



CCAC ARGUES WITH NEW MACAU

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS



MALAYSIA The cause of the death of the estranged half brother of North Korea's leader dominated the second day of the trial of two women accused of killing him at a busy airport terminal in Malaysia. Siti Aisyah of Indonesia and Doan Thi Huong of Vietnam have pleaded not guilty to charges they smeared the nerve agent VX on Kim's face. [More on p13](#)

PHILIPPINES Suspected communist rebels staged an attack on a police car in the central Philippines yesterday and two Swedish citizens and their driver in a passing van were wounded in the crossfire, police said.

THAILAND Police said yesterday they are seeking an international request for the arrest of former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, who is believed to be in England after fleeing to Dubai to evade a prison sentence.

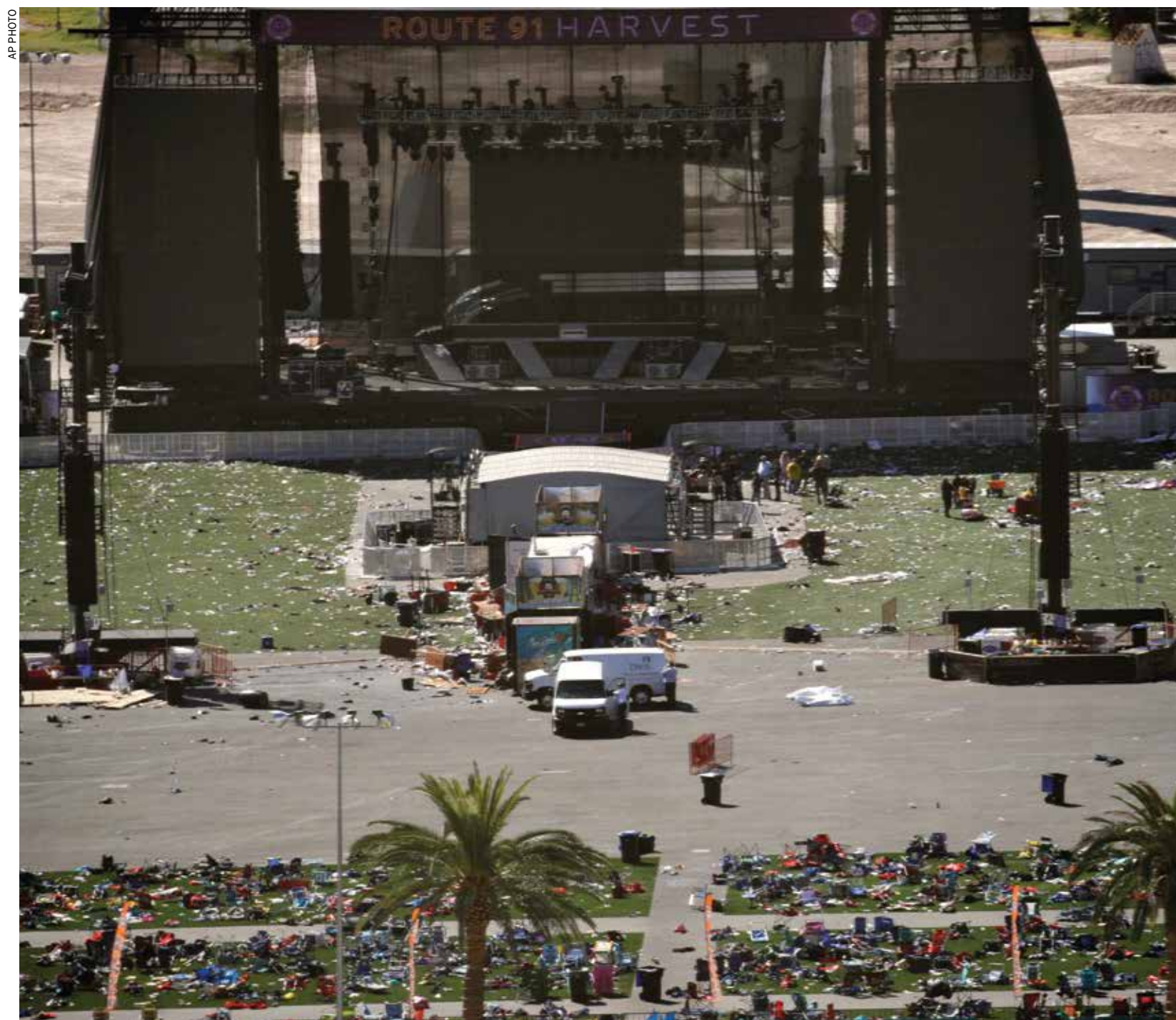


MYANMAR A group of 20 foreign diplomats who visited Myanmar's Rakhine state, where half a million ethnic Rohingya Muslims fled recent violence, have urged the government to allow access by humanitarian groups and by a United Nations fact-finding mission to investigate allegations of human rights violations.

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Casinos hit 14th straight month of expansion

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Horror in Las Vegas: Worst mass shooting in recent US history

P3,8,14

Gov't: Bus fare proposal is a method of 'positive discrimination'

The new bus fare proposal includes a mechanism to make tourists and non-resident workers pay more than locals for bus rides. The Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, told the media on the sidelines of a public event that it was a method of "positive discrimination." "This distinction aims to provide more support for the Macau residents. It's a [form of] positive discrimination towards residents," Rosário said, as cited by TDM. The proposal was announced by the Transport Bureau on Friday but is "still under consultation" and has yet to be finalized. Nevertheless, the underlying idea is clearly to establish a system of two different bus fares: one for residents and another for non-residents and tourists alike. The proposal aims to revoke privileges – such as the government subsidy for bus operators – that were said to purposefully benefit all travelers using Macau Pass, instead of Macau residents only.

Health Bureau investigates pharmacy

The Health Bureau (SSM) is investigating a pharmacy for selling baby formula damaged by a recent flood, the SSM said in a statement. The sale was uncovered after an investigation of Alwen Pharmacy in Treasure Garden (Taipa) but at this stage, other shops are not excluded other shops as mentioned. The milk powder was provided by the general company warehouse. The SSM said it suspects the pharmacy of breaching the law regarding Food Safety. After being notified by the health services, further investigations will be conducted by the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau Food Safety Center. The SSM stated that the incident is considered "an isolated case" and that "the majority of pharmacies are [operating] according to the law." SSM also noted that it would regularly inspect such establishments in order to ensure that damaged products are not put up for sale.

Police Tactical Intervention Unit moves to Pac On

Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak announced that the Police Tactical Intervention Unit (UTIP) will move from the facilities at the Border Gate to those at Pac On, where the immigration services are located. Wong told reporters that the plan had been in place for some time and that he would be "available to cooperate in all necessary arrangements regarding that space." The date of the move remains unknown, as several works still need to be performed beforehand. Wong stated that the move, for the time being, is still in the planning stage. He further added that the current facilities of UTIP are no longer suitable as unit training is limited by space constraints, and expressed hopes that the move could be completed as soon as possible.



A flag-raising ceremony was held at the Golden Lotus Square to celebrate the 68th anniversary of the founding of the PRC

CE vows to ensure economic stability

CHIEF Executive Chui Sai On stressed on Sunday that the national development strategy and a further deepening of regional cooperation would give Macau opportunities to accelerate economic diversification. In his speech at a National Day reception on Sunday, Chui outlined four routes to propel development and ensure socio-economic stability. These included strengthening the quality of governance to realize long-term prosperity, as well

as ensuring stable economic development and support for economic diversification.

"After experiencing a long period of adjustment, Macau's economy is now recovering, with stable employment and maintaining a relatively low unemployment rate," he said. He also vowed that the government would continue to strengthen the regulation of the gaming industry, uphold the principles of complementary advantages, and promote regional

mutual beneficial development.

He said the government will continue to improve people's livelihoods and uphold the spirit of working together and sharing the fruits of development. "The government [will] continue to optimize the long-term mechanisms for social security, healthcare, housing and education, and enhance the well-being of the people," he said.

Chui added that the government would utilize opportunities arising from the "Belt

and Road" initiative and the Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macau Greater Bay Area, while simultaneously expanding the city's role in China's economic development. In his speech, Chui mentioned that Macau was hit in August by the strongest typhoon of the past half-century, causing serious casualties and financial losses. According to him, local authorities deployed all possible resources for post-typhoon repairs, backed by the Chinese central government.

He added that the authorities would spare no expense in addressing further difficulties brought on by the disaster, and that the government has initiated reviews in order to optimize the SAR's infrastructure and contingency measures for major disasters.

Among the 750-odd guests at the ceremony were the director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the MSAR, Zheng Xiaosong, and the Deputy Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in Macau SAR, Wang Dong.

The government reception, hosted to celebrate the 68th anniversary of the establishment of the People's Republic of China, took place at the Macau Tower Convention and Entertainment Centre on October 1.

THE opening ceremony for the second cycle of the Masters of Physical Education program, which is jointly organized by the Shanghai University of Sport (SUS) and Macao Polytechnic Institute (IPM), was held at IPM recently.

The ceremony was officiated by Im Sio Kei, vice president of IPM, and Zhao Xiaohan, secretary of the Party Committee of the School of Physical Education and Sport Training at SUS.

IPM said in a press release that the two guests encouraged new students to work hard and advance research in sports science.

Zhao also announced that SUS has just been listed as a first-tier university under China's new "Double First-rate" policy, which is inten-

EDUCATION

IPM launches Master of Physical Education program

ded to develop world-class tertiary institutions.

Operating on a "double tutor" system, both schools will be involved in the teaching process for the degree, from which students will graduate as qualified sports professionals.

IPM noted that the collaboration will also promote the internationalization of sports education at the graduate level, while also raising the international profile and enhancing the educational capabilities of both institutions.

Zhao expressed her hopes that the knowle-



dge gained during the program would enable graduates to better utilize their innovative capabilities as sports professionals.

Ng San Fan, acting director of IPM's School of Physical Education and Sports, noted that

the launch of the joint degree marks a new era in training local sports professionals. The Master of Physical Education program is designed to impart theoretical and practical knowledge in related fields.

With an emphasis on practical application, this program aims to train students as sports professionals with strong research skills, who are also capable of achieving moral, intellectual, physical and aesthetic developments.

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A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

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Daniela Wei, Blake Schmidt

MACAU'S casino revenue was stronger than expected last month following disruptions caused by typhoons in August, providing momentum as the world's largest gambling hub enters the Golden Week holidays.

Gross gaming receipts rose 16 percent to 21.4 billion patacas (USD2.7 billion) in September, according to data released by Macau's Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau on Sunday. It was the 14th consecutive month of expansion, and compares with the median estimate for a 14 percent increase in a Bloomberg survey of nine analysts. Gaming revenue climbed 20 percent in August from a year earlier.

Golden Week, which started Sunday, has the potential to generate more revenue than last year. Wynn Macau Ltd. has said it expects a "very strong Golden Week" with its two properties, Wynn Macau and Wynn Palace, fully booked through the period. Parent company Wynn Resorts Ltd.'s shares on Friday closed at the highest level in more than a year after UBS analyst Robin Farley raised her price target to \$174 from \$149, citing strength in Macau's high-end gaming.

