become a major issue in accordance with Macau Law

If a rental payment is nine days or more overdue, the landlord has the right to charge the tenant a further 50% of the monthly rental amount.

If a payment remains due after 30 days, the amount increases to 100% of the monthly rental.

In other words, if your rent is \$10,000 and you are nine days late, the landlord may charge \$15,000 instead. After 30 days that would be \$20,000 and this amount is capped.

This is especially important for tenants who are under the impression that they can use the last two months

security deposit for rent.

The security deposit may not be used as rent, and thus as soon as the first payment is missed and more than 30 days overdue, the security deposit is effectively wiped out.

10. THE MINIMUM RENTAL CONTRACT TERM

There has been a lot of social network discussions on the minimum contractual term, and a lot of confusion on the subject.

According to the Macau Government Website on Tenancy, there is a maximum period of 30 years that a rental agreement can run, but there is no minimum period.

If there is no time frame stipulated on an agreement, the government deems the agreement to be valid for one year.

However, under Section 1038 of Macau Civil Code, the Landlord does not have right to terminate a tenancy agreement for residential purposes within two years from the starting date of the lease term unless it agreed by both parties.

Simply put, it means that if you have an agreement that is two years or longer, the landlord cannot terminate the agreement prior to the end of the initial two-year period.

From February 2018 the two year term will change to three years in a revision of the law designed to further stabilize the rental market.

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# Smartphone effect casts a shadow over Asia's bumper export year

Enda Curran

**T**HE rush to upgrade smartphones may be ebbing, prompting economists to dial back the outlook for Asian exporters.

Early indications, including signs of disappointing orders, point to a mixed reaction to the latest iPhones, hurting the share prices of Apple Inc.'s Asia-based suppliers. Given that smartphone improvements help power demand for electronics components from supply-chain powerhouses such as South Korea, Japan and Taiwan, a weaker upgrade cycle would have macro-economic implications too.

The weakening "smartphone effect" is not the only reason economists are sensing a peak in this year's better-than-expected trade performance in Asia. Other threats include forecasts that China's economy is slowing again and the shift by some developed-world central banks away from years of extraordinarily easy money.

"It feels like we are toward the tail end of the upswing at a time, ominously, that the other key driver of Asian exports - China - is showing signs of resuming its economic slowdown," said Rob Subbaraman, chief economist for Asia ex-Japan at Nomura Holdings Inc. in Singapore.

The smartphone cycle and firmer Chinese growth were among reasons Asia defied predictions of trade wars, deflation and tepid demand to instead see increased exports of everything from cosmetics to semi-



conductors. In the year-to-date through August, the region's exports have been the strongest in dollar terms since 2011, according to economists at Morgan Stanley.

There is no precise measure of the impact of smartphone production on Asian trade, but economists say it's sizable. Take South Korea: Exports of semiconductors jumped 57 percent in August to a record USD8.8 billion, owing to the release of new phones and increases in DRAM capacities. That was about 18.6 percent of the country's total exports for the month.

There are other signs that Asia's trade recovery is starting to cool. China's year-to-date exports are up 7.6 percent, but

growth slowed to 5.6 percent in August and imports are showing signs of consolidating. And some analysts say South Korea's impressive export growth rates could soften in coming months as a weak performance in 2016 is no longer the base for comparison.

Slipping activity at major Asian ports, including hubs such as Busan and Shenzhen, are among indications that a recovery in the global container trade may have peaked, according to economists at Bloomberg Intelligence.

A new Asian trade tracker from Goldman Sachs also registered slower export momentum in August, and a broad deceleration across sectors, with the

exception of semiconductors. Imports are also weakening. A recent moderation in commodity prices has played a part, Goldman said in the report.

To be sure, few are predicting trade will slump, particularly in the near term. Klaus Baader, chief Asia-Pacific economist at Société Générale SA, says Asia's trade recovery goes beyond smartphones and China. New drivers will include an expected acceleration in business investment, especially in electronics and software, which would have knock-on consequences for Asian manufacturers, Baader said. "There is a lot more to the Asian electronics trade than just the iPhone," he said.

Exports from Japan will re-

main strong through the next six months or so, but economic momentum may slow as global interest rates start to rise, said Hiroaki Muto, chief economist at Tokai Tokyo Research Center. "The second half of next year may be a bit dangerous," Muto said.

**■ The smartphone cycle and firmer Chinese growth were among reasons Asia defied predictions of trade wars, deflation and tepid demand**

Some of the gloss on Asia's export performance is bound to come off as volumes in 2018 are compared to the stellar performance in 2017, the World Trade Organization warned last week. It upgraded its estimate for growth in global merchandise trade volume this year to 3.6 percent from 2.4 percent, due in large part to Asia's robust performance.

Expectations for tighter monetary policy in the U.S. and Europe along with China's push to rein in credit growth will weigh on trade growth in 2018, the WTO said. Geopolitical risks such as tensions with North Korea and trade disputes between the U.S. and its large trading partners could also derail the Asia trade story.

That all points to reason for caution, said Nomura's Subbaraman. "Enjoy the party but stay close to the door" is my mantra," he said. **Bloomberg**

## Hong Kong's airport needs USD8.8b debt for third runway

Denise Wee, Annie Lee

**C**ONSTRUCTION workers have already started the work toward filling in part of the South China Sea to make room for Hong Kong airport's third runway. The project is also set to make bankers busy.

The Airport Authority Hong Kong needs to raise HKD69 billion (\$8.8 billion) to fund the runway, and should consider selling bonds and tapping the loan market, according to a report by its financial consultant

HSBC Holdings Plc.

Asia's busiest international airfield needs capacity to counter growing competition from North Asia. The construction of the third runway, estimated to take eight years, will require massive capital expenditure for the government-backed Airport Authority. In addition to the borrowings, the authority will need another HKD47 billion, funded by its operating surplus, and HKD26 billion, to be financed through airport construction fee, the study said.

As Airport Authority is government-owned, there should not be a problem with its credit profile and it may offer a premium for the retail bonds to attract investor interest, according to Pheona Tsang, Hong Kong-based head of fixed income at BEA Union Investment Management Ltd.

The report recommended these key sources of debt financing: U.S. dollar bonds and Hong Kong dollar loans. The authority should also consider offering Hong Kong dollar bonds to individual inves-

tors to raise as much as HKD5 billion. That would be its first retail offering since 2003, according to the study. The depth of the Hong Kong dollar retail note market is "more limited" and tenors achievable are shorter, HSBC said. The benefit of using such securities "would however need to be considered alongside the higher interest costs associated with a retail bond which is more expensive than borrowing from the bank or institutional bond market," it said. The authority should also con-



sider the sale of green bonds, or environmentally friendly securities.

HSBC also recommended a higher proportion of fixed-rate borrowings.

That's "in view of the substantial amount of

debt to be raised for the project, the long tenor involved for some of the borrowings" and the lack of an obvious link between the Airport Authority's revenues to interest rates, it said. **Bloomberg**





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# As tycoons retire, a jetsetter daughter tackles pig feed

**L**IU Chang, the daughter of a billionaire industrialist, went to boarding school in the U.S., traveled the world, and married a hip Chinese film director. Next move in her charmed life: Running one of China's largest pig feed and dairy companies.

