



ANYTHING BUT GOLDEN

China's Golden Week is leaving investors flat as figures from home sales to casino revenue disappoint

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LATIN AMERICA IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The Latin American Cultural Festival kicked off during the weekend, featuring an array of events

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INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY?

A movement to abolish Columbus Day and replace it with Indigenous Peoples Day has gained momentum in the U.S.

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

AD

Join the fight against Dengue Fever

Vases or saucers under potted plants should be scrubbed, cleaned and have water changed at least once a week

MSARG Dengue Fever Prevention Working Group

Initiative to recycle e-waste launched

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WORLD BRIEFS



FRANCE-SPAIN The French European Affairs minister says France won't recognize Catalonia if it unilaterally declares independence from Spain. Nathalie Loiseau said that "if there were to be a declaration of independence, it would be unilateral, it wouldn't be recognized." Loiseau added such a declaration would immediately result in Catalonia's departure from the 28-nation European Union.

More on backpage



TRIAL

Video shows Kim Jong Nam's final moments of life in Kuala Lumpur

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MACAO OPEN
2017

9

days to go

FOOD & BEVERAGE

Jak's Kitchen puts itself on par with top restaurants in integrated resorts

WITH the aim of providing guests with competitively-priced quality Western cuisine outside of integrated resorts, two entrepreneurs opened Jak's Kitchen in One Oasis earlier this year.

Aside from offering set lunches and dinners to customers, the restaurant is also collaborating with winemakers to provide patrons with a tailored menu which has wines paired with dinner items.

For the first time, Jak's Kitchen has collaborated with New Zealand winemaker Kai Schubert to pair its dinners with selections from Schubert's wine, including its famed Schubert Block B Pinot Noir 2014.

According to the winemaker, the company boasts a lovely Pinot Noir, which is a complex red wine that goes with a variety of dishes.

In Europe, Schubert noted that these wines are commonly served with mushrooms or chicken.

"More often in Asia, there's a lot of dishes you can see such as curries, Peking duck, and such, which work beautifully with Pinot Noir. There are a lot of options and it's quite adaptive in that sense," said Schubert.

During the weekend, the full-house restaurant presented a six-course menu, starting with Norwegian salmon carpaccio with caper berries and ending with gorgonzola and figs.

The restaurant aims to hold more wine paired dinners in collaboration with foreign winemakers, particularly those from Portugal, to establish a community in the peninsula, along with its loyal guests from Macau and Taipa.

Restaurant owners Amy Qu and



From left to right: Jeff Yen, Sharon Yeo, Ron Kiat, Kai Schubert and Amy Qu

Jeff Yen opened the restaurant in February, serving continental European cuisine in a casual-yet-quality dining environment.

The partners noted that it is difficult to find high quality western restaurants outside casinos, noting that it can be frustrating for locals to visit a restaurant in the region's integrated resorts during the weekend.

"Our opinion is that most of the good western restaurants are located inside the casinos and we want to provide other experiences so that customers don't have to go to a casino to enjoy a good western restaurant," explained Yen.

As the restaurant is located in One Oasis' The Veranda, attracting customers to the venue has been a challenge. Currently, the entrepreneur says that some 70 percent of their weekend customers come from the other two peninsulas.

Jak's Kitchen is looking to serve a fresher Mediterranean European style of food – dishes that are "seasonal, fresh and good quality."

Ron Kiat, chef at the restaurant, assured that most of the ingredients used are imported from Australia and the U.S. Kiat noted that the team has been instructed to serve the best quality of food at a reasonable price point.

"We have same quality as hotels but at a reasonable price. Compared with hotels, you need to pay for service and atmosphere. It's the same here, it's cozy and relaxed," Kiat said with confidence.

Meanwhile, restaurant manager Sharon Yeo said that the restaurant prioritizes building relationships with its guests, adding that the restaurant has already acquired loyal guests in a short time since opening the business.

Yeo said that the team is confi-

dent in growing the number of its current customers.

Yeo also noted that acquiring goods from suppliers remains a challenge, as not all suppliers deliver in the peninsula, while others do not cater to small restaurants.

"We're only a small operator, unlike in hotels where they order in big amount. [...] Even when we order up to MOP20,000 they won't deliver and say it's out of their area," Yeo explained.

Meanwhile, the owners admit that acquiring a license to operate and meeting quotas to hire foreign talent remain the most challenging aspect of opening the business.

Macau aims to be listed as one of UNESCO'S 'Gastronomic City', having submitted an application to the UNESCO Network of Creative Cities (UNCC) earlier this year.

However, the owners believe that the restrictions and limitations

placed upon Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) may reduce the quality and service able to be provided by local enterprises.

Both Qu and Yen expressed that the government should give way on blue card issues and policies as there is not enough to work for local SMEs.

"I think the government should [easily] allow SMEs to hire foreign people. Everybody knows there's a lack of manpower. More locals must be competitive [because] the market will tell which people it needs," Yen stated.

The co-owner added that no local enterprise would want to hire employees who are not competitive enough in the market, and thus hoped that the government would encourage locals to strive for great service in the workplaces.

A source also told the Times that the government has put significant emphasis on supporting local SMEs, but it handballs its duty to support these enterprises to gaming operators.

To small restaurant owners, obtaining approval for licensing applications is a core problem rather than raising capital, as the government currently offers up to MOP600,000 in interest-free loans to local entrepreneurs.

"The free mortgage is only for young people. We need support from the government in the form of faster processing of licenses and quotas," Qu lamented.

However, the two entrepreneurs remain confident that these issues will not impact the quality of dishes they serve, but rather, they will aim to continually maximize the quality of food at 'the best price.' LV

THE British Consulate-General in Hong Kong has confirmed with the Identification Services Bureau that Macau SAR passport holders are now eligible to join the UK's Registered Traveller Service (RTS), permitting them to enter and exit the UK using either the e-passport gates or the UK/EU entry lane.

MSAR passport holders will no longer need to

MSAR passport holders can apply for UK e-passport service

complete a landing card. The relaxed regulations are expected to expedite travelers' clearance through British immigration checks at certain airports.

Applicants for the RTS

must be at least 18 years old and hold a Macau passport. They must also hold a valid UK visa or have visited the UK at least four times in the last 24 months.

It currently costs 70

GBP (MOP735) to join the program for the first year and an additional 50 GBP to renew thereafter.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application within 10 working days.

Those who pass the preliminary assessment will still need to use other passport lanes than those indicated, and complete a landing card next time they travel to the UK. At that point, a UK immi-

gration officer will check that the applicants meet the relevant criteria and will grant them the RTS privilege if they do.

The UK airports with RTS facilities are Birmingham, East Midlands, Edinburgh, Gatwick, Glasgow, Heathrow, London, Luton, Manchester and Stansted, as well as Eurostar terminals in Brussels, Lille and Paris.

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Times

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HONG KONG

Regulators want ID requirements for cross-border trading

HONG Kong financial regulators are seeking to introduce an identification program for investors trading stocks on the mainland, the Financial Times (FT) reported, citing an HKSAR legislator.

The proposed regulation will require investors to register their real name and identification card information when trading, with the intention of preventing market manipulation through greater accountability.

It comes as regulators on the mainland and in Hong Kong are becoming increasingly concerned about market manipulation and have sought to rein in volatile trading.

Christopher Cheung, a Hong Kong lawmaker representing the city's financial services industry, told the FT that regulators were likely to disclose the identification program within the next few months. The rules could come into effect as early as next year, he said.

"It takes time to improve the clearing and settlement system, the brokerages will need to install new software, and they will need to sign new contracts with their customers to make sure that they are aware of the new information collection," he said.

Meanwhile, official entities responsible for operating the Hong Kong Stock Exchange refused to comment.

Currently, investors in Hong Kong are able to trade shares on the mainland through the Hong Kong-Shanghai Stock Connect, launched in 2014, and the subsequent Hong Kong-Shenzhen Connect. The same programs enable mainland investors to trade on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. Moreover, in June, the Central Government signed an agreement with Hong Kong local authorities to promote cross-border investment, making both markets more accessible to investment from traders in the other.

BLOOMBERG



NATIONAL DAY

China's holidays were anything but golden as home sales plummet

CHINA'S Golden Week is leaving investors flat as figures from home sales to Macau casino revenue disappoint.

Chinese property developers slumped in Hong Kong after the Economic Information Daily said new home sales tumbled in Beijing and Shanghai compared with a year earlier. Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd. sank as much as 3.5 percent, with the Power Macao Gaming Association saying revenue was at best slightly higher versus the previous year. Hna-Caissa

Travel Group Co. led losses by tourism-related stocks on the mainland after retail sales and restaurant receipts grew at a slower pace.

While casinos were busy during the holiday week, visitors did not necessarily gamble, Stephen Lau, president of Power Macao Gaming Association, told Singapore's The Business Times. "Gaming revenue for the holiday was flat compared with last year, or only grew slightly."

According to figures released yesterday by the immigration services, the total number of tourists in Macau between October 1 and October 8 stood at 920,631. The Macau Tourism Office had previously forecast the number of tourists to increase by as much as 5 percent from around 1.2 million visitors in 2016.

Investor optimism had been high that the holiday, dubbed "Super Golden Week" because it lasted eight days instead of the usual seven, would lead to bumper earnings. The MSCI China Index, which closed at a decade-high on Friday, fell 0.6 percent at 4:49 p.m. in Hong Kong. Investors instead shifted into stocks that had lagged behind this year, such as consumer staples.

China Evergrande Group slumped 3.5 percent, while Sunac China Holdings Ltd. slid 5.4 percent. New home sales in Beijing dropped to 116 units during the National Day holiday, the lowest since 2009, the Economic Information Daily reported, citing data from Centaline Property. New home sales in Shanghai plunged 78 percent to 178 units, according to the report, which also cited declining sales in Nanjing.

Investor optimism had been high that the 'Super Golden Week' would lead to bumper earnings

Galaxy was the biggest loser on Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index, while Sands China Ltd. dropped 2.7 percent. Although casinos were crowded, visitors didn't necessarily gamble,

said Stephen Lau, president of Power Macao Gaming Association, an organization that represents casino workers. "Gaming revenue for the holiday was flat compared with last year, or only grew slightly," Lau said.

Hna-Caissa Travel and U'Tour Group Co. retreated more than 5 percent. Retail sales and restaurant receipts rose 10.3 percent during the holiday period, down from 10.7 percent last year and 11 percent in 2015, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

"Slower growth in retail sales hurt sentiment and led to consumer-linked shares' underperformance today," said Ken Chen, Shanghai based analyst with KGI Securities Co. "Investors are also selling down names that rallied before the holiday to lock in profits."