Smaller junket operators, who provide credit to their big gamblers, have opened more gambling rooms in a move that's expected to drive growth in high-stakes players, Mor-

High rollers help Macau casinos top estimates before Golden Week



█ Casinos are benefiting from economic expansion in China that's outpacing the official 6.5pct target

gan Stanley analysts led by Praveen Choudhary said in a report. Suncity Group, the largest junket operator in Macau, expects its October betting volume to surge between 30 percent and 35 percent from last year.

The number of tourists this week is expected to increase by as much as 5 percent from about 1.2 million visitors last year, the Macau Tourism Offi-

ce estimates. The bulk of those, about 970,000, were from China. The number of mainland Chinese visitors to Macau surpassed 2 million in both July and August, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

The territory is benefiting from economic expansion in China that's outpacing the official 6.5 percent target, pent-up demand after the typhoons in August and the

Chinese government's decision not to restrict visas before the upcoming Communist Party leadership gathering in Beijing.

High-rollers from China have helped revive and sustain growth in Macau after President Xi Jinping's campaign against corruption caused a two-year slump beginning in 2014, before bottoming out last year. **Bloomberg**

MGM delays Cotai opening to January

MGM Resorts International announced on Friday that it will postpone the opening of its second Macau resort to January 29, 2018, following damage sustained by Typhoon Hato in August.

In a statement filed last week to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, MGM Resorts International said it had been forced to compile "a revised schedule for completing repair works and processing governmental inspections necessary for obtaining relevant licenses to operate MGM Cotai."

The new opening date will still allow the company to take advantage of the Chinese Lunar New Year holiday, which begins

on February 16 and is considered one of the most profitable weeks in the Macau calendar.

Islands-based casinos such as MGM Cotai – which is currently under construction – were hit harder by Typhoon Hato than those on the Macau peninsula. Gaming analysts predicted last month that operators with greater Cotai exposure would bear the brunt of the natural disaster.

Yet despite the damage caused by Typhoon Hato, which struck on August 23, the delay is only the latest of many for the gaming operator's second Macau property.

The property was previously scheduled to open in the fourth

quarter of this year, with its 2016 opening having been delayed thrice.

The gaming operator also announced that it expects the cost of the property's development to increase from HKD26 billion to HKD27 billion (excluding land and capitalized interest), due to the delays and repairs.

Gaming analysts have suggested on several occasions that the delayed openings of some Macau-based properties might give operators certain strategic advantages as they wait for signs of a stronger MSAR economy, while enabling them to minimize overheads.

However at least one brokerage firm is warning of short-term



share price weakness in response to the delay.

"We do not rule out the possibility of near-term share price weakness for MGM China as a result of the delay," remarked Daiwa Capital Markets in a note to Nikkei Asian Review last week.

"Indeed, there are risks of marginal earnings cuts by the

street in the foreseeable future."

In conjunction with the Las Vegas shooting, which took place in a room at the MGM-operated Mandalay Bay Casino, MGM Resorts International shares sank 5.6 percent to 30.77 by market close yesterday. Its China subsidiary, MGM China, slipped 2 percent to HKD18.34. **DB**

opinion

CASINO OPERATORS' REVENUE HAS DECOUPLED

Shelly Banjo, Bloomberg

Sometimes, a rising tide doesn't lift all boats. Macau's gross gaming receipts increased by 16 percent to MOP21.4 billion in September, the region's Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau said on Sunday, as high rollers roar back and tourists flow in ahead of China's Golden Week holiday.

But relatively lost in the celebrations of 14 straight months of growth in the world's largest gambling hub was news Friday that MGM China Holdings Ltd. will postpone the opening of its newest casino in Cotai to early 2018 from the second half of 2017. Part of the holdup is damage from August's Typhoon Hato.

Construction delays and weather problems are common in big real estate development projects. But the several-month setback could cost MGM more than investors think.

For one, casino fortunes in Macau often rely on a cash spigot controlled by Beijing. Funds ebb and flow on the whim of Chinese authorities, whether it's aimed at controlling capital outflows or limiting conspicuous consumption.

That makes it crucial for operators to do everything they can to sop up winnings when the tap's on: There's no telling when it may shut.

Wynn Macau Ltd., Sands China Ltd. and Melco Resorts & Entertainment Ltd. are raking in the spoils, thanks in part to new properties along the Cotai strip.

While some operators are benefiting from an increase in credit provided to VIP players, many are getting an extra bump from visitors wanting to try their luck at fresh, shiny casinos such as Sands Parisian, which boasts a 525-foot replica of the Eiffel Tower, or Wynn Palace, which ushers guests into the resort via cable cars that rise above a synchronized fountain show.

Macau casino stocks also tend to rally around new openings. After running as a pack for years, Macau casino operators' revenue has decoupled recently, with those opening new properties racing ahead of others like MGM China. Metrics such as VIP table drop and mass market gaming show a similar trend.

What is consistent is that pretty much no player is making progress on a collective promise to increase the share of non-gaming revenue through entertainment, food, retail and other attractions.

Non-gaming revenue has been flat for years at MGM China, which has said it's staking a comeback on attracting mass-market customers.

Any recovery could be further impacted by another unknown factor - how many new casino tables Macau's government will allow at MGM's latest property.

Sands and Wynn were permitted 100 new tables each when they opened their respective projects, requiring tables to be moved from older properties, cannibalizing revenue. MGM had just 415 of Macau's 6,413 tables in the second quarter, versus Galaxy at 1,200, and Sands at 1,600.

MGM Cotai's 1,400-room hotel and 2,000-seat theater will help draw guests when the new resort eventually opens, especially if that's in time for Chinese New Year in February. But for MGM, every added delay makes edging its way back into the winner's circle increasingly difficult.

Macau resident affected by Hurricane Maria returns

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs worked with the Embassies of China in Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda, and Barbados to support the evacuation and safe relocation of more than 400 Chinese citizens affected by Hurricane Maria. Among those affected was a Macau resident who was safely taken to Antigua and Barbuda, according to a statement issued by the Tourism Crisis Management Office (GGCT). The GGCT was contacted by the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in Macau last week, and facilitated the resident's return to Macau.

DSEC launches visitor statistics database

The Statistics and Census Service has launched the Visitor Statistics Database for convenient access to data analysis on visitor arrivals to Macau. The bureau said in a statement that the database provides users with visitor statistics from January 2017 onward, detailing visitor arrivals by day, gender and age group. Statistics on visitors from specific locations in the "Belt and Road" regions, as well as the Portuguese-speaking countries, have also been included in the database. The database also compiles statistics on repeat visitors, including the number of repeat visits that travelers have made to Macau within time periods ranging from six months to three years.

AL ELECTION

Anti-corruption chief defends 'breakfast incident' ruling

THE head of the government's anti-corruption department, when defending his stance on the controversial "breakfast incident" during the legislative election, said that the idea that "even one dollar can be considered an advantage" should not form the basis of whether an act constitutes electoral bribery.

Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) chief André Cheong was responding to media enquiries regarding New Macau Association's complaint about the bureau's response to the incident.

It was reported that some residents were offered a complimentary breakfast on September 17, the day of the Legislative Assembly election, by the electoral list headed by lawmaker Ho Ion Sang. However, the CCAC quickly ruled out the possibility of electoral bribery upon determining that there was no intent to sway voters.



The corruption watchdog stated that the breakfast did not "suggest, implicitly or explicitly, that voters [should] vote or not vote for certain candidates."

In a statement issued by the CCAC over the weekend, the bureau appeared to equate the free breakfast provided on election day with the dis-

tribution of tissue packets by a New Macau member during the official campaign period. Adopting the notion that "even one dollar can be considered an advantage" would implicate New Macau in electoral bribery, the entity stated.

A member of the pro-democracy group commented

on social media that the act of distributing tissue packets does not constitute electoral bribery, since it took place during the campaign period as part of normal electioneering activity.

The CCAC rebutted that, according to Macau law, such acts may constitute electoral bribery regardless of whether or not they occur within the official campaign period.

"Beyond doubt, giving away tissue packets is to draw electors' votes for a candidate list," stated the CCAC in its official communication over the weekend. Nevertheless, the bureau does not consider this bribery because "the values [of such items] are not high enough to influence the electors' voting intentions."

Cheong's ruling implies that the CCAC will continue to use its discretion in determining how valuable a giveaway item must be in order for the act of its distribution to constitute electoral bribery. **DB**

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- Master Choi Chun Heng Chinese Calligraphy Art Exhibition
- Limited traditional rabbit lanterns offered to children
- Snack boxes with traditional festive selection
- Snack and Drink (Availability Limited) **Snack box collection period : 19:15 - 21:30**
- Live music performance **Other snack and drinks : 19:30 - 21:30**
- Bunny Balloon Twisting **Snack boxes with traditional festive selection**
- Lantern Riddle Solving **(Number tag will be distributed on the same day from 17:00)**
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MGM MACAU Pastry Bar expands repertoire with new menu

Acclaimed contemporary patisserie Pastry Bar has outdone itself with the launch of a new savory menu. Best known for its inspired cakes and pastries, the picturesque café now boasts a mouthwatering range of modern Asian and international delicacies.

Its all-day breakfast now offers no fewer than five egg-themed dishes. Visitors can order poached eggs with Hollandaise sauce, served à la Florentine (with spinach), Benedict (ham) or Royale (cured salmon). Meat lovers can opt for a breakfast burger and dig in to a generous cheesy helping of eggs and bacon atop a Brioche bun.

While salads, soups and sandwiches may appear deceptively straightforward, Pastry Bar has redesigned these with a distinctly Asian spin. The salad bar, in addition to such classics as Caesar salad and honey mustard chicken, now features chilled tuna poke in a unique take on the popular Hawaiian dish. Vegetarians have plenty to choose from, like an avocado, jicama, and lime salad or the Thai mango salad with peanut dressing.

The Asian fusion continues with soups; diners can choose either the roasted tomato and fennel soup or Vietnamese beef 'pho'. Of the sandwiches, the Boston Lobster is a delight – as are the Pu'erh tea-cured salmon on rye bread with chive cream cheese and the Korean kimchi, ham, and egg toast. The café has also proven itself a master of Italian cuisine, with its pizza and pasta selection offering highlights like the shrimp and squid ink pizza with bonito flakes.

Although the Indian, Thai and Japanese curries are not to be dismissed – all three are spicy and served with rice from their respective countries – the rice bowls are the true standouts. The Japanese-style poached flaked salmon and the unagi (eel) bowl are both hits with Pastry Bar's own staff. Those craving a taste of other Asian countries can pick either the Korean marinated beef bowl or the char siu (pork) with coriander and lime.

Pastry Bar's dazzling desserts remain the perfect ending to a hearty meal. Aside from the restaurant's rich variety of international tea and coffee blends, the master pâtissiers recommend a KAV hot chocolate or raspberry smoothie to pair with the café's famous cakes.