"With my background, I am almost an outsider to the family business. Once I step in, I can bring new perspectives, new thoughts, fresh ideas," says the 37-year-old, now being groomed to take over New Hope Group, the USD15 billion agribusiness company founded by her father, 66-year-old Liu Yonghao.

Family firms, which make up about 90 percent of China's 21.6 million private businesses, are on the cusp of a sweeping succession wave that may be the biggest the world's seen yet. Some three million founders will hand over the reins in five to ten years, Wu Xiaobo, author of a book on the history of China's private companies, wrote in a commentary published last year.

China hasn't experienced such a wealth transfer of this scale before. Private firms didn't emerge until after the country abandoned its socialist path for market reform in 1978. "Deng Xiaoping only allowed private businesses starting in the 1980s, so these family businesses are all relatively young," says Roger King, director of Tanoto Center for Asian Family Business and Entrepreneurship Studies at The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. "Now their founders are reaching retirement age."

Already some big name Chinese entrepreneurs have done the handover. Zong Qinghou, the 71-year-old, chain-smoking founder of beverage maker Wahaha, has named his daughter 35-year-old Zong Fuli as president. Yang Guoqiang, 62 and founder of Foshan-based real estate and private education giant Country Garden, in 2005 trans-



Liu Yonghao and daughter Liu Chang

ferred management and ownership to his daughter Yang Huiyan. She now has a net worth of \$19.2 billion and is now the sixth richest person in China, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

The succession shift won't always be seamless. Many Chinese family businesses are in traditional industries like export manufacturing and face challenges such as rising labor costs. Younger executives are gravitating toward fast-growth sectors like e-commerce. Only 40 percent of the next generation heirs (usually just one given China's one-child policy) are willing to take over the firms, and often do so only because of pressure from their parents, says Science and Technology University's King, citing the 2015 Chinese Family Business Succession Report.

Then there is the generation gap. Many of the second generation have been educated overseas. By contrast, their fathers often never

finished high school and adult life has been focused on building their companies. That can add up to huge differences in management style between the scrappy founders and their offspring, says Rebecca Wang, an expert on family businesses and a partner at PwC China in Shanghai.

Thirty-nine-year-old Sun Meng, who in 2013 took over from his 63-year-old father Sun Dawu as president at Hebei Dawu Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Group, said that the elder partners who joined the firm early on have criticized him for focusing too much on his family.

Sun takes his daughter to school every day which they frown on, he says. "My uncles thought I was like a playboy. I had many conflicts with them," says Sun, using the respectful term for the senior partners. "But I believed you should have a balance between life and work, so even until

**Family firms, which make up 90pct of 21.6m private businesses, are on the cusp of a sweeping succession wave**

today we quarrel about that."

Some company founders are likely to look outside the family for successors. Wang Jianlin, the former PLA soldier who founded real estate and entertainment giant Wanda, last year publicly said his 29-year-old son Wang Sicong will not take over the company.

The younger Wang who studied in London has become a contro-

versial social media sensation, notorious for showing off his wealth by posting pictures of his pet Siberian Husky "Coco" with the gold Apple watches and iPhone 7's he gave her. (There is even a word for spoiled second-generation kids: fuerdai). "I've asked my son and he said he didn't want to live a life like mine," said the elder Wang in a speech in Beijing last December. "Perhaps it's better to hand it to the professional managers."

The track record for transferring power within Asian family firms isn't encouraging, warns Joseph Fan, a professor at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. Over the five years before and three years after a company transfers management from the founder to the next generation, about 60 percent of a family firm's stock value dissipates on average, Fan's research on Chinese businesses in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Singapore shows.

That's likely to be also true with family firms based in China, he says, though he adds not enough firms have completed succession yet to carry out a rigorous study. "To flourish in China, business must depend heavily on intangible assets such as relationships," including with government officials and business partners, says Fan. "But those values are very hard to transfer to a son or daughter. So that is why succession usually means loss of value."

With many family firms now exiting low-end, low-margin manufacturing and instead developing brands and service businesses, relying on old relationships may be less important. Instead, having management savvy about changing consumer tastes and e-commerce will be key. That's what the father-daughter Liu's are counting on as New Hope Group expands into areas including health care and new finance.

"Service and experience are what our generation cares most about," says the younger Liu, adding that she convinced her father to introduce consumer centers to monitor customer needs. "Liu Chang is young and fashionable. She can bring innovative, Internet-related ideas," says the elder Liu. **Bloomberg**

## Pair of giant pandas from China welcomed in Indonesia

**G**IANT pandas Cai Tao and Hu Chun arrived yesterday to fanfare in Indonesia where a new "palace" like home that cost millions of dollars has been built for them.

The male and female pair landed at Jakarta's international airport from Chengdu and will be quarantined at Taman Safari zoo outside the capital for about a month before the public can visit.

The zoo hopes the 7-year-olds will mate and add to the giant panda population.

It's built a special enclosure and facilities that cost about 60 billion rupiah (USD4.5 million), Taman Safari President Tony Sumampouw told The Associated Press.

There are less than 1,900 giant pandas in their only wild habitats in the Chinese provinces of Sichuan, Shaanxi and Gansu.

China gifted friendly nations with its national mascot in what was known as "panda diplomacy" for decades.

Countries now pay to be

loaned pandas but they remain a potent symbol of Chinese soft power at a time when Beijing is seeking Southeast Asia cooperation for its ambitions plans to create a modern-day Silk Road that enhances its economic and political clout.

Zoo spokesman Yulius Suprihardo said the living quarters for Cai Tao, the male, and Hu Chun, the female, resemble a three-tier temple.

It's on a hill surrounded by about 5,000 square meters of land and equipped with

an elevator, sleeping area, medical facilities and indoor and outdoor play areas.

He said after the quarantine period a "soft launch" for public viewing could be held by late October or early November.

"During this time we can only see the adorable pandas from images, videos or television. In the near future, Indonesian people can see panda directly," Suprihardo said. "And we hope they can breed here, that's part of our goal." **AP**



AP PHOTO



# Beijing orders North Korean business closed under UN sanctions

Joe McDonald, Beijing

**C**HINA yesterday ordered North Korean-owned businesses to close, cutting foreign revenue for the isolated North under U.N. sanctions imposed over its nuclear and missile programs.

China is North Korea's main trading partner, making Beijing's cooperation essential to the success of sanctions aimed at stopping the North's pursuit of weapons technology. China, long North Korea's diplomatic protector, has gone along with the latest penalties out of growing frustration with leader Kim Jong Un's government.

North Korean businesses and ventures with Chinese partners must close within 120 days of the U.N. Security Council's Sept. 11 approval of the latest sanctions, according to the Ministry of Commerce. That would be early January.

North Korean companies operate restaurants and other ventures in China, helping to



North Korean performers entertain customers at the Okryugwan restaurant in Beijing

provide the North with foreign currency. North Korean laborers work in Chinese factories and other businesses.

Also yesterday, China's foreign ministry appealed for dialogue to defuse the increasingly acrimonious dispute between U.S. President Donald Trump's government and North Korea.

"The Korean Peninsula nuclear issue is related to regional peace and stability," ministry spokes-

man Lu Kang said. "Breaking the deadlock requires all relevant parties to show their sincerity."

China, one of five permanent Security Council members with veto power, supports the latest sanctions but doesn't want to push North Korea too hard for fear Kim's government might collapse.

Chinese leaders argue against doing anything that might hurt ordinary North Koreans. They

agreed to the latest sanctions after the United States toned down a proposal for a total ban on oil exports to the North.