A gauge of consumer staples rallied the most since August. The index had risen 21 percent this year through Friday, less than half the pace of the MSCI China measure. Noodlemaker Tingyi (Cayman Islands) Holding Corp. jumped 8.1 percent yesterday, while hypermarket operator Sun Art Retail Group Ltd. had its best gain in two months. **MDT/Bloomberg**

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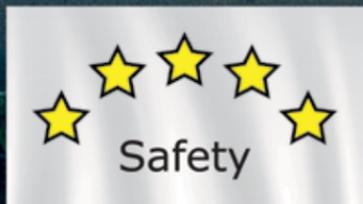
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The Tiguan 2 is a great all-grown-up SUV with distinctive styling which redefines its class and confidently points the way to the future. The new generation Tiguan is the first sport utility vehicle to be based on the modular transverse matrix (MQB),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



Volkswagen

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RENATO MARQUES



Chan Kwok Ho (center)

DSPA launches plan to recycle 50,000 electronic devices in one year

Renato Marques

THE government, through the Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA), launched a trial plan that aims to collect at least 50,000 electronic devices, including computers, mobile phones, sound systems and other communication devices. The announcement was made yesterday by the chief of the Environmental Infrastructure Management Centre of the DSPA, Chan Kwok Ho at a press conference.

According to the same official, the trial plan will be carried out over one year and will include the collection of the mentioned items from public entities, individual citizens and schools and education institutions as well as other private non-profit organizations. It will aim to properly treat all of this solid waste that “has been growing” due to the rapid “technological evolution.”

Chan, when questioned by the media, mentioned that at the current pace they have been collecting electronics is around 7,000 tons/year of such products and that a good part of these products

up in being destroyed by an incinerator.

The DSPA proposes to change this scenario, putting in place a scheme that includes a series of collection points that include the headquarters of the DSPA, some fixed collection points located at the current “green points,” as well as the inclusion of a program of moving collection points using a special vehicle prepared for this purpose.

“After the collection the products will be dismantled, separated and sent abroad for further treatment,” Chan explained, noting that materials such as aluminum and plastic will be sent to mainland China and circuit boards will be sent to be treated in Japan. “We do not have capacity to treat this kind of products locally,” he remarked.

In charge of all this process of collecting, separating and forwarding the materials for further treatment will be a Hong Kong based company. Chan has said that this company has “wide experience in this field and working together with several companies in HK.” The chosen company, Zhongxing Vannex (Macau) Limited (a

subsidiary of the HK based Vannex International Limited), will receive an amount close to MO-P4Million in a contract directly awarded by the DSPA without the need of a public tender.

Chan mentioned that this amount can vary “according to the quantity of products collected and treated.”

Questioned on the topic, Chan justified the choice by saying that the contract is for a one-year trial plan only, noting that “according to the results obtained the government will evaluate the possibility to continue with such plan and at that time a public tender would be considered.”

For the future, the DSPA department chief said the government has an interest in including other products such as electrical appliances, an extension that is not possible for the time being, “due to the lack of land resources” needed to establish a location on where to process such a large number of items.

For now, citizens can dispose of their unused or obsolete informa-

tion technology and communication devices to the bureau. Some of those devices will not be recycled. “Those who fit some criteria and are more up-to-date can be repaired or refurbished and will be delivered to [charitable] institutions,” Chan clarified.

As for the collection points where the truck will pass, interested parties can check the DSPA website for the complete schedule of all locations and times of the 12 locations in the peninsula and four in Taipa.

During the trial period, the collection vehicle will operate during Thursday and Saturday afternoons.

Adding to this and regarding public entities, schools and non-profitable organizations, these organizations can request a curbside collection every time they have gathered a certain amount of these products. The company will send the collection vehicle at a scheduled time to collect them.

Excluded from this trial plan were private companies. “We think that the private companies have a social responsibility that they need to assume [on their own],” Chan explained, adding that not including these companies has the purpose to allow the current market operators [collection people] to continue to operate without major interference. Chan noted that in the future all these factors will be considered as the trial run of the projects serves exactly, “to gather experience that will allow the launching of other possible plans, serving [this] as reference.”



Tam expects budget increase

The Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, said yesterday that there will be an increase in the budget allocated for the areas he supervises in 2018. Questioned by reporters, Tam said that the budget this year was not increased because of the economic downturn faced by the MSAR economy in 2016. However, he said that the economic situation has improved sufficiently and that there is now room to invest in the construction of medical facilities and the expansion of services for the elderly and children. Tam also said that the budget for initiatives to benefit students with special needs will be improved. The proposals are now under study and will be announced next month during the Policy Address presentation.

Building not contaminated by legionella

The Health Bureau (SSM) revealed that the building where a resident diagnosed with legionella lives is currently not contaminated. On September 8, SSM said that a case of legionella had been detected in Macau. After an epidemiological investigation, it was found that the source of contamination was in the pipe system of the Hou Kong Building, where the patient lives. The SSM carried out a full cleaning and disinfection of the building’s water supply system on September 22. Between September 25th and 26th, after total disinfection of the system, the SSM carried out tests on the building’s water supply system. Water was collected from the patient’s residence, and also from other flats. Following an analysis by the Public Health Laboratory, all samples were declared as negative for the presence of legionella bacteria.

DSEJ wants to promote health education

The Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) has organized a session to present its “Platform for Health Education.” During Sunday’s session, DSEJ’s director, Leong Lai, noted that the platform was created this year in order to support measures to improve the physical and mental health of students in the basic and secondary levels.

BATTERY COLLECT PLAN ALREADY REACHED 5,600KG

ADDRESSING A previous plan launched last year by the DSPA that aimed to collect domestic use batteries, the chief of the Environmental Infrastructure Management Centre of the DSPA, Chan Kwok Ho noted, “so far we have reached a total of

5,600 kilograms of collected batteries.” However, these batteries still wait for a final destination and therefore remain untreated since “there aren’t conditions to do so.” “We will soon to do a pre-treatment [on those batteries collected],” Chan added.

RENATO MARQUES



Collection truck

AUTO INDUSTRY

Renault wants half its cars to be electric or hybrid in 2022

Jeffrey Schaeffer, Angela Charlton

FRENCH carmaker Renault said Friday that half of its models will be electric or hybrid by 2022 and it's investing heavily in "robo-vehicles" with increasing degrees of autonomy.

A strategic plan released Friday aims to boost Renault annual revenues to 70 billion euros (USD82.2 billion) by 2022 from 51 billion euros last year, in part through an effort to double sales outside its traditional markets in Europe — especially Russia and China.

The plans reflect the vision laid out last month by the Renault Nissan Mitsubishi alliance, the world's No. 1 carmaker by sales. Many of Renault's new aims depend on saving money through sharing platforms and development with Nissan and Mitsubishi.

CEO Carlos Ghosn said Renault is aiming to sell more than 5 million vehicles an-



Renault Group CEO Carlos Ghosn

nually by 2022 from 3.2 million last year. The plan relies in part on boosting low-cost car production in emerging markets, notably with the Dacia Logan and Kwid mini-SUV.

As regulators crack down on emissions from combustion engines and as drivers seek cars that can do more by themselves, Ghosn wants to position Renault as a major player in

mass-market electric and driverless cars.

"We are confident we can turn upcoming [...] challenges into significant business opportunities for Renault," he said.

The company pledged to offer eight purely electric vehicle models and 12 hybrid models by 2022, compared with its 19 diesel or gasoline models sold worldwide, Ghosn said.

The world's major carmakers are rethinking their strategies to profit from pivotal changes in the industry: autonomous cars, connected cars that share data, car-sharing where you don't own a vehicle but order one by app, and low-emissions vehicles demanded by the European Union to fight climate change and by China, where many cities are fighting rampant pollution.

Investing in electric vehicles has hurt profitability in the past, but Ghosn says that should change as they grow in scale. He said electric cars "are tur-

ning into a significant contributor to our performance while other automakers are just starting the journey."

Ghosn said Renault would retrain 13,000 people over the next five years to adapt to changing markets.

Renault is aiming to produce 2 million cars per year outside Europe compared with 750,000 cars in 2016, with a heavy push in Russia as its economy picks up.

Asked about challenges to Renault's activity in Iran amid the possibility that the U.S. could reintroduce sanctions, Ghosn said: "Obviously if it becomes impossible to deal with Iran we will put a plan together for the suspension of our business there, but that's not at all to say that we will leave Iran."

Renault was active in Iran before the West imposed sanctions over its nuclear program and was among the first major companies to relaunch its Iranian business when the sanctions were lifted after the 2015 accord to curb Iran's nuclear activities.

Ghosn insisted that Iran's market has major potential. "If we can't work there immediately, then we will work there in 1 year, 2 years, 3 years because I don't think that this is a situation that can last forever." AP

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Ryanair flight crisis unabated as executive heads for exit

RYANAIR'S flight-cancellation crisis enters its fourth week with no sign of abating after the public furor over 20,000 scrapped services claimed the first senior manager at the Irish discount carrier and pilots stepped up moves toward unionization.

Chief Operating Officer Michael Hickey is leaving at the end of this month after almost three decades at the airline, Ryanair said late Friday, without naming a successor. Calling him a "hard act to replace," Hickey will remain in an advisory role while Ryanair searches for a suitable successor.

The botched response to a pilot shortage, the result of sloppy vacation planning and defections to other carriers, has engulfed Ryanair for several weeks and enraged customers, regulators and politicians alike. Michael O'Leary, the hard-talking chief executive officer, took the unusual step of making a personal pledge to pilots last week, offering improved pay and career prospects to avert an open rebellion among employees.

O'Leary, who said previously that "villainizing" him or someone else down the company food chain wasn't a priority, praised Hickey for his "enormous contribution" to Ryanair, which has turned itself into Europe's largest discount carrier with its rock-bottom fares and fast aircraft turnarounds.

The exit of the executive and the CEO's direct appeal to flight crew appears not to have headed off employee moves toward seeking collective bar-



Michael O'Leary (right), chief executive officer of Ryanair

gaining. The Irish Independent reported that some pilots are seeking to create an unofficial union in the form of a pan-European employee representative committee - the name Ryanair uses for its own in-house negotiating councils.

The newspaper cited a letter circulated over the weekend which it said laid out an action plan for establishing a central structured body, estimating that the move has the backing of pilots from at least 15 Ryanair bases. That communication also appeared on the Pilots Unite website, which claims to represent the carrier's pilots, though no names for its backers were given.

Ryanair has previously said it "will not respond or accede to" anonymous demands made via unsigned communications, cautioning that prior emails have been drafted by pilots and unions at rivals who are pursuing "an industrial relations agenda at the expense" of Ryanair.

A separate note published on the Pilots Unite site yesterday said flight crew won't con-

sider pay offers for staff at 60 of Ryanair's bases before the carrier appoints a third party to handle disciplinary action and provides paid leave for people engaged in representative activities.