Pastry Bar is open from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm daily on the ground floor of MGM MACAU.



CRIME

HK police officer arrested after casino chip theft

A Hong Kong police officer who allegedly tried to steal and make off with some HKD800,000 worth of Macau gambling chips will be suspended, Hong Kong police authorities said on the weekend.

The 28-year-old, male officer is accused of trying to steal the chips from another gambler at a Cotai resort on September 22. The victim, a mainlander, had been exchanging the chips with a dealer when the Hong Kong police officer grabbed them and headed for the exit.

The officer was stopped and apprehended by casino security personnel and then arrested by Macau police on charges of theft.

It is thought that the Hong Kong police officer had lost the money gambling prior to the attempted theft.

A representative of the Hong Kong Police Force confirmed to the South China Morning Post that the officer belonged to a police tactical unit and is still being detained in Macau.

"The force attaches great im-



portance to the conduct of officers. The force will not tolerate any officer who commits an offence, and will deal with the case seriously," the spokesman told the SCMP. "A disciplinary review will be conducted after local criminal investigations and judicial proceedings have

been completed." In the first half of 2017, seven Hong Kong police officers were arrested for crimes such as street gambling and drink-driving. Last year, a total of 21 officers belonging to the neighboring SAR's force were arrested.

TOURISM

Outbound residents on package tours rise 11 percent

THE number of visitors to Macau on package tours decreased 6.1 percent year-on-year to 677,000 in August 2017, with a month-to-month decline of 14.6 percent, according to information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC).

Following the impact of Typhoon Hato, the number of package tour visitors from mainland China (551,000) and Taiwan (34,000) dropped by 6 percent and 20.3 percent, respectively, year-on-year. Those from the Republic of Korea (34,000) rose by 5.2 percent.

In the first eight months of 2017, visitors on package tours totaled 5,237,000, up by 8.8 percent year-on-year. Outbound residents using travel agency services increased by 5.2 percent year-on-year to 116,000.

The number of residents traveling on package tours went up by 10.9 percent to 47,000, with those heading to mainland China rising by 3.9 percent to 29,000.

In the first eight months of 2017, outbound residents using travel agency services totaled 910,000, up by 11.3 percent year-on-year. There were 107 hotels and guesthouses operating in August, of which six were still temporarily closed at the end of the month due to Typhoon Hato.

The number of guest rooms increased by 10.2 percent year-on-year to 37,000, with five-star hotel rooms rising by 2 percent to 22,000, accounting for 60.4 percent of the total. In the first eight months of 2017, guests staying at hotels and guesthouses totaled 8,652,000, up by 13.7 percent year-on-year. The average occupancy rate of hotels and guesthouses rose by 3.5 percentage points to 85.3 percent. Guests' average length of stay held steady at 1.4 nights. Visitor-guests accounted for 72.4 percent of the total overnight visitors, up by 1.3 percentage points year-on-year.

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Fong Soi Kun's retirement to be reassessed

THE retirement application of the former director of the Macau Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG), Fong Soi Kun, has been revoked for not respecting the legal notice period, the secretary for Administration and Justice, Sónia Chan revealed on October 1. Chan told the media on the sidelines of the celebrations of China's National Day that Fong's application had been revoked and sent back to the Weather Bureau for re-examination.

"A civil servant meets the requirements to retire and submits the application to the public service to which he is connected. After being authorized by the services, the application process is sent to the Pension Fund in order to calculate the amount of the employee's retirement pension," Chan explained, when asked about civil servants' retirement procedures.



Fong Soi Kun

In Fong's case, she said that "having analyzed [the application] with the public services, it was verified that it did not fulfil the re-

quirement [to submit] such applications at least 90 days prior to the date on which the worker intends to [retire]."

The same official explained that the SMG is responsible for authorizing such applications and that the services under her secretariat calculate the amount of pension to which the worker is entitled, adding that the Pension Fund must always respond within 30 days.

Fong resigned following criticism from residents and lawmakers about the bureau's failure to raise appropriate typhoon warning signals prior to Typhoon Hato on August 23.

The announcement was made the day after the typhoon by Chief Executive Chui Sai On, who said that Fong had retired but was not exempt from investigation.

By request of several entities and individual citizens, the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) is investigating Fong to assess whether the SMG's typhoon prediction was influenced by external parties.

Entrants for fashion design program announced

The initial review of the "2017 Subsidy Programme for Fashion Design on Sample Making", organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau, has been recently completed. A total of 26 applications were received, and the adjudicating panel selected 15 entrants for the second review. Each candidate eligible for the second review will be granted a subsidy up to a maximum amount of MOP160,000 to cover expenses of sample making and production of promotional materials. Entrants are now expected to produce a sample based on the selected work for the second interview in their application, and present it to the adjudicating panel during the second review on a model of their choice (make-up and hair design must be compatible with the overall modelling).

C2 Magazine publishes 23rd issue

C2 Magazine, which discusses how professionals turn their creative ideas into businesses, will launch its 23rd issue today. The magazine is published by the Cultural Affairs Bureau and produced by the Like Entertainment & Production Co. Ltd. In the latest issue, three specialists in comics, fashion and dance share their journeys to success in the cultural and creative industries. The rest of the issue includes the perspectives of various columnists and industry insiders on the development of the cultural and creative industries, and their own experiences in brand development.

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LAS VEGAS SHOOTING

Guests scanned at the Wynn in glimpse of Las Vegas's future

Christopher Palmeri

At entrances to the Wynn resort in Las Vegas on Monday afternoon, guards scanned visitors with metal-detector wands and inspected their bags, creating a 10-minute wait to get inside. The new security protocol, put in place after Sunday's mass shooting nearby, is likely to become the norm on the Strip and possibly beyond.

Casinos and entertainment venues are going to have to take a more holistic approach to security, thinking about rooftops and other potential shooting perches - considering the possibilities for an attack from all angles, said David Shepherd, a former FBI special agent in counterterrorism who later was the security director for Las Vegas Sands Corp.'s Venetian resort.

"We have to start thinking like the Secret Service - start looking at tall buildings," said Shepherd, who co-authored a book called "Active Shooter." "How far do we have to take it?"

The additional security measures highlight the dilemma facing companies in one of the nation's top entertainment destinations. How do businesses keep guests safe while not imposing such

drastic restrictions that the casinos, clubs and shopping thoroughfares no longer feel fun?

One executive at another casino operator, who asked not to be identified because security matters are sensitive, said the Wynn's security check at the door is probably the industry's future because there's no other way to screen for people carrying weapons.

MGM Resorts International owns the Mandalay Bay hotel where a shooter opened fire Sunday night on an outdoor concert venue on the Strip operated by the company. MGM canceled all its Las Vegas shows Monday following the mass shooting, which killed almost 60 people and hurt more than 500. The incident surpassed last year's massacre in an Orlando, Florida, nightclub as the biggest mass shooting in U.S. history.

MGM and Wynn Resorts Ltd. declined to comment on their security operations.

Gambling hubs across the globe have also faced security issues. In the Philippines, where an arson attack at Resorts World Manila in June resulted in 38 deaths, casinos routinely scan vehicles before they enter the property and require visitors to open their bags for security checks.



Regulators in Macau yesterday contacted the territory's casino operators, reiterating that the properties need to continue enhancing their security. Casinos in the world's biggest gambling hub, which are currently near capacity during the Golden Week holiday, require visitors to go through a security door before entering.

Casinos and concert facilities need to have plans on how they can remove people quickly in the event of an active shooter and where to lead them in order to be safe, according to Alan Zajic, a security consultant specializing

in hospitality, gaming, nightclubs and retail.

"In Orlando, that's how a lot of people died," he told attendees at a panel on security on Monday morning at the Global Gaming Expo, an industry conference that started Monday in Las Vegas. "There were only two doors. One in the back was locked. Having a good flowing emergency exit plan is pretty important."

The future of live events will likely include anti-sniper teams, metal detectors and better separation of audiences so they can be evacuated quickly and first res-

ponders can get in, said Ed Davis, Boston's police commissioner from 2006 to 2013 and now a security consultant. Whether the Las Vegas massacre sparks broader changes in gun laws remains to be seen, he said.

"I would have thought that would have happened after Sandy Hook," he said, referring to the Connecticut school shooting in 2012. "This doesn't happen in other countries and that's because of how we regulate or don't regulate guns."

How do businesses keep guests safe while not imposing such drastic restrictions that the casinos, clubs and shopping thoroughfares no longer feel fun?

Since the Las Vegas attack occurred at an outdoor venue, there wasn't a natural exit to run to, and concertgoers who hit the ground were vulnerable to the attack from above, Shepherd said. It's also not enough to screen customers for firearms when a shooter has weapons with a range of more than a mile, he said.

"In this case he's not even at the event," he said. **Bloomberg**

Thomas Seal

U.K. leisure carrier Monarch filed for insolvency in Britain's biggest-ever airline collapse, leaving the government to arrange the return of 110,000 tourists and marking the third failure of a major European operator in five months.

The airline and Monarch Travel Group were placed in administration, leading to the suspension of the Luton, England-based company's operating license, according to a statement Monday. Future flights and holidays have been canceled and won't be rescheduled, affecting a further 300,000 people.

The collapse of Monarch, which served more than 40 destinations from five U.K. bases, follows insolvency filings at Alitalia SpA and Air Berlin Plc as a glut in capacity prompted by the low oil price compels carriers to slash fares in a battle for market share. At the same time, the low-cost operator has seen margins squeezed by higher dollar-denominated

Monarch files for insolvency in biggest UK airline failure



fuel costs following the pound's decline in the wake of last year's Brexit vote.

Monarch Chief Executive Officer Andrew Swaffield said the carrier had fallen victim to "outside influences," especially a flood of seating into its core west Mediterranean markets after a spate of terrorist attacks prompted holiday companies to reduce their exposure to Egypt, Tunisia and Turkey. Attempts to sell the short-haul business prior to

the insolvency filing failed, he added.

The crisis at Monarch, which employed around 3,000 people and was Britain's fifth-biggest scheduled airline by passenger numbers, follows on the heels of pilot scheduling issues at low-cost rival Ryanair that prompted 20,000 flight cancellations, disrupting travel for around 700,000 customers.

Monarch, which was founded in 1968, has come clo-

se to collapse before, with the airline rescued by a 165 million-pound (USD220 million) capital injection from Greybull Capital LLP last December, just hours before it faced grounding by the U.K. Civil Aviation Authority due to a lack of funds.

Greybull had bought 90 percent of Monarch in 2014 via a 125 million-pound recapitalization that funded the final elements of a transformation from charter specialist to discount carrier. The private-equity firm said in a statement Monday it was "very sorry" that the three-year turnaround bid failed.

Some 1,858 people have been made redundant, administrator KPMG said, about 1,760 at Monarch Airlines Ltd. and the rest at the holiday division, leaving about 250 to assist in the re-

patriation of clients and the windup. Repair arm Monarch Aircraft Engineering Ltd. isn't in administration and is still functioning.