## North Korean companies operate restaurants and other ventures in China

Chinese officials complain their country bears the cost of enforcing sanctions, which have hurt businesses in its northeast that trade with the North.

The latest round of U.N. sanctions bans member countries from operating joint ventures with North Korea, most of which are in China.

They also ban sales of natural gas to North Korea and purchases of the North's textile exports, another key revenue source.

They order other nations to limit fuel supplies to the North.

China, which provides the bulk of North Korea's energy supplies, announced Saturday it would cut off gas and limit shipments of refined petroleum products, effective Jan. 1. It made no mention of crude oil, which makes up the bulk of Chinese energy supplies to North Korea and is not covered by the U.N. sanctions.

China also has banned imports of North Korean coal, iron and lead ore, and seafood since early September.

Yesterday, the Ministry of Commerce defended its recent imports of North Korean coal, saying they were permitted by U.N. sanctions.

A ministry spokesman, Gao Feng, said imports that were reported in August trade data were allowed by a "grace period" for goods that arrived before the U.N. ban took effect.

The imports are "in line with the [U.N.] resolution," Gao said. **AP**

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Koike, at a news conference, denied speculation that she might run for parliament herself. "I will stay in the city and put my energy to lead Tokyo's preparations ahead of the upcoming Olympics and Paralympics," she said.

**This election is about how we protect Japan, the people's lives and peaceful daily life.**

SHINZO ABE

Still, a relatively good showing by her party could allow it to influence Abe on policies such as constitutional change, an issue both politicians have an interest in, said Stephen Nagy, a professor at International Christian University in Tokyo.

Working in Abe's favor, he said, are the LDP's nationwide electoral organization and his handling of North Korea, which has sent two missiles over Japan in recent tests. "Another missile test would likely put him in the limelight further, casting a shadow on the Party of Hope's policy credentials," Nagy said.

The Democratic Party, whose predecessor party held power in 2009-2012, is splintering, and many members have defected to Koike's party. Party leader Seiji Maehara said the Democrats would do whatever it takes to bring down the Abe government.

Lower house members all stood up and chanted "banzai" three times in a dissolution ritual, then rushed out of the assembly hall. The other chamber, the less-powerful upper house, will not be up for election but remain closed until parliament is reconvened after the vote. **AP**

## JAPAN

# Abe faces new challenge as he calls snap election

Mari Yamaguchi & Ken Moritsugu, Tokyo

A surge of popularity for a freshly minted opposition party in Japan is making Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's decision to call a snap election look riskier than initially thought.

Abe dissolved the lower house of parliament yesterday, setting the stage for an Oct. 22 vote.

The Party of Hope, launched earlier this week by Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike, may not dethrone Abe's ruling Liberal Demo-

cratic Party but analysts say it could put a dent in the LDP's majority. A major setback could derail Abe's presumed hope to extend his rule for three more years at a party leadership meeting next year.

Minutes after the lower house dissolution, Abe made a fiery speech to party members. He said he is seeking a public mandate on his tough diplomatic and defense policies to deal with escalating threats from North Korea, and that party members would have to relay his message

to win voter support during the campaign.

"This election is about how we protect Japan, the people's lives and peaceful daily life," Abe said. "The election is about the future of our children."

Abe's decision to dissolve parliament is widely seen as an attempt to reconsolidate his hold on power within the LDP, after a series of scandals and missteps earlier this year. A big enough victory could help ensure his re-election as party leader in September 2018.

## INDIA

# Priest kidnapped in Yemen returns home, meets Modi

An Indian Catholic priest returned to India yesterday after being freed from 18 months of captivity by unknown kidnappers in Yemen.

The Rev. Tom Uzhunnalil arrived in the Indian capital and met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other government officials.

Speaking to reporters at the airport, Uzhunnalil thanked people who helped in his rescue.

Uzhunnalil had been working as a chaplain at

a retirement home for more than four years in the southern Yemeni city of Aden when he was kidnapped during an attack by unknown gunmen in March 2016. The attack left 16 dead, including four nuns.

Indian officials earlier this month announced the priest's rescue but gave no details.

The process leading to his release was also unclear, but the Vatican thanked the sultan of Oman and Uzhunnalil

thanked leaders in India.

The priest said after his rescue that he didn't know his kidnappers' identities or affiliations and that he was not physically harmed during his detention. After his release he was flown to Rome for a "required rest and recuperation period in Vatican City," India's foreign ministry said in a statement Thursday.

Uzhunnalil comes from Ramapuram in the southern Indian state of Kerala. **AP**



Indian priest Tom Uzhunnalil talks to media after meeting foreign minister Sushma Swaraj in New Delhi yesterday



**T**HE illegal sale of African ivory in Laos is surging even as neighboring China phases out its own legal ivory market, highlighting the challenge of curbing wildlife trafficking across porous borders, a conservation group said yesterday.

The number of Chinese-owned retail outlets selling elephant ivory in the Southeast Asian country increased significantly between 2013 and 2016, and the majority of buyers in Laos were visitors from China, according to a report by Save the Elephants, a Kenya-based conservation group. The group's researchers said some ivory goods were crafted in Vietnam while ivory has also illegally reached Laos from Thailand, where traders face a crackdown by authorities.

China, the world's largest ivory consumer, has said it plans to shut down its legal ivory trade by the end of this year in an effort to slow the slaughter of African elephants. While conservationists praise the move as a significant step in efforts to stop poaching, there are concerns about whether the ban will be rigorously enforced as well as the prospect of illegal markets such as

SOUTHEAST ASIA

# Market for illegal elephant ivory surges in Laos, study says

those in Laos flourishing elsewhere in the region.

"It's like squeezing a balloon," said Frank Pope, chief executive officer of Save the Elephants. He said that while China's ban on its legal ivory market is a "start" toward curbing ivory trafficking, "it becomes that much more complicated when it's not under their territorial control."

The report on Laos said ivory goods are sold openly there, including in the capital Vientiane, and that law enforcement is lax, despite the country's pledge to curb wildlife trafficking. Researchers said the cheapest ivory item that they saw was a USD3 ring, while a pair of polished tusks was the most expensive at \$25,000. They also noted that wholesale prices of raw ivory in Laos dropped by more than half between 2013 and 2016, attributing the fall largely to the Chinese economic slowdown. **AP**



AP PHOTO

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INFO

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# Catalan leader says Europe can't ignore independence vote

Aritz Parra, Barcelona

**T**HE leader of Catalonia accused the European Union on Wednesday of "turning its back" on the Spanish region in its conflict with the central government over a disputed independence vote planned for Sunday that Spanish authorities have vowed to prevent.

"They are very brave when they talk about other countries where they have no competencies, but where are they when we citizens need them?" Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont said of EU officials four days before the secession referendum. "Is Europe's solution to Catalans to turn its back?"

Puigdemont also told The Associated Press he intends to make the divisive matter of Catalonia's independence into a European affair rather than just a domestic issue.

"If the yes wins, I will make an appeal for the European community to become involved, because we will have won our right to be heard, something that hasn't happened until now because the European Commission has always turned a deaf ear [to Catalonia]," the 54-year-old separatist leader said.

Sunday's vote, Puigdemont said, will allow Europe to "hear the voice of Catalonia in a very loud and strong way."