O'Leary has made a name for himself with his hard-charging approach that long prioritized cheap tickets and low costs. In recent years, he's worked to redefine the public perception of his airline by improving in-flight service and the check-in experience to widen the appeal to business travelers as competition for low-cost travel intensifies.

The cancellations, first announced last month, have affected flights for about 700,000 customers and reduced the company's growth plans by 6 million passengers this year and next. In order to focus all management attention to the response, Ryanair also scrapped plans to bid for insolvent carrier Alitalia SpA, which would have given it access to long-distance routes, among O'Leary's long-term expansion aspirations. **Bloomberg**

FILM

Producer Harvey Weinstein ousted from Weinstein Co.

HARVEY Weinstein, the sharp-elbowed movie producer whose combative reign in Hollywood made him an Academy Awards regular, was fired from The Weinstein Company on Sunday following an expose that detailed decades of sexual harassment allegations made against Weinstein by actresses and employees.

In a statement, the company's board of directors announced his firing Sunday night, capping the swift downfall of one of Hollywood's most powerful producers and expelling him from the company he co-created.

"In light of new information about misconduct by Harvey Weinstein that has emerged in the past few days, the directors of The Weinstein Company — Robert Weinstein, Lance Maerov, Richard Koenigsberg and Tarak Ben Ammar — have determined, and have informed Harvey Weinstein, that his employment with The Weinstein Company is terminated, effective immediately," the company's board said in a statement on Sunday night.

Weinstein had previously taken an indefinite leave of absence following the revelation of at least eight allegations of sexual harassment uncovered in an expose Thursday by The New York Times. The board on Friday endorsed that decision and announced an investigation into the allegations, saying it would determine the co-chairman's future with the company.

But the Weinstein Co. board, which includes Weinstein's brother, went further on Sunday, firing the executive who has always been its primary operator, public face and studio chief. Under his leadership, the Weinstein Co. has been a dominant force at the Oscars, including the rare feat of winning back-to-back best picture Academy Awards with "The King's Speech" and "The Artist." In recent years, however,



Harvey Weinstein

Weinstein's status has diminished because of money shortages, disappointing box-office returns and executive departures.

Weinstein on Thursday issued a lengthy statement that acknowledged causing "a lot of pain." He also asked for "a second chance." But Weinstein and his lawyers also criticized The New York Times' report in statements and interviews, and vowed an aggressive response. The New York Times said it was "confident in the accuracy of our reporting."

The New York Times article chronicled sexual harassment settlements Weinstein made with film star Ashley Judd and former employees at both The Weinstein Co. and Weinstein's former company, Miramax. Weinstein made his name with Miramax, the company he founded with his brother Bob in 1979. They sold it to Disney in 1993 for USD60 million. The company was a fixture of the 1990s independent film movement, launching the careers of filmmakers Quentin Tarantino, Kevin Smith and Steven Soderbergh, and winning best picture with "Shakespeare in Love" and "The English Patient."

The allegations triggered cascading chaos at the Weinstein Co. Numerous members of its all-male board have stepped down since Thursday. The prominent attorney Lisa Bloom, daughter of well-known Los Angeles women's rights attorney Gloria Allred, on Saturday withdrew from representing Weinstein, as did another adviser, Lanny Davis. **AP**

corporate bits

MACAU AND HK CHILDREN CAST FOR 'THE SOUND OF MUSIC' AT THE VENETIAN



Eighteen children from Macau and Hong Kong have been chosen to play the roles of the von Trapp children in "The Sound of Music" when it comes to The Venetian Theatre between December 20, 2017 and January 7, 2018.

Children between 6 and 14 years old with singing, dancing and acting talent were invited to the auditions.

The children were then put through an audition process at The Venetian Macao and Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, according to a statement issued by Sands China.

The musical, which has been shown at both Broadway and the West End, is renowned around the wor-

ld and will run for a limited season at The Venetian Theatre during Christmas and New Year. The successful 18 children will alternate through the performances of the two boys and four girls of the von Trapp family.

Tomos Griffiths, executive creative director of the Entertainment Department of Sands China Ltd. said, "it's extremely exciting to be able to tap into the talent pool here in Macau and in Hong Kong and give these children the opportunity to perform on stage with seasoned world-class professionals and gain valuable experiences from it."

"We have found some wonderful young performers and can't wait for rehearsals

to begin to put them through their paces," he added.

"The Sound of Music" tells the true story of a young Austrian governess who brings music and love into the lives of seven children and their widowed father during the outbreak of the Second World War. Its performances at The Venetian Theatre will be promoted by Chessman Entertainment and The Venetian Macao.

Its musical score includes some of the most memorable songs performed on the stage, including "My Favorite Things", "Do-Re-Mi", "Climb Ev'ry Mountain", "The Lonely Goatherd", "Sixteen Going on Seventeen", and the title song "The Sound of Music."

Jim Gomez, Manila

Philippines apologizes to China over wrong Taiwan logo

THE Philippine defense department has apologized to China for the “grievous but purely unintentional mistake” of using Taiwan’s defense ministry logo during a ceremony where the Chinese ambassador turned over thousands of assault rifles to the Filipino defense chief and top military commanders.

The Department of National Defense said yesterday that Secretary Delfin Lorenzana issued an official apology to China through Beijing’s ambassador over the “technical lapse” in last week’s ceremony, which was covered by the media at military headquarters.

The defense department did not say in its press statement which country owned the defense logo it displayed instead of the emblem of the China’s defense ministry.

A Philippine official told The Associated Press it was Taiwan’s, adding that Chinese officials called the attention of the Philippines about the faux pas. The wrong logo was printed on a huge banner that was hung prominently above Chinese Ambassador Zhao Jianhua, who was sitting on a red carpet and planked by Lorenzana and the Philippine military chief of staff.

It took a few days before officials discovered the error.

During the symbolic handover ceremony of 3,000 rifles and 3 million rounds of ammunition last week, “the Department of National Defense committed a grievous but purely unintentional mistake of using a different logo on a banner to represent the Ministry of Defense of the People’s Republic of China,” the Philippine defense department said.

The defense department stressed that it and the military adhere to the “One China policy,” wherein the Philippine government recognizes only the People’s Republic of China as the sole sovereign state.

“It is our sincere hope that this very unfortunate incident will not affect the cooperative and friendly relations between our two countries which has grown warmer over the past year,” the department said.

After he took office last year,



A tarpaulin, showing the logo of the Philippine Defense Department (top left) and that of Taiwan’s Ministry of Defense (top right) is hung from the canopy of the General Headquarters of the Armed Forces of the Philippines for the turnover ceremony of hundreds of Chinese-made assault rifles by Beijing to Manila

President Rodrigo Duterte immediately took steps to revive once-frosty relations with China while taking an antagonistic stance toward security policies of Manila’s treaty ally, the United States.

Duterte has sidelined long-ranging territorial disputes with China in the South China Sea in an effort to attract Chinese investment and infrastructure funds. He has promised, howe-

ver, to take up with China at an unspecified time in the future an international arbitration ruling that invalidated Beijing’s claims to most of the disputed waters. AP

UNITED NATIONS

Chinese Qian Tang among top candidates to lead UNESCO

VOTING by UNESCO’s 58-member executive board starts today (Macau time) and continues through the week until a candidate wins a majority. The choice then goes to the full UNESCO general assembly next month for final approval.

Leading candidates include Qian Tang of China, former Egyptian government minister Moushira Khattab and Qatar’s former Culture Minister Hamad bin Abdulaziz Al-Kawari.

A top priority for the next director will be shoring up finances at UNESCO, best known for its World Heritage program to protect cultural sites and traditions around the world. The agency also works to improve education for girls in desperately poor countries and in scientific fields, promote better understanding of the horrors of the Holocaust, and defend media freedom, among other activities.

The U.S. — once UNESCO’s biggest financial



contributor — and Israel suspended UNESCO funding when its members voted to make Palestine a member state in 2011. Many saw the vote as evidence of ingrained anti-Israel bias within the United Nations, where Israel and its allies are far outnumbered by Arab countries and their supporters.

No. 2 UNESCO funder

Japan then withheld its dues last year, saying it wanted to make sure UNESCO properly fosters trust among member nations — a decision widely viewed as a response to UNESCO’s listing of Chinese Rape of Nanking documents as a memory of the world. Japan disputes China’s historical views on the 1937 massacre, and a win

for China in the director race could further jeopardize Japan’s financial contribution.

In interviews with The Associated Press, candidates insisted they would set aside national interests and lead UNESCO with neutrality. But votes for the agency’s top job are routinely overshadowed by national and regional divisions.

Some candidates are even meeting resistance at home. Six Egyptian rights groups protested Khattab’s candidacy over the weekend, suggesting she was complicit in the Egyptian government’s repressive policies. She insists in her UNESCO candidacy statement that she will uphold freedoms enshrined in the agency’s values.

Meanwhile the dispute between Qatar and its neighbors over allegedly sponsoring Islamic extremism threatens to weigh on Qatar’s candidacy — along with media reports suggesting Qatar is trying to buy support among UNESCO members.

With the U.S. role in UNESCO under question, some are speculating that China is trying to take advantage of the vacuum to dominate UNESCO and the U.N. agencies more broadly.

Chinese candidate Qian insists however that “China does not want to replace the role of the United States.”

“I went to the State Department and I had a long discussion with officials there. I said ‘I really don’t think you Americans should give up your global responsibility especially in UNESCO,’ he said.

“We need America.” AP

HONG KONG

American cancels flight after loading equipment catches fire

AN American Airlines flight from Hong Kong to Los Angeles was canceled yesterday after a piece of loading equipment caught fire while it was preparing to put cargo in the hold of the plane, the airline said. One person was hurt.

The container that was on the loading equipment also caught fire in the process, said Martha Thomas, a spokeswoman for the airline.

The cargo it contained was “non-hazardous,” Thomas said, without providing details. She added that the airline was looking into the cause of the mechanical issue that triggered the fire.

Boarding had not yet started and no passengers or crew on Flight 192 were injured, she said.

The operator of the equipment is being treated for “non-life-threatening” injuries, Thomas said.

The flight was scheduled to depart Hong Kong at 6:10 p.m. local time and arrive at Los Angeles at 4:30 p.m. local time. AP

Big pharma gets boost as Beijing speeds up new drug approvals

FOR decades, Chinese patients have struggled to gain access to cutting-edge medicines thanks to bureaucratic delays that have hamstrung drug development. Now a sweeping government overhaul of drug approvals is poised to change that.

Beijing this week announced new rules that will speed up approvals of medicines and medical devices, easing bottlenecks in introducing new treatments. The move is also a growth opportunity for international and local drugmakers in the world's second biggest pharmaceutical market. It also parallels the acceleration of approvals by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Under China's new rules, data from overseas clinical trials can be used for drug registrations in the country. That removes the need for manufacturers to conduct added tests in China after receiving overseas approvals and will likely cut delays in the launch of new drugs by several years.