Monarch operated 35 Airbus SE A320-series planes, almost all of them leased, with AerCap Holdings NV most exposed to aircraft being returned, according to Wells Fargo analyst Gary Liebowitz. He added that the jets represent only 0.5 percent of the firm's fleet value.

The U.K. airline also has a contract for 45 Boeing Co. 737 Max 8 jetliners worth about \$5 billion at current list prices, the last 15 of which were ordered only in June. Boeing said in an email that it is "aware of the situation" regarding the carrier - which was due to get the first planes next year - but doesn't comment on discussions with customers.

The insolvency opens up opportunities for rival operators to expand into former Monarch routes or snap up the carrier's assets. Cantor Fitzgerald analyst Rob Hyde said in a note that the failure is "another step in the consolidation of the European short-haul market," and that he views EasyJet Plc, Britain's biggest discount carrier and also based at Luton, as a likely bidder, though a wholesale takeover is unlikely.

EasyJet declined to comment, beyond saying that it has encouraged Monarch employees to apply for jobs. Virgin Atlantic Airways Ltd. also said it has launched a program to recruit pilots from the failed carrier.

British Airways owner International Consolidated Airlines Group SA has expressed interest in Monarch's takeoff and landing slots, fleet and crew, Sky News reported over the weekend, without saying how it got the information. IAG has a growing discount arm of its own in Barcelona-based Vueling. **Bloomberg**



Photo features an artistic impression and is not to scale.

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Analyst: Pollution curbs to slow growth, lift prices

China's drive to cut pollution could reduce economic growth by 0.25 percentage points in the next six months while boosting factory inflation, according to Societe Generale SA. Production cuts to curb emissions and tougher nationwide environmental inspections will also support the profits of large industrial companies as producer prices rise, said Yao Wei, chief China economist at SocGen in Paris. She said the campaign will give a "notable supply shock" to the economy. "The Chinese government has turned very serious about fighting pollution," Yao wrote in a note. It will be "more than a transitory objective for the current leadership. Modestly slower growth will be a necessary sacrifice for maintaining social stability over the medium term."

Scientists make breakthrough in replacing WiFi with LiFi

Chinese scientists have reportedly made a breakthrough in creating full-color emissive carbon dots (F-CDs), which brings them one step closer to developing a faster wireless communication channel that could be available in just six years. Light Fidelity, known as LiFi, uses visible light from LED bulbs to transfer data much faster than radio wave-based WiFi. While most current research uses rare earth materials to provide the light for LiFi to transmit data, Xinhua reported that a team of Chinese scientists have created an alternative - F-CDs, a fluorescent carbon nanomaterial that proves to be safer and faster.

HONG KONG

Apartment sets Asia price record amid gov't curbs

Bei Hu

A luxury home in Hong Kong set a price record for apartment sales in Asia, even as the government seeks to tame property prices in the world's least affordable market.

The penthouse duplex unit in Henderson Land Development Co.'s 39 Conduit Road project was sold for about HKD522 million (USD67 million), or HKD105,000 per square foot, the city's Sing Tao Daily reported Saturday, citing an unidentified person. Company representatives didn't immediately reply to an email seeking comment sent outside of business hours.

Hong Kong home prices hit all-time highs this year, shrugging off government restrictions to cool the market as well as concerns that another real-estate crash could deal a heavy blow to the wealth of the city's 7.4 million people

and destabilize its financial system. Centaline Property's Centa-City Leading Index has climbed 11 percent this year, extending the gain in the last five years to more than 60 percent.

Private home prices in Hong Kong climbed for a 17th straight month in July, according to the latest data released by the Rating and Valuation Department. That is the longest winning streak since 1993, Hong Kong Economic Times reported.

Luxury home prices in Hong Kong regularly break Asian records. In November, two units in phase two of Wheelock Properties Ltd.'s Mount Nicholson project on Hong Kong's prestigious Victoria Peak were sold at an average per square foot price of HKD104,800, a regional record that was trumped by the latest sale, Sing Tao reported.

It now takes a household 18



years of median income to buy a home in Hong Kong, more than anywhere else in the world, data from Demographia shows. That compares with just over 12 years in Sydney, 8 1/2 in London and under six years for the wider New York metropolitan area.

Hong Kong's government in May tightened rules on bank lending for property development after expressing worries about banks' exposure to the real-estate industry

as developers bid up land prices. The local monetary authority in the same month introduced fresh curbs on second-home mortgages as well as borrowers whose income is derived mainly from overseas sources.

The recently sold home was initially offered at HKD537.7 million, Sing Tao reported. The 4,971-square-foot unit comes with a private swimming pool and three parking spaces. **Bloomberg**

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Thousands of democracy supporters protest in HK

THOUSANDS of pro-democracy supporters took to the streets of Chinese-controlled Hong Kong on Sunday to protest against what they say is the Beijing-backed government's use of the courts to pursue its opponents.

Demonstrators marched through the semiautonomous Chinese region's streets on the same day as a national holiday marking the founding of the People's Republic of China.

They carried banners calling for the rejection of "authoritarian rule" and demanded the city's Justice Secretary Rimsky Yuen step down. The protesters said his request for the courts to review sentences for three pro-democracy activists, which resulted in them being sent to prison, eroded the city's rule of law.

Many protesters heeded organizers' calls for them to wear black T-shirts in a show of support for the three activists, including young protest



leader Joshua Wong. The three originally received community service or suspended sentences for their role in an illegal rally that sparked massive 2014 protests, but under the new stiffer sentences handed out this summer, they got six to eight months in jail.

"We think political prosecution is becoming increasingly significant in Hong Kong," said Au Nok-hin, vice-convenor of one of the organizing

groups, the Civil Human Rights Front.

In a statement, the government said the justice department has been handling all cases in accordance with the law.

"No political consideration is being taken into account at all. The allegations of political prosecution or persecution are entirely unfounded," the statement said.

Organizers said 40,000 people

turned out for the protest, but police estimated 4,300 attended, the South China Morning Post reported.

Many Hong Kong residents fear that Beijing is undermining the "one country, two systems" blueprint in place after China took control of Hong Kong from Britain in 1997, which lets the city retain wide autonomy and a separate legal system, including an independent judiciary. **AP**



Taiwan concert clash reveals divisions

Police are looking for a final suspect involved in clashes at a Chinese-organized concert in Taipei between Taiwanese pro-independence protesters and Beijing supporters that revealed divisions over China's influence on the self-ruled island. Beijing insists that Taiwan and the Chinese mainland are part of a single Chinese nation and has vowed to take control of the island by force if necessary. It has been stepping up economic and diplomatic pressure on Taiwan's government over President Tsai Ing-wen's refusal to endorse Beijing's view that both sides belong to "one China."

Holiday travel to South Korea plunges

Ctrip.com International, China's largest travel website, said the number of tourists using the week-long national holiday to visit South Korea plunged 70 percent this year, in the latest sign of economic fallout over their differing approaches to North Korea. South Korea didn't make the top 20 destinations for the more than 6 million Ctrip users traveling abroad over the "golden week" holiday, after ranking No. 1 during the same period last year, the company said. Thailand rose from the No. 2 spot to become this year's top destination for the Ctrip's roughly 300 million users.

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Coloane, 4 Storey Commercial Building

(Ref: 17040646)
4,003sq. ft. HKD 168,000

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



Cheoc Van, Coloane

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

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



Manhattan Car Park

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

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For Sale



Va Nam, Taipa Village

(Ref: 17085531)
680sq. ft. HKD 4.42M
Rate: HKD 6,500sq ft

Top floor apartment Taipa Village. Fully renovated 4 years ago from a small two bedroom property to a large one bedroom. The bedroom has ample space for king bed and lots of storage, two fabulous windows giving lots of natural light into the room. Lovely shower room with walk in shower unit with sliding doors, and plenty of under counter storage, great water pressure and hot water on demand. Living room and dining area has been well furnished and has a great balance with bi-fold doors installed



Hellene Gardens, Buttercup Court, G Unit

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

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



Cheoc Van, House912 Coloane

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

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



Mandarin Residences Serviced Duplex

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

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



Old Taipa, Nam Long (I Unit)

(Ref: 16095500)
515sq. ft. HKD3.88M
Rate: HKD 7,378sq ft

Unique property located at the beginning of old Taipa village. A great investment property which was renovated in 2015, making the original two small bedrooms into one spacious bright room bedroom. The kitchen has also been opened up and is now just off the living area, giving the apartment a lofty feeling. The kitchen is small however well equipped with most appliances built in. The shower room has a walk in shower area and modern built in cabinets for storage. Furnished throughout with modern furniture which can be included in the sale if desired. This property is centrally located with a bus stop outside the main door. plenty of cafe.

Office: (853) 2835 2699



Hellene Gardens, Lot IV, Unit B, Carnation Court, Coloane

(Ref: 17025509)
1,663sq. ft. HKD 8.88M
Rate: HKD5,339sq ft

Located in the clean, beautiful island of Coloane, this stunning 3 bedroom, 2 bath apartment has incredible sea views from the living room and master bedroom, and green mountain views from all other rooms. The apartment has been renovated to a high standard with modern bathrooms and kitchen, new balcony construction with high quality heavy storm doors. The white good and appliances included are a large stainless steel refrigerator, Siemens dishwasher, washer, dryer and newly installed Mitsubishi reverse cycle air conditioner in the living room. Asking price includes one car park space.

Email: Info@JMLProperty.com



Nam Long, Taipa Village

(Ref: 17085534)
691sq. ft. HKD4.485M
Rate: HKD6,490sq ft

Lovely apartment on the second floor of a three storey building in Taipa Village. Renovated 10 years ago from a two bedroom property to a great size one bedroom apartment, well maintained and managed by JML of the last ten years, historical maintenance data available on request. The bedroom has ample space for double bed and plenty of storage. Great shower room with walk in shower unit and ample storage, great water pressure and hot water on demand. Living room and dining area has been well furnished and has a lovely balcony to enjoy dinner for two or a small BBQ. Galley style kitchen with large oven and large double door fridge along with lots of cabinet storage. Viewing by appointment only as the apartment is tenanted, details of the tenancy available upon request. No on site parking



Va Fat, Taipa Village

(Ref: 17085533)
6,661sq. ft. HKD 4.25M

Lovely apartment on the third floor of a five storey building in Taipa Village. Renovated 3 years ago the apartment has two good size bedrooms and separate walk in shower room. The apartment has been well maintained and managed by JML of the last eight years, historical maintenance data available on request. The main bedroom has ample space for double bed and plenty of storage. Great shower room with walk in shower unit and ample under counter storage, great water pressure and hot water on demand. Living room is small but nicely furnished with a small balcony

Contact Property Consultants Today.