No country, within or outside the European Union, has openly expressed support for the Oct. 1 referendum that Spain's conservative government sees as illegal. U.S. President Donald



Catalonia's regional president, Carles Puigdemont

Trump said Tuesday he thought it would be "foolish" for Catalans to break away from Spain.

"Whoever doesn't want to hear our voice needs to see a political otolaryngologist," Puigdemont said, using the formal term for an ear, nose and throat specialist.

He added that if European Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker cannot grasp the determination in Catalonia, "then it's because this [European] project is in bad hands."

Spain's Constitutional Court, which has previously ruled that only central authorities can call such a vote and that all Spanish nationals should vote on sovereignty matters, has suspended the referendum.

The pro-independence regional government has so far ignored court rulings and vowed to

go ahead with the vote. Officials of the executive and legislative branches are under investigation and a heavy police presence has been assembled in the northeastern region as the day for Catalans to cast ballots nears.

Madrid has launched an unprecedented crackdown to stop the referendum, including seizing paper ballots, removing referendum propaganda and ordering schools to be sealed off so they can't be used as voting stations.

Puigdemont told AP he thinks the effort to suppress the vote is boosting support for it in a way that European institutions won't be able to ignore.

"Today we are closer to a massive [turnout for the] referendum than we were one month ago," he said, describing the crackdown measures as "apocalyptic."

**If the yes wins, I will make an appeal for the European community to become involved, because we will have won our right to be heard.**

CARLES PUIGDEMONT

On Wednesday, Spain's National Court said it planned to investigate possible seditious charges for demonstrators who took part in a massive protest last week against a police crackdown on preparations for the vote.

"Looking at this landscape, somebody could think that we are hoarding weapons of mass destruction in Catalonia, a nuclear arsenal or a world-class drug stash," Puigdemont said. "But in fact, we are just trying to hold a referendum."

He said that people in Catalonia that saw the referendum with indifference or hostility have now "seen the curtailing of freedoms as an offense to their democratic convictions."

Regional leaders have said that if the "yes" side wins, they would be ready to declare Catalo-

nia's independence two days later regardless of voter turnout. But Puigdemont on Wednesday acknowledged that significant participation is needed to portray the vote as representative.

He refused to disclose what percentage of the 5.5 million Catalan voters his government needs to declare the vote valid, but cited previous referendums in Spain, including the 2005 vote to pass the European Constitution that had a turnout of 42 percent.

"Nobody raised concerns about the participation level in order to legitimate the results, so I hope there are also no concerns in this case," Puigdemont said.

Catalonia is one of Spain's 17 autonomous regions. Its capital is the dynamic Mediterranean port city of Barcelona, a perennial favorite for tourists.

With a population of 7.5 million inhabitants, its own cultural traditions and language, Catalonia contributes a fifth of the Spain's 1.1 trillion-euro economy (USD1.32 trillion).

The vast majority of Catalans favor holding a referendum, but they have long been almost evenly split over independence itself.

Separatist sentiment peaked at the height of the 2008 financial crisis, with many Catalans feeling they could do better on their own, but with the national and regional economies thriving again, polls indicate support for secession is on the wane.

The region's first attempts to hold a non-binding referendum in 2014 were blocked by Spain's Constitutional Court. The Catalan government went ahead and staged the unofficial poll. About 2.3 million Catalans — less than half of those eligible — voted, with 80 percent favoring independence. **AP**

# Irbil braces for flight ban following referendum vote

Bram Janssen, Irbil

**H**UNDREDS of passengers waited to board flights out of the Kurdish region at Irbil International Airport yesterday after Baghdad threatened to ban flights following an independence referendum held by Iraq's Kurds earlier this week.

Most international carriers who fly to and from airports in the Kurdish region announced they would halt flights beginning Friday night in line with the ban. Also yesterday, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi

said Turkey has agreed to deal only with Baghdad on oil exports from the self-ruled Kurdish region.

At Irbil's airport, many of the passengers were foreigners who said they were traveling to avoid possibly being stuck once the flight ban goes into effect Friday.

Murat Mutlar, a Turkish citizen, said the company he works for in Irbil ordered him to leave before Friday and as of Thursday he didn't know if he'll return.

"It depends on the situation here. If they make again all flights open [...] we will come back again

and continue our work," he said.

Iraq's Transport Ministry ordered international airlines to halt service to Irbil, the Kurdish regional capital, and Sulaimaniyah, its second city, beginning Friday evening.

State carrier Qatar Airways was just the latest airline to announce all flights to and from the Kurdish region would be canceled starting Saturday. Lebanon's Middle East Airlines, EgyptAir and Royal Jordanian announced Wednesday that flights would be suspended beginning Friday evening.

Low-cost carrier FlyDubai said it is halting flights from Saturday. And Sharjah-based Air Arabia said it will "temporarily suspend its flights" from Saturday in line with the order it received from the Iraqi Civil Aviation Authority.

In a statement issued late Wednesday following a phone call with his Turkish counterpart, al-Abadi said his Turkish counterpart Binali Yildirim stressed his government would support all measures taken in response to the Kurdish independence referendum.

In defiance of Baghdad,



A Kurdish flag hangs in the Irbil International Airport,

the self-ruled Kurdish region has been unilaterally exporting crude oil produced in their region and contested areas through Turkey.

Turkey had forged close ties to Iraq's Kurdish region, but is strongly opposed to its moves toward independence. It has threatened military action and economic

sanctions against the landlocked region.

The Kurdish referendum on support for independence from Iraq passed with more than 92 percent of voters approving the move, the Kurdish region's election commission told a news conference on Wednesday. Turnout was over 72 percent, it said. **AP**



# Congratulations on the 68<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the People's Republic of China

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# In Mexico, survivors recount amazing escapes from quake

Mark Stevenson, Mexico City

A tree branch saved a maintenance mechanic from the collapsing building where a dozen co-workers died when last week's earthquake rocked central Mexico. A slap across the face startled a dazed father back to his senses, spurring him to carry his critically injured daughter to safety. Neighbors, co-workers and passers-by pulled people from the jaws of death, while taxis, private cars and even buses rushed them to hospitals.

Amid the endless tragedies from the magnitude 7.1 quake that killed more than 300 people, there were incredible stories of survival.

Conrad Vazquez Martinez, a 67-year-old mechanic, was on the roof of the four-story laboratory building where he worked in Mexico City's Roma Norte neighborhood when the quake hit at midday Sept. 19.

"I wanted to run to get to people, but the building was collapsing behind me," Vazquez Martinez said Wednesday as he lay in a bed at the Magdalena de



A 13-year-old boy from Iztapalapa, who along with his sister was seriously injured by a collapsing wall in last week's earthquake, is fed by his mother as he recuperates

las Salinas hospital, recovering from a broken hip and leg. "I ran and ran, and with one jump I grabbed a branch that grew close to the building."

"Another employee and I had once talked about that branch. We said, 'If there's ever a problem here, we'll jump out here,'" he remembered. "Unfortunately it was old, and it broke."

But Vazquez Martinez never let go of the branch, and it proved

a life saver. He fell through the lower branch and onto the sidewalk in front of a neighboring building, breaking his hip and leg. And then a second miracle: A metal balcony grill fell over him, partly shielding him from the direct impact of rubble that tumbled over him.

The tree branch, which he still gripped in one hand, poked out of the debris to give him a trickle of air.