Faster approvals could deliver a revenue boost in coming years to Pfizer Inc., AstraZeneca Plc, GlaxoSmithKline Plc and other multinationals that are expanding there. China spent USD116.7 billion on medicine in 2016 and the market is second only to the U.S. in size, according to researcher QuintilesIMS. China is revamping its drug regulatory system as demand for new therapies surges due to an aging population and rising incidence of diseases such as cancer and diabetes.

"For multinational and leading local innovative drugmakers, the anticipated acceleration of approval will improve patients' access to new medicine and increase revenues for pharmaceutical companies," said Jialin Zhang, senior health-care analyst at ICBC International Research Ltd. Foreign manufacturers control about a quarter of the Chinese pharma market, with the rest held by local players, he estimates.

The changes were announced by the State Council, China's cabinet, just days before a key leadership gathering in Beijing next week. On Oct. 18, delegates will gather for



the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party, a twice-in-a-decade shuffling of China's political decks.

Shares of Chinese drugmakers researching new medicines jumped on expectations they will also benefit. Jiangsu Hengrui Medicine Co. advanced 3.4 percent and Shanghai Fosun Pharmaceutical Group Co. rose 2 percent in Shanghai yesterday. The Shanghai Composite Index gained 0.8 percent.

Under the new rules, data from overseas clinical trials can be used for drug registrations in China

Due to insufficient innovation, the pharmaceutical and medical device products marketed in China fall short of international advanced standards, according to the State Council policy statement. The reforms aim to promote restructuring and innovation in order to meet the public's clinical needs, it said.

In the short term, foreign drugmakers might be the prime beneficiaries because they're already starting to see quicker approvals for their drugs and have deep pipelines of medicines in development, Zhang said. Most local drug companies are still climbing the innovation ladder.

That said, Chinese rivals might be bigger beneficiaries over the long-term thanks to expertise in the local market and cheaper costs, he said.

For now, most international pharmaceutical companies get only a small fraction of their global sales from China. But they still count on the country to serve as a growth driver given its vast unmet medical needs and a burgeoning middle class that can increasingly afford cutting-edge treatments.

Local and multinational drugmakers have for years struggled with delayed approvals in China as a surging number of applications and a relatively small team of government reviewers resulted in a regulatory backlog. The delays in access to life-saving therapies led Chinese patients to buy drugs from grey markets over the Internet or from bootleggers, putting them at risk of receiving counterfeit drugs.

Both Pfizer and AstraZeneca said they welcome the new rules.

"China is a key growth market for AstraZeneca and we are working closely with authorities to ensure our medicines are accessible by the many patients who can benefit from them," the Cambridge, England-based company said in a statement.

The policies will "pave the way for China's integration into the system for multiregional clinical trials that supports global drug development," New York-based Pfizer said in its own statement.

The changes had already been widely telegraphed by the Chinese government, which earlier this year said it was considering overhauling

the approval process. The China Food and Drug Administration has been introducing bold reforms in recent years, and the latest policy appears to have received the blessing of top-levels of the central government, said Zhang.

More recently, the China FDA has already been working to reduce the backlog. That has already led to speedier approvals for some treatments like AstraZeneca's lung cancer therapy called Tagrisso, estimated to become a global blockbuster next year.

As more innovative drugs make an entrance, foreign manufacturers will still have to manage rising price pressures in China. The government has sought to cut prices to manage costs in its public health insurance system, putting foreign drugmakers through more negotiations with hospitals and local governments and squeezing margins.

The reforms announced last weekend include other measures to speed up approvals for clinically needed drugs and equipment, establish a compulsory-licensing system and make it easier for research institutions to conduct clinical trials, according to the document.

The government said it will also explore a new system linking drug approvals to patent status. This could potentially delay the introduction of generics when there are legal challenges posed by the patent holder.

China's protection of intellectual properties is still lacking, "and this is also an important reason that restricts the development of our medical innovation industry," said Wu Zhen, vice minister of China FDA, at a press briefing webcast yesterday.

Measures on patents were previously adopted by developed markets such as the U.S., Europe and Japan, and their implementation helped boost both innovative companies and generic drugmakers, Wu said.

In the U.S., the FDA is taking advantage of policy groundwork laid in past years to speed drug approvals. Thirty-four new drugs have been approved so far this year - on pace to nearly double from last year. **Bloomberg**



Party congress opens door for other Asia dollar bond sellers

CHINA'S Communist Party congress this month is expected to slow dollar bond issuance from the nation's borrowers in the fourth quarter, which may be good news for issuers elsewhere in Asia as volumes are already at unprecedented levels.

"China supply is expected to be slightly slower in the coming weeks," with the up-coming Party Congress and the limited issuance quota from the Chinese regulator, said Chao Li, head of Asia bond syndicate at Standard Chartered Plc. "It could represent a good issuance window for non-Chinese issuers and some comparatively weaker names to access the market."

China's 19th national communist party congress, which kicks off Oct. 18, may already be curtailing sales from the nation's borrowers, and Indonesia's Geo Energy Resources Ltd. cited fewer issues in the market when it debuted a junk note at the end of September. Spreads on Asian investment-grade dollar bonds over Treasuries fell to a decade low of 163 basis points this month as buyers expressed

optimism about China's economy and the region as a whole.

The political noises from China will start to kick in after the middle of October, which will shape market sentiments in the final quarter, said Arthur Lau, head of Asia ex-Japan fixed income in Hong Kong at PineBridge Investments. Investors have already turned slightly cautious on the absolute yield level given the low yield on treasuries, he said.

A tightening of bond spreads in September may be partially due to fewer than expected new issues from better Chinese names, according to Salman Niaz, executive director of emerging-market debt at Goldman Sachs Asset Management. While speculative-grade Asian issuers recorded improved credit metrics in the first half, Goldman Sachs Group Inc. analysts recommend investors look to better-rated names because of high risks surrounding low-quality borrowers.

S&P Global Ratings and HSBC Holdings Plc have warned of the potential for price corrections in Asian bonds amid tight pricing. **Bloomberg**

Eileen Ng & Stephen Wright,
Petaling Jaya

MALAYSIA

Video shows Kim Jong Nam motionless on gurney after attack

A Malaysian airport security video shows the poisoned half brother of North Korea's leader apparently unconscious on a gurney and being pumped with oxygen by medical attendants as they wait for an elevator to take him to an ambulance.

The video reviewed by The Associated Press yesterday shows what may be Kim Jong Nam's final recorded moments of life after he fell perilously ill at the international airport in Kuala Lumpur on Feb. 13. It emerged as the trial of two women accused of killing Kim by smearing VX nerve agent on his face at the behest of suspected North Korean agents is underway at Malaysia's High Court.

The scene in the video appears almost casual, in contrast to the dramatic story of Kim's death that topped news bulletins around the world.

After the gurney carrying Kim's motionless body is brought into an apparently authorized personnel-only area of the airport for transfer to an ambulance, one of the five people with him summons the elevator. It takes more than a minute to arrive and during that time the attendants, dressed in green uniforms, appear to talk while one squeezes a resuscitation device strapped to Kim's face.

After the elevator doors slide open, the group still doesn't leave for nearly another minute. One of the attendants, who doesn't join the others in the elevator, tries to leave the secure area through a door but discovers it is locked. She is given a cellphone by one of the at-



In this image made from Feb. 13 video provided by Fuji TV, Kim Jong Nam, half-brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, is stretchered at Kuala Lumpur International Airport

tendants in the elevator, apparently to call for assistance, but walks back to the elevator again for a brief discussion.

The video was first broadcast late Sunday by Japan's Fuji TV. The network also broadcast another security video that it said shows one of the accused women, Indonesian Siti Aisyah, meeting with a man believed to be a North Korean agent at an airport cafe shortly before the attack took place.

Kim was the eldest son in the current generation of North Korea's dynastic rulers but lived

in virtual exile as an apparent family outcast. North Korea experts say he may have been killed because he was perceived as a threat to the nation's current leader, his younger sibling, Kim Jong Un.

The trial itself was moved temporarily yesterday to a high-security laboratory to view the nerve agent-tainted clothes the suspects wore the day of the attack.

The move was made after government chemist Raja Subramaniam testified last week that the VX nerve agent he found on

the clothing may still be active.

His testimony was the first evidence linking VX to Aisyah and her co-defendant, Doan Thi Huong of Vietnam. Selvi Sandrasegaram, one of the lawyers for Aisyah, said Raja spent more than an hour showing VX-tainted evidence in a small room inside the laboratory at the chemist department.

Selvi said she was in the room along with Huong and two police officers, while the others watched through a glass screen outside the room. She said Huong wanted to go inside to

have a closer look at the evidence, which included her fingernail clippings and a white jumper emblazoned with "LOL," the acronym for "laughing out loud," that she wore on the day of Kim's death.

Raja also testified last week that VX was detected on Kim Jong Nam's face, eyes, clothing, and in his blood and urine samples. That evidence was introduced in court in sealed bags, but the visit to the laboratory was arranged so the evidence from the women could be taken out of the bags for viewing.

Prosecutors have also said they will present airport security videos this week that show the two women carrying out the attack and indicate they knew they were handling poison.

The two women pleaded not guilty at the start of the trial last week to charges of murder that carry a mandatory death sentence if they are convicted. Defense lawyers have said the women were duped by suspected North Korean agents into believing they were playing a harmless prank for a hidden camera TV show.

VX is banned by an international treaty as a weapon of mass destruction but is believed to be part of North Korea's chemical weapons arsenal.

Raja is to be cross-examined by defense lawyers when the trial resumes today. AP

NORTH KOREA

At party meeting, leader's sister gets promotion

KIM Jong Un has promoted his younger sister to a new post within North Korea's ruling party.

The promotion of Kim Yo Jong came at a meeting of senior party members as North Korea marked the 20th anniversary of Kim Jong Il's acceptance of the title of general secretary of the ruling Worker's Party of Korea.

Kim Yo Jong was made an alternate member of the decision-making political bureau of the party's central committee. The late Kim Jong Il, North Korea's "eternal general secretary," is the father of Kim Jong Un and Kim Yo Jong.

Thousands of people, mostly students, packed Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang to dance and watch fireworks to mark the anniversary on Sunday night. Earlier in the day, North Korean state media announced that the country's top leadership had gathered the day before, headed by current leader Kim Jong Un.

Kim repeated Pyongyang's defiance of the U.S. and its determination to push forward its nuclear program, while bringing a "fresh upswing" in the country's economy to show its strength despite the international trade sanctions and isolation the

nuclear program has generated.

Kim's younger sister, believed to be either 28 or 30, was elected as an alternate member of the political bureau of the party's central committee, according to a report by the Korean Central News Agency. She is believed to be one of Kim Jong Un's closest confidants. They were born to the same mother, Ko Yong Hui.