Juliet Risdon
(English Speaker)
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In this combination of photos, Indonesian Siti Aisyah (left) and Vietnamese Doan Thi Huong (right) are escorted by police as they leave their court hearing

KIM JONG NAM MURDER

Two women plead not guilty in N. Korean scion's assassination

Eileen Ng, Malaysia

TWO women accused of smearing a banned nerve agent on the face of the estranged half brother of North Korea's leader pleaded not guilty as their trial began Monday in the Feb. 13 assassination at a crowded Malaysian airport terminal.

Siti Aisyah of Indonesia and Doan Thi Huong of Vietnam are suspected of using VX nerve agent to kill Kim Jong Nam at Kuala Lumpur's airport. The women say they thought they were playing a harmless prank for a hidden-camera TV show.

An airport doctor testified that Kim died rapidly, with his blood pressure and pulse first soaring and then plunging.

After the charges were read to the women in their native languages at Malaysia's High Court, they shook their heads "no" when asked if they were guilty.

The two women are the only suspects in custody in a killing that South Korea's spy agency said was part of a five-year plot by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to kill a brother he reportedly never met. Police say four North Koreans suspected of involvement left the country on the day of the attack. Three others who holed up inside North Korea's embassy were allowed to leave in a deal with Pyongyang to ease tensions, despite Malaysia's anger at the public use of a chemical weapon on its territory.

Lawyers for the two women,

who face the death penalty if convicted, asked the court to compel prosecutors to identify four people still at large mentioned in the charge sheet as having a common intention to kill Kim. The judge denied the request.

Four witnesses testified Monday: an airport information counter worker and a police officer who were among the first to interact with Kim after the attack, and a doctor and a nurse at the airport who treated him.

Airport clinic Dr. Nik Mohd Adzrul Ariff Raja Azlan gave a detailed account of Kim's rapid decline.

"When I saw him, his hands were clutching his head. He was closing his eyes tightly and his face was very red. He was sweating profusely," Nik said, adding that Kim was unable to respond when asked what happened.

Nik said Kim had very high blood pressure and a quickened pulse and started to display seizure symptoms, with his jaw and teeth clenched and eyes rolling upward.

He said Kim then fell unconscious, his blood pressure dropped to 70/40, and then his pulse was lost.

The prosecution phase of the trial is expected to last about two months, after which the judge will decide if there is a strong case for the women to have to mount their defense, said Hisyam Teh Poh Teik, Huong's lawyer.

Kim, who was 45 or 46, was

the eldest son of the family that has ruled North Korea since its founding, yet he reportedly fell out of favor in 2001 when he was caught trying to enter Japan on a false passport, saying he wanted to visit Tokyo Disneyland. He had been living abroad for years and at the time of his death was traveling on a North Korean diplomatic passport under the name "Kim Chol."

North Korea has a long history of ordering killings of people it views as threats to its regime, though Kim was not thought to be seeking influence over his younger brother. He had, however, spoken out publicly against his family's dynastic control of the reclusive, nuclear-armed nation.

North Korea has denied any role in the killing and has not even acknowledged the dead man was Kim Jong Nam. It has suggested the victim died of a heart attack and accused Malaysia of working with South Korean and other "hostile forces" in blaming Pyongyang.

During Monday's hearing, Kim was referred to as "Kim Chol." The two defendants listened intently and were briefed by translators during the trial, with Huong smiling on several occasions.

The trial will be closely watched by the Indonesian and Vietnamese governments, which have hired lawyers to defend the women.

Aisyah's lawyer, Gooi Soon Seng, said before the trial began that her defense will be that

she didn't know she had poison on her hand when she smeared Kim's face and was instead the victim of an elaborate trick. The 25-year-old was at a pub in Kuala Lumpur in early January when she was recruited by a North Korean man to star in what he said were video prank shows, Gooi said.

Over the course of several days, the North Korean, who went by the name James, had Aisyah go out to malls, hotels and airports and rub oil or pepper sauce on strangers, which he would film on his phone, the lawyer said.

Aisyah was paid USD100-\$200 for each prank and hoped the income would allow her to stop working as an escort, Gooi said.

In late January, Aisyah flew to Cambodia, where James introduced her to a man called Chang, who said he was the producer of video prank shows for the Chinese market, the lawyer said. Back in Malaysia, Chang asked Aisyah to do several more pranks at the Kuala Lumpur airport a few days before Kim was attacked. At the airport on the day of Kim's death, Chang pointed him out to Aisyah as the next target and put the poison on her hand, the lawyer said.

Police say Chang was actually Hong Song Hac, one of the four North Korean suspects who left Malaysia on the day of the killing, while James was Ri Ji U, one of the three other North Koreans who hid inside their country's embassy in Kuala Lumpur to avoid questioning.

Those three were later allowed to fly home in exchange for nine Malaysians allowed to leave Pyongyang. Gooi said James was key to Aisyah's defense and that his absence could weaken her case.

Aisyah, who has a son, has written to her family and told them to pray for her "so that the case will be over soon and I can go back home."

The 29-year-old Vietnamese suspect, Huong, was caught on airport security surveillance cameras wearing a white sweatshirt emblazoned with the big black letters "LOL" — the acronym for "laughing out loud." Little is known about her. Raised in a rice farm in northern Vietnam, her family said they had hardly heard from her since she left home a decade ago.

She made postings on a Facebook page under the name Ruby Ruby, according to her niece, Dinh Thi Quyen.

Photos on the page show Huong wearing a white shirt that says "LOL," like the one seen during the attack. It shows her posing for selfies in January in Cambodia and in Kuala Lumpur a few days before the attack.

Her last post was on the morning of Feb. 11, two days before the attack, from an area near the airport. **AP**



Upbeat economic, investment outlook for Japan

A quarterly survey by the Bank of Japan released Monday showed business sentiment rising to its strongest level in a decade, exceeding analysts' expectations for the world's third largest economy. The BOJ's "tankan" index for large manufacturers rose to 22 from 17 in June and a forecast level of 15. It suggested that growing shortages of factory capacity could encourage manufacturers to invest more, helping to drive growth. "Capacity and staff shortages are the most pronounced since the early 1990s and the survey suggests that price pressures are strengthening," Marcel Thieliant of Capital Economics said in a commentary.

Mystery of Flight 370 is 'almost inconceivable'

A report on the almost three-year search for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 said yesterday the continuing mystery over the fate of the plane and the 239 people on board is "almost inconceivable." But the Australian Transport Safety Bureau's final report on the search, which was abandoned in January, concedes that authorities are no closer to knowing the reasons for the plane's disappearance, or its exact location. This is despite last year's narrowing down of its most likely resting place to a 25,000-square kilometer patch of the southern Indian Ocean. The Boeing 777 carrying 227 passengers and 12 crew disappeared soon into its flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing on March 8, 2014.

Duterte says he won't cooperate in anti-graft body's probe

The Philippine president says he will not cooperate in an investigation being done by a key anti-graft agency on his alleged undeclared wealth and warned he will personally bring one of its top officials to investigators for illegally disclosing confidential information about him. In an expletives-laden outburst, President Rodrigo Duterte warned in a speech late Saturday of a "stalemate," as he collides with the Ombudsman, an independent state agency that investigates officials facing corruption allegations. The Ombudsman said Friday it will continue an investigation involving the president and cannot be intimidated by him.



Drapes billow out of broken windows at the Mandalay Bay resort and casino



Debris is strewn through the scene of a mass shooting at a music festival

LAS VEGAS SHOOTING

Hospitals overwhelmed as dozens slain, scores wounded

Amanda Lee Myers, Las Vegas

THE victims just kept coming. In private cars, in ambulances waiting four or five deep, from the walking wounded to the barely alive, they arrived in droves.

"I have no idea who I operated on," said Dr. Jay Coates, a trauma surgeon whose hospital took in many of the wounded after a gunman opened fire from a Las Vegas hotel window on a country concert below. "They were coming in so fast, we were taking care of bodies. We were just trying to keep people from dying."

As Sunday night led to Monday morning, the attack became the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history with 59 killed and 527 wounded.

University Medical Center of Southern Nevada was one of many hospitals that were overflowing.

"Every bed was full," Coates said. "We had people in the hallways, people outside and more people coming in."

He said the huge, horrifying wounds on his operating table that told him it wasn't just the massive numbers that made this shooting different.

"It was very clear that the first patient I took back and operated on that this was a high-powered weapon," Coates said. "This wasn't a normal street weapon. This was something that did a lot of damage when it entered the body cavity," Coates said. He had seen similar wounds before but "of course never this many patients," he said.

The gunman, 64-year-old retired accountant Stephen Paddock,

ck, killed himself as authorities stormed his hotel room.

He had 23 guns — some with scopes — in the room at the Mandalay Bay Hotel and Casino where he had been staying since Thursday. He knocked out two windows to create sniper's perches he used to rain torrents of bullets on the crowd of 22,000 some 500 yards away, authorities said.

■ The attack is the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history with 59 killed and 527 wounded

Two guns were modified to make them fully automatic, according to two U.S. officials briefed by law enforcement who spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation is still unfolding.

At Paddock's home, authorities found 19 more guns, explosives and thousands of rounds of ammunition. Also, several pounds of ammonium nitrate, a fertilizer that can be turned into explosives, were in his car, authorities said.

Authorities believe Paddock acted alone. While he appeared to have no criminal history, his father was a bank robber who was on the FBI's most-wanted list in the 1960s.

"I can't even make something up," his brother in Florida, Eric Paddock, said when asked what

might have motivated his brother. "There's just nothing."

Authorities also had nothing to say about Paddock's motive. "I can't get into the mind of a psychopath at this point," Sheriff Joseph Lombardo said.

At the concert, headliner Jason Aldean had just started his set shortly after 10 p.m. to close out the three-day Route 91 Harvest Festival when bullets started hitting people.

In the crowd there was gunfire, but no gunman. Some figured out where it was coming from through the cracks and muzzle flashes.

"It was the craziest stuff I've ever seen in my entire life," said Kodiak Yazzie, 36. "You could hear that the noise was coming from west of us, from Mandalay Bay. You could see a flash, flash, flash, flash."

Paddock appeared to fire unhindered for more than 10 minutes, according to radio traffic, as police frantically tried to locate him.

"We can't worry about the victims," an officer said on radio at 10:15 p.m. "We need to stop the shooter before we have more victims. Anybody have eyes on him [...] stop the shooter."

The crowd, funneled tightly into a wide-open space, had little cover and no easy way to escape. Victims fell to the ground, while others fled in panic. Some hid behind concession stands or crawled under parked cars.

Faces were etched with shock and confusion, and people wept and wailed. Some of the injured were hit by shrapnel. Others were trampled or were injured jumping fences.

"It was chaos — people just

running for their lives. People trying to get down. Trying to get to their loved ones that had gotten hit," said Shaun Topper. "It was just, you know. It was chaos."

Marie Langer, 16, of Las Vegas, got to the concert early so she could get to the very front of the venue, closest to the stage.

That meant she and her friends were among the last to get out, and could hear shots ringing and people screaming the entire time she was trying to flee. She finally had to climb a fence with points on the top of metal bars designed to prevent people from getting over it. "We had no other option," she said.