"The metal grate had a screen, so the chunks of concrete didn't fall directly on me," he said. "When everything stopped falling, I tried to stretch myself out, but the concrete chunks felt heavier and heavier, they were pressing me, heavier all the time."

His face, mouth and nose full of rubble, Vazquez Martinez noticed that a jug of water he had on the roof had fallen nearby. "God is so great, that even water was provided."

He called and whistled, and eventually co-workers found him and dug him out.

"Losing my co-workers was what most hurts," he said. "My hope was to get out and save people, but I couldn't, I failed."

"But I did one thing. I closed the valve on the gas tank," Vazquez Martinez added, recalling his actions in the first moments when the earthquake started. "It was bomb there," he said of the big heating gas tank on the roof. "It may have saved the whole neighborhood."

Dr. Fryda Medina, director of

the hospital where he is being treated, said that on the day of the quake, patients were delivered by volunteers in private cars and taxis. Two patients were brought aboard buses. The staff, and even retirees, all volunteered to work through the night and following days, when over 300 injured from the earthquake were brought in. Only one died, she said.

"It was in those moments that one feels the spirit we have in Mexico, the solidarity," Medina said at the hospital, which is operated by Mexico's Social Security Institute.

There were other incredible escapes from death. American photojournalist Wesley Bocxe and his wife, Elizabeth, made it to the roof of their 10-story apartment building when the quake started. His wife was killed when the floors underneath pancaked into a pile of rubble, but Bocxe somehow survived the plunge, though he was seriously injured.

Local media quoted one woman who said that she and two relatives took refuge in the bathroom of their upper floor apartment, and the room — apparently constructed more sturdily than the rest of the building — plunged intact to near street level. They were able to escape with the help of neighbors. AP

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13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
18:50	Brazilian Mini Serie (Repeated)
19:15	TDM Talk Show Repeated
19:50	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	Portuguese Serie
22:10	Brazilian Mini Serie
22:40	Seven Deadly Sins
23:00	TDM News
23:30	One Championship - Kings & Conquerors
02:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
03:05	RTPi Live

**SATURDAY**

10:30	Comedy
11:45	Chefs - Final
12:00	Miscellaneous
12:30	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast (PT)
14:50	Soap Opera (PT)
16:50	Non-daily Portuguese News
17:20	Miscellaneous
18:15	Miscellaneous
19:00	Miscellaneous
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (PT)
21:00	Drama (PT) - Final
21:50	Miscellaneous
22:40	Seven Deadly Sins
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:35	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:10	RTPi Live

**SUNDAY**

10:25	The Last Treasure
11:00	Sunday Mass (Live)
12:00	Miscellaneous
12:30	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	Zig Zag
16:45	Pop Lusa
17:40	Brainstorm
18:15	Miscellaneous
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (PT)
21:00	Non-daily Portuguese News
22:00	Brexit
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Report (Repeated)
23:50	Miscellaneous
00:45	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:20	RTPi Live

**Offbeat**

**McLAREN OWNER IN GERMANY CLAIMS DONKEY DAMAGED CAR**



The owner of a pricy McLaren sports car is in court to try to get a donkey owner to pony up for an alleged 5,000 euros (USD5,876) in damage caused when the animal chomped the backside of the vehicle.

The dpa news agency reported yesterday the McLaren owner filed a complaint in Giessen state court after the donkey owner refused reimbursement for the incident last September.

At the time, police posited the donkey may have mistaken the orange McLaren that was parked up against his enclosure as a giant carrot when he bit the back, damaging the paint job and a carbon-fiber piece.

Local media reported the owner of the donkey refused to pay for the damage, telling the McLaren owner he should have picked a better parking place.

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**AMERICAN ASSASSIN**

ROOM 1 / 3  
2:15, 7:15, 9:30 pm  
Director: Michael Cuesta  
Starring: Dylan O'Brien, Michael Keaton, Sanaa Lathan  
Language: English  
Duration: 112 min



**KINGSMAN: THE GOLDEN CIRCLE**

ROOM 1  
2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 pm  
Director: Mathew Vaughn  
Starring: Colin Firth, Julianne Moore, Halle Berry  
Language: English (Chinese)  
Duration: 141min



**THE LEGO NINJAGO MOVIE**

ROOM 3  
2:15, 4:30, 7:30 pm  
Director: Charlie Bean  
Starring: Jackie Chan, Dave Franco, Fred Armisen  
Language: Chinese  
Duration: 101 min

**this day in history**



**1978 CATHOLICS MOURN POPE'S DEATH**

The leader of the Roman Catholic Church has died after the shortest papal reign in history.

Pope John Paul, the surprise candidate elected just 33 days ago, died of a heart attack while reading in bed.

The body of the "smiling pope", who charmed crowds with his easy manner, is lying in state in the Clementine Hall in the Vatican, and a growing throng of mourners are gathering to file past it.

The church's cardinals must now return to Rome to elect a new pope in the secret Sistine Chapel ballot.

Cardinal Albini Luciano was chosen to be Pope on 26 August after one of the shortest voting periods in the Vatican's history.

Despite his brief reign, the Italian son of a socialist stonemason had become very popular with Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

US President Jimmy Carter said Pope John Paul had "captured the imagination of his Church and the world" during his few weeks in office.

Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool Derek Warlock, who was in Rome when he heard the news on the radio, said there was a feeling of great grief for someone people had come to love so much.

"I don't think anyone could believe it - they kept repeating it over and over again - and Rome has been in great shock for the greater part of the day," he told the BBC.

The Church of England Archbishop of Canterbury, Donald Coggan, said he hoped the conclave of cardinals would choose a similar man to replace John Paul.

"There was so much about his character that appealed to many of us," he said.

Courtesy BBC News

**IN CONTEXT**

Two weeks later the conclave elected the first Polish pope - Karol Wojtyla, who took the name John Paul II. A whiff of conspiracy hung over the Vatican, and some Catholic groups called for a full investigation into the circumstances of John Paul II's death. They believed the liberal, working-class pope was poisoned in a plot by the Papal See's traditionalist wing. But no post-mortem was carried out and an investigation was not held. Allegations of an assassination re-surfaced 20 years later from Cardinal Aloisio Lorscheider - one of the dead Pope's closest allies - but the accusations never became generally accepted.



**YOUR STARS**

**♈ Aries**  
Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
The nice thing to do is to offer to help anyone who seems to be flailing or freaking out. If you're just not in the mood, of course, there's another good option: find a more suitable companion and excuse yourselves.

**♉ Taurus**  
April 20-May 20  
If you're feeling skeptical, one of your best friends will be more than happy to help straighten it all out for you. All you have to do is ask for their advice the next time you see them.

**♊ Gemini**  
May 21-Jun. 21  
You may be feeling somewhat suspicious, but let it ride. Your people have always been fair to you, and you've always trusted them. Right now, though, you're not feeling quite so sure about their loyalty.

**♋ Cancer**  
Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
It may not be at all like you, but that's just the way it is now. It's certainly not a bad thing, but you should expect to raise some eyebrows - and to be pretty pleased with yourself.

**♌ Leo**  
Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
You really need to pull out all the stops now and do what you can to help someone turn their life around. You've got what it takes to fire them up, and they've got what it takes to listen.

**♍ Virgo**  
Aug. 23-Sept. 22  
You've definitely got what it takes to be an inspiring speaker - even if it's because you know exactly how to agitate your listeners into submission. No matter how it happens, satisfy yourself that it simply does happen.