Michael Madden, founder of the influential NK Leadership Watch website, said the appointment shows the sister's daily activities are more substantive and more important than some analysts had contended.

He said it also indicates that the Ko Yong Hui line, when taken with the killing of Kim's half brother, Kim Jong Nam, has been "conclusively established as the sole succeeding branch of the Kim family."

Though attention has been focused on Kim Yo Jong and North Korea's nuclear weapons, Madden said the reshuffle displays a great deal of attention to the North's economy, which has been expanding but could be hit hard by new and tougher sanctions the country is facing.

He said Prime Minister Pak Pong Ju appears to be exercising enormous influence in the appoint-



Kim Jong Un (right) and his sister Kim Yo Jong watch a military parade in Pyongyang in 2016

ments of officials he has mentored and said the seeming return of Thae Jong Su, a technocrat who held several key positions until last year, is of note because Thae has "good relations and long

-standing ties to China." North Korea relies heavily on trade with China, but Beijing has been increasing its pressure on Pyongyang to try to ease tensions with Washington. AP

AUSTRALIA

High Court to consider fate of seven lawmakers

Rod McGuirk, Canberra

AUSTRALIA'S prime minister said yesterday that he was confident that government lawmakers would win a court challenge this week that threatens his administration's slender majority.

Seven High Court judges will decide whether seven lawmakers should be disqualified from Parliament because of a constitutional ban on dual citizens being elected. The three-day hearing begins today.

The fate of Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce is most crucial to the government in an unprecedented political crisis.

If the court rules that he was illegally elected in July last year due to New Zealand citizenship he unknowingly inherited from his father, the ruling conservative coalition could lose its single-seat majority in the House of Representatives, where governments are formed.

Joyce could stand in a by-election, having renounced his Kiwi citizenship. But with the government unpopular in opinion polls, voters in his rural electoral division could take the opportunity to throw both the deputy prime minister and his administration out of office.

Two of the six senators under a cloud are government ministers. Fiona Nash inherited British citizenship from her father and Matt Canavan became an Italian through an Australian-born mother with Italian parents. Disqualified senators can be replaced by members of the same party without need for an election.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has given no indication of what his government would do if the court rules against any of the three ministers.

"The government, based on the legal advice we have from the solicitor-general, is confident that the [deputy prime minister] and the other two senators, Nash and Canavan, will be found not to be disqualified from sitting in the Parliament,"

Turnbull told reporters.

But several constitutional lawyers are less confident that the government lawmakers will survive the court scrutiny. Decisions made by illegally elected ministers could also face court challenges, although laws passed by the votes of ineligible lawmakers would not be changed.

"The courts have been pretty strict about this in the past and certainly haven't been terribly sympathetic to the 'I didn't know' argument," Sydney University constitutional lawyer Anne Twomey said.

"Given that they're confronted with so many people who seem to have the problem, maybe they'll think that they need to do something about it, who knows?" she added.

Public attention has focused on lawmakers' eligibility since July 14, when Scott Ludlam, the then-deputy leader of the minor Greens party, revealed he was still a Kiwi and had been unlawfully elected to the Australian



Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce is one of the seven lawmakers on trial

Senate three times since 2007. The other six lawmakers soon discovered they were also dual nationals.

Three parliamentary investigations recommended in the 1980s and 1990s that the prohibition on dual citizens be removed from the constitution through a national referendum.

But successive governments have failed to act, perhaps because of the difficulty in persuading

Australians to change their constitution. Of the 44 referendums Australia has held since 1901, only eight have been carried, and none since 1977.

George Williams, Dean of Law at the University of New South Wales, said the dual citizen ban effectively allowed the citizenship laws of other countries to determine who could stand for the Australian Parliament. **AP**



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THE Nobel economics prize has been awarded to Richard Thaler of the University of Chicago for his contributions to behavioral economics.

The 9-million-kronor prize was awarded to the academic for his "understanding the psychology of economics," Swedish Academy of Sciences secretary Goeran Hansson said yesterday.

The Nobel committee said as a pioneer in behavioral economics, Thaler has built a bridge between economics and psychology to show a "more realistic analysis of how people think and behave when making economic decisions."

It said his research has expanded economic analysis by considering three psychological traits: Limited rationality, perceptions about fairness and lack of self-control.

Speaking by phone to a news conference immediately after he was announced as the prize winner, Thaler said the most important impact of his work is "the recognition that economic agents

NOBEL PRIZE

Richard Thaler wins award for work in behavioral economics

are humans" and money decisions are not made strictly rationally.

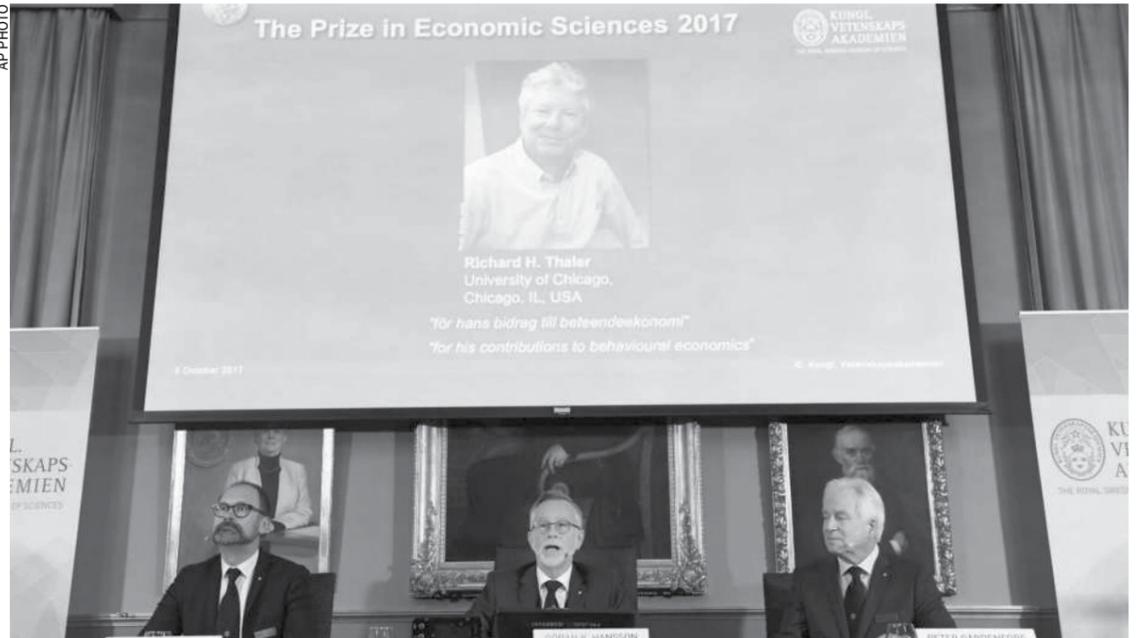
Thaler told the news conference that he will likely use the prize money in ways consistent with his research.

"I will say that I will try to spend it as irrationally as possible," he said.

Outside of academia, Thaler has made a cameo in the movie "The Big Short" to discuss an economic phenomenon known as the "hot hand fallacy" — in which a person's success is seen as a sign he would be successful in other fields — with pop star Selena Gomez.

Asked at the news conference if he thought this observation

AP PHOTO



Per Stromberg, Chairman of the Committee, (left), Goran K Hansson, (center) and Peter Gardenfors, announce Richard Thaler of the University of Chicago, as the the 2017 Nobel Economics Prize winner in Stockholm

FOR 2ND YEAR, NO WOMEN AMONG NOBEL WINNERS

FOR THE second consecutive year, there were no women among the 2017 Nobel prize laureates. The head of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences says the committees that choose Nobel Prize winners will meet this winter to discuss gender and ethnic diversity issues in the prestigious awards. Goran Hansson said after the announcement of the economics

prize that "I hope in five years, 10 years, we'll see a very different distribution." Each of the six prizes is chosen by a different committee, three of which are currently headed by women. Three of the prize committees are within the sciences academy. Hansson said he did not believe there was systemic gender discrimination, but "we are concerned; we are taking measures."

applied to the U.S president, he said: "As to President Trump, I think he would do well to watch that movie."

The economics prize is something of an outlier — Alfred Nobel's will didn't call for its establishment

and it honors a science that many doubt is a science at all.

The Sveriges Riksbank (Swedish National Bank) Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel was first awarded in 1969, nearly seven decades after the se-

ries of prestigious prizes that Nobel called for.

Despite its provenance and carefully laborious name, it is broadly considered an equal to the other Nobel and the winner attends the famed presentation banquet. AP

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Participants in the Columbus Day Parade in 2015

USA

Indigenous Peoples Day? Italians say stick with Columbus

Deepti Hajela & Dake Kang, New York

IS it time to say arrivederci to Christopher Columbus? A movement to abolish Columbus Day and replace it with Indigenous Peoples Day has gained momentum in some parts of the U.S., with Los Angeles in August becoming the biggest city yet to decide to stop honoring the Italian explorer and instead recognize victims of colonialism.

Austin, Texas, followed suit. It joined cities including San Francisco, Seattle and Denver, which had previously booted Columbus in favor of Indigenous Peoples Day.

But the gesture to recognize indigenous people rather than the man who opened the Americas to European domination also has prompted howls of outrage from some Italian-Americans, who say eliminating their festival of ethnic pride is culturally insensitive, too.

"We had a very difficult time in this country for well over a hundred years," said Basil Russo, president of the Order Italian Sons and Daughters of America. "Columbus Day is a day that we've chosen to celebrate who

we are. And we're entitled to do that just as they are entitled to celebrate who they are."

It's not about taking anything away from Italian-Americans, said Cliff Matias, cultural director of the Redhawk Native American Arts Council, which is hosting a Re-Thinking Columbus Day event this week in New York.

Columbus Day is a day that we've chosen to celebrate who we are.

BASIL RUSSO
ORDER ITALIAN SONS AND
DAUGHTERS OF AMERICA

"The conversation is Columbus," he said. "If they're going to celebrate Columbus, we need to celebrate the fact that we survived Columbus."

The debate over Columbus' historical legacy is an old one, but it became emotionally charged after a similar debate in the South over monuments to Confederate generals flared into

deadly violence in August at a rally in Charlottesville, Virginia.

In Akron, Ohio, a September vote over whether to dump Columbus opened a racial rift on the city council that was so heated conflict mediators were brought in to sooth tensions.

In New York, where 35,000 people are expected to march in today's Columbus Day parade, vandals last month doused the hands of a Christopher Columbus statue in blood-red paint and scrawled the words "hate will not be tolerated." Activists calling for the city to change the parade's name also are expected to hold a demonstration.