Tales of heroism and compassion emerged quickly: One man grasped the hand of a dying

stranger as the man died, unable to pull himself away despite the danger. Another borrowed a flannel shirt from a man he didn't know to create a tourniquet for a girl he didn't know.

Couples held hands as they ran. The healthy carried the bleeding off the grounds. Strangers drove victims to hospitals in their own cars.

Bodies covered in white sheets were still being removed from the festival grounds more than 12 hours after the massacre, and the scene was covered with the abandoned bags and belongings of those who fled.

Coates, the trauma surgeon, said it was not for lack of preparation that lives were lost, though with smaller numbers they might have saved more.

"I will tell you that everybody that should have lived, lived," Coates said. "The ones that we lost, I think if they had been the only patients coming through the door that we would have been able to save them."

Authorities put out a call for blood donations and set up a hotline to report missing people and speed the identification of the dead and wounded. They also opened a "family reunification center" for people to find loved ones.

World leaders including Chinese President Xi Jinping, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, and Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull sent condolence messages to President Donald Trump.

Before Sunday, the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history took place in June 2016, when a gunman who professed support for Muslim extremist groups opened fire at a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, killing 49 people. Historically, the United States has had a number of mass shootings surpassing Sunday's attack. For example, more than 100 black people were gunned down during a mass shooting in Colfax, Louisiana, in 1873. **AP**

Macau gaming regulator contacted concessionaires

LOCAL authorities paid close attention to the shooting that occurred at a concert during a music festival in Las Vegas in the United States, and beefed up security measures in gaming facilities, the special administrative region (SAR)'s gaming watchdog said yesterday.

The Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau of Macau said after the Las Vegas shooting, it immediately contacted the six major gaming enterprises and asked them to keep alert and beef up security measures in gaming venues.

The bureau also decided to hold a meeting with those com-

panies to discuss the matter after the National Day holiday.

It added that the SAR government has been constantly paying attention to security in Macau's gaming and entertainment facilities.

The Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau will keep reviewing the security measures and improving its inspection work.

Macau's Tourism Crisis Management Office said that according to the information it gathered from Macau's travel industry, currently no requests for assistance were received from Macau residents in the United States.

SPAIN

Crackdown on Catalan voters spawns new separatists

FOR teacher Elisa Aroca, Sunday was the moment Spain lost the battle for the hearts and minds of 7.5 million people living in the Catalonia region.

Aroca intended to defend her Spanish roots and cast a ballot against Catalonia breaking away from the rest of the country. But when a squad of police in riot gear marched up, roughly tossed her and other voters aside and shattered the glass entrance of the Estel School in central Barcelona to confiscate ballot boxes, she felt something break inside her.

"I felt so angry and hurt inside that I thought, 'A country that hits me wants me to stay? You don't listen to me and on top of it you hit me?' For me that is abuse," she said a day later.

Similar indignation swept across the wealthy northeastern region, one of 17 in Spain, as police stormed through packs of voters and

peaceful protesters at polling stations.

The outrage was compounded as mobile phone footage made the rounds on social media, showing officers in body armor pushing people, dragging them by the hair and hitting them with batons. Hundreds of civilians and police officers were injured. The Spanish government, acting on a judge's order to shut down the referendum, defended the response as professional and proportionate.

The ugly scenes run the risk of confirming a long-held belief among many Catalans that the region is chronically mistreated by Spain's central government despite serving as an economic driver for southern Europe — it generates a fifth of Spain's 1.1 trillion-euro economy — and having a high degree of self-governance.

Catalan officials said that 90 percent of the 2.3 million people who voted Sunday were in favor



of independence. But fewer than half of those eligible to vote turned out. The vote was boycotted by most of Spain's national parties on grounds it was illegal and lacked basic guarantees, such as a census.

Polls and the most recent regio-

nal elections showed residents of Catalonia roughly split on the divisive issue of independence, but it remains to be seen how many people like Aroca are changing their minds after the events of recent weeks.

"I was crying from rage," she re-

called. "Now, I was going to vote no matter what. My husband and I didn't even have to talk about it, we just looked each other in the eyes and we knew that we had to vote. And that we had to vote 'yes' [for independence]."

Born of parents from other parts of Spain, Aroca, a 40-year-old mother of two, still wants to embrace a dual identity of both Spanish and Catalan. But she says the political crisis caused by a lack of dialogue between Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy and Catalan regional chief Carles Puigdemont has forced her to choose.

"All bonds have been broken. Not by the referendum, but by the police," Aroca said. "I feel rage and pain. I think that is how most people feel, seeing what people are chatting about, talks I have had at work. [Sunday] night I was very sad, truly sad that it has reached this point of me wondering what kind of country my daughters will inherit."

Puigdemont has vowed to act on the results regardless of the legality of the referendum. He is expected to present them this week to Catalonia's regional parliament, which could trigger the process of starting to break away from Spain. Such a move that would inevitably be met by a robust response from Madrid. **MDT/AP**

AD

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what's ON



CONSTELLATION - WORKS BY NICOLAS DELAROCHE

TIME: 10am-9pm

UNTIL: October 8, 2017

VENUE: Tap Seac Gallery

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

BALLADE - ANIMAMIX CONTEMPORARY ART

TIME: 10am-7pm, last admission at 6:30pm (Closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)

UNTIL: October 15, 2017

VENUE: Macao Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, NAPE

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

JAO TSUNG-I ACADEMY

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (Last admission at 5:30pm; closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)

ADDRESS: No. 95 C-D, Avenida do Conselheiro

Ferreira de Almeida

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2523 & 8399 6699

Offbeat



DUBAI DREAMS OF FLYING TAXIS DARTING AMONG ITS SKYSCRAPERS

With a whirling buzz from 18 rotors, the pilotless helicopter gently lifted off the ground and soared up into the afternoon sky, the spire of the world's tallest building visible behind it.

The recent unmanned flight by the German-made electric Volocopter represents the latest step in Dubai's pursuit of flying taxis, which would not seem out of place among the Gulf city's already futuristic skyline — imagine "Blade Runner," with less rain.

Dubai already has invested in another model of a flying, autonomous taxi, and is working to design regulations for their use. Putting more passengers in the air could free its already clogged highways and burnish the city's cutting-edge image of itself.

"It's public transportation for everybody, so you can use, you can order it, you can pay for the trip and the trip is not much more expensive than with a car," said Alexander Zosel, Volocopter's co-founder. "If you build roads, you build bridges, it's a huge amount and it's always much more cheaper to have a system where you don't need that infrastructure."

Driving in Dubai already makes one year for the open skies. Rush hour on Sheikh Zayed Road, a dozen-lane artery running down the length of the city, alternates between dense gridlock and sports-car slalom. Over 1.5 million Dubai-registered vehicles ply its roads, not counting those crowding in from the United Arab Emirates' six other sheikhdoms.

The Volocopter's designers envision the electric, battery-powered two-seat helicopters taking off and landing from pads set up across the city. The prototype used in Dubai has a maximum flying time of 30 minutes at 50 kph (31 mph), with a maximum airspeed of 100 kph (62 mph). Batteries charged in climate-controlled areas near the pads would be swapped in as needed.

"I believe [the] urban air taxi will contribute an interesting addition to the existing transportation modes," Volocopter CEO Florian Reuter said. "There are certain routes that are just extremely beneficial if you can go to the third dimension."

In practice, however, there's a long way to go. Convincing white-knuckled flyers to get into a buzzing, pilotless helicopter is just the beginning. Unpiloted passenger flights represent a new frontier for regulators. Dubai's Road and Transportation Authority, which has invested an undisclosed sum in Volocopter, says it will work the next five years to come up with laws and develop safety.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	RTPi Live
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:15	Zig Zag
18:50	The Cariocas (Repeated)
19:15	TDM Interview (Repeated)
19:50	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-daily Portuguese News
21:40	Miscellaneous
22:10	Brazilian Mini Serie
22:40	Miscellaneous
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:40	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:50	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

28 SEP - 04 OCT



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: 141 min



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



1992 EL AL JUMBO CRASHES IN AMSTERDAM

An Israeli Boeing 747 cargo plane has crashed in the outskirts of Amsterdam in the Netherlands, setting two blocks of flats on fire and killing dozens of people.

The El Al jumbo jet came down shortly after takeoff, at 1830 local time, spilling burning fuel over a wide area in the suburb of Bijlmermeer, to the south of the city.

Amsterdam city officials say 50 flats in the nine-storey blocks were hit directly by the falling plane. Nearly 40 bodies have been recovered so far.

The pilot sent an emergency distress signal ten minutes after taking off for Tel Aviv in Israel. He reported two of the plane's four engines had failed.

It looks as though he had turned back to attempt an emergency landing when the plane came down.

All four crew were killed instantly. Police fear up to 200 people may have been killed on the ground. The plane was carrying 114 tons of cargo on a flight from New York to Tel Aviv via Amsterdam, which burst into flames when it hit the ground.

Hundreds of ambulances headed to the scene of the burning buildings. Helicopters helped fly some of the injured to a burns unit at Beverwijk, 40km to the west.

A former soldier who lived nearby said he heard a big bang and ran outside to see the building torn apart.

"People were jumping from the seventh-floor balcony in panic. I saved some, but there were many more still trapped inside their homes. It was hopeless," he said.

Reports from Jerusalem said there were no signs of a terrorist attack on the aircraft.

Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands has sent her sympathies to the victims and their families. Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin has sent his condolences to his Dutch counterpart, Ruud Lubbers.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The final number of dead was four on board the plane and 47 on the ground.

The crash was the Netherlands' worst air disaster and the first crash in El Al's 44-year history.

The crash investigation revealed metal fatigue had probably damaged the engine mountings which had subsequently torn away.

In 1998 it was revealed the plane had been carrying at least one of the ingredients needed to make the nerve gas, sarin. There were claims of a cover-up.

Hundreds of local residents reported health problems thought to be related to the crash, such as depression, listlessness and respiratory problems.

An official report published in 1999 censured the government for failing to investigate the crash properly and initiate health checks.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You need to brace yourself, even if you know exactly what the situation requires...

Taurus April 20-May 20 Get outside, if possible, and try to stay there as long as possible. Too many hours cooped up indoors leave you feeling disconnected...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 A love interest or partner has something on their mind that they're not talking about, and it's giving you a bit of an anxious streak - especially if they're giving in to the impulse to cover it up too obviously.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You need to confront the widening gap between your professional and domestic lives. You may need to spend more time in one place than another...

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You're absolutely unshakable in your current belief, but you might want to rethink that attitude a bit before it hardens into intransigence. Narrow-mindedness won't get you anything but trouble right now.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You've got a fierce urge to take a little walk (hardly a walk, even - more like a wee stroll) on the wild side. Right now, though, it's best to acknowledge the urges but come back to it later.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You've been so busy double-checking the bottom line and figuring out all the tiny details that you forgot to check in on that little thing called your life. It's true that others depend on you.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 When you put your mind to something, you can get it done one way or another. You've got a definite goal in your sights right now, and you're absolutely determined to make it there.