**♎ Libra**  
Sep. 23-Oct. 22  
Even though you've known them for a good long while, you're still not quite sure what a certain special person is really all about - especially when they're interacting with the people you care about the most.

**♏ Scorpio**  
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21  
Someone out there is counting on you right now for a very important favor (important to them, anyway). They need you to speak the absolute truth. You know it's going to be difficult, as it always is.

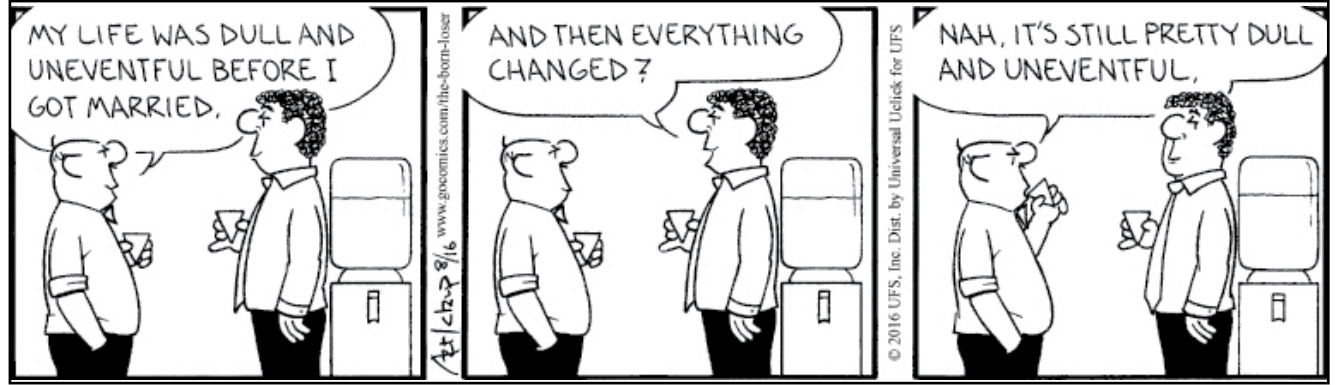
**♐ Sagittarius**  
Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
Try as hard as you can to distract yourself with something (or someone) pleasant, preferably hanging out with those who have absolutely no idea what's going on.

**♑ Capricorn**  
Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
The line between flirting and confusing is especially thin today, so make sure you're not toying with anyone you care about! Even if it all feels innocent and playful, you need to be sure you know what you're dealing with.

**♒ Aquarius**  
Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
When you're happy, everyone is happy (well, almost everyone - some don't get it yet). You have an eccentric, irreverent, zippy sense of humor that comes out at the strangest times.

**♓ Pisces**  
Feb. 19-Mar. 20  
You're quite sensitive, and you know that it's quite a mixed blessing. You may be open to others' feelings, but sometimes it's to such a degree that you can't separate yours from theirs.

**THE BORN LOSER** by Chip Sansom



**SUDOKU**

**Easy**

5	8							3
			6	7				
2	9	4			6			8
		9	7	3				1
	1							2
4		2	6	3				
9	3			2		7	5	
			1	7				
7						2	9	

**Easy+**

7		4	1					5
		7		1				
3		6						7
		2			3			8
9	3				4	5		
2	8			5				
9				5			2	
			8	2				
8	6	9						3

**Medium**

6			5	7				
	7						4	6
		8	4			7		
			3	8			1	
2	4			6			9	8
	3			2	9			
		3			8	6		
9	1					5		
			5	1			2	

**Hard**

				1	6			
	3							
8								
	4	3	9					
7					1			
						8		
5		4					3	
1	6							
		6					2	

**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	11	25	cloudy/clear
Harbin	1	12	cloudy
Tianjin	14	26	clear
Urumqi	8	19	clear/drizzle
Xi'an	15	24	overcast
Lhasa	10	23	cloudy
Chengdu	17	22	overcast
Chongqing	20	23	overcast/shower
Kunming	16	24	shower
Nanjing	17	25	cloudy
Shanghai	19	24	cloudy/overcast
Wuhan	20	23	cloudy
Hangzhou	17	24	shower/overcast
Taipei	27	32	drizzle
Guangzhou	26	33	cloudy/thundershower
Hong Kong	27	32	cloudy
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	4	11	cloudy/drizzle
Frankfurt	13	21	drizzle
Paris	14	20	drizzle/overcast
London	11	17	drizzle
New York	13	24	clear

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS:** 1- A pitcher may take one; 5- Private Pyle; 10- Town near Santa Fe; 14- Himalayan legend; 15- Yoga posture; 16- Olive genus; 17- "Grand" ice cream brand; 18- Pertaining to language; 20- Fax forerunner; 22- Cellist Pablo; 23- Compliant one; 25- Splendor; 26- Sound investment?; 27- Acknowledgment of debt; 28- Dust Bowl refugee; 32- Soul singer Redding; 33- Head supporters; 35- Makes brown; 36- Rosenkavalier; 37- Driving aid; 38- relief; 39- In (stuck); 41- Chopin piece; 43- Think; 44- Grounded jets; 45- Chart; 46- Rouse; 48- "Exodus" author Leon; 50- Sardonic; 51- Young roarer; 54- Leers at; 55- Privileged; 57- Fortuneteller's start; 61- Consider; 62- Keep an \_\_\_ the ground; 63- Is in the red; 64- Rani's wrap; 65- Fantasize; 66- State bird of Hawaii;

**DOWN:** 1- Soap-making ingredient; 2- Brit. lexicon; 3- Sloppy place; 4- Nuns; 5- Large sailing vessel; 6- Willow branch; 7- Tailless cat; 8- H.S. requirement; 9- Strident; 10- Drunkard; 11- Neighbor of Sask.; 12- Trompe l'\_\_\_; 13- Pouches; 19- How Dry \_\_\_; 21- Needle hole; 23- Furry swimmers; 24- Capital of Lebanon; 25- Jabbed; 26- Fountain treats; 27- Freeze over; 29- Japanese drama; 30- Momentarily; 31- German industrial city; 34- Kett and James; 40- Large sea wave; 41- Sent out; 42- Territory of a noble; 43- Stately residence; 47- Heartache; 49- Stimp's pal; 50- Kick Out of You; 51- Scottish boys; 52- It's a thought; 53- Above, finished; 54- Monster; 56- Swiss river; 58- Nor. neighbor; 59- Dusk, to Donne; 60- Legal conclusion?;



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## CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

## PSG attack proves too much for Bayern in 3-0 win

Samuel Petrequin, Paris

JUST as Bayern Munich was about to kick off at the Parc des Princes, Paris Saint-Germain's hard-core fans unfurled a huge banner.

"Tomorrow Europe will be red and blue," it read, referring to PSG's traditional colors.

It's big prediction. But if the Parisians can unleash the same attacking might they showed in a 3-0 win over Bayern Munich in the Champions League yesterday [Macau time], that prediction might not be so unrealistic.

PSG had already won big matches against some of Europe's finest teams in the past. Last season, it defeated Barcelona 4-0 in the first leg of the Round of 16, only to lose 6-1 in Spain after the hosts produced one of the greatest comebacks of all time.

But that was before the devastating trident of Edinson Cavani, Kylian Mbappe and Neymar was assembled with the seemingly unlimited funds provided by the club's Qatari owners - with the objective of winning Europe's top competition.