On Sunday, three demonstrators briefly interrupted a wreath-laying ceremony at the Columbus statue in Columbus Circle. The protesters, two dressed in fake chains and one wearing a hooded white sheet, spoke out before being escorted away. Police said one person was arrested.

Mayor Bill de Blasio, a Democrat, appointed a committee to evaluate whether monuments to certain historical figures should be removed, prompting a backlash from fellow Italian-Americans who vowed to defend the Columbus statue, which has

stood over Columbus Circle for more than a century.

Many Italians who migrated to the U.S. initially had a rough time. In 1891, 11 Italians were lynched in New Orleans by a mob that held them responsible for the death of a police official.

At the end of the 1800s, Italians began to link themselves more with Columbus. Italian-American businessman and newspaper owner Generoso Pope was among those who worked to get Columbus Day recognized as a federal holiday in 1937.

"It was one of the things that would allow them to become Americans symbolically," said Fred Gardaphe, a professor of Italian-American studies at Queens College.

Indigenous Peoples Day began to gel as an idea before the 500th anniversary of Columbus' first voyage to the Americas.

South Dakota began celebrating Native American Day on the second Monday of October in 1990. Berkeley, California, got rid of Columbus Day in favor of Indigenous Peoples Day in 1992.

Many places that have adopted Indigenous Peoples Day since then, including Alaska, have sizable Native American populations.

A few cities have compromised. Salt Lake City officials declared they would keep Columbus Day but celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day on the same day.

In Akron, a city with few Native Americans and a large Italian-American community, an attempt to rename Columbus Day as Indigenous Peoples Day on Sept. 11 split the all-Democrat city council along racial lines. Five black members voted to rename the holiday, and eight white members voted against it, following a debate that devolved into shouting.

"The first voyage of Columbus to the Americas initiated the trans-Atlantic slave trade. It would lead to the kidnapping, deaths and slavery of tens of millions of African people," said Councilman Russel Neal, who is black.

But Councilman Jeff Fusco, who is Italian-American, said, "It's a celebration of Italian heritage. It's very similar to other days throughout the year that we celebrate for many other cultures."

States and municipalities aren't legally bound to recognize federal holidays, though most do. Columbus Day is already one of the most inconsistently celebrated. Places that choose to replace it with Indigenous Peoples Day may give their own workers or schoolchildren a day off, teach in schools about Native Americans instead of Columbus, issue proclamations or mark it in other ways.

There is no question that Columbus' arrival in the New World under the sponsorship of Spain was bad for the indigenous people of Hispaniola, the island he colonized that is now split between Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

Many of the native people of the island were forced into servitude. Multitudes died of disease. Spain repopulated the workforce with African slaves.

Columbus is celebrated in Latin America, too. A massive monument to the explorer, the Columbus Lighthouse, opened in 1992 in Santo Domingo, in the Dominican Republic. Puerto Rico commemorates Discovery Day on Nov. 19, marking the day Columbus landed there.

Ralph Arellanes, chairman of the activist group Hispano Round Table of New Mexico, said that as a Hispanic he supports Columbus Day.

"It was the marriage of two peoples creating a new people, in a new land," he said.

Though Columbus "wasn't a saint," he said, he believes Anglo-Americans like President Andrew Jackson should be held more responsible than the Spanish for the hardships Native Americans faced.

Arellanes also said he doesn't understand why Italians claim Columbus for themselves when Columbus was sailing for Spain. **AP**

what's ON



A BONSAI OF MY DREAM — ON THE PATH TO THE INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBITION - LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA
TIME: 10am-7pm, last admission at 6:30pm (Closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)
UNTIL: November 12, 2017
VENUE: Macao Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, NAPE
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

A SCULPTURE - YANG XIAO HUA REPRESENTING WOMEN THROUGH MAM COLLECTION — 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY
TIME: 10am-7pm, last admission at 6:30pm (Closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)
UNTIL: December 31, 2017
VENUE: Macao Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, NAPE
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

CERAMICS AND SEALS OF 108 HEROES OF SHU HU LEGEND FROM THE MAM COLLECTION
TIME: 10AM-7PM, LAST ADMISSION AT 6:30PM (CLOSED ON MONDAYS, OPEN ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS)
UNTIL: November 19, 2017
VENUE: Macao Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, NAPE
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

FLOW: GLASS ART EXHIBITION BY SUNNY WANG
TIME: 9am-9pm (Open on public holidays)
UNTIL: November 19, 2017
VENUE: Temporary Exhibition Gallery of IACM, No. 163, Av. Almeida Ribeiro
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

EXPRESSIONIST DRAWINGS OF MACAU BY GONSALO OOM
GONSALO OOM
TIME: 2pm-7pm
UNTIL: October 27, 2017
VENUE: Creative Macau (G/F Macau Cultural Centre Building)
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 3282

Offbeat

FACEBOOK BEGINS 'HUMAN REVIEW' OF POTENTIALLY SENSITIVE ADS

Facebook says it will begin manually reviewing advertisements that target certain groups and address politics, religion, ethnicity and social issues.

The company has informed some advertisers about the new "human review" requirement, warning them that it might cause delays before their ads can appear on the social media platform.

Facebook has had to apologize amid recent revelations of rampant abuse of its automated advertising process to broadcast false news or promote divisive and hateful messages, such as ads aimed at people who've expressed anti-Semitic views.

The company is also under increasing congressional scrutiny after revealing that ads linked to a Russian internet agency were seen by an estimated 10 million people before and after the 2016 election.

Axios first reported on the written notice to advertisers. Facebook confirmed it last weekend.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	RTPi Live
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:20	Zig Zag
16:45	Miscellaneous
17:45	FIFA World Cup Qualifiers - Highlights (Repeated)
18:10	Brazilian Mini Serie (Repeated)
18:40	TDM Sports (Repeated)
19:50	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Interview
21:30	Grimm Sr.1
22:10	Brazilian Mini Serie
22:40	Miscellaneous
23:00	TDM News
23:30	FIFA World Cup Qualifiers - Highlights
00:25	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
02:45	FIFA World Cup Qualifiers: Portugal x Switzerland (Live)
04:50	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

05 Oct - 11 Oct



THE MOUNTAIN BETWEEN US

ROOM 1

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

Director: Hany Abu-Assad

Starring: Kate Winslet, Idris Elba

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 103 min



BLADE RUNNER 2049

ROOM 2

2:30, 6:15, 9:15 pm

Director: Denis Villeneuve

Starring: Ryan Gosling, Harrison Ford, Jared Leto

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 163min



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

FIREWORKS, SHOULD WE SEE IT FROM THE SIDE OR THE BOTTOM

ROOM 3

7:45, 9:30 pm

Director: Akiuki Shimbo

Starring: Suzu Hirose, Masaki Suga, Mamoru Miyano

Language: Japanese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 90min

this day in history



1975 LIZ TAYLOR AND RICHARD BURTON REMARRY

Actors Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor have secretly remarried in Africa only 16 months after getting divorced.

The couple who split last year after nearly 10 years of marriage were reconciled in August and have been enjoying a second honeymoon in Chobe game park in Botswana.

The couple first met when they were starring in the film, Cleopatra, in Rome, when their onscreen romance quickly turned into an offscreen love affair.

They married in 1964. Richard Burton was her fifth husband, she was his second wife.

They arrived in Johannesburg in September ostensibly to attend a charity celebrity tennis tournament.

They then flew by private jet to the Rhodesian border near Victoria Falls where they were met and driven to the Chobe game lodge.

The private wedding ceremony was conducted by African district commissioner Abrose Masalila and witnessed by the manager of the game lodge where they were staying, Fred Knoessen, and Brian Graham, who runs tours from the lodge.

Mr Masalila said: "The bride wore green, with lace frills and guinea fowl feathers."

Burton was in a red shirt, white trousers and red socks. The simple service, which took just 20 minutes to perform, was held at 1530 local time in Mr Masalila's office in the remote village of Kasane.

The couple exchanged rings and held hands and later they asked Mr Masalila to join them for a champagne toast on the banks of the Chobe river.

He said: "They looked very excited but composed. I don't think they had a party afterwards because I think they would have invited me if they had. They are very nice people."

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

News of the couple's wedding emerged five days later. Elizabeth Taylor said she had remarried Richard Burton after an x-ray revealed spots on her lungs which she feared were cancerous. She said the 12 hours of anxiety waiting for the prognosis, which turned out to be clear, convinced her to remarry.

Another newspaper story which surfaced shortly after their second wedding said Liz Taylor had sold back a £500,000 honeymoon ring to pay for a hospital in Botswana.

However, their stormy relationship did not last. The couple began rowing and separated in February 1976, reportedly when Richard Burton began drinking again.

Their marriage was dissolved. Burton married twice more but died in 1984 of a cerebral haemorrhage. Taylor also went on to marry twice more - her last marriage to Larry Fortensky was dissolved in 1995.

She was made a dame in 2000 and officially retired from acting in 2003. Despite a number of health problems, she has continued to campaign for Aids research.

Liz Taylor died at the age of 79 in 2011.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You've tried patience, you've tried understanding and you've even tried dead silence.

Taurus April 20-May 20 You do love the best things in life, so much so that you just don't settle for less unless reality stares you down.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You've been on a roll for days, and you have a gut feeling that things are only going to get better.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You need to flee the world every now and then, and the safety and security of your home nest is exactly what you need.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 No matter what is going on at work or in your public life, you still need to plan for private time now.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You're feeling an extraordinarily strong craving for adrenaline, and you have a sneaking suspicion that you can't rest until you get it.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You're due for some romantic excitement soon - the kind that will keep you smiling for at least the next 24 hours.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Your senses go far beyond the merely physical, though you're most likely no one's psychic friend.

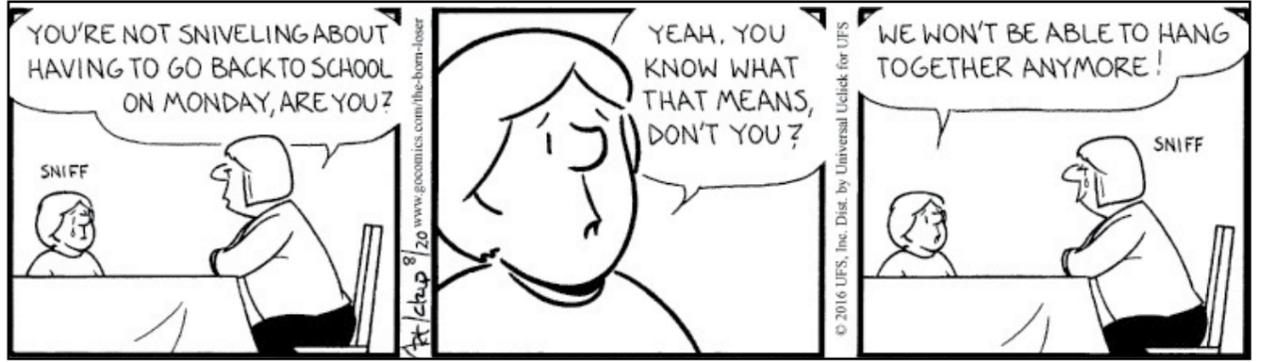
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Aren't you glad you've been socializing lately? You may not realize it just yet, but someone you ran into recently - the one you haven't been able to stop thinking about.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 When you're this restless, there's usually just one reason: There's something you know you need to do, but you feel unable to do it.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You can't seem to shut up, even if you desperately want to - and you thought you'd said too much yesterday!