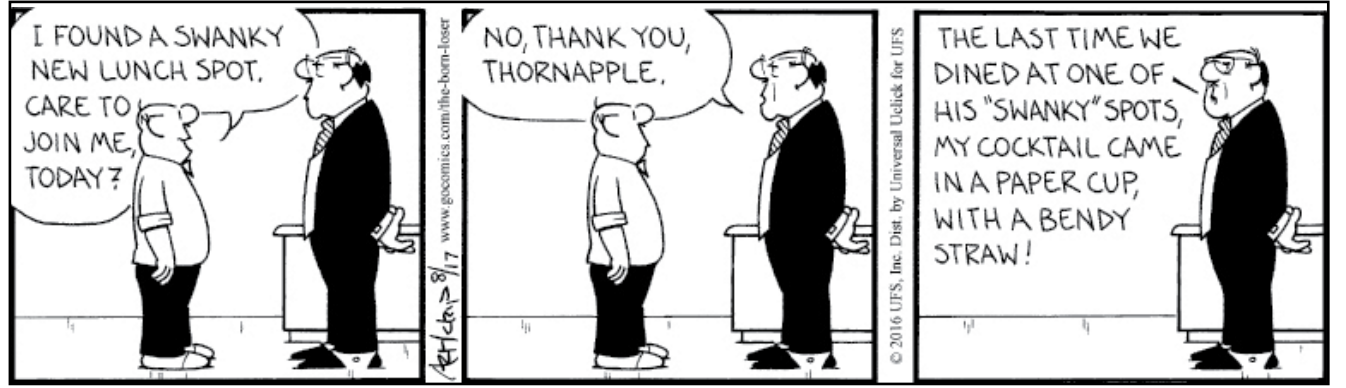
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You see money as something to be enjoyed, shared and used for the common good, but right now, you sense a more fiscally conservative side of your personality emerging.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Not only could that alienate you from potential allies for your next venture, but it might cloud that remarkably sharp mind that's been the key to so much of your good work.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 There have been a few too many recent events that make you question what the heck is going on, and what exactly you're supposed to do about it. It may be that the universe is telling you to do nothing.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Practical matters are at the top of your to-do list, which makes for a pleasant day, as you can easily cross quite a few tasks off. You're happily getting your hands dirty as you set about solving problems.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

MIN MAX CONDITION

CHINA

Beijing 10 22 cloudy/clear
Harbin -1 13 clear
Tianjin 12 23 cloudy/clear
Urumqi 6 14 clear/cloudy
Xi'an 11 13 moderate rain
Lhasa 8 22 shower/cloudy
Chengdu 16 22 drizzle
Chongqing 18 20 moderate rain
Kunming 16 25 shower
Nanjing 16 19 shower
Shanghai 20 23 overcast
Wuhan 14 17 drizzle
Hangzhou 19 23 overcast
Taipei 26 31 drizzle
Guangzhou 25 31 cloudy/thundershower
Hong Kong 26 29 shower

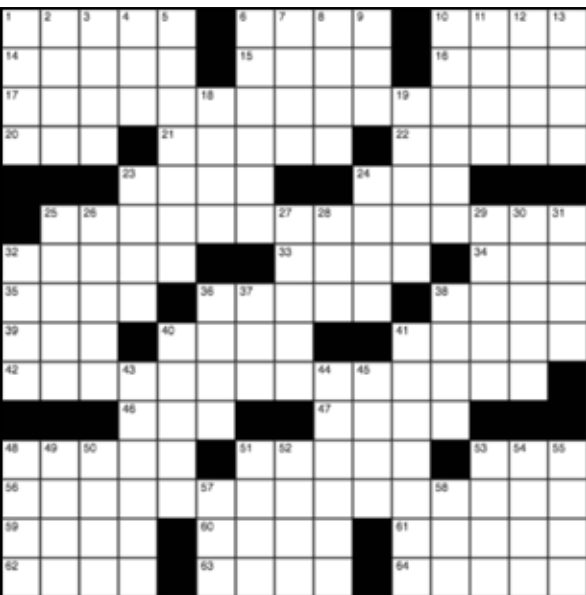
WORLD

Moscow 6 11 cloudy/drizzle
Frankfurt 8 15 cloudy/overcast
Paris 7 16 cloudy/overcast
London 8 16 cloudy/overcast
New York 13 20 clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Brewer's need; 6- Up and ___!; 10- Dulls; 14- 1957 hit for the Bobettes; 15- Taboo; 16- Bustles; 17- At the same time; 20- Peer Gynt's mother; 21- English royal house; 22- Runs in neutral; 23- Must've been something ___; 24- Cereal box abbr.; 25- Walk around ceremoniously; 32- Like crags; 33- Mai ___; 34- Tin; 35- Son of Zeus in Greek mythology; 36- Locations; 38- Pack ___ (quit); 39- Bearded grazer; 40- Jai ___; 41- Solo; 42- Resting on something else; 46- "As if!"; 47- Slammin' Sammy; 48- Scorn; 51- Link with; 53- ___-disant (self-styled); 56- Direct; 59- Struggle for air; 60- Boyfriend; 61- Ball girl; 62- Yonder thing; 63- Auction off; 64- Later, dude!;

DOWN: 1- Village People hit; 2- Cupid, to the Greeks; 3- That's ___!; 4- D.C. bigwig; 5- Having a valid will; 6- Head garland; 7- ___ avail; 8- ___'acte (intermission); 9- Extinct bird; 10- Labyrinthine; 11- Worshiped one; 12- Pout; 13- Flat sound; 18- Ballerina's skirt; 19- Nest; 23- Bothers; 24- Baseball stats; 25- Horn-shaped structure; 26- Freeze over; 27- Room at the top; 28- West of Hollywood; 29- Follow, as advice; 30- Spoil; 31- Feminine ending; 32- Torn clothing; 36- Narrow cut; 37- Writer Fleming; 38- Intestinal sections; 40- Rice___; 41- Soaks up; 43- Mesmerized; 44- Handy; 45- Marquand sleuth; 48- Army N.C.O.; 49- Egyptian deity; 50- Bear in the sky; 51- Biblical pronoun; 52- Romance lang.; 53- Cut-price retail event; 54- French airport; 55- Brain wave; 57- "Pygmalion" monogram; 58- Itsy-bitsy;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

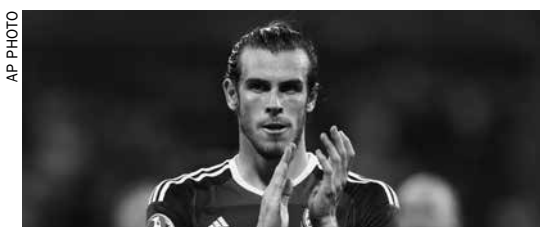
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Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
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Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
IACM 28 387 333
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Bale ruled out of Wales' final World Cup qualifiers

Wales says Gareth Bale has been ruled out of its final two World Cup qualifiers. Bale's fitness has been a source of concern for Wales since sustaining a calf muscle strain against Borussia Dortmund in the Champions League last week. The 28-year-old forward missed Real Madrid's league game with Espanyol on Sunday but reported to the Wales camp the following morning. The Football Association of Wales confirmed yesterday that Bale would miss Friday's game in Georgia and Monday's meeting with Ireland. Wales, which reached the 2016 European Championship semifinals, is second in Group D, four points behind Serbia and one ahead of Ireland. Only the group winners are guaranteed a place at the World Cup in Russia next year.

Lopetegui wants focus on football

Spain coach Julen Lopetegui has praised Gerard Pique's commitment to the national team and called on the squad to be focused only on football despite the crisis involving Catalonia's push for independence. Pique, the outspoken Barcelona defender highly supportive of Catalans, was harassed by fans Monday when he reported to the national team's training camp in Madrid ahead of upcoming World Cup qualifiers. Lopetegui said in a radio interview with local radio station COPE that the central defender remained "motivated" despite the abuse from fans. He said Pique's "behavior with the national team has always been very good." The coach said players have the right to express their opinions privately, but have to try to avoid adding to the "unpleasant situation" generated by Catalonia's bid for independence.

Porto stays top in Portugal but no longer perfect

FC Porto maintained its lead of the Portuguese league after drawing at second-place Sporting Lisbon 0-0 on Sunday. The result kept Porto two points in front of Sporting, and five points ahead of third-place Benfica. Porto was the only team with a perfect record after having won its first seven league games. Benfica's Jonas put the defending champions ahead only two minutes into the game but Maritimo equalized early in the second half for a 1-1 draw.

Video games in the Olympics? Here's how it might work

THE future of the Olympics may just be in a basement in Turkmenistan. With leading Olympic figures considering a possible role for competitive computer games — known as esports — at the 2024 Games in Paris, a pan-Asian competition in the ex-Soviet state offers a possible vision of the future.

Including esports could give the Olympics a younger audience and a huge revenue boost from a rapidly growing market, but would be deeply controversial.

The Olympic Council of Asia included esports as an official demonstration event at its Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games last week, with teams from China and nine other nations battling in four games ranging from space combat in "StarCraft II" to card-game strategy in "Hearthstone."

Supporters of esports in the Olympics say their event is a real sporting contest, one which prizes strategy and lightning reactions over physical agility.

"It needs different skillsets from different people," competitor Jess Joaustine Tamboboy from the Philippines told The

Associated Press. "It doesn't really have a physical requirement because you can see around us the players are short and tall, maybe a little bit thin, maybe a little bit fat. But all they have in order to qualify to play for these types of titles are just their cognitive or mind skills."

Esports aren't a natural fit for Turkmenistan, one of the poorer ex-Soviet nations, though one where internet access is growing rapidly.

The rules weren't explained in the local language, but that didn't turn off the crowd of up to 200 in the windowless basement of a sports arena from cheering and whooping at a particularly spectacular kill or skillful strategy.

Still, the attendance was tiny compared to big pro esports events, which can pack thousands into traditional sports arenas, and it didn't make much of a splash online. Fewer than 50 viewers at a time watched some opening-round matches Monday on Twitch, a leading game streaming service that regularly attracts tens of thousands of concurrent viewers to its more popular streams.

If esports make it



An esports competitor takes part in the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in Ashgabat

Esports would also mean the IOC allowing private companies to set the rules of its competitions

to the Paris Olympics, it would redefine what Olympic sport is meant to be.

The International Olympic Committee has previously resisted calls to add "mind sports" like chess that don't involve physical exertion, or events where machines are key, like auto racing.

Deciding which games to pick is fraught, too. The IOC has a sponsorship deal with Chinese company Alibaba, which has major esports interests, but rival firms have their own popular brands.

The IOC also fears violent games would hurt the Olympics' image.

IOC president Thomas Bach told the South China Morning Post, an Alibaba-owned newspaper, earlier this month that he'd prefer sports simulations.