"They are very, very strong," Bayern coach Carlo Ancelotti



Neymar (top) is fouled by Bayern's Sebastian Rudy

ti said. "To stop Mbappe and Neymar is difficult. When they have space to show their qualities, they are difficult to control."

Yesterday, they were unstoppable on the break and carved open the five-time champions to take command of Group B with goals from Dani Alves, Cavani and Neymar.

"Our goal is to finish first in this group," PSG coach Unai Emery said. "PSG is growing little by little, and all the other teams now think we are a big rival. We will try to keep this and level and be something more important in football. We want to be Barcelo-

na, Real Madrid, Bayern Munich. And I think today we are at their level."

Mbappe, who was hired alongside Neymar this summer, did not score but tormented the Bayern defense throughout with his dribbling ability and frenetic pace. He was decisive in setting up Neymar's goal.

After scoring eight goals without conceding in their first two matches, PSG leads the group with six points, with Bayern and Celtic tied for second place with three points. Celtic won 3-0 at Anderlecht in the group's other match yesterday.

Bayern enjoyed a good spell in the first half and caused problems for the hosts' defense. But it lacked pace and finishing after conceding early.

Ancelotti unexpectedly left wingers Arjen Robben and Franck Ribery on the bench, opting for a more defensive approach with Arturo Vidal and Corentin Tolisso instead. Ancelotti also gave starting roles to Niklas Sule and Javi Martinez in the heart of his defense, at the expense of Mats Hummels and Jerome Boateng, with the latter being left out of the squad.

There was no surprise in Unai Emery's 4-3-3 line-up and PSG needed just two minutes to break through following inspiration from Neymar. The Brazil forward received the ball on the left and quickly moved it forward to get past a defender. Neymar cut inside through a sea of legs and delivered a perfect assist on the right of the box for the unmarked Alves, who fired home from a tight angle.

Bayern did not panic and tried to regain its composure with a spell of possession. It worked, and Javi Martinez came close with a shot from the edge of the

box that forced keeper Alphonse Areola to palm the ball over with a diving save.

Bayern threatened from set pieces but still struggled to contain the attacking verve and tremendous pace of Neymar and Mbappe, with its midfield and back four often left wide open.

PSG did not take advantage of its chances, though, until Cavani made it 2-0 near the half-hour mark, curling a superb shot into the top corner from Mbappe's assist to beat keeper Sven Ulreich.

Ancelotti brought on former PSG academy graduate Kingsley Coman and Sebastian Rudy after the interval to turn things around. The pair added an extra threat but the visitors continued to be vulnerable to counterattacks as Mbappe and Neymar combined on the edge of the box, only for the Brazil star to send a shot wide.

Neymar made amends a few minutes later after Alves led another charge and found Mbappe down the right. The France international wrong-footed David Alaba before seeing his shot blocked, only for Neymar to score a poacher's goal before the defense could clear the danger in the 63rd minute.

Bayern could not even manage a consolation goal as Robert Lewandowski hit the woodwork in added time.

"We had prepared this game to have a good control of play," Ancelotti said. "But after conceding early, we did not find the right balance, and it was the key." AP

F1  
A year on from Malaysia misery, all is well with Hamilton

Jerome Pugmire, Sepang

ONE year ago, Lewis Hamilton was questioning whether some people inside his own team actually wanted him to win.

Now all is harmonious within Mercedes as Hamilton heads into this weekend's Malaysian Grand Prix with a 28-point lead in the title race.

"I'm loving and enjoying racing more than I ever have before," Hamilton said yesterday.

When asked if he's in the best form of his Formula One career, he added: "Feels like it, yeah."

It's a far cry from last year when a furious Hamilton demanded answers from his team after a sudden engine failure late in the Malaysian GP cost him victory on the Sepang circuit. The blip handed former teammate Nico Rosberg

a 23-point lead. Rosberg went on to win the championship, denying Hamilton a fourth title and deepening the rift between them.

Hamilton's frustration was such that he pointed the finger at his own team, hinting at foul play and stopping just short of accusation.

"Someone needs to give me some answers because this is not acceptable. We are fighting for the championship and only my engines are failing. It does not sit right with me," a dejected and confused Hamilton said after the 2016 race. "Someone doesn't want me to win this year."

He hasn't failed to finish since — a run of 19 races.

"When you arrive on weekends knowing reliability is good, it's a great feeling," Hamilton said in the Mercedes motorhome

on Thursday. "I've just got to make sure I keep performing as I have been."

With Rosberg now out of Hamilton's way, there is a much more relaxed aura to Hamilton this year. He has spoken in glowing terms of his new teammate Valtteri Bottas, the Finnish driver who replaced Rosberg after he suddenly retired days after winning the title.

The drivers have shown admirable sportsmanship toward each other this season.

Hamilton gave up third place in Hungary in July to let Bottas pass him, as a return favor after Bottas had earlier let Hamilton overtake him in order to chase down the Ferraris of Sebastian Vettel and Kimi Raikkonen, who finished 1-2. It cost Hamilton valuable points.

"I felt like I made the right decision, but even if

I'd stayed ahead I think he would have understood," Hamilton said. "That decision only made things better. But I don't think if it was the other way round it would have gone sour. It's a very good working relationship."

Such a return of favor would have been unthinkable between Hamilton and Rosberg.

Their relationship degraded from a friendship forged in their teenage karting years, to one of hostility and near enmity in the three years they spent together challenging for the title with Mercedes. Hamilton rarely speaks about Rosberg these days.

Without Rosberg around, Hamilton's focus is clearer because it is geared toward an external rival in Vettel, rather than an internal opponent — making for a far healthier and managea-



Hamilton takes a look at his car ahead the Malaysian F1 Grand Prix

ble rivalry.

Earlier this month, Hamilton said he was expecting to extend his contract with Mercedes beyond 2018, when it runs out.

It remains a key decision as the 32-year-old British driver weighs up his future, with his many interests outside of F1 extending into music and fashion.

"I'm quite happy where I am. But I still contemplate what decisions I'll take," said Hamilton, who recently spoke of wanting to start a family. "The longer I delay my departure from the sport, the longer my next life is delayed. It's just trying to weigh up the ba-

lances. But at the moment I'm here to stay."

Having won the last two races, he has put Mercedes back on top and favorite to secure the drivers' and constructors' championship for a fourth straight year.

"It's not a bad time to negotiate. I'm in pretty good form," he said. "You always want to negotiate when you've got two wins in your pocket."

One domain he will not enter into, after his eventual retirement, is politics.

"I don't have the greatest understanding of it and I absolutely hate politics," Hamilton said. AP



opinion

**Kapok**  
 Eric Sautédé



**EVERYTHING'S RELATIVE**

One thing I've learnt over the years is to drastically lower my expectations. Mind you, I don't mean to be ironic or even nasty: after all one of the main conditions of happiness resides in one's capacity to lessen the probable discrepancy between over-ambitious objectives and the biting reality principle.

Hope and a renewed horizon for uplifting expectations do exist in Macao politics, but again, measured on a Richter scale, the extent of change in the wake of the September 17 legislative elections looks more like a slight tremor than a full-blown earthquake. And then, depending on where you stand, it will feel more like a magnitude 1 quake in Hong Kong and most of the world — nobody feels anything; a magnitude 3 in most of Macao — people near the epicentre feel it; and possibly a magnitude 5 if you venture on UMAC's campus on Hengqin or, of course, in Calçada de Santo Agostinho, where the siege of New Macau Association (NMA) is situated.