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You've been in a somber mood for a while, but it finally seems to be passing.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Easy' difficulty.

Easy+

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Easy+' difficulty.

Medium

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Medium' difficulty.

Hard

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Hard' difficulty.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

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

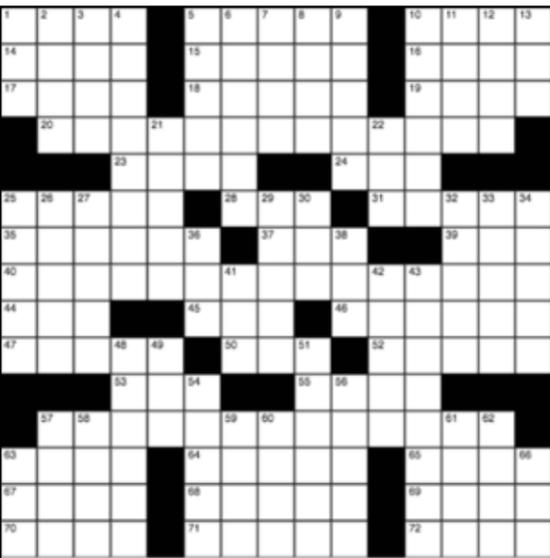
WORLD

Table listing weather conditions for various world cities like Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, etc.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Voucher; 5- Betel palm; 10- Bad day for Caesar; 14- Sock mel; 15- Garr and Hatcher; 16- Female child; 17- Tiny particle; 18- With ___ of thousands!; 19- Bear in the air; 20- Defer action; 23- Banister; 24- Managed; 25- Line of cliffs; 28- Barbell abbr.; 31- Spoil; 35- Mistakes; 37- Texas tea; 39- ___ Grande; 40- In spite of; 44- Scooby-___; 45- Absolutely!; 46- Yellowish brown pigment; 47- Snob; 50- Scandinavian rug; 52- Cafeteria items; 53- Deranged; 55- Take ___ Train; 57- Rutabaga; 63- Footnote abbr.; 64- Head cold; 65- Departs; 67- Beget; 68- Actress Davis; 69- Ages and ages; 70- Once, once; 71- Actress Barkin; 72- Buenos ___;

DOWN: 1- Spy org.; 2- URL starter; 3- Like ___ not; 4- The day following today; 5- Maker of Pong; 6- Remember; 7- Historical periods; 8- Prehistoric sepulchral tomb; 9- Moving; 10- Large lizard; 11- Grime; 12- Scottish Gaelic; 13- Hearst kidnap grp.; 21- Island in the Bay of Naples; 22- Jazzman Adderley; 25- Dispatches; 26- Sing like Bing; 27- Threepio's pal; 29- Domineering; 30- Take a load off; 32- Skater Slutskaya; 33- Simpleton; 34- Roman garments; 36- Eye infection, pig house; 38- ___ Vegas; 41- That ship; 42- Gunpowder ingredient; 43- Mad; 48- Beaten egg dish; 49- Little bit; 51- Bring into harmony; 54- Sad song; 56- Pertaining to people; 57- Agitate; 58- Bloody conflicts; 59- Cartoonist Silverstein; 60- Back part of the foot; 61- ___ Arabian Nights; 62- Clinton cabinet member Federico; 63- Legal ending; 66- Leaky tire sound;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
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
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
IACM 28 387 333
Tourism 28 333 000
Airport 59 888 88



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WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

Ronaldo back in lineup for Portugal

CRISTIANO Ronaldo is set to return to Portugal's lineup for the decisive World Cup qualifier against Switzerland early tomorrow [Macau time].

Ronaldo did not start in the 2-0 win at Andorra last week because he was not fully fit, but he came off the bench in the second half to score the team's first goal and help set up the second by Andre Silva.

The Real Madrid forward practiced normally along with the rest of Portugal's squad on Monday ahead of the showdown against the Swiss at the Stadium of Light.

Portugal coach Fernando Santos kept Ronaldo on the bench against Andorra because he didn't feel the forward was 100 percent fit when he reported to the national team's training camp. He said he also didn't want to risk an injury to the team's most important player considering the match was played on artificial turf.

AP PHOTO



Portugal is three points behind Switzerland in Group B and needs a victory to secure first place and the automatic spot for next year's World Cup in Russia. Both teams have already guaranteed at least a playoff berth.

Switzerland has won all nine of its qualifiers, including a 2-0 victory against Portugal in the teams' opener last year in Basel.

Portugal has won eight straight since that loss. It has the tie-breaker advantage because of a better goal difference entering the final qualifier.

Ronaldo has 15 goals in the European qualification campaign, one less than Poland striker Robert Lewandowski, who scored a record-setting 16th goal on Sunday. AP

LIBERIA

Football Star, ex-warlord among hopefuls for president

DISAPPOINTED by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's failure to deliver on her pledge to make education free for all, Kumba Tamba is pinning her hopes on the almighty as Liberia votes for a new leader.

The West African nation, founded for freed American slaves almost 200 years ago, is holding presidential and legislative elections today that mark the end of the 12-year tenure of Johnson Sirleaf, who's known as Ma Ellen and whose 2005 victory made her Africa's first elected female president. Among the contenders to succeed her are the current vice president, Joseph Boakai, ex-A.C. Milan football star George Weah and Prince Yormie Johnson, a

former warlord during the nation's 14-year civil war.

"I'm praying to God to help us elect a good president so that this country becomes sweet like before," Tamba, a 34-year-old mother of four said as she sat in front of her rickety house in the West Point slum in Liberia's capital, Monrovia. "I voted for Ma Ellen in 2005 and 2011, hoping that we will get free education and low food prices. But that didn't happen."

With 20 hopefuls in the first round, the vote will probably go to a runoff in November. As many as 986 candidates are vying for 73 seats in the House of Representatives. Johnson Sirleaf is due to step down next year. **Bloomberg**

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Ania Nussbaum

Paris 2024 Olympics triggers race for contracts worth billions

AFTER an especially long, tortuous process, the International Olympic Committee is expected to award the 2024 Olympics to Paris on Wednesday with a vote in Lima. Lone rival Los Angeles will get the 2028 games.

To celebrate the official selection as host, Paris is planning an open-air concert and live event near the Eiffel Tower. French companies are also feeling festive, eyeing the estimated 6.6 billion-euro (USD7.9 billion) the city expects will be spent to prepare the world's biggest sporting event.

"It's extremely positive," said Martin Bouygues, chief executive officer of Bouygues SA, the country's second-biggest builder and a sponsor of the Paris bid. "The games are an opportunity to upgrade existing infrastructure and develop new ones."

A total of USD3.2 billion will be invested in new sites, with most of the money coming from private sponsors, the IOC and tickets sales. A study commissioned by the city estimated the games could generate up to 10.7 billion euros for the region and 247,000 jobs.

"The Olympic games is a project for all of society that pulls in all sectors," said Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo during an interview before the vote. "It will accelerate our move toward a greener, more inclusive economy."

Hidalgo brushed aside the specter of decaying stadiums and abandoned installations in former host cities from Athens to Rio de Janeiro. Sitting in her vast, gilded office in the city's historic town hall, she insisted France will create lasting benefits and will work with companies to ensure the games stay within the budget, which stands at less than half the cost of Rio and includes a 1.5 billion-euro contribution from the French state.



Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo

Most of the sports and housing installations already exist, she said. Anything else could boost activity for local builders, including Bouygues, Vinci SA, Eiffage SA and Cie. de Saint-Gobain SA, a supplier of materials like glass and drywall.

■ A total of USD3.2b will be invested in new sites, with most of the money coming from private sponsors

She also pointed out that a planned swimming pool in the suburb of Saint-Denis will be open to the public after the games and accommodation for media and athletes will be converted into low-income housing.

Other mayors and host cities have tried - and failed. The summer games have blown their budgets by an average 176 percent between 1968 and 2016, according to researchers at the University of Oxford and the Said Business School. The total projected price-tag of the next event, the 2020 games in Tokyo, has nearly doubled from its initial bid to \$12.6 billion, despite a pledge for fiscal austerity.

The problem, said Alexandre Delaigue, an economist at Lille University, is that would-be organizers tend to understate costs in order to win their bid. Especially at risk for cost overruns is the large public transit upgrade dubbed Grand Paris which is now on a more aggressive timetable in order to for part of it to be ready for the games.

"Infrastructure that works for Olympic athletes could also be ill-adapted to the daily lives of citizens," Delaigue said.

President Emmanuel Macron had pledged to halt investment in large infrastructure, but Grand Pa-

ris "won't be questioned" because it's needed for the Olympics, said Eiffage CEO Benoit de Ruffray. Natixist analysts have said his company will be the top beneficiary of the games because of its high relative exposure to the French market.

The budget doesn't include the cost of security, which could be especially important due to the risks of terrorism. French authorities will use 48,000 agents for off-site security, while private contractors will have 20,000 on the inside, said Christophe Delaye, the Paris police commissioner in charge of the games. That compares with a total of 90,000 security officers mobilized nationally for the Euro soccer tournament in 2016.

In addition, the Olympics could also boost makers of cameras, drones and other surveillance equipment, such as French company Thales SA. "The games will be an

opportunity to accelerate the use of new technologies," he said in an interview.

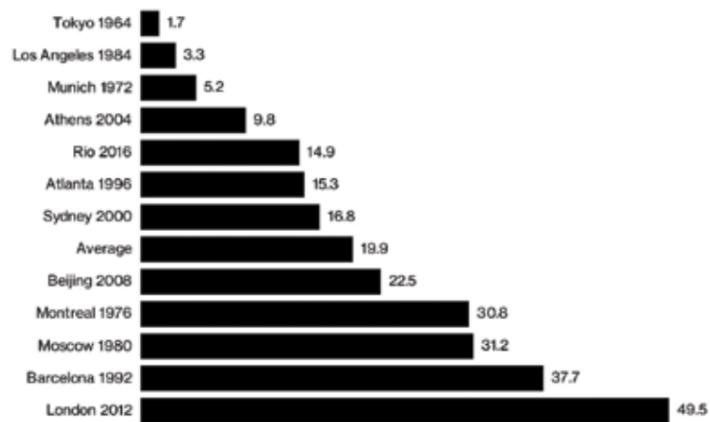
Aéroports de Paris SA, operator of the city's main airports, will also benefit from the planned express train connection between the Charles-de-Gaulle airport and the city center, according to Natixis.