"We want to promote non-discrimination, non-violence, and peace among people. This doesn't match with video games, which are about violence, explosions and killing. And there we have to draw a clear line," he said.

All four of the games on the program last week in Turkmenistan

featured some form of combat, though in fantasy settings with cartoon-style animation techniques. There weren't any realistic military-themed shooting games on the program.

Bach also said esports needs a firmer structure. The IOC is used to dealing with a single governing body for each sport, like FIFA for soccer or the International Gymnastics Federation.

Esports has its own international federation, but with limited influence over a web of private interests including games publishers, competition organizers and players' teams.

The event in Turkmenistan showed how that system doesn't yet fit smoothly with the Olympic movement.

IOC sponsor Alibaba's Alisports division was in charge of the event, and used an open online qualifying system. That prompted federations from Australia and South Korea to boycott, saying athletes should have been picked by their national Olympic committees in the manner of a traditional sport.

If esports make it to

the Olympics, other potential problems for the IOC include criticism it's moving away from promoting a healthy lifestyle, and that it's ignoring poorer countries where fast computers and brand-new games are unaffordable.

Esports would also mean the IOC allowing private companies to set the rules of its competitions.

Most traditional sports treat the rules with reverence, only occasionally tinkering around the edges. Not so for games publishers, who routinely mix things up to attract new players and keep things fresh.

Adding just one new character can reshape the whole "meta" — the game's constantly evolving web of tactics and counter-tactics.

Senior figures in the IOC and the esports world have publicly doubted esports will be ready for an Olympic debut in seven years' time.

"We are still some way away from our vision and we need to start on the right foot," Asian Esports Federation president Kenneth Fok said last week. "For esports to develop in a positive banner, we need the full support of each and every NOC, their government, and more importantly the general public to have a positive perception of electronic sports." AP

AD

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Volkswagen

PS : 1) The pictures are for reference only.

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

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opinion

Tech Views

Shira Ovide, Bloomberg

AMAZON LEAPED AHEAD BY LOSING THE SMARTPHONE WAR

In case it wasn't obvious before last week, Amazon.com Inc. has leapfrogged the smartphone to go after the next era of computing. The company never could have done this if it hadn't been steamrolled in smartphones first.

The way-more-than-a-retailer unveiled several new or revamped versions of its Echo voice-activated home speakers, including one that serves as a digital alarm clock, and it cut the price of its flagship gadget to USD100 from \$180. All these devices are Trojan horses rolling Alexa, the voice-commanded brain of the Echo devices, into your home.

Alexa can already help you watch web videos, turn on kitchen timers, listen to music, shop on Amazon and do other tasks people do with smartphones run by Amazon archrivals Google and Apple Inc.

Amazon is eager to have Alexa do much more. Want it to be your TV remote control? Sure! Or Amazon promises that with a single command Alexa can take over your morning routine of flipping on the lights, turning on the coffee pot and firing up your wake-up jams. Want Alexa to control the 1990s novelty gift "Big Mouth Billy Bass"? Alexa will be able to do that, too. And it won't question your taste in home decoration, although I certainly will.

Amazon is building a future untethered from the smartphone, but with all the software intelligence of that gadget and more -- with the company at the center. Amazon can embrace this future because it lost the recent past. Its Fire smartphone fizzled, giving it the freedom to define a new mode of computing that played to its strengths.

Each Alexa-powered Amazon device seems carefully calibrated to optimize a specific task at home. The Fire TV is for entertainment, the Echo for music, the Spot for morning and nighttime routines, the Echo Show for communication, and so on. The company made an operating system for the home, where Amazon's phone failure doesn't matter as much.

Notice what all this hardware has in common: They are branded drug-delivery mechanisms for more Amazon products and internet offerings. It's possible to use Alexa-powered gadgets without interacting with Amazon, but it's not easy. The default option for buying stuff through the Amazon devices is Amazon. The default option for renting movies on Fire TV is Amazon Video. And hey, wouldn't you love to join Amazon's Prime shopping club while you're at it?

This isn't unique to Amazon. People who buy a Google Home speaker or an Android smartphone are instantly part of Team Google. Google will try to steer them to root for YouTube, Google Maps, Google Assistant and Google Photos. Apple smartphones funnel people to buy iPads, Apple Watches and Apple Music subscriptions. Hardware is a conduit for technology companies to bore their ways into our lives and stay there.

There are no guarantees Amazon's smartphone-free operating system will win. The dominant form of computing is still the smartphone. Billions of people own and rely on their phones, which are only growing in importance as the hub of people's digital lives, in the home and outside. By comparison, "tens of millions" of Alexa-powered devices are in use globally, an Amazon executive said last week.

So the jury is definitely still out. But every counter move by Apple and Google has reinforced Amazon's view of computing beyond the smartphone screen, where voice commands and smart digital helpers are the main modes of interaction. On those terms, Amazon is a combatant on equal standing, not a smartphone-less laggard.

THE SECTION OF STADIUM CLOSED AFTER RACIST CHANTS

A section of Lazio's stadium will be closed for its next two Serie A home matches as punishment for racist chanting.

Lazio's problem in dealing with racism among its fans resurfaced on Sunday during a 6-1 win over Sassuolo. Derogatory chants were directed at visiting players Claud Adjapong and Alfred Duncan.

Adjapong was born in Italy to Ghanaian parents and has represented Italy Under-19s. Duncan is from Ghana.

The league's disciplinary panel closed Lazio's Curva Nord for the match against Cagliari on Oct. 22.

Lazio will also be without fans in that section when Udinese visits on Nov. 5, as it was also decided to apply a sanction that had been conditionally suspended for racist chanting during the Rome derby on April 30. Lazio has been fined and subjected to stadium closures for years due to racist incidents.

OBITUARY

Tom Petty, down-to-earth rock superstar, dies at 66

Hillel Italie

TOM Petty, an old-fashioned rock superstar and everyman who drew upon the Byrds, the Beatles and other bands he worshipped as a boy and produced new classics such as "Free Fallin," "Refugee" and "American Girl," has died. He was 66.

Petty died Monday night at UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles a day after he suffered cardiac arrest at his home in Malibu, California, spokeswoman Carla Sacks said.

Petty and his longtime band the Heartbreakers had recently completed a 40th anniversary tour, one he hinted would be their last.

"I'm thinking it may be the last trip around the country," Petty told Rolling Stone last year. "We're all on the backside of our 60s. I have a granddaughter now I'd like to see as much as I can. I don't want to spend my life on the road. This tour will take me away for four months. With a little kid, that's a lot of time."

Usually backed by the Heartbreakers, Petty broke through in the 1970s and went on to sell more than 80 million records. The Gainesville, Florida, native with the shaggy blond hair and gaunt features was loved for his melodic hard rock, nasally vocals and down-to-earth style. The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, which inducted Petty and the Heartbreakers in 2002, praised them as "durable, resourceful, hard-working, likeable and unpretentious."

"I'm shocked and saddened by the news of Tom's passing, he's such a huge part of our musical history, there'll never be another like him." Eric Clapton wrote in a statement.

Petty's albums included "Damn the Torpedoes," "Hard Promises" and "Full Moon Fever," although his first No. 1 did not come until 2014 and "Hypnotic Eye." As a songwriter, he focused often on daily struggles and the will to overcome them, most memorably on "Refugee," "Even the Losers" and "I Won't Back Down."

"It's sort of the classic theme of a lot of the work I've



done," he told The Associated Press in 1989. "I think faith is very important just to get through life. I think it's really important that you believe in yourself, first of all. It's a very hard thing to come by. But when you get it, it's invaluable."

Petty didn't just sing about not backing down, he lived it. In 1979, he was enraged when his record label was sold and his contract transferred. Stating that he would not be "bought and sold like a piece of meat," he self-financed what became "Damn the Torpedoes" and declared bankruptcy rather than allowing his label, MCA, to release it. He eventually reached a new deal with MCA, for better terms. In the early 1980s, he was again at war with MCA, this time over the label's plans to charge extra money, a dollar higher than the standard USD8.98, for his album "Hard Promises." He again prevailed.

Petty was both a musician and obsessive fan, one who met his childhood heroes and lived out the fantasies of countless young rock lovers. He befriended Byrds leader Roger McGuinn and became close to George Harrison, who performed on "I Won't Back Down" and joined Petty, Bob Dylan, Roy Orbison and Jeff Lynne in the impromptu super group the Traveling Wilburys. Petty inducted Harrison into the Rock Hall in 2004; two years earlier Dylan's son Jakob inducted Petty. In the 1980s, Petty and the Heartbreakers supported Bob Dylan on a nationwide tour.

He would speak of being consumed by rock music since childhood, to the point where his father, whom Petty would later say beat him savagely, thought he was "mental." Awed by the chiming guitars of the Byrds, the melodic genius of the Beatles and the snarling lyrics of Dylan, he was amazed to find that other kids were feeling the same way.

"You'd go and see some other kid whose hair was long, this was around '65, and go, 'Wow, there's one like me,'" he told The Associated Press in 1989. "You'd go over and talk and he'd say, 'I've got a drum set.' 'You do? Great!' That was my whole life."

By his early 20s, Petty had formed the group Mudcrutch with fellow Gainesville natives and future Heartbreakers (guitarist) Mike Campbell and (keyboardist) Benmont Tench. They soon broke up, but reunited in Los Angeles as the Heartbreakers, joined by bassist Ron Blair and drummer Stan Lynch. Their eponymous debut album came out in 1976 and they soon built a wide following, fitting easily into the New Wave sounds of the time.

The world changed more than Petty did over the past few decades. In 2014, around the time he received an ASCAP Founders Award, he told The Associated Press that he thought of himself as "kind of a music historian."

"I'm always interested in the older music, and I'm still always discovering things that I didn't know about," he said. "To be honest, I really probably spend more time listening to the old stuff than I do the new stuff." AP

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

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

NEPAL A 3-year-old girl has become Nepal's new living goddess, revered by both Hindus and Buddhists in the Himalayan nation. Trishna Shakya was carried in a religious ceremony to a temple palace in the heart of the Nepalese capital where she is to live until just before puberty.



INDIA A group of rebels fighting Indian rule stormed a paramilitary camp near the airport in disputed Kashmir yesterday, in a brazen attack targeting one of the region's most strategic and well-guarded zones that left at least four dead. Police said the militants breached multiple layers of high security.

GREECE Police announced they have arrested eight migrant traffickers who reportedly smuggled 38 migrants through Greece's land border with Turkey. All the arrests were made in northern Greece, in four separate incidents.



SPAIN's interior minister is accusing the pro-independence Catalan government of encouraging protests against Spanish police, saying they represent "totalitarianism" and "hatred." He said Catalan regional president Carles Puigdemont is responsible for the protests after demanding police leave the region following their violent crackdown on his attempt to hold an independence referendum. More on p15

USA President Donald Trump came face to face with hurricane-ravaged Puerto Rico yesterday after denouncing critics of the federal relief effort as "politically motivated ingrates" who need to step up their own response to the crisis.