Most of the press in Hong Kong just counted four pan-democrats being elected, characterising Agnes Lam lok Feng as "rising establishment". This simple diminishing head-count was enough for one of the major international news agencies to simply drop the idea of writing a lengthy special feature on the event.

And then, many comments by analysts were pretty dismissive of the final outcome: after all, was I told, the Macao-Guangdong Union — an ageing pro-establishment communal grouping backed by the Liaison Office — had come first in terms of total votes for a single list. And the fact that the list conducted by Mak Soi Kun had fared worse this time around than it had in 2013, losing one percentage point of the votes, seemed to be of no consequence, even when sizing up this result with the 17.77% gathered by the three NMA-sprouted lists put together.

Ultimately, it proved very difficult to convince outsiders that society had won over pro-business interests, and that both a rational-posturing academic and a happening-prone 26-year old democratic militant could potentially play a game-changing role. For me, there is no doubt that the windows of the Macao Legislative Assembly are going to widen, and its walls, ceiling and floor pushed out.

In a way, the result for the so-called "indirectly-elected legislators" and the lining-up of the brand new seven appointees are already echoing the change.

For the indirectly-elected legislators who face no competition, and for whom the selection process is institutionally rigged, the message could not be clearer: it is simply farcical — two Chui relatives still and Fernando Chui's former chief campaigner for the 2014 election — and thus forces of conservatism have come to embody the caricature of patronage and illegitimate representativeness.

I confess that I have always been strongly against the idea of having seven legislators appointed by the Chief Executive: whatever the rationale in an executive-led system, I have always felt that it was too gross a meddling of the executive power in the legislative branch of government — and in no small way, as these seven represent 21% of the legislature.

But this time around, things look different. Confronted with a real push from society as reflected by the legislators returned via universal suffrage, Fernando Chui had to demonstrate some kind of sense, connecting at long last the dots with his 2011 policy address in which he had promised a "sunshine government and scientific policy-making". Out (or re-allocated) are the cronies, the boisterous vulgar misogynists and pro-business weathercocks posing as academic paragons. In are the experts: three focusing more on business and gaming (two from UMAC, one from MUST) at a time when casino concessions are up for renewal, and two being well-versed in legal intricacies (one from UMAC and a part-timer from City U). Factional politics still indeed play a role — Jiangmen, Fujian and Shandong-backed — and the oddball is not the new engineer, but rather the only one surviving from 2013 and the scion of one of the most distinguished family of Macao. Decadence?

**THE AUCTION OF BRAZIL POWER PLANT RIGHTS FETCHES NEARLY USD4B**

The Brazilian government sold operating licenses for four hydroelectric dams to companies from China, France and Italy yesterday [Macau time], fetching nearly USD4 billion in an auction at the Sao Paulo Stock Exchange.

The total paid for the four plants in the state of Minas Gerais was nearly 10 percent more than the government's minimum asking price.

China's State Power Investment Corp. will pay \$2.4 billion to operate the Sao Simao hydroelec-

tric plant. France's Engie will pay \$1.1 billion to run two plants, Jaguarua and Miranda. Enel of Italy was awarded the right to operate the Volta Grande plant after bidding \$440 million.

Together the four plants have a total installed capacity of 2,922 megawatts.

Also, 10 Brazilian and seven foreign companies paid a total of \$1.2 billion for the right to explore and produce oil and natural gas in 37 of 287 production blocks auctioned by Brazil's oil regulator.

**Vanuatu orders evacuation of island with rumbling volcano**

Nick Perry, Wellington

**V**ANUATU officials yesterday ordered the complete evacuation of an island in the Pacific archipelago where a rumbling, belching volcano is threatening to blow.

Boats were soon to begin ferrying residents off Ambae island, which is home to about 11,000 people, in a process expected to take about a week. The Manaro volcano has been increasingly active for a week or more, raising fears of a major eruption.

Government spokesman Hilaire Bule said ministers decided they couldn't risk people's lives and so ordered the compulsory evacuation. Previously, people had been evacuated to other areas on the island itself.

Ambae resident Lilian Garae said she could see "smoke coming out from the hills" and hear regular booming noises from the volcano. She said she was waiting to hear when she might have to leave her home and where she might be sent.

Ambae is about 400 square kilometers, making it a little larger than the city of Detroit. It is one of about 65 inhabited islands in the Pacific nation about one-quarter of the way from Australia to Hawaii.

The activity measure of the volcano was raised last weekend to Level 4, on a scale



in which Level 5 represents a major eruption, and an emergency was declared Monday.

New Zealand's military flew a plane over the volcano on Tuesday, and said huge columns of smoke, ash and volcanic rocks were billowing from the crater.

Some residents have left the island voluntarily. For them, it's a waiting game to see whether the volcano erupts or returns to normal activity that's not a threat. Officials say they have no real way of predicting what the volcano will do next and that evacuees will just have to wait it out.

Bule said the evacuation will be carried out by boat and continue through Oct. 6. He said residents will be moved onto nearby islands. Officials are setting up two sites on Pentecost Island, he said, where evacuees will be housed in government buildings or in temporary camp sites.

Ambae island has long been volcanically active. A previous

eruption in 2005 forced about 3,300 people to temporarily leave their homes and relocate elsewhere on the island, but didn't lead to an evacuation of the island itself.

Dickinson Tevi, a spokesman for the Vanuatu Red Cross Society, said the relief agency has been shipping water and shelter equipment to Ambae island.

"People are quite afraid with the sound of rumbling going on," he said. "They are very uncertain and afraid."

Bule said the government had allocated 200 million vatu (USD1.9 million) toward the evacuation effort and was deploying 60 police officers to help people leave and to ensure there was no looting.

"We've prepared for cyclones by putting evacuation centers on the island but we are not ready for a volcanic eruption," Bule said. "The government has to put a policy in place to cater for this in the future." AP

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

**WORLD BRIEFS**



**CHINA-JAPAN** Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe attended a ceremony yesterday marking the anniversary of diplomatic ties between Japan and China as well as China's national day, in a display of his intent to improve delicate relations between the Asian neighbors.

**YEMEN** An Indian Catholic priest returned to India yesterday after being freed from 18 months of captivity by unknown kidnappers in Yemen. More on p16



**RUSSIA-TURKEY** Russian President Vladimir Putin traveled to Turkey yesterday for talks with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Iraq, Syria and Turkey's decision to purchase a Russian-made missile defense system.

**BRAZIL** A new poll in Brazil says embattled President Michel Temer's already dismal approval rating has sunk even further to a new historic low. Just 3 percent of respondents in the Ibope Institute survey approve of Temer's administration, while 77 percent disapprove.



**UNITED NATIONS** A U.N. fund to help victims of sexual abuse and exploitation by peacekeepers and U.N. staff has now grown to USD1.5 million following contributions from 10 more countries including Sri Lanka, whose troops were implicated in a child sex ring in Haiti.

**HOLIDAY TIMES**

Macau Daily Times will not be published during the holidays. The Times will be back on the stands on Wednesday, October 4. However the MDT website will be updated with breaking news during the recess period. We wish our readers, advertisers and friends the best of times.

**times square by rodrigo**