The city is planning a clean-up for the Seine River for open-water swimming and triathlon events at the foot of the Eiffel Tower. The games could also provide a maker of water-taxis called Seabubbles with an opportunity to showcase the vehicles and possibly find operators to start services along the waterway, Hidalgo said.

The mayor cited Sydney, London and Barcelona as good examples, with the Spanish city refurbishing its waterfront before its games. "Every euro will be useful. We'll demonstrate that the games aren't just a cost," she said. **Bloomberg**

Hungry Games

The cost per Olympic sporting event has ballooned.



In million 2015 USD
Source: University of Oxford and Said Business School working paper "The Oxford Olympics Study 2016: Cost and Cost Overrun at the Games," July 2016

Bloomberg

WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

Salah sends Egypt to World Cup for first time since 1990

MOHAMED Salah scored from a penalty kick deep into injury time on Sunday to send Egypt to the World Cup and end a near 30-year wait for Africa's most successful team.

Salah scored both Egypt's goals in a 2-1 home win over Republic of Congo in the penultimate round of qualifiers in Africa.

Egypt qualified for the World Cup for the first time since 1990 and Salah's powerful left-footed penalty in the fourth minute of injury time dra-

matically delivered the win it needed to make sure of its place.

It unleashed joy across a soccer-mad country of nearly 100 million people used to bitter disappointment when trying to qualify for the world's top soccer tournament.

The win sent hundreds of thousands of fans across Egypt celebrating, honking car horns and waving the country's red, white and black flags. In Cairo, an army helicopter dropped hundreds of Egyptian flags on thousands of fans gathered

at the city's iconic Tahrir square.

Egypt was the second African country to qualify for the 2018 World Cup in Russia after Nigeria clinched its place on Saturday. The other three African qualifiers will be decided in the final qualifying games next month.

Salah thought he had won it for Egypt with his first goal in the 63rd minute. But Egypt was stunned by a ferocious volley by Republic of Congo substitute Arnold Bouka Moutou to level

the scores in the 86th.

Egypt substitute Mahmoud Hassan was brought down in the box two minutes into injury time and Salah, Egypt's star player, clinched victory from the spot.

The game was held in front of a capacity crowd of 30,000 at a military stadium in the Mediterranean port city of Alexandria, a reminder of the political turmoil Egypt has endured over the last six years.

That turmoil affected the soccer team, too, with the record seven-time



Mohamed Salah (center) celebrates after defeating Congo

African champion failing to qualify for three straight African Cups from 2012-2015 before making a return this year. Argentine coach Hector Cuper led Egypt to the African Cup final in February on that return, eventually losing to Cameroon.

The World Cup qualification was Cuper's greatest achievement, thou-

gh. Egypt, an African giant and founding member of the Confederation of African Football, has only played at two World Cups before — in 1934 and 1990.

Egypt will now finish top of Group E, making sure of its place at the World Cup with a game to spare against Ghana next month. **AP**

opinion

Our Desk
Renato Marques



A GOLDEN 'WEAK'

National Day and the subsequent "Golden Week" that follows – one of the semi-annual 7-day national holidays, implemented in 2000 by China's Central Government - is always one of the most awaited moments of the year for Macau's economic development; both government and private enterprises alike put big hopes on the outcomes from the week as there is usually a flooding of people across the peninsula and outlying islands.

Now that the week is gone, it is time to evaluate the outcomes, particularly since this year's expectations were incredibly high, even leading some analysts to claim that this was going to be "The Best Golden Week Ever" or "Macau's Best Week Holidays in Years."

The hype around this holiday was set in the standard fashion. It is set in motion by a few gaming sector analysts and the comments of (very often just one) high-ranked marketing official working for the casinos. These grand expectations are usually (and were again this year) rapidly repeated by government officials.

I find it a quite complex task to analyze any of those statements as they are overstated and biased.

To what extent do these forecasts and figures reflect reality and how much of it is speculation is the question that always echoes in my mind as numbers seem to have been plucked from all over the place to support the claims.

According to the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO), the visitors to Macau (specifically the number of people entering the region) during Golden Week this year increased by 11.6 percent year-on-year when compared with last year. This year Macau received a total of 844,522 visitors.

Going by those figures I would say that something weird is happening in Macau as I remember hearing from both MGTO director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes and from police authorities that an increase of (only) 5 percent was expected and, nevertheless, crowd control measures were being prepared to be put in place.

Although the increase in tourist numbers more than doubled the authorities' expectations, the information points were empty, the circulation of people through the streets was just like on any regular Sunday and the crowd control barriers and special information signage remained covered and stored, their use not being necessary.

My question is, where were all these people? Is there a new attraction in town that I'm not aware of that caught them all?

The typical answer for these occasions is "at the casino", but I dropped by most of them on several days and the movement of people was not unusually high at all.

I'm guessing the only possible answer would be "in the VIP rooms" – activities held in VIP sections seem to be much more complicated to scrutinize, even for the gaming inspection authorities, as was proven in several cases in the past.

Either way, there might be many factors behind such "invisible growth" - one likely factor may be the recent decline on the number of tourists registered last month that MGTO rushed to blame on "Hato" - the typhoon that struck Macau on August 23.

Again, the explanation of the authorities regarding that case are confusing and hard to believe as the tour groups were only suspended for a brief period right after the storm, resuming shortly after.

I'm not trying to say that the decisions from government could or should be any different, I'm just saying that when you hide behind the consequences of a decision you took it seems like in fact you're assuming that you could have "done better," and that was a lesson I learned with former weather bureau chief Fong Soi Kun.

THE NATO CHIEF: 'WE DON'T WANT A NEW COLD WAR' WITH RUSSIA

NATO's chief said the alliance does not want a "new Cold War" with Russia, despite members' concerns about the Russian military buildup close to NATO's border.

Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg spoke at the end of a four-day NATO parliamentary assembly in the Romanian capital.

"We are concerned by [...] Russia's] lack of transparency when it comes to military exercises," he said.

He mentioned a Russian-Belarus operation

in September involving thousands of troops, tanks and aircraft held in Belarus, on NATO's eastern edge. The drills included maneuvers designed to hunt down and destroy armed spies.

Still, Stoltenberg said: "Russia is our neighbor [...] we don't want to isolate Russia. We don't want a new Cold War."

He said the 29-member alliance had increased jets patrols in the Black Sea in "response to Russia's aggressive actions in Ukraine."

South Africa revives groundbreaking apartheid-era musical



Christopher Torchia, Johannesburg

The rise and fall of flamboyant, ferocious Ezekiel Dlamini, a black South African boxer known as "King Kong" who was jailed for murder, inspired a 1959 musical whose black cast performed for multi-racial audiences, testing the apartheid system of that era. Now the musical that helped to propel the careers of singer Miriam Makeba and trumpeter Hugh Masekela is back on the stage in South Africa.

"King Kong: Legend of a Boxer" highlights the jazz infused with indigenous influences that flourished in some black urban areas, particularly Johannesburg's Sophiatown, in racially segregated South Africa in the 1950s, as well as the underworld of gangsters and bars known as shebeens accompanying the creative ferment. The backdrop, while not explicitly addressed in the play, is the white minority rule that systematically marginalized the country's black majority.

The show, which ends a run at the Joburg Theatre on Sunday and returns to The Fugard Theatre in Cape Town on Dec. 12, is a cautionary tale. In 1957, Dlamini fatally stabbed girlfriend Maria Miya, an act that resonates in a country whose high rate of violent crime counts many women among

its victims.

One theme in the musical is "the importance of understanding and owning your power but also taking responsibility for it," said Nondumiso Tembe, a Los Angeles-based South African actor playing the role of Joyce, a host at a bar called Back o' the Moon who becomes romantically entangled with the boxer. Tembe noted that the killing of women "has sort of become an epidemic in our society today."

In a reminder of that scourge, President Jacob Zuma last week condemned the fatal shooting of eight women and girls, reportedly members of the same family, in a village in KwaZulu-Natal province and said curbing violence against women is a priority for his government. Police are investigating whether the killings were the result of a family feud or were linked to political rivalries that periodically turn violent in the region.

Some South African commentary on "King Kong" has recalled Oscar Pistorius, the South African double-amputee athlete who was imprisoned for murdering girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp on Valentine's Day in 2013.

Dlamini was a gambler and brawler from a rural village who flouted conformity and gained a big following in Johannesburg, becoming South Africa's "non-Euro-

pean" heavyweight champion. (Black and white boxers were not allowed to fight each other in those days.) An old photograph shows him bare-chested, wearing chains that he donned to show his humiliation after losing a fight.

Eventually, he "became involved with local gangsters and succumbed to bouts of drunkenness and with that came an increasingly violent and paranoid lifestyle," the musical's program says. He killed Miya after a quarrel, according to reports. Dlamini asked to be put to death after he was convicted, but was sentenced to 12 years of hard labor. Soon after that, he drowned in a prison reservoir in what was believed to be a suicide.

A 1979 remake of "King Kong" got bad reviews and quickly collapsed.

In this year's version, Dlamini is played by Andile Gumbi, who had the role of Simba in "The Lion King" on Broadway and elsewhere. Briton Jonathan Munby directs.

In the original show in South Africa, Makeba played Joyce, Dlamini's lover, but was soon bound for bigger success in the United States. She died in 2008. Masekela, who was 19 when he performed in "King Kong," said that he was canceling commitments in the near future because of prostate cancer. **AP**

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

WORLD BRIEFS



THAILAND An 85-year-old Thai social critic faces up to 15 years in prison for offending the monarchy after questioning whether a duel on elephant-back, fought more than 400 years ago by a Thai king against a Burmese adversary, ever took place. Police escorted Sulak Sivaraksa to a Bangkok military court yesterday where he was officially charged with insulting the monarchy.

MYANMAR An overcrowded boat carrying Rohingya Muslims fleeing Myanmar capsized in the confluence of a river and the Bay of Bengal and at least 12 people died, police said yesterday. Five of the dead were children.



PAKISTAN Gunmen ambushed a car with minority Shiite Muslims in the southwestern city of Quetta, killing four of them and a passer-by, while a Taliban attack on a military vehicle in northwestern Pakistan left three soldiers dead.

AUSTRALIA's prime minister said yesterday that he was confident that government lawmakers would win a court challenge this week that threatens his administration's slender majority. *More on p13*



BOSNIA's war crimes court yesterday acquitted the wartime commander of Srebrenica, who was accused of committing atrocities against Serbs during the 1992-95 Balkan conflict.

VENEZUELA A Venezuelan journalists association says a court has released three journalists who had been detained while reporting on a prison. They include an Italian and a Swiss citizen.